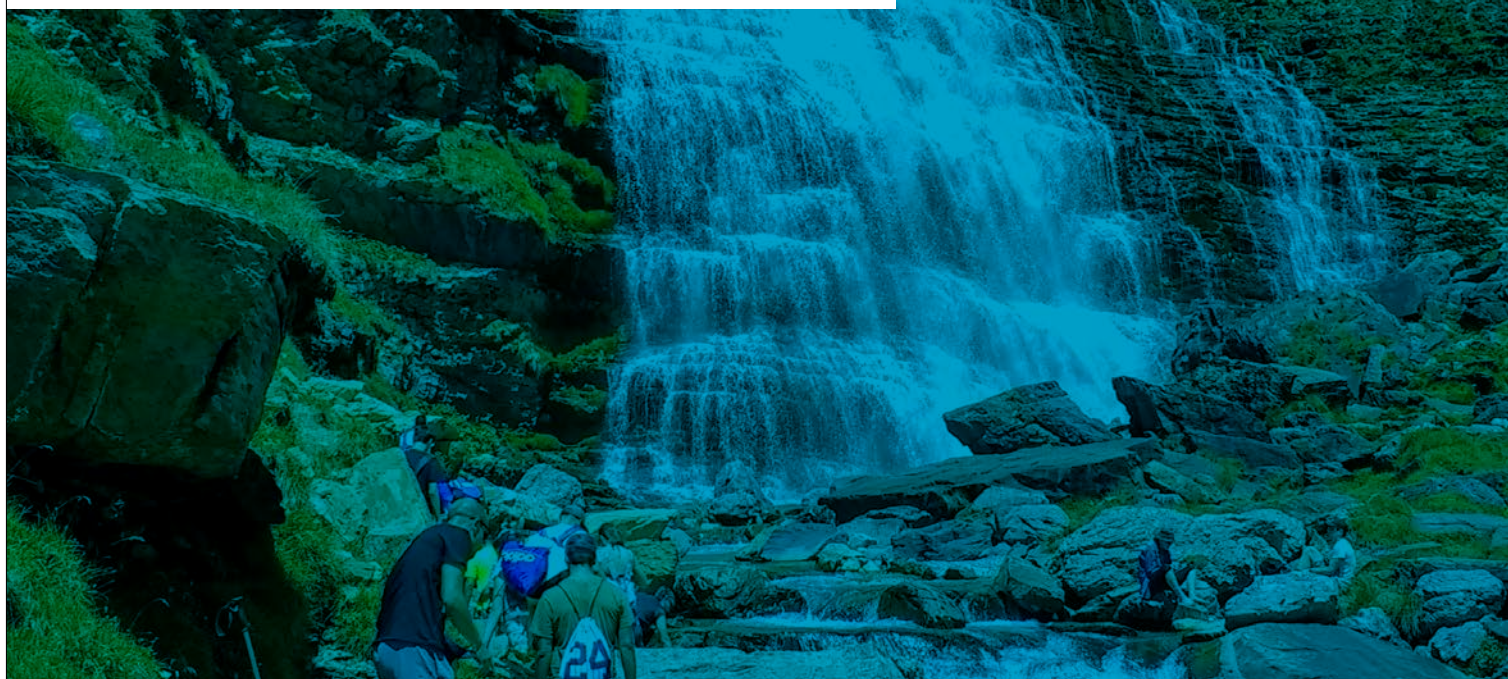Autonomous Community Outlook

Aragón

1,350,000
inhabitants
(2022)

€28,912
GDP per capita
(2021)

3.1%
of Spanish GDP
(2021)

2.2%
anticipated growth
in GDP (2023)

Regional economic structure and position

- Aragón has **1.35 million inhabitants**, the 11th largest region in the country with 2.8% of the total population.

- The region's **GDP** (37.964 billion euros) represents 3.1% of the national total, putting it in tenth place in the overall ranking.

