



COVID-19 in Spain

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying reference, from the Spanish-based media network *El País*, is an easily useable site with graphed data and an interactive map on the pandemic worldwide, with emphasis on Spain. Spain is a significant reference country as it is, at least according to *El País*, the country with the second greatest number of confirmed cases after the United States. At the time of the article, half of Spain was entering into a recovery phase, as the spread of the virus had been declining sharply. The country-by-country graphs indicate a wide range of apparent effects, and while the site does not attempt to explain the divergences, it looks to be due at least partly to varying testing and diagnostic reporting rubrics. Regardless, Spain was undoubtedly one of the hardest hit. As in other countries, the mortal victim cohorts tend to be older. Judging from *El País*, the medical challenge presented by the virus in Spain will have only lasted a couple of months. This data set about the virus in Spain, however, should be compared to another of this month's *OE Watch* articles on Spain, "Is Spain's Future Now Communist?" as the political and ideological (and likely therefore, geopolitical) outcome of the country's coronavirus experience may be far more consequential than the medical. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

“In a month and a half, we have [gone] from a daily growth of 42% to less than 1 %...”

Source: Mariano Zafra, Patricia R. Blanco and Luis Sevillano Pires, “Casos confirmados de coronavirus en España y en el mundo (Confirmed cases of coronavirus in Spain and in the world),” *El País*, 11 May 2020. https://elpais.com/sociedad/2020/04/09/actualidad/1586437657_937910.html

“The spread of the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, arising in the Chinese city of Wuhan at the end of 2019, continues to slow in pace. Even so, four million additional people in more than 185 countries of the world have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, more than 1,400,000 now have been cured and 283,000 have lost their lives. Little by little, the countries most affected are beginning to de-escalate the confinement measures with light openings, always attentive that the number of new confirmed cases continues to decline.

Spain is the second country in the world with the most detected cases, behind the United States. The first positive case on Spanish soil was confirmed on 31 January, but it was in March that the diagnoses began to increase exponentially...

The stabilization of those cases, which continues in decline, led the administration this past 29 April to present a three-phase plan to leave the confinement, the step down beginning to be applied to half of Spain on 11 May...

Of the mortal victims in Spain, 95% are over 60 years old...

In a month and a half, we have passed from a daily growth of 42% to less than 1 %...”

Fangs of the Lone Wolf

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