

## *Spain*

Report by Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.  
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### **Introduction – Key Issues**

#### **Object of this statistical research**

This section offers information on Museums and Museum Collections in the territory of Spain, whatever the legal ownership status or the legal status of the institution responsible for its running and management. The aim is to offer information that will lead to a deeper knowledge of this cultural sector. Results are offered on the number of museum institutions and with regard to certain characteristics of the same, namely: accessibility; availability of services and level of facilities; activities carried out; museum deposits; visitors and staff of these institutions.

The classification variables used were: the type of museum or museum collection, the autonomous region in which it is found, and the ownership of and institution responsible for its running and management.

#### **Source of information**

The information comes from a statistical operation that is part of the National Plan on Statistics, **Statistics on Museums and Museum Collections**. It is a research work carried out every two years by the Statistics unit of this Ministry in collaboration with the General Sub-Directorate of State Museums, Ministry of Defence, National Heritage and The Regional Governments and Autonomous Cities that participate in different phases of elaboration of the same. In addition, the data from Museums and Museum collections in Spain are complemented, in terms of cultural participation, with the results of the Survey on Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain, whose more recent results available are for the period 2014-2015. As an ANNEX, here we include a brief reference to assistance to museums based on the results of the survey.

Details on the methodological aspects, as well as the detailed results can be consulted in the section corresponding to statistics at [www.mecd.gob.es](http://www.mecd.gob.es)

### **Definition of Museum**

**Museum.** The concept of museum as used in statistics is the one defined by The Law of Spanish Historical Heritage, 16/1985, of June 26, by which “Museums are institutions of a permanent nature that acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit for the purposes of study, education and contemplation, collections that are of historical, artistic, scientific, technical or any other form of cultural value”.

**Museum collection.** For the purposes of statistics, Museum Collections are considered to be “The body of cultural goods which, even though not meeting all the conditions required for the development of the inherent functions of a museum, are exposed to the public in keeping with museum criteria, at fixed visiting hours, and which has a basic set of deposits as well as the means for their conservation and safe keeping”.

### **Existence of Museum-related Laws**

The Law of Spanish Historical Heritage, 16/1985, of June 26

### **Categories used regarding Type of Collection**

The classification of Museums and Museum Collections according to type is in keeping, fundamentally, with what has been established by UNESCO, plus variations derived from the contributions of specialists, fundamentally for adaptation to the reality of each autonomous region. It is as follows:

\* Fine Arts: contains works of art created fundamentally between Ancient times and the XIX century (architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing, etching and, since 2002, religious art)

\* Decorative arts: contains works of art of an ornamental nature. Also called applied arts or industrial arts.

- \* Contemporary art: contains works of art done, mainly, in the XX and XXI centuries. Includes cinema and photography.
- \* Casa-museo: Museum located in the house or residence of birth of a famous personality.
- \* Archaeological: contains objects, bearing historical and/or artistic values, drawn from excavations, and archaeological discoveries or undertakings. Includes numismatic, glyptic and epigraphic specialities.
- \* In situ. Created when certain historical sites (archaeological sites, monuments, in situ examples of the industrial past, etc.) were turned into museums in the place for which they were originally conceived. (Includes Centres of Archaeological Interpretation, as long as they have a collection that has original deposits; Nature Interpretation Centres are not included).
- \* Historical: Museums and museum collections that illustrate events or historical periods, personalities, etc., are included in this category, as are military museums, etc.
- \* Natural sciences and Natural History: contains objects linked to biology, botanical studies, geology, zoology, physical anthropology, palaeontology, mineralogy, ecology, etc.
- \* Science and Technology: contains objects representative of the evolution of the history of science and technical studies, and also deals with the diffusion of the general principles of the same. Planetariums and scientific centres are not included, save those that may have a Museum or Museum Collection.
- \* Ethnography and Anthropology: devoted to pre-industrial and contemporary cultures and cultural elements, or those belonging to a recent past. This category includes museums of folklore, of the arts and of popular customs and traditions.
- \* Specialised museums: look more specifically at a part of Cultural Heritage not covered in other categories. Until 2002, it included religious art, which, from then on, came to be considered as belonging to the realm of Fine Arts.
- \* General: Museum or Museum Collection that can be identified by more than one of the previously mentioned categories.
- \* Others: cannot be included in the previous categories.