- Aragón's **GDP per capita** (28,912 euros) is one of the highest in the country and 13.4% above the Spanish average. Its relative position has improved in recent years, thanks both to the region's economic growth and, above all, its low demographic dynamism.

- Aragón's **productive sectors** are notable for the high relative importance of the manufacturing industry (18.4% of GDP vs. 12.8% on average in Spain), in particular the motor vehicle industry, food and agriculture (7.0% vs. 2.9%). However, it has a lower share in trade, transportation, hotels and restaurants, and leisure (22.9% vs. 26.2%) and industry-related services (22.6% vs. 29.2%).

- The region stands out for being **highly export-oriented**: goods exports account for the third-highest proportion of regional GDP in the country (38.0% vs. 26.2% of the Spanish average). In 2022 its goods exports amounted to 16.423 billion euros, 4.2% of Spanish exports. The **leading export sectors** are food, chiefly meat (11.0%), semi-finished goods, in particular chemicals (11.1%) and, above all, the motor vehicle industry (25.1%). It should be noted that 32.0% of domestic appliances exported by Spain come from Aragón.

Table of structural indicators

		1991	2001	2011	2021
GDP per capita	Euros	10,112	17,934	24,819	**28,912**
	100 = Spain	111.0	104.3	109.0	**113.4**
Population	Thousands of inhabitants	1,191	1,210	1,344	**1,337**
	Average annual growth over the decade (%)	−0.1	0.2	1.1	**0.0**
	% of the total in Spain	3.0	2.9	2.9	**2.8**
	% of population > 65 years old	18.2	21.4	20.1	**21.9**
Exports of goods as a proportion of GDP	%	…	25.2	27.6	**38.0**

GDP by Autonomous Community
(% OF SPAIN AS A WHOLE)
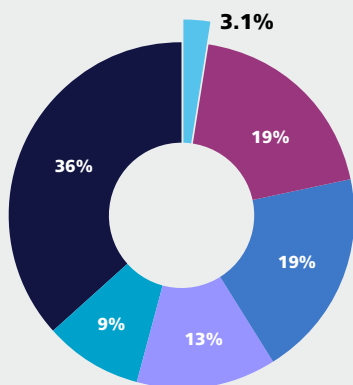
- Aragón — 3.1%
- Community of Madrid — 19%
- Catalonia — 19%
- Andalusia — 13%
- Valencian Community — 9%
- Others — 36%

GDP per capita
(EUROS)

Andalusia	18,906
Canary Islands	18,990
Extremadura	19,072
Castilla-La Mancha	20,655
Murcia Region	21,236
Valencian AC	22,289
Asturias	23,235
Galicia	23,499
Cantabria	23,730
Castile and León	24,428
Balearic Islands	24,866
Spain	**25,498**
La Rioja	27,279
Aragón	**28,912**
Catalonia	29,942
Navarre AC	31,024
Basque Country	32,925
Madrid AC	34,821

Productive sectors
(AS A % OF GVA)

Aragón: Trade, transportation, accommodation and leisure 22.9%; Industry-related services 22.6%; General government and defence 19.4%; Construction 5.5%; Extractive industry 4.0%; Manufacturing industry 18.4%; Agriculture 7.0%

Spain: Trade, transportation, accommodation and leisure 26.2%; Industry-related services 29.2%; General government and defence 19.2%; Construction 5.6%; Extractive industry 4.2%; Manufacturing industry 12.8%; Agriculture 2.9%

- Trade, transportation, accomodation and leisure
- Industry-related services
- General government and defence
- Construction
- Extractive industry
- Manufacturing industry
- Agriculture

Source: CaixaBank Research, based on data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) and DataComex.

Macroeconomic situation

According to CaixaBank Research estimates, **Aragón's GDP grew by 5.3% in 2022**, less than the Spanish economy as a whole (5.8%). The economy, which is heavily dependent on the food and motor vehicle industries, weathered the impact of rising energy prices and disruptions in global supply chains with relative success. In turn, household spending was also affected by the climate of high inflation.

