

Spanish economic forecasts panel: September 2026*

Funcas Economic Trends and Statistics Department

Growth in 2026 [1]

Consensus 2026 GDP estimate raised by 0.2pp to 2.5%

According to provisional INE data, Spain's GDP grew by 0.7% during the second quarter, which is 0.2pp more than the analysts were forecasting. Domestic demand accounted for 0.6pp, with foreign trade adding 0.1pp. [2]

The consensus estimate for growth this year has been revised upwards by 0.2pp to 2.5%. Fifteen analysts have raised their estimates and none has trimmed them (Table 1). The upward revisions reflect the better-than-forecast second-quarter growth figure and, to a lesser degree, a slightly higher forecast for the third quarter, of 0.5% (Table 2).

As for the make-up of the GDP growth forecast for this year, domestic demand is expected to contribute 2.9pp (up 0.2pp from the last survey), with foreign demand detracting by 0.4pp (unchanged from our July survey). The forecasts for public consumption, private consumption and investment have all been raised. Analysts are now looking for growth in exports and imports of 1.5% and 2.6%, respectively, down from the July estimates (Table 1).

The number of analysts who perceive more downside risk than upside to their estimates has increased since July but the majority continues to see either more upside or a balance of risks.

Growth in 2027

The projection for 2027 is unchanged at 2%

The consensus forecast for GDP growth in 2027 is unchanged from July, at 2%. This is slightly higher than the projections of leading national and international organisations, except for the Spanish government and AIREF (Table 1).

The growth forecast for 2027 is expected to come entirely from domestic demand, with an estimated contribution of 2.2pp (up 0.1pp from the last survey), with external demand detracting by 0.2pp (compared to an estimated negative contribution of 0.1pp last July). Growth in all components of domestic demand (private consumption, public

consumption and investment) is expected to slow from 2026 (Table 1).

Projections are for quarterly GDP growth of around 0.5% for the first three quarters of 2027 and a slight slowdown to 0.4% in the last quarter (Table 2).

Inflation

Geopolitical tensions translating into higher inflation forecasts

Having settled at 3.2% in the second quarter, headline inflation headed back up to 3.6% in July and climbed to 4.3% in August, fuelled by intensification of geopolitical tensions. Core inflation, meanwhile, continues to move in the range of 2.8%-3%, where it remains very sticky, due mainly to persistent pressures in service prices. Processed food prices, on the other hand, have eased in recent months.

The analysts, expressing due caution on account of the level of uncertainty derived from the geopolitical tensions with a direct impact on inflation via energy prices, believe that headline inflation may have peaked in August and should start to come down during the months to come to end the year at a year-on-year rate of 3.5%. The consensus forecasts for the average annual headline and core inflation rates in 2026 are 3.4% and 2.9%, respectively, both of which are 0.2pp higher than the July forecasts. For 2027, the consensus forecasts have similarly increased, to 2.5% in the case of headline inflation with core inflation projected at 2.6%. The analysts are forecasting headline inflation of 2.2% year-on-year in December 2027 (Tables 1 and 3).

Labour market

Growth in social security contributors accelerating, shaped by legalisation of foreign nationals

Since April, growth in the number of social security contributors has accelerated sharply to year-on-year rates that are well above those of the past two years. The trend, which reflects mainly the incorporation of foreign workers, is tied to the ongoing process of regularisation of undocumented immigrants (which had translated into over

330,000 new contributors as of the end of August). In the meantime, growth in national contributors has been gradually easing.

For 2026 as a whole, the analysts are forecasting year-on-year growth in employment of 2.2%, slipping back to 1.7% in 2027 (both figures are 0.2pp above the July forecasts). Average annual unemployment is forecast at 9.9% this year (down 0.1pp from the last survey), dipping to 9.6% in 2027 (Table 1).

As for productivity and unit labour costs (ULCs), which are estimated based on the forecasts for GDP growth, employee compensation and employment as per the labour force survey, the former is expected to increase by 0.3% this year and the latter, by 3.2% (up 0.2pp from July). In 2027, growth in productivity and ULCs is forecast at 0.3% and 2.8%, respectively.

Balance of payments

Shrinking current account surplus

The current account surplus amounted to 15.1 billion euros in the first half of 2026, which is equivalent to 1.7% of GDP. This is 9 billion euros below the first-half 2025 surplus and the lowest figure on record since 2022. Underlying the erosion is the fact that the improvement in the surplus in travel services was more than offset by the increase in the goods trade deficit and, to a larger extent, the increase in the primary and secondary income deficit, which hit its highest level since 2012, shaped by the run-up in interest rates.

