



Jean Monnet Chair
European Migration Studies



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COUNTRY REPORT

SPAIN



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Introduction

The aim of this report is to present information related to the migration phenomenon in Spain by using the data collected and available in the official database of the European Union (EUROSTAT).

Immigration in Spain has significant demographic, social and economic impacts. Since the end of the 20th century until approximately 2010 the number of immigrants has increased considerably, reaching over one in ten inhabitants.

In 1998 immigrants accounted for 1.6% of the population, and by 2009 the number had jumped above 12%. As for 2020 there were 7.2 million foreign-born people in Spain, making up to 15.23% of the Spanish population born in a non-European country. In 2021 the population of Spain was 47.4 million people, including 5.4 million people with a non-Spanish nationality.

Although the number of immigrants in Spain is smaller than that of other countries in the EU, it should be taken into consideration that immigrants from countries belonging to the former Spanish Empire (mainly central and south America) can obtain Spanish nationality after legal and continuous residence of 2 years in Spain. Moreover, Spain has been the EU country with the biggest number of approved naturalizations since 2010 most of whom went to citizens coming from Latin America, mainly from Colombia, Ecuador and Perú.

In terms of nationalities, more Romanians live in Spain than any other EU country, and Moroccan account for the largest community of African origin, in the last years the largest diaspora growth occurs with the Colombian community, with an annual growth rate of 14.1%.

Regarding its integration strategy, the inclusion of migrants in the workplace, non-discrimination principles and cultural diversity are the main pillars of the Spanish integration policy.

To foster the inclusion of migrants, Spanish policymakers have so far set up two integration strategies, the first Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration (PECI I) covered the period 2007-2010 and it aimed to adapt public policies in the fields of education, employment, social services, health and housing to the needs of the immigrant population. The 2011 update PECI

II identified 6 specific and 5 cross-cutting areas of action. A comprehensive strategy against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance also came out the same year.

Even if Spain's integration strategy was not updated in 2015, according to the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, a new Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration is underway.

1. Total stock population

The total stock population in Spain at the beginning of 2021 was estimated at 47.39 million, as we can see in figure 1, divided evenly between male (23.22 million) and female (24.17 million) individuals. Furthermore, the *coup d'oeil* at the evolution of this statistic in the years between 2012 and 2021 provided by figure 2a shows that it has not known dramatic surges or dips, remaining in fact remarkably stable throughout the last decade: starting from the 46.81 million of 2012, it first crossed the 47 million mark in 2020, drawing an upward, and yet restrained, trajectory.

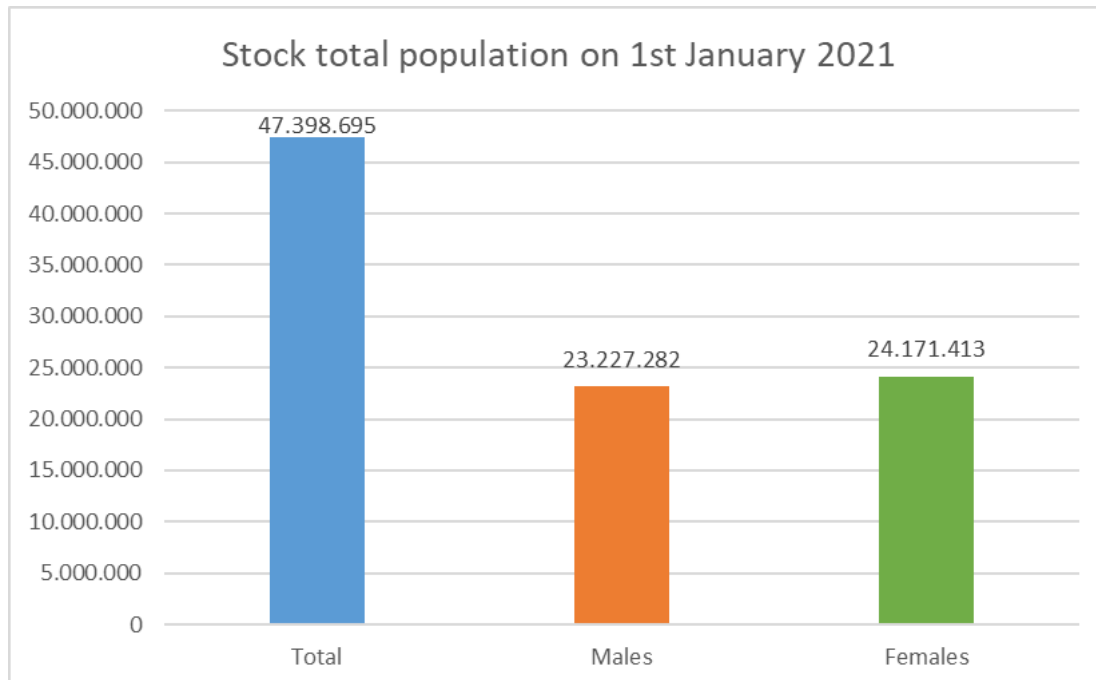


Figure 1: Total stock population on 1st January 2021 - Source: EUROSTAT [demo_pjan]

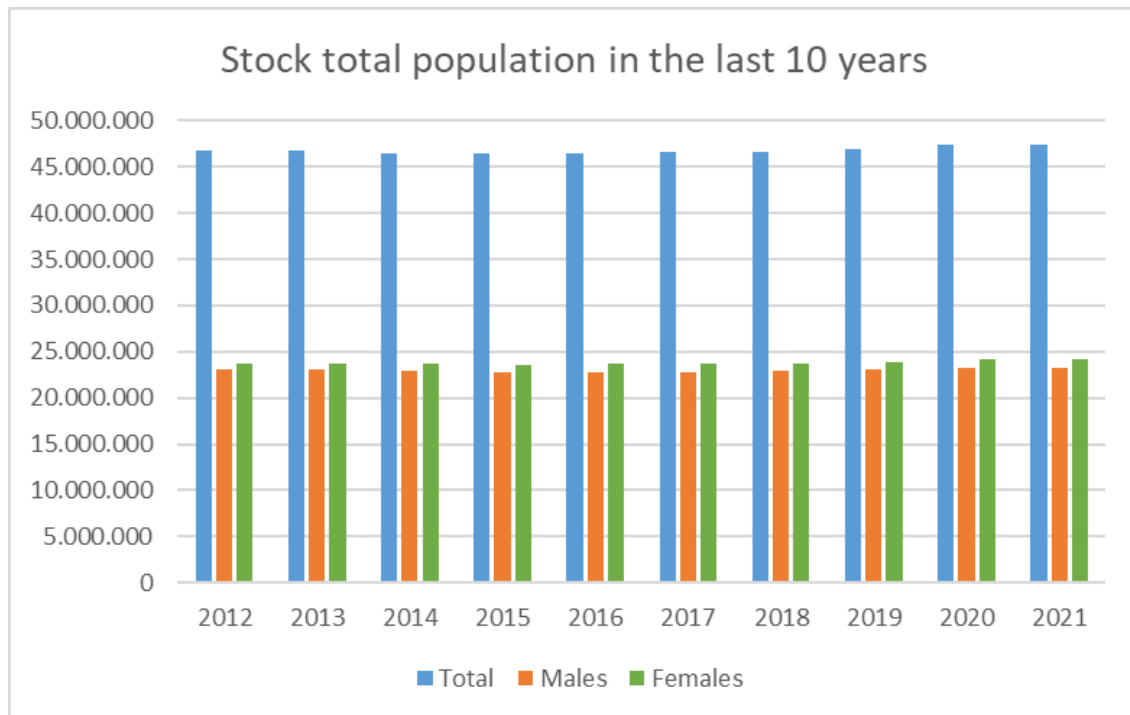


Figure 2a: Total stock population between 2012 and 2021 (male/female) - Source: EUROSTAT [demo_pjan]

However, a closer consideration of the year-by-year variation in stock population numbers may be leveraged to provide us with a more nuanced and detailed picture and with sharper insights into the dynamics of migration flows in the Spanish peninsula. It is useful, in this regard, to close up on the graph of figure 2a, rearranging its columns in the curve illustrated by figure 2b. We can thus see that, far from bearing witness to a slow but constant upward rise, the years that followed 2012 actually saw a decline in total stock population, reaching a low point in 2015-2016 (from the initial 46.81 to 46.44 million, with a drop of 400.000), which was reversed in the following years, firstly by returning to 2016 levels of population around 2018 (46.65 million), and subsequently surpassing them by roughly 550.000 in 2020 (47.39 million). To what causes should the negative development that began in 2012 be ascribed? The answer to this question leads us to our first consideration concerning the incidence of migrants in the make-up of total stock population: it is well known that the 2008 crisis hit the Spanish labour market particularly severely, causing high levels of unemployment particularly among the younger workforce. It can therefore be assumed that

many migrant workers left the Spanish labour market in search of better opportunities elsewhere, only to return from 2016 onwards.

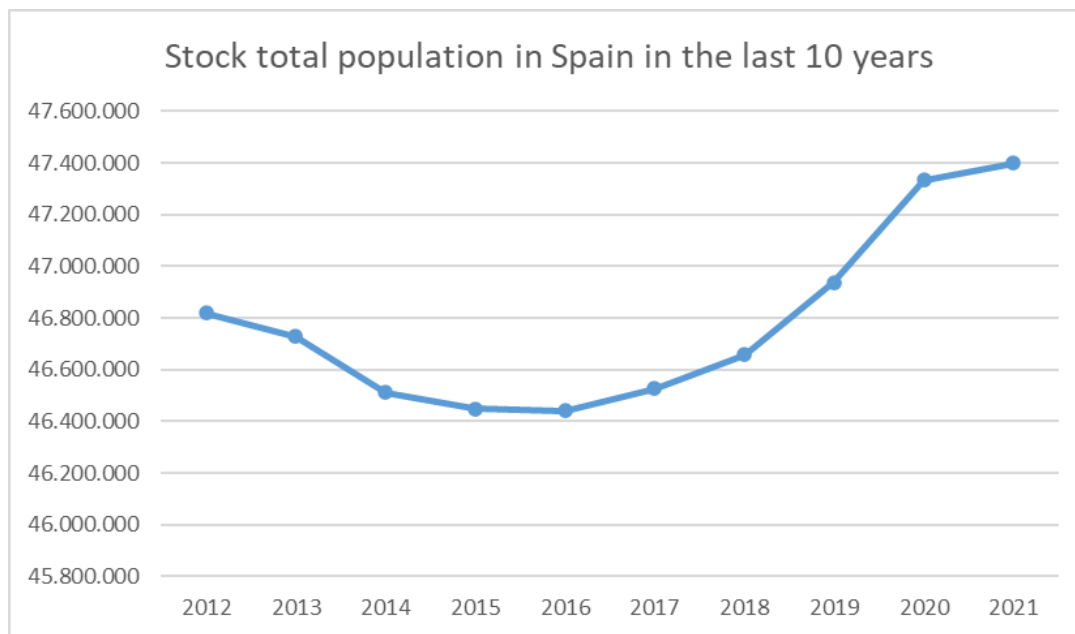


Figure 2b: Total stock population between 2012 and 2021 - Source: EUROSTAT [demo_pjan]

If the native population can be assumed to have remained relatively stable, or even, following a wider European trend, to have declined, while the variations were caused primarily by the shifting intensity of immigration flows (an assumption we still have to verify empirically), our focus should now be directed at determining the stock of migrants on Spanish soil between 2012 and 2021.

