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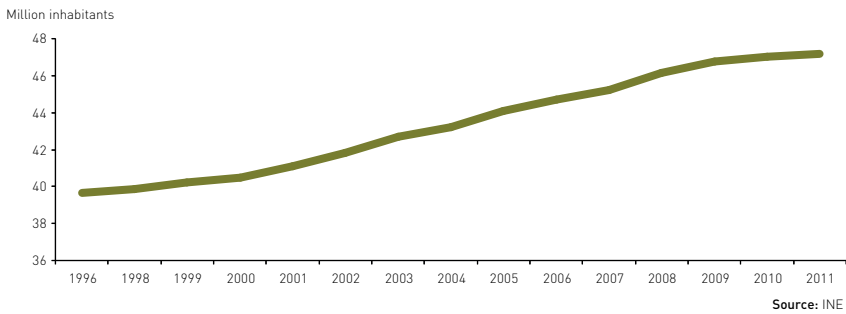
1.1. Social and economic framework

1.1.1. Population

Spain is one of the most populous countries of the EU and one of those in which the population has grown the most in recent years

In 2011, the Spanish population reached 47,190,493 inhabitants, 49.3% of whom were men and 50.7% women. With respect to the previous year, the increase in population was the lowest of recent years, with an increase of just 0.36%. Since 2009, there has been a drop in the growth rate of the population, a decline that matches the situation of economic crisis the country is undergoing. In the period 1996-2011 population growth was 19.0%, between 2005 and 2011 it was 7.0% and between 2010 and 2011, as mentioned earlier, it stood at just 0.36%.

OFFICIAL POPULATION FIGURES
MUNICIPAL REGISTER REVIEW AS AT 1 JANUARY



In recent years, the arrival of new immigrants had compensated for the drop in the Spanish birth rate, contributing to the increase in the population. According to the National Survey of Immigrants, in 2007 the number of immigrants in Spain exceeded four and a half million people, nearly 10% of the total resident population in our country. By 2008 it already exceeded five million, a level it maintained until 2011. However, since 2008, a year in which there was a sharp increase in the immigrant population, of 16.6%, a progressive decline of the growth of this population began to be observed, with growth between 2010 and 2011 at just 0.07%.

In 2011, the population distribution maintained the usual peripheral pattern, with the coastal autonomous regions being the most populated (Andalusia, Catalonia, the Community of Valencia, Galicia and Basque Country) as well as Madrid.

POPULATION REFERRED AT 1-01-2011 BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

Autonomous Communities	Population
Total	47,190,493
Andalusia	8,424,102
Aragon	1,346,293
Asturias	1,081,487
Balearic Islands	1,113,114
Canary Islands	2,126,769
Cantabria	593,121
Castile-Leon	2,558,463
Castile-La Mancha	2,115,334
Catalonia	7,539,618
Valencia	5,117,190
Extremadura	1,109,367
Galicia	2,795,422
Madrid	6,489,680
Murcia	1,470,069
Navarre	642,051
Basque Country	2,184,606
La Rioja	322,955
Ceuta	82,376
Melilla	78,476

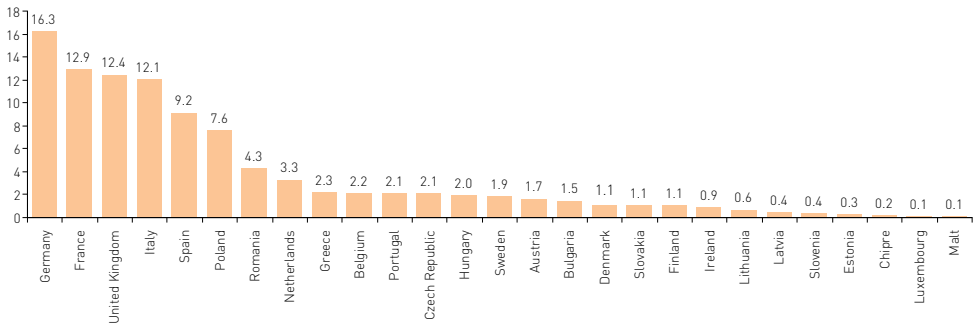
Source: Royal Decree 1782/2011, of 16 December by which the population figures resulting from the revision of the municipal register relating to 1 January 2011 are declared official.

