

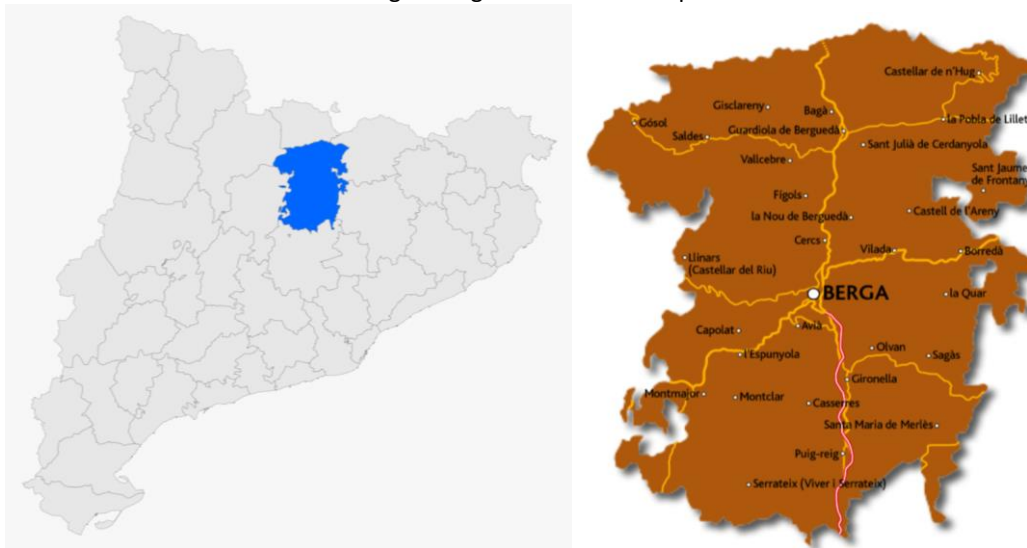
SOCIO – ECONOMIC DATA OF THE TERRITORY BERGUEDÀ

A) POPULATION

1.- Region - Situation

Berguedà is a county located in the interior of Catalonia with a total area of 1.184,89 km². It is the most northern county of the province of Barcelona.

Fig 1. Berguedà situation map



Source: Wikimedia and Enciclopèdia.cat

Berguedà has always been sparsely populated land. In 1860 there were 31.544 inhabitants. The following years, the population fell and reached a minimum of 23.257 inhabitants in 1887. In 1900 there were already 27.217 inhabitants. Since then, it gradually increases: 39.600 inhabitants in 1930, 41.938 inhabitants in 1950 and 47.953 inhabitants in 1960. However, since the 1960s, the decrease is remarkable. Population growth resulted from the economic activity of the previous years (mining, textile industries, forest exploitation, livestock and agriculture) but in the next decades it faces general decline due to general economic crisis in the region. In 1970, 44.446 inhabitants were registered and in 1981, 42.152 inhabitants. In 2001, there were 37.995 inhabitants and in 2007, 40.479.

The main economic activities in Berguedà have been industry and mining, which have suffered strong crises in recent years. Currently, the industrial activity is located mainly between Berga and Puig-reig. The opening of the Cadí Tunnel and the general improvement of the road transport in recent (as of 2004) years may improve the economic potential of the Llobregat Valley and of Berguedà in general. Agriculture, livestock and forestry have proven generally complementary to one another and compatible with tourism. The growth in tourism has provided some jobs and has been a key factor in reducing emigration from Alt Berguedà. Many farmhouses have been converted (in whole or in part) to tourism-related uses.

