

## Spain

**Official Name:** Kingdom of Spain

**Type of Government:** Constitutional parliamentary monarchy

**Capital City:** Madrid

**Leader:** King Felipe VI, President Mariano Rajoy (terms ends 2015)

**Ideology:** Centre right capitalism

**Region:** Southwestern Europe

**Neighbours:** Portugal, France



### DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Population:** 47.7 million
- **Age:** Life expectancy is 81.47 years with 45.9% of the population aged 25-54.
- **Religion:** 69% Catholic, 26% Unaffiliated, 5% Other
- **Ethnicities:** 87.8% Spanish, 12.2% Other
- **Language:** Spanish is the official language but the regional languages of Aragonese, Asturian, Basque, Catalan, Galician and Occitan are still recognised



### ECONOMY

- Spain's capitalist mixed economy is the 14th largest worldwide and the 5th largest in the European Union, as well as the Eurozone's 4th largest.
- More recently the government has had to focus on measures to reverse a severe economic recession that began in mid-2008. Austerity measures implemented to reduce a large budget deficit and reassure foreign investors have led to one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe. Spain gradually reduced the deficit to just under 7% of GDP in 2013, slightly above the 6.5% target negotiated between Spain and the EU. Public debt has increased substantially – from 60.1% of GDP in 2010 to 93.4% in 2013.
- Rising labor productivity, moderating labor costs, and lower inflation have helped to improve foreign investor interest in the economy and to reduce government borrowing costs. The government's ongoing efforts to implement reforms - labor, pension, health, tax, and education - are aimed at supporting investor sentiment.

#### Major Industries

- Include agriculture (3% GDP), tourism (5% GDP), energy and transport.

#### Exports

- **Major Export Partners:** France 16.8%, Germany 10.8%, Italy 7.7%, UK 6.5%
- Major exports include machinery, motor vehicles, foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, medicines, other consumer goods.

#### Imports

- **Major Import Partners:** Germany 11.8%, France 11.5%, Italy 6.7%, China 5.6%, UK 4.1%
- Include machinery and equipment, fuels, chemicals, semifinished goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods, measuring and medical control instruments.

#### Natural Resources:

- Largely coal, lignite, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, uranium, tungsten, mercury, pyrites, magnesite, fluorspar, gypsum, sepiolite, kaolin, potash, hydropower, and arable land.

## MILITARY

**Size:** In 2001, when compulsory military service was still in effect, the army was about 135,000 troops (50,000 officers and 86,000 soldiers). Following the suspension of conscription the Spanish Army became a fully professionalised volunteer force and by 2008 had a personnel strength of 75,000. In case of a wartime emergency, an additional force of 80,000 Civil Guards comes under the Ministry of Defence command.



## POLITICS

### Domestic politics

- Spain's powerful world empire of the 16th and 17th centuries ultimately yielded command of the seas to England. Subsequent failure to embrace the mercantile and industrial revolutions caused the country to fall behind Britain, France, and Germany in economic and political power. Spain remained neutral in World War I and II but suffered through a devastating civil war (1936-39).
- A peaceful transition to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, and rapid economic modernization (Spain joined the EU in 1986) gave Spain a dynamic and rapidly growing economy and made it a global champion of freedom and human rights.

### Foreign Policy Concerns

- After the return of democracy, Spain's foreign policy priorities were to break out of the diplomatic isolation of the Franco years and expand diplomatic relations, enter the European Community, and define security relations with the West.
- As a member of NATO since 1982, Spain has established itself as a participant in multilateral international security activities. Spain's EU membership represents an important part of its foreign policy. Even on many international issues beyond western Europe, Spain prefers to co-ordinate its efforts with its EU partners through the European political co-operation mechanisms.
- Spain has maintained its special relation with Hispanic America and the Philippines. Its policy emphasises the concept of an Ibero-American community, essentially the renewal of the historically liberal concept of "Hispanidad" or "Hispanismo", as it is often referred to in English, which has sought to link the Iberian Peninsula with Hispanic America through language, commerce, history and culture.

### More Information

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain#Foreign\\_relations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain#Foreign_relations)

CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17941641>

Latest news from the New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/europe/index.html>

the Economist <http://www.economist.com/news/world-week/21643226-politics-week>

the Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/world/europe-news>