

SPAIN

Statistical Profile

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About this Statistical Profile

Organizations striving to be employers-of-choice in different countries around the world need access to current information about the economic, social, political, and demographic characteristics of the countries where their employees live and work.

The Country Profile Series focuses on statistics that can guide decision-making at the workplace: workforce highlights, economic highlights, and population highlights. This Country Profile is part of a set of resources about Spain available on the website of the Global Perspectives Institute: www.bc.edu/agingandwork.

INTRODUCTION TO SPAIN

The crowns of the Christian kingdoms of Castile and Aragon were united by the marriage of Isabella I and Ferdinand II in 1469. This unification settled the basis for the Spanish Empire and modern Spain. In the 16th century and first half of the 17th century, Spain became the strongest kingdom in Europe and the leading world power.

In the 20th century, Spain remained neutral in World Wars I and II but suffered through a devastating civil war from 1936 to 1939.¹ After the civil war, Spain is marked by the 36-year dictatorship of General Francisco Franco until the death of the dictator in 1975. Nowadays, Spain is a democratic constitutional monarchy with a National Parliament, formed by the Congress of Deputies and the Senate, that is elected every 4 years.

Spain has an area of 505,955 km², with the mainland located on the Iberian Peninsula, delimited to the west by Portugal and to the north by Andorra and France. The rest of the territory is two groups of islands, the Canary Islands located in the Atlantic Ocean and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Moreover, Spanish dominion includes two autonomous cities - Ceuta and Melilla - bordering Morocco in Northern Africa.²

Due to the baby boom in the 1960s, Spain's population increased from 18,616,630 inhabitants in 1900 to 39,433,942 in 1991.³ In 2009, the population of Spain officially reached 46 million people.⁴ Spanish is the official language nationwide, however, three other languages are co-official: Basque, Catalan and Galician.

Spain is the world's ninth largest economy with nominal GDP at US \$1.395 trillion, corresponding to US \$30,588 per capita.⁵ The President of the European Central Bank, Mr. Jean-Claude Trichet, affirms that Spain's performance in reducing unemployment from 1997 to 2008 has been remarkable.⁶ However, Spain has finished the year 2009 with one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe (18.9%).⁷

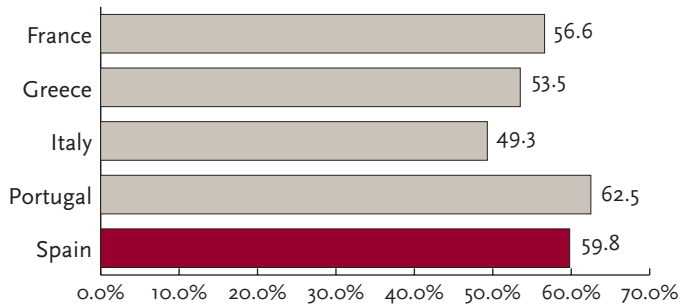
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LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌐 59.8% of the total Spanish population is in the labor force, which includes persons age 16 and above.⁸
- 🌐 The economically active population in Spain is projected to increase from 21.9 million in 2007 to 22.7 million by 2020. The “economically active population” comprises all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labor for the production of goods and services during a specified time reference period.⁸
- 🌐 The unemployed rate went from 13.9% in November 2008 to 19.3% in September 2009. Spain and Latvia have the highest unemployment rate among the European Union.⁹
- 🌐 In 2008, the number of average hours worked by Spanish employees was 34.7 hours per week in comparison to 37.6 hours in France and 40.1 hours in Greece.⁸
- 🌐 In 2008, 12.5% of the total labor force was working part-time.¹⁰
- 🌐 15.8% of the total civilian employed labor force reported being self-employed in 2008.¹⁰

