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Spain’s tourism employment topped 3 million after a 6.2% rise in October

Hospitality added 120,153 workers over the year, led by food and beverage services, outpacing Spain’s broader labor market

Thursday, November 19, 2026



Spain’s hospitality industry added 120,153 workers registered with the Social Security system over the year through October, with food and beverage services accounting for most of the increase, in a sign that restaurant and lodging hiring continued to expand

faster than the broader economy.

The October data, published by Turespaña on Thursday, November 19 and reported by Europa Press, showed that tourism-related employment in Spain rose by 176,147 workers from October 2025, an increase of 6.2%, to slightly more than 3 million affiliates. Turespaña said tourism jobs represented 13.4% of all Social Security affiliates in the country in October.

That pace was stronger than the labor market as a whole. Across Spain, total Social Security affiliation increased 4.3% from a year earlier in October, according to the figures cited by Turespaña. The gap suggests that tourism, and especially hospitality, remained one of the main sources of job growth.

Within hospitality, the largest increase came from food and beverage services, which added 81,844 workers from October 2025. Lodging services added another 38,309. Together, those gains made hospitality the main driver of tourism job creation during the month.

Other tourism activities also grew, adding 56,301 workers. By contrast, travel agencies recorded a decline of 307 workers. Turespaña said that fall should not be read as a real contraction in agency employment because it was affected by changes to Spain’s CNAE business classification system, which moved some activities that had previously been counted under travel agencies into other categories.

The report also showed that salaried employment continued to lead the increase. Employees on payrolls made up 83.1% of total tourism affiliates in October, and their number rose 6.9% from a year earlier. In hospitality, salaried employment increased 7.5%, with a sharper rise in lodging, at 9.2%, than in food and beverage services, at 6.9%.

Self-employed workers, who represented 16.9% of tourism affiliates, grew more slowly. Their number increased 2.6% across tourism activities. In hospitality, self-employment was up 1.9%, with a strong 17.8% increase in lodging and a much smaller 0.6% rise in food and beverage services. Among travel agencies, the number of self-employed workers fell 2.8%, a movement that Turespaña also linked to the CNAE reclassification.

For hospitality businesses, the figures point to continued demand for labor across both hotels and the restaurant trade, though the pattern was uneven. Lodging showed the strongest growth rates in both salaried and self-employed work, while food and beverage services generated the bigger increase in absolute numbers because of the segment’s larger size.

Regional data showed that employment in hospitality, travel agencies and tour operators increased in every autonomous community in October. In absolute terms, the Balearic Islands recorded the largest gain, with 20,686 additional affiliates. In relative terms, the Balearic Islands also led, with an 18.4% year-over-year increase, followed by the Valencian Community, where tourism employment rose 7.1%.

The October figures extend a run of solid tourism hiring that has outperformed the national labor market for several months. For restaurants, bars and hotels, the increase means the sector continued to absorb workers at a significant pace even after the peak summer season, helping push total tourism employment above the 3 million mark. According to Turespaña’s data reported by Europa Press, hospitality remained at the center of that expansion, with restaurants and other food and beverage businesses contributing the largest share of new jobs and lodging posting the fastest growth rates.