

SOCIO – ECONOMIC DATA OF THE TERRITORY :
School of Shepherds of Catalonia

A) POPULATION

1.- Region - Situation

1.1.- Pallars Sobirà

Pallars Sobirà is a county of Catalonia, located in the northwest of Catalonia. It is part of the Alt Pirineu and Aran area and the province of Lleida. The county borders France (Occitania region) in the north and Andorra in the northeast. With a surface area of 1.377,9 km², it is the fourth largest county in Catalonia.

Fig 1. Pallars Sobirà situation map



Source: <http://turisme.pallarsobira.cat/>

Pallars Sobirà is a fully Pyrenean region, perhaps the most Pyrenean of all. So, this county has traditionally been a region isolated from the rest -modern communications did not arrive until well into the 20th century-. It has limited human occupation and activity, and the population has always been scarce. A demographic peak is registered in 1860 with 20.000 inhabitants, but from this date the depopulation is constant. The 1986 census records a population of 5.464 inhabitants, almost a quarter of what it was 130 years before.

Main local economic activities are focused on the use and exploitation of natural resources: agriculture, livestock and the use of the forest (forestry). But these traditional activities have greatly diminished in recent years. The current agricultural area is mainly devoted to meadows and fodder for cattle, mainly for milk production. Sheep farming has lost importance, as well as horses.

The current economy is based on livestock, forestry, electricity production and tourism. It should be noted that the most of Pallars Sobirà is a protected nature reserve. There are a few territories that belong to the PEIN (Pla d'Espais d'Interès Natural de Catalunya- Natural Interest Landscape

Plan of Catalonia), as Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, the Alt Pirineu Natural Park, the Natural Partial Reserve of La Noguera Pallaresa - Collegats, a wide range of areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network, the Natural Hunting Reserve of Boumort, etc.

The region has 15 municipalities, all with less than 1,000 inhabitants except for Sort.

Fig 2. Municipalities

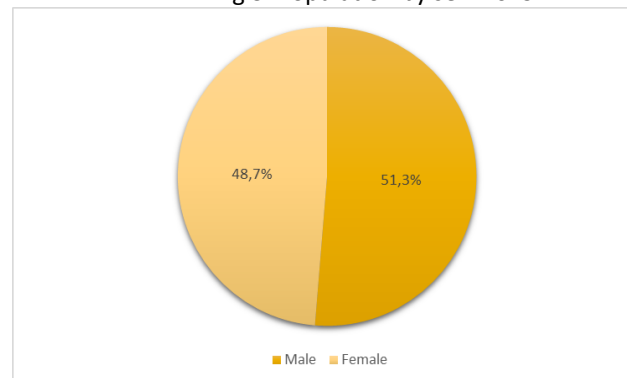
Alins	276	Lladorre	230
Alt Àneu	405	Llavorsí	352
Baix Pallars	335	Rialp	661
Espot	364	Soriguera	410
Esterri d'Àneu	772	Sort	2.149
Esterri de Cardós	70	Tírvia	131
Farrera	116	Vall de Cardós	364
Guingueta d'Àneu, la	297		

Source: IDESCAT¹

2.- Population by sex and age group

The current population in Pallars Sobirà is 6.932 inhabitants, 51,3% male and 48,7% female.

Fig 3. Population by sex. 2019

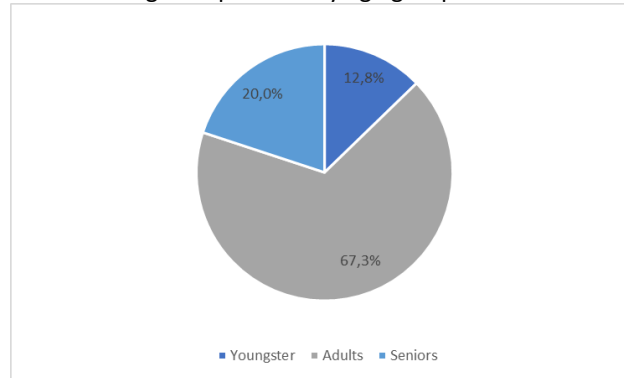


Source: IDESCAT

Pallars Sobirà has the highest concentration of inhabitants among their adult population (from 15 to 64 years old). The youngest population (under 15 years old) is the second largest age group. Thus, one person in five is under 15 years old in Pallars Sobirà. Finally, the senior population (over 64 years old) is the group that has the least number of people, 12,8%.

