

Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Nationality of Residents (ANER)
Final data. Year 2016

A total of 150,944 foreign residents acquired Spanish nationality in 2016, that is, 32.0% more than in the previous year

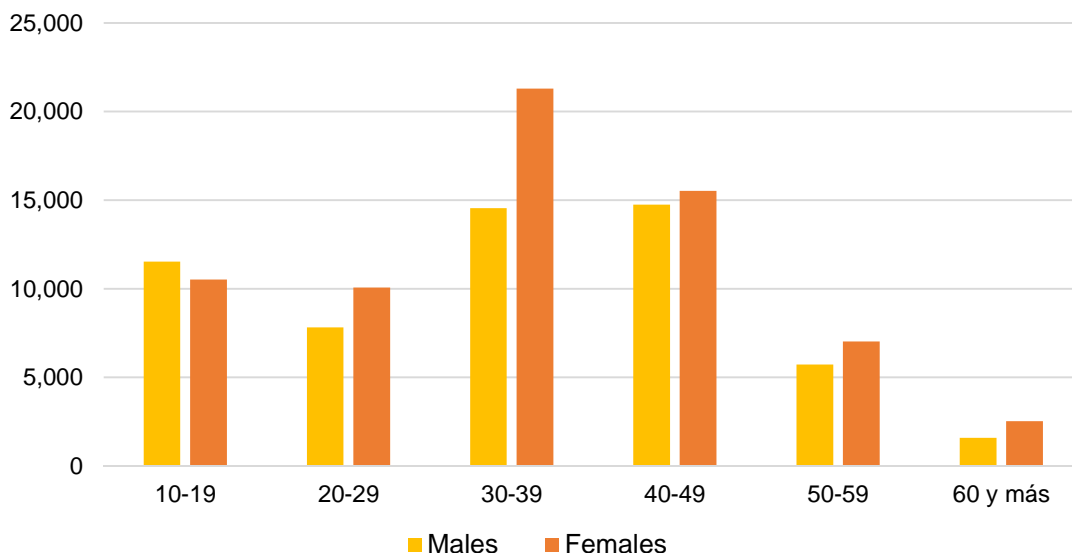
The most frequent nationalities of origin were Morocco (37,009), Bolivia (15,802) and Ecuador (15,255)

In 2016 a total of 150,944 foreign nationals resident in Spain acquired Spanish nationality. This figure represents a 32.0% increase with respect to the previous year.

By sex, 53.3% of foreign nationals who acquired Spanish nationality in 2016 were women and 46.7% were men.

By age, people between 30 and 39 years old constituted the largest group in terms of acquisition of Spanish nationality.

Acquisition of Spanish nationality by age groups. Year 2016



Methods of acquiring Spanish nationality¹

Regarding the modes of acquisition of Spanish nationality, 78.2% (117,994 cases) were by *residence*. In turn, 21.7% (32,806 cases) were by *option*. The latter mode was mostly found in children under 20 years of age (96.2 per cent of the total in this age group).

Methods of acquiring Spanish citizenship. Year 2016

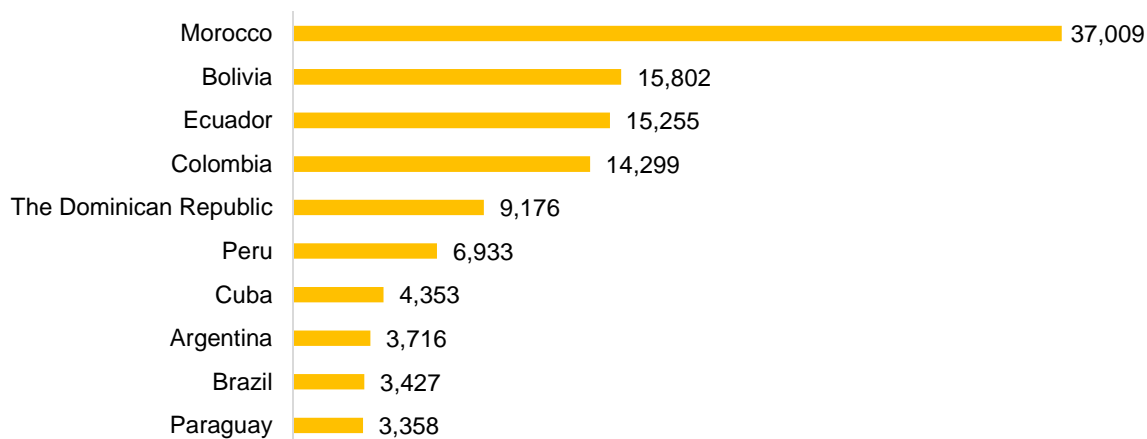
	Both genders	Men	Women
Total	150,944	70,489	80,455
Residence	117,994	53,388	64,606
Option	32,806	17,031	15,775
Other	144	70	74

Nationalities of origin

The most frequent nationality of origin among persons who acquired Spanish nationality in 2016 was that of Morocco, with 37,009 cases.