Between 2010 and 2011, Asturias, Galicia, Aragon and Castile-Leon were distinguished by negative population growth. For its part, the Community of Valencia, Cantabria, La Rioja, Extremadura and the Basque Country increased, but below the average of 0.36%. At the other extreme, the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla recorded the highest population growth rates, with increases of 2.23% and 3.21% respectively. The fact that they border with Morocco and are the gateway to Spain and Europe means they have special characteristics with regard to their demographic evolution. On the Peninsula, the Autonomous Communities with the highest population growth were Castile-La Mancha, where population rose by 0.81% and Navarre, which rose by 0.8%.

In relation to the European Union, in 2011 Spain was the fifth most populated country, contributing to 9.2% of the UE-27. This percentage was only exceeded by Germany (which accounted for 12.9% of the total population), France (12.9), the United Kingdom (12.4%) and Italy (12.1%).

Moreover, it was one of the countries with the highest growth in population: in the period 2000-2011 it was the fourth country, with an increase of 15.2%. This increase was only exceeded by Ireland (18.6%), Luxembourg (18.0%) and Cyprus (16.5%). In this same period, the population in France grew by 7.4%, in Italy by 6.5% and in the United Kingdom by 6.2%. To sum up, Spain has two relevant demographic characteristics: it is one of the most highly-populated countries of the EU and is one of those in which the population has grown the most over recent years.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN EU-27[%]. YEAR 2011



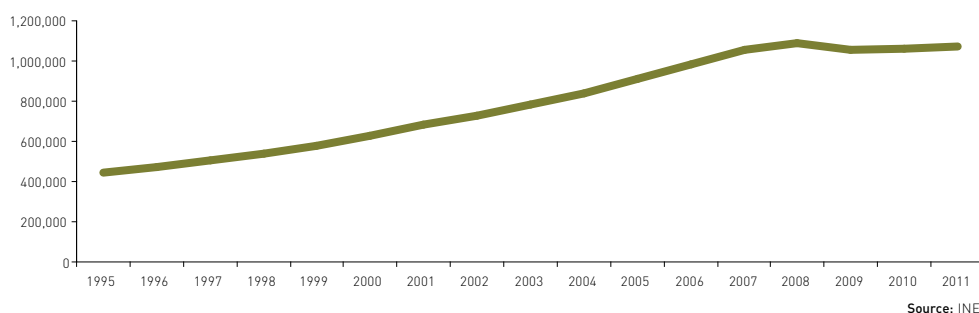
Source: EUROSTAT

1.1.2. Economic development and productive sectors

In 2011 Spain had the highest unemployment rate of the European Union

In 2010 and standardised at current prices, the estimate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices was 1,062,591 million euros. Since the year 1998, increases were more than 7%, but in 2008 - the year in which the economic and financial crisis began to become apparent - this growth fell to just over 3%. It took a negative turn in 2009. However, the steps taken to estimate growth for the year 2011 put it at 1,073,383 million euros, representing an increase of around 1% compared with that of 2010.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT MARKET PRICES. CURRENT PRICES (Million €)



At constant prices, the reference adopted to measure real economic growth on dispensing with inflation, the change in GDP in recent years also shows us how, in 2008, the growth trend that had existed hitherto was broken. Between 2007 and 2008 GDP increased by only 0.9% and became negative (-3.7%) in 2009. As shown in the table, the GDP decreased in 2010, too, albeit by just 0.1%.