¹ IDESCAT is the Statistical Institute of Catalonia

Fig 4. Population by age group. 2019

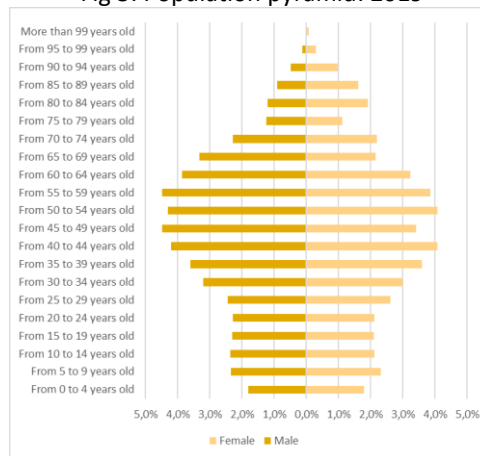


Source: IDESCAT

The population pyramid has the following characteristics:

- A loss of fertility in the last 5 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 years old, especially among men.
- 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

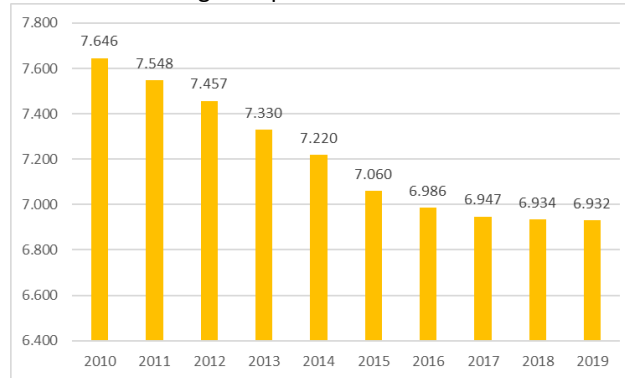


Source: IDESCAT

3.- Population evolution along the last 10 years

The current evolution of the population of Pallars Sobirà shows a downward trend, especially during the economic crisis. With the economic recovery, although the population continues to decline it seems to be stabilizing.

Fig 6. Population evolution



Source: IDESCAT

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

The annual variation shows Pallars Sobirà behaves differently from other areas. Catalonia, Spain and the EU have positive annual variations since 2015, while Pallars Sobirà has negative variations. Therefore, the Pallars Sobira is losing population.

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%
Pallars Sobirà	-2,2%	-1,0%	-0,6%	-0,2%	0,0%

Source: IDESCAT and EUROSTAT

5.- Population density, compared with country and EU

Pallars Sobirà has one of the lowest population densities in Catalonia, 5 inhabitants per km². So the county has a much lower population density rate than Catalonia, the EU and Spain.

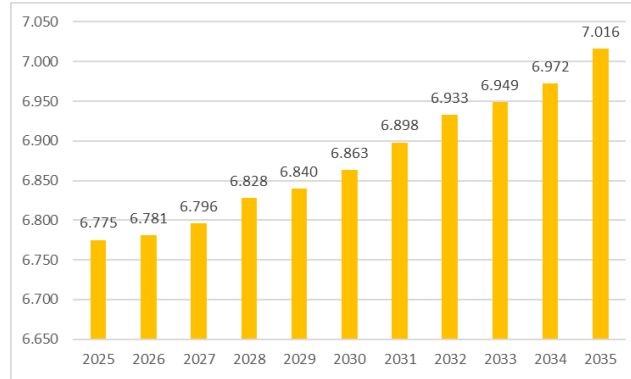
Fig 8. Population density. 2019

	Inhab per km ²
EU	117,19
Spain	92,76
Catalonia	237,3
Pallars Sobirà	5,03

Source: Own preparation based on figures from IDESCAT and EUROSTAT

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

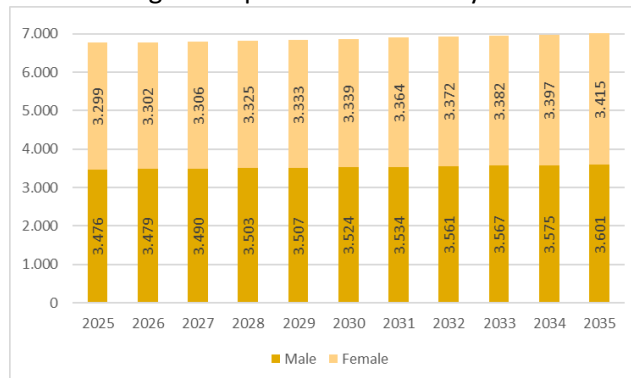
Fig 9. Population forecast



Source: IDESCAT

IDESCAT has prepared a population forecast based on 2018 data. This forecast shows a modest population increase in Pallars Sobirà. In the next 15 years, the population will be 7.016 inhabitants in Pallars Sobirà.

