

23 June 2021

**Population Figures at 1 January 2021
Migration Statistics. Year 2020**
Provisional data

The resident population in Spain decreased by 61,609 persons during 2020, standing at 47,394,223 inhabitants as of January 1, 2021.

The positive migration balance of 216,244 persons compensated for the negative natural increase of 153,167 persons

The largest population growth was registered in Illes Balears (0.72%), Región de Murcia (0.55%) and Canarias (0,33%).

The resident population in Spain increased by 61,609 persons during 2020, standing at 47,394,223 inhabitants at 01 January 2021.

With this growth - which was positive for the fifth consecutive year - a new all-time high was reached since the start of the series.

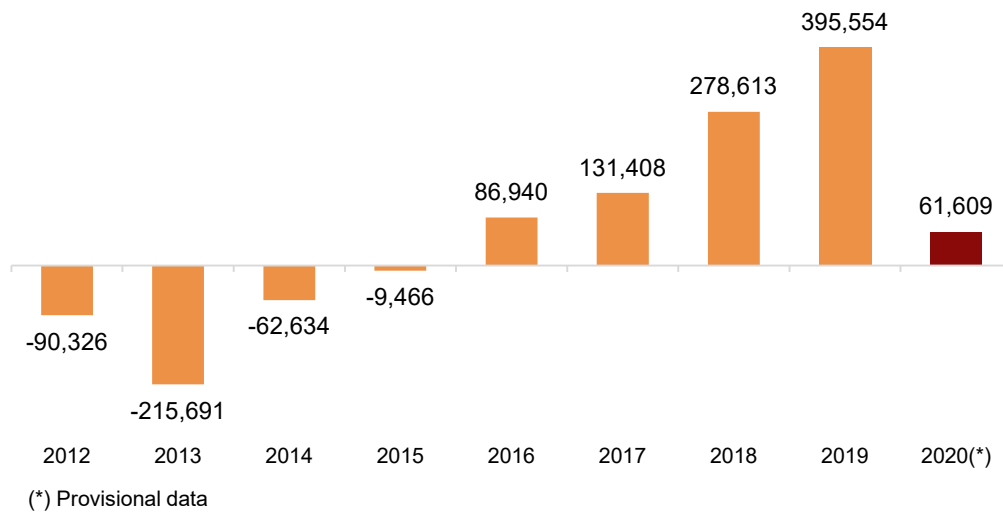
Evolution of the population in Spain

Year	Resident population at 1st January
2012	46,818,216
2013	46,727,890
2014	46,512,199
2015	46,449,565
2016	46,440,099
2017	46,527,039
2018	46,658,447
2019	46,937,060
2020	47,332,614
2021(*)	47,394,223

(*) Provisional data

In relative terms, in 2020, annual population growth declined to 0.13% (from 0.84% in 2019), due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual growth of the population in Spain



The population increase in 2020 was the result of a negative natural growth of 153,167 people (338,435 births, compared to 491,602 deaths), offset by a positive migration balance of 216,244 people (there were 465,721 immigrations from abroad and 249,477 emigrations to foreign destinations).

Components of population growth in Spain Year 2020

Resident population at 1st January 2020 (A)	47,332,614
Births	338,435
Deaths	491,602
Natural increase (B) (Births - Deaths)	-153,167
Immigration	465,721
Emigration	249,477
Migratory balance (C) (Immigration-Emigration)	216,244
Statistical corrections which cannot be attributed to demographic phenomena (D)	-1,468
Resident population at 1s January 2021 (A+B+C+D)	47,394,223

Provisional data, except for the resident population at the beginning of the period, which is final.

Population by nationality and place of birth

Population growth in Spain was due to the increase of the population of those with foreign nationality, given that the population of those of Spanish nationality decreased.

The number of foreigners increased by 149,011 people during 2020, to a total of 5,375,917 as of January 1, 2021. This increase for the most part responded to a positive migratory balance of 230,026 people.

On the other hand, the population of Spanish nationality was reduced by 87,402 people. This evolution was the result of a negative vegetative balance (198,670 people) and a negative migratory balance (13,782), which were not offset by acquisitions of Spanish nationality (which affected 126,164 people, according to provisional data).

If we restrict ourselves to Spaniards born in Spain, the population decreased by 183,299 during all of the year 2020.