Berguedà has 31 municipalities. 74.2% of the municipalities have less than 1.000 inhabitants

Fig 2. Municipalities

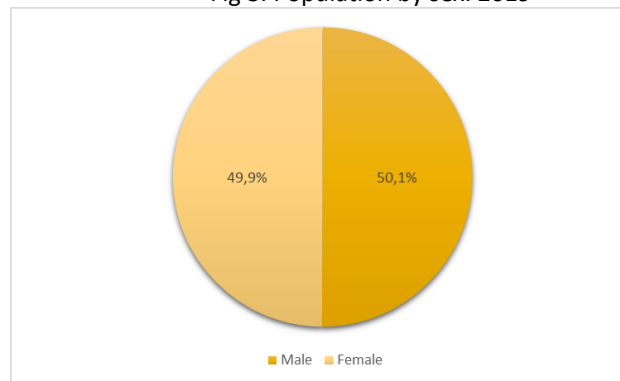
Avià	2.226	Fígols	42	Quar, la	53
Bagà	2.138	Gironella	4.826	Sagàs	148
Berga	16.494	Gisclareny	25	Saldes	274
Borredà	445	Gósol	206	Sant Jaume de Frontanyà	30
Capolat	94	Guardiola de Berguedà	908	Sant Julià de Cerdanyola	228
Casserres	1.608	Montclar	136	Santa Maria de Merlès	184
Castell de l'Areny	68	Montmajor	464	Vallcebre	250
Castellar de n'Hug	159	Nou de Berguedà, la	161	Vilada	416
Castellar del Riu	169	Olvan	854	Viver i Serrateix	168
Cercs	1.145	Pobla de Lillet, la	1.095	Puig-reig	4.178
Espunyola, l'	254				

Source: IDESCAT¹

2.- Population by sex and age group

The current population in Berguedà is 39.446 inhabitants, 50,1% male and 49,9% female.

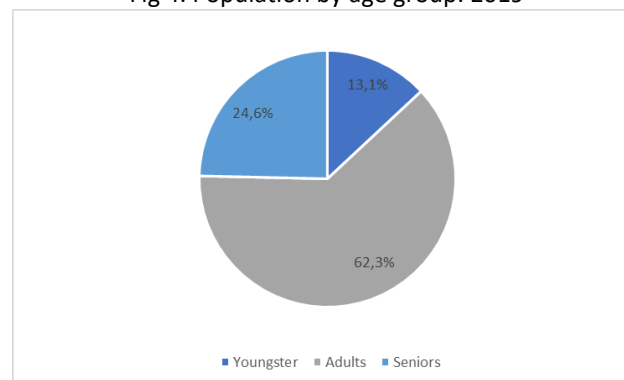
Fig 3. Population by sex. 2019



Source: IDESCAT

Berguedà has the highest concentration of inhabitants among their adult population (from 15 to 64 years old). The youngster population (under 15 years old) is the second largest age group. Thus, one person in four is under 15 years old in Berguedà. Finally, the senior population (over 64 years old) is the group that has the least number of people, 13,1% in Berguedà.

Fig 4. Population by age group. 2019



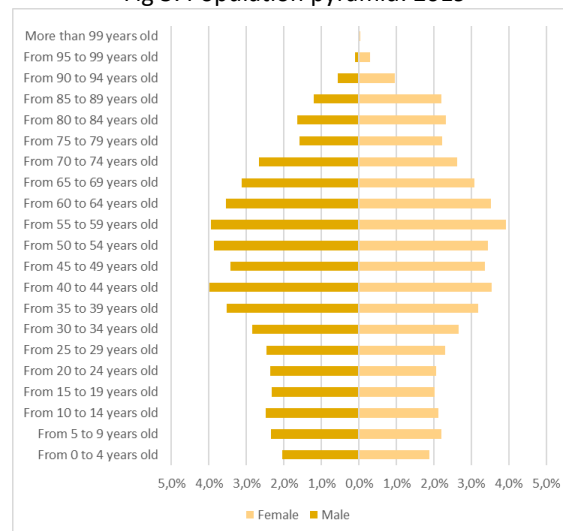
Source: IDESCAT

¹ IDESCAT is the Statistical Institute of Catalonia

The population pyramid has the following characteristics:

- A loss of fertility in the last 10 years. This can be appreciated in the narrowness of the base.
- The majority of the population is concentrated between the ages of 40 and 59, especially in 55-59 years old.
- A greater number of women in the older age groups.
- The lower presence of 30-19 years old compared to the older age groups. This may be due to the departure of the young population.

