

National Geographic Institute in collaboration with the Spanish Association of Geography

ECONOMY AND URBAN FEATURES: What economic activities characterize settlements?

Municipality:

Predominant economic activity and what elements help you discover the urban features (maximum 200 words):

The economic activity that stands out in Villablino is mining, which we can identify through the symbols used in the Topographic Map and the associated toponymy (example: coal). The decade of the 1990s began with a new crisis at the mining company, which led to the historic "black march" organized by the unions that at that time formed the workers' committee. On 22 January 1992, the then general director of the mining company announced a temporary reduction in jobs that would affect 250 workers, as well as the closure of the "María" group. The four unions in the region rejected the measures, and on 2 February they called for a strike.

At dawn on 7 March, five hundred miners left from the Avenida Lacia de Villablino to walk the distance separating this town from the capital of Spain, and 18 days later the group's survivors passed proudly through the Arch of Victory, while tens of thousands of people waited for their triumphant entrance into Madrid.

In the end the victory was not very clear, but at least it served to achieve the most important objectives regarding the company's survival and, more importantly, for a few days all of Spain was aware that there was a region in Leon called Lacia and some men there willing to defend their land in an exemplary way.

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Aerial photograph of the municipality:



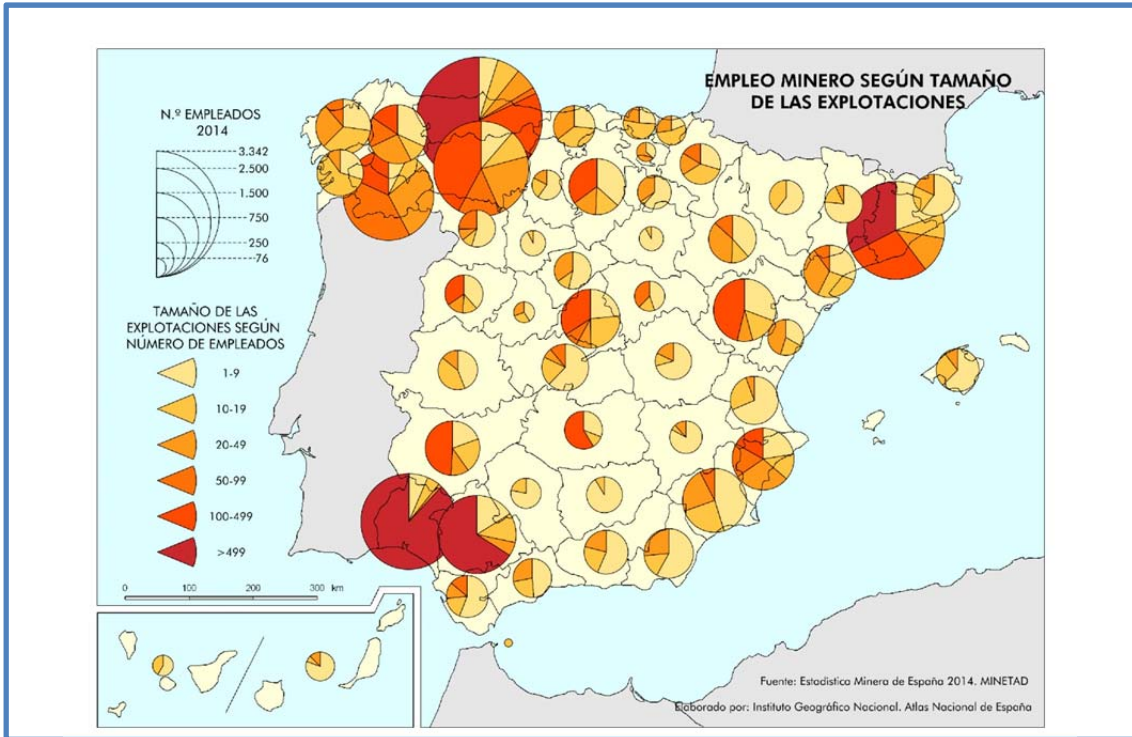
Wikipedia results (maximum 200 words):

The largest company in Villablino and the region was Minero Siderúrgica de Ponferrada (MSP), now Coto Minero Cantábrico, which during the 80s and 90s was the largest mining company in Europe. Although currently it only has about 150 workers in the Fonfría open cast mine in Caboalles de Abajo. Additionally, the Hijos de Baldomero García company maintains the only interior mine in the region with 90 miners in Caboalles de Arriba. It is the property of the Grupo Vitoria.

The main way of life in the region is the mining of hard and soft coal, livestock, agriculture and tourism related to the ski resort in Leitariegos, within the town limits of Laciana, which in 2005 and 2006 broke attendance records.

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National Atlas of Spain results:



Images:



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Image sources: [Ayto. Villablino](#) y www.elbierzodigital.com

Report on the economic activity carried out in the municipality (maximum 200 words):

The symbols on the map show the presence of many mines. Other documentary sources consulted show that in historical periods dating back to the end of the twentieth century, the main economic activity was coal mining. The varieties extracted have been hard and soft coal. Another traditional activity present is raising livestock. Recently, the area is strengthening activities having to do with the ski resort. Therefore, we see that the predominant activity in Villablino to date has been mining.