

# Spain

## Skills development, labour and skills shortages

[More about skills in Spain](#)

### BASIC SKILLS

Many people do not have sufficient basic skills, such as literacy, numeracy and digital skills

Average student underachievement rate  
15 year-olds; reading, maths, and science

24%



27%



Source: OECD PISA

% of low-performing adults  
literacy and numeracy

24%



20%



Source: OECD PIAAC

% of adults with at least basic digital skills  
16-74 year-olds

66%



56%



Source: Eurostat Basic digital skills

### SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Not enough people are gaining the skills they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow

Participation rate  
in adult learning



34%



40%

60%

EU TARGET

Source: Eurostat Adult education survey

Employment rate of vocational  
education and training graduates



66%



81%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Work-based learning in voca-  
tional education and training



97%



64%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Share of young people  
with higher education



52%



43%

Source: Eurostat Labour force survey

Share of students enrolled in STEM\*  
fields in initial medium-level VET



28%

Source: UOE data collection

Share of students enrolled in STEM  
fields at tertiary level



25%

(\*) science, technology, engineering and mathematics



14.2 BILLION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND+ AND RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY\*  
2021-27 estimated investment in skills

(\*) ex ante cost estimates

### LABOUR & SKILLS SHORTAGES

Businesses are struggling to find workers with the right skills to grow and innovate

Companies reporting  
shortages of skilled workers  
as an investment barrier

78%



77%



Source: EIB Investment Survey

SMEs reporting difficulties  
to find employees with the  
right skills

54%



54%



Source: Eurobarometer SMEs  
and skills shortages

Top-3 In-demand  
occupations

Personal service  
workers

Office associate  
professionals

Health  
professionals

Source: Cedefop skillsOVATE/  
ELA-EURES

Top-3 Growing  
occupations

Assemblers

Legal, social, cultural  
& related associate  
professionals

Food preparation  
assistants

Source: Cedefop skills forecast