

04 June 2021

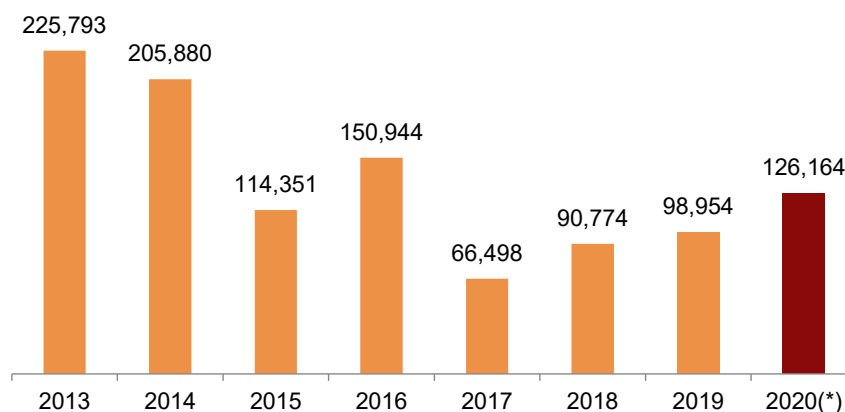
Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship of Residents
Year 2020. Provisional data

The number of foreign residents who acquired Spanish nationality increased by 27.5%, to 126,164

The most frequent nationalities of origin were Morocco (28,258), Colombia (9,010) and Ecuador (8,328)

In 2020 a total of 126,164 foreign nationals residents in Spain acquired Spanish citizenship. This figure represented a 27.5% increase with respect to the previous year.

Number of acquisitions of Spanish nationality by residents



(*) Provisional data

Of foreign nationals who acquired Spanish nationality in 2020, 46.8% were women and 53.2% were men.

By age, people between 30 and 39 years of age constituted the largest group in terms of acquisitions of Spanish nationality, followed closely by the 40 to 49 year old age group.

Acquisition of Spanish nationality by age group Year 2020

	Both sexes	Men	Women
TOTAL	126,164	59,059	67,105
0-9	23,421	12,251	11,170
10-19	12,330	6,457	5,873
20-29	13,601	6,022	7,579
30-39	29,924	12,141	17,783
40-49	28,705	14,156	14,549
50-59	13,243	6,130	7,113
60 and more	4,940	1,902	3,038

Methods of acquiring Spanish nationality

Regarding the methods of acquiring Spanish nationality¹, 111,219 cases were by *residency* and 14,774 by *choice*. This last modality occurred especially in those under 20 years of age (94.7% of total acquisitions by choice).

Modalities of acquisition of Spanish citizenship. Year 2020

	Both genders	Men	Women
TOTAL	126,164	59,059	67,105
Residence	111,219	51,376	59,843
Choice	14,774	7,592	7,182
Other	171	91	80

Nationalities of origin

The most frequent nationality of origin among persons who acquired Spanish citizenship in 2020 was that of Morocco, with 28,258 cases.

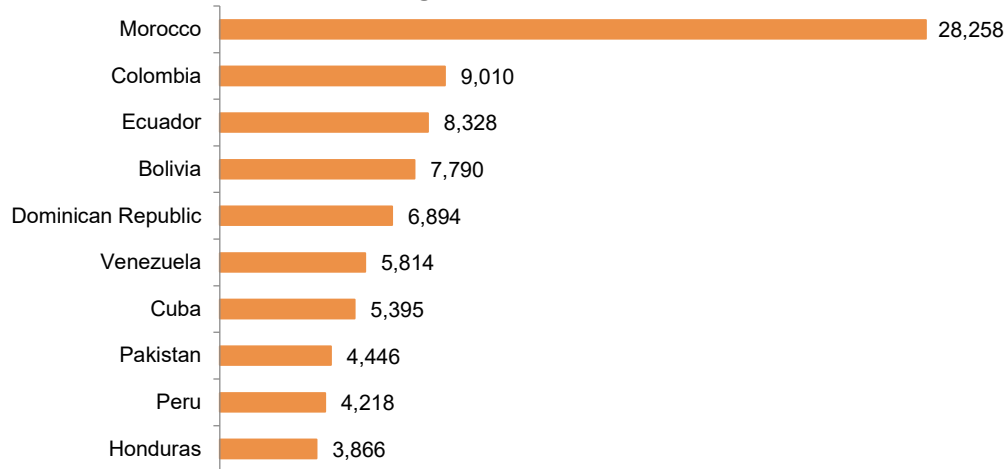
This was followed by nationalities from South American, Central American and Caribbean countries (nine of the ten most frequent corresponded to countries of these regions). On the other hand, Pakistan stood out among the Asian countries (4,446 people).

