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Spain’s food and drink businesses drove a 2.9% rise in hospitality revenue in September

Accommodation revenue increased 2.1%, leaving hospitality well behind the 8.5% gain in Spain’s broader services sector

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Spain’s hospitality industry posted a 2.9% increase in revenue in September from a year earlier, with food and beverage services growing faster than lodging, according to data published Friday, November 20, by Spain’s National Statistics Institute, known as INE.

The figures cover hotels and other accommodations as well as restaurants, bars and related food and drink businesses. INE said revenue for the sector rose in September compared with September 2025, continuing growth in nominal terms at the end of the summer season.

The strongest gain came from food and beverage services, where revenue increased 3.4% from a year earlier. Accommodation services recorded a smaller 2.1% rise. That means the food and drink side of the industry grew 1.3 percentage points faster than lodging.

The data show that hospitality kept expanding, but at a much slower pace than the broader Spanish services economy. Revenue across the overall services sector rose 8.5% in September, leaving hospitality 5.6 percentage points below the national services average.

INE also reported a 0.7% year-over-year increase in the hospitality employment index. That suggests hiring in the sector continued to edge up, though much more slowly than revenue. The release did not provide a detailed breakdown of that employment change between lodging and food and beverage services in the information released for the hospitality segment.

The September reading offers a broad snapshot of one of Spain’s most important service industries after the peak tourist season. Hospitality has a large role in Spain’s economy because it links domestic consumer spending with international tourism, especially in major cities and coastal destinations. Even so, the official figures do not point to the same level of momentum seen in services overall.

The turnover index published by INE is measured in current prices, which means it is not adjusted for inflation. As a result, the 2.9% increase cannot be read as a direct measure of higher sales volumes or stronger customer demand alone. Part of the rise may reflect price increases rather than a larger number of meals served, rooms sold or nights booked.

That point is especially important in comparing the two main branches of the industry. The faster rise in food and beverage revenue does not necessarily mean restaurants and bars gained market share from hotels or other accommodations. It shows only that their billed sales value increased more quickly over the period covered by the index.

The official release was based on INE’s September services activity indicators and the institute’s updated hospitality breakdown published Friday, November 20. The comparison used September 2026 against September 2025.

For businesses in the sector, the figures point to steady but moderate nominal growth. Restaurants, bars and similar operators showed the strongest increase, while lodging businesses also advanced but at a slower rate. At the same time, the gap with the wider services sector indicates hospitality was not one of the main drivers of Spain’s services revenue growth in September.