spainward.

● FREE LIST · SHORTAGE JOBS · NOV 2026

Spain can't find enough workers for these 3 jobs.

Three jobs Spain can't fill and that a company can sponsor your visa for, plus the full official shortage list that Spain uses for work permits, translated into English. Numbers come from different sources and years: each one is labelled below.

01

Software developers

120,000+

tech jobs left unfilled, as counted by Spain's tech industry association. **Visa route:** the company sponsors you as a Highly Qualified Professional or with an EU Blue Card.

DigitalES · 2022 ICT vacancy analysis · Ley 14/2013

02 ⚡

Electricians

Official list

Building electricians and general electricians are on Spain's shortage catalogue in almost every province. **Visa route:** the employer applies for your work permit without proving it couldn't hire locally.

SEPE · Catálogo de Ocupaciones de Difícil Cobertura

03

Crane operators

Official list

Mobile, fixed and truck-mounted crane operators are on the same catalogue, in almost every province. **Visa route:** the same shortcut as electricians.

SEPE · Catálogo de Ocupaciones de Difícil Cobertura

Spain's official shortage list Q4 2026 · 27 JOBS

If a job is on this list in the province where you'd work, the employer can apply for your work permit without first proving that no local candidate is available. It's published every quarter and changes by province.

At sea · merchant navy — 18 jobs · coastal provinces

- Chief engineer, merchant ship
- Marine engineer
- Marine mechanic
- Coastal mechanic
- Marine refrigeration technician
- Ship engine greaser
- Boilermaker (ship)
- Deck officer, merchant ship
- Merchant navy radio officer
- Boatswain (except fishing)
- Deck sailor (except fishing)
- Deck hand
- Ship firefighter
- Ship purser
- Ship's cook
- Ship steward
- Ship waiter
- Passenger ship attendant

Trades — 7 jobs · almost every province

- **Building electrician**
- **Electrician, general**
- Aluminium, metal & PVC carpenter
- Aluminium, metal & PVC frame installer
- **Mobile crane operator**
- **Fixed crane operator**
- **Truck-mounted crane operator**

Sport — 2 jobs · almost every province

- Professional athlete
- Sports coach

Not on the list? You still have a path. Tech and most degree-level jobs aren't on the catalogue. They usually go through Spain's skilled-worker routes instead (Highly Qualified Professional, EU Blue Card), where the employer sponsors you directly. Finding the employers who do that is the hard part, and it's what Spainward does. General information, not legal advice: confirm current rules on the official sources.

Sources: SEPE, Catálogo de Ocupaciones de Difícil Cobertura, 4º trimestre 2026 (sepe.es) · Ley 14/2013, art. 71 and 71 bis (Highly Qualified Professionals, EU Blue Card; boe.es) · DigitalES, ICT vacancy analysis 2022 and "Empleos y Sectores Emergentes 2024" (digitales.es; industry association, not an official statistic). English job titles are our translation of the official Spanish names.

Jobs in Spain that sponsor visas, applied for you
spainward.co