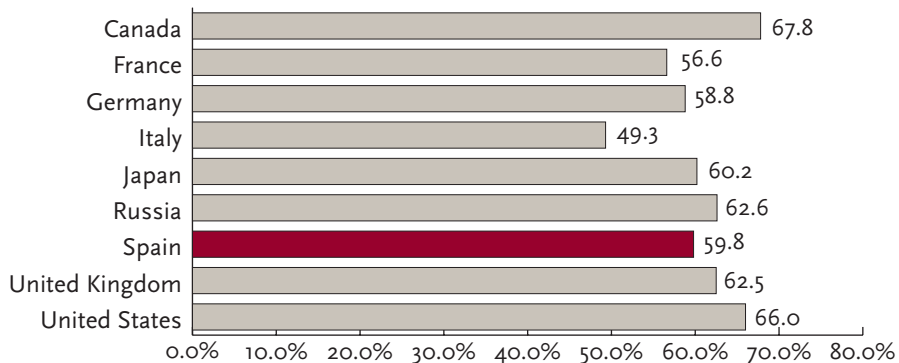
Figure 1a. Employed as Percent of Total Population
- Selected Regional Countries (Age 15+), 2008



59.8% of the Spanish population is employed, compared to 49.3% in Italy and 53.5% in Greece.

Source: ILO⁸

Figure 1b. Employed as Percent of Total Population
- Selected GNI Countries (Age 15+), 2008

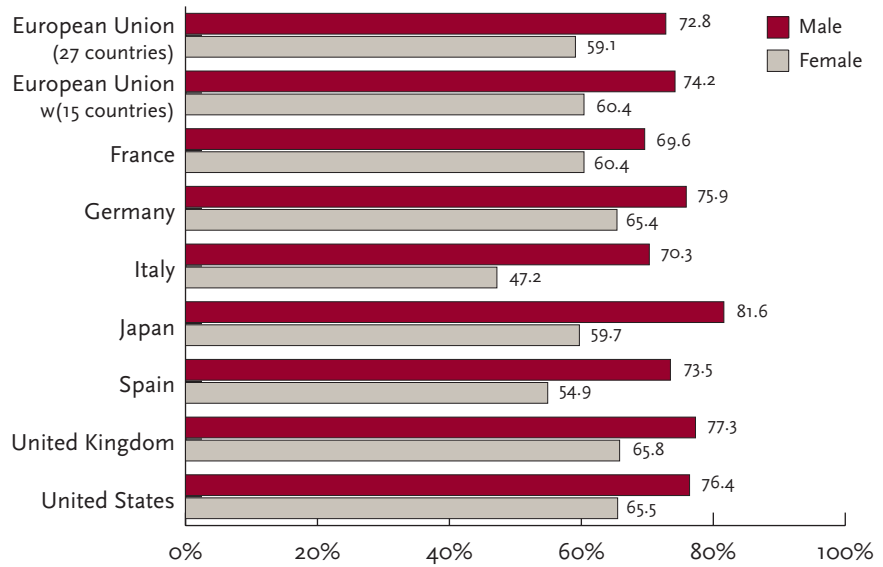


59.8% of the Spanish population is employed, compared to 67.8% in Canada or 66.0% in United States.

Source: ILO⁸

Spain has one of the lowest rates of employment for women (54.9%) in the 15-64 age group. The male employment rate was instead 73.5%, slightly higher than France and Italy.

