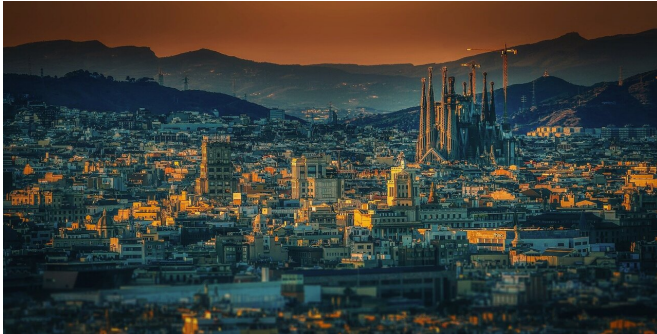


Spain suffers second-worst month for virus deaths

1 March 2021



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Spain suffered its second-worst month for coronavirus deaths in February with 10,528 fatalities, the worst figure since April last year, government figures showed on Monday.

The overall toll now stands at 69,609, health ministry data showed.

Although Spain's third wave peak has passed—the 14-day cumulative case number has fallen from nearly 900 per 100,000 people in late January to 175 currently—the [death toll](#) has remained stubbornly high.

Last April, at the height of the first wave, a total of 16,354 people died after contracting the virus.

As in many other countries, the real [death](#) toll is thought to be far higher than the official number given that many victims died in spring without undergoing a diagnostic test at a time when the health system was completely overwhelmed.

With infections spreading rapidly across Europe, many countries have been forced into a second or even a third lockdown, but Spain has so far resisted a return to a national shutdown.

After the numbers shot up following the Christmas holidays, most of the country's 17 regions imposed restrictive curbs on public life that remain in place.

The government insists these measures are enough to control the spread.

Like other countries in Europe, Spain is banking on its immunisation campaign—more than 1.2 million people have so far been inoculated with a double dose of the vaccine.

The [government](#) of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez wants to have up to 70 percent of the population vaccinated by the end of the summer, maintaining the target despite widespread delays in vaccine deliveries.

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