

9. Spain: a country of heritage

5th country in the world



In 1986, Spain had 14 designated sites

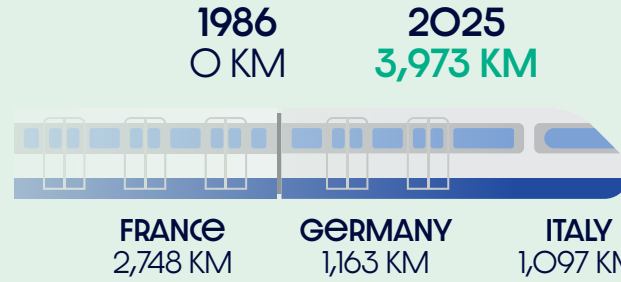
In 2025, it has 50

3rd in Europe

The Alhambra in Granada, the Burgos Cathedral, the Historic Centre of Cordoba, and the works of Antoni Gaudí are among the first 50 World Heritage sites designated by UNESCO. They are understood to be sites of "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity". Spain also has 22 elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including the Silbo Gomero whistled language of the island of La Gomera (Canary Islands), the Valencia Fallas festivity, the Castells human towers and Flamenco music and dance.

UNESCO.

10. Mobility and connectivity



Over the past two decades, Spain has built the most extensive high-speed network in Europe and the second largest in the world.

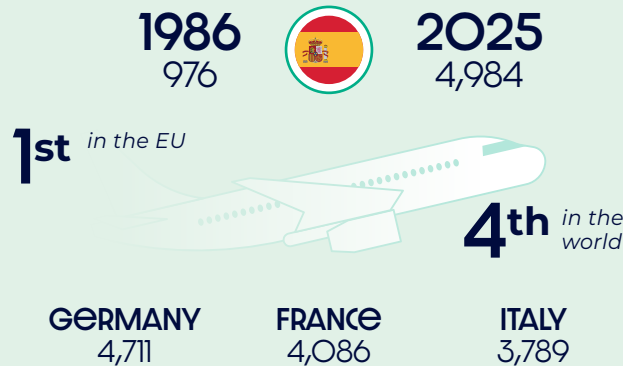
Ministry of Transport, Eurostat, ADIF



Spain is the top-ranking country in the EU and third in the world in terms of the total length of its high-capacity roads.

Ministry of Transport, UNECE.

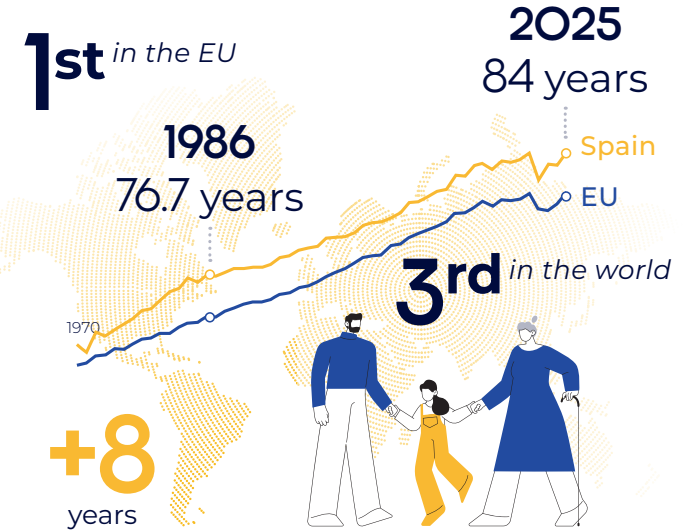
Leader in daily flights



Eurocontrol, Forbes.

40 YEARS OF SPAIN IN THE EU 40 INDICATORS AND A STORY OF PROGRESS

1. Life expectancy: we are living longer and better.



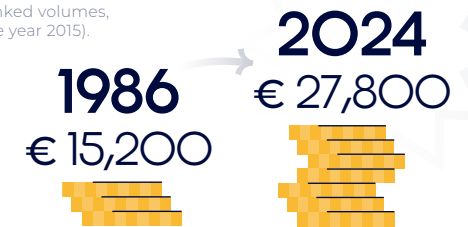
In 2025, life expectancy at birth in Spain—at 84 years—is above the EU average (81.5 years), reflecting significant progress.

Ministry of Health, Eurostat.

2. GDP per capita has almost doubled

GDP per capita

(chain-linked volumes, reference year 2015).



Since Spain's accession to the EU, GDP per capita has practically doubled. This increase, which reflects the country's integration into the EU market and the sustained growth of its economic activity, has gone hand in hand with a tangible improvement in standards of living.

AMECO, European Commission.

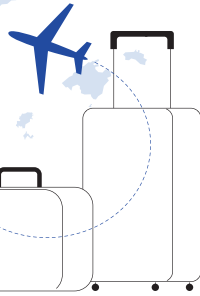
3. More than one million Spanish students have participated in the Erasmus programme

Spanish students in the Erasmus programme.