The analysts are looking for a current account surplus of 2.2% of GDP in 2026 and 2% in 2027, unchanged from the July survey (Table 1).

Public deficit

Deficit projections for 2026 and 2027 unchanged

Despite the economic momentum, as of June, Spain's public deficit was largely unchanged from last year's levels. Although tax receipts are benefitting from the economic boom, public expenditure is rising in tandem with revenue.

As was the case in July, the analysts are expecting the deficit to increase to 2.5% of GDP this year, although eight of them believe the deficit will come in below or in line with the 2025 figure. For 2027, the consensus forecast is for a deficit of 2.3% of GDP (down 0.1pp from the July round of forecasting). There is a significant disconnect

between the figures reported by national and international organisations (Table 1).

International context

Deteriorating international environment

The international situation has deteriorated, chiefly as a result of the resurgence of hostilities in the Middle East. In addition to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, passage through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which provides access to the Suez Canal, has been affected by the spread of the conflict in Yemen. The most tangible result is the surge in Brent oil prices, which have jumped from under \$70/barrel in July to nearly \$110. The gas market has also come under strain, particularly in Europe, partly due to the conflicts but also to the demand generated by the need to store this prized commodity ahead of the winter.

The survey respondents echo the deterioration in the international context, with a majority describing it as unfavourable and expecting it to remain so over the coming months, both in the EU and globally (Table 4). Moreover, the number of analysts who expect a prompt improvement has dropped from 5 to 3 in the case of the EU assessments, and from 6 to 1 in the case of the global economic assessments.

Interest rates

Interest rates are rising on the back of the uptick in inflation and accumulation of public deficits

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, together with the threats looming over shipping through the Red Sea, have triggered a fresh bout of energy-induced inflation, complicating central banks' efforts to maintain monetary stability. The ECB recently tweaked its interest rates again, raising the deposit facility rate to 2.5%, having increased its forecasts for inflation for the next two years in parallel. The Federal Reserve could follow suit, starting from higher interest rate levels than in the eurozone.

This shift in monetary policy is also underpinned by the resilience the economy is showing in the face of the energy shock and geopolitical tensions. In Germany, economic indicators point to a slight recovery (which is not, however, evident in France), while in the U.S., investment in technology continues to underpin growth and job creation, potentially allowing the central banks to focus on tackling inflation. The analysts expect the ECB's deposit facility rate to remain anchored at 2.5% until mid-2027, which is a quarter of a point higher than the last consensus forecast (Table 2).

Given the uptick in inflation and prospect of monetary tightening, 12-month Euribor has been trending higher and is currently trading above 3.2%, up more than half a point from July. The analysts expect that benchmark rate to ease a little over the coming months, ending next year at around 2.7%, which is nevertheless 0.2pp above the July forecast (Table 2).

In tandem, the return required by the markets for purchasing Spanish 10-year treasury bonds has increased, evidencing market concern about the public deficits being piled up by the major advanced economies. The analysts expect these tensions to persist: they are now forecasting a yield of close to 3.5% at the end of the projection horizon, which is nearly 0.2pp higher than they were predicting in July.

Currency market

Dollar appreciation

The dollar has been appreciating against the euro in recent days due to the growth differential

on either side of the Atlantic and the prospect of a Federal Reserve rate hike. However, the consensus forecast is that the euro will regain a little of the ground lost between now and the end of 2027 (Table 2).

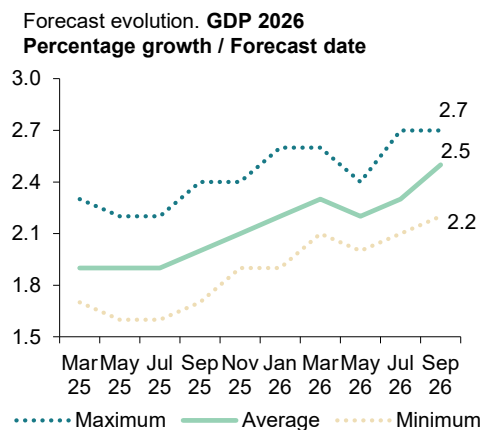
Fiscal and monetary policy considerations

Fiscal policy should be less expansionary

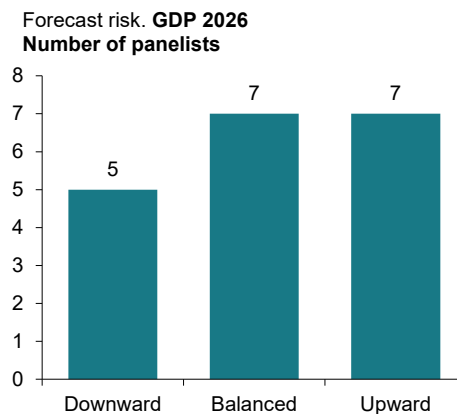
There has been little change in the analysts' assessment of macroeconomic policy. The analysts generally believe that the Spanish economic cycle is sufficiently robust as to not need additional stimulus via fiscal policy. According to a majority of analysts, the budget remains expansionary when it should be neutral, meaning it should not provide additional stimulus. As for monetary policy, the perception is one of a better fit with the cycle: the consensus is that monetary policy is neutral, which is what the Spanish economy currently requires (Table 4).