Evolution of the resident population in Spain. Year 2020

	Resident population 1st January 2021	Annual growth	
		Absolute	Relative (%)
TOTAL	47,394,223	61,609	0.13
Spaniards	42,018,306	-87,402	-0.21
- Born in Spain	39,587,487	-183,299	-0.46
- Born abroad	2,430,819	95,897	4.11
Foreigners	5,375,917	149,011	2.85
- Born in Spain	593,823	28,820	5.10
- Born abroad	4,782,094	120,191	2.58

Provisional data

Among the main nationalities, the greatest increases occurred in the Colombian population (36,726 more), Venezuelan (22,018 more) and Moroccan (15,221 more). The largest decreases were in the population of Romania (-7,132), Ecuador (-5,293) and Bulgaria (-1,831).

Evolution of the foreign population resident in Spain. Year 2020

Main nationalities

Citizenship	Resident population		Annual growth	
	1 st January 2020	1 st January 2021	Absolute	Relative (%)
TOTAL	5,226,906	5,375,917	149,011	2.9
Morocco	760,715	775,936	15,221	2.0
Romania	665,905	658,773	-7,132	-1.1
United Kingdom	300,640	313,948	13,307	4.4
Colombia	261,208	297,934	36,726	14.1
Italy	267,666	280,152	12,486	4.7
Venezuela	187,205	209,223	22,018	11.8
China	197,188	197,704	516	0.3
Germany	138,952	139,811	859	0.6
Ecuador	132,637	127,344	-5,293	-4.0
Honduras	109,500	123,333	13,833	12.6
France	117,080	121,908	4,828	4.1
Bulgaria	122,785	120,954	-1,831	-1.5
Peru	101,027	112,297	11,269	11.2
Ukraine	107,576	107,369	-207	-0.2
Portugal	106,101	107,091	991	0.9

Provisional data, except for the resident population at the beginning of the period, which is final.

In relative terms, the greatest population growth during 2020 was among residents of Colombia (14.1%), Honduras (12.6%) and Venezuela (11.8%).

The largest declines were for nationals of Ecuador (-4.0%), Bulgaria (-1.5%) and Romania (-1.1%).

Population by Autonomous Communities

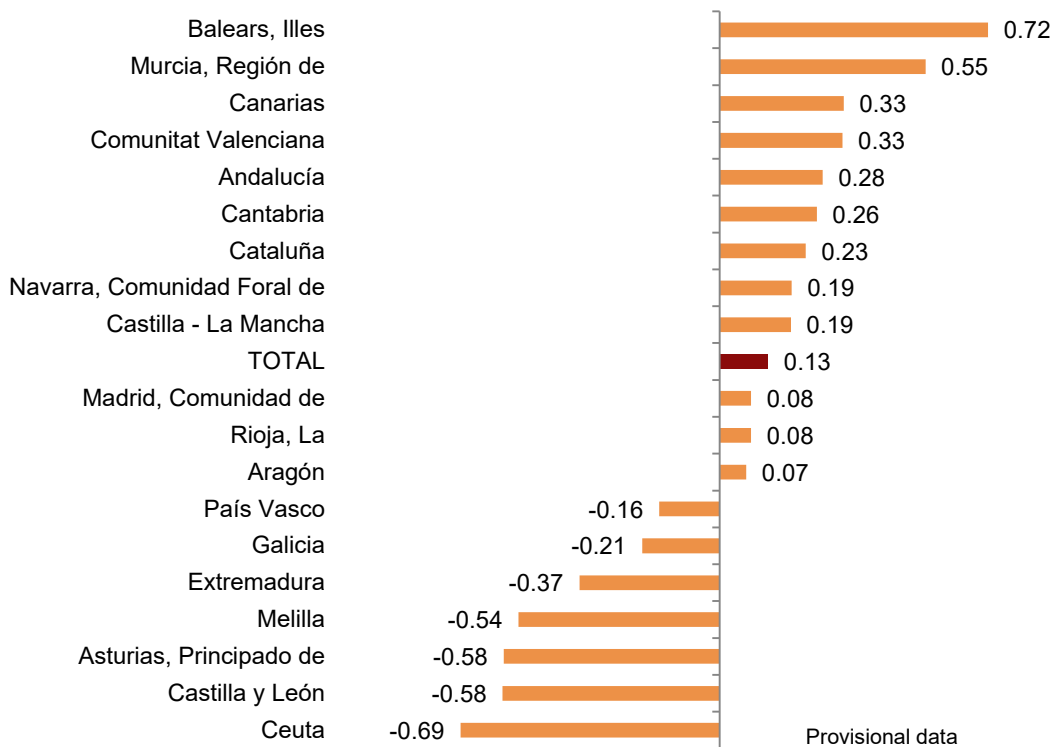
During 2020 the population grew in 12 autonomous communities and decreased in the remaining five.

