Spain for Chemical Industry
Why Spain for the Chemical Industry?

- Broad industrial base and diversified production. The Spanish chemical industry comprises over 3,102 companies with a turnover of €89.9 billion in 2022.

- Skilled and competitive human resources. 234,200 direct jobs, highest added value per employee and largest investor in research staff among Spanish industries.

- Largest exporter of the Spanish economy. €63.6 billion export value in 2022, 19.5% of total exports. Privileged access to European, Mediterranean, North Africa and Latin American markets.

- Investment locations for new projects in Chemical hubs, offering services, transport infrastructures and logistics direct to market for new projects.
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Facts & Figures

Strategic industry for the Spanish economy

The chemical industry generates 13.8% of Spain’s gross industrial output and 796,280 direct, indirect and induced jobs. With a cumulative growth of 29% in turnover between 2010-2022, the industry supplies products and solutions to 98% of productive industries.

Internationalized sector

The chemical industry was the largest exporter of the Spanish economy in 2022. 70.8% of chemical production was exported worldwide, with an export value of €63.6 billion. The industry is increasing exports to non-EU markets.

Investment and innovation

The chemical industry will remain the fastest growing industrial sector in the world through to 2030, at an estimated average of 4.5%/year to meet the new global demand. This potential is attracting new investments and innovative projects of established multinationals and new players.

The industry in Spain invested over €3 billion in assets and €1.1 billion in internal R&D&I in 2022. Spain was the 4th most-preferred destination for new Chemical projects in the EU in terms of capital invested. 57.1% of Spain’s chemical companies are innovative companies.

Sustainable chemistry

The chemical industry offers solutions to global challenges and helps achieve UN Sustainable development goals. The Spanish Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem Spain), part of the European network of Technology Platforms aims to enhance cooperation among industry, universities and research centers, to promote sustainable innovation.

Human capital and talent

The industry creates 234,200 highly qualified direct jobs, and over 560,000 indirect and induced jobs. It is one of the industries with lower rotation rates and highest productivity per employee.

Research staff working in chemical sectors represent 21.4% of total industrial research recruitment.

There are 35 specialized universities and faculties in Spain devoted to chemical and chemical engineer training. Technology and research centers of excellence around the main chemical hubs create the best ecosystem for innovation.
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OUR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Head office:
Paseo de la Castellana 278
28046 Madrid (Spain)
investinspain@icex.es
www.investinspain.org

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MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA, COMERCIO Y EMPRESA
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