### **Categories used regarding Type of Ownership**

**Ownership:** Refers to the person or corporate body that features as the possessor of the heritage of the Museum or Museum Collection. According to the ownership body, Museums and Museum Collections were classified into:

**\* Public:**

- ° The General Administration of the State (Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; Ministry of Defence; National Heritage; Other Ministries or Bodies of the General Administration of the State).
- ° The Regional Administration (Ministries of Regional Governments; Other Divisions or Ministries of Regional Governments; Other Bodies (Universities, etc.))
- ° The Local Administration (Provincial Governing Bodies; Cabildo or Island Council; Town Hall; Other Entities).
- ° Others (Public enterprise; Public Foundation; Various public bodies; Other public bodies).

**\* Private:**

- ° Ecclesiastical
- ° Others (Association; Foundation; Society; Unipersonal; Various private bodies; Other private bodies).

**\* Mixed:** Various public and private bodies.

## Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams

### *Main results of the Statistics on Museums and Museum Collections 2016*

Regard to main results for the year 2016, the statistics are relative to the total of 1.504 Museums and Museum Collections that responded to the questionnaire, representing a coverage of 98,9% over the total of 1.521 museums surveyed.

*General characteristics. Profile of the museum institutions.* With respect to the typology of Museums and Museum Collections investigated the most frequent is *Ethnography and Anthropology* with 262 museums, 17,4%, followed by the *Fine Arts* with 218, 14,5%; the *Archaeological* with 191, 12,7%; the *Specialized* with 152, 10,1% and the *Generals* with 141, 9,4%. Most of the Museums and Museum Collections investigated are publicly owned, 70,8%, being privately owned 27% and mixed by 2,2%. According to the results of a statistical 98,5% of the Museums and Museum Collections surveyed remained open throughout 2016 and the remaining 1,5% was closed temporarily. The opening on weekdays concentrates on the period from Tuesday to Friday, in which 93,6% of the institutions remained open, compared to a significantly lower percentage, a 32,3% of institutions open on Monday. In weekend activity is also intense, 91,8%, being lower the percentage of those who open their doors on public holidays, 70%. The 43,1% of the Museums and Museum Collections investigated are entirely free. Most of those entrance fee, 56,9%, offering reduced fares or free tickets to certain groups. Regarding the price of tickets in full 857 institutions, 36,9% is less than 2 euros, 30,8% from two to three euros, and above this price 32,3% of the institutions.

*Services and equipment.* The most frequent services and facilities in museum institutions are information on the permanent collection, 77,5%, guided tours, 66,2%, access for people with disabilities, 47,3% and libraries, 45,1%. With lower intensity but percentages higher than 36% are venues for educational activities with 42,5% of the institutions surveyed, conference hall with 39,1% shop/bookstore with 38,4%, and audiovisual room with 36,5%. With values lower than 27% are, in the following order, environmental control, restoration workshop, public parking, research rooms, accessible information for people with disabilities, rental of venue for third parties, electronic guides, cafe/restaurant and photo lab. With regard to the implementation of new technologies in the museum institutions, more than nine out of every ten, specifically 94,9%, have computers which are mainly used for administrative tasks and access to the Internet. More than three quarters of the Museums and Museum Institutions, 87,3%, have a website to facilitate services to inform or communicate with the visitors and users and to provide educational activities or on-line tickets sales.

*Exhibitions, publications and other activities.* More than half of the institutions surveyed, 61,6%, held temporary exhibitions in 2016. This indicator is at its highest in *Contemporary Art*, 85,1%, followed by *General Museums*, 78,7%, *Specialised Museums*, 65,1% and *History Museums*, 63,2%. Throughout the studied period, a 56% published some kind of promotional material; 54,1% guides; 32,3% teaching materials; 23% scientific catalogs and 19% periodic publications. Educational activities have great weight in these institutions. 59% offer this kind of activities that are directed, in most cases, to children. Although a great distance in terms of frequency, there are other activities such as courses or seminars, in 36,5%, conferences, at 34,3%, or concerts, in 27,8%.

