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Spain’s hospitality industry added 120,153 registered workers in October

Food and beverage services drove most new registrations, with accommodation recording the fastest rise in salaried employment

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Spain’s hospitality industry had 120,153 more workers registered with the Social Security system in October than a year earlier, with growth spread across both lodging and food service, according to Turespaña data released on Thursday, November 19.

The increase was split between 81,844 additional workers in food and beverage services and 38,309 in accommodation. The figures cover workers actively registered with Social Security in October 2026 and point to continued hiring in one of the country’s largest tourism-related industries.

The report shows that food and beverage services accounted for about 68% of the sector’s total increase in absolute terms, making restaurants, bars and related businesses the main source of new registrations. Accommodation posted a smaller gain in headcount but a stronger pace of growth in salaried jobs.

Across hospitality as a whole, salaried employment rose 7.5% from October 2025. Within that total, salaried employment in accommodation increased 9.2%, while food and beverage services rose 6.9%. The self-employed segment grew more slowly, with a 1.9% increase for hospitality overall.

The data indicate that the expansion reached the two main branches of the industry at the same time, rather than being concentrated in only one part of the market. That matters in Spain, where hospitality plays a central role in tourism employment and is closely tied to hotel demand, domestic travel, restaurant activity and the broader services economy.

Turespaña said the figures were compiled using the CNAE 2025 business classification. Year-over-year rates were calculated on the basis of equivalent 2025 activities, a methodological point that is relevant for comparing the latest results with earlier periods.

The October data also show a different pattern between the two branches. Accommodation led in percentage growth among salaried workers, suggesting stronger relative expansion in hotels and other lodging businesses. Food and beverage services, however, delivered the larger increase in the number of workers, reflecting the size of that segment within hospitality and its greater weight in total employment.

The report places hospitality at the center of tourism job creation in October. With more than 120,000 additional Social Security registrations from a year earlier, the sector represented a majority share of the increase in tourism-related employment, according to the data cited by Turespaña.

The figures were first published by Turespaña in its October 2026 employment note and were documented in a Europa Press report dated Thursday, November 19. The release focused on the labor market for accommodation and food service in Spain and highlighted that both segments posted year-over-year gains despite different growth rates between salaried workers and the self-employed.

For employers in the sector, the breakdown suggests that staffing demand remained strongest in customer-facing operations tied to meals and drinks, while hotels and other lodging providers recorded the fastest rise in payroll employment. For the labor market more broadly, the results show that hospitality continued to add workers at a pace above the overall increase seen in many other service activities, reinforcing its role as a major engine of tourism hiring in Spain.