

12 December 2024

Statistics on Migrations and Changes of Residence (SMCR) Year 2023

Main Results

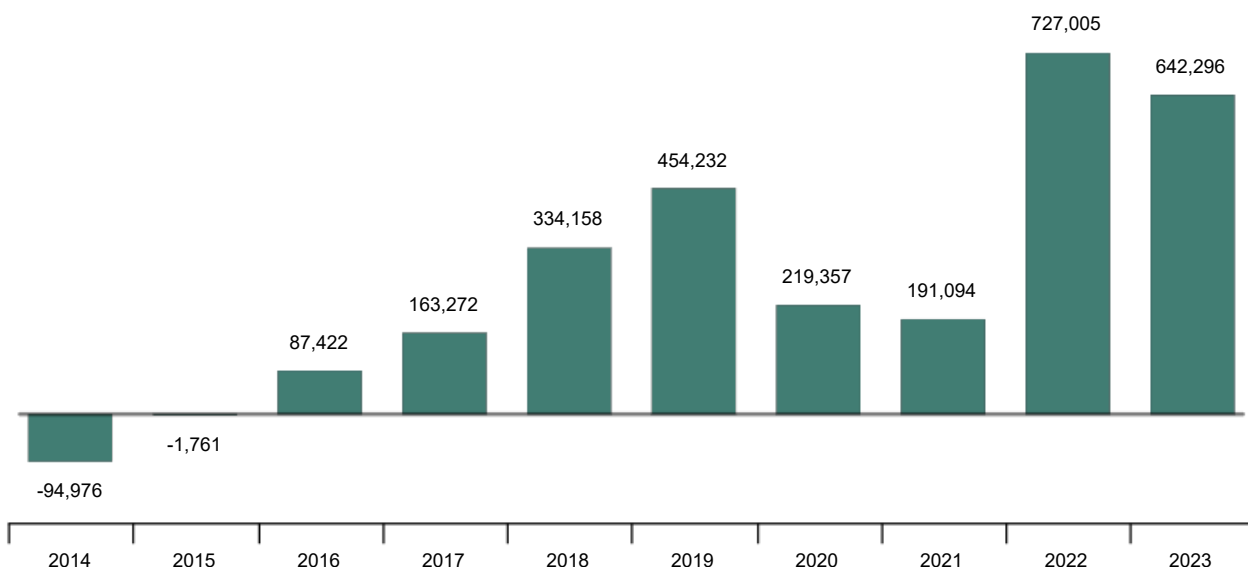
- Spain had positive net external migration in 2023, amounting to 642,296 people, which was 84,709 fewer than in 2022.
- The highest net external migration occurred in Comunidad de Madrid (150,469), Cataluña (126,804) and Comunitat Valenciana (102,302).
- The cities of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia had the highest net migration, thanks to the net incoming population from abroad, despite recording negative internal net migrations (with other municipalities).

More information

- Immigration and foreign Emigration
- Internal migration and migratory balances
- Infographic

Spain had a positive net external migration (the difference between immigration and emigration abroad), standing at 642,296 people in 2023. This is the second net figure of the last 10 years, after the figure recorded in 2022.

Evolution of net external migrations. 2014 - 2023



(*) Until 2020, data from Migration Statistics

The net external migrations of foreigners rose to 616,234 people in 2023. By nationality, the highest figures are for Colombians (141,492), followed by Venezuelans (74,029) and Moroccans (70,818).

The net external migration of Spanish citizens was also positive, in contrast to 2022. Specifically, there were 26,062 net entries from abroad.

Net external migrations by nationality and place of birth

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	2023	2022	2021
TOTAL	642,296	727,005	191,094
Spaniards	26,062	-2,704	-19,882
- Born in Spain	-3,652	-20,778	-28,377
- Born abroad	29,714	18,074	8,495
Foreigners	616,234	729,709	210,976
- Born in Spain	-12,893	-10,992	-15,985
- Born abroad	629,127	740,701	226,961

Net migration by autonomous community

When the geographic scope considers the autonomous community, the net external migration has two component, external (abroad) and internal (with other regions).

Net migration of autonomous communities and cities. 2023

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	Migratory balance		
	Total	External	Internal
TOTAL	642,296	642,296	0
Andalucía	60,385	62,955	-2,570
Aragón	15,417	14,160	1,257
Asturias, Principado de	11,986	9,172	2,814
Balears, Illes	21,362	18,873	2,489
Canarias	31,598	29,160	2,438
Cantabria	5,561	5,009	552
Castilla y León	24,071	22,414	1,657
Castilla - La Mancha	25,552	22,863	2,689
Cataluña	121,633	126,804	-5,171
Comunitat Valenciana	113,129	102,302	10,827
Extremadura	4,846	5,735	-889
Galicia	25,738	23,337	2,401
Madrid, Comunidad de	134,079	150,469	-16,390
Murcia, Región de	15,715	17,822	-2,107
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	7,519	7,524	-5
País Vasco	20,364	19,975	389
Rioja, La	3,134	2,780	354
Ceuta	6	368	-362
Melilla	201	574	-373

All autonomous communities had a positive net external migration in 2023. The highest figures were in Comunidad de Madrid (150,469), Cataluña (126,804) and Comunitat Valenciana (102,302).