*Visitors.* 59,9 million people visited a Museum or a Museum Collection throughout 2016, on average 40.452 people per museum open. This figure is much higher in certain types of museums such as *Contemporary Art* (80.140), *Others* (80.717) and *Fine Arts* (71.172).

*Staff.* The staff estimated in 1.504 Museums and Museum Collections under review was 14.726 people, an average of 9,8 per institution. By sex, more than half are women, 53,4% and 46,6% are men. The type of working day more frequent is full-time, 71,9% compared to 28,1% of part-time hours. By type of employer-paid distinguishes between those with permanent contract, the 71,8%, temporary, 16,3% and unpaid 5%, also taking a large volunteer staff, 7%

FIGURES

FIGURE 1  
Museums and Museum Collections by type. 2016 (1)  
*(As a percentage of the total)*

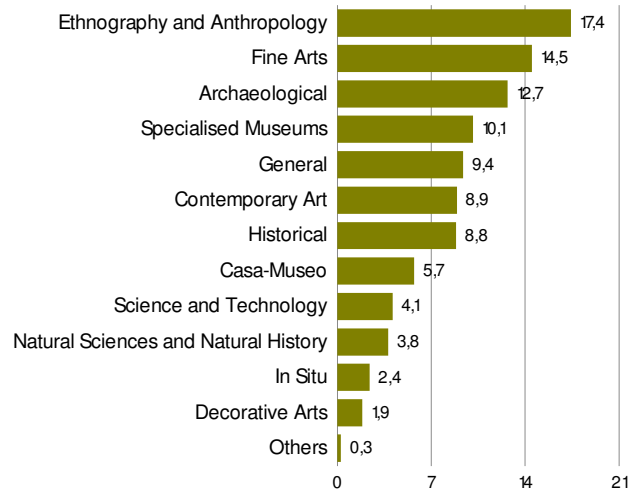
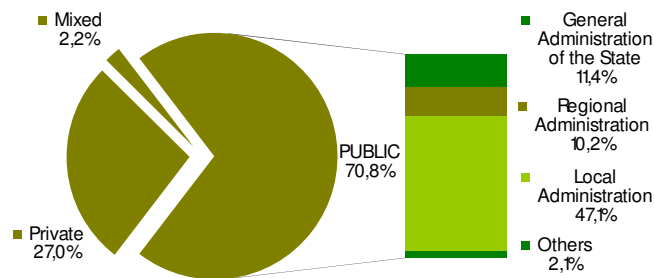


FIGURE 2  
Museums and Museum Collections by ownership.2016 (1)  
*(As a percentage of the total)*



1) It refers to the total of 1.504 Museums and Museums Collections which answers the 2016 Statistic

## List of References

Details on the methodological aspects of this statistic, as well as the detailed results can be consulted in the section corresponding to statistics at Cultural Statistic Information on Web:

### *Statistics on Museums and Museum Collections in Spain*

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/estadisticas/cultura/mc/em/portada.html>

<http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t11/p11&O=culturabase&N=&L=0>

In addition, the data from Museums and Museum collections in Spain are complemented, in terms of cultural participation, with the results of the **Survey on Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain**, whose more recent results available are for the period **2014-2015**. As an ANNEX, here we include a brief reference to assistance to museums based on the results of the survey.

### **Survey of Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain**

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/mecd/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/estadisticas/cultura/mc/ehc/2014-2015/presentacion.html>

<http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?M=/t9/p9&O=culturabase&N=&L=0>

A data selection from both of them is included in the **Yearbook of Cultural Statistics 2017**

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/estadisticas/cultura/mc/naec/portada.html>

### **CULTURABase**

<http://www.mcu.es/culturabase/cgi/um?L=0>

All these data are available on the website of the ministry:

*Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. Spain*

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/estadisticas/cultura.html>

## ANNEX

The Survey of Cultural Habits and Practices in Spain 2014-2015, official statistics for every four years which is included in the National Statistics Plan, is a sample survey carried out by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and directed towards a sample of 16.000 people aged 15 and older. The survey received the invaluable collaboration of the National Institute of Statistics for certain aspects of the work, those relative to sample design. The survey has several aims: firstly, to evaluate the development of the main indicators for cultural habits and practices of the Spanish people and, secondly, to analyze relevant aspects in the field of culture, especially with regard to cultural consumption, and to make an in-depth study into the ways of obtaining specific cultural products which are subject to intellectual property rights, such as books, recorded music, video and software.

