



Misión Económica-Comercial
Embajada De Israel en España, Madrid



Ministry of Economy
and Industry
Foreign Trade Administration

AGRICULTURE IN SPAIN - REPORT





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The Israel Economic Mission in Spain

Inspired by Innovation, Connected and Coordinated.

The Economic-Commercial Mission at the Embassy of Israel in Spain is a professional unit of the Foreign Trade Administration (FTA) within the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry (MOE).

It is also a branch of the Embassy of Israel in Spain whose objective is to promote, improve and facilitate trade, industrial investment and cooperation and R&D agreements between Spain and Israel.

The Economic-Commercial Mission offers Spanish companies, through its various events, a meeting point with the Israeli business community. Our objective is to promote, improve and facilitate trade and investment in different sectors between Spain and Israel.

We work to develop strategic bilateral associations, identifying new opportunities for business collaboration, through business seminars, delegations, exhibitions, scouting and support in the creation of the visit agenda.

The services provided to Spanish entities include: Presentation of investment opportunities in Israel, Search for technology companies/products/solutions in Israel, Organization of incoming/outgoing business delegations and preparation of programs. It also includes preparation of the agenda for the individual business visit to Israel and establishment of connections with government and academic institutes in Israel and information on fairs and exhibitions in Israel.

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Background

Throughout the centuries, Spain was a predominantly agrarian country until the second half of the 20th century, since agriculture was the basis of the national economy.

However, due to agricultural mechanization, employment was significantly reduced and caused rural depopulation. This in turn developed greatly other sectors, such as industry and services.

As a result, agriculture ceased to be the country's main economic activity. In fact, with just 3.15% in 2020, it is the economic sector with the least weight in the Spanish Gross Domestic Product (GDP), way below services and industry. Despite this, the long agrarian tradition continues to be notable in Spanish rural society and in some economic activities such as foreign trade, as confirms Statista's report on Agriculture in Spain.

Agricultural Production

The "useful" agricultural area of Spain (Superficie Agraria Util, SAU in Spanish) represents more than 23 million hectares, **almost half of the Spanish territory**, of which almost **17 million hectares are cultivated**. Of the total cultivated surface, 76% is dedicated to rainfed cultivation and 24% to irrigated cultivation.

In 2020, the Value of agricultural production in Spain between 2015 and 2021 report states that "the value of agricultural production in Spain remained above 50,000 million euros, thanks to star products such as **olive oil or wine**, and furthermore experienced a notable increase compared to 2019".

The **main Spanish crop is Vine**, producing over 46.5 million tons of grapes for wine and grape juice, reaching 37 million hectoliters in 2021. The land used for vineyards in Spain accounts for 7% of all cropland. For extended data on viticulture, check the Vitivinicultura report from the Ministry of Agriculture(mapa.gob.es)
Cereals, at a distance of more than 20 million tons, were in **second position** in terms of production, amounting to 24.5 million tons. This positions Spain as one of the leading European countries in agricultural production.

Most of the surface is occupied by herbaceous crops, followed by woody crops, with **olive groves being the woody crop with the most cultivated area**, hence ranking Spain as the biggest exporter in the world of olive oil, with Italy in second place. The table olive sector is geared predominantly to exports, a 65% of the total marketed, and with a presence in over 160 countries on five continents.

The main destination for Spanish exports is the European Union market, with France and Germany as the top buyers. Beyond the EU, United States, China and Russia are the main export markets.



Livestock Production and Fisheries

The value of livestock production in 2014 amounted to 32.5 billion euros, accounting for 38,3% of all farming output.

The Pork industry is the leading livestock sector in Spain, accounting for 37% of the total value of livestock output.

Spain is Europe's second-largest producer, behind Germany, with a census of 26.5 million animals and it's total pork exports have increased to 39% of domestic output. Actually, the total pork industry exports have increased over the last 6 years by more than 100%.

Spain is one of the countries with the highest fish consumption per capita in the world, having to import a high percentage.

Imports are mainly from non-EU countries such as China, Argentina, Morocco and Ecuador and reached 1.58 million tons, with a total value of 5.2 billion euros, in 2014.

Spanish Intensive Agriculture

Spain is one of the leading countries in intensive agriculture, with more than 70,000 hectares of **greenhouses**.

This is due to the Mediterranean areas having a stable solar radiation and climatic conditions during almost the whole year.

The most influential areas are the **province of Almería**, which forms the well-known "**sea of plastic**", followed closely by Huelva, also in Andalusia. Moreover, the autonomous community of Andalusia exceeds 55,000 hectares of land devoted to this activity, according to a [Survey of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from 2020](#).

They are followed by the Region of Murcia, the Valencian Community and Cataluña.

Spanish Agriculture within the EU

The EU is broadly self-sufficient in most agricultural primary commodities. It is also the single largest exporter of agri-food products, which includes processed food.

39% of Europe's land cover is made up of grassland and cropland, hence the agriculture sector is a big user of natural resources and therefore has a complex relationship with the environment, as the [Agriculture — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#) points out.



Europe's agriculture faces 2 main challenges: climate change and land take (that is, conversion of land to settlements and infrastructure).

Climate change requires the adaptation of crop varieties and causes extreme weather events. For more information on climate adaptation, visit the [European Environment Agency's Climate-ADAPT Platform](#).

The development of the agricultural sector is strongly influenced by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and its production is also framed by other EU and international policies. For more details, visit the

Documents, links and events

Agriculture trade fairs and events in Spain - [Calendario de ferias y eventos de Agricultura en ESP \(infoagro.com\)](#)

Agriculture events in Spain- [Ferias Agrícolas en España \(neventum.es\)](#)

Agricultural business directory - [Directorio de Empresas Agrícolas y listados de empresas de la agricultura. España, México, Perú, etc. Infoagro.com](#)

Spanish Federation of Associations of Exporting Producers of Fruit, Vegetables, Flowers and Live Plants – [FEPEX - Federación Española de Asociaciones de Productores Exportadores de Frutas, Hortalizas...](#)

Agrarian association of young farmers - [Asaja Asociación Agraria de Jóvenes Agricultores](#)

Spain allocates 13 million euros to technology-based agricultural business projects [Spain allocates 13 million to technology-based agricultural business projects \(investinspain.org\)](#)

European Commission's expert group "Agriculture markets task force" [Agricultural markets task force \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EU agriculture and climate change](#)