2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

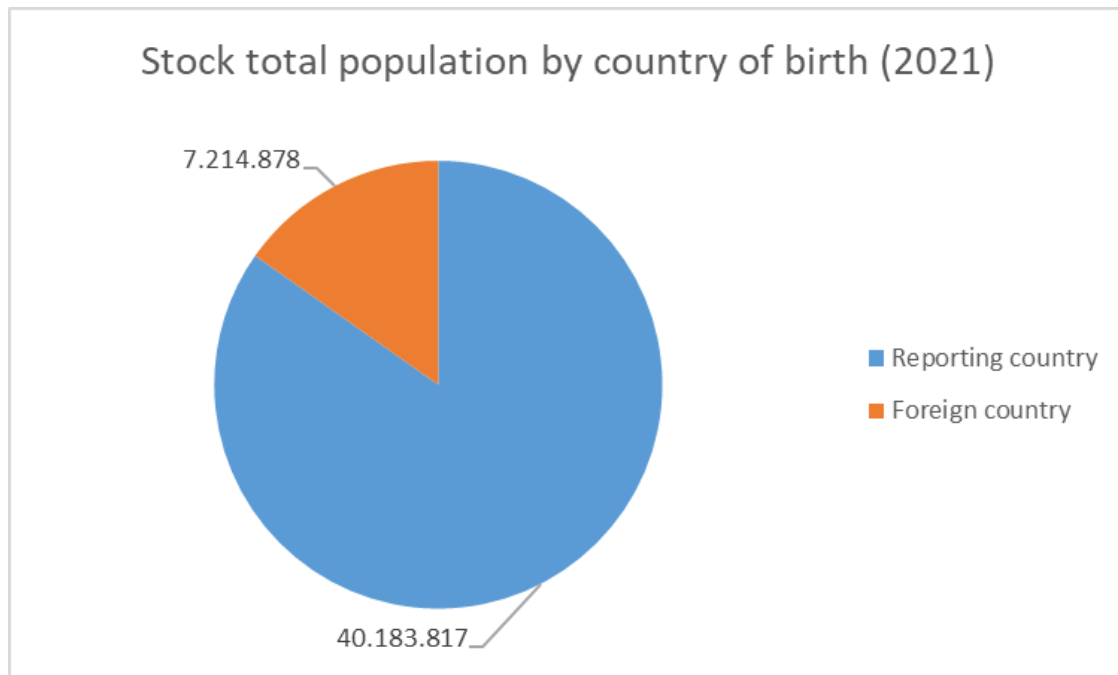


Figure 3 - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Among the stock total population of 47.3 million estimated in 2021, the stock of foreign-born individuals was made up of 7.21 million (14.89%), while the local-born were 40.18 million (85.11%). We should distinguish from the outset between foreign-born and migrant population: while it is true that a majority of migrants are foreign-born, it is equally true that not all foreign-born individuals are migrants. In a country such as Spain, where *jus sanguinis* decidedly overrides *jus soli*, there are also individuals born in Spain to foreign parents who do not have a Spanish passport and who therefore are considered migrants. It is nonetheless instructive, given the high frequency of tangency between foreign-born and migrants, to consider the evolution of the foreign-born population in Spain between 2012 and 2021, implicitly assuming this value as a proxy for the number of migrants.

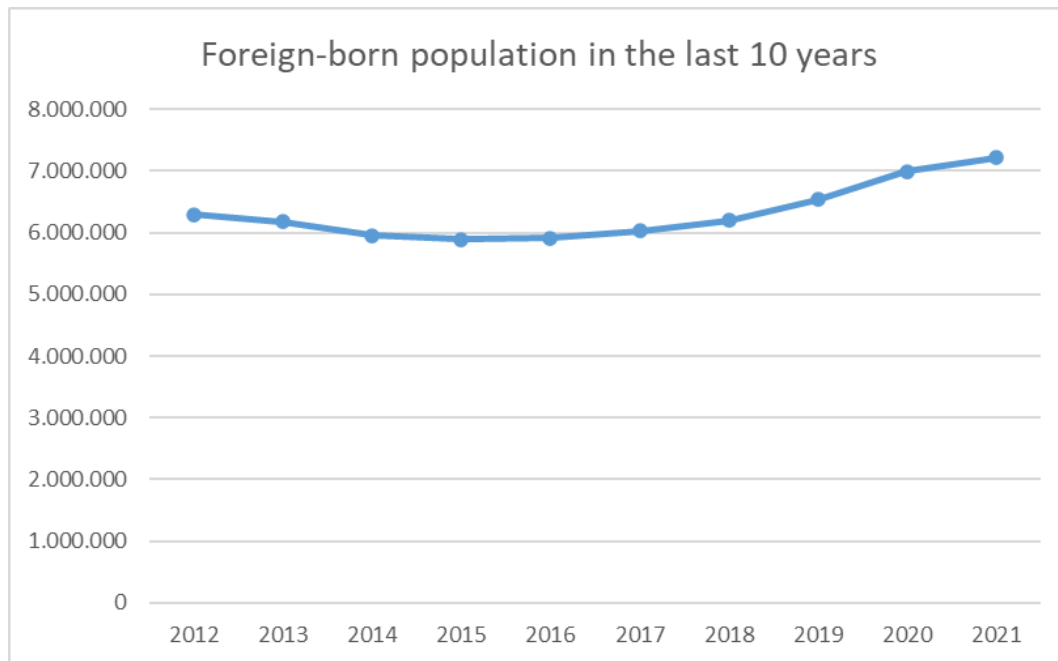


Figure 4: Foreign-born population in Spain between 2012 and 2021 - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Figure 4 confirms our earlier assumption: starting in 2012 there is a drop of roughly 400.000 foreign-born residents (exactly the same number we found in figure 2b), whose stock number goes from the initial 6.29 million to the 5.89 million of 2015. This number starts to climb up again in 2016, equalling its previous value around 2018 (6.19 million) and exceeding it by almost a million in 2021 (when the stock population of foreign-born is composed of 7.21 million individuals). This striking growth of the foreign-born population between 2018 and 2021, therefore, goes hand in hand with the equally striking surge of total stock population that we observed in figure 2b. The comparison between the two figures is even more informative: whereas figure 2b registers a spike of 740.000 individuals between 2018 and 2021, figure 4 shows for the same time period an increase of 1,02 million individuals. It can be inferred from this gap that the stock population of local-born Spanish citizens is actually decreasing, presumably due to decline in fertility rates also common to other European countries. As is well known, this decline, along with the rising life expectancy in developed economies, has important consequences for the local labour market, increasingly depleted of human capital and consequently under pressure to sustain the welfare state. These brief political considerations throw new light on the magnitude of the growth registered between

2018-2021, which we can assume to have been the result of a policy line consciously followed by the first Sánchez government, sworn in on June 2018 and characterized by a more liberal approach to migration issues compared to the previous executive led by Rajoy. In order to test this assumption and verify the potential that these recently arrived migrants have to complement, and not simply substitute, the human capital currently present in the Spanish labour market, we will now have to take a closer look at the internal composition of the Spanish migrant stock in 2021.

3. Migrant stock by category

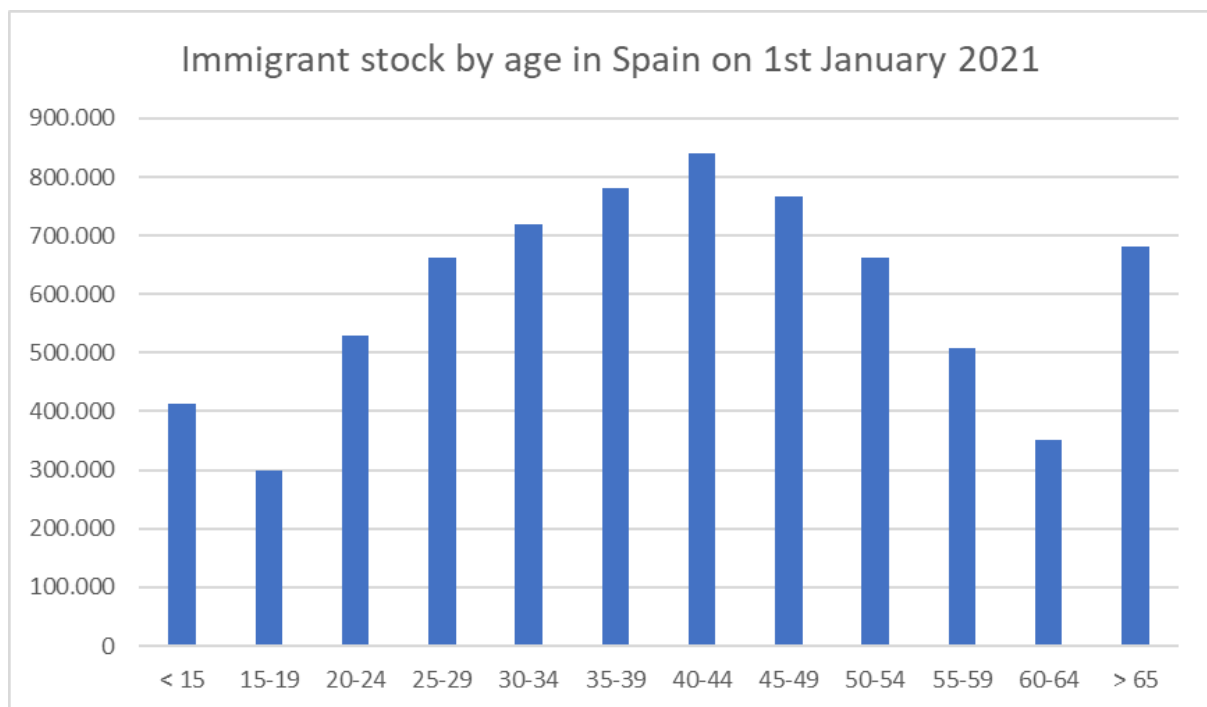


Figure 5: Migrant stock by age - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Within the total stock of 7.21 million foreign-born Spanish residents who we have taken as a proxy for the number of migrants, the great majority (5.47 million or 75.86%) is of working age, or, in other words, is aged between 20 and 59, a number that confirms in a preliminary way our intuitions but which needs to be further broken down if it is to provide us with more

meaningful insights. These migrants are fairly equally distributed among the age subgroups between 20 and 59 (the 40-44 subgroup being the most numerous, with 841.000 individuals), which suggests that most of them are entering the Spanish labour market with previous experience and qualifications. The data that catches immediately the eye, however, and which may also serve us to specify our characterization of the migrant labour force, comes from the opposite ends of the spectrum. Firstly, we see that minors aged less than 15 are 413.000, 115.00 more than the individuals that make up the 15-19 demographic; secondly, migrants older than 65 are 680.000, almost the double of the preceding demographic 60-64. How can we integrate this apparently contradictory information with our previous assumptions? Evidently, registered minor migrants do not enter a country unaccompanied, but rather follow their parents' move. In this sense, the high number of individuals aged less than 15 is quite consistent with the relatively lofty age profile of the migrants, since they can be presumed to have already taken the first steps of their private and professional life back in their country of origin, which they decided to leave in order to seek better returns for their abilities in the Spanish labour market. This data is also informative of the intentions of these migrants, who plan to assimilate and raise their children as Spanish citizens. As for the high percentage of elderly migrants, it can be even more easily explained: famously, Spain is a country of destination for northern European (particularly British, as will be seen below) pensioners attracted by the weather, low cost of living and favourable fiscal conditions.

