



Migration in Spain



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● INTRODUCTION

Spain has always been at the crossroad of historical migration due to its location in the Iberian Peninsula, the Canary Islands and the two exclaves in Northern Africa, and also due to the fact that people from the ex-Spanish colonies have been migrating to Spain throughout the years¹.

In the last 25 years, Spain has experienced a massive flow from the Western Africa although this trend, compared to Italy and Greece, has started to slow down thanks to the Spanish border-militarization policy as seen in the picture.

In the following analysis, we have considered five continents: Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania (without the Antarctic area)².

The number of new **work permits** issued to non-EU citizens has been decreasing continuously since 2008, reaching 2.900 in 2014. The top origin countries were the Philippines (13%), Peru (11%) and China (8%). As in 2013, another 3.100 permits were issued to seasonal workers; 76% of these workers were Moroccan nationals, and the rest were mainly from Colombia and Ecuador³.

During the academic year 2013/14, 74.900 **foreign students** (4.9% of total students) were enrolled in tertiary education in Spain. Foreign students represented more than 18% of students at the master's level. More than half of the latter were from Latin America or the Caribbean, while 21% were EU27 nationals. The proportion of students from Asia and Oceania has increased. The agreement signed by education and migration authorities suppressed some administrative burdens for international students⁴.

¹ International Migration Outlook 2016, OECD, p. 302.

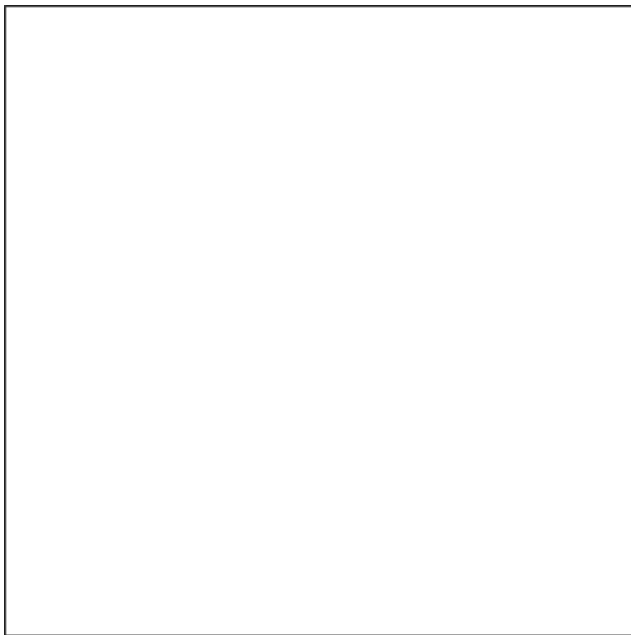
² <http://openmigration.org/infografiche#spagna>

³ International Migration Outlook 2016, OECD, p. 302.

⁴ Ibidem.

Spain has seen a sharp rise in **applications for asylum**: in 2014 there were 5.600 applications, 25% more than in 2013. This number nearly tripled in 2015, to 14.600 asylum applications (including dependents). The top three origins are Syria, Ukraine and West Bank and Gaza Strip⁵.

According to the European Frontex agency, the levels of **irregular migrants** landing in Spain or arriving in the country by boat intensified in 2014 and 2015: the arrivals to the Canary Islands jumped from 275 to 870 between 2014 and 2015⁶.



Source: International Migration Outlook 2016, OECD

⁵ Ibidem.

⁶ Ibidem.

● STOCK OF POPULATION IN SPAIN

We have conducted our research based on the years available on the Eurostat website from 2011 to 2015 based on sex and country of birth in five major continents.

Europe ranks the first immigrant-sending continent with the majority coming from Romania followed by the United Kingdom.

South America ranks second among the continents with the majority of migrants coming from Ecuador, Columbia and Argentina respectively.

Among the African migrants, Moroccans are the highest number making up more than 70% of the total African migrants⁷.

As it is seen in the following table, the difference in the stocks of the continents is minimal.

POPULATION ON 1ST JANUARY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

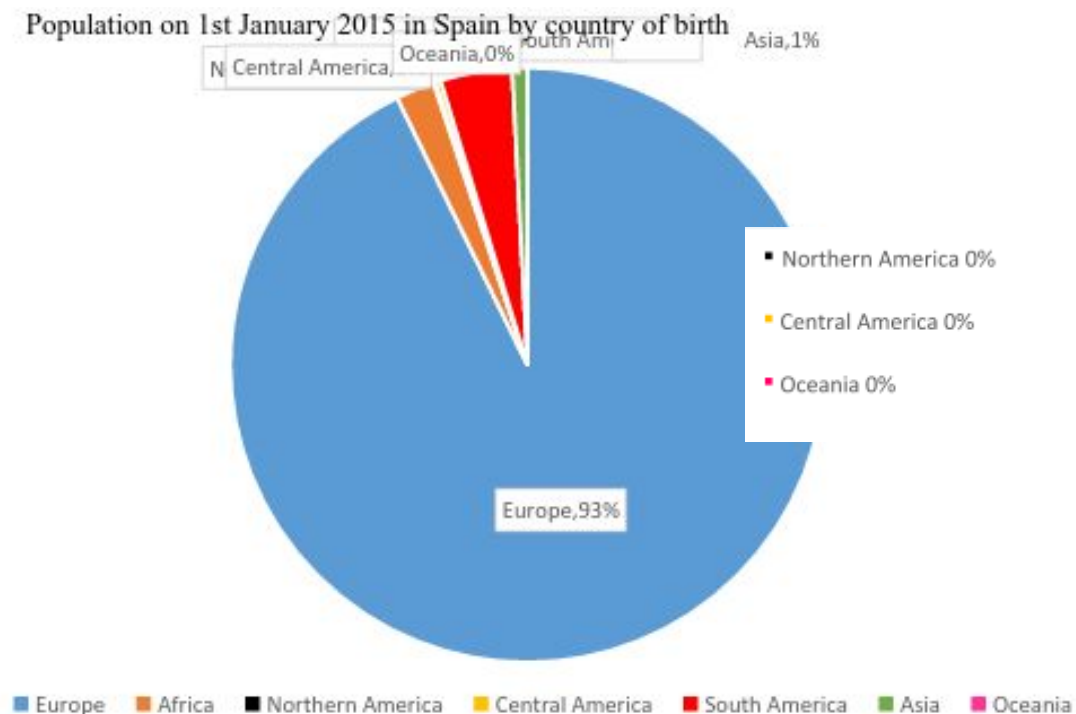
Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Population on 1 January by age group, sex and country of birth [migr_pop3ctb]

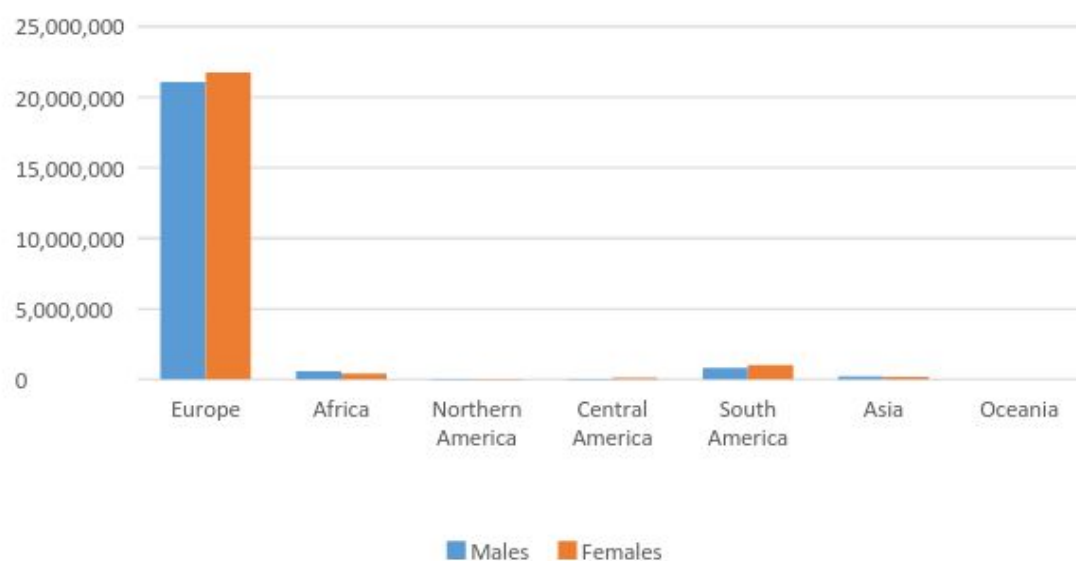
	SEX:	Total				
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Europe	Spain	42.759.502	42.929.108	42.926.453	42.854.739	42.821.305
Africa	Spain	1.071.115	1.059.348	1.027.591	987.377	972.424
Northern America	Spain	41.718	43.606	46.023	47.079	49.213
Central America	Spain	113.576	123.340	129.984	129.302	136.471
South America	Spain	2.042.094	1.999.630	1.928.067	1.830.845	1.798.190
Asia	Spain	377.295	385.113	380.662	368.584	370.656
Oceania	Spain	6.644	6.802	7.126	7.378	7.700