The largest relative increases were recorded in Illes Balears (0.72%), Región de Murcia (0.55%) and Canarias (0.33%).

At the other extreme, the most marked population declines occurred in Castilla y León and Principado de Asturias (both with -0.58%) and Extremadura (-0.37%).

Relative population growth by Autonomous Community Year 2020

Percentage



The combined effect of the vegetative growth, the migratory balance abroad and the migratory balance with other autonomous communities determines the growth or decrease of each community's population (in addition to a small statistical adjustment for population).

Components of population growth in the Autonomous Communities Year 2020

	Resident population		Natural increase	Migratory balance with	
	1 st January 2020	1 st January 2021		Abroad	The rest of Spain
TOTAL	47,332,614	47,394,223	-153,167	216,244	0
Andalucía	8,478,084	8,501,450	-13,254	32,811	4,004
Aragón	1,330,333	1,331,280	-7,638	6,385	2,256
Asturias, Principado de	1,018,899	1,013,018	-9,777	2,605	1,325
Balears, Illes	1,210,725	1,219,423	815	10,050	-2,106
Canarias	2,236,992	2,244,423	-3,274	11,250	-435
Cantabria	582,388	583,904	-3,073	1,986	2,622
Castilla y León	2,401,307	2,387,370	-22,543	5,320	3,403
Castilla - La Mancha	2,045,554	2,049,455	-11,197	6,397	8,752
Cataluña	7,652,348	7,669,999	-21,659	46,241	-6,701
Comunitat Valenciana	5,029,341	5,045,885	-13,015	24,656	5,043
Extremadura	1,061,979	1,057,999	-5,708	1,463	282
Galicia	2,702,592	2,696,995	-17,610	7,540	4,593
Madrid, Comunidad de	6,747,068	6,752,763	-14,696	41,429	-20,836
Murcia, Región de	1,504,869	1,513,161	1,432	6,548	334
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	656,509	657,776	-1,623	2,113	799
País Vasco	2,189,138	2,185,605	-9,491	7,492	-1,481
Rioja, La	315,931	316,197	-1,382	1,333	327
Ceuta	84,085	83,502	188	348	-1,116
Melilla	84,473	84,019	338	277	-1,065

Provisional data, except for the resident population at the beginning of the period, which is final.

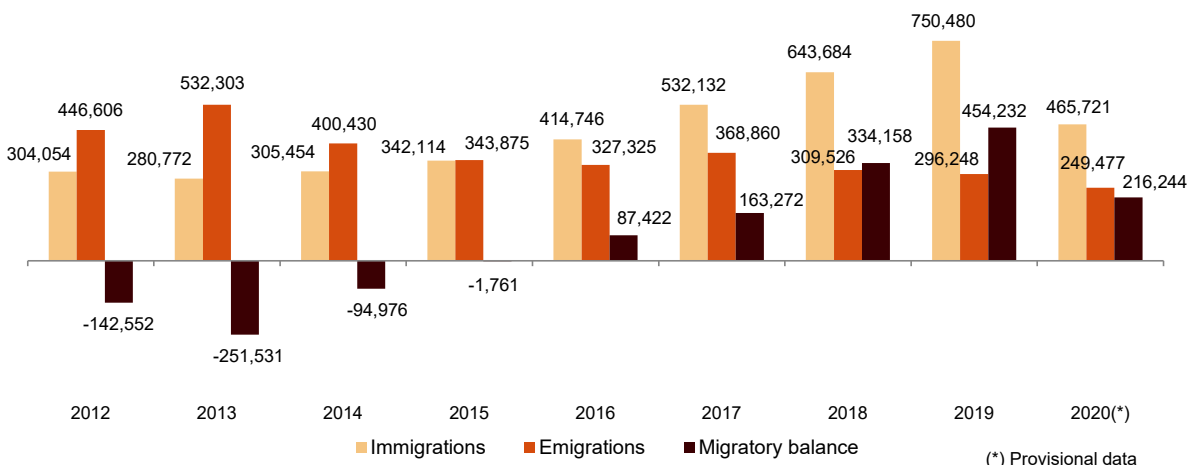
International migrations

Spain's migratory balance abroad was positive, with 216,244 people during the year 2020. This reversed the growth trend that began in 2013.

