

# The Dark Side Of Living In Spain

\*video editor shows extreme real footage of Spain, Spanish prostitutes and news footage\*

- ▶ Barcelona riots: Dozens arrested after demonstrations against jailing of ra...
- ▶ Violent clashes between Catalan riot police and pro-independence protest...
- ▶ Violent protests in Barcelona over Spanish cabinet meeting
- ▶ Striking metalworkers in violent clashes with riot police in Spain
- ▶ Spain protests: violence and looting on fifth night of unrest over rapper's ...
- ▶ Madrid after dark how people party in Madrid Spain 
- ▶ Spain's move to criminalise prostitution ignites debate
- ▶ Prostitutes in Spain
- ▶ Spain: Gang violence on the rise in poor neighbourhoods of Madrid • FRA...
- ▶ Spain: Gang violence on the rise | Focus on Europe
- ▶ Spanish police arrest British gangsters in Marbella in series of raids
- ▶ Spanish police swoop on gang of hitmen after associate of criminal 'Mr Fl...

Spain is going through a very rough patch. With ever rising unemployment rates dooming its city streets, an astonishingly high cost of living, and corruption lurking in each corner, the country seems to be in more turmoil than it hoped to be in. Citizens of Spain are crying out for help as the country is facing astronomical concerns effectively putting lives at stake.

Regular city folk find it incredibly difficult to find jobs, while feeding their families becomes more and more unaffordable. The burden of just living is reaching a critical high. All of this is pieced together by corrupt organizations and government lawmakers who do not care for the average Spaniard. But why? How did Spain reach such a low?

From its grand old architecture, immaculate outdoor vistas, to its bustling cities and its incredible passion for football, Spain is a tourist's dream, raking in visitors from all across the globe in hordes. Spain's cultures and traditions are internationally renowned, still engaging in the simplicities of the past while adapting into modern revelations. It undoubtedly sets an excellent standard of wellbeing for its residents, but like numerous nations of wealth,

the country seems to be facing a variety of underlying concerns that only locals, and individuals experiencing it, would be open to discussing.

Its affluent heritage of dynasties and monarchy rule, along with its historic acclimation of wealth, make Spain a nation of generational riches. Spain is the 15th largest economy in the world. It is a leading exporter of automobiles, capital goods, mineral fuels, and pharmaceuticals, among numerous others, presenting enthralling opportunities for various businesses in a wide variety of sectors.

Yet, through its successes, Spain's problems are slowly beginning to seep through the cracks. From the skyrocketing cost of living, unemployment and corruption, the Mediterranean country is no stranger to internationally relevant concerns. Like many nations, it has tried to keep most of it under wraps, but it is incredibly difficult to keep secrets when the rest of the world is watching.

Spain might be a haven for wellbeing, and an acclaimed institution for tourism, but its negatives should be explored as well. The country faces difficulties that can be seen around the world, and it is imperative that it's shown awareness. What hides behind its picturesque landscape, and its sovereign inheritance?

This is the dark side of living in Spain.

## Unemployment

- ▶ SPAIN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT 57%
- ▶ Crisis in Spain: Corruption, Unemployment & Billions Wasted | Dictatorsh...
- ▶ Spain's Failure to Protect Rights Amid Rising Poverty
- ▶ Spanish government struggles to profit from strong economy ahead of ele...
- ▶ Spain announces \$10 billion relief package to ease economic woes | Englis...

Francisco Gómez, aged 36, received a termination letter from his job as a lawyer in Barcelona after enduring months of job dissatisfaction. His request for a promotion stalled due to a change in management, and he disagreed with

the company's new policy. This brought into frame the bigger picture. A deep-seated concern for Spain, unemployment. Despite Spain's slow employment rate, which recently reached a 15-year low, the nation maintains the highest unemployment rate in Europe at 11.6%, exceeding the EU average of 6.4%

Gómez, who has been looking for a job for four months, is still optimistic despite the challenges. He says that his lack of family and financial responsibilities makes it easier than others in similar situations. However, in a recent government report released just three weeks before the upcoming general election, it was revealed that the number of unemployed individuals in Spain has reached its lowest point since 2008.