Exhibit 1

Evolution and risk of forecasts



Source: Funcas Panel of Forecasts.



* The Spanish Economic Forecast Panel is a survey conducted by Funcas among the 19 research services listed in Table 1. The survey, which dates back to 1999, is published every two months, in January, March, May, July, September and November. The responses to this survey generate "consensus" forecasts, which are calculated as the arithmetic mean of the 19 individual forecasts. For comparative purposes, albeit not part of the consensus, the forecasts of the Spanish government, AIReF, Bank of Spain and leading international organisations are also presented.

[1] The cut-off date for this round of projections was September 8th.

[2] Spain's national statistics office, the INE, is due to publish its revised annual and quarterly national accounting figures during the month of September. The revised figures could knock off some of the outcomes from this survey, which are based on the annual and quarterly national accounting figures in effect as of the date of its publication.

Spanish economic forecasts panel: September 2026*

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Table 1

Economic Forecasts for Spain – September 2026

Average year-on-year change, as a percentage, unless otherwise stated

	GDP		Household consumption		Public consumption		Gross Fixed Capital Formation						Domestic demand ³		Exports of goods & serv.		Imports of goods & serv.	
	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027	Total		Capital and intellectual property goods		Construction		2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027
Analistas Financieros Internacionales (AFI)	2.6	2.2	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.4	3.7	1.9	2.2	2.1	3.7	1.9	2.8	1.9	1.3	3.6	2.0	3.0
BBVA Research	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.2	2.5	5.0	5.5	2.7	3.0	5.6	4.9	3.0	2.7	1.4	2.9	3.2	5.1
CaixaBank Research	2.4	2.0	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.5	2.4	3.5	2.6	4.7	2.3	2.8	2.1	0.6	1.8	1.6	2.1
Cámara de Comercio de España	2.5	1.9	2.7	1.8	2.3	2.5	4.5	3.8	3.3	2.5	4.9	4.2	2.9	2.0	1.4	2.3	2.2	2.8
Centro de Estudios Economía de Madrid (CEEM-URJC)	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.2	2.3	1.6	4.5	3.7	6.4	5.3	4.9	3.5	3.2	2.5	3.3	3.1	5.0	4.2
Centro de Predicción Económica (CEPREDE-UAM)	2.7	2.1	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	4.5	3.0	2.5	1.6	4.5	3.0	3.1	2.2	0.9	2.1	2.3	2.7
CEOE	2.6	2.1	3.1	2.2	2.2	1.0	4.6	2.5	2.7	1.2	4.9	2.6	3.2	2.0	1.0	2.4	2.4	2.2
Equipo Económico (Ee)	2.6	2.1	2.9	2.0	3.5	2.6	4.2	2.4	3.4	2.5	4.4	2.1	3.0	2.2	1.2	2.2	2.5	2.6
EthiFinance Ratings	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.7	4.0	3.0	4.1	3.0	4.0	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.3	3.1	3.0
Funcas	2.5	1.8	2.4	1.6	2.0	1.8	4.9	3.8	4.3	2.7	5.4	4.8	2.8	2.1	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.5
Instituto Complutense de Análisis Económico (ICAE-UCM)	2.6	2.0	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.5	4.0	3.0	3.9	2.8	4.0	3.2	2.9	2.2	1.4	2.5	2.1	3.2
Instituto de Estudios Económicos (IEE)	2.5	1.8	3.1	2.2	2.2	1.0	4.6	2.3	2.8	1.1	4.9	2.3	3.2	2.0	0.6	1.5	2.4	2.2
Intermoney	2.2	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.7	3.7	2.6	3.4	2.1	4.0	3.2	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.7	2.9
Mapfre Economics	2.3	2.0	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.2	4.4	3.7	--	--	--	--	2.4	2.0	1.1	2.0	1.7	2.4
Metysis	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.0	4.3	2.7	3.7	2.5	4.5	3.1	2.8	2.3	1.7	2.2	3.9	3.7
Oxford Economics	2.7	2.2	2.9	2.0	2.1	1.2	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.5	5.5	4.5	3.0	2.2	1.1	2.2	1.8	2.1
Repsol	2.5	2.0	2.9	1.9	2.1	1.5	3.8	4.4	2.2	7.1	3.7	3.0	2.8	2.3	1.5	3.0	2.4	4.1
Santander	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.5	2.1	1.3	3.8	1.8	4.3	1.9	3.8	1.8	3.0	2.2	1.5	3.0	2.5	3.2
Universidad Loyola Andalucía	2.6	2.1	3.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	3.6	2.4	3.8	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.0	2.3	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.8
CONSENSUS (AVERAGE)	2.5	2.0	2.8	2.1	2.2	1.7	4.3	3.1	3.5	2.7	4.5	3.1	2.9	2.2	1.5	2.4	2.6	3.0
Maximum	2.7	2.2	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.6	5.0	5.5	6.4	7.1	5.6	4.9	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.6	5.0	5.1
Minimum	2.2	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.8	1.0	3.6	1.8	2.2	1.1	2.7	1.8	2.4	1.9	0.6	1.5	1.6	2.1
Change on 2 months earlier ¹	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2
- Rise ²	15	9	12	9	13	6	7	6	7	6	9	4	16	9	6	6	5	5
- Drop ²	0	1	1	6	2	7	5	6	8	6	7	4	0	2	8	7	9	8
Change on 6 months earlier ¹	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.8	-0.6	-0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-1.3	0.1
Memorandum items:																		
Government (June 2026)	2.6	2.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bank of Spain (June 2026)	2.3	1.7	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	4.1 ^[4]	2.2 ^[4]	--	--	--	--	2.7	1.7	0.8	2.6	2.1	2.8
AIReF (July 2026)	2.5	2.1	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.0	4.3	2.7	--	--	--	--	2.8	2.2	1.3	3.4	2.5	4.1
EC (May 2026)	2.4	1.9	2.9	2.0	1.7	1.8	4.4	2.8	--	--	--	--	2.8	2.0	1.1	2.3	2.4	2.8
IMF (July 2026)	2.1	1.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OECD (June 2026)	2.2	1.7	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.1	4.1	2.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	2.0	1.7	2.2