A total of 465,721 persons from abroad established their residence in our country (37.9% less than in 2019).

For their part, 249,477 people left Spain for a foreign country (15.8% less than the previous year).

Annual foreign migration



Of the immigrants from abroad, 413,210 had foreign nationality and 52,511 were Spanish.

As for emigration, 183,184 departures were made by foreigners and 66,293 by Spaniards. Of the latter, 42,617 people were born in Spain.

Migratory movements by nationality and place of birth Year 2020

	Immigration	Emigration	Migratory balance
TOTAL	465,721	249,477	216,244
Spaniards	52,511	66,293	-13,782
- Born in Spain	23,916	42,617	-18,701
- Born abroad	28,595	23,676	4,919
Foreigners	413,210	183,184	230,026
- Born in Spain	2,298	7,606	-5,308
- Born abroad	410,912	175,578	235,334

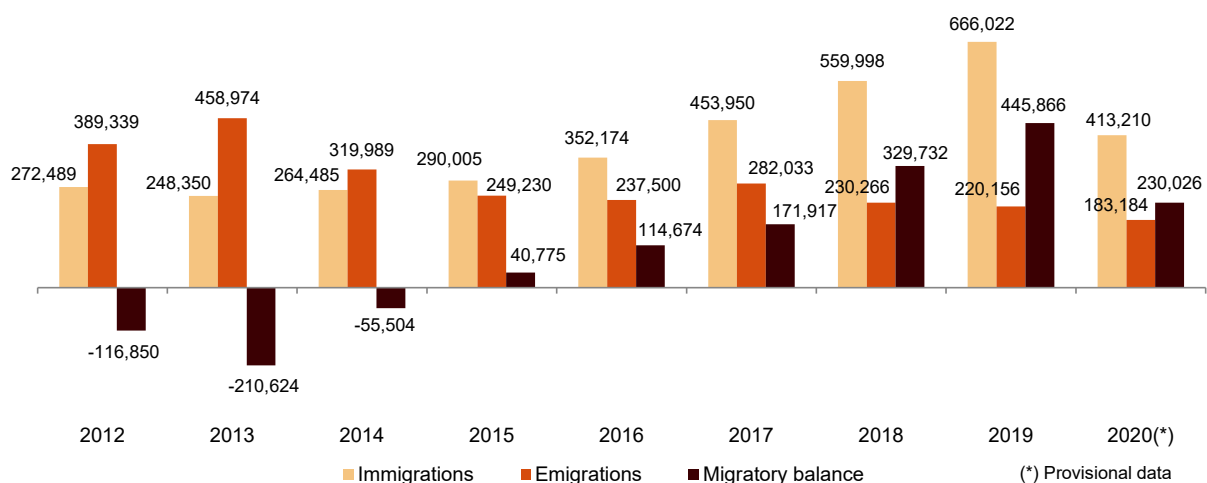
Provisional data

International migration of foreigners

The migratory balance of the population with foreign nationality was 230,026 people during 2020. This balance, which was significantly reduced compared to 2019 due to the pandemic's effects, resulted from the immigration of 413,210 people and an emigration of 183,184.

The number of immigrants fell for the first time since 2014. Likewise, the number of emigrants was the lowest since the beginning of the series.

Annual international migration of foreigners



The main nationalities of foreign immigrants were Colombian (with 51,067 arrivals in Spain), Moroccan (44,720) and Venezuelan (29,448).

On the other hand, the most frequent nationalities according to the number of emigrants were Romanian (26,073 departures), Moroccan (17,671) and British (13,293). These three were also the majority among the resident foreign population.