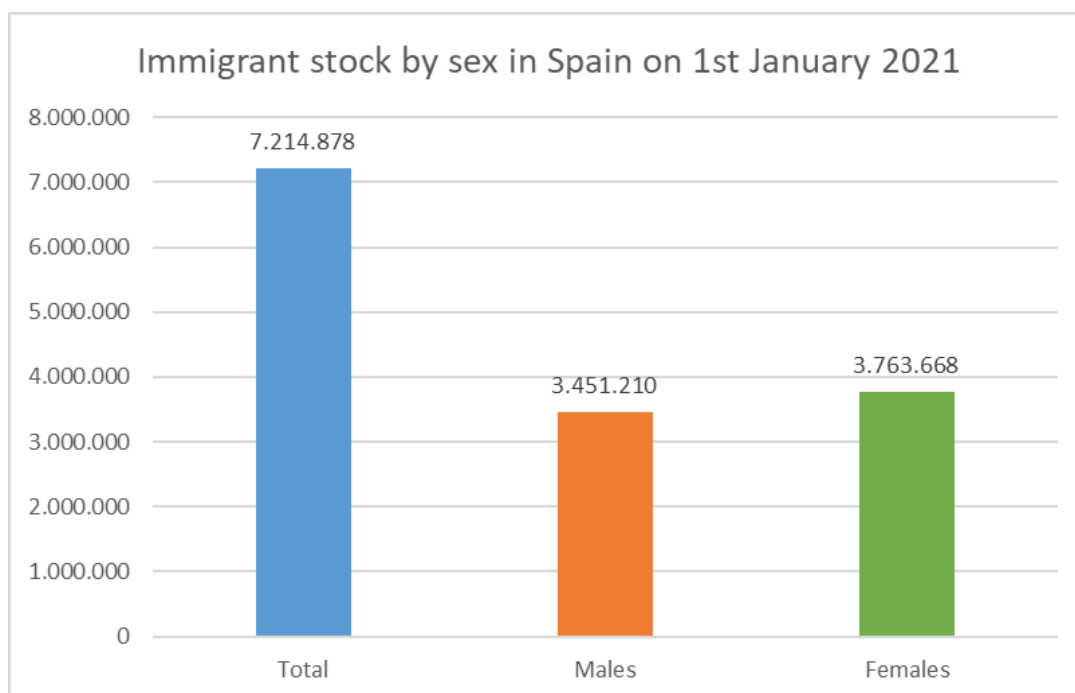


Figure 6: Migrant stock by sex - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

In regards to the gender make-up of the 7.21 million foreign-born Spanish residents, we can see that they are equally divided between 3.45 million male and 3.76 female individuals. However, as figure 6 provides this data in absolute terms, without cross-referencing the information provided by figure 5, we think it would be wiser to refrain at this stage from speculating on how male and female individuals are distributed among the stock migrant population. Much more interesting for our purposes is the distribution of migrants by their country of birth (which we will assume to coincide by proxy with their country of origin), illustrated in the various iterations of figure 7.

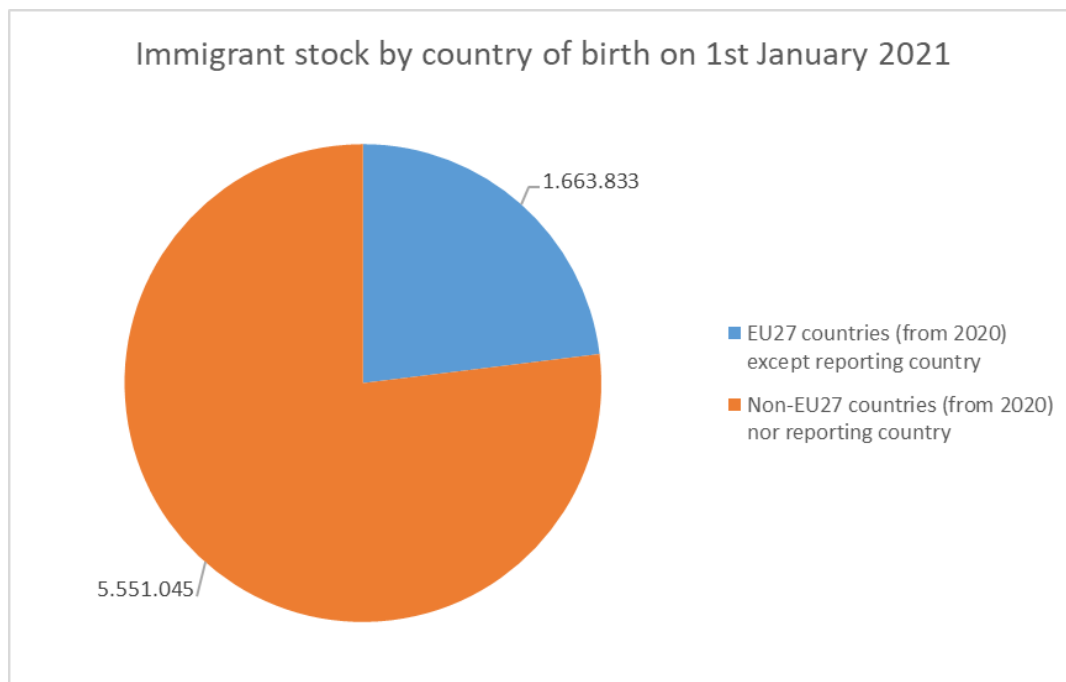


Figure 7a: Migrant stock by country of birth: EU and non-EU countries - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

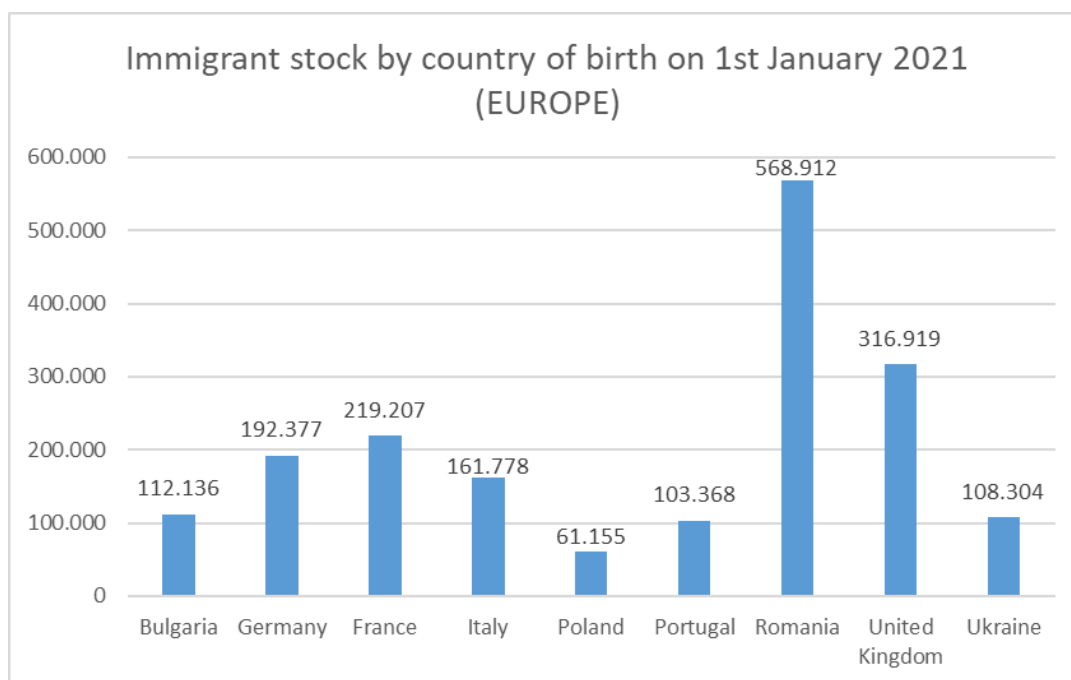


Figure 7b: Migrant stock by country of birth: Europe - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

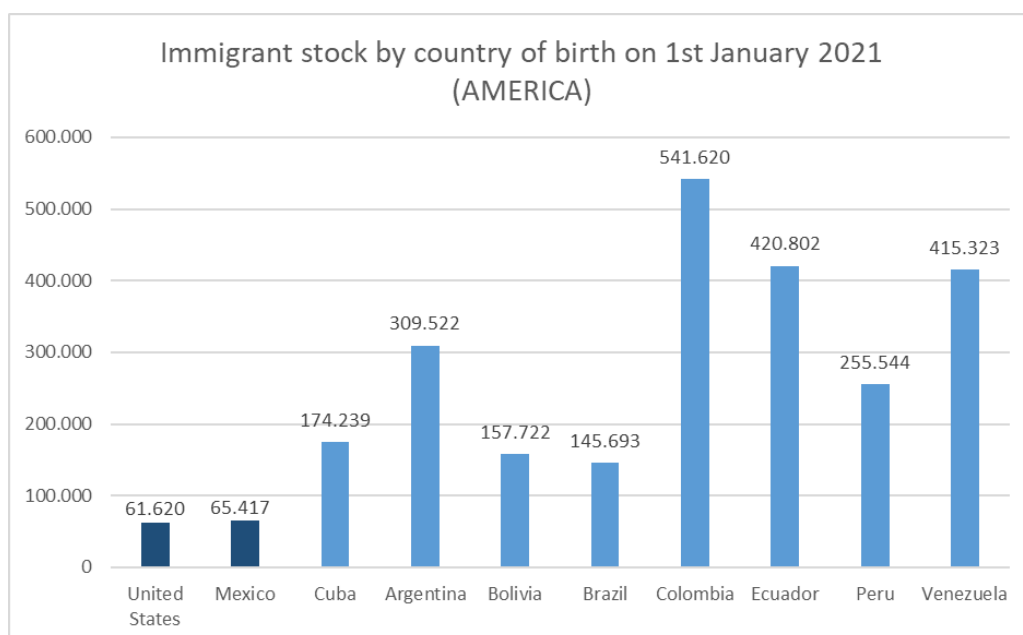


Figure 7c: Migrant stock by country of birth: America - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

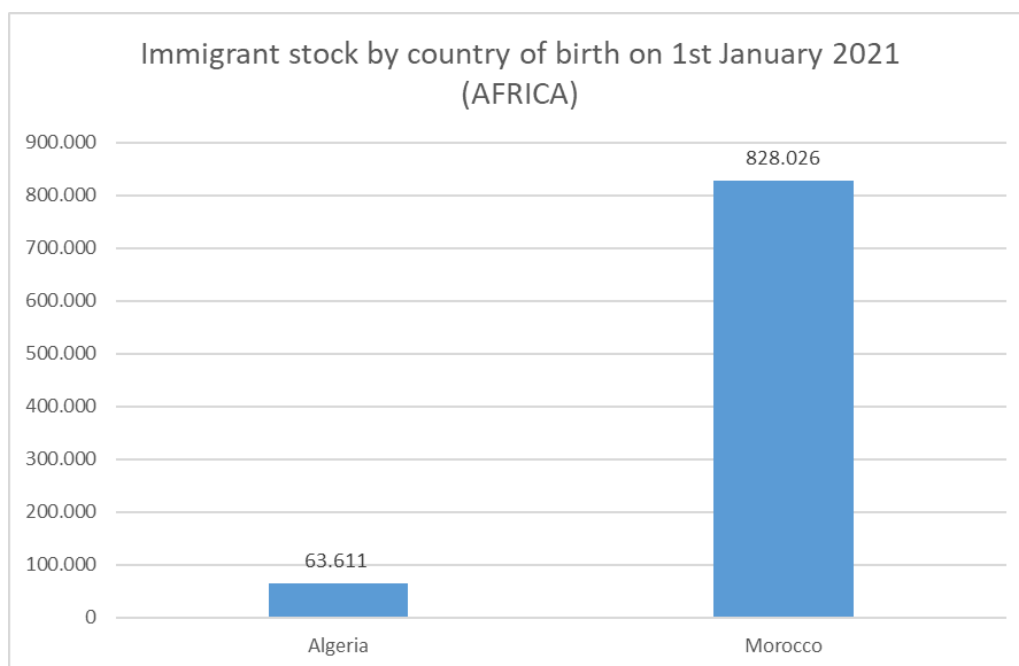


Figure 7d: Migrant stock by country of birth: Africa - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