For 2023, our forecasts indicate GDP growth of 2.2%, slightly below the national average (2.4%). The gradual weakening of foreign demand will dampen industrial activity and exports, while household spending will be constrained by inflation and rising interest rates. On the plus side, there will be a surge in investment when EU funds are disbursed.

GDP (INDEX 100 = 2019)
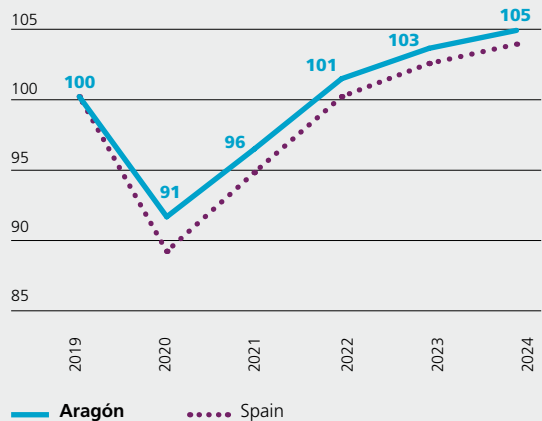
Source: CaixaBank Research.

The trend for **employment** in the region is somewhat less dynamic than it is across the country: last year, there was a 2.3% increase in registered workers affiliated to Social Security (3.9% in Spain) and, after growing by 2.5% year-on-year in September 2023 (vs. 2.7%), the total number is 4.6% higher than it was in 2019 (+7.3% in Spain); over the last year, job creation in hotels and restaurants, transportation and, above all, education has offset the job losses in the public sector. In turn, the unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country: in Q2 2023 it stood at 8.6% (11.6% in Spain), which is even lower than it was at the end of 2019 (9.9%).

Consumption is performing better than on average across the country: against the backdrop of a steep rise in shopping basket prices, sales of **retail and consumer goods** (in volume) fell by 4.0% in 2022 (–1.0% in the whole of Spain) and, despite the upturn this year, 5.3% year-on-year up to August (vs. 8.0%), they remain far below 2019 levels (–0.7% vs. +2.8%).

However, **industrial production** is performing significantly better than average, with one of the sharpest rises of all regions in 2022 (5.1% vs. 2.4% in Spain); despite the sharp slowdown this year, the figures for the country as a whole are still improving (0.8% year-on-year in January-August vs. –0.6%), exceeding pre-pandemic levels (+0.4% vs. –1.2%).

