

1. The population of Spain and its distribution

- **Demography** is the study of population. It tells us about an area's population, how it is distributed and how it is evolving.
- The **total population** of a country or region is the number of people who live there.
- 47 million people live in Spain, but they are irregularly distributed.
- Most people live in places with a favourable terrain and climate such as near the coast. This is also where most industries and services are found. Fewer people live inland and in mountainous areas, and farming areas have fewer inhabitants now than in the past.
- The population density is the number of people who live in 1 square kilometre.
- Spain has a surface area of 505 968 km² and a population density of 93.4 inhab./km², which is lower than the average for the European Union (116.3 inhab./km²).

2. The population of Spain

- The **birth rate** is the number of births per 1000 people each year.
- Spain has a very low birth rate. In recent years it has gone down and today, the average number of children per woman is only 1.3.
- **Life expectancy** is the average number of years people live.
- In Spain, life expectancy is high (79 years for men, 85 for women).
- The **death rate** is the number of deaths per 1000 people each year.
- The population of a country **increases** or **decreases** due to natural causes depending on the birth rate and death rate.
- **Natural growth** is the difference between the total number of births and the total number of deaths.
- Because people live longer and fewer babies are being born, the natural growth of the Spanish population is very low.
- To know the **real population** growth of a country, we have to remember that some people arrive from other countries to live there (**immigrants**) and others leave to live in other places (**emigrants**).
- Net migration is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants.
- At the start of the 21th century, Spain received a large number of immigrants; this caused significant population growth. Between 1991 and 2011, the population of Spain rose from 39 to 47 million.
- Today, this growth has slowed down and the population is stable.
- In Spain, 48.2% of the total population form the working population, which includes people who do a job and get paid (the employed) and people who are looking for work (the unemployed).
- The remaining 51.8% of the population are the non-working population: children, students, homemakers and people who are retired.

The population of Spain and Europe

The Geographer's Apprentice: Population pyramids

- To study the population of a country, it is not enough to know the total number of inhabitants, how they are distributed and what the growth factors (e.g. births and deaths) are. We also need to know how the population breaks down by age and gender. We can find this out from a population pyramid.
- A **population pyramid** (also called an age pyramid) is a graph that puts the inhabitants of a place in order according to age and gender. It looks similar to a pyramid.
- Population pyramids can tell us several things about a population. For example, if more boys or girls are born or if there is a large or small adult or ageing population.

3. Migration in Spain

- **Migration** has always been important in Spain and, due to the large number of immigrants who have arrived here in recent years, it continues to be important today.
- Inequalities drive people to leave their homes and look for a new place to live. Migrants hope to find better living and working conditions in the place they move to.
- Throughout the **19th** and **20th** centuries, Spain was a country of emigrants.
- Many Spanish people left Spain to look for work in Latin America or the more industrialised countries of Europe. Technological advances in farming and industry caused rural depopulation. People left the countryside to look for work in the cities.
- But, at the end of the **21th** century, Spain became a **recipient nation** for immigrants due to the growth of the Spanish economy, which required a larger workforce. Today, there are just under 6 million foreign residents in Spain. Often, these people speak other languages, practise other religions and have different customs.
- Foreign immigrants in Spain come from different areas of the world, such as Romania, Morocco, Latin America and China. In order to live together peacefully, we should recognise and respect their identity and their culture. At the same time, immigrants should respect the language, culture, laws and institutions of their host country.

4. The population of Europe

- Europe has a large number of inhabitants and is one of the most densely populated places on Earth. However, growth is very low and it has an ageing population.
- The continent of Europe has an area of approximately 10500000 km² and its population density is about 70 inhab./km².
- Some areas are very densely populated, while others are almost uninhabited.
- The most densely populated areas are the industrial zones of central Europe and the western Mediterranean coasts.
- Fewer people live in areas where the climate and terrain are not suitable for habitation and in farming areas.
- Europe has a population of almost 740 million, but the low birth rate means that women only have 1.6 children on average, and population growth will be weak in the coming decades. With a population of 505 million, the European Union represents 7% of the world's population.
- Low natural growth has resulted in an ageing population and fewer young people.