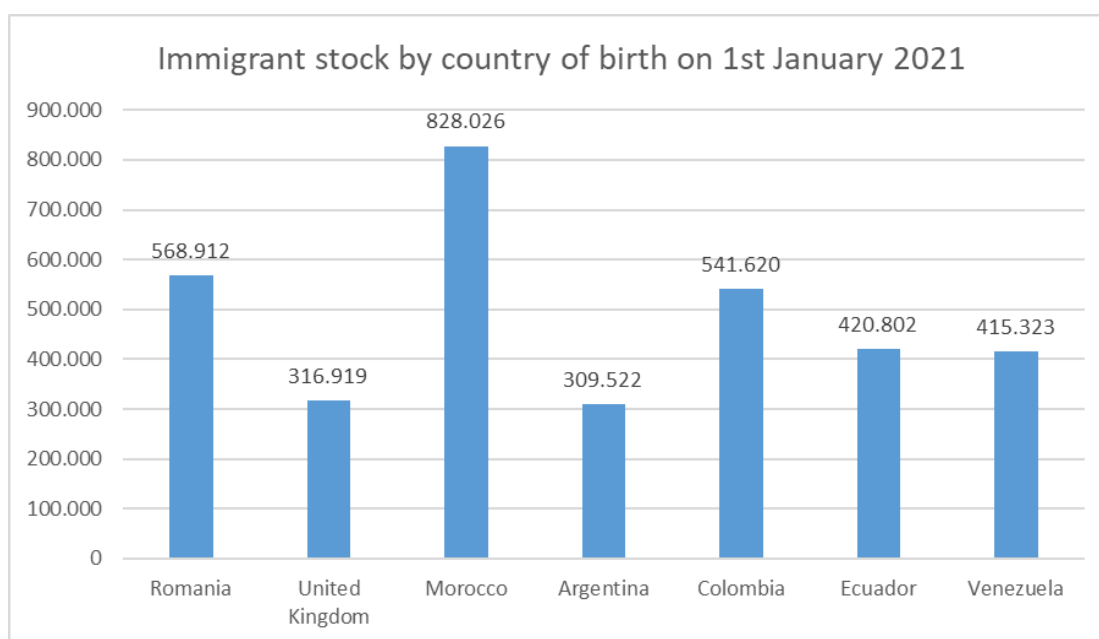


Figure 7e: Migrant stock by country of birth: General Overview - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Figure 7a provides us with a preliminary distinction in the migrants' countries of provenance, between EU member states other than Spain, which represent 23.02% of the total, and

non-EU members, which build the majority at 76.97%. Within the former, by far the largest share of migrants come from Romania (568.000) and the United Kingdom (316.000), followed by some distance by western European countries such as France, Germany, Italy (all around the 200.000 mark) and other eastern European countries such as Bulgaria, Ukraine, Poland (around 100.000). This data points to different types of migration and confirms our earlier assumptions. The 316.000 British migrants can be assumed to represent half of the 680.000 migrants aged 65 or higher that we have already encountered, while the other half can be supposed to be composed by a good share of the 411.000 French and German migrants. Different considerations impose themselves in regards to Romania, a rural economy with a very high unemployment rate, and other Eastern European countries with varying levels of industrialization, whose migrant output is determined by the domestic abundance of labour force. In other words, the labour market of these countries is not able to efficiently distribute the human capital available, making the cost-benefit of migration favourable for many workers, who will be willing to sustain initial losses in order to seize a higher gain down the road. The economic pull factor is even more decisive in the case of migration from non-European countries. For obvious historical and linguistic reasons the lion's share is made up of Latin-American countries, more specifically Colombia (541.000), Ecuador (420.000), Venezuela (415.000), Argentina (309.000) and Peru (255.000). The combination of cultural affinity, a more attractive labour market that provides better opportunities (if not immediately, certainly for the second generation, who will easily be assimilated in the society) and ease of entry makes Spain a country of destination for many Latin Americans. Out of the 5.47 million migrants of working age that we detected in figure 5, roughly 2.5 million come from the major Latin American countries considered in figure 7c. We have excluded from this count Mexico, from which only 65.000 migrants originate, as its proximity to a major economy such as the United States changes the character of its transatlantic migrants, who can be assumed to be more highly-skilled in comparison to the average migrant from other Latin American countries (an observation confirmed by the similar figures it shares with the United States, certainly not a country of origin for under-skilled migrants seeking better prospects abroad). Lastly, there are also significant migration flows originating from Africa, particularly from Morocco (828.000 individuals), a country with deep historical ties to Spain. Due to a lack of data, we are not able to evaluate the incidence of sub-saharan migration. Figure 7e gives us a general picture of the migrants' countries of provenance in absolute terms, which is helpful to underline again the importance of labour-driven migration to Spain, as well as its Latin American constituency.

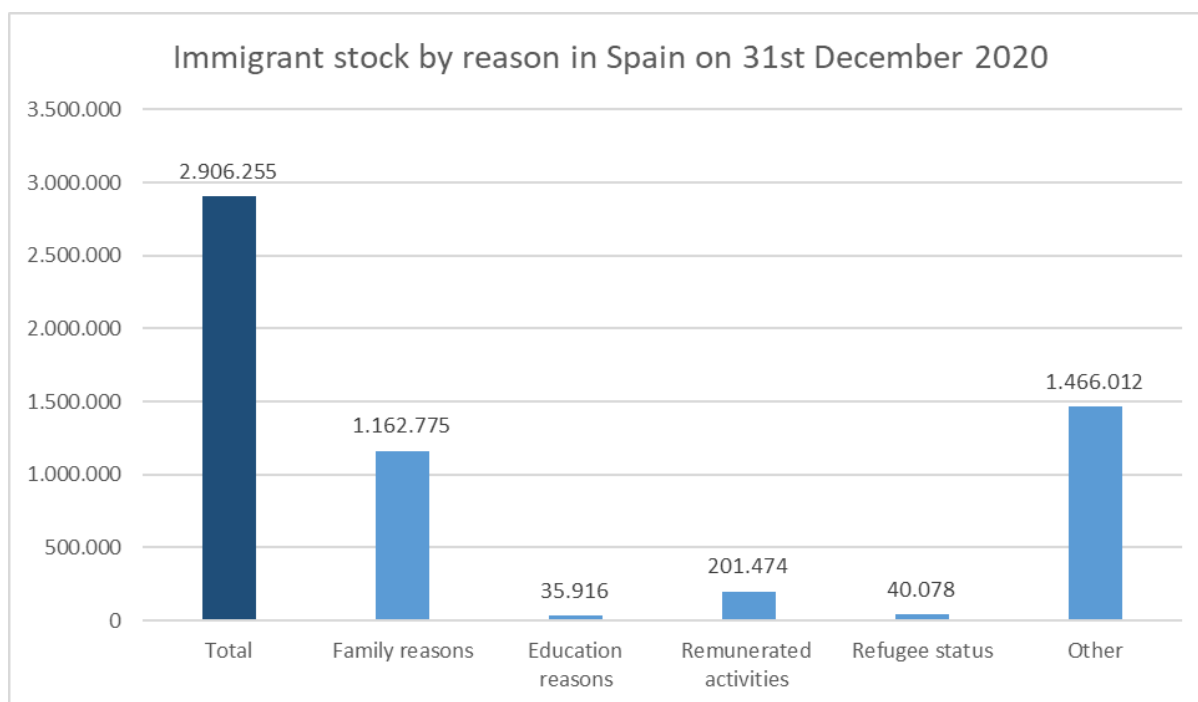


Figure 8a: Migrant stock in 2020 by reason declared - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

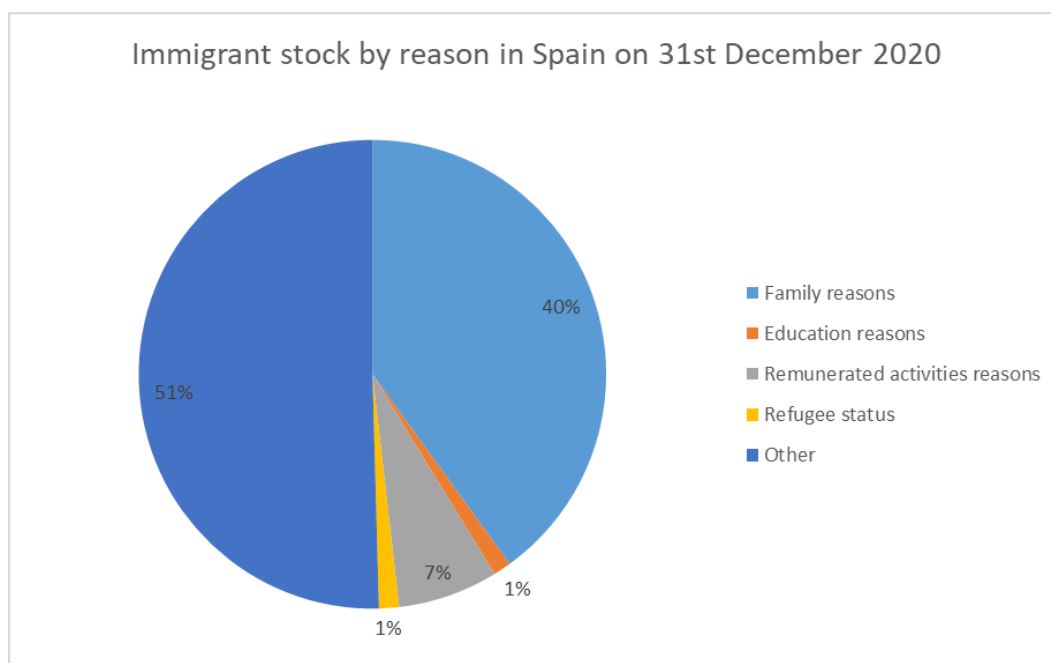


Figure 8b: Migrant stock in 2020 by reason declared (percentages) - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