The Spanish government's job service offered new insights that indicated the number of people working had gone down by 13%, to about 20,650,000 people. However, according to other reports on the employment front, by the Spanish Social Security system, an increase of over 54,000 affiliates was indicated in June, resulting in a record high of over 20,900,000 employed individuals. The number of young people who were unemployed decreased by 3,500 in June as well, reaching a new low of 184,000. These accounts display contradicting pictures. Even though definitive numbers are currently being gathered, Spain's unemployment crisis still critically low in comparison to the rest of Europe.

Yolanda Díaz, the Spanish Labour Minister and leader of the progressive platform Sumar, expressed her optimism, crediting the success of progressive government policies. However, Spain is still confronted with the task of resolving its persistent structural unemployment issue. According to Eurostat's data, the youth unemployment rate in Spain was 29.3% in March, which is the second highest in the EU after Greece's 29.7%

The need to support families with unemployed members and align Spain's unemployment rate with the EU average, which was 5.9% in May according to Eurostat, was emphasized by Diaz. She also cautioned that the outcome of the upcoming general election could potentially bring changes if the center-right Partido Popular were to emerge victorious.

Recent Eurostat data indicate that Spain has not experienced such low unemployment levels since August 2008. The latest figures from the National Institute of Statistics indicate that the long-term unemployment rate has increased to 6.2%, a one-point increase compared to 2020. The difficulties of finding a job in Spain are emphasized by Francisco Gómez, who points out the low salaries relative to duties and the high living expenses in major cities like Madrid and Barcelona as significant obstacles.

The Spanish job situation is a paradox when you look at it in the European context. It leads the EU in employment growth, but it also has the highest unemployment rate. Mind-boggling, I know! The Director of International Economics at Funcas, Raymond Torres, explains that this disparity is caused by Spain's historically high unemployment rates, which have gradually narrowed the gap with other European nations.

He views the data as a positive sign, indicating that steps are being taken in the right direction. During the past 40 years, Spain experienced spikes in unemployment when the economy weakened, despite creating more jobs during recovery compared to other European countries.

The government is counting on a steady decline in the unemployment rate, fueled by encouraging economic trends, the promotion of high-value endeavors, aided in part by Next-Generation EU funds, and the retirement of the substantial Baby Boomer generation. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez aims to achieve an unemployment rate of 8%, which he regards as “full employment”. Spain's current average unemployment rate stands at 16%. According to the State Public Employment Service, true full employment would require an unemployment rate of around 4%

Arturo Lahera, a professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, disagrees with the Prime Minister's statement. He says that true full-employment means that anyone who wants to work can find a job. It may be possible to reach full employment if Spain's unemployment rate aligns with the European average, but settling for 8% is like giving up on economic and political progress. Lahera believes that achieving full employment requires companies to improve working conditions to attract employees, a goal unlikely to be met with an 8% unemployment rate.

Given the evolving labor market challenges, alternative measures are needed to assess economic health beyond full employment. Some of these measures could include fixing part-time and temporary employment issues and raising wages to meet the average cost of living. Such parameters would provide a more precise evaluation of job challenges, particularly for specific population segments like women or young people.

Lahera thinks that unemployment will go down gradually in the future, unless something unexpected happens like another pandemic. He perceives an opportunity to enhance the productive model, particularly through the infusion of European funds into the economy. While unemployment is a severe negative in Spain, it brings other issues into the limelight. Issues that can only be mended with correct policies.

### **Skyrocketing Food Prices**

- ▶ Spain's cost of living crisis - BBC News
- ▶ Truckers in Spain march to protest rising cost of living, increased regulati...
- ▶ Rising costs weigh heavy on Spanish voters
- ▶ Spain protests over cost of living crisis
- ▶ Rising energy costs trigger solar boom in Spain homes

In October of the previous year, official data revealed that food prices in Spain had reached a record-high level, resulting in persistently high living expenses, despite a decrease in inflation owing to lower energy expenses. According to the National Statistics Institute, food prices increased by 15.4 percent year-on-year, marking the most significant increase since the statistical records began in January 1994. Food prices increased by 2.3 percent compared to the previous month.