Aragón's **exports** of goods were somewhat less buoyant than in Spain as a whole in 2022, with growth of 13.9% (vs. 22.9%), with semi-finished goods, in particular chemicals, iron and steel, and capital goods, primarily industrial machinery, being noteworthy. This year (with figures up to August), growth has slowed to 4.7% year-on-year, a higher rate, in any event, than in Spain (1.8%), thanks to the upturn in the food and motor vehicle industries, so the total number is 30.6% higher than the figures for 2019 (vs. the national average of +32.6%).
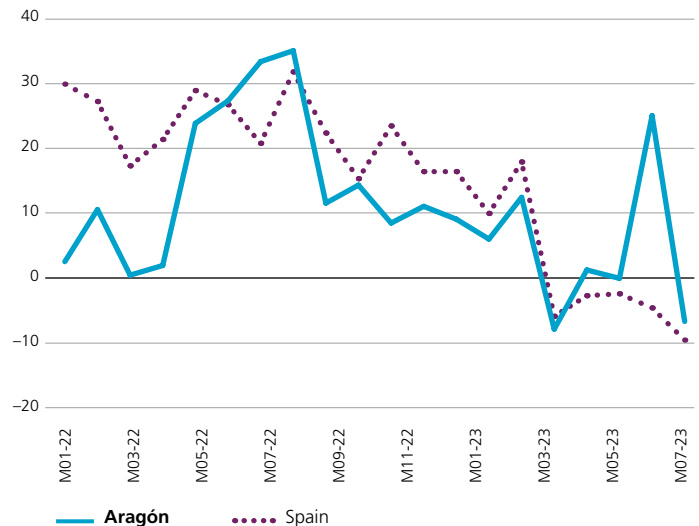
Industrial production
(% YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE)
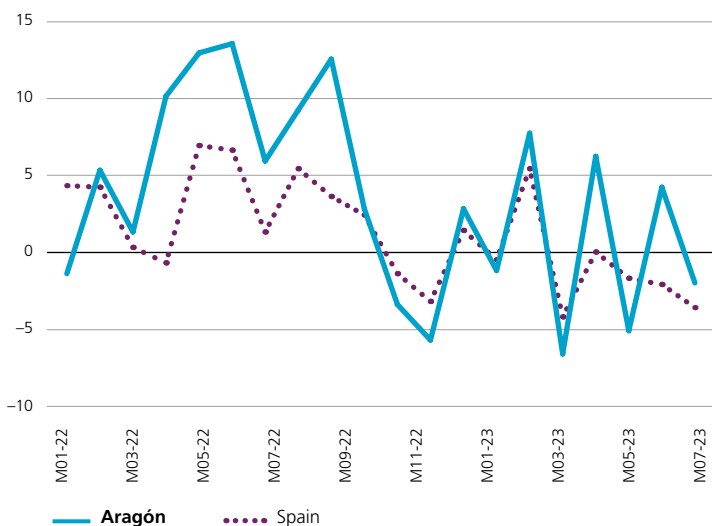
Exports of goods
(% YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE)

Source: CaixaBank Research, based on data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) and Datacomex.