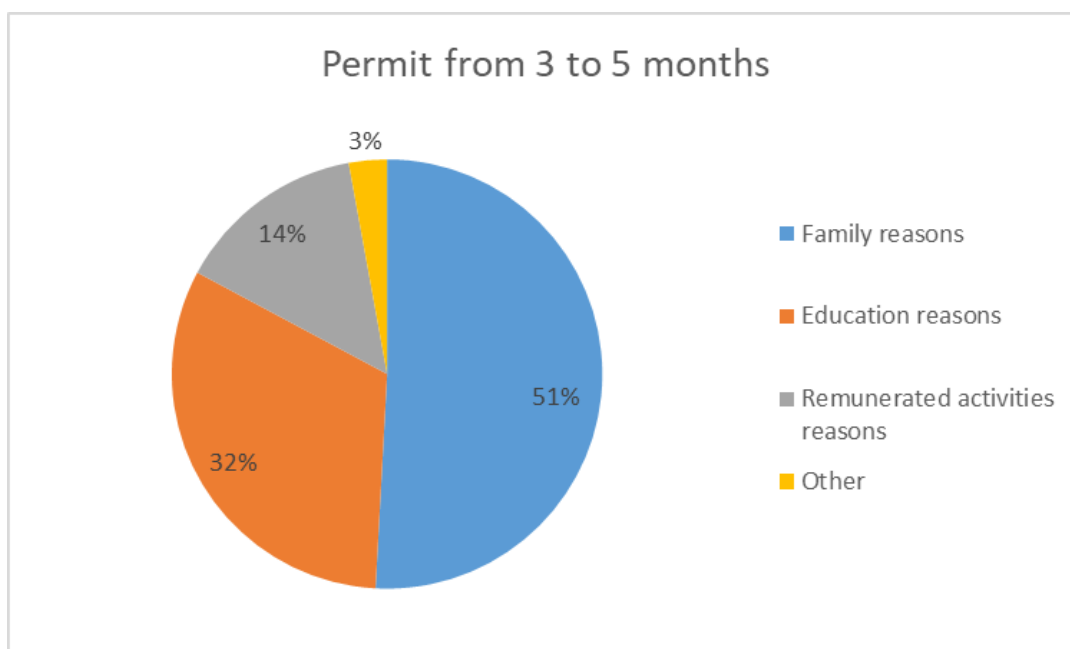


Figure 8c: Migrant stock in 2020 by reason declared (divided on the basis of the duration of their permit: 3 to 5 months) - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

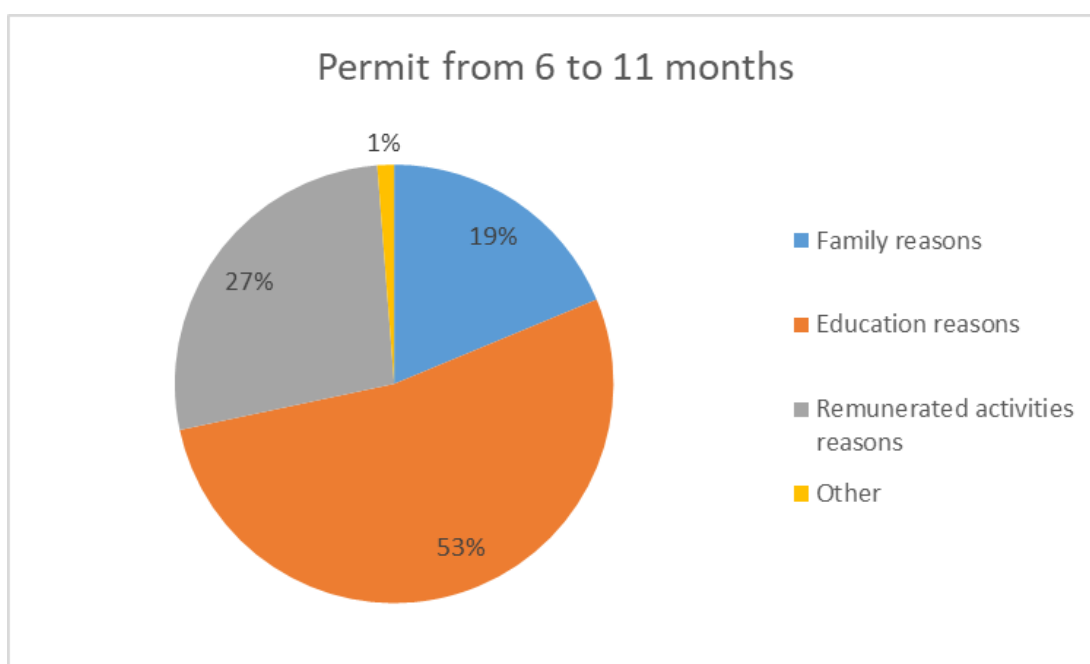


Figure 8d: Migrant stock in 2020 by reason declared (divided on the basis of the duration of their permit: 6 to 11 months) - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

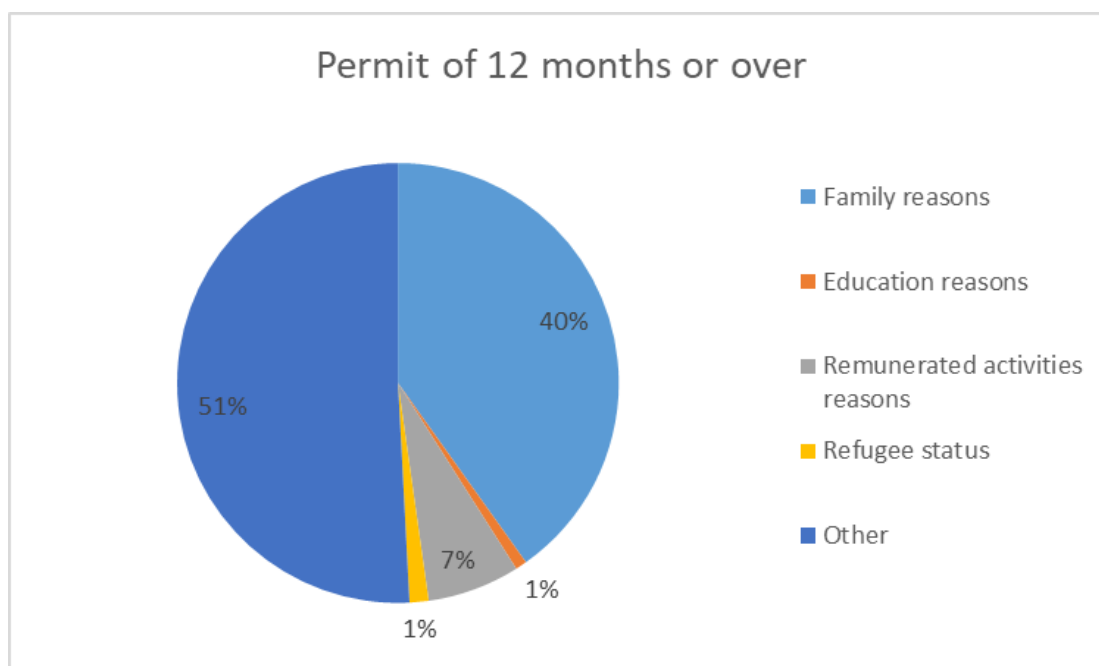


Figure 8e: Migrant stock in 2020 by reason declared (divided on the basis of the duration of their permit: 12 months or over) - Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

To conclude our overview of the main characteristics of the migration stock in Spain, we should also consider the reasons declared by the migrants for their move. Three preliminary observations are necessary. Firstly, due to a lack of data for the year 2021, we will have to take 2020 as our year of reference. Secondly, and more importantly, we should be aware that the reason declared by migrants when they enter their country of destination does not always coincide with their real motivations, but rather with the visa category for which they are eligible. Thirdly, figure 8a shows a figure of 2.9 million, which represents not the total stock number, which is the 6.99 million registered in figure 4, but the total flow of 2020, including short and medium-term stays of less than a year that are not counted when determining the total stock of migrants. Taking into account these problematic elements, we can make the following considerations concerning figure 8a to 8e. We can see that 40% cited family reasons as the motivation for their move, far more than those who cited educational reasons (1%), remunerated activities (7%) and refugee status (1%), but less than the majority (51%) who opted for the aforementioned indeterminate category of “other”. However, observing these percentages from a temporal perspective can provide us with a more accurate picture of the dynamics at play. Family reunion migration and student migration are the more prevalent phenomena only for short and medium-term stays lasting less than a year, while the “other reasons” motivation is more commonly given for permits of 12 months and over. Keeping in

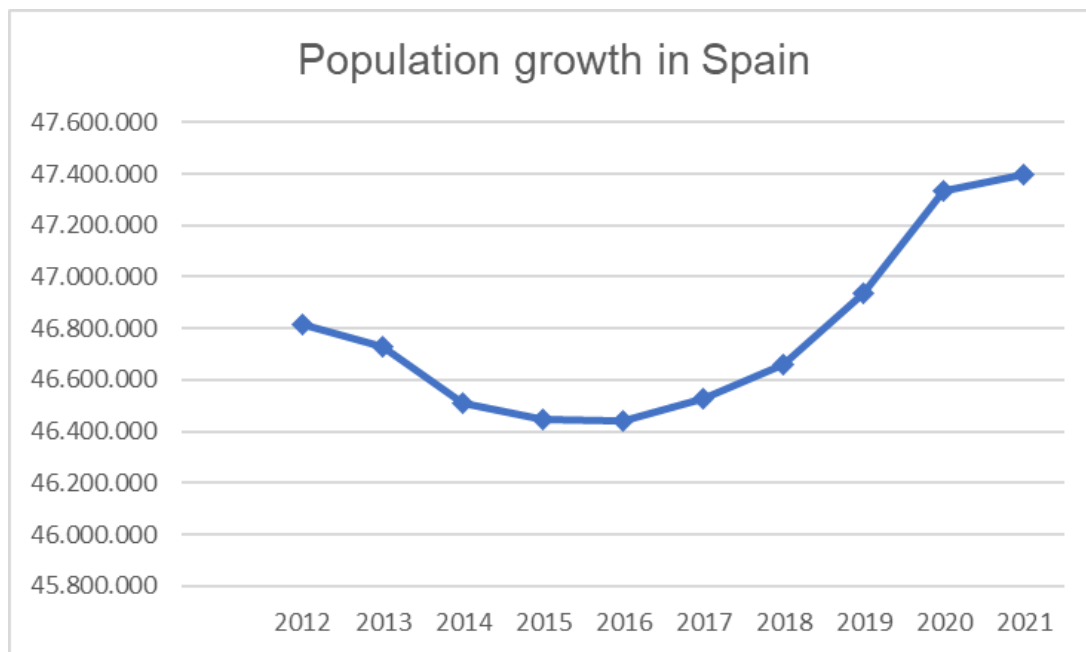
mind that figure 5 tells us that most migrants are of working age, we can infer from this data that most of them enter Spain with a family reunification or student visa only to seek placement in the labour market once arrived. This explains the relatively low percentage of migrants who cite “remunerated activities” as their motivation for moving: only a minority of them is sufficiently skilled to qualify for employment-based visas at their arrival.

We can thus attempt to draw a brief profile of the stock migrant population in Spain as it emerged from the analysis of data provided in this section. A developed economy such as Spain demands from abroad primarily lower skilled workers, who come from Eastern Europe and, overwhelmingly, Latin America. These migrants are well-assimilated in the local society, facilitated by cultural and linguistic reasons and often join an already-established family nucleus or do not hesitate to bring with them their own family. This latter element seems particularly important: since the first wave of migrants is not composed of highly-skilled workers, the continuous growth of the Spanish economy in the future will come to depend on the second generation and on their ability to assimilate and develop higher competences. This assimilation process, in turn, is facilitated by the same cultural and historical ties that prompted the migration flow in the first place (the same can be said for Morocco, whose migrants, however, are less integrated in the fabric of Spanish society). Finally, there is a significant minority of migrants above working age who come from western and northern Europe. In order to gain a better view of the diachronic evolution of the elements that we have gathered here, we now must turn to a closer consideration of migration flows.