Fig 5. Population pyramid. 2019

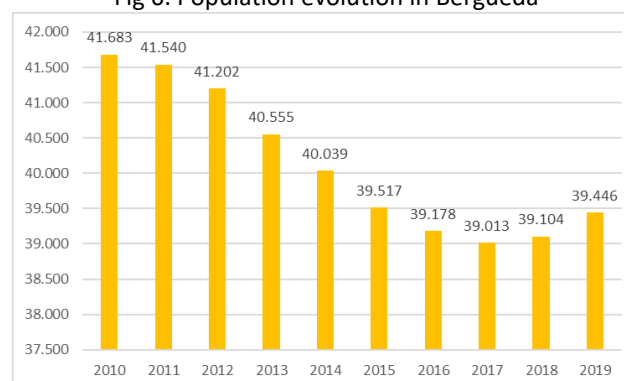


Source: IDESCAT

3.- Population evolution along the last 10 years

In Berguedà, the population shows a significant drop. Population decline matches the situation of economic crisis. The improvement of the economy seems to stabilize the population of Berguedà. From the year 2018, the population begins a phase of growth.

Fig 6. Population evolution in Berguedà



Source: IDESCAT

4.- Evolution of the population compared with country and EU

The annual variation shows how Berguedà behaves differently from other areas. Catalonia, Spain and the EU have positive annual variations since 2015, while Berguedà had negative values until 2018.

Fig 7. Inter-annual variation

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
EU	0,3%	0,3%	0,2%	0,2%	0,2%
Spain	-0,1%	0,0%	0,2%	0,3%	0,6%
Catalonia	-0,1%	0,2%	0,4%	0,6%	1,0%
Berguedà	-1,3%	-0,9%	-0,4%	0,2%	0,9%

Source: IDESCAT and EUROSTAT

5.- Population density, compared with country and EU

Berguedà has a low population density, 33,3 inhabitants per km². The county has a much lower population density rate than Catalonia, the EU and Spain.

Fig 8. Population density. 2019

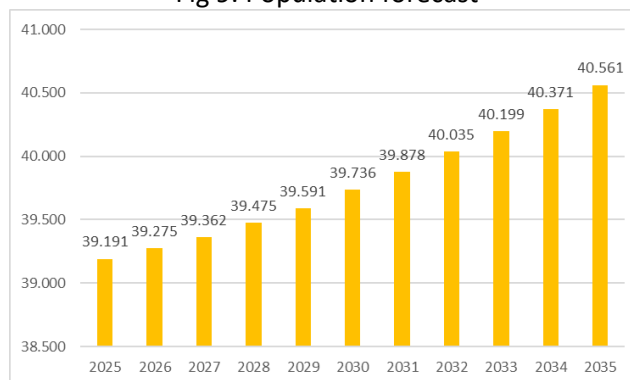
	Inhab per km ²
EU	117,19
Spain	92,76
Catalonia	237,3
Berguedà	33,29

Source: Own preparation based on figures from IDESCAT and EUROSTAT

6.- Population forecast (by sex and age group)

IDESCAT has prepared a population forecast based on 2018 data. This forecast shows a modest population increase in Berguedà. In the next 15 years, the population in Berguedà will be 40.561 inhabitants.

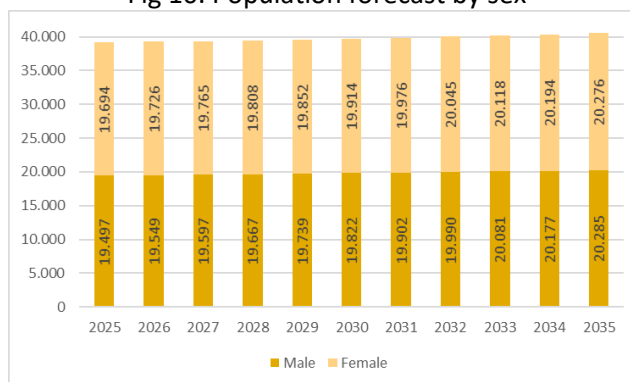
Fig 9. Population forecast



Source: IDESCAT

From 2025 to 2035 there is expected to be a higher growth among males than females. The growth will be 788 males and 582 females.

