

A little history

The history of population censuses in Spain started, during the 16th and 17th centuries, with the **neighbourhoods**.

The first modern population census, in other words, that used the person as analysis unit, was carried out in 1768 by the **Count of Aranda** under the reign of Carlos III. This census registered **9.308.804** persons.

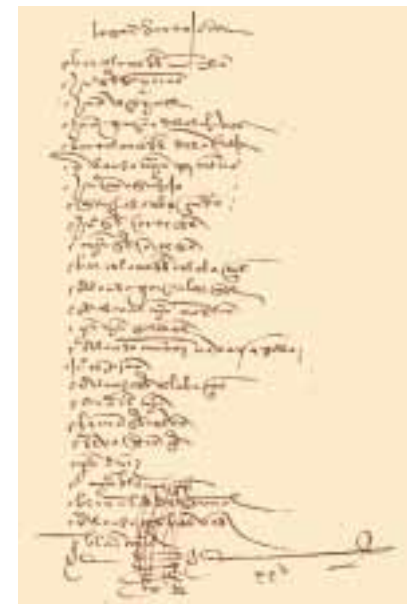
Subsequently, in 1787, the **Count of Floridablanca** elaborated a census with information on the structure of the population by sex, age, marital status, together with an elementary economic classification for all Spanish locations. The registered population was **10,268,110**.

Ten years later, in the time of Carlos IV, the population census was carried out by order of **Manuel Godoy** and registered **10,541,221** persons.

Due to the instability of the subsequent period, only a series of population recounts were carried out such as **police censuses**.

With the creation of the General Commission of Union Statistics in 1857 and the elaboration of the census the same year, a series of **official censuses** started among which the year 1860 is noteworthy. Afterwards the 1877 census came, under the reign of Alfonso XII and those of 1887 and 1897.

Since 1900 there has been a population census every ten years with no exceptions and from 1950 the population and dwellings censuses were carried out jointly.



List of citizens from Sartajada (Toledo) 1515.
General Simancas file. CJH. Leg 32-35

Institutional censuses

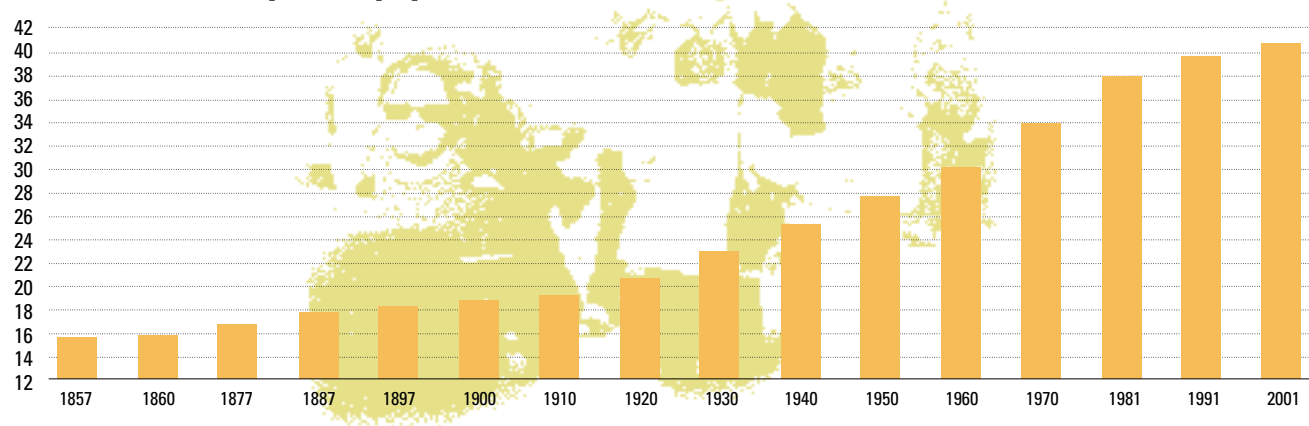
Year	Inhabitants
1857	15,464,340
1860	15,645,072
1877	16,622,175
1887	17,534,416
1897	18,065,635



What are they and what are they for?

- They are a compulsory, **exhaustive statistic** that is carried out every 10 years and whose formation corresponds to the INE.
- They facilitate getting to know the **number of inhabitants**, dwellings and buildings existing on any geographical breakdown level and their main characteristics.
- Given that the population and dwellings census are carried out jointly, the characteristics of the inhabitants may be **related to those of the dwellings** that they occupy.
- Thanks to the census **better decisions may be taken** on important subjects such as: where to build new schools, hospitals or residences, and how to design birth incentives, how to improve public transport,...
- They help the different administrations to **better assign economic resources**.
- The data collected are protected by **statistical secrecy** for which reason it is difficult to disseminate in such a way that it is difficult to directly or indirectly get to know the identity of the informant.

Evolution of the Spanish population (in millions of persons)

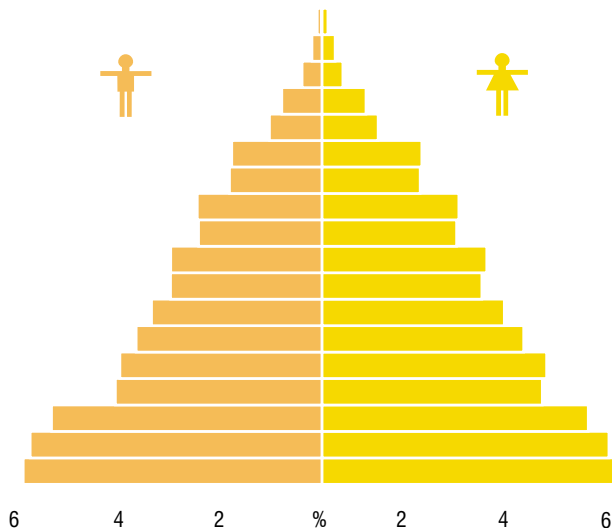


The censuses from the 20th century



The **population pyramid** is a graphical form of representing the percentage distribution of the population of a country according to sex and age, that facilitates international comparisons and an easy and rapid glance of various demographic phenomena: ageing of the population, balance or imbalance between sexes and even the demographic effect of catastrophes and wars.