Figure 2. Employment Rate, Ages 15-64, by Gender, Spain and Comparable Countries



Source: Eurostat⁹

Figure 3. Employment Rates in Spain, within age group, 2007

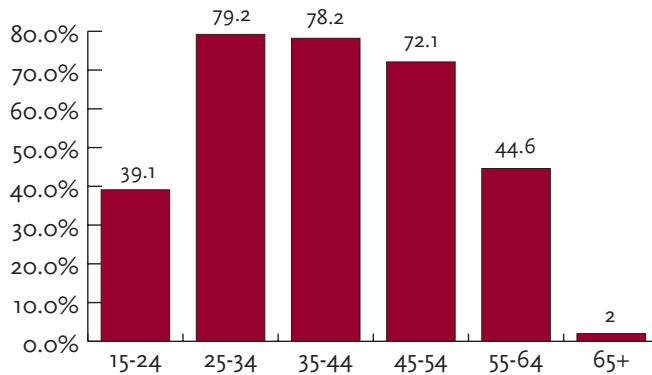
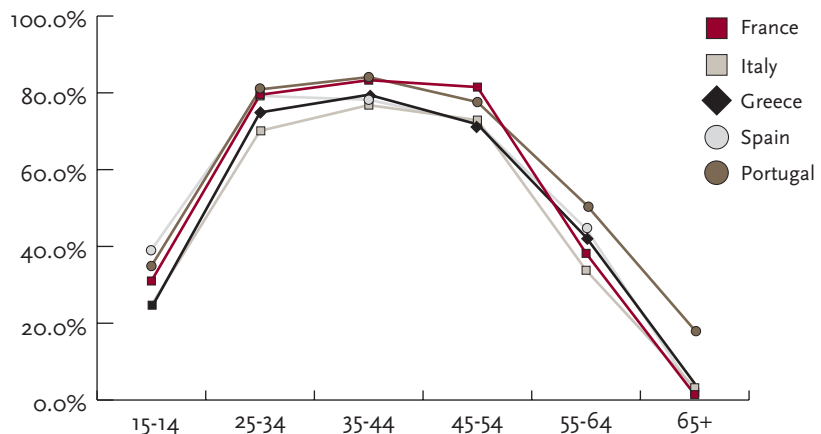


Figure 3 shows the employment rates for each group in Spain in 2007. The two prevalent age groups of the employment populations are 25-34 (79.2%) and 35-44 (78.2%) years of age.

Source: : INE (National Institute of Statistics)¹⁰

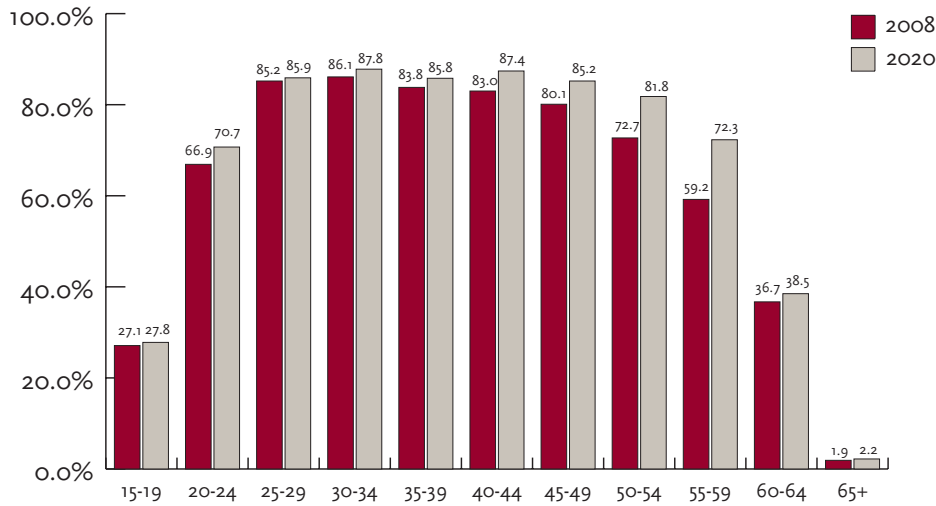
Figure 4. Employment Rates in Spain Compared to Selected Regional Countries, within age group, 2007



The distribution of the employment rate within age groups follow similar patterns in all the countries considered. France and Portugal are the nations characterized by highest employment rates while Italy's employment rates are the lowest.