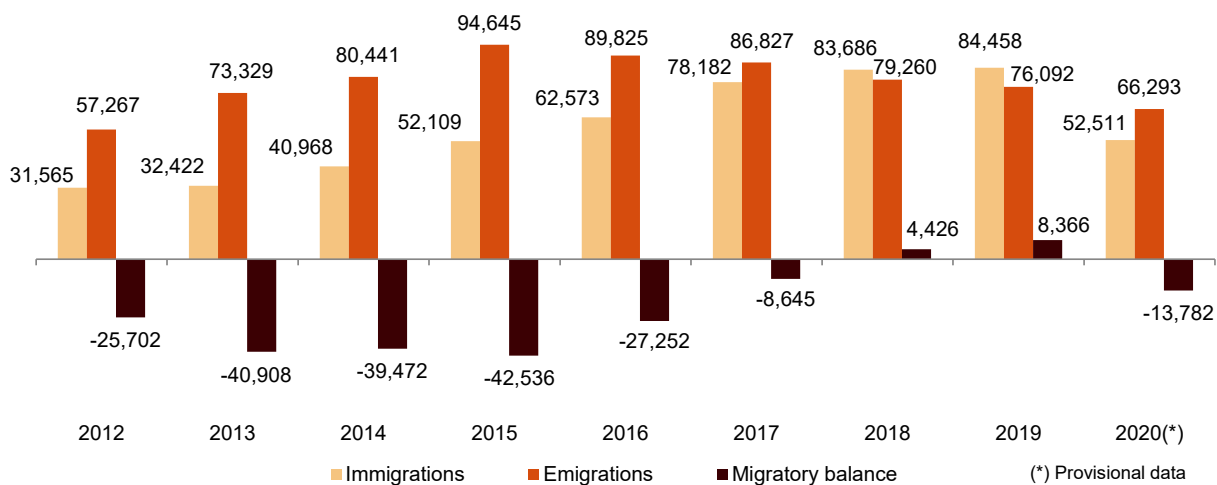
International migration of Spaniards

In 2020, the migratory balance of Spaniards abroad was negative, following two positive years. Specifically, it was 13,782 net departures abroad.

This balance was the result of an immigration from abroad of 52,511 persons and an emigration abroad of 66,293.

The arrival of Spaniards does not fundamentally consist of return immigration, but also of persons with Spanish nationality not born in Spain (23,916 of the 52,511 who immigrated were born in Spain).

International migration of Spaniards



The Spanish population that arrived in Spain in the first half of 2020 came mainly from the United Kingdom (4,959 people), Venezuela (3,896) and Ecuador (3,895).

On the other hand, the largest recipients of Spanish emigrants were the United Kingdom (15,085 persons), France (8,881) and the United States of America (5,588).

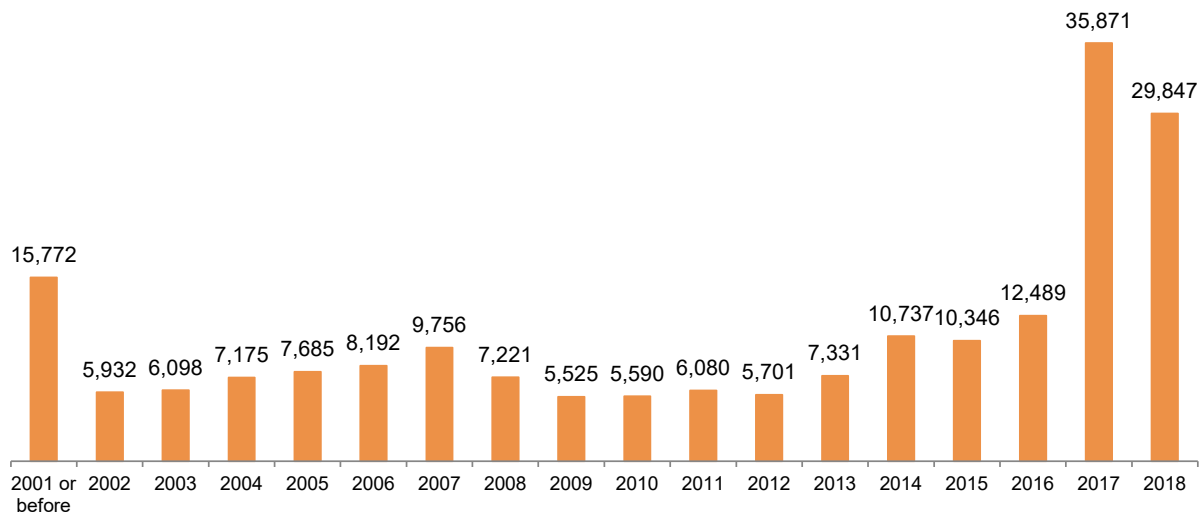
Emigration abroad according to year of arrival to Spain

Of the 249,477 people who left the country in 2020, 18.0% had always resided in Spain. The rest (82.0%) had immigrated at some previous time.

