

SPAIN: BASIC DATA

- GEOGRAPHY** Spain is the second largest country in Western Europe, covering an area of 504,750 square kilometres (194,896 square miles) and is the second most mountainous after Switzerland.
- CLIMATE** Mediterranean in east and south, and temperate in north west. In Madrid, the hottest period is usually July 15-August 15 (>30°C), coldest month is January (0-8°C). Driest month is July (11 mm avg.), and wettest month is October (53 mm).
- POPULATION** 39.2 million (1992)
- MAIN CITIES**
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|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Madrid | 3,288,000 | Seville | 684,000 |
| Barcelona | 1,854,000 | Zaragoza | 596,000 |
| Valencia | 792,000 | Malaga | 588,000 |
- TIME** Spain is one hour ahead of GMT.
- MEASURES** The metric system is used. Some local measures include: fanega= 55.5 litres; libra= 460 grams; and quintal= 100 libras.
- LANGUAGE** Castilian Spanish, the official language, is understood throughout Spain. Other regional Spanish languages include Basque, Catalan and Galician. English is the second language of business.
- LEGAL SYSTEM** The Spanish legal system is based on the constitution of December 6, 1978. Legislation is of four main types: laws, royal decree-laws, royal decrees, and ministerial orders.
- RELIGION** Religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution, and Roman Catholicism predominates.
- EDUCATION** A universal and free education system is available throughout Spain. In the principal cities, some 30 universities offer a wide range of courses.
- STANDARDS** Spain's social structure is based on a wide middle class, with a few very rich people and a large number of poor people. Per capita GDP is about US\$8,000 per annum. There is a substantial underground economy that increases, in many cases, the general standard of living.
- CURRENCY** The currency is the Spanish peseta (Ptas.). Since October 1990, the peseta has constituted 5.5% of the ECU basket.
- HOLIDAYS** Statutory holidays are as follows: January 1, Good Friday, May 1, August 15, October 12, November 1, December 6, December 8, and December 25. Other holidays vary according to the province, to a maximum yearly total of 14.