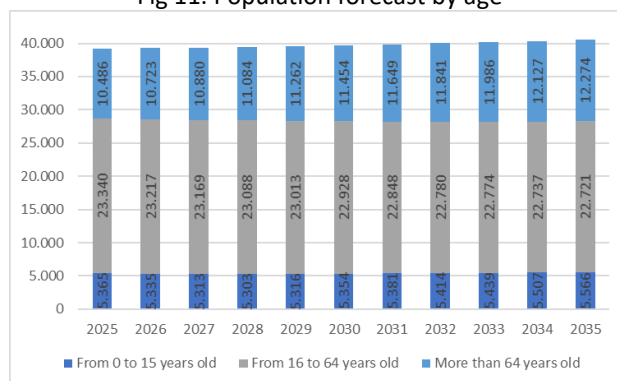
Fig 10. Population forecast by sex



Source: IDESCAT

Between 2025 and 2035, it is forecasted that there will be only a decrease among the age group of adults -from 15 to 64 years old- (-619), while in the groups of seniors -over 64 years old- (1.788) and the youngster -less 15 years old- (201) there will be increases. So the county will suffer a significant demographic ageing.

Fig 11. Population forecast by age

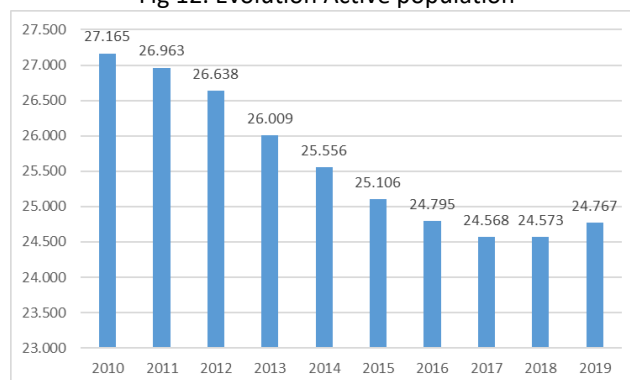


Source: IDESCAT

B) ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

7.- Active population. Evolution in last 10 years

Fig 12. Evolution Active population



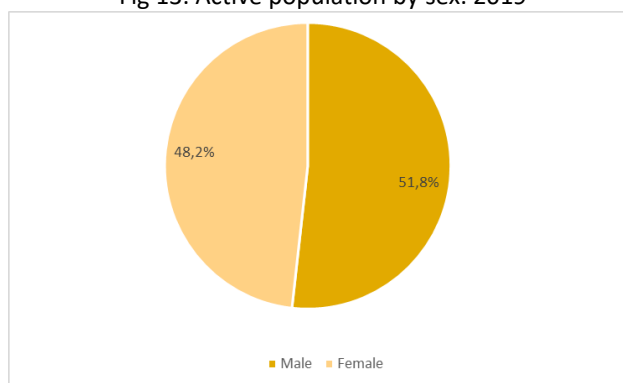
Source: IDESCAT

The recent evolution of active population shows significant decreases in the territory. Since 2010, the decrease has been 2.398 people (-8,8%). However, in the last 5 years the downward trend has stabilized and even registered an increase. Last year, Berguedà's active population increased by 0,7%.

8.- Active population by sex and age group

In Berguedà, the active population is 24.767 people and represents 62,8% of the total population. 51,8% are males and 48,2% are females.