Table of indicators

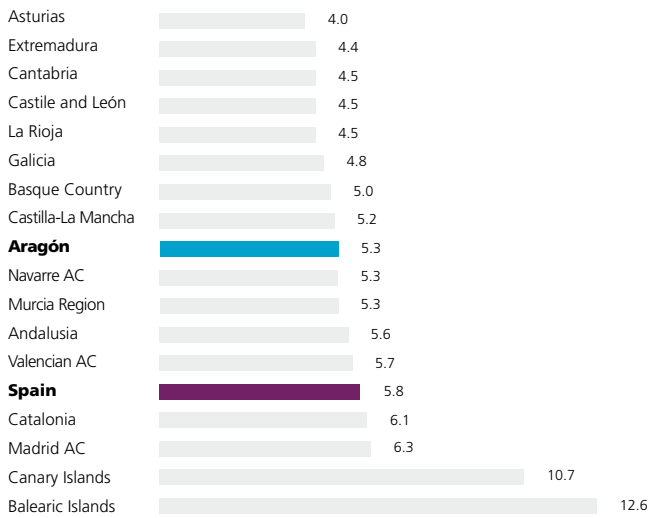|		2008-2013 average	2014-2019 average	2020	2021	2022	2023	Gap with 2019 (latest figure)	Latest figure
Activity and prices	**Real GDP*** (% year-on-year change)	**−1.9** −1.8	**2.1** 2.8	**−8.7** −11.2	**4.4** 6.4	**5.3** 5.8	**—** —	**0.4** 0.0	**2022**
	Retail trade (% cumulative annual change)	**−4.9** −4.6	**2.2** 2.3	**−3.0** −5.6	**1.5** 2.6	**−4.0** −1.0	**5.3** 8.0	**−4.0** 3.2	August-23
	Industrial production index (% cumulative annual change)	**−4.8** −5.3	**1.6** 1.8	**−8.3** −9.2	**3.4** 7.1	**5.1** 2.4	**0.8** −0.6	**1.1** −1.2	August-23
	Service activity index (% cumulative annual change)	**−4.1** −4.6	**4.2** 5.1	**−11.1** −15.6	**14.8** 15.8	**16.7** 19.9	**4.1** 3.7	**22.9** 21.0	August-23
	Consumer price index (% year-on-year change)	**1.6** 1.7	**0.6** 0.7	**−0.5** −0.3	**3.4** 3.1	**9.0** 8.4	**2.9** 3.5	**16.9** 16.8	September–23
Labour market	**Registered workers affiliated to Social Security** (% year-on-year change)	**−3.3** −3.1	**2.8** 3.2	**−1.5** −2.1	**1.5** 2.5	**2.3** 3.9	**2.5** 2.7	**4.6** 7.3	September–23
	Registered workers affiliated to Social Security not affected by furlough (% year-on-year change)	**−3.3** −3.1	**2.8** 3.2	**−6.4** −9.2	**5.3** 7.3	**4.6** 7.3	**3.2** 3.3	**6.0** 8.3	September–23
	Unemployment rate (% working population)	**15.4** 20.2	**13.9** 18.8	**11.7** 15.5	**10.2** 14.8	**9.4** 12.9	**8.6** 11.6		Q2 2023
	Unemployment rate for under 25s (% working population < 25)	**35.4** 42.5	**36.4** 42.5	**28.2** 38.3	**25.0** 44.7	**23.9** 23.9	**27.7** 27.9		Q2 2023
Public sector	**Public deficit** (% of GDP)	**−2.5** −2.7	**−1.2** −0.9	**0.3** −0.2	**−0.1** 0.0	**−0.8** −1.1	**−0.6** −0.8		Q2 2023
	Autonomous Communities public debt (% of GDP)	**9.3** 12.3	**21.0** 24.1	**24.6** 27.2	**23.6** 25.6	**21.1** 23.6	**20.5** 23.2		Q2 2023
Real estate market	**Housing prices** (% year-on-year change)	**−9.8** −8.1	**3.3** 5.3	**2.6** 2.1	**3.8** 3.7	**6.4** 7.4	**3.4** 3.6	**17.4** 18.0	Q2 2023
	Housing sales (% cumulative annual change)	**−11.2** −10.8	**10.7** 9.7	**−13.2** −16.9	**28.7** 34.8	**12.1** 14.8	**−5.9** −5.3	**0.8** −0.1	July-23
Foreign sector and tourism	**Exports of goods** (% cumulative annual change)	**0.9** 4.6	**7.3** 3.9	**0.2** −9.4	**7.7** 20.1	**13.9** 22.9	**4.7** 1.8	**25.9** 39.1	August-23
	Tourist overnight stays (% cumulative annual change)	**−4.0** 0.7	**6.4** 3.0	**−50.6** −69.2	**48.8** 78.3	**35.5** 73.3	**0.7** 7.3	**−4.5** −1.2	August-23

Note: *The 2022 GDP figure for Autonomous Communities is an estimate made by CaixaBank Research.