Conversely, the autonomous communities with the least net external migrations were La Rioja (2,780), Cantabria (5,009) and Extremadura (5,735).

As for the net migration between autonomous communities, the most positive figures were in Comunitat Valenciana (10,827), Principado de Asturias (2,814) and Castilla-Mancha (2,689). In contrast, Comunidad de Madrid (-16,390), Cataluña (-5,171) and Andalucía (-2,570) recorded the most negative migration figures.

Migrations between municipalities

In 2023, there were 1,719,908 inter-municipal migrations (or changes in municipality), 0.3% less than in 2022. Of these, 685,695 changed provinces, and 533,398 changed Autonomous Community or City.

If we limit ourselves to those who resided in Spain throughout 2023, most (96.8%) did so in the same municipality. 1.9% changed municipalities within the same province, 0.3% came from another province within the same Autonomous Community, and 0.9% from another Autonomous Community.

Relationship between place of residence on 1 January 2023 and 2024

Place of residence	Number of persons	Percentage of total
TOTAL	47,031,268	100.0
Same municipality	45,547,718	96.8
Different municipality and same province	910,015	1.9
Different province and same community	130,692	0.3
Different community	442,843	0.9

If we look at the main cities, all of them had positive migration flows in 2023, with the exception of El Ejido, Lorca, Cádiz and San Fernando.

Main cities according to type of net migration. Year 2023

Municipality	Total balance (higher)	External balance	Internal balance	Municipality	Total balance (lower)	External balance	Internal balance
Madrid	82,919	103,885	-20,966	Ejido, El	-535	209	-744
Barcelona	33,849	45,402	-11,553	Lorca	-292	609	-901
València	21,594	24,563	-2,969	Cádiz	-49	363	-412
Zaragoza	8,967	8,049	918	San Fernando	-27	151	-178
Alacant/Alicante	8,361	9,783	-1,422	Ceuta	6	368	-362
Palma	7,576	8,616	-1,040	Sanlúcar de Barrameda	126	139	-13
Torrevieja	6,296	6,501	-205	Getxo	171	536	-365
Málaga	6,004	7,665	-1,661	Cuenca	188	582	-394
Hospitalet de Llobregat, L'	5,636	8,318	-2,682	Cerdanyola del Vallès	232	514	-282
Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las	4,445	4,393	52	Calvià	268	474	-206

Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia obtained the highest net migration, thanks to the net incoming population from abroad, despite recording negative internal net migrations (with other municipalities).

As for Dos Hermanas, Getafe and Sabadell, they were the cities which reflected the highest net internal migration figures (1,067, 968 and 955, respectively).

Net migration by components: immigration and emigration

The net external migration in 2023 consist of a total of 1,250,991 people coming from abroad who established their residence in our country (0.6% fewer than in 2022) and 608,695 people who left Spain for a foreign country (up by 14.4%).

External migratory movements since 2021

	2023	2022	2021
External immigration	1,250,991	1,258,894	887,960
External emigration	608,695	531,889	696,866
External migratory balance	642,296	727,005	191,094

Of the total number of immigrants from abroad, 1,098,028 were foreign nationals (87.8%), while 152,963 were Spanish (12.2%).

As for emigration, there were 481,794 departures of foreigners (79.2%) and 126,901 of Spaniards (20.8%). Of the latter, 81,805 people were born in Spain.

The main nationalities of foreign immigrants were Colombians (with 170,722 arrivals in Spain), Moroccans (123,468) and Venezuelans (88,361).

On the other hand, the most numerous nationalities of emigrants were Romanians (with 55,411 departures), Moroccans (52,650) and Colombians (29,230).

Of the 74,810 Spaniards who immigrated to Spain, 11,571 were born in Cuba, 7,752 in Argentina and 7,523 in Ecuador.

On the other hand, of the 45,096 people who emigrated from Spain, 6,249 were born in Morocco, 4,990 in Ecuador, and 4,130 in Colombia.

Data revisions and updates

The data published today are final. All results of this operation are available on [INEbase](#).

Methodological note

The purpose of the Statistics on Migrations and Changes of Residence is to measure the migrations that take place between Spain and the rest of the world and between different Spanish regions, according to sex, age, year of birth, nationality and country of birth of the migrant, as well as place of migration origin and destination.

Its classification variables will be including those which entail a greater temporal disaggregation, as well as others gathered from population censuses which may be related, such as education or employment data.

The SMCR was created to provide a coherent measurement of migrations between every two consecutive population censuses: it is based on the people who were in both censuses and only in one of the two, and their migratory history is constructed according to data from the Municipal Register.

Given that the Population Censuses are definitively published in December of each year, in reference to 1 January of that same year, the migrations correspond to the previous full year. As described in the SMCR methodology, the net migrations may be considered as comparable with the previous series, although the external migrations are higher in the SMCR.

Type of operation: statistics based on official data (mainly the municipal register) and on other operations that have already been performed (annual population census).

Population scope: persons who habitually reside in Spain and emigrate abroad or to another region of Spain, and persons who, coming from abroad, establish their habitual residence in Spain.

Geographical scope: national, autonomous communities and cities, provinces and municipalities.


Reference period of the results: the calendar year.

Frequency of dissemination: annual.

For more information, you can access the [methodology](#) and the [standardised methodological report](#).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on [Quality at INE](#) and the [Code of Best Practices](#).

For further information see [INE base](#)

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