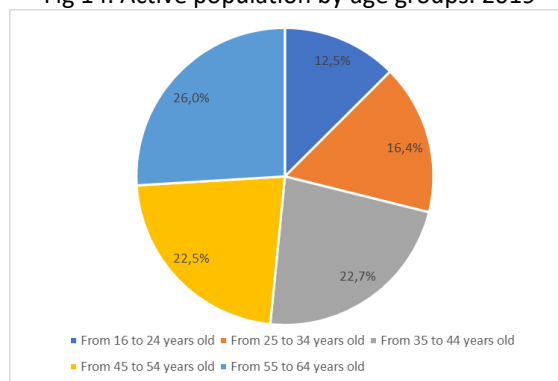
Fig 13. Active population by sex. 2019



Source: IDESCAT

There is a relatively old active population due to the age group from 55 to 64 years old is the largest accounting for 26%.

Fig 14. Active population by age groups. 2019



Source: IDESCAT

9.- Activity rate (by sex)

The activity rate of Berguedà is higher than that of Catalonia (61,6). The male activity rate shows a higher value than the female one. It is remarkable the higher female activity rate compared to the value of Catalonia.

Fig 15. Active rate. 2019

	Berguedà	Catalonia
Male	66,8	66,4
Female	60,1	57
Total	63,6	61,6

Source: Own preparation based on figures from IDESCAT²

C) EMPLOYMENT

10.- Employment rate by sectors and sex

Employment rate³ of Berguedà is higher than that of Catalonia (59,8). Thus, three out of every two active people are employed. The male employment rate is higher than that of female. The values of the male and female employment rates are higher than those of Catalonia.

Fig 16. Employment rate by sex and sectors. 2019

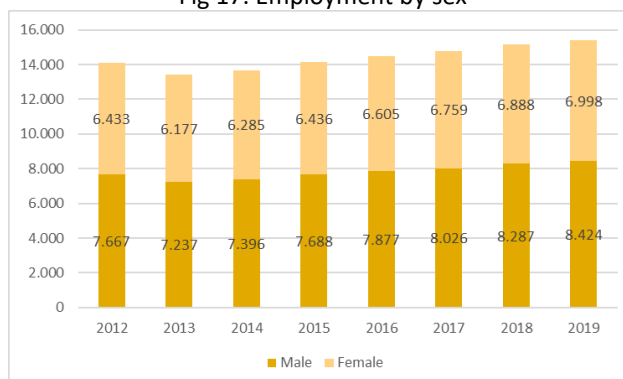
	Berguedà	Catalonia
Male	65,7	59,4
Female	58,6	50,4
Total	62,3	54,8
Farming and forestry	2,9	0,8
Industry	12,8	9,9
Construction	5,5	3,1
Services	44,3	41,0

Source: IDESCAT

11.- Evolution of the Employment by sector, age group and sex

The employed population in Berguedà is 15.422 people. In the last 5 years, employed population has increased by 9,2%.

Fig 17. Employment by sex



Source: IDESCAT

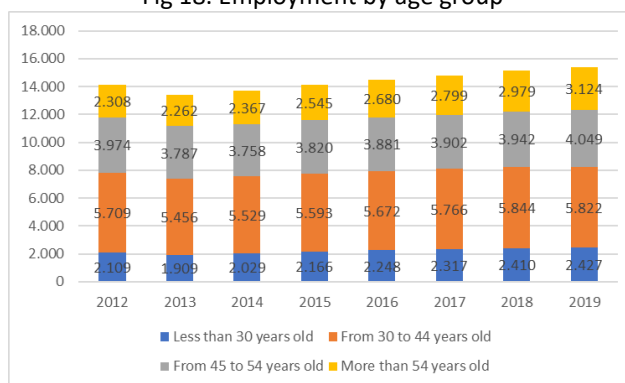
² The activity rate has been estimated with the following formula: $(\text{employed population} + \text{unemployed population} / \text{active population}) * 100$

³ The employment rate is calculated with the following formula: $(\text{employed population} / \text{active population}) * 100$

Employed population of Berguedà is mostly made up of men. In Berguedà men represent 54,6% of employed population.