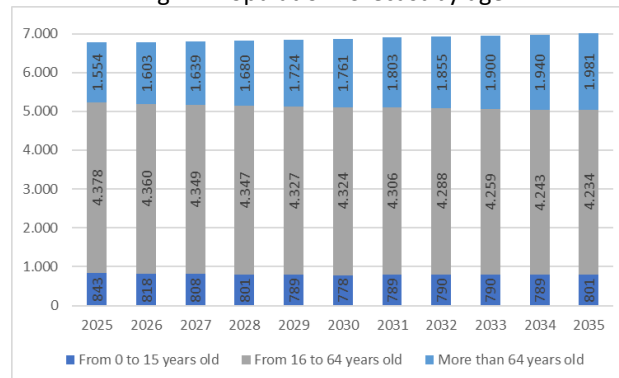
Fig 10. Population forecast by sex



Source: IDESCAT

From 2025 to 2035 there is expected to be a higher growth among males than females. The increase will be 125 males and 116 females.

Fig 11. Population forecast by age



Source: IDESCAT

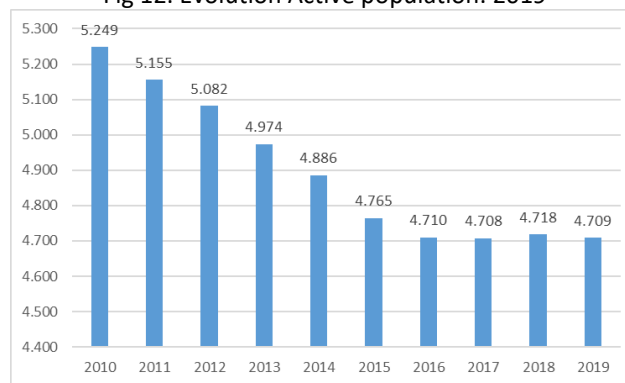
Between 2025 and 2035, it is forecasted that there will be only a rise among the age group over 64 years old (427), while in the group of adults -from 15 to 64 years old- (-144) and the youngster -less 15 years old- (-42) there will be decreases.

B) ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

7.- Active population. Evolution in last 10 years

The recent evolution of active population shows significant decrease. Since 2010, the Pallars Sobirà has suffered a decrease of 540 people (-10,3%). However, in the last 5 years the downward trend has stabilized

Fig 12. Evolution Active population. 2019

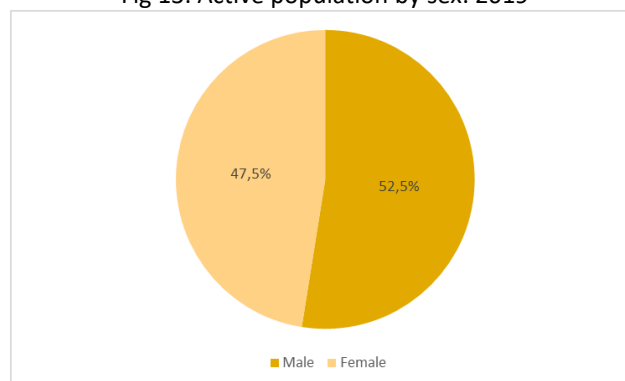


Source: IDESCAT

8.- Active population by sex and age group

The active population in Pallars Sobirà is 4.709 people, accounting for the 67,9% of the total population. 52,5% of the active population are males and 47,5% are females

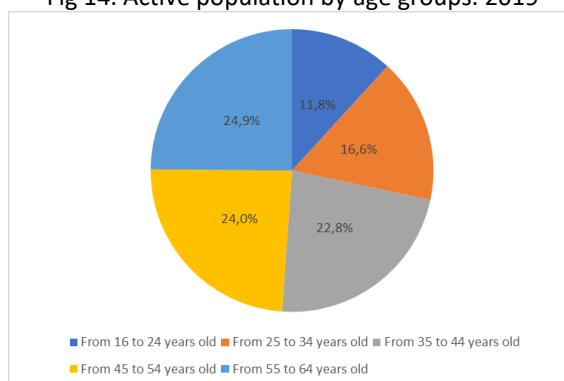
Fig 13. Active population by sex. 2019



Source: IDESCAT

The age group from 55 to 64 years old is the largest in Pallars Sobirà (24,9%). So there is a relatively old active population.

