

SPAIN

Women in business

Mujerynegocios.com: is a leading business portal on the Internet with information exclusively for women entrepreneurs. It offers the opportunity for companies, businesswomen, female entrepreneurs and professionals to advertise, sell, buy and open up new markets. It likewise provides strategic information for companies. Created in 1997, it has become a reference for businesswomen.

<http://www.mujerynegocios.com/articulo16.htm>

According to an article on this website, a female entrepreneur is characterised by the following features:

- The need to obtain results: this means possessing sufficient drive to motivate a person into achieving results
- The desire for responsibility: the female entrepreneur is inclined to use her own resources as she sees most fit to attain the goals she has set herself. She will work in a team if that will help to obtain results.
- A preference for moderate risks: the female entrepreneur works with the assurance that she will obtain results. She sets herself general goals in the belief that she has the skills and abilities to attain them.
- The perception of the likelihood of success: a significant trait in the personality of the female entrepreneur is being confident of success.
- A great activity: the enterprising woman is usually someone who carries out many activities. “Achieving” is high on her list of priorities, and she looks towards the future, tries to detect market trends and anticipate opportunities.
- The ability to organise and to innovate: she organises people and tasks, and has the capacity to improve a product or existing service, or to create something new.
- Tolerance of ambiguity, adaptability and perseverance: a female entrepreneur is able to define her objectives, be realistic about them and define the way to achieve them.

According to data from the “**Women’s World Bank**”, 50% of new companies in the European Union are created by women. Spain is one of the countries with the smallest percentage of female entrepreneurs.

http://www.aprendemas.com/Noticias/html/N792_F21042005.HTML

It would seem that female entrepreneurs in Spain are more prudent than their male counterparts. At least, this is what the [GEM Report](#) argues as regards female entrepreneurs. The report is coordinated by the [Instituto de Empresa](#), one of the main business schools in Europe, which trains entrepreneurs and company directors through Master’s Degrees and Executive Education Programmes. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) is an annual

research programme that is based on national levels of entrepreneurial activity. It tries to explain the role of entrepreneurship in the economic growth of countries.

In the case of the women, investment is in the region of 50,000 euros, a slightly lower figure than the average for men, which is 55,000 euros. The forecast for the creation of jobs for women is less optimistic than it is for men. However, the failure rate for women is lower: 45% of the companies that have closed down over the last twelve months belonged to women, as opposed to 55% that were run by men.

The Report estimated that 30% of entrepreneurs in Spain were women. This figure placed Spain towards the bottom of the list out of the 33 countries analysed. In absolute numbers, the 2004 report established that there were 287,000 businesswomen in Spain, compared to 730,000 businessmen.

As far as the profile of the enterprising Spanish woman is concerned, the majority is in the 25 to 44 age range, and 26% are university graduates, a percentage that is practically the same as that for men (27%). According to the Report, women's entrepreneurial initiatives are on the increase as the years go by, although there are significant differences in comparison to men's initiatives. Women in the high income bracket tend to be less enterprising than men in the same bracket (35% and 44% respectively). The reason would seem to be that most women with higher incomes do not feel in the need to be entrepreneurs.

In contrast, women from lower income brackets do feel the need to attain a stable job, which consequently counters the data quoted above. As for the sectors female entrepreneurs tend to choose, the data gathered by Spanish Chambers of Commerce indicate that more than 80% opt for the service sector.

The information below has been taken from an article on [aprendemas.com](http://www.aprendemas.com), which offers financial support for the creation of companies for women ##returning to work##.

(http://www.aprendemas.com/Noticias/html/N753_F28032005.HTML)

Only 30% of Spanish entrepreneurs are women. Thus, in 2004 there were 287,000 female entrepreneurs in Spain, compared to 730,000 men.

Ratio of women entrepreneurs by regions

Catalonia	Castile-León	Extremadura	Basque Country	Madrid	Canary Islands	Andalusia
0.57	0.49	0.44	0.35	0.32	0.26	0.16

With reference to the data about entrepreneurial activity, which are divided into types of company ("budding", for companies that have been operating for three months or less, and "new", for companies that have been operating for less than three years), the authors indicate that the degree of female participation is higher in new companies. There are two possible reasons for this. On the one hand, the authors state that except in times of economic boom, women are generally less eager to start up a company from scratch, preferring to join one as a

partner once a business has consolidated itself. Another possible hypothesis bears a relation to the types of companies that women entrepreneurs create, which, generally speaking, are smaller, more intensive in their output and have less ambitions to expand. This translates into a lower failure rate in these companies first years of activity.

As regards the level of education, men and women are on a par when it comes to higher education (27% for men and 26% for women). Concerning the population from high income brackets, it should be pointed out that there are a higher proportion of men than women (44% as opposed to 35% for women). This situation is reversed for lower income brackets. According to the authors of the GEM Report, this reflects the fact that women with less financial worries are less inclined to resort to self-employment.