

03 December 2015

Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship (ANES)

Definitive data for 2014 and provisional data for Q1 2015

A total of 205,880 foreign residents acquired Spanish nationality in 2014, 8.8% less than the year before

By nationality, among the highest numbers were Moroccans (34,807), Ecuadorians (32,757) and Colombians (25,115)

In the first quarter of 2015 the provisional number of acquisitions of Spanish nationality is 66,454

A new statistical operation: Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship

Today, for the first time, the INE is publishing the Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship (ANES). Definitive data is offered for 2014 and 2013, a year in which this series was started, as well as provisional figures from the first semester of 2015.

The *Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and Council for the Migration and International Protection Statistics* demand that member states provide annual information for persons **that have their permanent residence in the territory of the Member State** and that have acquired the citizenship of the Member State throughout the course of the reporting year, having previously had either the citizenship from another country or statelessness. Therefore, people that have acquired Spanish citizenship by living in other countries are excluded.

The ANES forms part of the National Statistics Plan 2013-2016 and the Annual Programme 2015. It was presented upon approval of the Consejo Superior de Estadística (Higher Statistical Council) on 29th September 2015.

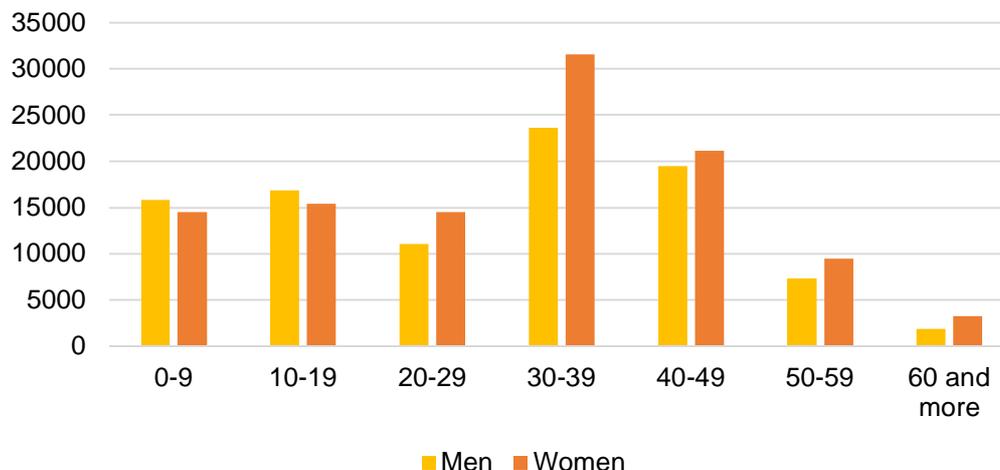
Definitive results for 2014

Throughout 2014 a total of 205,880 foreign residents in Spain acquired Spanish citizenship, 8.8% less than in the previous year.

By gender, 53.4% of the foreign persons that acquired Spanish citizenship in 2014 were female.

By age, persons between 30 and 39 years old formed the largest group in terms of acquiring Spanish citizenship.

Acquisition of Spanish citizenship by age groups. Year 2014



Methods of acquiring Spanish citizenship¹

In terms of the methods of acquiring Spanish citizenship, 79.1% (162,788 cases) were by *residence*. For their part, 20.6% (42,323 cases) were by *choice*. This last method was found, above all, in people under 20 (95.7% of the total).

Methods of acquiring Spanish citizenship. Year 2014

	Both genders	Men	Women
Total	205,880	96,043	109,837
Residence	162,788	73,674	89,114
Option	42,323	22,040	20,283
Other	769	329	440

Citizenship from place of origin and countries of birth

The most frequent citizenship from place of origin among those persons that acquired Spanish citizenship in 2014 was **Morocco**, with almost 35,000 cases.

