

Statistics on Migrations and Changes of Residence (SMCR) 2022

Main results

- Spain had positive net external migration in 2022, amounting to 727,005 people, the highest in 10 years.
- By autonomous community, the highest net external migration occurred in Catalonia (158,546), Comunidad de Madrid (135,620) and Comunitat Valenciana (113,402).
- The cities of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia had the highest net migration, thanks to the net incoming population from abroad, despite recording negative internal net migrations (with other municipalities).

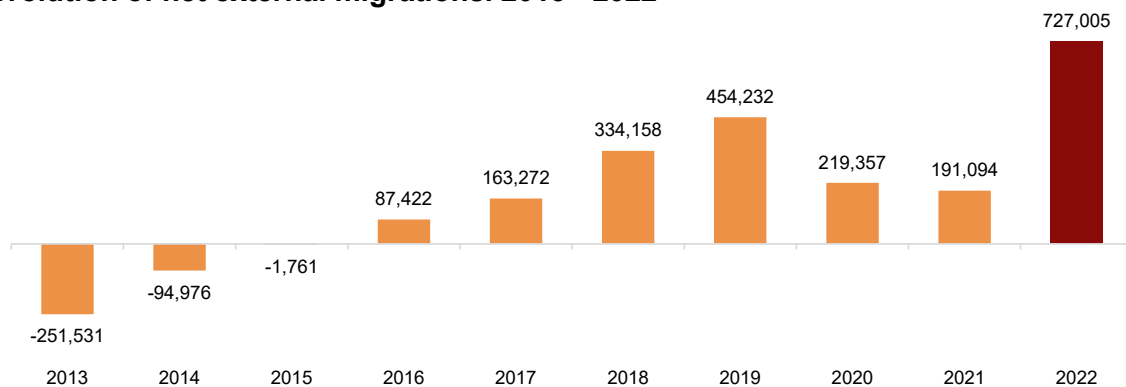
Today, the INE begins the publication of the Statistics on Migrations and Changes of Residence (SMCR), which shall be released in December of each year and consists of the external and internal migrations occurring in the national territory in the previous calendar year. It is compiled coherently every two consecutive population censuses and explains, along with the births and deaths from the Vital Statistics, the population change occurring over the course of each year.

In this first edition, it is published along with the 2021 and 2022 data.

External migrations

Spain had a positive net external migration (the difference between immigration and emigration abroad), standing at 727,005 people in 2022. This is the highest in the last 10 years.

Evolution of net external migrations. 2013 - 2022



(*) Up to 2020, data from Migration Statistics

Net external migrations by nationality and place of birth

	2022	2021
TOTAL	727,005	191,094
Spaniards	-2,704	-19,882
- Born in Spain	-20,778	-28,377
- Born abroad	18,074	8,495
Foreigners	729,709	210,976
- Born in Spain	-10,992	-15,985
- Born abroad	740,701	226,961

The net external migrations of foreigners rose to 729,709 people in 2022. By nationality, the most number are Colombians with 152,634, followed by Ukrainians (85,978) and Venezuelans (72,086).

On the other hand, the net external migration of Spaniards was slightly negative. Specifically, there were -2,704 net entries from abroad.

Net migration by autonomous community

When the geographic scope considers the autonomous community, the net external migration has two component, external (abroad) and internal (with other regions).

Net migration of autonomous communities and cities. 2022

	Migratory balance		
	Total	External	Internal
TOTAL	727,005	727,005	0
Andalucía	87,592	87,039	553
Aragón	19,331	19,240	91
Asturias, Principado de	10,163	9,129	1,034
Balears, Illes	22,676	20,740	1,936
Canarias	33,900	31,946	1,954
Cantabria	6,548	6,335	213
Castilla y León	26,075	25,941	134
Castilla - La Mancha	31,761	27,538	4,223
Cataluña	152,681	158,546	-5,865
Comunitat Valenciana	121,273	113,402	7,871
Extremadura	3,054	5,469	-2,415
Galicia	27,251	25,867	1,384
Madrid, Comunidad de	128,738	135,620	-6,882
Murcia, Región de	21,455	23,316	-1,861
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	9,246	9,186	60
País Vasco	21,326	22,739	-1,413
Rioja, La	3,927	3,735	192
Ceuta	-178	419	-597
Melilla	186	798	-612

All autonomous communities had a positive net external migration in 2022. The greatest occurred in Catalonia (158,546), Comunidad de Madrid (135,620) and Comunitat Valenciana (113,402).

On the other hand, the autonomous communities with the least net external migrations were La Rioja (3,735), Extremadura (5,469) and Cantabria (6,335).

As for the net migration between autonomous communities, the most positive occurred in Comunitat Valenciana (7,871), Castilla-La Mancha (4,223) and Canarias (1,954). In turn, Comunidad de Madrid (-6,882), Catalonia (-5,865) and Castilla-La Mancha (-2,415) registered the most negative migrations.