4. Population growth

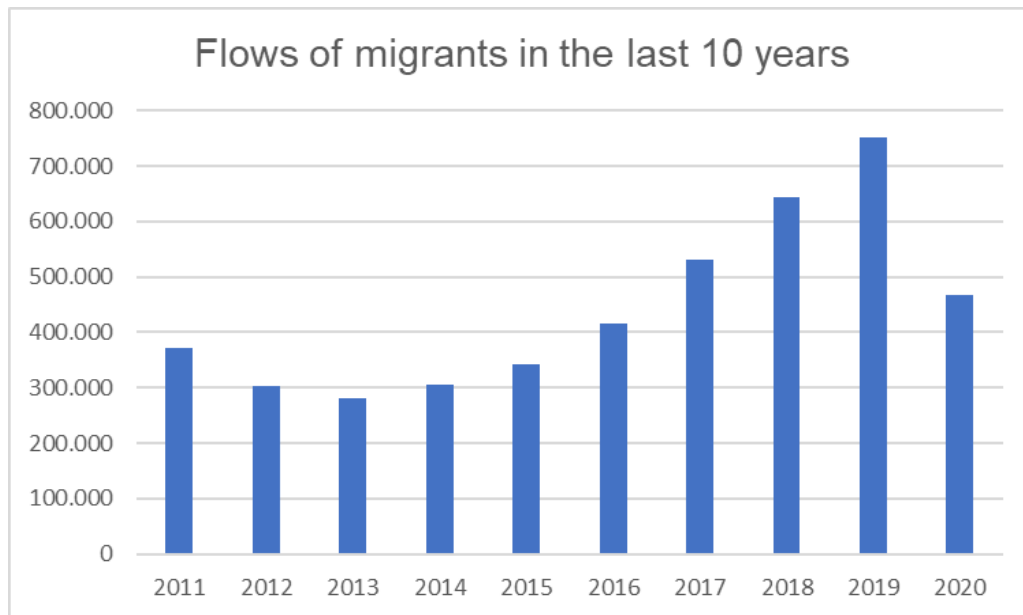
Firstly, in order to allow a broader understanding, it is important to have a view of the population growth registered in Spain in the last decade. As we can see from the graph the population of Spain decreased from 2012 to 2015, which has stagnated. From that point on a growth has been registered which reached its climax in 2020 with a population of 47.332.614 inhabitants. By looking at the data regarding the years 2017 and 2018 it is possible to notice a population growth of 0,3 %, taking this into account and then looking at the data given for the year 2019 it is worthy of attention the fact that the previously mentioned growth rate has

experienced an acceleration reaching the peak of 0,8 %. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic a sharp slowdown has been registered in the population growth, with a rate of 0,1%



Source EUROSTAT: [demo_pjan]

5. Flows of migrants in the last 10 years

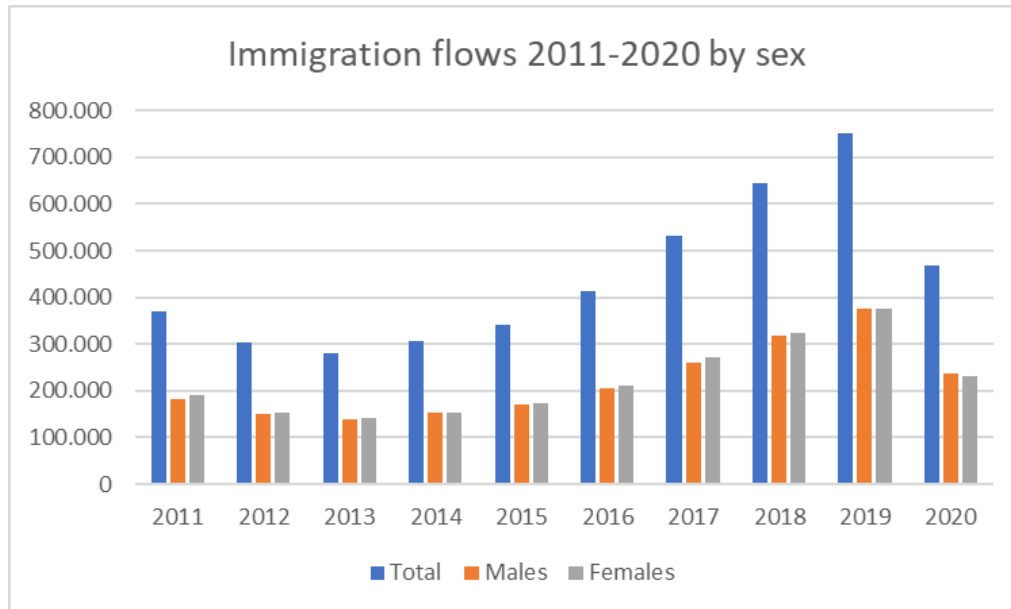


Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm8]

By the analysis reported above we can see how, in regard to the last nine years, the flows of migrants in Spain have evolved. It is possible to notice by looking at the graph that the flows have slowly taken hold starting from 2014 until 2016, when they have been the subjects of a strong acceleration until they reached the presence of 750.480 migrants in the country in 2019. The Covid-19 Pandemic has restored the flows down to a level slightly higher than the one of 2016.

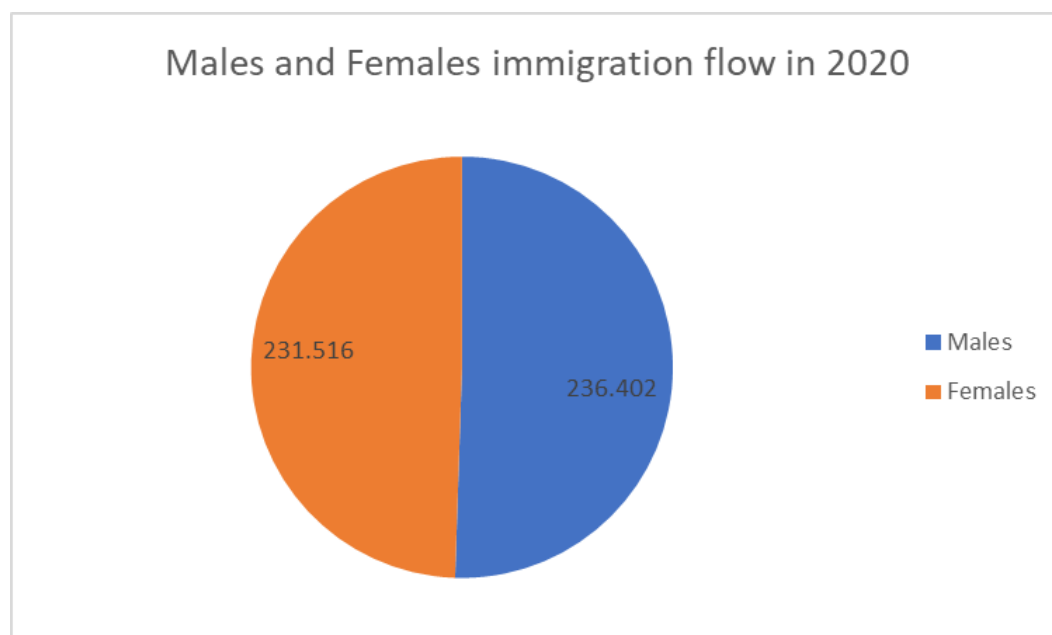
6. Immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

6.1 Sex



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

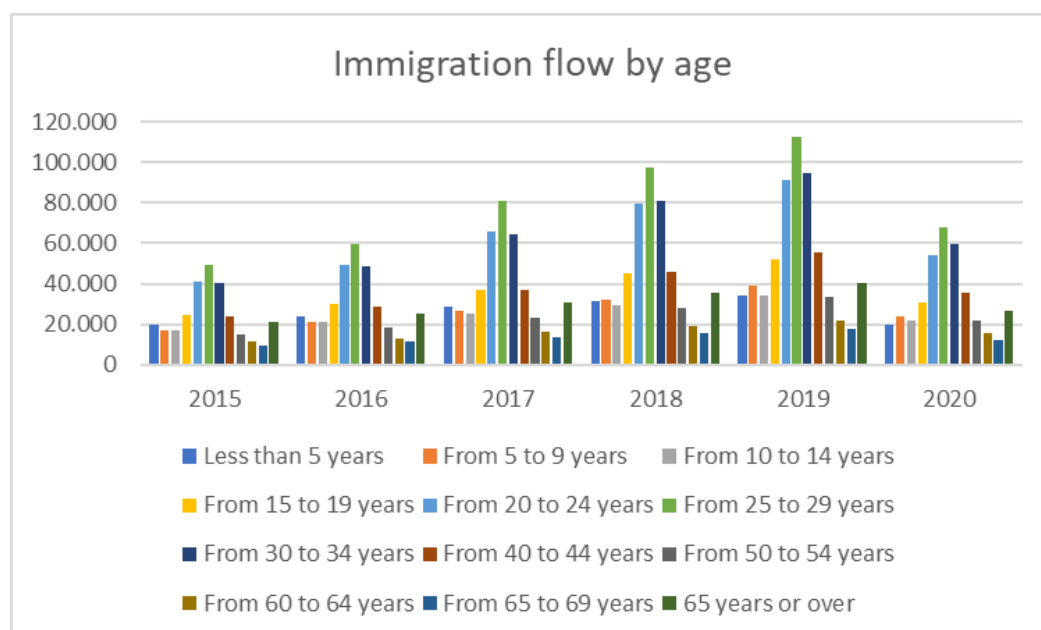
Taking into account the sex of the migrants as a criterion we can assert, as shown in the chart, that the immigration flows are equally divided between males and females and, moreover, that they follow the trend of the aggregate flows.



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

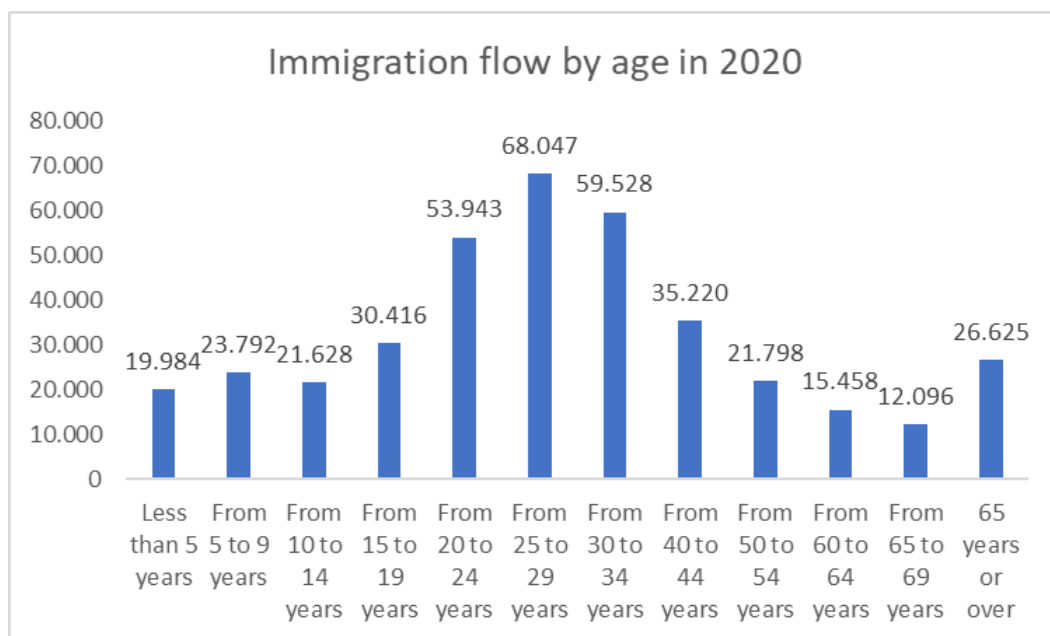
In this case we wanted to offer a cross-section taking into account only the data regarding the year 2020 to better show the same composition that links the previous years: equal distribution between the male immigrant population and the female one.

