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**Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)
Module on labour market situation of migrants and their immediate
descendants
Year 2021**

A total of 55.04% of employed persons born in Spain were largely satisfied with their job, compared to 48.80% of those born abroad

Among employed women born abroad, 6.51% felt discriminated against at their job. Among men, the percentage was 2.95%

One in three foreign-born persons¹ took less than three months to find a job in Spain

Country of the highest level of education achieved

A total of 99.34% of the 28,960,100 people born in Spain between the ages of 15 and 74², successfully completed their highest level of education in Spain. The remaining 0.64% did so abroad.

Likewise, of the 5,971,900 born abroad, 66.39% acquired their highest level of education abroad and 32.94% in Spain.

The highest percentage of those born abroad who acquired their highest level of education in Spain was found among those from Latin America (34.67%), and the lowest among those born in Europe (31.08%).

¹ Currently employed or who had ever worked in Spain

² Persons residing in Spain in 2021 whose highest level of education is higher than that of illiteracy or an incomplete primary education.

Persons between 15 and 74 years of age², according to country where the highest level of education was successfully completed, by country of birth

Absolute values in thousands						
Country of birth	Total	Spain	Abroad			No answer/Don't know
			Total	Europe	Rest of the world	
Total	34,932.0	30,735.3	4,150.9	1,528.9	2,622.0	45.8
Spain	28,960.1	28,768.2	186.1	118.9	67.2	5.8
Abroad	5,971.9	1,967.1	3,964.8	1,410.0	2,554.8	40.0
Europe	2,019.8	627.8	1,382.5	1,374.9	7.6	9.5
Latin America	2,782.0	964.5	1,803.6	10.8	1,792.8	13.9
Rest of the world	1,170.1	374.9	778.7	24.3	754.4	16.6

² It includes people whose highest level of education attained is higher than illiterate and incomplete primary education

Recognition of diplomas obtained abroad

A total of 40.05% of the 4,196,700 people between the ages of 15 and 74 whose highest level of education was achieved abroad did not request recognition of their degree because they did not consider it necessary. Another 10.72% stated that it was too complex or expensive, while 23.77% cited other reasons³.

For their part, 11.84% requested recognition of their diploma and had it fully or partially recognized, and 5.26% made the request but failed to received recognition⁴.

Educational level of the parents

A total of 19.37% of the parents of persons between the ages of 15 and 74 residing in Spain in 2021 had a high level of education (includes higher-level vocational training and its equivalent, as well as official university studies and the like).

For parents of those born in Spain, this percentage was 18.93%. And for those born in European territory outside the European Union (EU), 34.22%.

On the other hand, 61.50% of the parents had a low level of education (primary education or less -along with illiterate- and first stage of secondary education) and 12.87% had a medium level (high school and similar, and mid-level vocational training courses and the like).

³ This code includes people who did not request recognition because they were not aware of the possibilities or how to go about it; those who did not request it because it was not possible to do so; and those who stated that they had not made the request for other reasons.

⁴ This code includes both the people who applied for recognition of their title but failed to obtain it, as well as those who were pending the outcome of the recognition process.

Level of satisfaction in current job

Of those employed in Spain in 2021 between the ages of 16 and 74, 53.91% were largely satisfied with their current job.

This percentage rose to 55.04% for people born in Spain and dropped to 48.80% for those born abroad (standing at 47.79% for those from Latin America).

For their part, 5.35% were not very satisfied with their job (4.90% among those born in Spain compared to 7.37% among those born abroad) and 1.76% were not at all satisfied (1.70% for those born in Spain and 2.03% for those born abroad).