YEAR-ON-YEAR VARIATION RATES OF GDP VOLUME

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT MARKET PRICES	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008 (p)	2008-2009 (p)	2009-2010 (p)
		3.7	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.1	3.5	0.9	-3.7

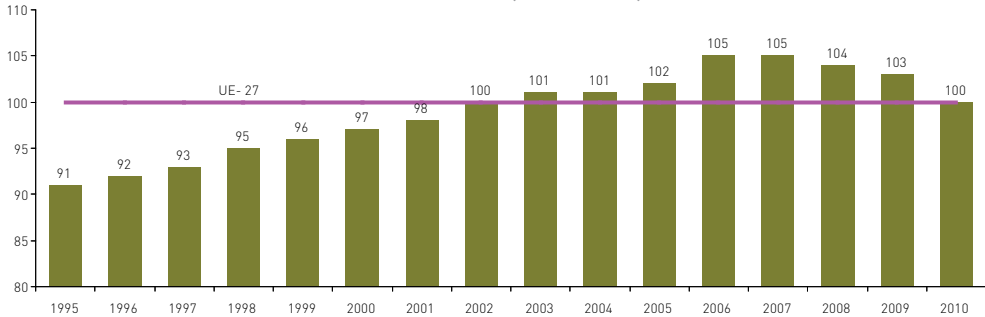
(p)= provisional. Source: National Statistics Institute.

According to the National Statistics Institute, between 2008 and 2010, the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta, followed by Castile-León and Navarre, were the regions where contraction of real GDP was lowest. By contrast, Asturias and the Community of Valencia displayed the biggest accumulated drops in the GDP.

In 2009, all of Spain's Autonomous Communities underwent reductions of their GDP. However, in 2010, eight of them increased again (Navarre 1.2%, Melilla 1.1%, Castile-León and the Basque Country 0.9%, Ceuta 0.7%, Catalonia 0.3% and Galicia and Madrid, 0.1%).

In 2010, seven Autonomous Communities had a per capita GDP (measured in purchasing power parity) above the European average. The Basque Country, Madrid, Navarre and Catalonia head the list, with a level of more than 25% of the EU-27 average.

GDP PER INHABITANT IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER PARITY IN SPAIN (UE-27=100)



Source: EUROSTAT

The average value for Spain, with a growth trend since 1995, exceeded that of the EU-27 in 2002. Although in 2010 its GDP in terms of purchasing power parity was slightly higher, since 2007 there has been a convergence towards the European GDP value (in purchasing power parity). Twelve of the other twenty-six countries have higher figures than those of Spain.

The contribution of each of the economic sectors to the Gross Value Added (GVA) and the GDP is summed up by the following table. In 2010, the services sector contributed 65.6% of the GDP, while industry contributed 11.5% and construction 9.2%. The lowest contributions were made by energy and farming, with 2.8% and 2.5% respectively.

GDP AND GVA BY ACTIVITY SECTOR (Millions of euros)

	1995	2000	2005	2010 (Estimate)
Agriculture, livestock farming and fisheries	18,568	24,984	26,011	26,062
Energy	16,159	15,802	22,790	29,684
Industry	74,147	103,415	125,014	122,132
Construction	30,874	47,584	93,808	97,791
Services	272,599	378,775	546,153	696,734
GVA	412,347	570,560	813,776	972,403
GDP AT MARKET PRICES	447,205	630,263	908,792	1,062,591

Source: INE.

In recent years (2010), falls can be seen in the percentage of contribution to GDP of industry and construction, as in the case of the services sector, as a consequence of the retraction of the economy. Agriculture and the energy sector have increased their contribution slightly, although the fact that it is low in absolute terms means they had an insignificant influence. This balance of recent years is very important because some of these sectors, as a whole or partly, cause great pressure on the environment. The decline in activity has contributed to the reduction in them and therefore, in their impact on the environment.

In 2011, the slowdown of industrial activity and construction was partly offset by the services sector, which enjoyed great prominence in terms of foreign tourism, but not in private consumption, which remained weak throughout the year making the process of employment destruction more pronounced.

In 2010, the unemployment rate in Spain was 20.1% (19.7% for men and 20.5% for women). This situation has become all the more dramatic because in 2007 this rate was only 8.3%, allowing the Spanish to enjoy an economic situation with access to a high level of consumption, impossible to maintain in this new situation.

Nine Autonomous Communities have higher-than-average unemployment rates and two of them record values that are very close to 30%. Murcia and the Balearic Islands are the communities with the highest increase in the number of jobless between 2005 and 2010, whilst Ceuta and the Basque Country are those where the figure has grown the least, although they did increase by more than 20% and 45%, respectively.