⁷ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

Population on 1st January 2015 in Spain by country of birth



Stock of population in Spain by country of birth and sex, 2015

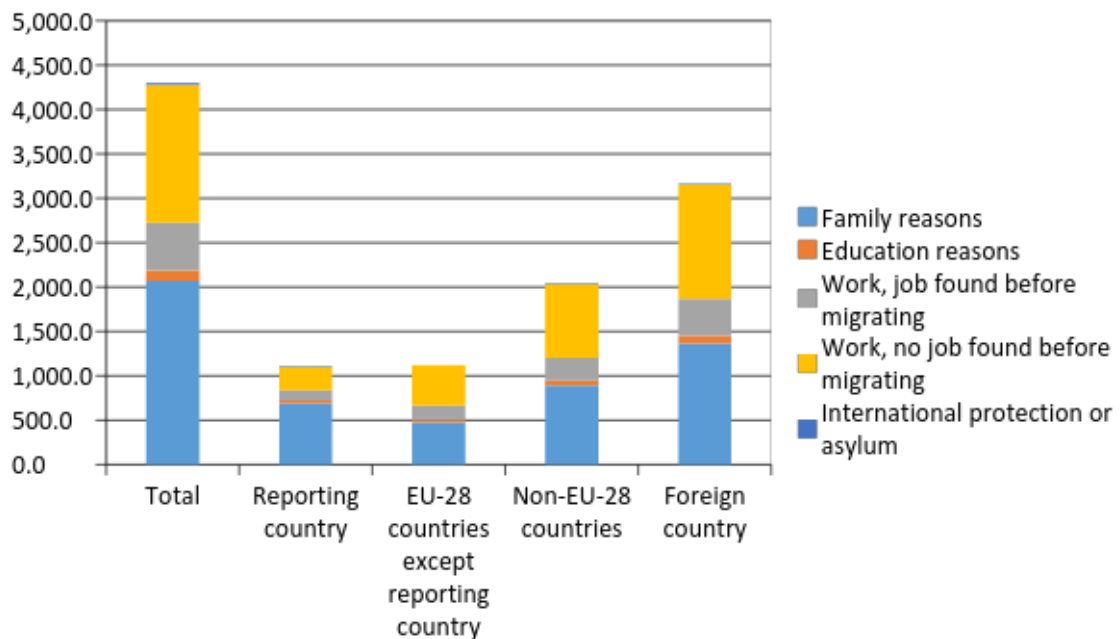


FIRST GENERATION OF IMMIGRANTS BY SEX, CITIZENSHIP, DURATION AND
REASON FOR MIGRATION, 2014

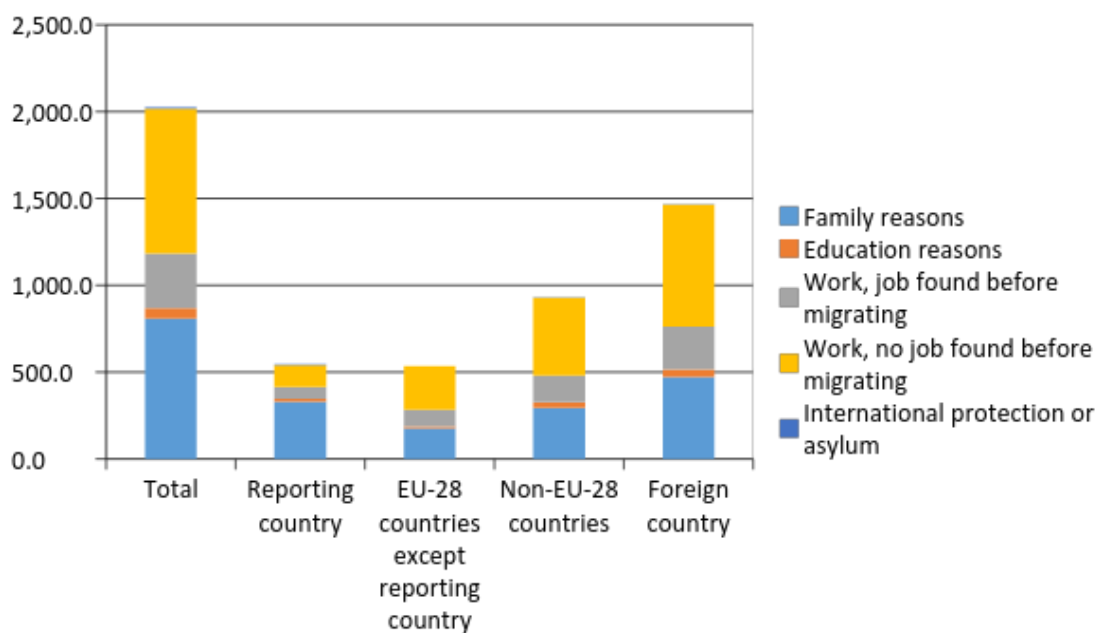
Source of data: Eurostat

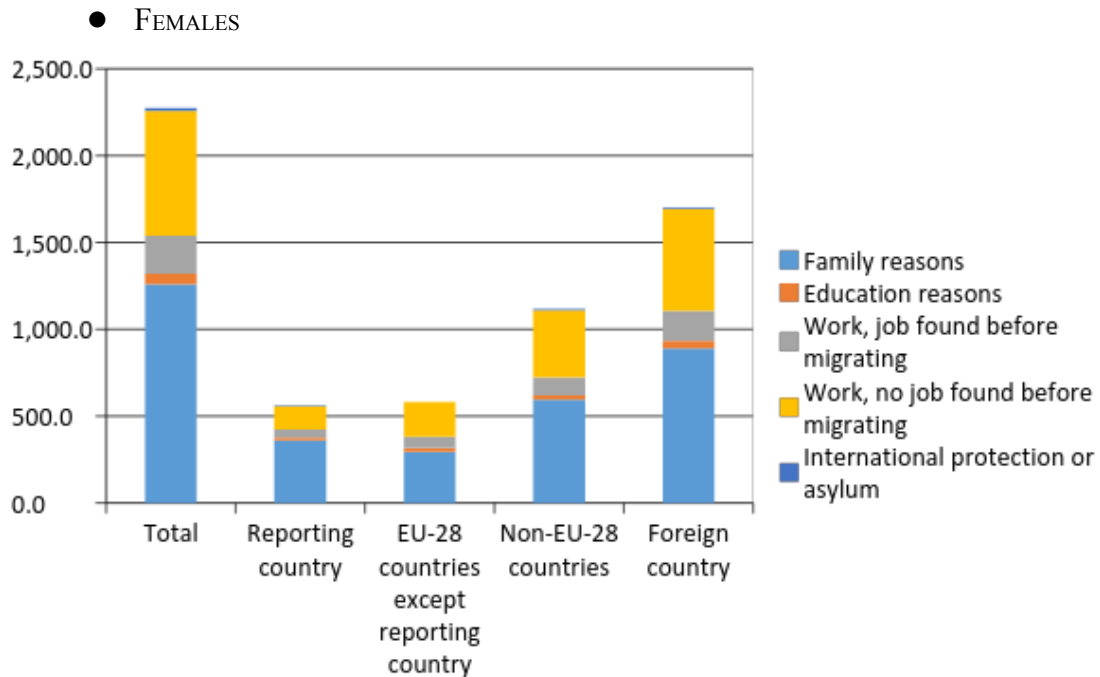
Name of the variable: First generation of immigrants by sex, citizenship, duration and reason for
migration [lfso_14b1dr]

● TOTAL



● MALES





As it is clearly seen the graphs of population stock in Spain in 2014, the main reason for immigration is family reunification followed by reason of work.

Among migrants coming for work reason, there are those who have not found work before migrating and therefore have to look for employment only when arrive in the destination country, while others have already found employment in the destination country even before they arrive there.

In any case it is noticeable that the majority of immigrants (both Spanish citizens and foreigners) are females.

- FLOWS

For the flows (inflows as well as outflows), we have conducted our research with the years available on Eurostat website from 2008 to 2015, based on age, sex and country of birth.