Migrations between municipalities

In 2022, there were 1,725,546 intermunicipal migrations (or changes in municipality), 3.3% higher than in 2021. Of these, 678,219 changed provinces, and 519,976 changed Autonomous Community or City.

If we limit ourselves to those who resided in Spain throughout 2022, most (96.8%) did so in the same municipality. 2.0% changed municipalities within the same province, 0.3% came from another province within the same Autonomous Community, and 0.9% from another Autonomous Community.

Relationship between place of residence on 1 January 2022 and 2023

Place of residence	Number of persons	Percentage of total
TOTAL	46,480,165	100.0
Same municipality	44,977,480	96.8
Different municipality and same province	929,574	2.0
Different province and same community	137,951	0.3
Different community	435,160	0.9

If we consider the main cities, all except for Fuenlabrada, Coslada, Linares, Cádiz and Ceuta had positive net migrations in 2022.

Main cities according to type of net migration. 2022

Municipality	Total balance (higher)	External balance	Internal balance	Municipality	Total balance (lower)	External balance	Internal balance
Madrid	78,181	89,747	-11,566	Fuenlabrada	-1,209	184	-1,393
Barcelona	45,858	55,386	-9,528	Coslada	-470	105	-575
València	15,603	19,950	-4,347	Linares	-371	160	-531
Zaragoza	11,160	11,371	-211	Cádiz	-296	404	-700
Alacant/Alicante	10,763	11,980	-1,217	Ceuta	-178	419	-597
Málaga	9,828	10,455	-627	Cuenca	76	832	-756
Hospitalet de Llobregat, L'	9,210	10,784	-1,574	San Fernando	81	244	-163
Palma	8,721	9,060	-339	Sanlúcar de Barrameda	146	148	-2
Murcia	6,799	7,016	-217	Getxo	161	620	-459
Torreveja	6,010	6,849	-839	Viladecans	161	275	-114

Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia obtained the highest net migration, thanks to the net incoming population from abroad, despite recording negative internal net migrations (with other municipalities).

As for Rivas-Vaciamadrid, Dos Hermanas and Las Rozas de Madrid, they were the cities which reflected the highest net internal migrations (1,657, 879 and 852, respectively).

Net migration by components: immigration and emigration

Although the net migrations reported are comparable to what had been published in the Migrations Statistics since 2008, the migratory flows (immigration and emigration) of the SMCR are not entirely comparable with what had been reported before 2020, given the calculation method (see methodological note).

The net external migrations in 2022 consist of a total of 1,258,894 people coming from abroad who established their residence in our country (41.8% more than in 2021) and 531,889 people who left Spain for a foreign country (23.7% fewer).

External migratory movements since 2021

	2022	2021
External immigration	1,258,894	887,960
External emigration	531,889	696,866
External migratory balance	727,005	191,094

Of the total number of immigrants from abroad, 1,120,474 were of foreign nationality (89.0%), while 138,420 were Spanish (11.0%).

As for emigration, there were 390,765 departures of foreigners (73.5%) and 141,124 of Spaniards (26.5%). Of the latter, 91,630 people were born in Spain.

The main nationalities of foreign immigrants were Colombians (with 172,241 arrivals in Spain), Moroccans (113,725) and Ukrainians (91,621).

On the other hand, the most numerous nationalities of emigrants were Romanians (with 59,298 departures), Moroccans (42,851) and Italians (22,771).

Of the 67,568 Spaniards who immigrated to Spain and who were born abroad, most were from Cuba (9,974 people), Argentina (8,357) and Venezuela (6,608).

On the other hand, of the 49,494 people who emigrated from Spain and who were born abroad, most were from Ecuador (5,987 people), Morocco (5,833) and Colombia (4,743).

Data reviews and updates

The data from the Statistics on Migrations and Changes of Residence in the 2021 and 2022 are definitive. All the results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

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

Its classification variables will be including those which entail a greater temporal disaggregation, as well as others gathered from population censuses which may be related, such as education or employment data.

The SMCR was created to provide a coherent measurement of migrations between every two consecutive population censuses: it is based on the people who were in both censuses and only in one of the two, and their migratory history is constructed according to data from the Municipal Register.

Given that the Population Censuses are definitively published in December of each year, in reference to 1 January of that same year, the migrations correspond to the previous full year. As described in the SMCR methodology, the net migrations may be considered as comparable with the previous series, although the external migrations are higher in the SMCR.

Type of operation: statistics based on official data (mainly the municipal register) and on other operations that have already been performed (population census).

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, provinces and municipalities.

Reference period of the results: the calendar year.

Frequency of dissemination: annual.

For further information, the methodology can be accessed at:

https://www.ine.es/metodologia/meto_emcr_2023.pdf

And the standardised methodological report at:

<https://ine.es/dynqs/IOE/es/operacion.htm?numinv=30283>

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