Source: CaixaBank Research, based on data from the National Statistics Institute (INE), the Bank of Spain, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security (MITRAMISS), the Ministry of Finance and DataComex.
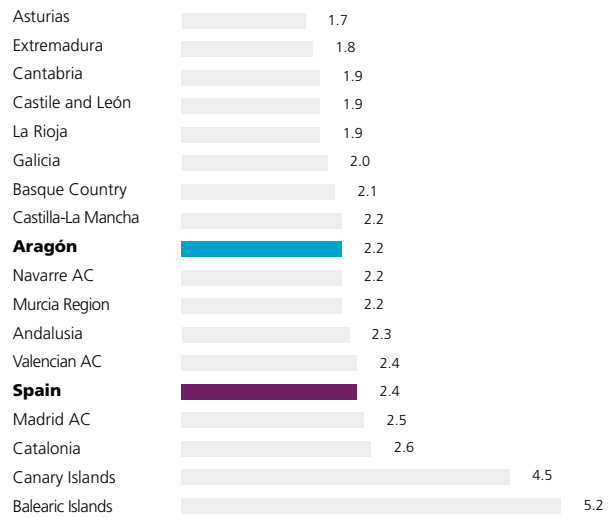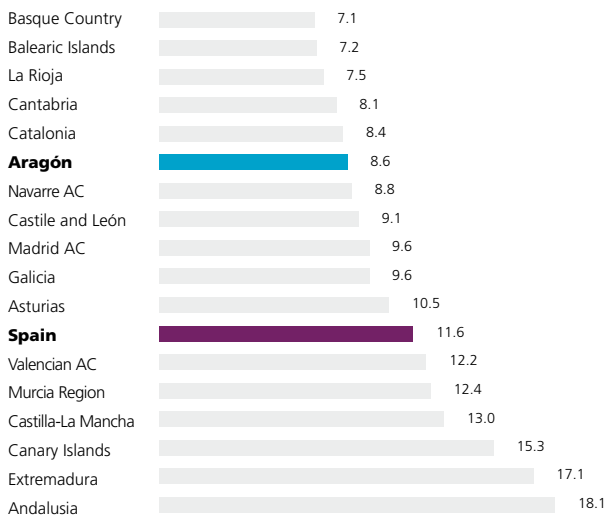
Regional comparison

GDP (2022)
(ANNUAL CHANGE)

Asturias	4.0
Extremadura	4.4
Cantabria	4.5
Castile and León	4.5
La Rioja	4.5
Galicia	4.8
Basque Country	5.0
Castilla-La Mancha	5.2
Aragón	5.3
Navarre AC	5.3
Murcia Region	5.3
Andalusia	5.6
Valencian AC	5.7
Spain	5.8
Catalonia	6.1
Madrid AC	6.3
Canary Islands	10.7
Balearic Islands	12.6

GDP growth forecast (2023)
(ANNUAL CHANGE)

Asturias	1.7
Extremadura	1.8
Cantabria	1.9
Castile and León	1.9
La Rioja	1.9
Galicia	2.0
Basque Country	2.1
Castilla-La Mancha	2.2
Aragón	2.2
Navarre AC	2.2
Murcia Region	2.2
Andalusia	2.3
Valencian AC	2.4
Spain	2.4
Madrid AC	2.5
Catalonia	2.6
Canary Islands	4.5
Balearic Islands	5.2

Unemployment rate (Q2 2023)
(% OF WORKING POPULATION)

Basque Country	7.1
Balearic Islands	7.2
La Rioja	7.5
Cantabria	8.1
Catalonia	8.4
Aragón	8.6
Navarre AC	8.8
Castile and León	9.1
Madrid AC	9.6
Galicia	9.6
Asturias	10.5
Spain	11.6
Valencian AC	12.2
Murcia Region	12.4
Castilla-La Mancha	13.0
Canary Islands	15.3
Extremadura	17.1
Andalusia	18.1

Weight of exports of goods (2021)
(% OF GDP)

Canary Islands	4
Balearic Islands	6
Extremadura	12
Madrid AC	17
La Rioja	21
Castilla-La Mancha	21
Cantabria	21
Andalusia	21
Asturias	22
Castile and León	26
Spain	26
Valencian AC	29
Catalonia	35
Basque Country	36
Murcia Region	38
Aragón	38
Galicia	40
Navarre AC	47
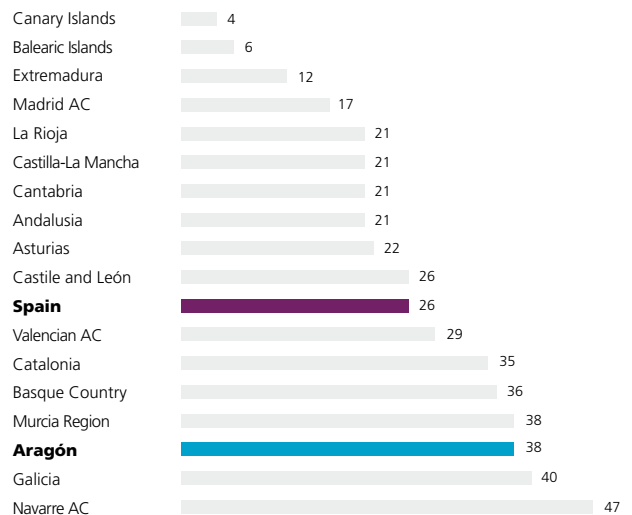
Retail trade* (January-August 2023)
(CHANGE FROM THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022)

