

Data Sources:

From the latest data released by the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, grouped in settlements database of local budgets, updated as of 26/03/2013, has been obtained in spending by town staff governance and management. Of the 8,116 municipalities in Spain, this database contains data for 4,080 municipalities, local authorities have submitted to the Ministry their expense accounts and income for 2011. Total expenditure to pay item politicians and municipal officers, including public companies, has been divided by the number of people registered in 2011 for per capita spending. This indicator provides a comparative analysis of national, unseen until now.

The unemployment data are from the Public Employment Service. The indicator used is the registered unemployment: the number of registered unemployed on the total population of the municipality calculated in the month of March 2011. Unfortunately, at the municipal level is the only available unemployment data, as the Labour Force Survey (EPA) uses a sample whose representativeness only goes to the provincial level.

The name of the mayors and the list of the party or parties that supported his candidacy, comes from the Local Government Portal of the Ministry of Public Administrations. In cases in which there was a change of local government team in the last municipal elections, as most mayors were sworn in June 2011 can not be responsible directly to these politicians consolidated accounts in that year .

Selection criteria for municipalities:

The map is intended to highlight two extreme cases. On the one hand, local entities are present where there is an imbalance between the fiscal effort made to pay local leaders (values above the national average of 20.7 € / inhabitant) and poor social outcome of municipal politics in the form unemployment (with unemployment higher than the national average, located at 13.5% for 2011). The other side of the coin, are places where politicians and managers spending is below 7 euros per inhabitant, while enjoying a registered unemployment rates very low, less than 10%.

Some fun facts:

The selection criteria for municipalities, although it is good to highlight extreme situations, can be left out of the analysis situations are also worthy of comment. First, between the major cities there are huge differences in public money to pay their politicians. So, Madrid spends twice as Barcelona for this purpose (4.58 Vs 2.27 euros per capita), which in absolute terms means that the capital was spent in 2011 about 14.8 million euros to pay their politicians and directors of public companies, compared to just over 3.6 million of the city Barcelona.

At the lower end of the urban hierarchy, consisting of Valencia, Sevilla, Zaragoza and Bilbao, we also find fun facts. Bilbao, a city that boasts a balanced budget between revenues and expenditures, spends 13 euros per person to pay the salaries of political appointees and managers. This figure is much higher than that of Valencia (3.29), Zaragoza (4.46) and Seville (4,35).

In medium-sized cities with a population between 150,000 and 300,000 inhabitants, there are also important differences. This type of city has an average cost of 7 € / person. However, there are some cases that deviate from this average. The most extreme are Alcorcón (19.15), Alcobendas (14), Barakaldo (13,77), Torre vieja (13.52) and Alcalá de Henares (11,34).