Source: : INE (National Institute of Statistics)¹⁰

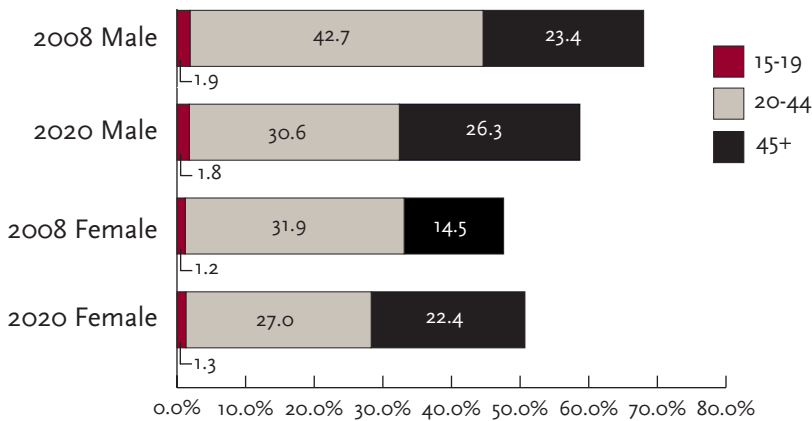
Figure 5a. Current & Projected Economically Active Population Estimates and Projections in Spain, within age group, 2008 and 2020



The economically active population in Spain is expected to increase in correspondence of all the age groups considered.

Source: ILO⁸

Figure 5b. Current & projected % of Total Population Economically Active in Spain, by gender, 2008 and 2020



Both the male and female economically active population is expected to increase for individuals older than 45, and decrease among those aged in the age group of 20-44.

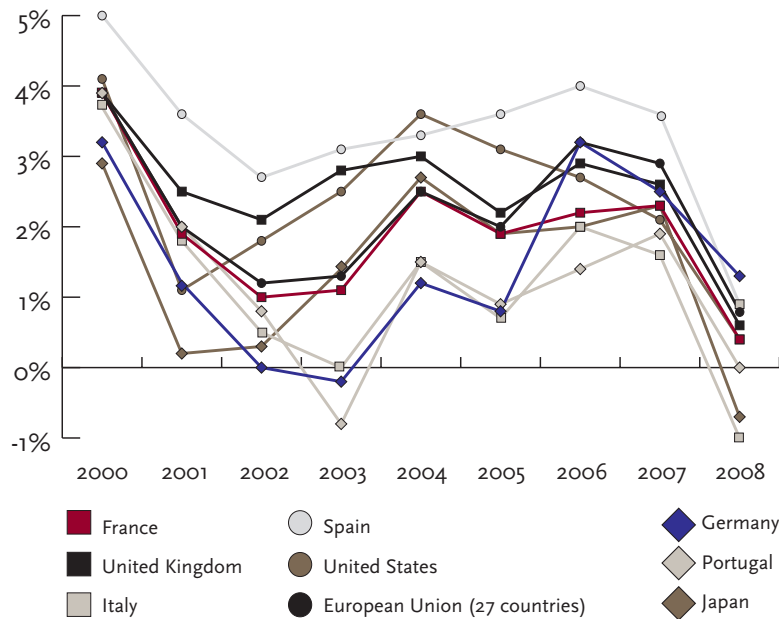
Source: ILO⁸

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌐 Gross Domestic Product per capita in Spain was \$30,589 in 2008. This compares to \$34,205 in France, \$30,631 in Italy, and in \$47,440 in the United States in the same year.⁵
- 🌐 The gross domestic product of Spain grew at an average of 3.3% during the period of 2000-2008. Growth rate peaked in 2000 at 5.0% and was 0.9% in 2008.⁹