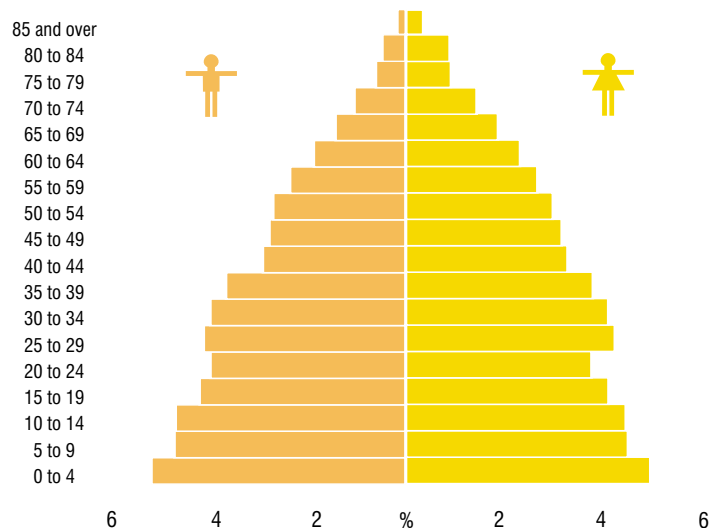
The censuses from the 20th century



1900

The form effectively corresponded to a pyramid, as a consequence of some high birth and death rates. Life expectancy hardly exceeded 30 and child mortality was very high.

Evolution of the population pyramids



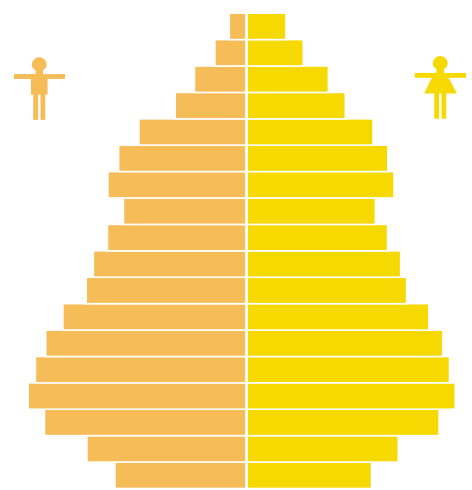
1960

In this year, the reduction of mortality at early and medium ages, the effect of the civil war and high birth rate in these years had given a more bell-bottomed shape to the pyramid. From 60 years, the greater life expectancy of the woman was no longer noticed so clearly.



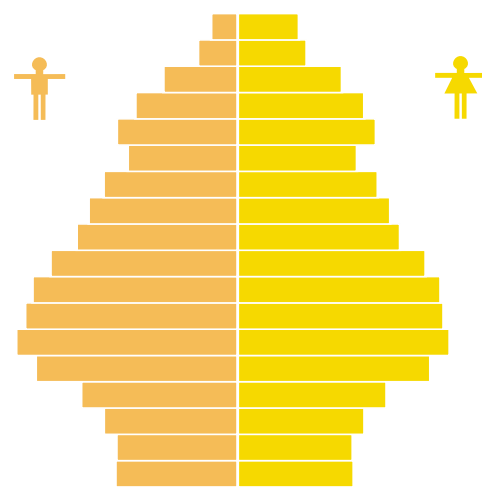
The evolution of population pyramids shows some very marked variations in birth and death over the past century.

The censuses from the 20th century



6 4 2 % 2 4

85 and over
80 to 84
75 to 79
70 to 74
65 to 69
60 to 64
55 to 59
50 to 54
45 to 49
40 to 44
35 to 39
30 to 34
25 to 29
20 to 24
15 to 19
10 to 14
5 to 9
0 to 4



6 6 4 2 % 2 4 6

1991

The growth of birth in the 1960s and 1970s - known as the baby boom was followed by a very marked reduction in the number of births as of then, which caused the narrowing of the 1991 base pyramid.

2001

The pyramid has the form of a pear, the base is more and more narrow (less births) and the apex broader (higher life expectancy). As a consequence of the small increase in birth over the last few years, it is appreciated that the 0-4 group" is somewhat greater than the next group ("5-9 years").



Novelties of the 2001 censuses

New collection and dissemination procedures

- **A single information collection**

For the first time all the demographic censuses have been carried out in the same period of time: the population census, the dwellings census and the buildings census (reference date, 1 November 2001).

- **Personalised questionnaires**

In order not to unnecessarily bother citizens, the registry data available in the INE were printed.

- **Making use of administrative sources**

The street directory, that has all the postal addresses of all the dwellings and premises as well as the characteristics of the buildings in which they are found. Pre-prints were also printed using the base information of the INE registry files and the land registry.

- **Acceptance of questionnaires by Internet**

Spain was the first country in the world which offered the possibility of filling in the census questionnaires by Internet to the whole population.

- **Capture of information with the most advanced procedures**

Scanning of the questionnaires (100 per minute) and automatic recognition of the responses, even from literal manuscripts.

- **Priority dissemination of censuses by Internet**

Complement of previous novelties, that have substantially facilitated progress in the dissemination (population figures in July 2002, preview of results in December 2002, first definitive results in February 2004).