❖ INFLOWS

IMMIGRATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH⁸

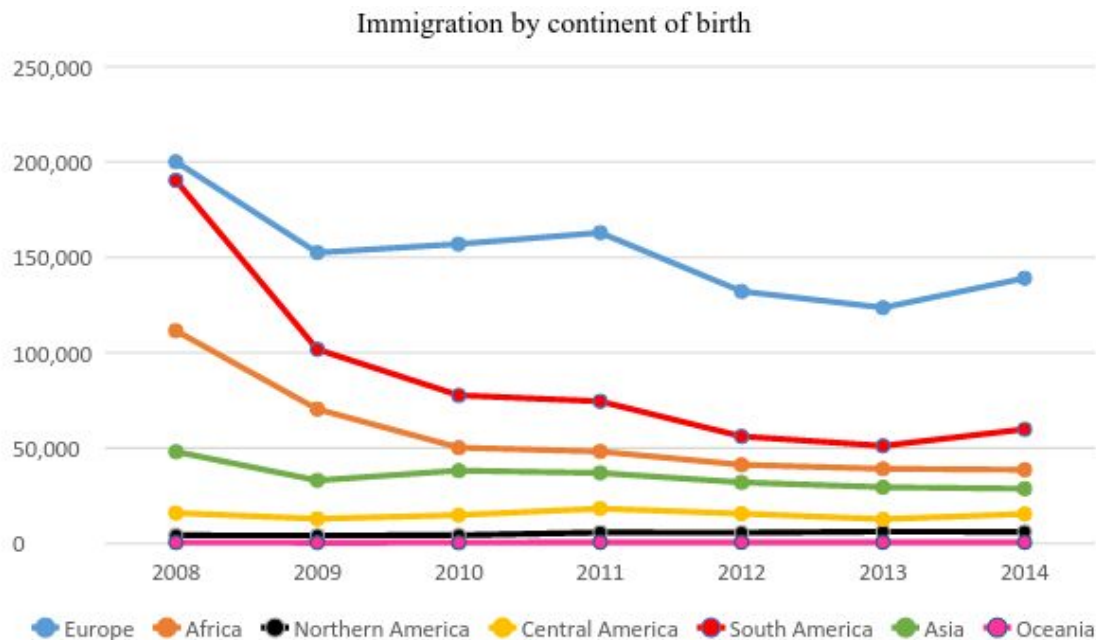
Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Immigration by age group, sex and country of birth

[migr_imm3ctb]

	SEX	Total						
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Europe	Spain	200.114	152.447	156.952	162.880	132.136	123.625	138.993
Africa	Spain	111.528	70.386	50.239	48.175	41.253	39.150	38.618
Northern America	Spain	4.273	4.165	4.332	5.778	5.664	6.233	6.100
Central America	Spain	15.968	12.920	14.898	18.290	15.634	12.738	15.467
South America	Spain	190.275	101.740	77.664	74.477	56.120	51.177	59.851
Asia	Spain	48.099	33.049	38.216	36.951	32.016	29.496	28.696
Oceania	Spain	525	439	462	590	619	599	603

⁸ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

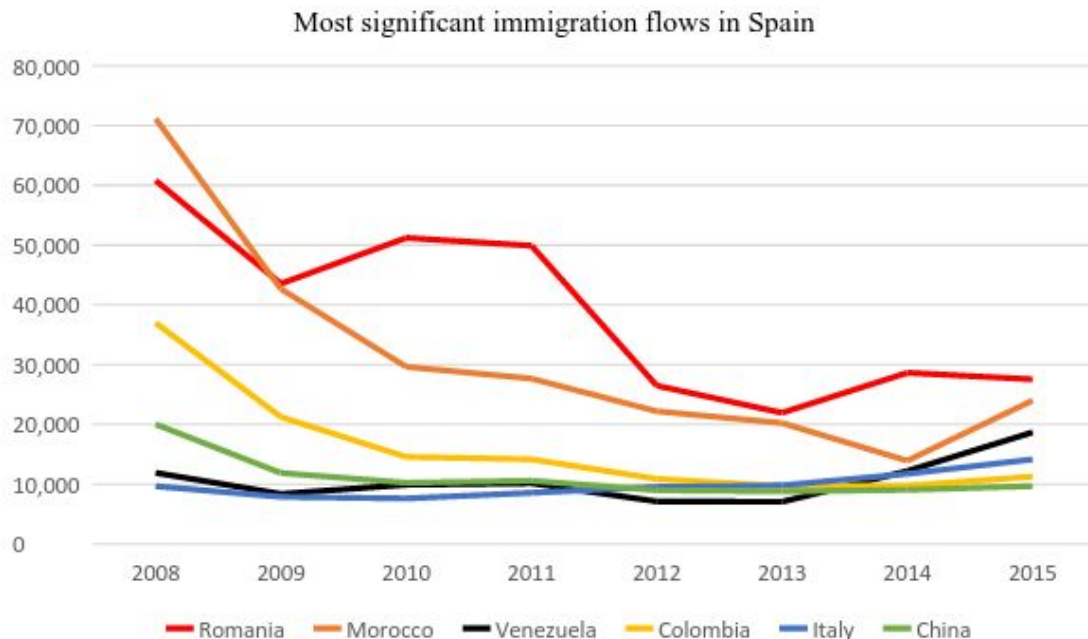


As to the inflows, the first table is dedicated to the inflows of immigrants regardless of their age. The other tables are arranged according to the different ages of the immigrants.

We have selected about 50 countries from five major migrating Continents. As it is shown in the highlighted cells for the continents, the majority of immigrants come from the Europe due to the policy of free movement within the EU-countries though, after 2008, due to the euro-zone crisis, the number of immigrants coming from the EU-countries have decreased (except Italy). The first two most migrant-sending EU-countries are Romania and the United Kingdom. Italy case is particular in that the number of immigrants in 2015 was bigger than the previous 7 years, presumably due to the trend of massive immigration from war-torn African countries.

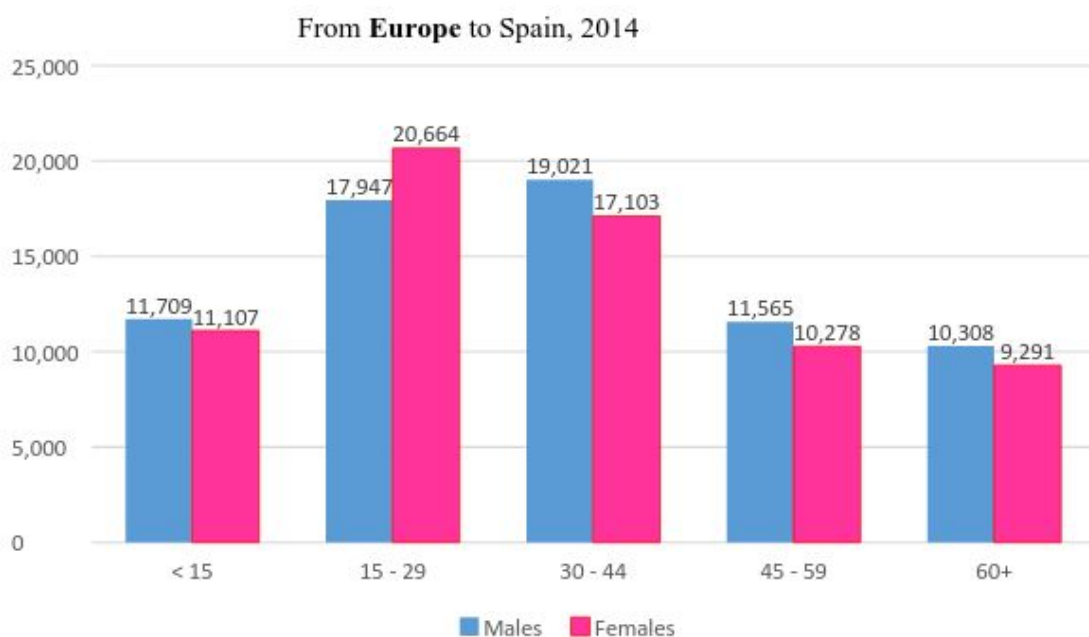
The second migrant-sending continent to Spain is the South America. Almost all of these ex-Spanish colonized countries send substantial number of immigrants to Spain

with Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil ranking the top. As to Asia, the majority of immigrants come from China while Oceanian Countries send the least.

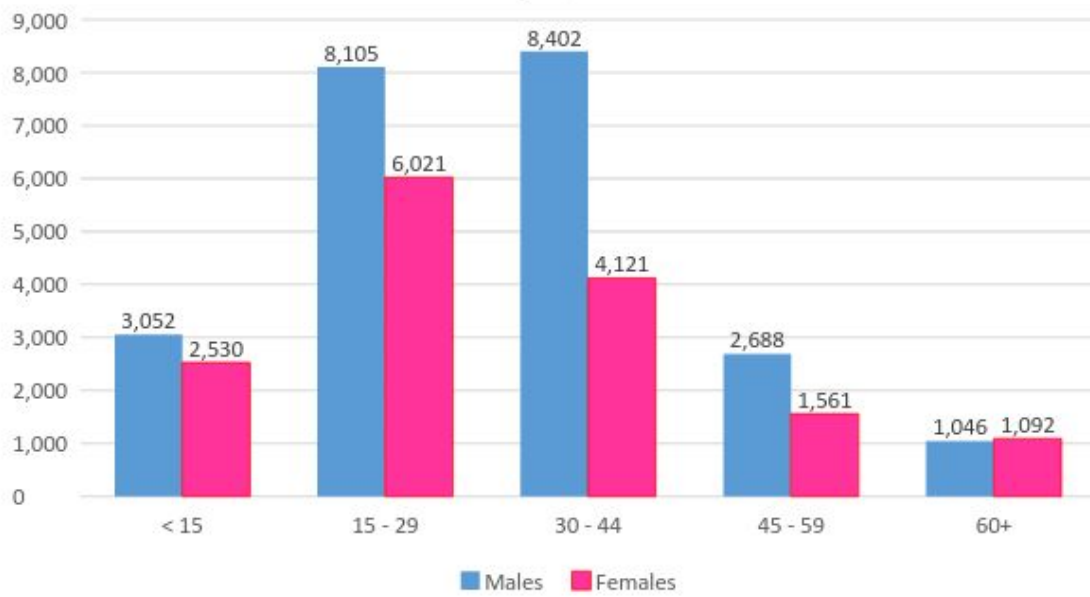


The above graph shows the most significant migration trend in Spain. We have selected five countries from the different continents (Romania, Venezuela, Morocco, Colombia and China) which have contributed significant migration flows to Spain as was already explained before.

