

# SPAIN

(POP. 46,329,000 (2021))



## Income inequality in Spain today

In Spain, the average national income of the adult population is €PPP30,600 (or €26,560).<sup>21</sup> While the bottom 50% earns €PPP12,900 (€11,220), the top 10% earns on average eight times more (€PPP 105,500 or €91,560, 34.5% of the total). Spain is a relatively equal country compared with its European neighbors: the top 10% captures 34.5% of national income, while the bottom 50% has 21%. Inequality levels are similar to those in France and lower than in Germany.

## Income inequality in the long run

Income inequality in Spain declined significantly over the course of 20th century, following the trend in other European countries (the top 10% share was above 50% in 1900 and dropped to 35% in the 1960s). Over the next 40 years, income inequality was maintained at relatively low levels, but then the country went through important economic turnarounds. After the fast growth of 1995-2005, the 2008-2014 financial crisis depressed average incomes, including those of the bottom 50%. It is only since 2015 that the poorest half of the population has recovered its pre-2007 average income level.

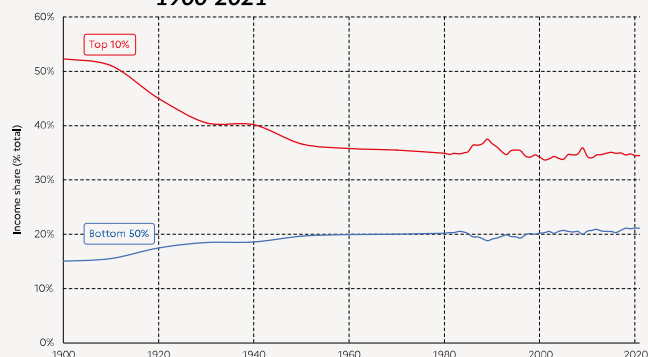
<sup>21</sup>: €1 PPP = \$PPP 1.4 = €0.9

**Table 1:** Inequality outlook

	Income		Wealth	
	Avg. Income (PPP €)	Share of total (%)	Avg. Wealth (PPP €)	Share of total (%)
Full population	30 600	100%	176 200	100%
Bottom 50%	12 900	21.1%	23 500	6.7%
Middle 40%	34 000	44.4%	157 500	35.8%
Top 10%	105 500	34.5%	1 014 100	57.6%
Top 1%	378 800	12.4%	4 268 800	24.2%
Top 10% to Bot. 50% Income gap			1 to 8	
Female labor share			40%	
GHG footprint			7,7 tCO2 / pers.	

**Interpretation:** See glossary for definitions of concepts and indicators.  
**Sources and series:** [wir2022.wid.world/methodology](http://wir2022.wid.world/methodology)

**Figure 1:** Top 10% and bottom 50% income shares in Spain, 1900-2021



**Interpretation:** The Top 10% income share is equal to 34% in 2021. Income is measured after the operation of pensions and unemployment insurance systems and before income tax.

**Sources and series:** see [wir2022.wid.world/methodology](http://wir2022.wid.world/methodology), and Chancel and Piketty (2021).

## ■ Wealth inequality

The richest 10% of the population in Spain owns 57% of total wealth, while the bottom 50% owns 7% of wealth. Over the past 30 years, despite financial booms and busts, the wealth share of the top 10% has remained largely stable. This relative stability can be explained by the fact that the richest Spaniards sold part of their housing assets during the bust of the real estate bubble in 2008.

## ■ Gender inequality in Spain today

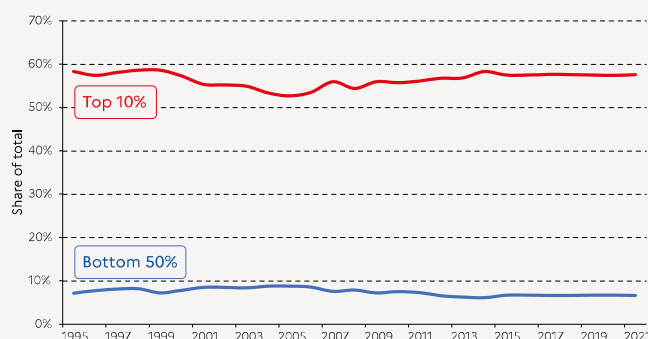
Female labor income share in Spain today is equal to 40%. This is comparable with levels in France (41%), and higher than in the UK (38%). This level of inequality is close to the average in Western Europe (38%), but lower than in Eastern Europe (41%). Women's share of total labor income in the country has increased significantly since the beginning of the century. Between 1990 and 2019, it grew by 15 percentage points, which is more than the general Western European trend (six percentage points during the period).

## ■ Carbon inequality in Spain today

In Spain, average carbon emissions are equal to 8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/capita. This is in between the rates of neighboring countries Portugal (6t) and France (9t). While the bottom 50% emits 4.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/capita, the top 10% emits five times more (21t). Between 1990 and 2006, with a stable growth, benefiting also the poorest population groups, carbon emissions in Spain grew from 8.9 to 12.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/capita. Emissions for the bottom 50% increased by over two tonnes, up to 7.5. After the financial crisis, in a context of economic depression, carbon emissions decreased steadily.



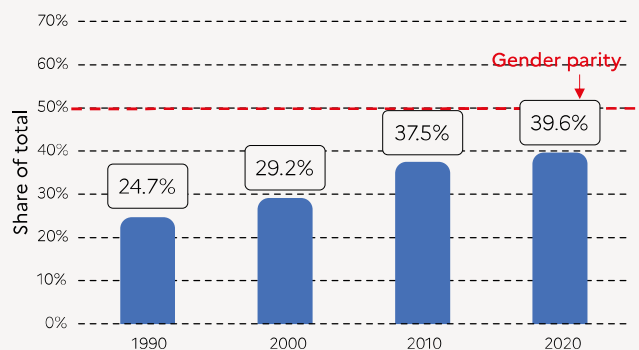
**Figure 2:** Wealth distribution in Spain



**Interpretation:** In 2021, the wealthiest 10% of the population own 58% of total household wealth. Household wealth is the sum of all financial assets (e.g. stock, bonds) and non-financial assets (e.g. housing), net of debts.

**Sources and series:** wir2022.wid.world/methodology.

**Figure 3:** Female labor income share in Spain, 1990-2020



**Interpretation:** The share of total labor income accruing to women in 2020 is close to 40%.

**Source and series:** wir2022.wid.world/methodology.

**Table 2:** Carbon table

	Avg. GHG footprint (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/capita)
Full population	7.7
Top 1%	64.7
Top 10%	20.8
Middle 40%	8.3
Bottom 50%	4.6

**Interpretation:** The table presents average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of different groups of the population in 2019. Emissions take into account carbon embedded in consumption and investment portfolios.

**Sources and series:** wir2022.wid.world/methodology.