Employed population in Berguedà is concentrated in the 30-44 age group.

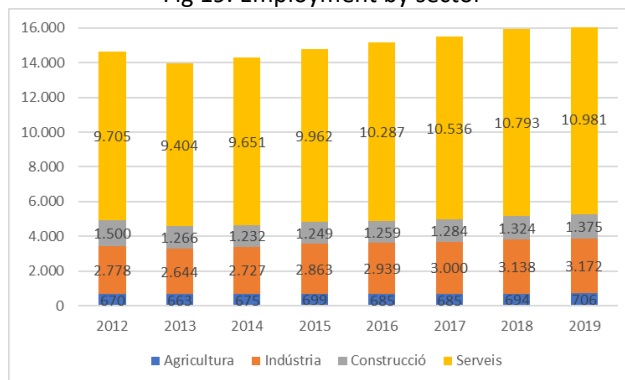
Fig 18. Employment by age group



Source: IDESCAT

The service sector generates most of the employment in Berguedà (67,6%) and has the higher employment rate (fig 16). Industry is the second sector that generates employment, 19,5% of employees are in this sector.

Fig 19. Employment by sector



Source: IDESCAT

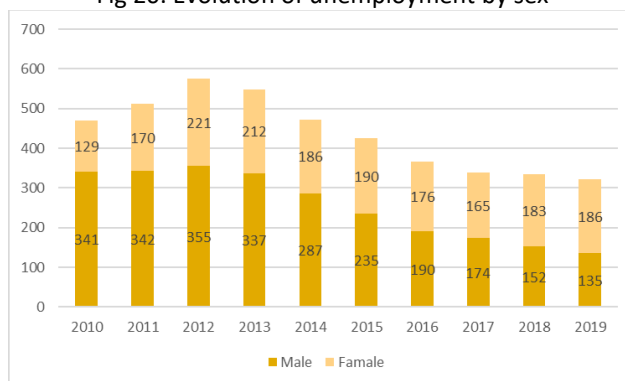
12.- Employment by educational level

No recent data available

D) UNEMPLOYMENT

13.- Evolution of unemployment by sex

Fig 20. Evolution of unemployment by sex



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

The unemployed population in Berguedà is 321 people. In the last 5 years, unemployed population has suffered a variation of -24,5%.

Unemployed population is mostly made up of women. In Berguedà women represent 57,9% of total unemployment. This represents a difference in comparison to the active population and the employed population where men are overrepresented.

14.- Compared unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in Berguedà is lower than in Catalonia and Spain, but higher than in Europe.

Fig 21. Unemployment rate

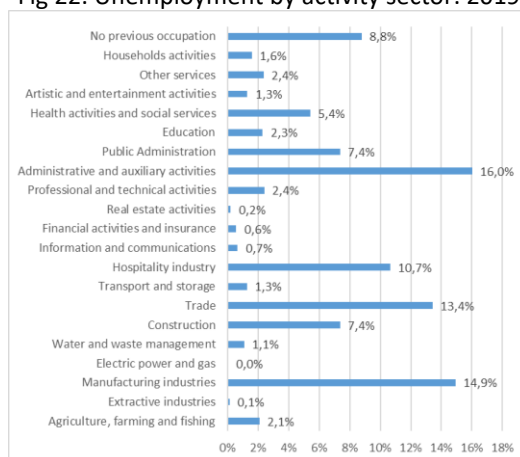
	Berguedà	Catalonia	Spain	EU
2019	10,1	11	14,1	6,3
2018	10,8	11,5	15,3	6,8
2017	11,8	13,4	17,2	7,6

Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu, IDESCAT and EUROSTAT

15.- Unemployment by activity sector

In Berguedà the four activities with highest unemployment records are: Administrative and auxiliary activities (16%), Manufacturing industries (14,9%), Trade (13,4%), Hospitality industry (10,7%). These four activities concentrate 55,1% of unemployed.

