

Spain

The economic downturn, which has hit Spain particularly hard, led to a significant decline in migration inflows in 2009, from about 690 000 in 2008 to 470 000 in 2009. In parallel, there has also been an increase in migration outflows, although the changes here were more moderate – from about 230 000 to 320 000.

All major components of migration inflows decreased in 2009. The number of new residence visas issued decreased substantially in 2009 (160 000 compared to 290 000 in 2008). The number of foreign-born seasonal workers recruited in countries of origin also showed a pronounced decline (from 42 000 in 2008 to only 6 000 in 2009), although inflows under the anonymous *contingente* regime for recruitment in the country of origin have declined the most (from 41 000 in 2008 to only 900 in 2009 and less than 200 in 2010).

The number of irregular migrants arriving by boat and apprehended at Spanish borders continued to decrease from 13 000 in 2008 to about 7 000 in 2009 and less than 4 000 in 2010.

Asylum applications submitted in Spain in 2009 decreased by one-third with respect to the previous year (around 3 000 applications in total), in contrast to the increase observed in most other OECD countries.

The stock of foreigners with residence permits continued to grow in 2009, but started decreasing in the first three quarters of 2010, falling below 4.8 million by the end of September. However, this decrease was not uniform among immigrant groups: during the first three quarters of 2010, the number of EU nationals (*Regimen Comunitario*) increased (+130 000) while the number of non-EU nationals (*Regimen General*) decreased (–170 000).

The employment situation of immigrants in Spain has deteriorated sharply with the economic crisis. In 2009, 340 000 foreign-born individuals lost their jobs (out of the total 1.2 million job losses in Spain). The proportion of foreign born (almost 12%) that lost their jobs was much higher than that of native-born (about 5%). The nationalities most affected by job losses were Ecuadorians, followed by Romanians and Moroccans (both in absolute and in relative terms).

The total number of foreign born unemployed reached almost 1.1 million in 2009, representing almost one-quarter of the total number of the unemployed. The unemployment rate of the foreign-born reached almost 30% at the end of 2009, almost twice the figure for the native-born.

About 16 000 immigrants (of which 4 000 were family members of principal applicants) returned to their origin countries under the assisted return programme (*Programa de Retorno Voluntario de Trabajadores Extranjeros no Comunitarios*) between November 2008 and July 2010. The main nationalities were Ecuador, Columbia, Argentina and Peru. Under the separate “*Plan de Retorno Social*” for refugees, irregular migrants, failed asylum seekers, etc., managed by non-governmental organisations and the International Organisation for Migration, more than 4 000 returned in 2009.

A reform of the Law on Alien Affairs in December 2009 entitled foreign nationals with the rights of assembly, demonstration, association, union membership and strike and the right to free legal services. The new law also allows for the reunification of common-law couples and the issuance of a residence permit with the authorisation to work upon arrival for all reunified persons over the age of 16 (previously, a one year waiting period applied). In contrast, the right to family reunification of ascendants is now restricted to ascendants who are older than 65 and sponsored by an immigrant with a long-term residence permit.

A new law on asylum came into force in 2009 that transposes a number of EU directives. The new regulations provide immigrants with subsidiary protection status with the same rights as refugees and regulate family reunification of both categories. In addition, the new law includes persecution due to gender or sexual orientation as grounds for asylum and excludes EU citizens as potential beneficiaries of the right of asylum in Spain.

Further measures have been put in place to enhance border control. These include the introduction of biometric visas and increased police co-operation with neighbouring countries.

Voting rights are extended to non-EU foreign nationals in municipals elections via reciprocity agreements with the origin countries. The council of ministers approved several of such treaties in 2009. Thus far, nationals of Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, New Zealand, and Bolivia will be able to participate in the municipal elections in May 2011.

For further information:

<http://extranjeros.mtas.es/>

www.mtin.es/es/estadisticas/index.htm

www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu_migrac.htm

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

SPAIN

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	8.2	15.7	15.2	10.2	10.8	16.0	469.3			
Outflows	..	1.1	5.1	6.3	..	3.9	288.3			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	116.2	102.2	28.4	30.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	95.6	82.5	23.3	24.7						
Humanitarian	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1						
Free movements	193.3	144.9	47.2	43.4						
Others	4.3	4.1	1.0	1.2						
Total	409.6	334.0	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average				Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	29.9	41.8	44.5	37.7						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	7.0	46.2	1.7	15.1						
Intra-company transfers	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.2						
Other temporary workers	33.8	44.0	3.4	45.0						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	3 007			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	10.6	16.6	12.0	..	14.4	..	..	
Natural increase	0.9	1.8	2.9	..	1.3	..	..	
Net migration	8.9	15.0	10.1	..	12.8	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	4.9	11.1	14.2	14.3	7.7	13.0	6 567			
Foreign population	3.4	9.5	12.4	12.4	6.1	11.3	5 709			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	0.9	1.0	1.5	..	0.9	..	..	
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	70.8	74.6	73.3	67.6	72.2	73.3				
Foreign-born men	75.4	79.6	73.3	61.0	77.8	75.3				
Native-born women	41.0	50.0	53.9	52.2	43.9	52.3				
Foreign-born women	45.7	59.2	58.5	54.1	51.4	58.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	9.4	6.8	8.9	15.3	8.0	8.6				
Foreign-born men	11.8	9.1	16.0	29.5	11.1	14.1				
Native-born women	20.4	11.9	12.2	16.9	16.5	12.5				
Foreign-born women	20.0	13.8	16.8	24.9	17.5	16.8				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	5.0	3.6	0.9	-3.7	3.6	1.7				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.2	1.9	-0.7	-4.4	2.2	0.2	22 961			
Employment (level in thousands)	5.6	4.8	-0.5	-6.8	4.1	0.9	18 888			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	10.8	9.2	11.3	18.0	10.7	11.1				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441230>