Fig 14. Active population by age groups. 2019



Source: IDESCAT

9.- Activity rate (by sex)

The activity rate of Pallars Sobirà is higher than that of Catalonia (61,6). The male activity rate shows a higher value than the female one. The high rate of activity in Pallars Sobirà is remarkable, since nearly three out of every four people are active. Inactive people, such as students, often move out of the territory and remain employed. This explains the high activity rate.

Fig 15. Active rate. 2019

	Pallars Sobirà	Catalonia
Male	74,1	66,4
Female	69,9	57
Total	72,1	61,6

Source: Own preparation based on figures from IDESCAT²

C) EMPLOYMENT

10.- Employment rate by sectors and sex

Employment rate³ of Pallars Sobirà is higher than that of Catalonia (54,8). Employment rate is especially high in Pallars Sobirà. This is normal in rural mountain areas because the population that does not move and remain is working. The male employment rate is higher than that of female. The male employment rate is higher than the female rate. The values of the male and female employment rates are higher than those of Catalonia.

Fig 16. Employment rate by sex and sectors. 2019

	Pallars Sobirà	Catalonia
Male	69,84	59,4
Female	64,93	50,4
Total	67,51	54,8
Farming and forestry	5,61	0,8
Industry	4,99	9,9
Construction	6,55	3,1
Services	55,56	41,0

Source: IDESCAT

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

³ The employment rate is calculated with the following formula: (employed population / active population) * 100

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

The employed population in Pallars Sobirà is 3.179 people. The recent evolution of employed population shows a growing trend. With respect to 2015, employed population has increased by 6.4%.

Fig 17. Evolution of employment by sex

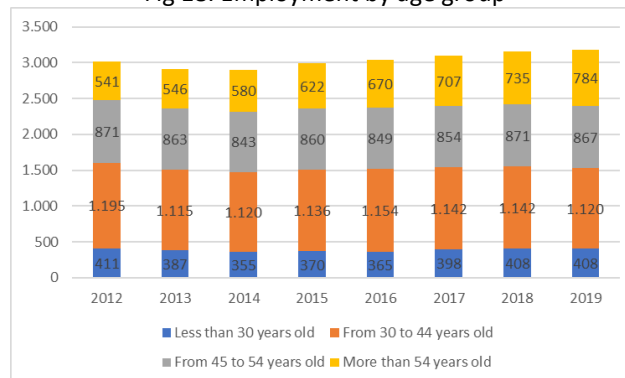


Source: IDESCAT

Employed population of Pallars Sobirà is mostly made up of men. Men represent 54,3% of employed population and women 45,7%.

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

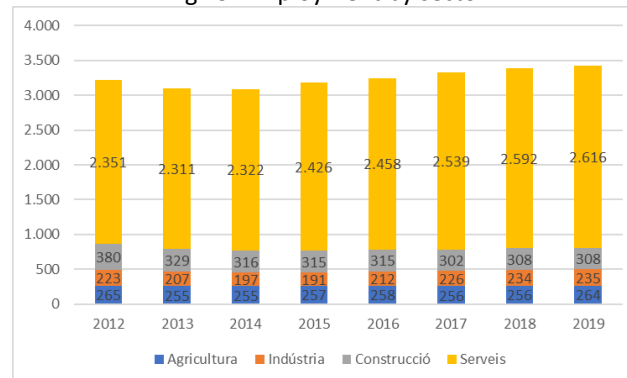
Fig 18. Employment by age group



Source: IDESCAT

The service sector generates most of the employment in Pallars Sobirà (76,4%) and has the higher employment rate (fig 16). Construction is the second sector that generates employment (9%).