¹**Nationality by residency:** requires the person to be a legal resident in Spain for 10 years legally, continuously and immediately prior to the request.

Nationality by choice: is a benefit that the legislation offers to foreigners who find themselves in certain conditions in order to acquire Spanish nationality. Persons who are or have been subject to the parental authority of a Spaniard, or persons whose father or mother was Spanish and was born in Spain, shall have the right to acquire Spanish nationality by this means.

Other methods: Nationality by naturalisation certificate is included (it is ex gratia and not subject to the general rules of administrative procedure) and unknown (cases that are blank in the original file and it is decided not to impute).

Most frequent nationalities of origin. Year 2020

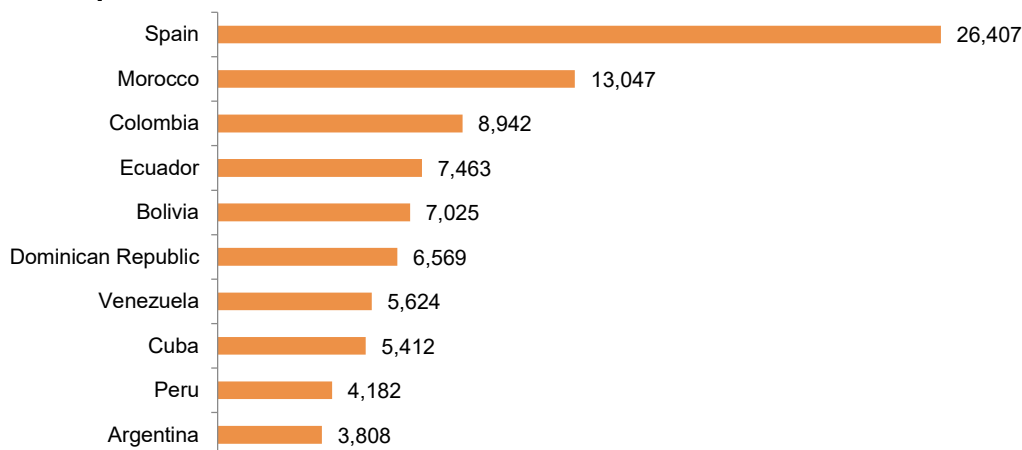


Countries of birth

The most frequent country of birth in the acquisition of Spanish nationality was Spain, with 26,407 cases. The majority were children (81.4%, under 10 years of age).

Among those born outside Spain, the most frequent country of birth was Morocco, with 13,047 acquisitions of Spanish nationality.

Most frequent countries of birth Year 2020

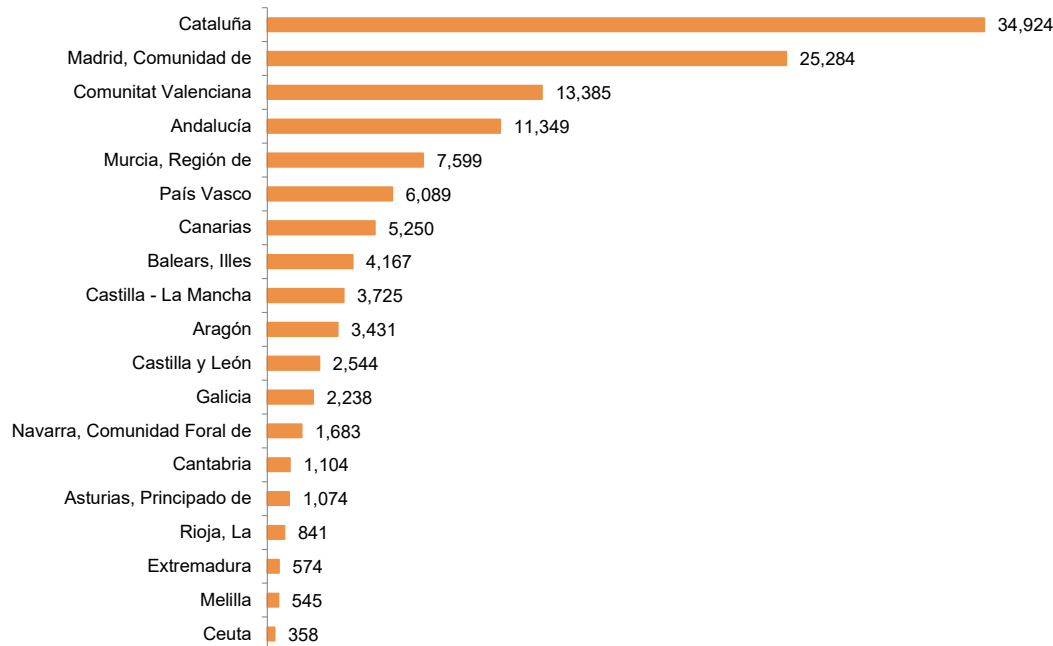


Results by Autonomous Communities

Cataluña (with 34,924 cases) and Comunidad de Madrid (with 25,284 cases) accounted for 47.7% of acquisitions of Spanish nationality in 2020.