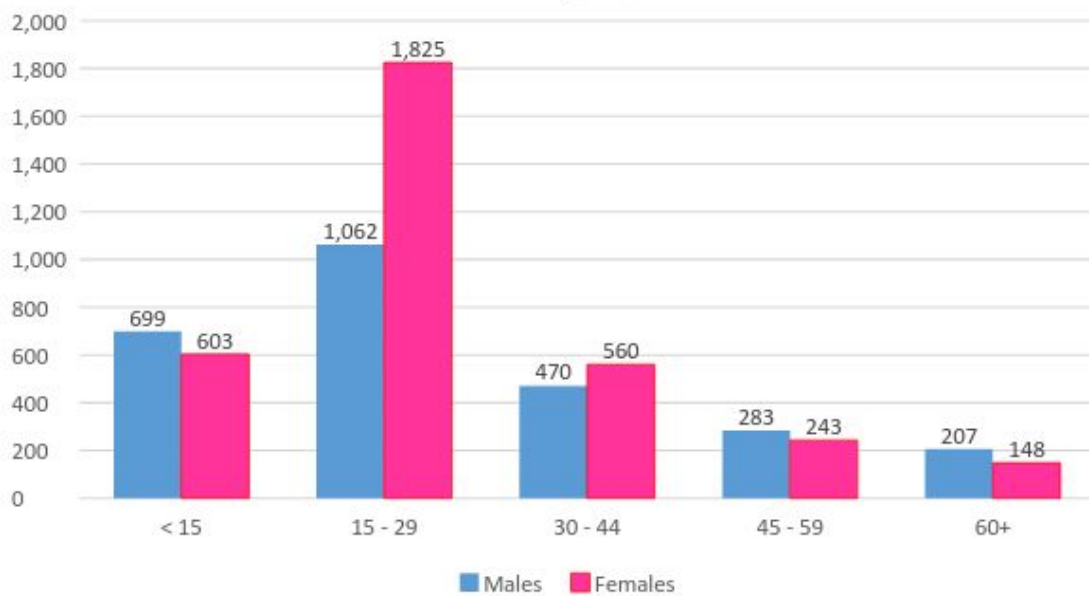
Now we are going to analyze the migration flows of the continents according to the different age groups and sex.



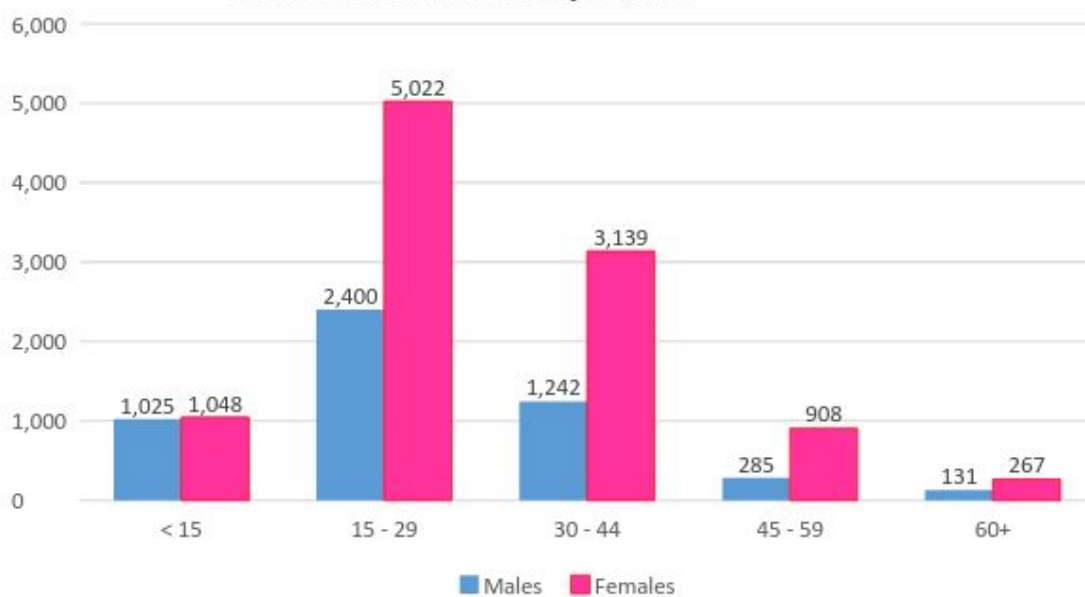
From **Africa** to Spain, 2014



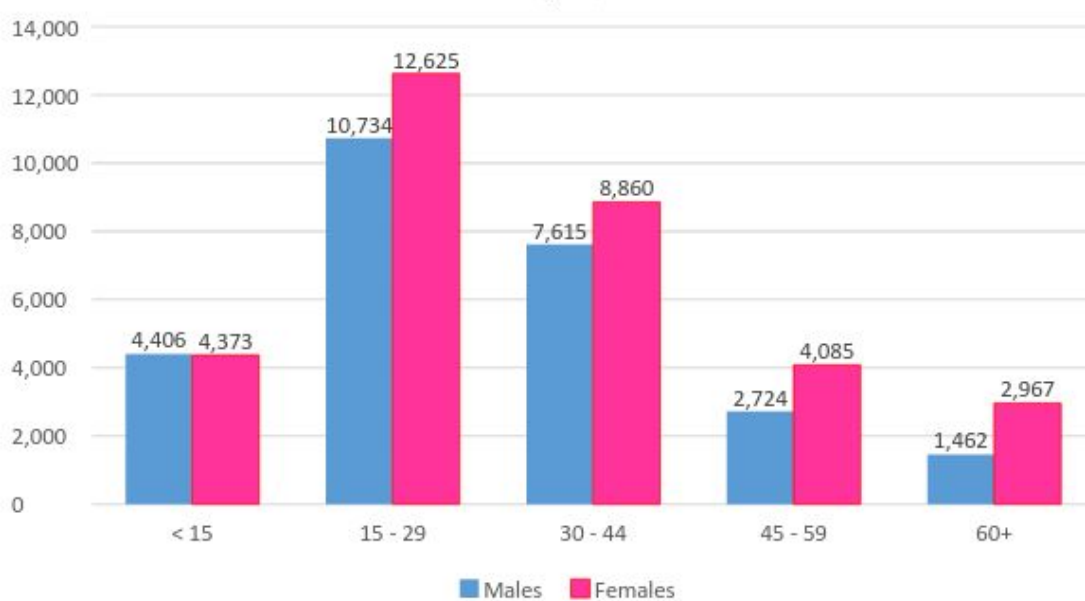
From **Northern America** to Spain, 2014