¹ Difference in percentage points between the current month's average and that of two months earlier [or six months earlier].

² Number of panellists revising their forecast upwards [or downwards] since two months earlier.

³ Contribution to GDP growth in percentage points.

⁴ Gross Capital Formation.

Table 1 (Continued)

Economic Forecasts for Spain – September 2026

Average year-on-year change, as a percentage, unless otherwise stated

	CPI (annual av.)		Core CPI (annual av.)		Wage earnings		Employment (LF5)		Unemployment rate		Current Account (% of GDP)		Gen. Government balance (% of GDP)	
	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027	2026	2027
Analistas Financieros Internacionales (AFI)	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.8	4.5	4.1	2.0	1.3	10.0	9.9	1.7	1.5	-2.6	-2.4
BBVA Research	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	--	--	2.4	2.0	9.9	9.6	2.7	1.7	-2.8	-2.5
CaixaBank Research	3.2	2.4	2.8	2.8	3.3	3.3	2.9	1.9	9.8	9.4	2.3	2.5	-2.3	-2.3
Cámara de Comercio de España	3.2	2.4	2.8	2.1	--	--	2.3	1.7	9.7	9.1	2.3	2.1	-2.6	-2.5
Centro de Estudios Economía de Madrid (CEEM-URJC)	3.5	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.4	2.8	1.7	1.4	10.0	9.7	2.1	2.0	-2.5	-2.1
Centro de Predicción Económica (CEPREDE-UAM)	3.3	2.4	--	--	3.9	3.6	2.1	1.4	10.2	10.1	1.6	1.1	-2.7	-2.4
CEOE	3.4	2.1	2.8	2.6	3.8	3.0	2.3	1.8	10.0	9.5	2.0	1.8	-2.4	-2.2
Equipo Económico (Ee)	3.3	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.0	10.0	9.8	2.0	2.1	-2.5	-2.5
EthiFinance Ratings	3.5	2.4	2.7	2.3	3.1	3.1	1.5	1.2	9.8	9.6	2.2	2.2	-2.5	-2.4
Funcas	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.7	9.8	9.1	2.3	1.8	-2.4	-2.2
Instituto Complutense de Análisis Económico (ICAE-UCM)	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.5	--	--	2.2	1.7	9.9	9.6	2.3	2.0	-2.3	-2.3
Instituto de Estudios Económicos (IEE)	3.3	2.2	2.8	2.5	3.8	3.0	2.3	1.8	9.9	9.4	1.9	1.8	-2.4	-2.3
Intermoney	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.0	--	--	1.8	1.6	9.9	9.8	--	--	-2.4	-2.4
Mapfre Economics	3.4	2.1	3.1	2.5	3.2	2.6	--	--	9.4	8.8	2.7	2.8	-2.3	-2.3
Metysis	3.5	2.6	2.9	2.5	3.2	2.8	2.0	1.5	10.0	9.5	2.2	1.9	-2.5	-2.2
Oxford Economics	3.5	2.6	2.8	2.7	--	--	2.2	1.4	10.1	9.4	2.2	2.7	-2.3	-2.3
Repsol	3.6	2.4	3.0	2.9	--	--	2.3	1.6	10.4	10.3	2.3	2.0	-2.8	-2.4
Santander	3.3	2.1	2.6	2.4	3.6	3.1	2.3	2.1	9.9	9.4	--	--	-2.6	-2.4
Universidad Loyola Andalucía	3.5	2.8	3.0	2.5	--	--	2.4	1.8	9.8	9.6	2.4	2.6	-2.7	-2.5
CONSENSUS (AVERAGE)	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.6	3.5	3.1	2.2	1.7	9.9	9.6	2.2	2.0	-2.5	-2.3
Maximum	3.8	2.9	3.1	3.0	4.5	4.1	2.9	2.1	10.4	10.3	2.7	2.8	-2.3	-2.1