Fig 19. Employment by sector



Source: IDESCAT

12.- Employment by educational level

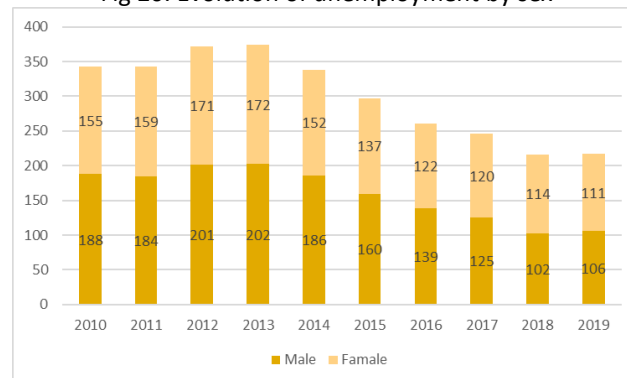
No recent data available

D) UNEMPLOYMENT

13.- Evolution of unemployment by sex

The unemployed population in Pallars Sobirà is 217 people. Recent evolution shows a decreasing trend. In comparison with 2015, unemployed population has fluctuated in -27%.

Fig 20. Evolution of unemployment by sex



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

Unemployed population is mostly made up of women. In Pallars Sobirà women represent 51,3% of total unemployment and men 48,7%. 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 Pallars Sobirà is lower than in Catalonia and Spain, but higher than Europe.

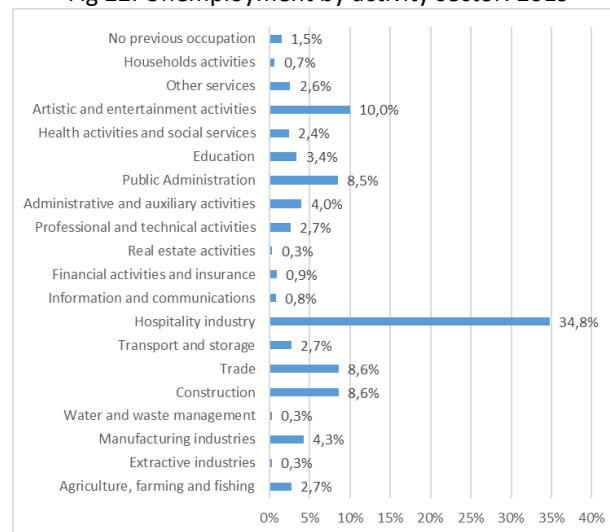
Fig 21. Unemployment rate

	Pallars Sobirà	Catalonia	Spain	EU
2019	6,9	11	14,1	6,3
2018	6,9	11,5	15,3	6,8
2017	8,0	13,4	17,2	7,6

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

15.- Unemployment by activity sector

Fig 22. Unemployment by activity sector. 2019



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

In Pallars Sobirà the four activities with higher unemployment levels are: Hospitality industry (34,8%), Artistic and entertainment activities (10%), Construction (8,6%), Trade (8,6%), Public Administration (8,5%). These four activities concentrate 70,5% of unemployed.

16.-Unemployment by age group and sex

The unemployment is concentrated in the 25-39 age group, representing 38% of total unemployment, followed by the 40-54 age group (32,6%). Among the total county's unemployed population, women from 25 to 39 years old are the most numerous group, followed by women from 40 to 54 years old and men from 25 to 39 years old.

Fig 23. Unemployment by sex and age group in Pallars Sobirà. 2019

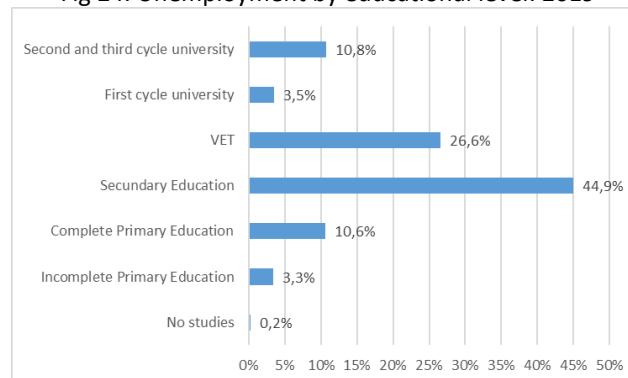
	Less than 25 years old	25-39 years old	40-54 years old	More than 54 years old	Total
Male	10	38	33	25	106
Female	6	45	38	23	111
Total	16	82	71	47	217

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. In both territories, these groups account for more than half of total unemployment.

Fig 24. Unemployment by educational level. 2019



Source: Observatori del Treball i Model Productiu

18.- Long term unemployment

Long-term unemployment is important in Pallars. In this territory, people who have been unemployed for less than 3 months are in the majority (52%). However, people who have been unemployed for 12 months or longer is the second largest group.

Fig 25. Long term unemployment. 2019

	Pallars Sobirà
Long term	17,8%
Very long term	8,7%

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

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



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.

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 Pallars Sobirà. 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.