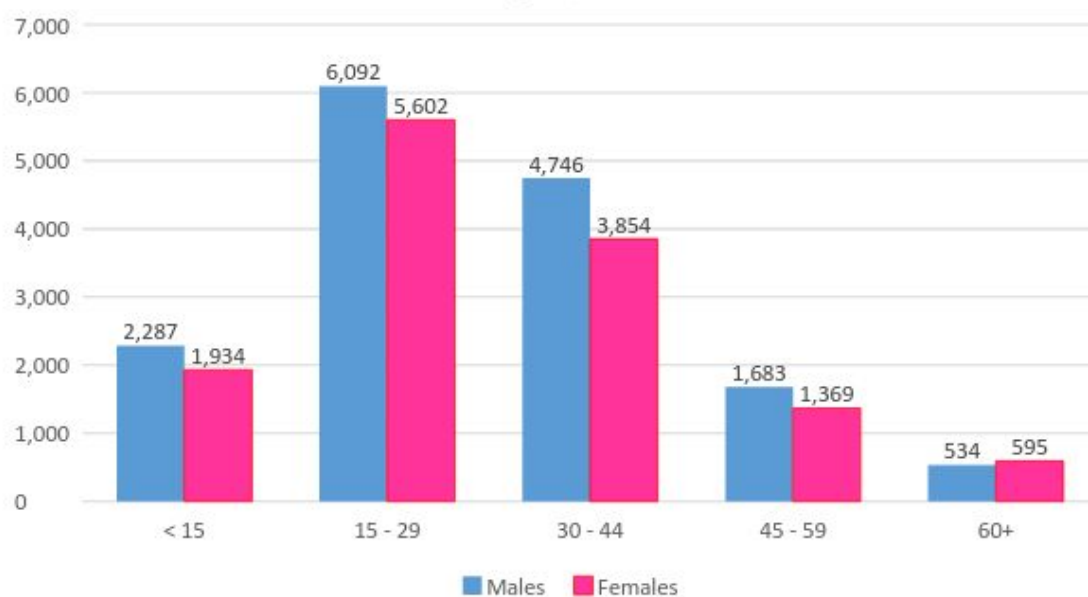
From **Central America** to Spain, 2014



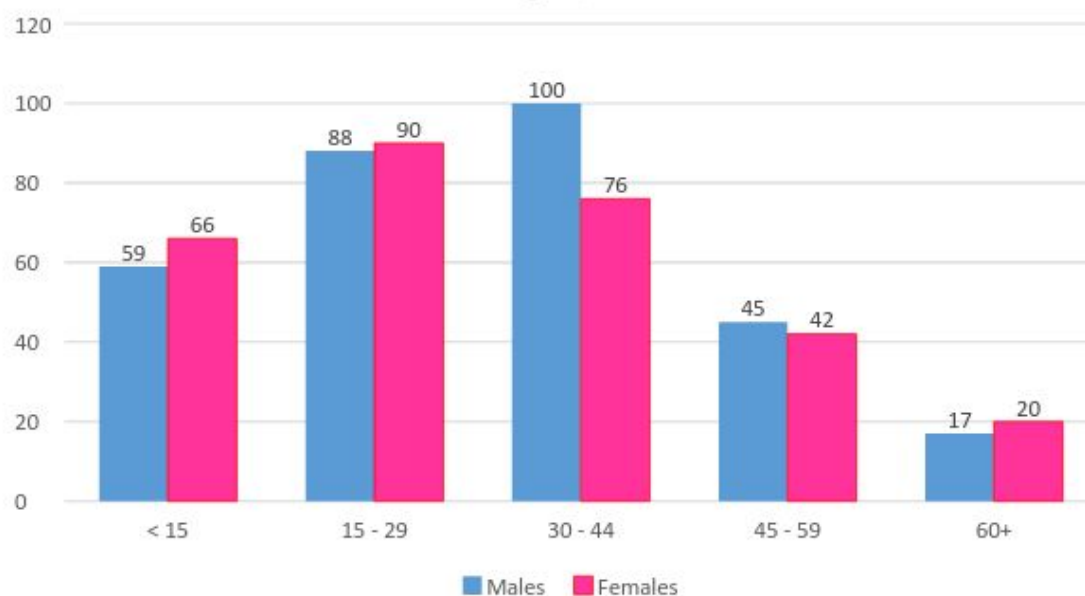
From **South America** to Spain, 2014



From **Asia** to Spain, 2014



From **Oceania** to Spain, 2014



We have done our research for different age groups starting from people younger than age 15 up to people older than age 60⁹.

As we can see from the histograms above, taking into account the various age groups, the largest number of migrants coming from the same three continents¹⁰. In particular: Europe, South America and Africa.

In the end, we can observe how the majority of people chose to move between the ages of 15 and 44 years.

The inflows of the people under 15 is noticeably low while the rate grows higher starting from age after 15. For example, in 2015, from Romania, which is basically the top migrant-sending country to Spain, the immigrants younger than age 15 were 1792 males and 1805 females. However, in the same years, the immigrants belonging to the age group 15 to 29 were 5832 males and 5603 females. It is noticeable that this age group (15 to 29) has the most active migrating force among the Romanian immigrants to Spain because in the age groups older than 29 years, the number of immigrants start to decrease. But this is not the case with other European countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy and France because the number of French, Italian and British immigrants to Spain belonging to this age group does not rise as sharply as that of the Romanians.

⁹The total number of inflows for each Continent considers only the years 2013 and 2014.

¹⁰We have to consider that in the total number of migrants from Europe is included the number of Spanish who move within their own country.

CHANNELS OF ENTRANCE

THE MIGRATION CHOICE

Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Work	37,4	31,6	20,7	17,2
Family (incl. accompanying family)	41,2	39,1	22,9	21,3
Humanitarian	0,5	1,6	0,3	0,9
Free movement	92,5	102,1	51,3	55,6
Others	8,8	9,3	4,9	5,1
Total	180,4	183,7	100,0	100,0

Temporary migration	Thousands	Average		
		2005	2013	2014
International students		29,9	44,5	49,1
Trainees	
Working holiday makers	
Seasonal workers		7,0	3,1	3,1
Intra-company transfers		1,2	0,0	0,0
Other temporary workers		33,8	5,6	4,6

Inflows of asylum seekers	Per 1000 inhabitants	2005	2010	2013	2014	Average	Level
						2004-08	2014
		0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	5 900

People migrate for va *Source: International Migration Outlook 2016, OECD*

The channels of entrance vary according to the immigration policies of the host countries. To understand the trend of the channels of entrance in Spain, we have used the data for the 2013 and 2014, which are the latest available years on Eurostat website for this purpose. As seen in the data, more than half of the inflows to Spain come from other European countries due to the free movement policy of the European Union. The most frequent channels of entrance to Spain, observed in 2013 and 2014, are family reunion and work. As to the temporary migration, the majority are international students.

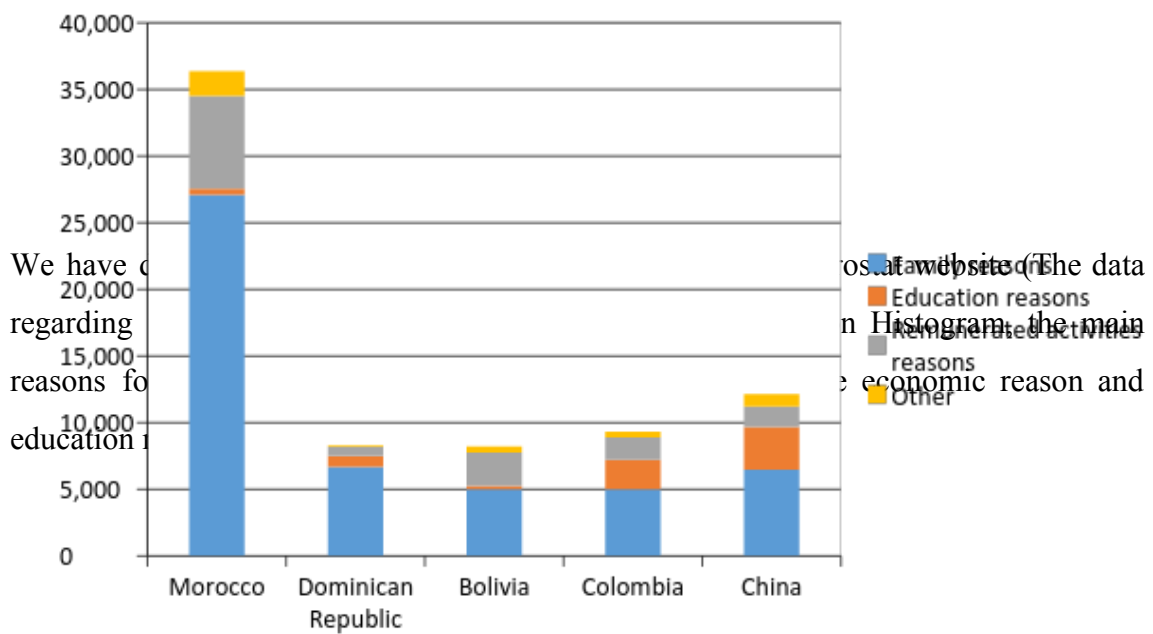
FIRST PERMITS BY REASON, LENGTH OF VALIDITY

AND CITIZENSHIP, 2014

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship

[migr_resfirst]



ASYLUM AND FIRST TIME ASYLUM APPLICANTS BY CITIZENSHIP. ANNUAL
AGGREGATED DATA

Asylum data are one of the sources to understand the channel of entrance. Therefore, we have studied the data of the asylum applicants from 2008 to 2016 as available on the Eurostat website. The data are quite significant: for example, the number of asylum seekers from Algeria in 2008 were only 150 but over the years, it has increased so much that in 2016, Algerian asylum seekers were 750. The Ukraine case is more significant because in 2005 only 5 Ukrainian applied for asylum for the first time but the number has been dramatically increasing yearly that in 2015, there were 3345 Ukrainian asylum seekers.