Now, before we go any further, be sure to click that like button.

Several food items experienced significant price increases, with fresh vegetables experiencing a 25.7 percent annual increase, eggs rising by 25.5 percent, milk rising by 25 percent, and grain prices climbing by 22.1 percent.

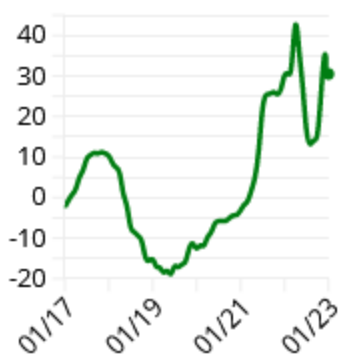
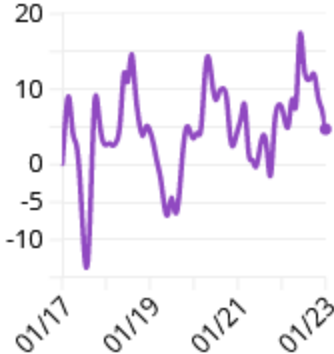
The global trend of rising food prices can be partially attributed to the reduction of grain shipments following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a significant grain supplier.

Additionally, Spain faced challenges due to an extreme drought and consecutive heatwaves this year, which significantly reduced agricultural output. Spain is one of the biggest producers of fruit and vegetables in the European Union.

Despite the overall inflation rate declining to 7.3 percent in October, a decrease from 8.9 percent in September and a significant decrease from the 38-year high of 10.8 percent in July, the primary factor behind this decrease was a decrease of 22.5 percent in electricity prices compared to the previous month. According to the statistics institute, a decrease of 6.4 percent in gas prices also contributed to this reduction.

The soaring cost of food disproportionately affects low-income individuals and families who allocate a substantial portion of their household budgets to grocery purchases. As grocery prices continue to rise, food banks have reported a surge in demand this year.

Fresh foods, especially vegetables and fruits, have experienced significant price hikes, with fresh vegetables becoming 11.2% pricier in the past two months. The Ministry of Economic Affairs says that there is less of something because of bad weather in Spain and other European countries. This makes people want it more from other countries.

**Bread****Eggs****Milk****Olive Oil****Sugar****Meat****Vegetables****Fruits****Butter**

euronews.

The National Statistics Institute reports significant price increases in various food categories over the past twelve months, notably sugar at 52.6%, butter at 39.1%, sauces and seasonings at 33.8%, olive oil at 33.5%, and whole milk at

33.2%. Despite the government's efforts to regulate price increases by reducing VAT on essential products, the pronounced rise persists.

These measures include reducing the VAT rates from 4% to 0% on fresh products and from 10% to 5% on oil and pasta, respectively. Additionally, the government has introduced financial aid, including a €200 grant for low-income individuals and €300 million in support for farmers grappling with rising fertilizer prices.

But these measures haven't completely stopped people from paying too much for food. High inflation has eroded purchasing power, with average wages growing by approximately 3%, significantly behind the up to 16.6% increase in food prices. Some people think that companies are using lower taxes to increase their profits. Spain is not the only country where food prices are going up. In January, the EU food prices went up by 18.2% compared to the previous year. Rising costs, which began in 2021 and have since worsened due to the conflict in Ukraine, and lower production due to poor harvests are the main causes.

## Corruption

- ▶ Thousands protest in Madrid against Spanish government
- ▶ Spain update – Yet another corruption scandal

Alarmingly, another pertinent concern for Spain is its rising corruption level. According to a report from the non-governmental organization Transparency International, Spain's perception of corruption has experienced a decline for the second consecutive year, with a score of 60 out of 100 points in 2022, a decrease of one point from 2021.

In the global ranking, Spain ranked 35th out of 180 nations, sharing a score of 60 with Botswana, Cape Verde, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Within the European Union, Spain held the 14th position among the 27 member states, trailing behind Portugal and Lithuania, both scoring 62 points.