Fig 22. Unemployment by activity sector. 2019



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

16.- Unemployment by age group and sex

The unemployed population in Berguedà is concentrated in the 25-39 years age group (40%) and in the 40-54 years age group (36,1%). Women between 25 and 39 years old are the group with higher unemployment figures, followed by women between 40 and 54 years old and men between 40 and 54 years old.

Fig 23. Unemployment by sex and age group in Berguedà. 2019

	Less than 25 years old	25-39 years old	40-54 years old	More than 54 years old	Total
Male	9	40	56	29	135
Female	9	88	60	29	186
Total	18	128	116	58	321

Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

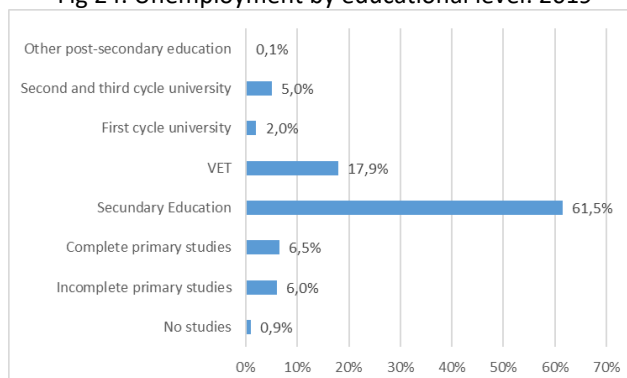
17.- Unemployment by educational level

Unemployment according to educational level shows how it affects people with lower qualifications: secondary education⁴ and primary education⁵. These groups represent almost 75% of total unemployment.

⁴ In Spain it is the education that goes from 12 to 16 years old

⁵ in Spain it is the education that goes from 6 to 12 years old. Years ago it was up to 14 years

Fig 24. Unemployment by educational level. 2019



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

18.- Long term unemployment

Long-term unemployment⁶ and especially very long-term unemployment⁷ is a very important phenomenon in Berguedà. Thus, almost half of the people who have been unemployed for 12 months or longer are unemployed and almost a third for 24 months or longer.

Fig 25. Long term unemployment and very long term unemployment. 2019

	Berguedà
Long term	44,2%
Very long term	30,2%

Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

E) COVID 19

19.- How has the education system responded to the covid 19 crisis?

The last quarter of the 2019-2020 academic year has been subject to significant changes due to the expansion of COVID-19. The educational centers were forced to suspend their presential teaching activity as of March and to replace it with other teaching and learning activities using the distance modality or applying online resources. The change from one system to another inevitably occurred abruptly and the entire educational community had to react quickly to respond to the new circumstances. These circumstances led to an atypical end of the 2019-2020 academic year, in which only some face-to-face educational activities could be resumed during the de-escalation phases, without fully recovering a normalized activity. This especially affected vocational training education and company internships.

During the 2020-21 academic year, efforts are being made to return to normal, albeit with some restrictions. The emphasis of the measures is on taking the appropriate steps to ensure the health of teachers and students. Resources are also being mobilized to improve the digitization of educational centers, reduce the digital divide and improve digital skills.

⁶ Long-term unemployment is the number of persons unemployed for 12 months or longer

⁷ Very long-term unemployment is the number of persons unemployed for 24 months or longer



20.- Has the covid 19 crisis caused population movements to rural areas?

In Catalonia, the Covid 19 crisis has led to an increase in teleworking, both in companies and in public administration. The increasing of teleworking, the fact that children did not have face-to-face classes, the confinement and the fear of big cities has generated a movement of people who have moved to live in their second residence. In Catalonia, second residences are located in coastal areas, but also in rural mountain environments like Alt Berguedà. Therefore, rural areas have seen their population increase for several months. In some cases, this has generated some problems due to the fear of the local population that urban people would spread the virus with them.

So, the Covid 19 crisis has generated a movement of population to rural areas of people who had the availability of teleworking. However, the beginning of the new academic year and the return to the workplace has brought these people back.