The same applies to the Venezuela case with just 50 asylum seekers in 2008 and the number increased over the years to 3960 in 2016. Contrary to Ukraine, the number of asylum seekers coming from Côte d'Ivoire was 500 in 2008 but it gradually decreased by the years and was only 125 in 2016. The same applied to the case of Nigeria with 810 asylum seekers in 2008 but in 2016, it was only 285. Syria also has been sending many asylum seekers in the recent years: in 2008 the Syrian asylum seekers were just 90 and it even decreased to 30 in 2009 and 20 in 2010. However, starting from 2011, due to the wars, the number abruptly increased to 5725 in 2015 and again decreased to 2975 in 2016¹¹.

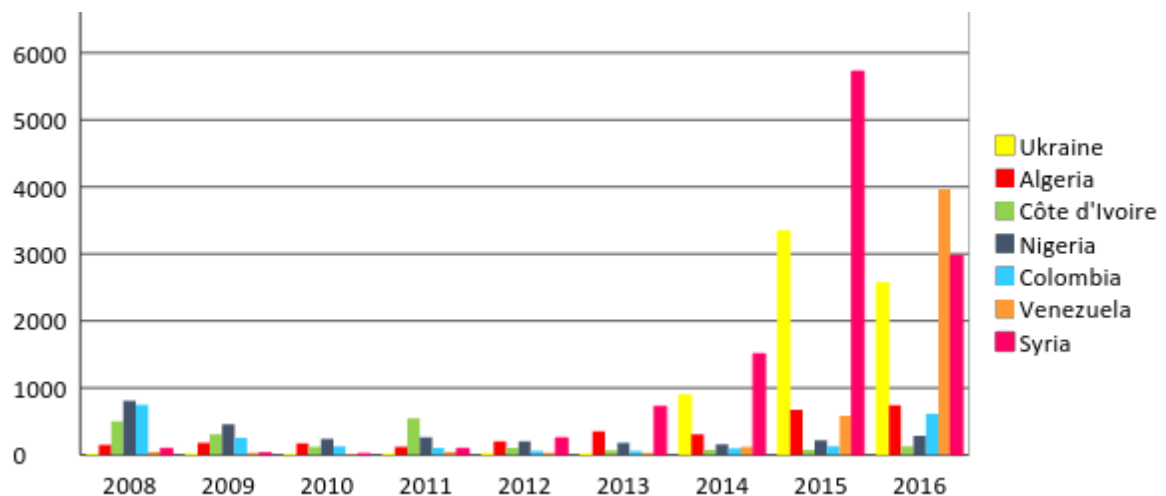
Observing the following graph, we can note that there are some countries that have reported asylum peaks in the two-year period (2014-2015). As far as asylum applications are concerned, motivations are often linked to the political upheavals affecting the countries in question.

¹¹ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

ASYLUM AND FIRST TIME ASYLUM APPLICANTS BY CITIZENSHIP: ANNUAL AGGREGATED DATA

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual
aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asyappctza]



Now, we are going to look at the cases of Venezuela and Ukraine.

In particular, as far as Venezuela is concerned in 2014 security forces used excessive force against largely peaceful demonstrators, many of whom were arbitrarily arrested, subject to severe beatings and other abuses during their detention, and denied basic due process rights. These human rights violations, which occurred over a period of several weeks in different locations, were practiced systematically by Venezuelan security forces.

Under the leadership of President Hugo Chávez and now President Nicolás Maduro, the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute its critics publicizing information and opinions that are critical of the government.

Police abuse, poor prison conditions, and impunity for abuses by security forces remain serious problems.

Over the past decade, the government has expanded and abused its powers to regulate

media. While criticism of the government is available in some newspapers and radio stations, fear of government reprisals has made self-censorship a serious problem.

The Venezuelan government has sought to marginalize the country's human rights defenders through repeated unsubstantiated allegations that they are seeking to undermine Venezuelan democracy with the support of the US government.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that individuals or organizations that receive foreign funding could be prosecuted for "treason." In addition, the National Assembly enacted legislation blocking organizations that "defend political rights" or "monitor the performance of public bodies" from receiving international assistance¹².

Secondly, considering the Ukrainian case, the "Maidan"¹³ uprising in Kiev led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich in February and a complete overhaul of Ukraine's political system. The uprising that began in November 2013 was marked by clashes between police, street fighters, and protesters, which killed over 100 people.

Between April and September, intense fighting led to the complete collapse of law and order in several rebel-controlled areas. Rebels attacked, serious abuses, including abductions, attacks, torture beat, and threatened hundreds of people whom they suspected of supporting Kiev, including journalists, local officials, and political and religious activists, and carried out several summary executions. They also subjected detainees to forced labor and kidnapped civilians for ransom, using them as hostages. In May, militants kidnapped eight military observers with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and held them for several weeks.

Throughout the year, as political rhetoric grew more heated and polarized, central authorities imposed excessive restrictions on freedom of media; the OSCE's representative on media freedom issued numerous statements expressing concern over

¹² For further information: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/venezuela>

¹³ The term 'Euromaidan' refers to the protests in Ukraine on November 21, 2013, in the aftermath of the suspension (by the Ukrainian government) of the association agreement called DCFTA, between Ukraine and the European Union. The agreement was supposed to create the Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area.

deteriorating media freedom in Ukraine¹⁴.



¹⁴ For further information: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/ukraine#73fcc>

OUTFLOWS

EMIGRATION BY SEX AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2015

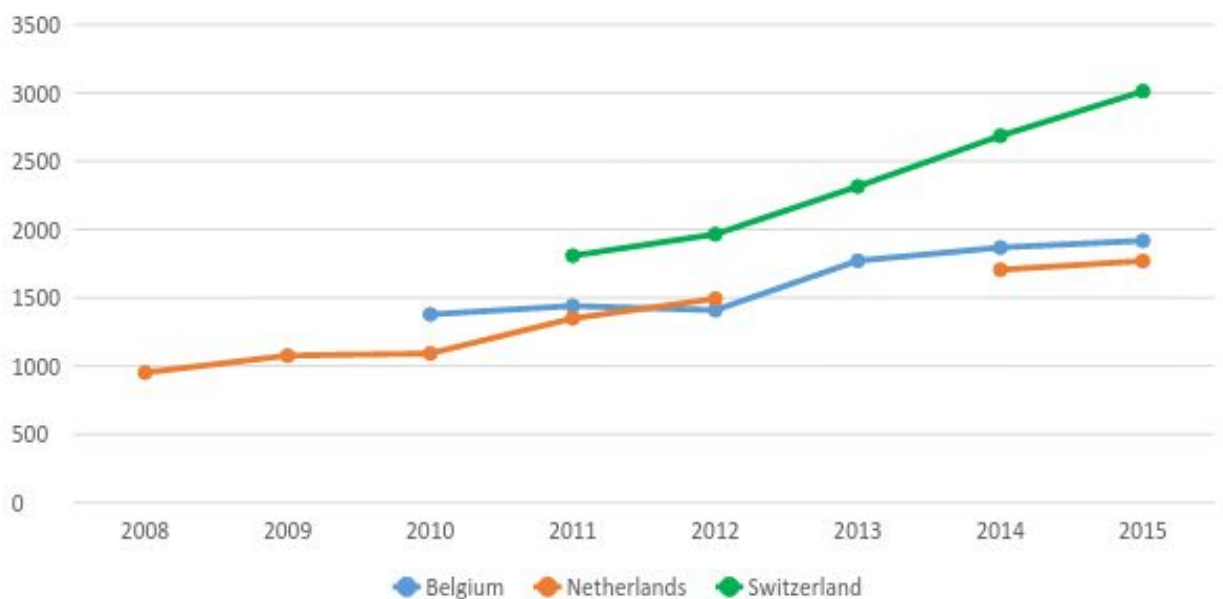
Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Emigration by age group, sex and country of birth [migr_emi4ctb]



As we can see in these two histograms, the majority of migrants are Spanish citizens moving from one city to another (internal migration). With regard to the outflows towards other countries, the majority of Spanish people migrate to Switzerland, Belgium and Netherlands.