By nationality, 57.2% of Spaniards who emigrated during 2020 had always resided in Spain, compared to 3.8% of foreigners.

We can see that the years of arrival are concentrated in the two or three years prior to departure; or, seen in another way, that there are more emigrants among those who have arrived in recent years. This may be due to a failure in intended migration activity, while those who arrived in previous years may have already achieved a certain level of stability.

Year of arrival in Spain of emigrants for the year 2020



Provisional data.

Data on the year of arrival for the year preceding the emigration are not relevant, because departures from the country are only considered as emigrations when the arrival in the country occurred at least 12 months before.

Different behaviours can be observed among the foreign nationalities that emigrated the most in 2020. Thus, of the 26,073 Romanians who emigrated, the largest number of entries was concentrated in 2017 and in 2007. Of the 17,671 Moroccans who emigrated, a greater number arrived in more recent years (2017 and 2018).

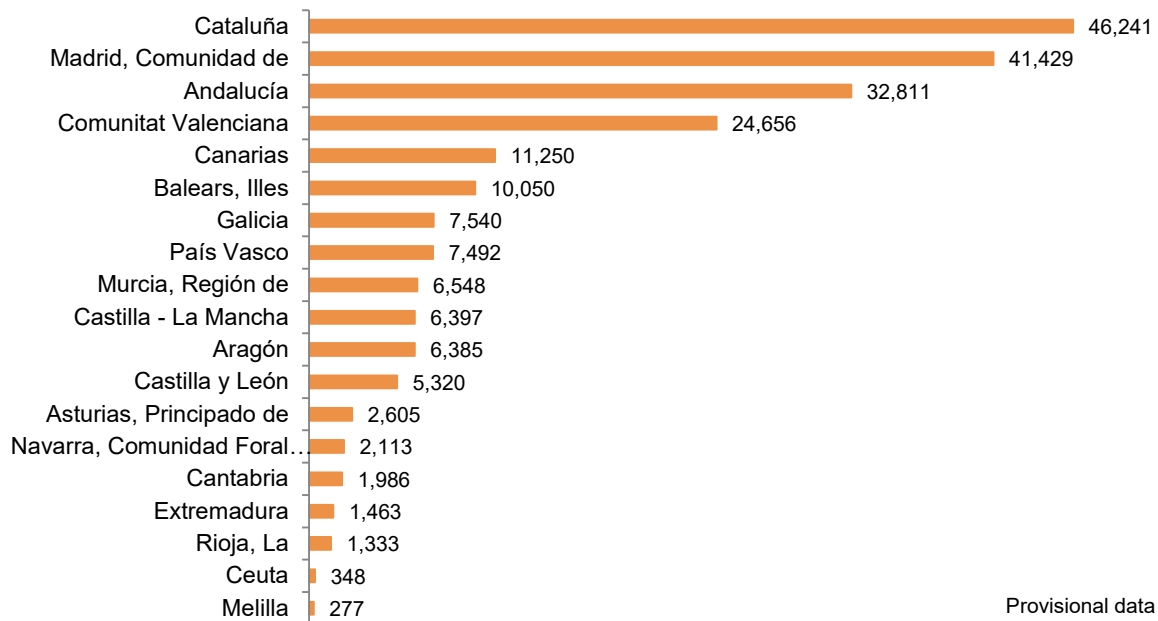
On the other hand, of the 13,293 Britons who emigrated in 2020, the highest number of arrivals in Spain occurred during 2017.

International migration by Autonomous Communities

All the Autonomous Communities showed a positive international migration balance during the first half of 2020. The greatest were in Cataluña (46,241), Comunidad de Madrid (41,429) and Andalucía (32,811).

On the other hand, the Autonomous Communities with the lowest migratory balances were La Rioja (1,333), Extremadura (1,463) and Cantabria (1,986).