The survey lends continuity to the work carried out in 2010-2011.

Cultural participation has been investigated across different cultural activities: museums, art galleries, archives and monuments; reading of books and periodicals and libraries; performing and musical arts: theatre, opera, operetta, ballet or dance and circus; classical and contemporary music; the audiovisual and new technologies sector: cinema, video, television and radio, video games, computer and Internet, as well as other activities related to culture and leisure. Activities susceptible to the infringement of intellectual property rights have been investigated in the areas of books, music, video and software.

The classification characteristics used in the project are: gender, age, educational level and personal or professional status. Also, the results are presented according to the individual's place of residence: the size of municipality and autonomous region.

The methodological details are available on [www.mecd.gob.es](http://www.mecd.gob.es), along with the full results of the survey.

**Main results:** The results of the survey indicate that the most common cultural activities, in annual terms, are listening to music, reading and going to the cinema, with rates of 87,2%, 62,2% and 54%, respectively. These activities are followed by the attendance to live performances, 43,5%, among them being contemporary music concerts at 24,5%, and the theatre at 23,2%.

**Museums, exhibitions and art galleries:** Overall, 39,4% of the surveyed population made a visit to a museum, exhibition or art gallery in the last year.

**Museums:** 33,2% visited a museum in the last year. Attendance rates are slightly higher in women, increase significantly with decreasing age and increasing educational level. This is a satisfied audience, with an average satisfaction rating of 8,3 points. 92,2% of people who visited a museum in the last year did so for leisure or entertainment, compared to 7,8% who said that the reason for their visit was professional or educational. 53,2% of visits to museums were at weekends or public holidays and the rest, 46,8%, on a weekday. 27,1% of those who visited museums in the last year did so in their hometown, 25,3% in their Autonomous Region, 30,4% in the rest of Spain and 17,3% abroad. Almost half of the visitors to a museum, 49,4%, paid the entrance fee at the normal price, while 16,2% used a discount or a season ticket and 34,4% with free admission. Admission during open days represents, in the period analyzed, 3% of total admissions of those surveyed. Among those who attended through paid admission, 7,4% purchased tickets online. As regards activities in the museum, 96,3% go to visit a permanent or temporary exhibition, and 14% for some other activity. For the first time we have investigated the frequency of virtual online tours to museums, which is 6,7% of the population in the last year.

**Exhibitions:** 23,8% of the surveyed population has visited an exhibition in the last year. With regard to the frequency of attendance, those who visited an exhibition in the last quarter did so, on average, 2,1 times each. 91,8% of people who visited an exhibition in the last year did so for leisure or entertainment, compared to 8,2% who said that the reason for their visit was professional or educational. More than half of the visits took place at a weekend or public holiday, 53,5%, compared to 46,5% that took place on a weekday.

**Art Galleries:** The levels of attendance for art galleries are much lower than those seen in museums and exhibitions. 12,7% of the surveyed population has visited an art gallery in the last year. 91,1% of people who visited an art gallery in the last year did so for leisure or entertainment, compared to 8,9% who said that their visit was professional or educational. Almost half of the visits took place at a weekend or public holiday, 49,4%, compared to 50,6% that took place on a weekday.

*In this edition of the survey different questions related to the art market have been included. The main results indicate that 1,1% of the population has attended an auction or art fair in the last year, 0,9% has made some kind of purchase and 0,6% class themselves as art collectors. In all three cases slightly higher rates are observed in men.*

The indicators provided by the survey indicate significant cultural behaviour differences regarding **gender**. Women have rates of visits to museums, exhibitions or art galleries higher than the average. **Young people** have highest rates of cultural participation and they visit more museums. Undoubtedly the **level of education** is the most determining factor in cultural participation, which systematically increases with it.

The survey also provides indicators of the cultural participation evaluated in groups of people where particular cultural behavior is observed. These indicators show the strong **interrelationships** between them. If we focus on the group which attends museums, galleries and exhibitions in the last year a sharp increase is seen in their rates of reading, 86,4%, compared to 62,2% of the whole surveyed population. Their annual theatre attendance rate is doubled, 44,4%, and the attendance rate at the cinema reaches 76,5%.