Emigration by country of birth, 2008 - 2015



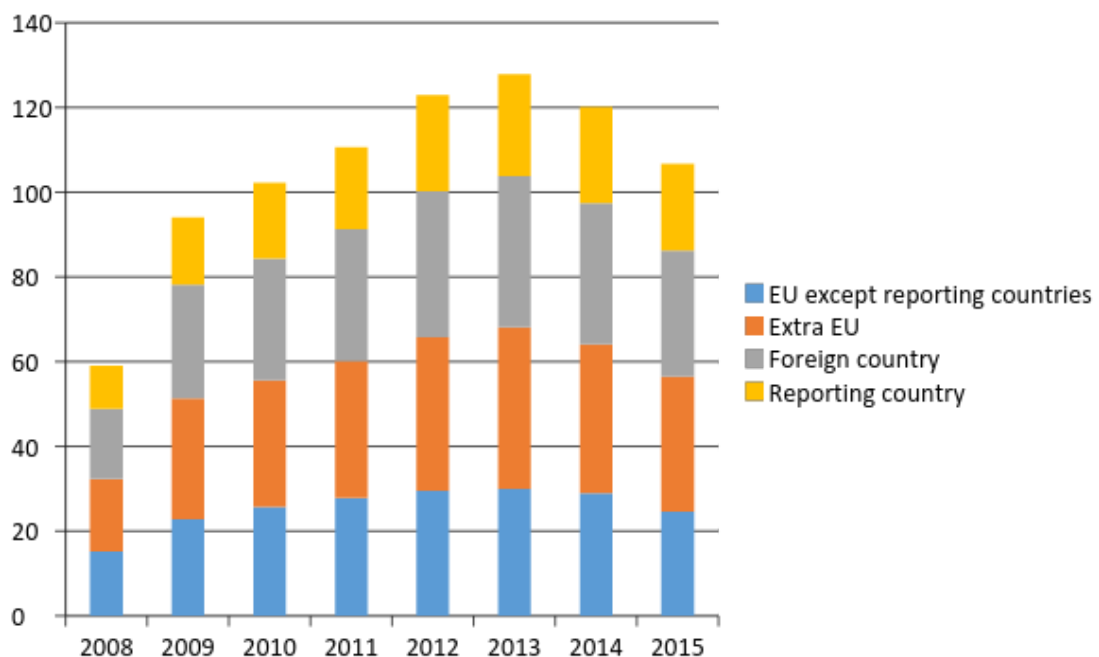
● LABOUR MARKET

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2008 - 2015

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Unemployment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%)

[lfsa_urgacob]



Regarding the unemployment rate, we have done the research based on age, sex and country of birth. As to the age, we have taken the data for one broad age group from 15 to 64 years and built three tables: two divided by sex and one for total¹⁵.

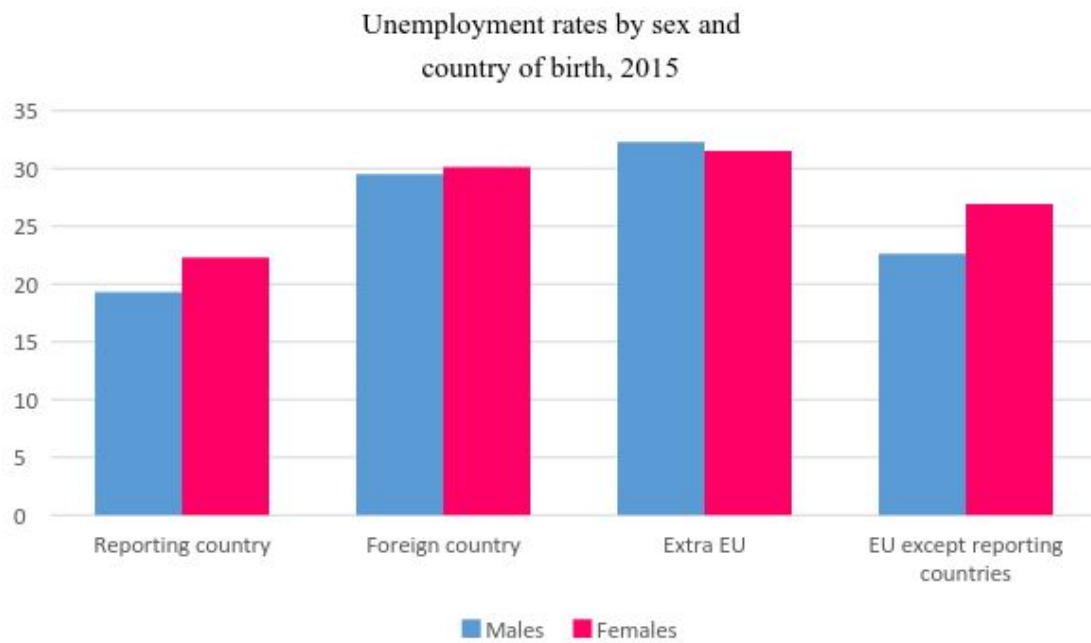
As to the countries, we have taken data both before and after the accession of Croatia into the European Union in 2013.

Then we also put the data for the unemployment rate of people coming outside of the European Union.

We also mentioned the data for the foreign country and the reporting country for general

¹⁵ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

comparison.



What is worth noting in the graph is that female unemployment rates tend to be higher than male unemployment rates in most cases, except extra EU.

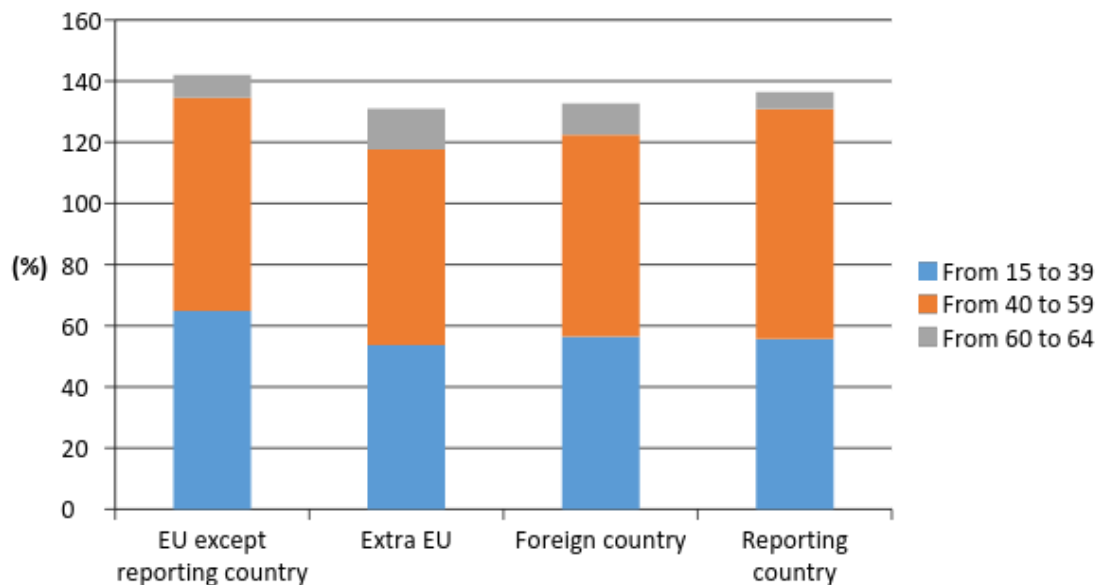
EMPLOYMENT RATES BY SEX, AGE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Source of data: Eurostat

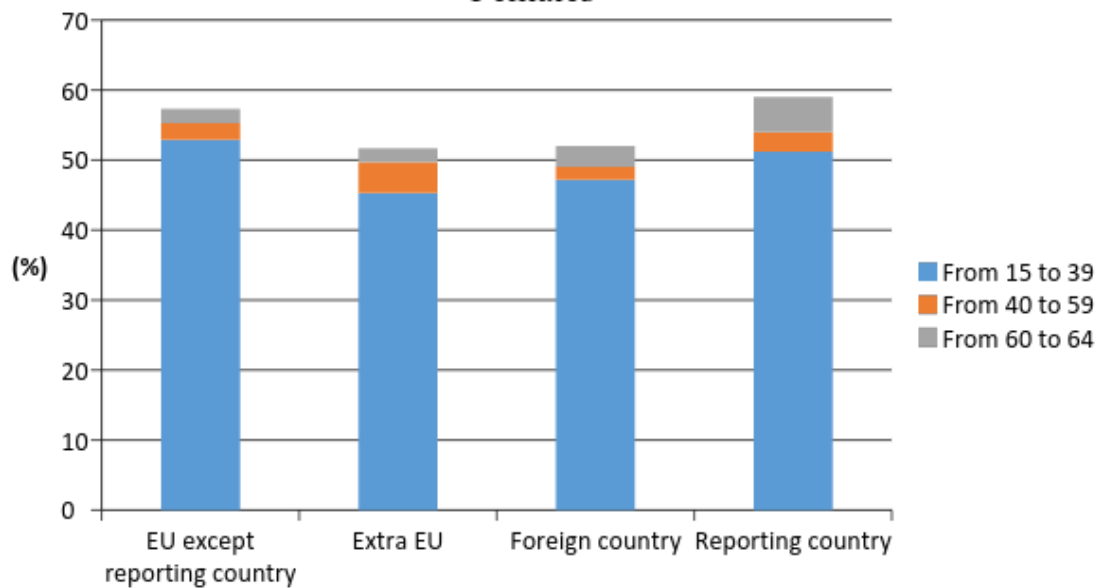
Name of the variable: Employment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%)

[lfsa_ergacob]

Males



Females



As we can observe in the graphs, the majority of males who find employment are in the range of age from 40 to 59 and from 15 to 39.

In the case of females, the majority who find employment are those ranging from 15 to 39.

