
ACCIÓ
Government of Catalonia

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GDP
Catalonia GDP 2018

Catalonia’s GDP grew by 2.6% in 2018

GDP annual growth rate. Seasonally adjusted data. (%)
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
Employment and Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Catalonia dropped to 11.5% in 2018

Evolution of the unemployment rate. Catalonia and Spain 2014-2018. (%)

The unemployment rate in Catalonia dropped for the fifth consecutive year and fell to 11.5% in 2018, with a total of 436,400 people unemployed, i.e. 14.0% fewer than in 2017.

It was lower than the unemployment rate in Spain (15.3%).

Employment increased by 2.7% in 2018

Employed persons in Catalonia. 2014-2018. (Thousands of persons - annual average)

The employed population in Catalonia in 2018 was 3,362,200 persons (annual average); 2.7% more than in 2017.

The employed population in industry in 2018 increased by 6.1% compared to the previous year (Spain as a whole grew by 2.3%).

Employment in high-tech sectors increased by 6.6% in 2018.

Source: Idescat, based on data from the Active Population Survey of the Spanish Statistics Institute (INE); EIC (DGI-ACCIÓ), based on data from the Observatory of Employment and Production Models.
BUSINESS GROWTH
Business Growth

The number of companies in Catalonia increased in 2018 for the fourth consecutive year

Number of companies with head offices in Catalonia

According to the Central Business Register (DIRCE), on 1 January 2018, the number of companies with head offices in Catalonia had increased by 9,385, going from 608,981 to 618,366 (year-on-year growth of 1.5%).

It was the fourth consecutive year of growth.

In Spain as a whole, the rate of growth was similar, at 1.7%.

Catalonia is the leading region in Spain in terms of the number of companies and accounts for 18.5% of the Spanish total. Catalonia, along with the regions of Madrid (16.1%), Andalusia (15.3%) and Valencia (10.7%), account for 60.6% of the companies in Spain.
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT
Exports

Catalan exports broke records for the eighth consecutive year in 2018

**Evolution of Catalan exports, 2008-2018**

(millions of euros)

Source: EIC (DGI-ACCIÓ), based on data from ICEX-Estacom (2018 provisional data).

- Catalan exports increased by **1.1%** in 2018, compared to 2017, to **€71,623.8 M**, a record-breaking figure for the eighth year running.
- High-tech exports increased by **1.2%** in 2018, thereby achieving a record high for the third consecutive year.
- Catalonia led the way in Spanish exports, accounting for **25.1%** of the total, well above the regions of Andalusia (11.4%), Valencia (10.6%) and Madrid (10.6%).
Regularly Exporting Companies

Regularly exporting companies break record for the sixth consecutive year

Number of Catalan regularly exporting companies. 2008-2018.

In 2018, the number of regularly exporting companies reached the figure of **17,239** (companies that had exported continuously over the previous four years), which was **0.9%** higher than in 2017, thus establishing a new record for the sixth consecutive year.

The total number of exporting companies in Catalonia in 2018 was **47,918** (2.7% higher than in 2017).

Catalonia is the leading region in Spain in terms of the number of regularly exporting companies, which represent **33.3%** of the total for Spain.
**Foreign Direct Investment**

Catalonia has attracted €23 billion in the last five years, i.e. 45% more than in the previous five years.

Evolution of foreign direct investment in Catalonia. Five-year figures. 1999-2018 (millions of euros)

Source: EIC (DGI-ACCIÓ), based on data from DataInvex-MINCOTUR.

Note: Since direct investment flows are so volatile, it is advisable to compare data using five-year averages.
INNOVATION
R&D 2017 (provisional data)

R&D expenditure increased by 5.5% in 2017 compared to 2016

Evolution of R&D expenditure in Catalonia. 2013-2017
(millions of euros)

- R&D expenditure in Catalonia in 2017 increased by 5.5% compared to 2016, and reached the amount of €3,273.4 M. In the rest of Spain, R&D expenditure increased by 6%.
- Catalonia accounts for 23.3% of Spanish R&D expenditure.
- R&D expenditure as a percentage of Catalonia’s GDP increased to 1.47% in 2017, from 1.45% in 2016. This figure was higher than the one for Spain as a whole, which rose from 1.19% to 1.20% in 2017.

Source: Survey on R&D activities, INE (provisional data).
Number of Innovative Companies

Catalonia is the leader in Spain in terms of the number of companies with technological and non-technological innovations.

Companies with technological innovations by region. 2014-2016 (% of total for Spain)

- Catalonia: 21.8%
- Madrid: 18.4%
- Andalusia: 11.5%
- Valencia: 10.7%
- Basque Country: 8.2%
- Other: 29.4%

Companies with non-technological innovations by region. 2014-2016 (% of total for Spain)

- Catalonia: 22.4%
- Madrid: 18.5%
- Andalusia: 13.6%
- Valencia: 11.7%
- Basque Country: 5.1%
- Other: 28.8%

Catalonia has the most innovative companies in Spain, with 9,282 companies, i.e. 22.2% of the total.

Catalonia is the leader in terms of the number of companies with technological innovations, with 21.8% of the total for Spain.

Catalonia is the leader in terms of the number of companies with non-technological innovations, with 22.4% of the total for Spain.

Note: The total number of companies with technological innovations and non-technological innovations does not equal the total number of innovative companies because some companies develop technological and non-technological innovations at the same time.
European Patent Applications

Catalonia has the most European patent applications in Spain

The number of Catalan patent applications submitted to the EPO (European Patent Office) in 2018 was 595, more than double those submitted to OEPM (Spanish Patent Office) i.e. 235 in 2018.

Catalonia is the leading region in Spain in terms of the number of European patent applications, with 33.6% of the total, i.e. more than Madrid (21.1%) and the Basque Country (12.5%).

Source: European Patent Office (EPO).
European Funding: Horizon 2020

Catalonia has received more than €1 billion from the Horizon 2020 Programme (2.7% of the programme total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity type</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Grant (€M)</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>256.1</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>204.8</td>
<td>80.0%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research associations</td>
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<td>224.8</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
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<td>21.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public research centres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other associations</td>
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<td>54.9</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation and technology centres</td>
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<td>51.5</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>663</td>
<td><strong>1,019.5</strong></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Spain</td>
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<td><strong>29.1%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>% of total funds granted</td>
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<td><strong>2.7%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Entities arranged by funding amount (€M)
*Percentage of total companies.

Catalonia has received a total of €1,019.5 M from the EU’s Horizon 2020 Programme, i.e. 2.7% of total funds granted and nearly twice as much as would correspond to it based on population (1.5% of the EU).

In terms of entity type, companies have been the top beneficiaries of funding, accounting for 25.1% of the total received.

SME INSTRUMENT

217 projects from 201 Catalan companies have received funding since the SME Instrument Programme began (2014-2018).

Catalan companies have received €84.2 M from this instrument, which represents 28.1% of the amount received in Spain and 4.7% of the programme total.

Source: EIC (DGI-ACCIÓ), based on data from CDTI and SME Instrument Data Hub (data updated on 21 February 2019).