On the other hand, Extremadura (574) and La Rioja (841) were the Autonomous Communities with the lowest number of acquisitions of nationalities among their residents.

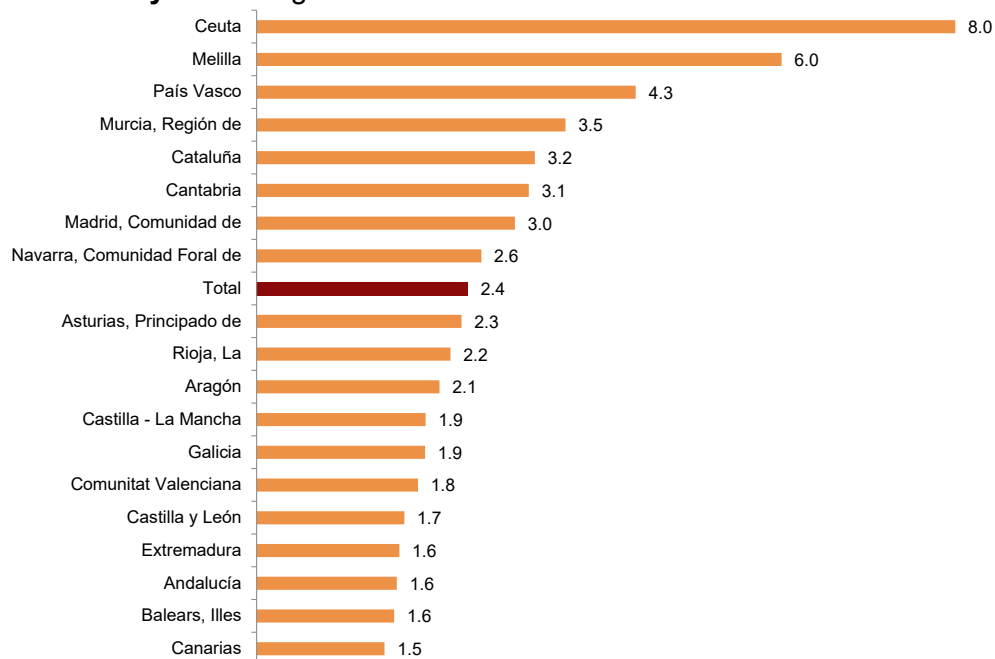
Acquisitions of Spanish citizenship by Autonomous Community of residence Year 2020



Comparing with the resident foreign population at the beginning of 2020, the highest intensities of the phenomenon of acquisition of nationality occurred in the Autonomous Communities of País Vasco (4.3% of foreign nationals acquired Spanish nationality), Región de Murcia (3.5%) and Cataluña (3.2%).

On the other hand, the lowest percentages of acquisition of Spanish nationality among resident foreign nationals occurred in Canarias (1.5%), Illes Balears (1.6%) and Andalucía (1.6%).

Foreign population that acquired Spanish nationality during 2020, by Autonomous Community Percentage



Data Review and Update

The Statistics of Acquisitions of Spanish Nationality by Residents is published twice a year. The data published in June is provisional. Data will be updated in December and published as definitive. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

Since 2015 INE has published statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship of Residents. Its main purpose is to provide the number of persons who, having their habitual residence in Spain, acquire Spanish nationality during the reference year, having previously had the nationality of another country or the condition of statelessness. Therefore, persons who have acquired Spanish nationality while residing in other countries are excluded as well as those processes in which Spanish nationality is obtained by reason of origin (by simple presumption or adoption) or by consolidation (possession of status of those who already act as Spaniards).

This operation is based on the statistical treatment of the registration of nationality files in the Civil Registry and completes the set of demographic information that guarantees total consistency between population figures and demographic events (births, deaths, migrations and nationalisations).

Type of operation: statistics compiled from administrative records.

Population scope: persons who habitually reside in Spain and have acquired Spanish nationality during the reference year of the data, having previously had the nationality of another country or the condition of statelessness.

Geographical scope: national, Autonomous Communities and Cities and provinces.

Reference period of the results: the calendar year.

Frequency of dissemination: six-monthly.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

http://www.ine.es/en/inebaseDYN/anes30279/docs/meto_anes_en.pdf

The standardized methodological report is at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30279>

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information see the section on [Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices](#) on the INE website.

For further information see **INEbase:** www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: [@es_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

Press office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – gprensa@ine.es

Information Area: Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1