LABOUR TRANSITIONS BY PAY LEVEL

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Labour transitions by pay level [ilc_lvgl34]

	QUANTILE	TOTAL							
TRANS1Y	GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Transition to 1 income decile up	Spain	12,1	11,8	11,4	9,8	10,1	11,6	12,5	11,2
Transition to more than 1 income decile up	Spain	16,9	15,2	12,0	9,4	10,5	10,6	10,2	11,1
Transition to 1 income decile down	Spain	10,7	10,8	9,7	7,2	7,1	6,5	5,1	5,2
Transition to more than 1 income decile down	Spain	9,8	10,3	9,4	6,1	5,2	5,5	5,4	5,1
Transition to no income	Spain	3,7	5,1	7,3	7,1	5,8	6,1	5,5	4,5
No change	Spain	46,8	46,8	50,2	60,4	61,2	59,8	61,3	62,7

UNIT: Euro
 AGE: From 18 to 54 years

In the table above, we can observe how migrants decide to change work according to the pay levels of jobs¹⁶.

¹⁶ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

● ASSIMILATION

❖ ASSIMILATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

MEAN AND MEDIAN INCOME BY BROAD GROUP OF COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Mean and median income by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over) [ilc_di16]

	INDIC_IL	MEAN EQUIVALISED NET INCOME							
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	:	13.08 3	12.56 7	13.45 9	13.36 7	12.46 0	11.89 0	12.05 6
EU-27 countries except reporting country	Spain	12.43 1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	:	11.72 0	11.77 4	10.89 8	10.41 9	10.47 9	10.07 7	9.730
Non-EU-27 countries nor reporting country	Spain	10.96 2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Foreign country	Spain	11.31 3	12.09 0	11.98 7	11.64 6	11.19 1	11.01 7	10.55 8	10.43 7
Reporting country	Spain	17.83 0	18.76 1	18.54 9	17.66 2	17.30 1	16.57 9	16.04 4	15.92 8

* Eurostat puts the sign (:) for the unavailable data.

	INDIC_IL	MEDIAN EQUIVALISED NET INCOME							
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	:	12.32 5	11.83 3	10.95 9	10.50 2	11.02 0	10.15 6	10.82 4
EU-27 countries except reporting country	Spain	11.04 9	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	:	10.71 7	10.70 9	9.462	9.027	8.888	8.264	8.133
Non-EU-27 countries nor reporting country	Spain	9.855	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Foreign country	Spain	10.01 2	11.01 6	10.80 9	9.841	9.587	9.340	8.893	8.896

Reporting country	Spain	15.91 4	16.76 2	16.50 2	15.63 8	15.28 6	14.80 7	14.22 4	14.22 9
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** Eurostat puts the sign (:) for the unavailable data.*

The tables above show how people tend to integrate in the labour market according to levels of income¹⁷.

❖ PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

When we know what is the rate of the poor people at the risk of being excluded from the society of the host country, we can understand the assimilation to some extent. Therefore, we have conducted our research based on the data regarding the people at risk of poverty and risk of social exclusion. We have done our research based on the broad group of country of birth with three tables: the first one is the total percentage of people on the whole population of Spain, without considering the sex group and the other two are done considering the sex group. We have taken (just in case) both data before and after the year 2013 when Croatia was admitted into the European Union. We have also mentioned foreign country and reporting country in the end for clear comparison.

PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION BY BROAD GROUP OF

COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2014

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over) [ilc_peps06]

- FROM 15 TO 19

	SEX	TOTA
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¹⁷ Complete data can be found in the Excel table through the comment on the right sideline.

		L
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2014
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	51,9
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	73,9
Foreign country	Spain	69,4
Reporting country	Spain	34,8

- FROM 20 TO 24

	SEX	TOTAL
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2014
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	53,1
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	50,4
Foreign country	Spain	51,0
Reporting country	Spain	35,8

By observing the data available for the age group 20 to 24, we can understand that the rate of people at risk of poverty and risk of social exclusion has been gradually increasing.

- FROM 25 TO 54

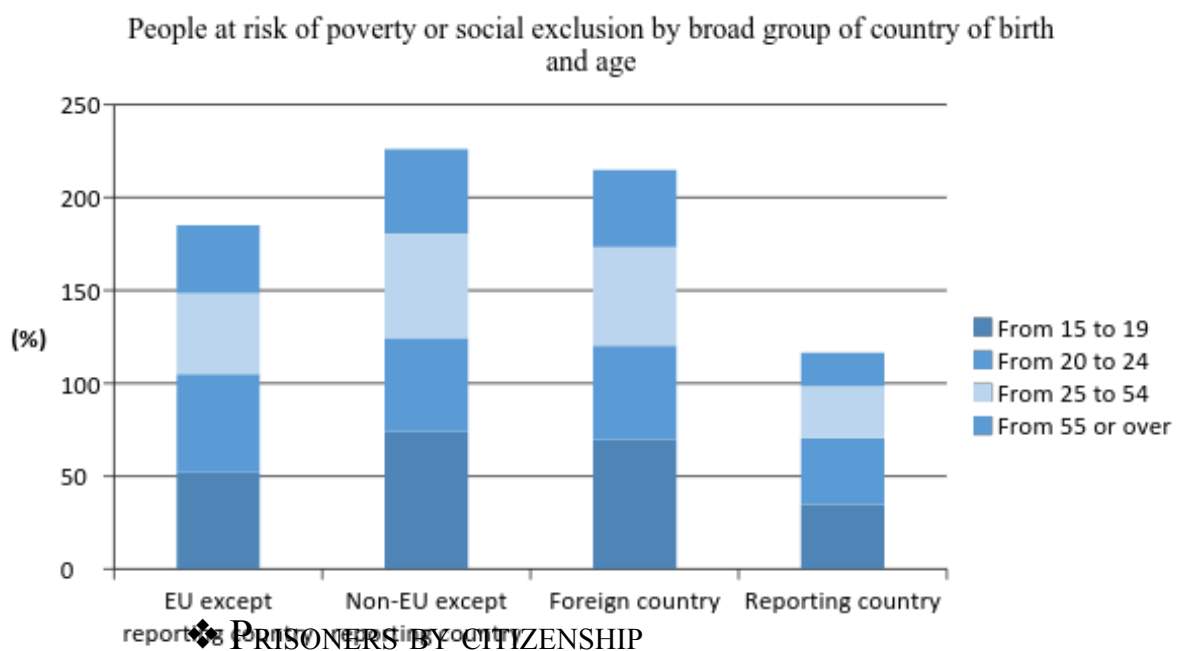
	SEX	TOTAL
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2014
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	43,5
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	56,3
Foreign country	Spain	52,8
Reporting country	Spain	27,8

As the table shows, Among the age group 25 to 54, the risk of poverty and exclusion is less than the age group 20 to 24 probably because the majority within this age group work and as a result, they are more capable of integrating into the society. The data also shows that the risk is higher among the non-EU citizens. If we compare the rate in foreign countries and the rate in reporting country, the rate in reporting country is obviously low. However, the rate in the reporting country over the years has been increasing. For the age 55 years over, the general tendency of the risk is less than other

age groups.

- 55 OR OVER

	SEX	TOTAL
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GEO/TIME	2014
EU-28 countries except reporting country	Spain	36,5
Non-EU-28 countries nor reporting country	Spain	45,4
Foreign country	Spain	41,7
Reporting country	Spain	18,1



❖ PRISONERS BY CITIZENSHIP

Source of data: Eurostat

Name of the variable: Prisoners by citizenship [crim_pris_ctz]

	UNIT	NUMBER						
CITIZEN	GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Foreign country	Spain	26.201	27.162	26.315	24.502	22.893	21.116	19.697
Reporting country	Spain	47.357	48.917	47.614	45.970	45.704	45.649	45.320

Data about the number of prisoners is an indirect way to understand integration/assimilation. Therefore, we have built a table for the prisoners by citizenship for foreign countries as well as reporting countries from 2008 through 2014 as available

on the Eurostat website.

According to the data, there are approximately 50 foreigners for every hundred thousand inhabitants for all the years.

As to the rate of the prisoners of the reporting country which is Spain, the number is around 100 Spanish prisoners for every hundred thousand inhabitants for all the years.

● CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Spain has always been a popular destination for migration due to its historical and linguistic links with countries belonging to the former Spanish empire.

From the data of our research, we can see that nowadays it is also a Country of emigration also due the current economic crisis.

However, the data also shows that compared to Greece and Italy, the Mediterranean countries of recent immigration, the immigration rate in Spain is lower.

The majority of immigrants in Spain are from the EU-member states, especially from Romania, the United Kingdom and Italy.

From Latin America, the majority of immigrants come from Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

From Africa, Morocco tops the list while from South America while from Asia, most immigrants are from China.

According to the data of Eurostat, the most frequent channels of entrance to Spain are work (high skills as well as low skills), family reunion and education.