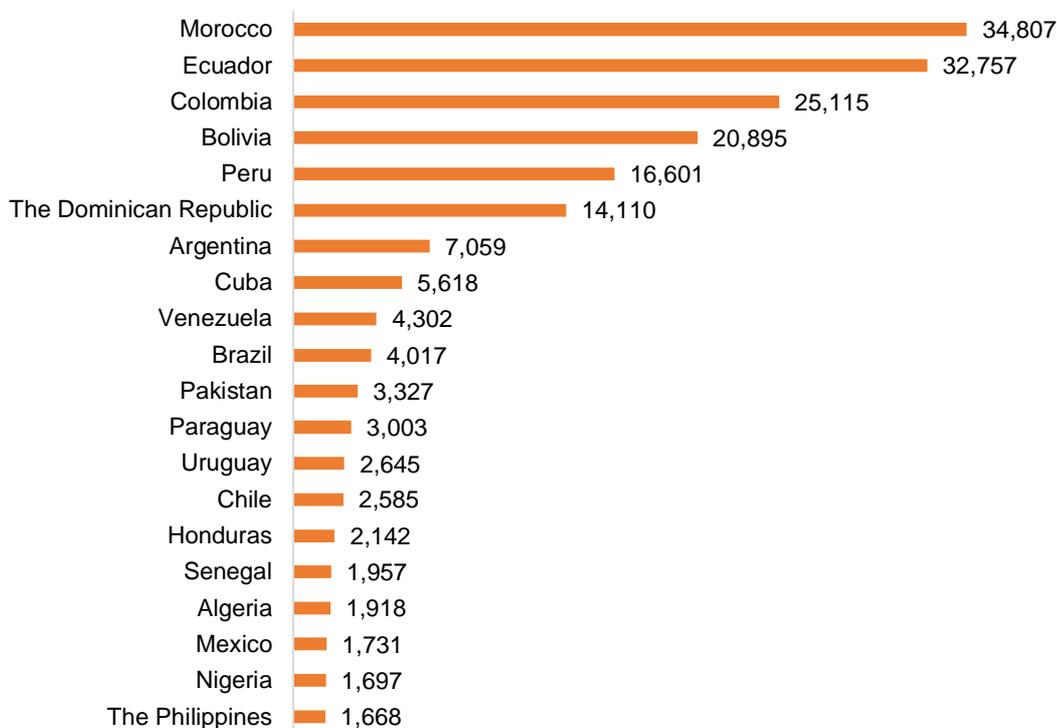
Below the citizenships of South American countries and the Caribbean were placed. From among the 20 most frequent citizenships from place of origin, 14 corresponded with those countries. For their part, Pakistan stood out (3,327 people) among the Asian countries.

¹ Citizenship by *residence*: requires the residence of the person in Spain for 10 years in a legal and continual manner and immediately prior to their request.

Citizenship by *choice*: it is a benefit that the legislation offers to foreigners that find themselves in certain conditions so that they acquire Spanish citizenship. Those persons that are or have been subject to the parental authority of a Spaniard, or people whose father or mother would have been Spanish and would have been born in Spain, will have the right to acquire Spanish citizenship by this method.

Other methods: **It includes citizenship by** nationalisation certificate (it has an ex gratia nature and shall not be subject to the general regulations of administrative procedure) and unknown (cases that are blank in the original file and are decided not to be allocated)

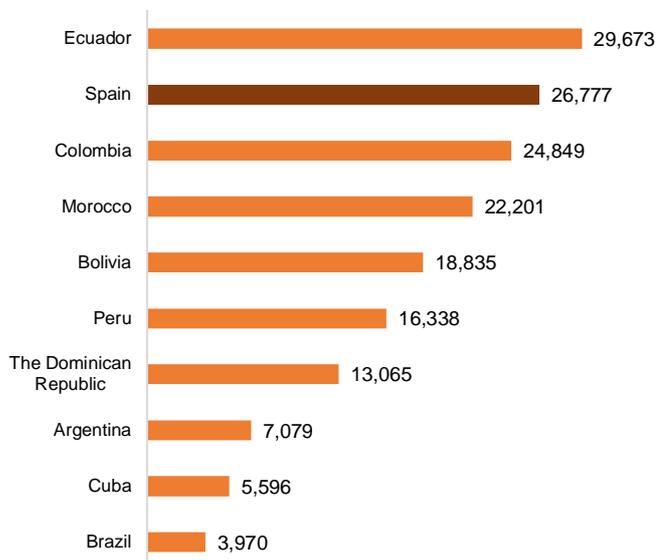
The 20 most frequent citizenships from place of origin in acquisitions of Spanish citizenship. Year 2014



The analysis by countries of birth show different results. The most frequent country of birth was **Ecuador**, which presented with almost 30,000 cases.