Figure 6. GDP Growth, Spain and comparable countries, 2000-2008

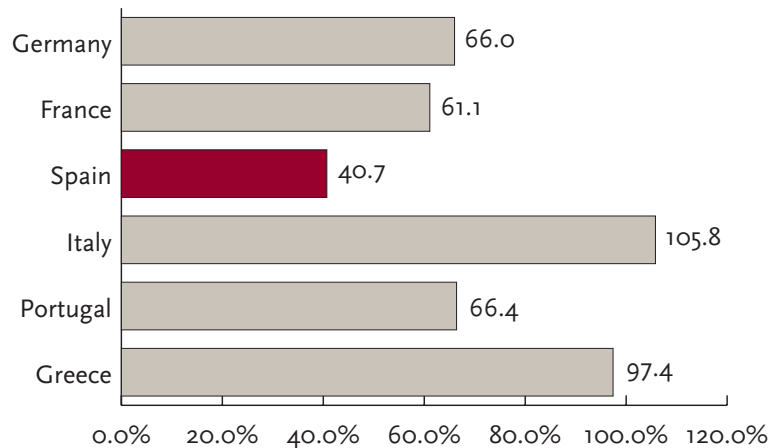
GDP growth in Spain has been the highest from 2000 to 2008 among countries considered.



Source: Eurostat⁹

Figure 7. Total Public Debt as Percentage of GDP, selected regional countries, 2008

Spain's public debt was the lowest in 2008 among countries considered. Italy's public debt was the highest.

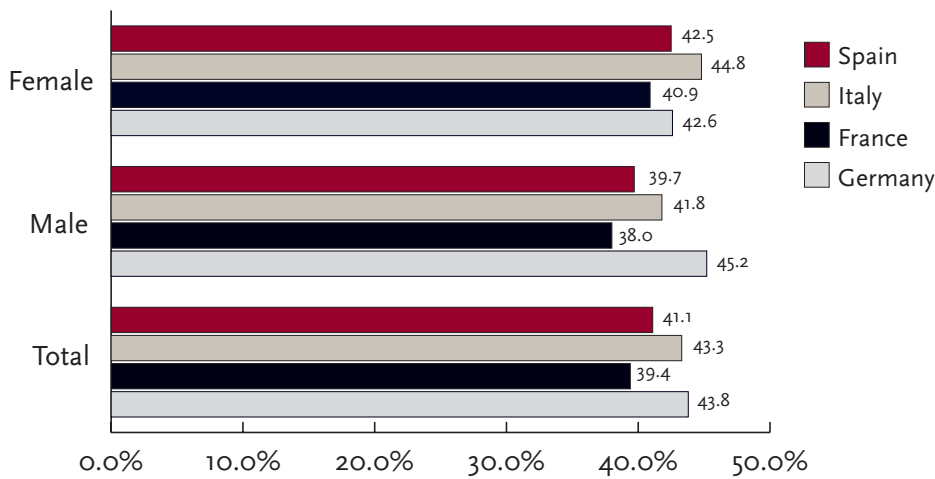


Source: CIA⁷

DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌐 In 2009, the Spanish population was 46,661,950, compared to 58,126,212 for Italy and 64,057,792 for France.¹
- 🌐 According to The World Factbook, total fertility rate for Spanish women is 1.3 children per woman, the same rate that Italy. In the other hand, fertility rate for France is 1.98.¹ Total Fertility rate indicates the number of children to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of her life.
- 🌐 In Spain the ratio of the population aged 65 and over to the total population is 18.1 in 2009 (est.). This ratio is 20.2 in Italy, 20.3 in Germany and 16.4 in France.¹