Percentage of persons between 16 and 74 years of age, according to the level of job satisfaction in the main job, by country of birth

Country of birth	Percentage					
	Total	Satisfied to a large extent	Satisfied to some extent	Satisfied to some extent	Not satisfied at all	No answer/D on't know
Total	100.00	53.91	37.60	5.35	1.76	1.37
Spain	100.00	55.04	37.39	4.90	1.70	0.97
Abroad	100.00	48.80	38.60	7.37	2.03	3.20
Europe	100.00	49.97	38.31	6.88	1.29	3.56
Latin America	100.00	47.79	40.61	7.70	2.03	1.88
Rest of the world	100.00	49.31	33.86	7.42	3.37	6.03

Perceived discrimination in current job

A total of 3.64% of employed persons between the ages of 16 and 74 felt discriminated against in their current job in 2021.

Among those born abroad, the percentage rose to 4.68%. By region of birth, the highest percentage of people who felt discriminated against was in Europe (5.19%).

By sex, 6.51% of employed women born abroad felt discriminated against in their current job (among those born in Europe, the percentage was close to 8%). Among men, the percentage was lower, at 2.95%

In the case of persons born in Spain, 3.42% felt discriminated against. As with the employed persons born abroad, the percentage of women (4.15%) exceeded that of men (2.80%).

Percentage of persons between 16 and 74 years of age, according to whether or not they feel discriminated against in their current employment, by sex and country of birth

Sex and country of birth	Percentage			
	Total	Yes	No	No answer/Don't know
Both sexes	100.00	3.64	95.26	1.10
Spain	100.00	3.42	95.77	0.81
Abroad	100.00	4.68	92.90	2.41
Europe	100.00	5.19	92.23	2.59
Latin America	100.00	4.29	94.45	1.26
Rest of the world	100.00	4.81	90.07	5.12
Males	100.00	2.83	96.00	1.17
Spain	100.00	2.80	96.36	0.84
Abroad	100.00	2.95	94.27	2.77
Europe	100.00	2.52	94.86	2.63
Latin America	100.00	2.03	96.27	1.70
Rest of the world	100.00	5.28	89.77	4.95
Females	100.00	4.60	94.39	1.02
Spain	100.00	4.15	95.07	0.78
Abroad	100.00	6.51	91.46	2.04
Europe	100.00	7.96	89.49	2.55
Latin America	100.00	6.23	92.89	0.89
Rest of the world	100.00	3.89	90.65	5.46

Obstacles perceived by those born abroad in obtaining a job commensurate with their professional training in Spain

Among persons between the ages of 16 and 74 born abroad who had worked in Spain at some time or had looked for a job, 23.63% encountered some type obstacle in finding a job suited to their professional training.

By region of birth, the lowest percentage was among people born in Europe outside the EU (19.77%), and the highest among those born in Latin America (24.84%) and the rest of the world (26, 64%).

By gender, the percentage of women who encountered obstacles exceeded that of men (26.32% compared to 20.70%).

The largest gap occurred among people born in Europe outside the EU, in which the percentage of women who encountered obstacles was double that of men (25.50% compared to 12.56%).

Percentage of persons between 16 and 74 years of age born abroad ³, depending on whether or not they have encountered obstacles in Spain to have a job appropriate to their professional training, by sex and country of birth

Sex and country of birth	Percentage			
	Total	Yes	No	No answer/Don't know
Both sexes	100.00	23.63	72.99	3.38
European Union (EU-27)	100.00	19.86	77.40	2.74
Rest of Europe	100.00	19.77	74.41	5.82
Latin America	100.00	24.84	72.85	2.31
Rest of the world	100.00	26.64	67.83	5.53
Males	100.00	20.70	75.90	3.40
European Union (EU-27)	100.00	17.16	79.39	3.45
Rest of Europe	100.00	12.56	81.86	5.58
Latin America	100.00	20.81	77.29	1.90
Rest of the world	100.00	25.87	68.96	5.17
Females	100.00	26.32	70.33	3.35
European Union (EU-27)	100.00	22.32	75.58	2.10
Rest of Europe	100.00	25.50	68.49	6.01
Latin America	100.00	27.91	69.47	2.63
Rest of the world	100.00	27.74	66.20	6.06

³ These are people who have sometime worked in Spain or have searched for a job within the national territory

Looking at the main perceived obstacles to obtaining a job suited to professional training, for 21.92% of those born abroad it was not having studies obtained abroad validated, while for 17.11%, no appropriate job was available.