In 2010, employment by sectors was similar to the previous years in terms of distribution, with the service sector employing the most people (73%), followed by industry (14%), construction (9%) and agriculture (4%). Since 2008, the number of persons employed in construction dropped by almost 33%, in industry by 18% and in agriculture and services by about 3%. In 2010, only agriculture showed a slight increase in the number of persons employed (0.9%).

During 2011, the Spanish labour market continued to decline in employment, as predicted by the Labour Force Survey (EPA). The loss of jobs affects all of the main branches of activity. In the fourth quarter of 2011 the economically active population dropped by 53,400 people and the number of unemployed rose by 295,300 people, reaching the figure of 5,273,600. Employment dropped in Services, Construction and Industry and increased in Agriculture.

In 2010 Spain was the country with the highest unemployment rate of the EU-27, which had a average of 9.6%. At the other extreme and with less than 5% of unemployed were Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Austria. In 2011, the unemployment rate estimated by Eurostat for Spain remained the highest in the EU and reached 21.6%.

In 2011, there were 2,683,000 public employees in Spain, to serve the more than 47.1 million inhabitants. About 21.2% of these employees belonged to the General State Administration, 25.6% to local authorities and 53.2% to the Autonomous

Administration. To understand this structure we must bear in mind that the Spanish State is organised territorially into 17 Autonomous Communities, two Autonomous Cities and 8,116 municipalities. The transfer of powers and personnel made by the State to the Autonomous Communities, together with the new vacancies created, means that of the three administrations, the General State Administration is the one that employs the least personnel.

1.2. Transparency and access to environmental information

The Spanish Constitution of 1978 established the right of all citizens to demand that the public authorities take the necessary measures to ensure the appropriate protection of the environment and enjoy the right to live in a healthy environment. Correlatively, it imposes on all citizens the obligation to preserve and respect that same environment. To be able to enjoy that right and participate in that obligation in a real and effective way, it is essential that citizens have access to environmental information that is as comprehensive and detailed as possible.

In this respect, transparency of access to public information in general and more specifically to environmental information, is currently set as an indicator of democratic quality and a political priority in Spain and in the countries around us. Given the importance of the right of access to information on protection of the environment and on achieving the objectives of sustainable development, current legislation imposes a series of obligations regarding dissemination of environmental information on the public authorities of all administrations, thus promoting greater transparency.

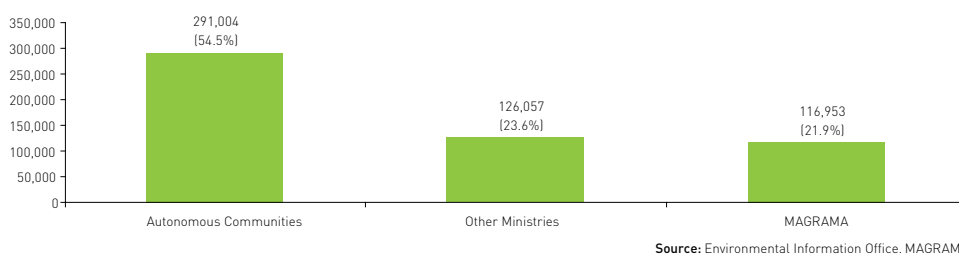
Fundamentally these obligations are derived from Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and the Aarhus Convention. The current Law 27/2006 of 18 July, which regulates the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, fulfils the commitments made with the ratification of the Convention and in addition, transposes the European Directives linked to the Aarhus process.

This regulatory effort has been accompanied by a paradigm shift in our public administrations and adjustment of their structures to the new requirements in terms of environmental democracy. In this way, both in the area of the General State Administration, and in the regional and local sphere, for some time now public

policies based on openness and the active dissemination of information, basically through telematic means, have been developed.

Alongside this effort of active dissemination of environmental information, the administrations are obliged to answer, within the stipulated time and in the proper form, any requests for information received. To this end, units specialising in environmental participation and information have been created recently, dedicated to attending to the growing demand for environmental information by citizens and organizations.

REQUESTES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN MINISTERS
AND AURONOUS COMMUNITIES.
TOTAL: 534,010 IN 2010



The total number of applications for environmental information received by Autonomous Communities and Ministries has remained at over half a million over the last three years, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.