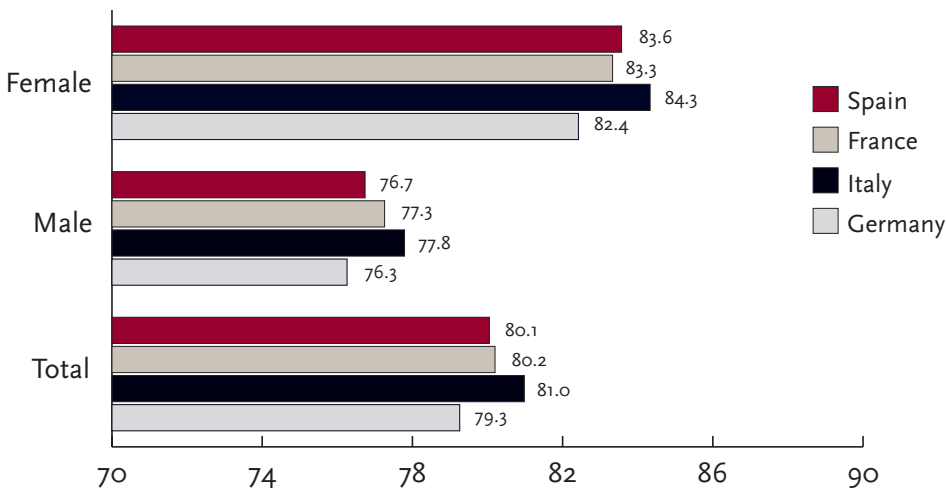
Figure 8. Median Age, by Gender, Regional Comparisons, 2008



The median age for the Spanish population in 2008 was 39.7 years for men and 42.5 years for women.

Source: CIA¹

Figure 9. Life Expectancy at Birth [Regional Comparisons, 2008] [developed nations comparable by GDP, developing nations comparable by region]

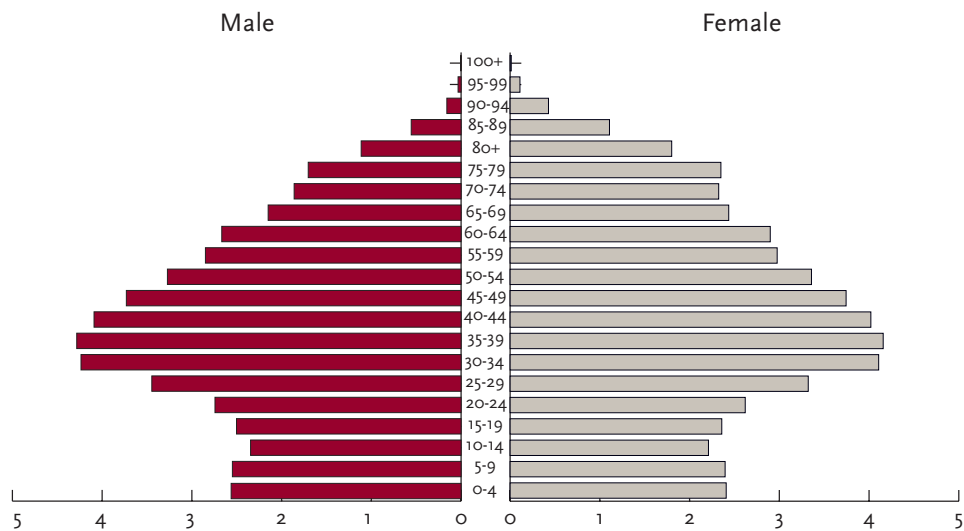


The life expectancy at birth for the Spanish population in 2008 was 76 years for men and 83 years for women.

Source: CIA¹

- 🌐 In Spain, the distribution of the population is characterized by a high concentration of individuals between the ages of 30-49, for both males and females. Similar population distributions are observed for Italy and France (see Figures 10a-10d-10g).¹¹
- 🌐 Over time, the Spanish population distribution is expected to constantly increase in the 75+ age group.