6.2 Age



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

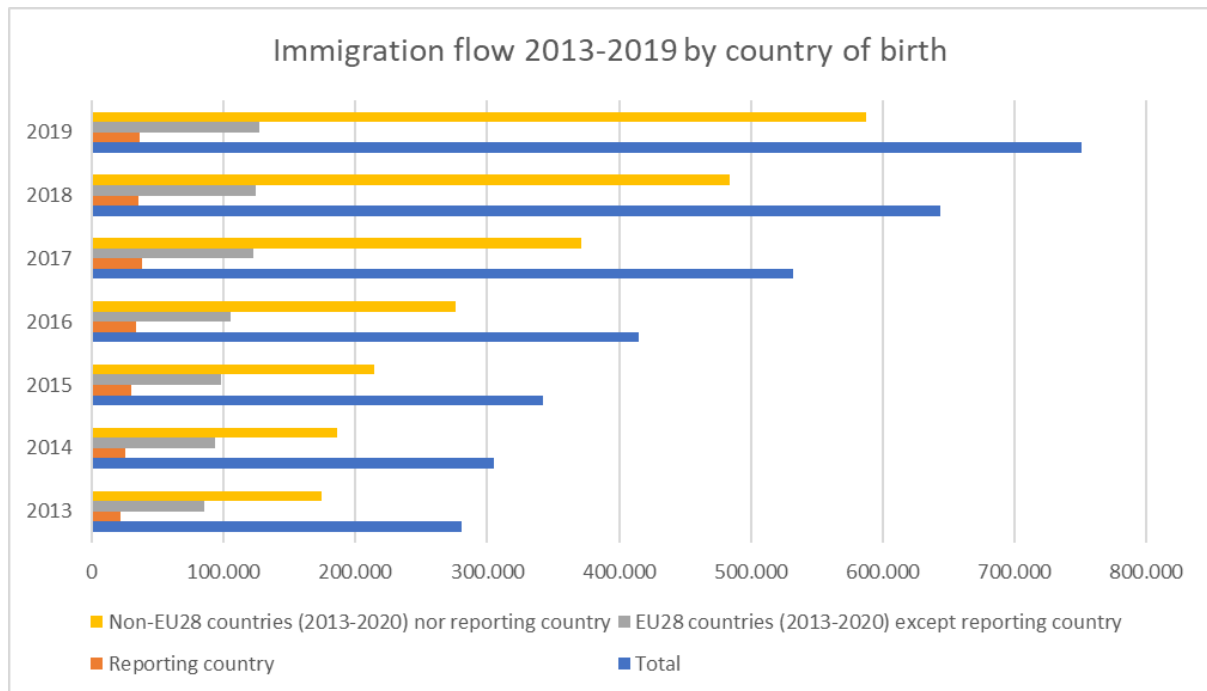
In this case the distribution of the data regarding the immigration flow, using age as a discriminatory factor, it is characterized by a regular trend year by year (Gaussian distribution) mainly cantered on the band that comprehend migrants from an age of 20 to and age of 24 years old. Given the time trend presented in the graph at point 5 about the general flows of migrants during the last ten years we are also able to make three more considerations: in each of the years taken into account around 14% and 15 % of the total number of migrants are between the ages of 24 and 29; about 12% of people immigrated in Spain is between 20 and 24 years old; the percentage of Spain's migrants with and age from 30 to 34 years represent the 12% of the total immigration flow. Through this cross-examination we can notice that in all, half of the total number of migrants is of an age between 20 and 34 years old.



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

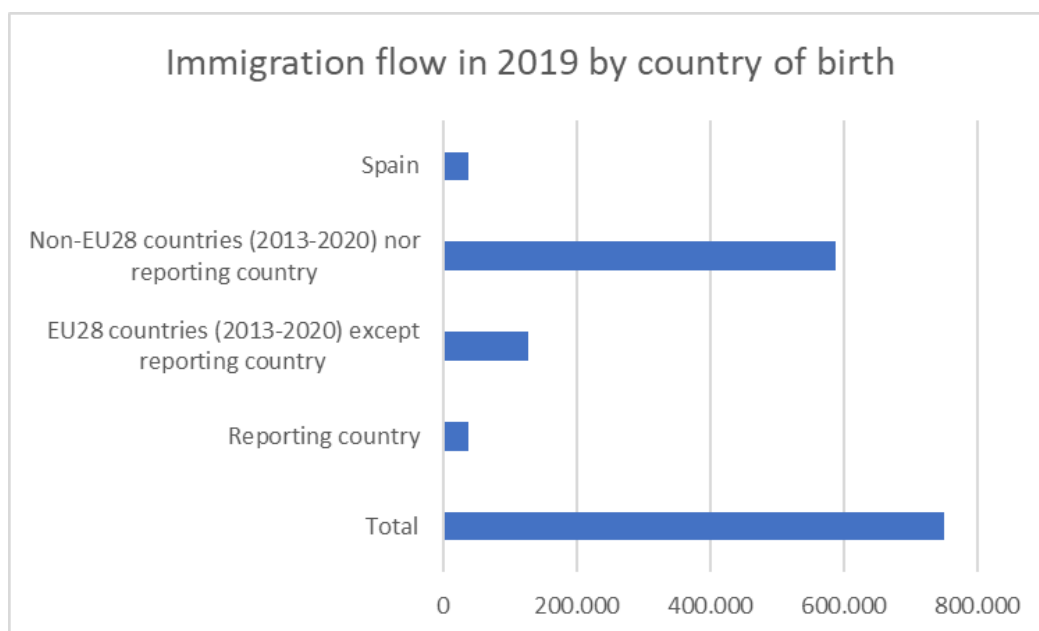
Here is presented a crossed section of the year 2020 which has seen a total number of 467.918 people migrating in Spain equally divided between male and female. As in the past years the vast majority of migrants is aged between 24 and 34 years (about 128 thousands, equivalent to 47% of the general amount).

6.3 Country of birth



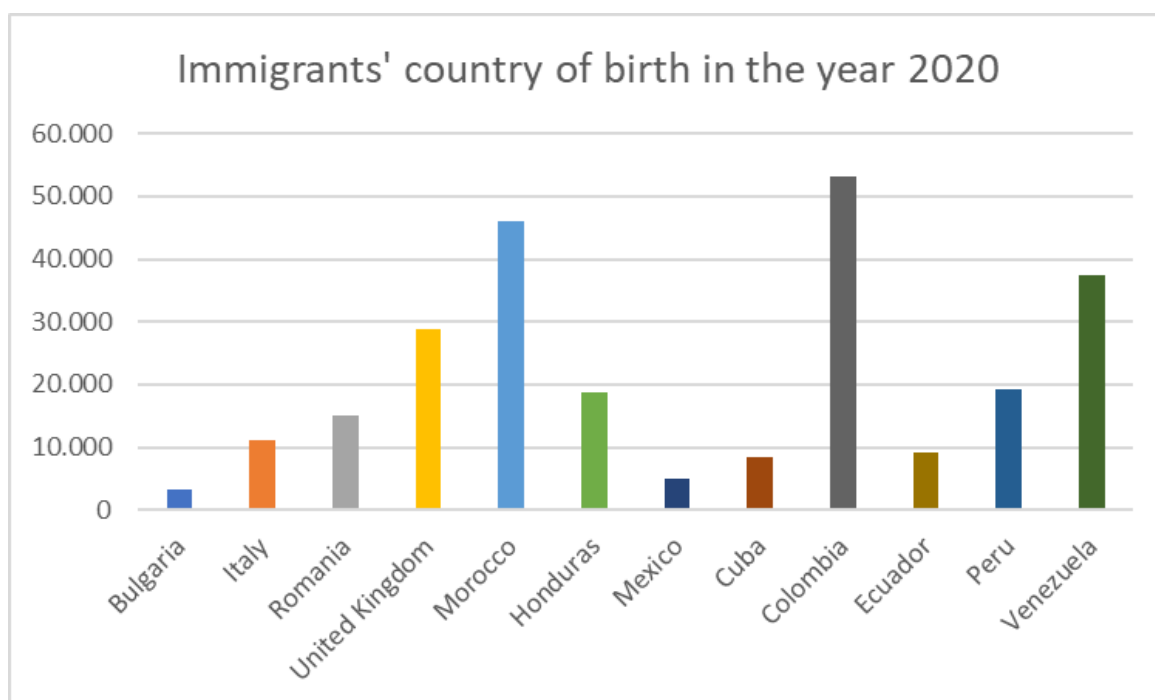
Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

By looking at the chart above, which shows the distinction between people who immigrate to Spain based on their country of birth, an interesting aspect can be encountered. In fact, if from 2013 to 2015 60-62% of the totality of migrants is represented by citizens of non-European countries, such percentage has increased during the following years until it reached the 78% in 2019 (586.992 migrants coming from non-European countries over 750.480 migrants in total).



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

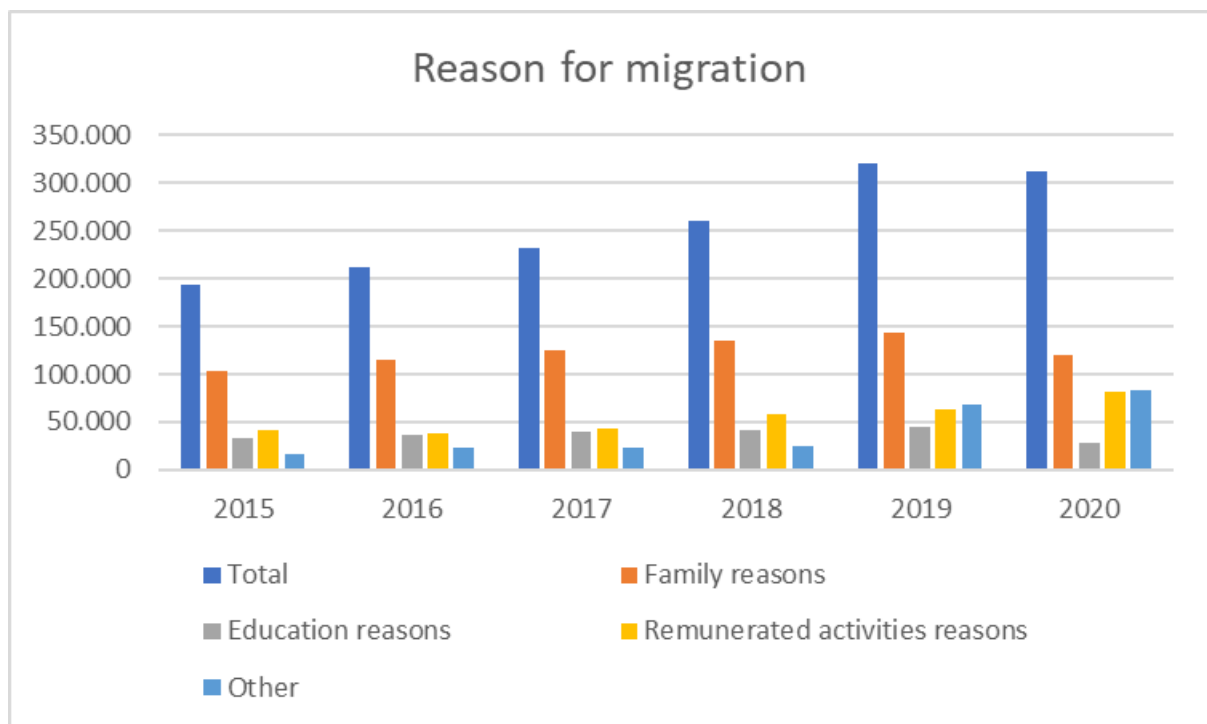
The section above representing, in specific, the situation of the year 2019 reasserts what already expressed in the graph of point 6.3 and the related comment. We are able here to see in a more detailed view the remaining percentages which compose the immigration flow of Spain in 2019, represented by the one coming from European countries.