For their part, 26,777 persons that acquired Spanish citizenship were born in Spain. The majority of them were children (95.8% were under 10 years old).

The 10 most frequent countries of birth in acquisitions of Spanish citizenship. Year 2014

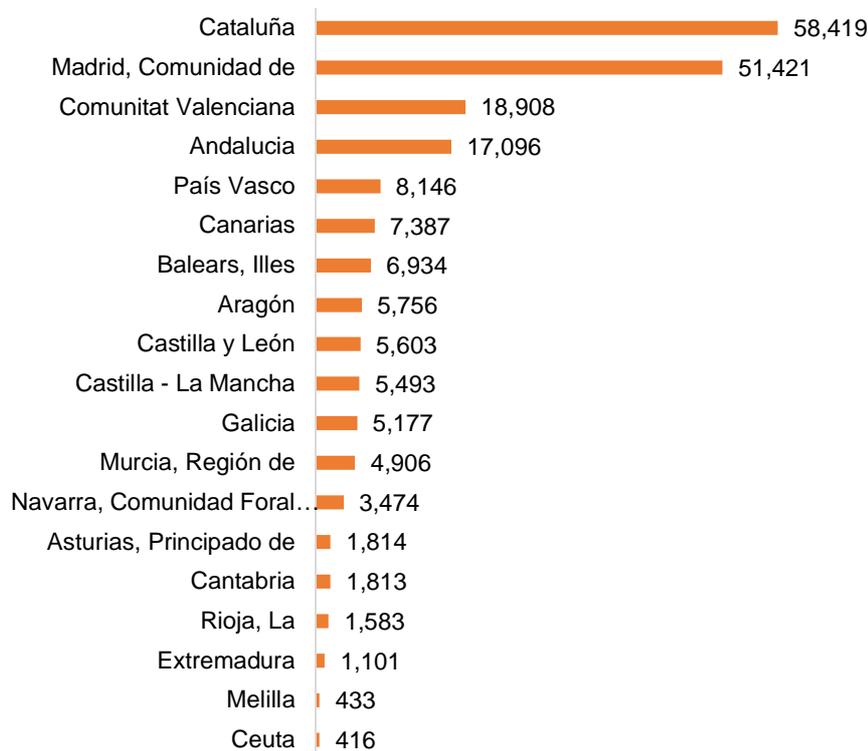


Results by Autonomous Community. Year 2014

Catalonia (with 58,419 cases) and Community of Madrid (with 51,421) consolidated more than half of the acquisitions of Spanish citizenship in 2014.

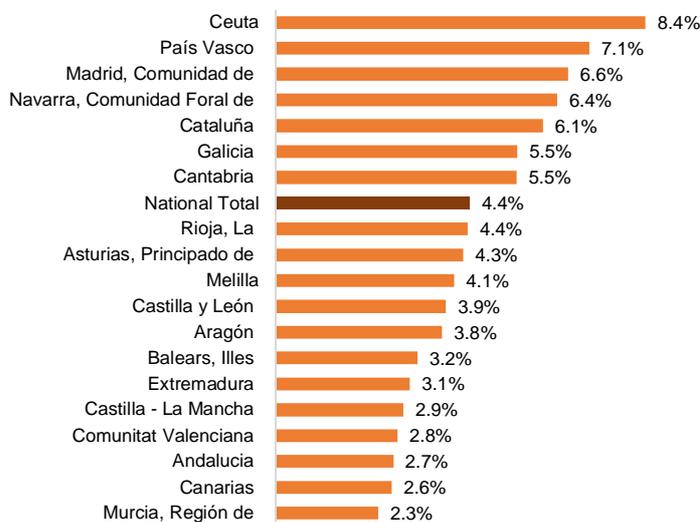
On the contrary, Cantabria (1,813), La Rioja (1,583) and Extremadura (1,101) were the communities with the least number of acquisitions of citizenship among their residents.

Acquisitions of Spanish citizenship by autonomous community of residence. 2014



Comparing the number of acquisitions of Spanish citizenship with the foreign population living in each autonomous community at the start of 2014, it is observed that Ceuta (8.4%), Basque Country (7.1%) and the Community of Madrid (6.6%) stand out for the high intensity of the phenomenon of acquiring Spanish citizenship.