Spanish students have participated in the Erasmus programme since its inception in 1987.

215,000
EU students were hosted in Spain in 2024



Spain hosts more students than any other programme country.

Spain is the programme country that hosts the most students and among those that send the most students each year. In 2024, France hosted 109,000 students and sent 182,000. Germany hosted 115,000 and sent 164,000. Italy hosted 148,000 and sent 130,000.

Eurostat, European Commission, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

4. Spain is the world leader by number of organ transplants and donations, with 132 transplants per million people

The total number of transplants has increased six-fold



In 2024, the rate of transplants performed in Spain was 132.8 per million people (pmp), while the donor rate was 52.6 pmp. Spain has been the world leader in pmp donor and transplant rates for decades.

The rate of Spanish donations is double the EU average of 22.9 donors pmp. In 2023, Spain accounted for 23% of EU organ donations, despite representing just 11% of the EU population.

Ministry of Health, WHO.

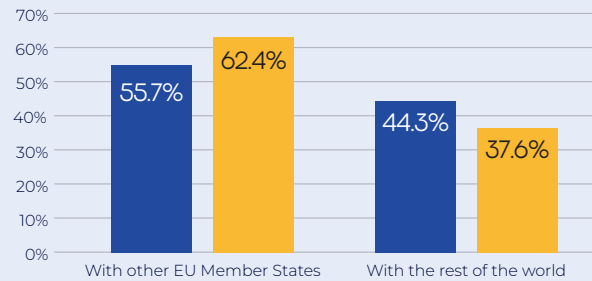
5. An open and competitive economy: exports have doubled

Exports as a % of GDP:



Spain's exports and imports as a % of GDP:

Imports / Exports

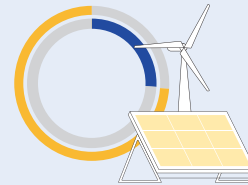


Spain is converging with the biggest exporters, maximizing the competitive advantage of being in the single market. **More than 60% of Spanish exports are to EU countries.** The main export markets for Spain are France, Germany, Portugal and Italy.

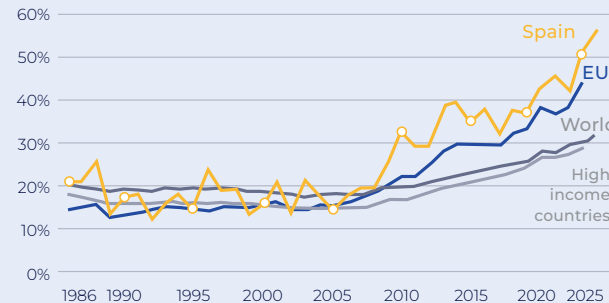
Banco Mundial

6. Generation of renewable electricity

57%
of electricity in 2025 was generated using renewable sources.



Compared with 20% in 1986



The proportion of electricity generated using renewable energy sources in Spain is above the EU average. In 2025 Spain reported a record 57%. The main sources are: wind (22%), photovoltaic (19%) and hydro (12%).

Red Eléctrica de Spain, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Eurostat.

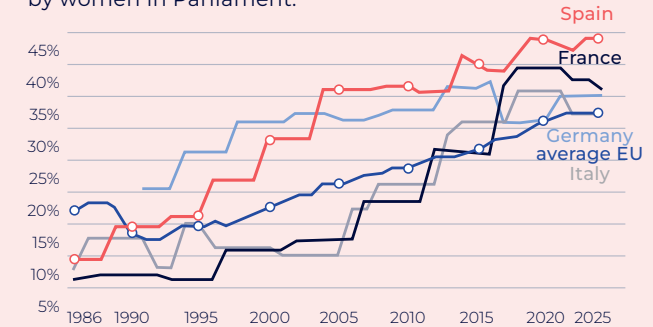
7. Gender parity in the Congress:

Number of female deputies:



Congreso de los Diputados

Percentage of seats held by women in Parliament:



The change in political culture is reflected in the gender parity in the Congress of Deputies, with a notably higher proportion of women than the EU average.

Our World in Data, V-DEM.

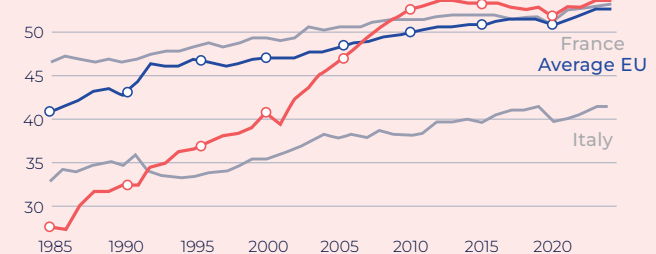
8. Female workers: the greatest change in the EU

53%
of women participated in the workforce in 2025.



27%
Twice the figure for 1986.

Labour force participation rate for women (% all women)



The labour force participation rate for women has doubled, from 27% in 1986 to the current figure of 53%. This reflects the change in women's access to education and employment, and a progressive improvement in labour equality standards.

World Bank.