This was followed by nationalities from South American, Central American and Caribbean countries (nine of the ten most frequent corresponded to countries in these regions). On the other hand, Pakistan stood out among the Asian countries (3,148 people).

The 10 most frequent nationalities from place of origin in acquisitions of Spanish nationality. Year 2016



¹ **Nationality by residence:** requires the residence of the person in Spain for 10 years legally, continuously and immediately prior to the request.

Nationality by option: is a benefit that the legislation offers to foreigners who are in certain conditions 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.

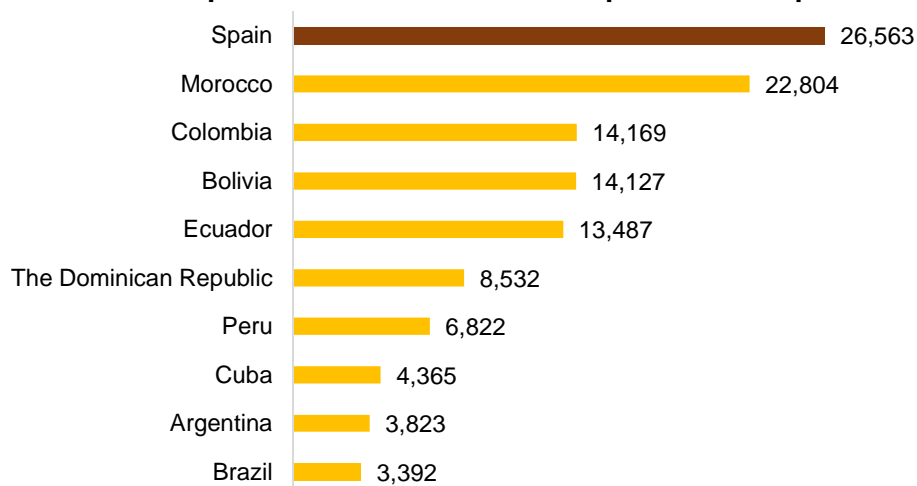
Other ways: Nationality by **naturalization card** is included (it is ex gratia and not subject to the general rules of administrative procedure) and unknown (cases that are blank in the original file and it is decided not to impute).

Countries of birth

The most frequent country of birth in the acquisition of Spanish nationality was **Spain**, with 26,563 cases. Most of them were children (99.6%, under 10 years of age).

Among those born outside Spain, the most frequent country of birth was Morocco, with 22,804 acquisitions of Spanish nationality.

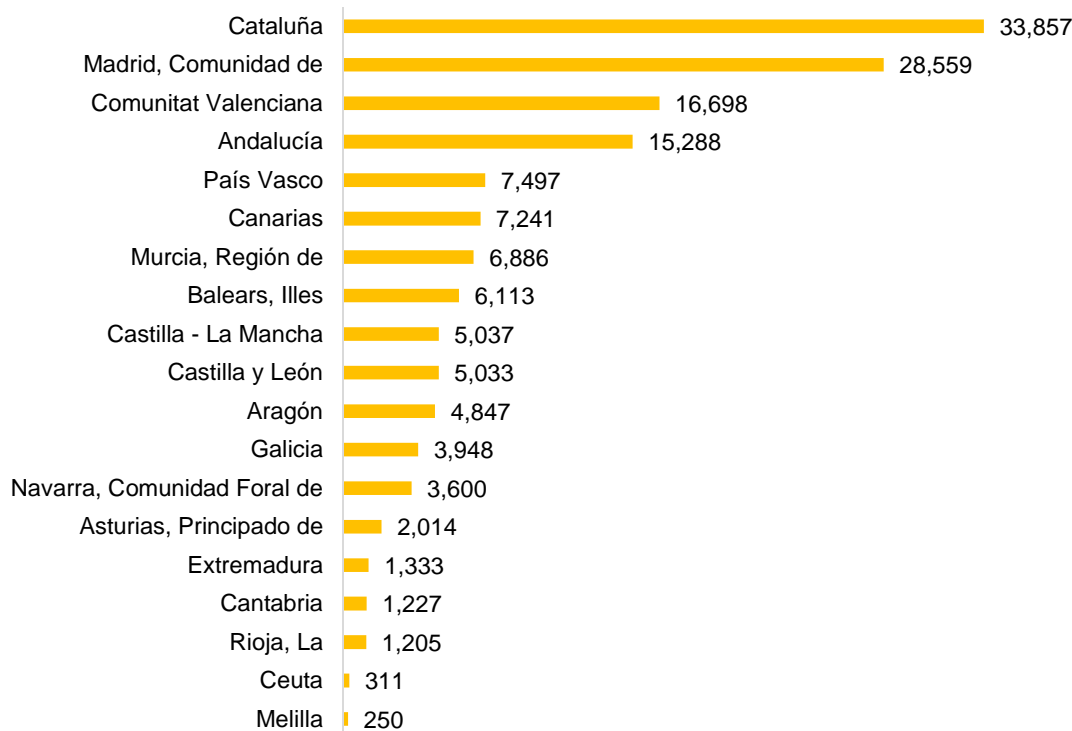
The 10 most frequent countries of birth in acquisitions of Spanish nationality. Year 2016



Results by Autonomous Community. Year 2016

Cataluña (with 33,857 cases) and Comunidad de Madrid (with 28,559 cases) accounted for 41.4% of acquisitions of Spanish nationality in 2016.