International migration balance by Autonomous Communities. Year 2020



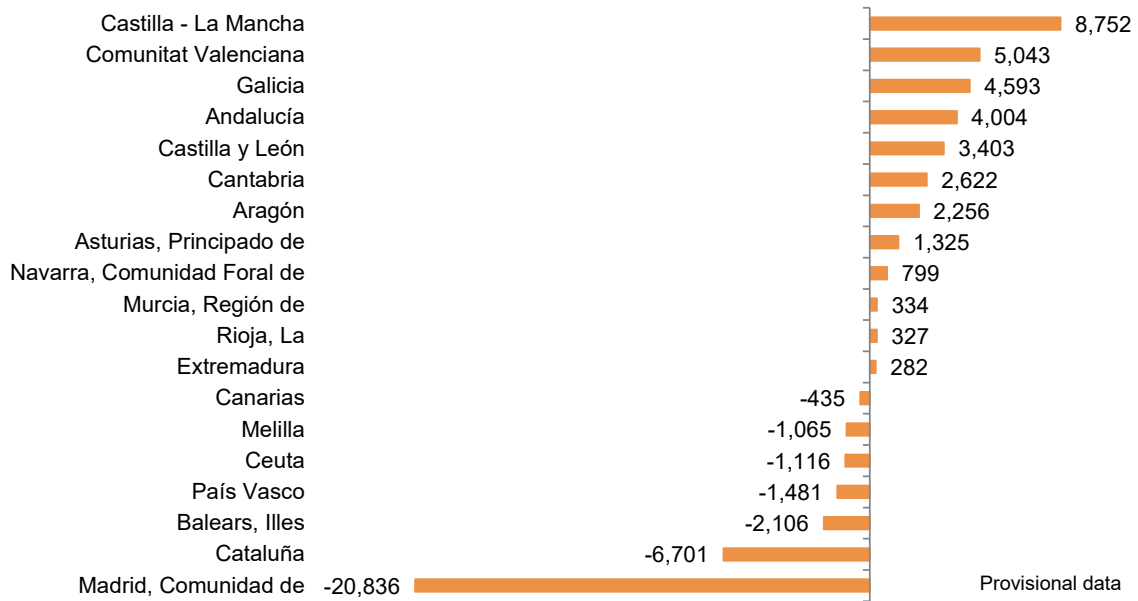
Domestic migrations

The highest migratory balances between communities during 2020 were in the Castilla-La Mancha (8,752 net entries), Comunitat Valenciana (5,043) and Galicia (4,593).

In Andalucía, the Principality of Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha and Galicia, the balance increased notably compared to previous years, and in some even changed sign.

On the other hand, Comunidad de Madrid (-20,836), Cataluña (-6,701) and Illes Balears (-2,106) showed the most negative balances. In Comunidad de Madrid and the Illes Balears, the migratory balance with the rest of Spain was negative for the first time since 2011.

Migratory balance between Autonomous Communities. Year 2020



Data Review and Update

Both the *Population Figures* as of January 1, 2021 and the *Migration Statistics for 2020* are provisional. They will be updated and become definitive in December 2021. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

Population Figures

The Population Figures is a statistical operation aimed at measuring the population resident in Spain, in each Autonomous Community, in each province and in each island, broken down according to basic demographic characteristics (sex, age, year of birth, nationality and country of birth).

It is a synthesis operation, which is compiled from an accounting of the demographic events occurring throughout each year according to the Vital Statistics (taking only those events occurring to the resident population), the Migrations Statistics and the Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish nationality, and taking as a starting point the 2011 census. Therefore, the Population Figures are totally consistent with the results of these sources.

Population scope: population resident in Spain, understanding as resident population in a certain geographical area those persons who, on the reference date, have their habitual residence therein.

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

Reference period for the results: population data are provided as at 1 January and 1 July of each year.

Frequency of dissemination: six-monthly.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

http://ine.es/en/inebaseDYN/cp30321/docs/meto_cifras_pobla_en.pdf

The standardized methodological report is at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30321>

Migration Statistics

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

This operation starts from the residential variations registered in the Municipal Register and subsequently undergoes a statistical treatment to estimate migratory movements more accurately.

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 and provinces.

Reference period for the results: calendar year and quarters.

Frequency of dissemination: six-monthly.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

http://www.ine.es/en/metodologia/t20/t2030277_en.pdf

The standardized methodological report is at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30277>

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.

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