Percentage of foreign population that acquired Spanish citizenship in 2014 by autonomous communities.

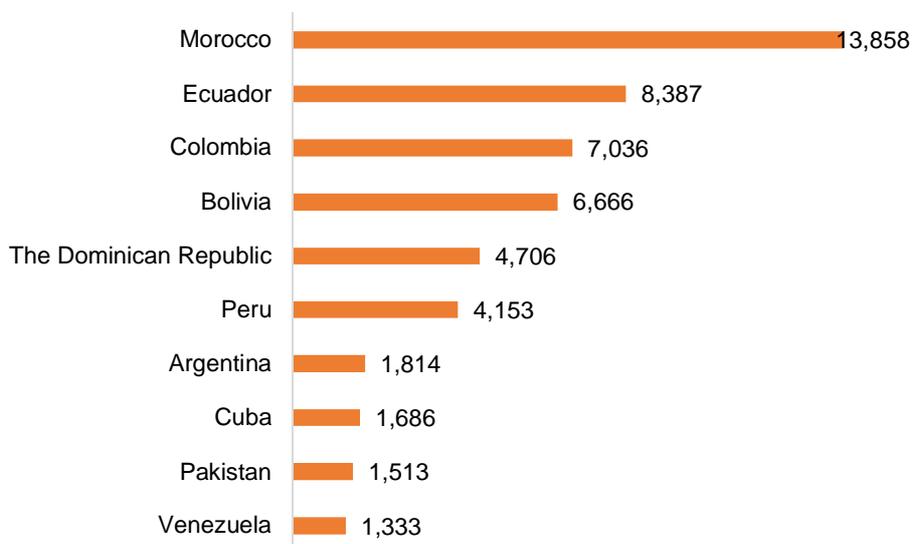


Provisional results for the first semester of 2015

Throughout the period from January to June 2015 the rhythm of acquisitions of Spanish citizenship was lower than what was recorded for the previous year. In a provisional way, a total of 66,454 residents have been counted in Spain that have acquired Spanish citizenship.

By citizenships, the same countries as in 2014 stood out: Morocco (13,858 people), Ecuador (8,837) and Columbia (7,036).

The 10 most frequent citizenships from place of origin in acquisitions of Spanish citizenship. First semester 2015. Provisional data.



Methodological note

Today, for the first time, the INE is publishing the Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship (ANES). Definitive data is offered for 2014 and 2013, a year in which this series was started, as well as provisional figures from the first semester of 2015.

The *Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and Council for the Migration and International Protection Statistics* demand that member states provide annual information for persons **that have their permanent residence in the territory of the Member State** and that have acquired the nationality of the Member State throughout the course of the reporting year, having previously had either the nationality from another country or statelessness. Therefore, it excludes persons that have acquired Spanish citizenship by residing in other countries and those processes in which Spanish citizenship is obtained as a result of origin (by simple presumption or adoption) or by consolidation (possessing a status for those that already act like Spaniards).

The Statistics on Acquisition of Spanish Citizenship is mainly aimed at providing a quantitative measure of the acquisitions of Spanish citizenship. It is based on the statistical processing of the entries of the records for citizenship in the Civil Registry.

Since 2013, the Population Register Unit of the INE receives the *national record of new acquisitions or losses of Spanish citizenship* each month from the General Management of Registries and Notaries of the Ministry of Justice, which are recorded in the Civil Registries, a process that ends these administrative procedures and that marks their effective date.

The information for nationalisations deriving from the Civil Registry include all of the acquisitions of citizenship for persons resident in Spain. Since the reporting year of 2013, they were started to be used for the creation of the *Population Figures* statistics and, also since this year, they are forwarded to the European Office of Statistics, Eurostat.

The ANES currently forms part of the National Statistics Plan 2013-2016 and the Annual Programme 2015 with code 6878. It was presented upon approval of the Consejo Superior de Estadística (Higher Statistical Council) on 29th September 2015.

Publication of results

The Statistics on Acquisitions of Citizenship will be published twice a year in accordance with the rest of the population statistics, in June and December.