Barcelona is striving to become a creative city. Since 2011 Barcelona has been considered one of Europe’s leading smart cities. Barcelona is described as an upcoming digital innovation hub of Europe. The Autonomous Region of Catalonia contributes nearly 19% to Spain’s total GDP. Catalonia has a diversified economy that includes tertiary (67%), manufacturing (26%), construction (10%), and agriculture (2%). Barcelona has a high level of cultural diversity with 17% of its residents born abroad, with immigration a key driver for recent economic and population growth.

Spain consists of 17 autonomous communities, with the Autonomous Community of Catalonia being one of the most economically dynamic regions in the country. The Catalan government and is governed by a city council elected for a four-year term (2). The government is divided into legislative, executive and judicial sectors with elections held every four years. There is currently a strong independence movement in Catalonia and Barcelona.

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