Acquisitions of Spanish nationality by Autonomous Community of residence. 2016

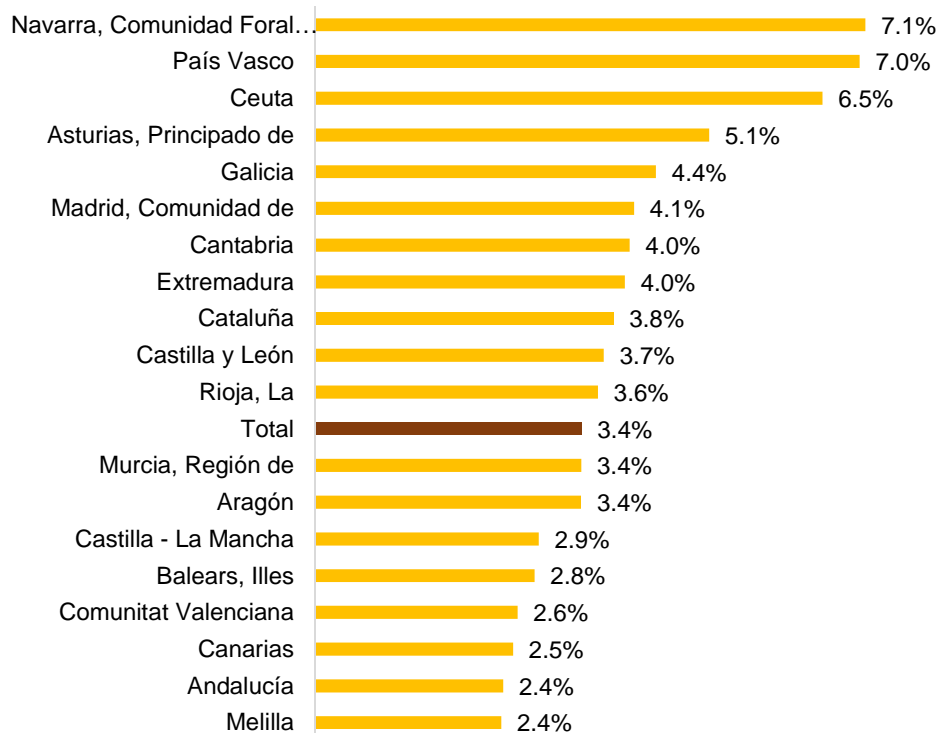


On the other hand, La Rioja (1,205) and Cantabria (1,227) were the Autonomous Communities with the lowest number of nationality acquisitions among their residents.

In relative terms, compared to the foreign resident population at the beginning of 2016, Comunidad Foral de Navarra (7.1%) and País Vasco (7.0%) stand out for the greater intensity in the acquisition of Spanish nationality.

Andalucía (2.4%) and Canarias (2.5%) were the Autonomous Communities with the lowest percentages of Spanish nationality acquisition among resident foreigners.

Percentage of foreign population that acquired Spanish nationality in 2016 by Autonomous Community.



Methodological note

Since 2015, the INE has published statistics on Acquisitions of Spanish Nationality of Residents (ANER). Final data for 2016 are provided.

Regulation No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community Statistics on Migration and International Protection requires Member States to provide annual information on persons **who have their permanent residence in the territory of the Member State** and who have acquired the nationality of the Member State during the reference year, having previously had the nationality of another country or the status of stateless person. 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).

The main purpose of the statistics on Acquisitions of Spanish Nationality of Residents is to provide a quantitative measure of the acquisition of Spanish nationality by persons who have their permanent residence in Spain. It is based on the statistical treatment of nationality files registered in the Civil Registry.

Since 2013, the INE Register Unit receives monthly from the Directorate General for Registries and Notaries of the Ministry of Justice, the *national register of new acquisitions or losses of Spanish nationality* that are registered in the Civil Registries, a process that culminates these administrative procedures and sets their effective date.

Nationalization data from the Civil Registry includes all nationality acquisitions for persons residing in Spain. From the reference year 2013, they are beginning to be used for the preparation of the Population Figures statistics and, also from that year onwards, they are forwarded to the European Statistical Office, Eurostat.