For 11.98%, the main obstacle was that they needed to improve their knowledge of the Spanish language, and for 11.63% it was legal restrictions on the right to work due to their nationality or residence permit.

Time needed to find work for those born abroad

One in three foreign-born persons¹ (32.64%) took less than three months to find a job in Spain. By sex, 34.71% of men and 30.89% of women.

The percentage of person who found a job in less than three months increased as the age group progressed, going from 26.14% for those between 16 and 34 years old to 38.64% for those between 55 and 74 years old.

For their part, 9.0% of those born abroad¹ took four or more years to find work in Spain, while 4.49% had not yet found a job.

¹ Currently employed or who had ever worked in Spain

Knowledge and participation in Spanish courses

Slightly more than half of the people aged 15 to 74 born abroad (51.69%) knew at least an advanced level of spoken Spanish before coming to Spain (for 46.90% it was their mother tongue).

At the time of the interview, the percentage of those who reached an advanced level of Spanish amounted to 75.84%.

For their part, upon arrival in Spain, 9.19% of those born abroad stated that they had a beginner's level of Spanish, while 31.38% indicated that they had no or almost no language skills.

A total of 16.91% of people between 15 and 74 years old born abroad participated in a Spanish course. In the case of Europeans, 24.37% did so following their arrival in Spain, whether for Spanish in general or specifically for work.

Percentage of persons between 15 and 74 years of age born abroad, depending on whether or not they have participated in a Spanish course, by country of birth

Country of birth	Percentage					
	Total	Yes (*)	No, because language courses were not available or affordable	No, because language skills were sufficient	No, for other reasons	No answer/Don't know
Total	100.00	16.91	2.33	56.72	20.80	3.24
Europe	100.00	24.37	3.95	29.71	37.05	4.92
Latin America	100.00	1.09	0.21	95.84	2.43	0.43
Rest of the world	100.00	37.97	4.27	17.13	34.17	6.47

(*) It includes those who have participated in a general Spanish course or a specific Spanish course for work

Knowledge and participation in other courses of official languages

The highest percentages of knowledge at the time of the interview of the official language of the autonomous community in which they lived in terms of mother tongue, advanced and intermediate levels corresponded to people who lived in Galicia (with 20.11%, 19.39% and 25.47%, respectively).

On the other hand, the percentage of women aged 15 to 74 years born abroad who had participated in a course in other official languages other than Spanish (26.66%) was higher than that of men (20.45%).

Methodological note

The 2021 module of the EAPS, compiled in collaboration with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), researches the situation of immigrants and their children in the labour market.

The group of persons of foreign origin may be analysed in several ways. The most customary way is by considering their nationality. This variable is systematically used in the quarterly EAPS, and therefore, this module focuses on the analysis of persons, by their place of birth, for the purpose of offering a complementary perspective.

The variables in this module have been established according to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019 and are intended to provide harmonized information on this issue at the European level. The Commission co-financed the costs of implementing this module.

The module questions were posed to the EPA subsample, found in sixth interview that includes the additional subsample collected by the Galician Institute of Statistics in Galicia.

Type of operation: annual continuous statistics (each year is on a different subject related to the labour market).

Population scope: people from 15 to 74 years of age.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period of the results: year 2021

Reference period of the information: Period prior to arrival in Spain and period elapsed from the moment of arrival in Spain, both for those born abroad and at the moment of the interview.

Collection method: computer-assisted personal or telephone interviews.

Both the [module's methodology](#) and the [EPA's standardized methodological report , which is the module's base survey](#), may be consulted for more information.

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, please see [Quality at INE and Code of Best Practices](#) on the INE website.

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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