Even though a one-point difference from one year to the next may not be statistically significant, the consecutive decline is a concerning signal of



potential further deterioration. The organization suggests that Spain still possesses fundamental factors that have an impact on the functioning of democratic institutions and elevate the likelihood of corruption.

The report looks at how Spain's legislative body is doing, and how more than half of lawmakers don't say what they plan to do, and those who do say what they plan to do are inconsistent. The lack of transparency in legislative sessions also hampers Spain's progress in the fight against corruption.

Silvina Bacigalupo, the President of Transparency International Spain, attributes the decrease in the corruption ranking of one point to the delay in implementing the necessary legal reforms, which has had an impact on the country. She pleaded with the legislature to expedite the passage of laws aimed at preventing corruption and enhancing openness and accountability.

The Spanish position in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, a global ranking based on perceived corruption levels, has slipped for the second consecutive year. Spain's score dropped from 61 to 60 in 2022, with 100 representing 'very clean' and 0 indicating 'highly corrupt.' As a result, it has now reached the 35th position on the planet, trailing behind nations such as Botswana and the Azores.

Spain's score has decreased by three points since 2020. The country is in the 14th position within the European Union, falling two points behind Portugal and Lithuania, both scoring 62 out of 100, and holding a one-point lead over Latvia, which scored 59 out of 100.

In the global ranking, Denmark leads with a score of 90 out of 100, followed by Finland at 87/100, New Zealand at 87/100, Norway at 84/100, Iceland at 74/100, and Sweden at 83/100. On the other end of the spectrum, European countries with lower scores include Romania at 46/100, Bulgaria at 43/100, and Hungary at 42/100.

Comparing Spain to its neighboring countries, France received a score of 72/100, Portugal 62/100, and Italy 56/100, while Morocco scored 38/100. The ranking reveals that ten nations posted their lowest ever scores, including the United Kingdom, which scored 73/100, a five-point decrease from the previous

year. These numbers indicate that indeed Spain suffers from internal corruptions concerns, that need to be mended by adequate policies, and maybe even a shift in governance.

While unemployment, skyrocketing living expenses, and corruption, along with a host of other hidden issues, play major roles in affecting the well-being of the country's citizens, it is important to remember that Spain's pro might just outshine its cons. While there have been numerous cases of turmoil in the country over the decades, Spain has stood firm in its stance as a world player, and it isn't backing down anytime soon. Where there is wealth and success, there's always hope. Spain is an incredible place to live in, and to visit, while it does have its fair share of issues, which place doesn't?

*So what do you think? What should Spain do to improve its current situation? And have you ever lived in Spain? Let us know your experiences in the comments below. If you liked this video, subscribe to our channel and like this video. As always, thanks for watching!*

**Sources -**

[List of exports of Spain - Wikipedia](#)

[Spain's Top 10 Exports](#)

[Car Exports by Country 2022](#)

[Spain's Economy: What Else Is the #1 Citrus Exporter Trading With the World? - Commodity.com](#)

[Food prices in Spain post record rise | Al Arabiya English](#)

['I can't save money': Spain's supermarket inflation hits record high | Euronews](#)

['Greedflation': The sectors in Spain exploiting inflation to put prices up - The Local](#)

[An unsolvable paradox? Why Spain breaks job market records but tops EU's unemployment | Euronews](#)

[Spain records lowest unemployment figures since 2008 – EURACTIV.com](#)

[Why does Spain continue to lead Europe in unemployment?](#)

[Advantages + Disadvantages of Living in Spain 2023: Pros & Cons](#)

[Corruption scandal rocks Spanish politics ahead of elections – EURACTIV.com](#)

[Money for votes: Corruption arrests tarnish Spain regional elections | Euronews](#)

[Spain falls further in international corruption league tables – The Local](#)

[Corruption in Spain – A Brief Analysis of High-Profile Cases and Spanish Authorities' Anticorruption Efforts](#)

[Spain shows 'clear signs' of corruption risk, warns NGO – EURACTIV.com](#)