Minimum	3.1	2.1	2.6	2.1	3.0	2.6	1.5	1.2	9.4	8.8	1.6	1.1	-2.8	-2.5
Change on 2 months earlier ¹	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
- Rise ²	13	11	10	7	8	6	11	8	2	5	2	3	4	4
- Drop ²	2	3	1	3	1	2	0	1	6	6	6	4	4	3
Change on 6 months earlier ¹	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.1
Memorandum items:														
Government (June 2026)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9.9	9.4	--	--	-2.1	-1.8
Bank of Spain (June 2026)	3.6 ^[3]	2.6 ^[3]	3.2 ^[4]	3.2 ^[4]	--	--	2.2 ^[5]	1.5 ^[5]	10.0	9.8	--	--	-2.4	-2.3
AIReF (July 2026)	3.3	2.4	--	--	3.1	3.2	2.5 ^[4]	2.0 ^[4]	10.2	10.1	--	--	-2.6	--
EC (May 2026)	3.0 ^[3]	2.5 ^[3]	--	--	3.4	2.9	2.3 ^[5]	1.4 ^[5]	9.9	9.6	1.9	1.8	-2.4	-2.0
IMF (July 2026)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OECD (June 2026)	3.3 ^[3]	2.9 ^[3]	2.9 ^[3]	2.6 ^[3]	--	--	--	--	10.2	9.8	2.9	2.4	-2.2	-2.2

¹ Difference in percentage points between the current month's average and that of two months earlier [or six months earlier].² Number of panellists revising their forecast upwards [or downwards] since two months earlier.³ Harmonized index.⁴ Harmonized index excluding food and energy.⁵ Persons, according to National Accounts.⁶ Full time equivalent jobs.

Table 2

Quarterly Forecasts – September 2026

	26-I T	26-II T	26-III T	26-IV T	27-I T	27-II T	27-III T	27-IV T
GDP ¹	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Euribor 1 yr ²	2.57	2.80	3.01	2.92	2.85	2.78	2.73	2.70
Government Bond yield 10 yr ²	3.39	3.42	3.57	3.56	3.54	3.52	3.50	3.49
ECB deposit rates ³	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.25	2.25
Dollar / Euro exchange rate ²	1.156	1.152	1.159	1.163	1.163	1.172	1.175	1.178

Forecasts in yellow.

¹ Qr-on-qr growth rates.

² End of period.

³ Last day of the quarter. Average of responses rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.25.

Table 3

CPI Forecasts – September 2026

Year-on-year change (%)					
Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Dec-27
4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.5	2.2

Forecasts in yellow.

Table 4

Opinions – September 2026

Number of responses

	Currently			Trend for next six months		
	Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	Improving	Unchanged	Worsening
International context: EU	1	3	15	3	15	1
International context: Non-EU	0	3	16	1	16	2
	Is being			Should be		
	Restrictive	Neutral	Expansionary	Restrictive	Neutral	Expansionary
Fiscal policy assessment ¹	0	2	17	2	17	0
Monetary policy assessment ¹	3	16	0	3	15	1

¹ In relation to the current state of the Spanish economy.