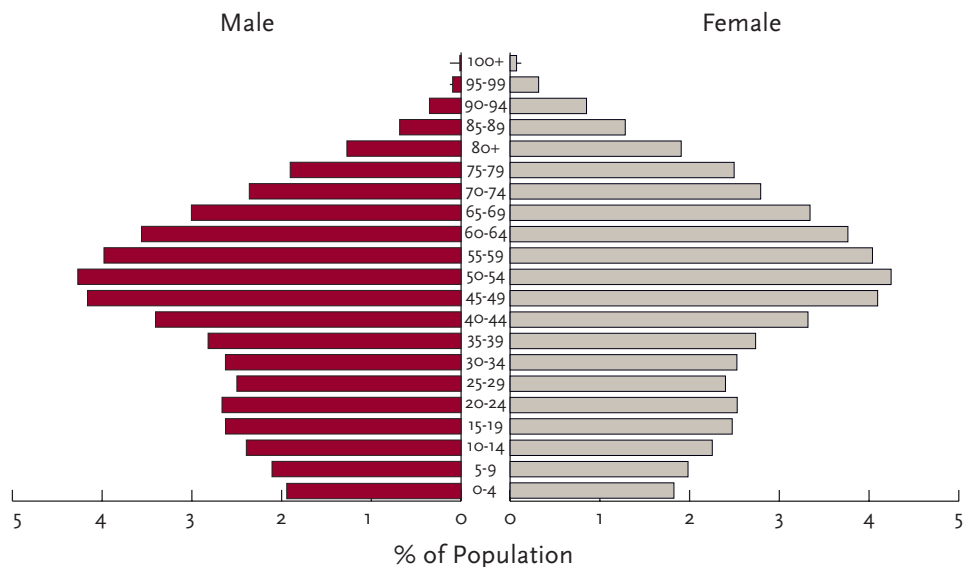
Figure 10a. Population Distribution of Spain, 2009



The distribution of the Spanish population in 2009 is characterized by a high concentration of the population in the 30-49 age group, for both males and females.

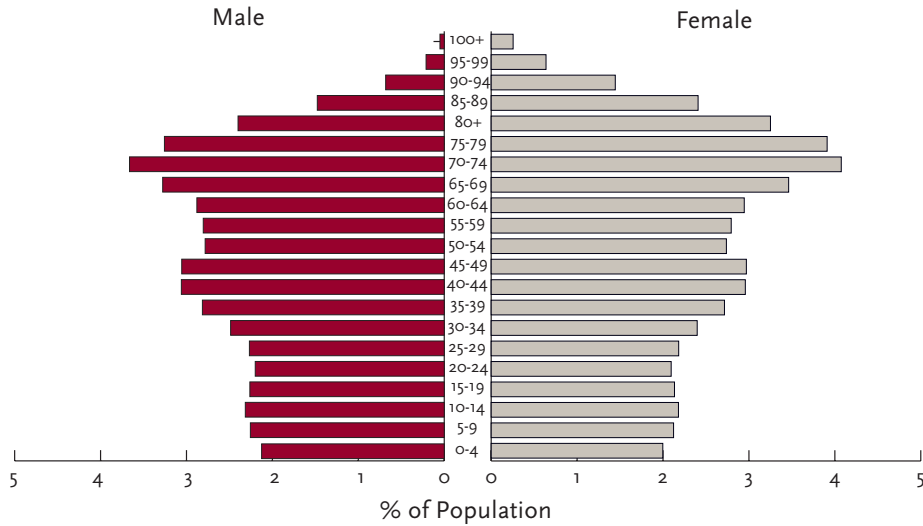
Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹¹

Figure 10b. Population Distribution of Spain, 2025



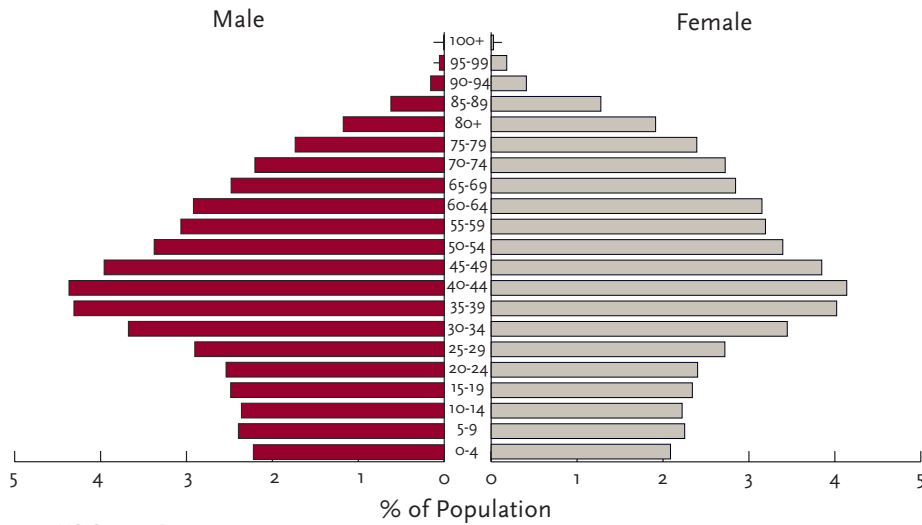
Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹¹

Figure 10c. Population Distribution of Spain, 2050



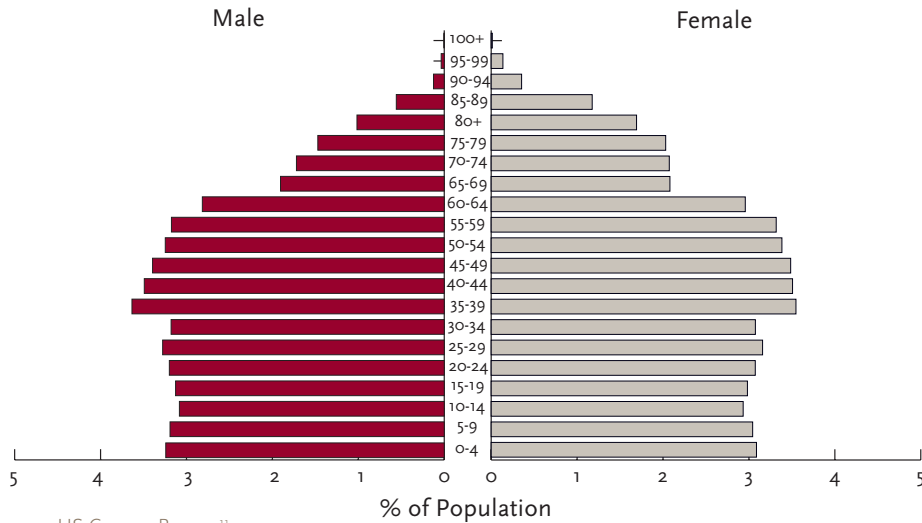
Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹¹

Figure 10d. Population Distribution of Italy, 2009



Source: US Census Bureau¹¹

Figure 10e. Population Distribution of France, 2009



Source: US Census Bureau¹¹

The distribution of the Italian population in 2009 is similar to the Spanish population, characterized by a high concentration of the population in the age group 30-49, for both males and females.

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Established in 2007 by the Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College, the Global Perspectives Institute is an international collaboration of scholars and employers committed to the expansion of the quality of employment available to the 21st century multi-generational workforce in countries around the world.

The Global Perspectives Institute focuses on innovative and promising practices that might be adopted by employers and policy-makers.

The Institute's research, publications, and international forums contribute to:

- a deeper understanding of the employment experiences and career aspirations of employees of different ages who work in countries around the world;
- informed decision making by employers who want to be employers-of-choice in different countries; and
- innovative thinking about private-public partnerships that promote sustainable, high-quality employment.

The Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College promotes quality of employment as an imperative for the 21st century multi-generational workforce. We integrate evidence from research with insights from workplace experiences to inform innovative organizational decision making. Collaborating with business leaders and scholars in a multi-disciplinary dialogue, the Center develops the next generation of knowledge and talent management.

The Sloan Center on Aging & Work is grateful for the continued support of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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