

Spain



Economic growth had dropped to zero in Spain by the 2nd quarter of 2008, and became negative, falling 1%, in the 4th quarter. The unemployment rate had already risen above the 2007 level in the 1st quarter of 2008 and was more

than 5 percentage points higher in the 4th quarter year-over-year. The deterioration in economic conditions led, as expected, to a drop in labour migration in 2008.

Indeed all forms of migration fell, from 180 000 to 116 000 for work-related discretionary migration, but by almost 200 000 in free-movement migration, especially from Bulgaria and Romania. While workers from the latter countries did not have fully unrestricted access to the labour market until January 2009, they faced limited barriers and enjoyed preferential treatment in hiring.

Overall permanent-type immigration (standardised statistics) dropped by almost 300 000 from 2007 to 2008, a decline of almost 50%. Departures also increased in 2008, by about 15%, with immigrants from the European Union showing the largest increase, more than 50%.

Despite the economic crisis, temporary labour migration actually increased somewhat, by about 12% to reach almost 92 000 workers. Although the anonymous *contingente* regime saw a decline from 65 000 in 2007 to about 41 000, this was more than offset by a tripling of direct recruitment of seasonal workers by employers under the general regime, from about 16 000 to over 46 000. The quota for recruitment of non-seasonal workers under the *contingente* was sharply curtailed, from 16 000 in 2008, to 901 in 2009 and only 168 in 2010.

The employment situation of immigrants in Spain worsened significantly as the recession deepened. New job starts by non-Spanish halved from 240 000 in 2009 to 120 000 in 2008, and figures for 2009 appear far worse. The number of non-Spanish workers employed and paying social contributions peaked in mid-2008 at 2.1 million but by January 2010 had fallen to 1.8 million, even as the stock of immigrants rose significantly. The unemployment and inactivity rate for foreigners climbed, with 4th quarter unemployment for foreigners reaching 21.3% in 2008 and 29.7% in 2009.

Spain continues to have few asylum seekers relative to its population compared to other OECD countries. The number of applications fell by almost 40%, to 4 517, in 2008 with Colombia, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast being the countries of origin with the most applicants. Few applicants are recognised as legitimate refugees.

The foreign-born population in Spain in 2008 accounted for 14.1% of the total population, compared to 4.9% in the year 2000. This is the highest rate of growth of the foreign-born population over a short period observed in any OECD country since the Second World War. In Europe, only Germany has more immigrants.

A special return programme for unemployed immigrants was introduced in 2008 with the onset of the economic crisis. Immigrants from eligible countries may collect their unemployment benefits in two lump sums, one prior to departure and a second after returning home, but are banned from re-entry for three years. The programme has not been widely used: of 136 000 persons identified as eligible in June 2009, only 10 000 had participated by November 2009.

Some flexibility for one-year permit holders who lost their jobs as a result of the crisis was introduced in 2009. Permit holders may now change both occupations and regions, subject to certain conditions. In addition, any immigrant who has worked for 9 out of the past 12 months may renew their permits even without a valid employment contract. Finally, work permit holders who lose their job may adjust status to family reunification, if their spouse is employed in Spain, without having to return home.

The Spanish integration fund of EUR 200 million was cut 30% early in 2009, but was fully re-instated two months later, in response to criticism that this was not the right place to make budget cutbacks.

Reform of the Immigration Act passed in autumn 2009, incorporating a number of provisions, including the extension of spousal family reunification to common-law spouses, the introduction of sanctions to persons harbouring foreigners who overstay their visa and the extension of the rights of assembly, demonstration, unionisation and strike to all residents, whether legal or not.

For further information:

<http://extranjeros.mtas.es>

www.mtin.es/estadisticas

www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu_migrac.htm

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

SPAIN

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	0.5	8.2	20.5	15.2	5.6	15.8	692.2			
Outflows	..	..	4.4	5.1	..	2.4	232.0	
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	2007	2008	2007	2008						
Work	180.7	116.0	26.5	29.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	108.2	78.1	15.9	19.9						
Humanitarian	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1						
Free movements	389.2	193.3	57.0	49.3						
Others	3.6	4.3	0.5	1.1						
Total	682.3	391.9	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2000	2007	2008	Average 2003-2008						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	28.8	40.1	41.9	35.3						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	..	15.7	46.2	15.6						
Intra-company transfers	..	1.4	1.3	1.1						
Other temporary workers	0.5	64.8	44.0	47.7						
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	4 517			
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	2.2	10.6	18.0	..	8.8	..	..	
Natural increase	0.4	0.9	2.4	..	0.7	..	..	
Net migration	0.9	8.9	16.0	..	7.4	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	4.9	13.5	14.1	4.8	11.6	6 418			
Foreign population	..	3.4	11.7	12.3	3.4	5.2	5 599			
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	..	0.9	1.4	..	1.3	..	..	
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average					
					1997-2002	2003-2008				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	62.0	70.8	75.3	73.3	69.1	74.1				
Foreign-born men	61.2	75.4	80.8	73.3	74.3	78.8				
Native-born women	31.6	41.0	53.1	53.9	39.1	50.3				
Foreign-born women	36.7	45.7	60.6	58.5	46.0	57.3				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	17.8	9.4	6.0	8.9	10.8	7.3				
Foreign-born men	24.1	11.8	8.3	16.0	12.7	10.7				
Native-born women	30.8	20.4	10.5	12.2	21.6	12.7				
Foreign-born women	30.4	20.0	12.6	16.8	22.1	15.6				
Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	4.1	1.9	3.7	2.3	3.8	3.2				
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	2.7	0.7	2.1	0.6	2.6	1.7	31 561			
Employment (level in thousands)	4.3	2.7	2.9	2.0	1.7	2.5	10 792			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.2	6.3	4.4	4.2	7.0	5.0				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/883510012845>