Murcia Region	4
Castile and León	5
Navarre AC	5
Galicia	5
Aragón	5
Andalusia	6
Extremadura	6
Basque Country	6
Andalusia	7
Cantabria	7
La Rioja	7
Spain	8
Catalonia	8
Valencian AC	9
Castilla-La Mancha	10
Canary Islands	10
Madrid AC	11
Balearic Islands	12
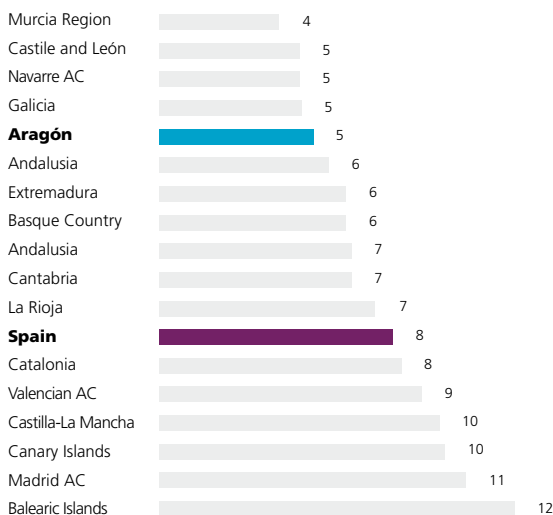
Exports of goods (January-August 2023)
(CHANGE FROM THE SAME PERIOD IN 2022)

Canary Islands	–38
Balearic Islands	–11
Andalusia	–11
Murcia Region	–6
Valencian AC	–3
Navarre AC	–3
Cantabria	–2
Castilla-La Mancha	0
Basque Country	0
Madrid AC	1
Galicia	2
Spain	2
Extremadura	2
Asturias	3
Aragón	5
La Rioja	10
Catalonia	12
Castile and León	14
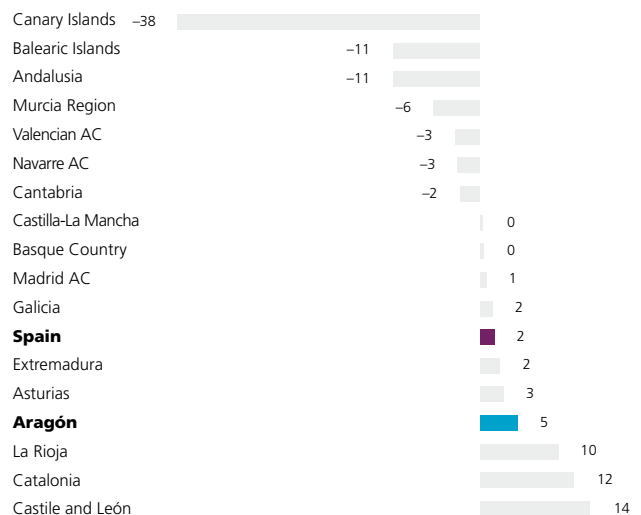
Note: *Figures adjusted, excluding service stations.
Source: CaixaBank Research, based on our own estimates and data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) and DataComex.

Closing date of this edition: 20 October 2023