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_imm3ctb]

We are here able to get an insight and an integration of the data regarding the origin of migrants coming to Spain in the specific year of 2020 which are absent in the previous graphic. It is immediately possible to notice that the overall number of migrants in 2020 is approximately 255.300, around 150 thousand of which come from Latin America (about 60%) presumably due to the linguistic and cultural similarities which facilitates the settling. It can also be taken into account the geographical proximity as an assumed migration element by noticing that 20% of migrants come from the neighbouring country of Morocco.

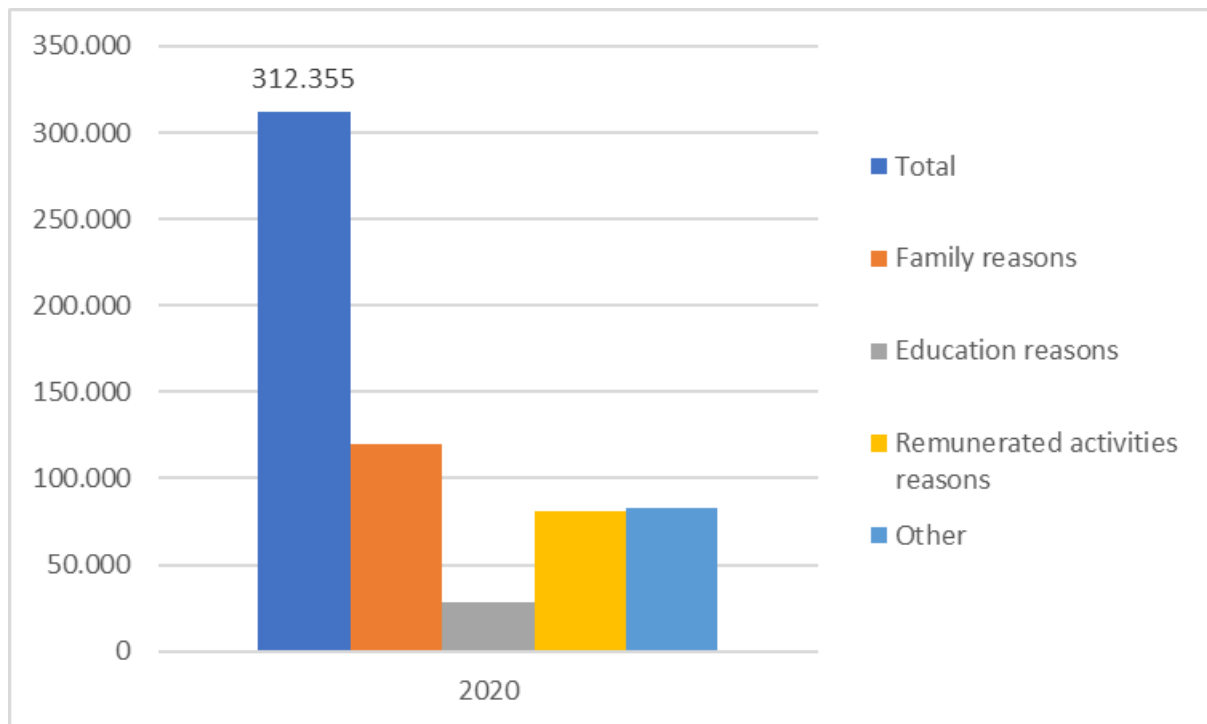
6.4 Reason for migration



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_refirst]

We want to focus now on the reasons that lead to the decision to migrate and generate the immigration flows. From 2015 to 2018, for the 50-54% of the cases taken into consideration, the reasons which determined the choice to migrate are family based. The labour migration or remunerated activities related one has affected in a stable manner, instead, the 10% of the cases. It is important to underline also that both the years of 2019 and 2020 have seen double the percentage of the latter reason inspired migrants.

First permit by reason in 2020



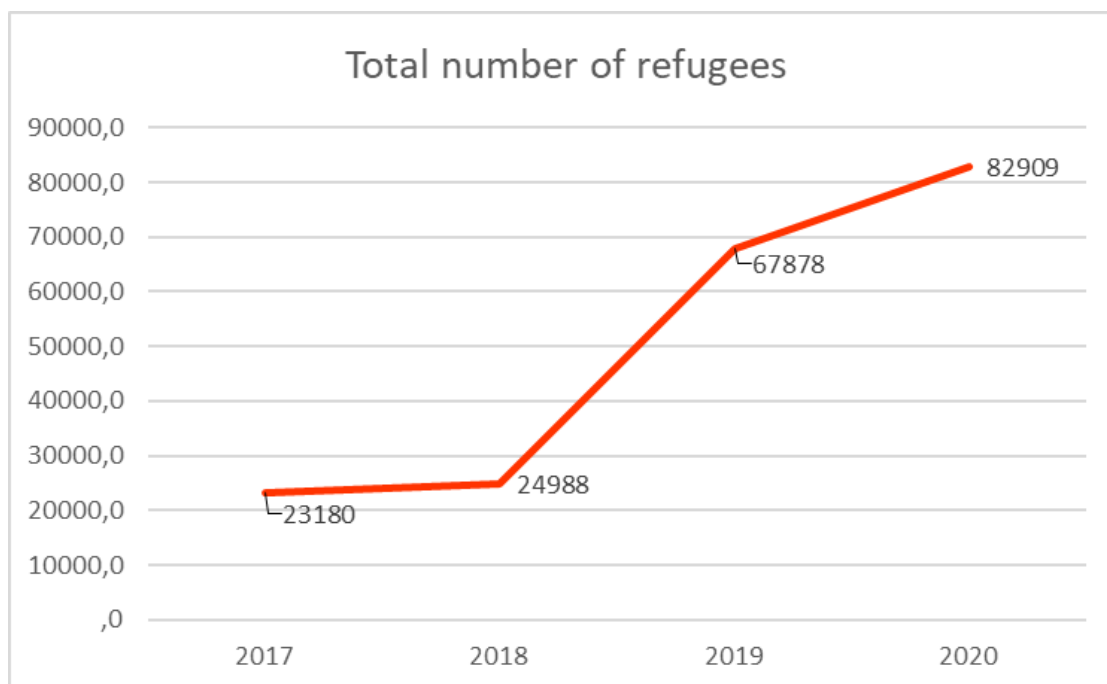
Source EUROSTAT: [migr_resfirst]

In this section regarding the first permit by reason in 2020 we can look in a closer way to the fact that the percentage of people who migrated to Spain due to family reasons is the higher one. The real interesting aspect notable here is that in this year the percentage of migrants for remunerated activities reasons had its peak reaching the value of 20%, presumably for the possible links between these sorts of reasons and the economic instability caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

7. Total number of refugees (asylum seekers, sex, age)

In this section, we will analyze the category of refugees and asylum seekers in Spain from 2017 to 2021. In the first graphs, we will illustrate the numeric (and semantic) distinction between a refugee and an asylum seeker. Secondly, we will take into account specific asylum seekers' countries of origin that we thought were significant examples. To conclude, we will focus on the sex ratio and on the age distribution in the asylum seeker population.

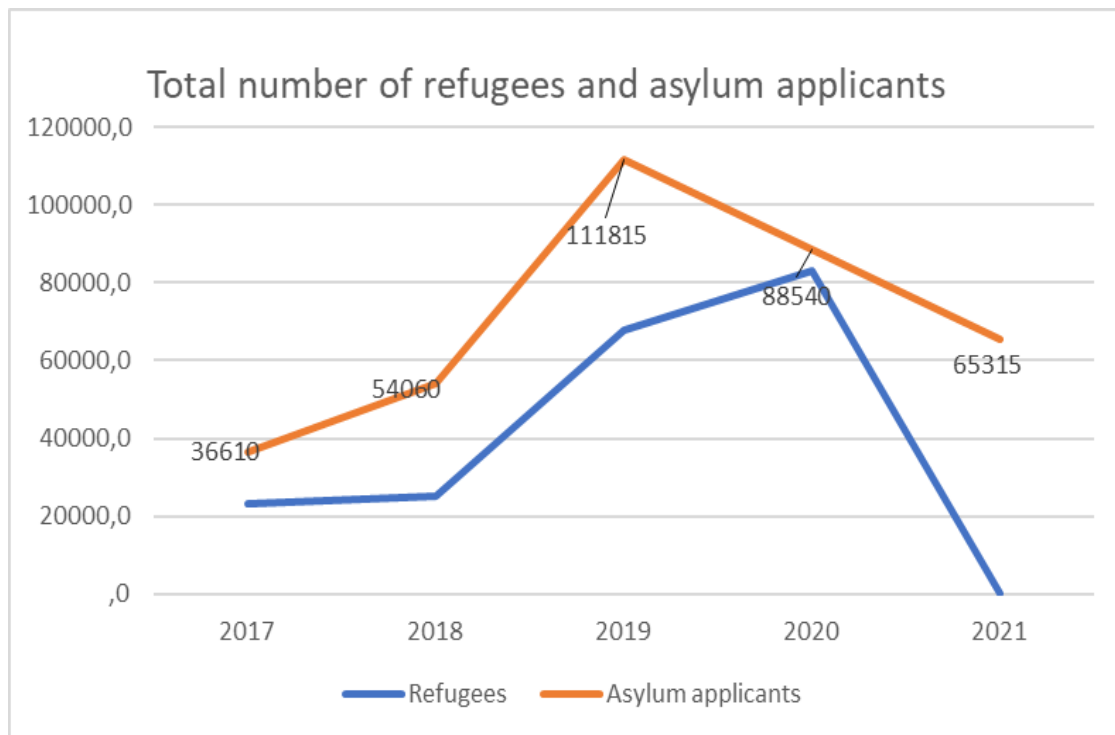
7.1 Total number of refugees



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza] [migr_resoth]

First of all, a refugee is a person who flees their country of origin due to serious human rights violations and persecution. This particular category has a right for international protection. As we can see in the graph, refugees who arrive in Spain quadrupled within 4 years. While in 2017, 23.180 people fled their country with Spain as their destination, in 2020 we can count 82.909. This huge number makes us notice that despite 2020 being the initial year of the global pandemic, it was also the peak year for the number of people who had no choice but to leave their home. Unfortunately, data on the number of refugees in 2021 are not yet available on EUROSTAT.

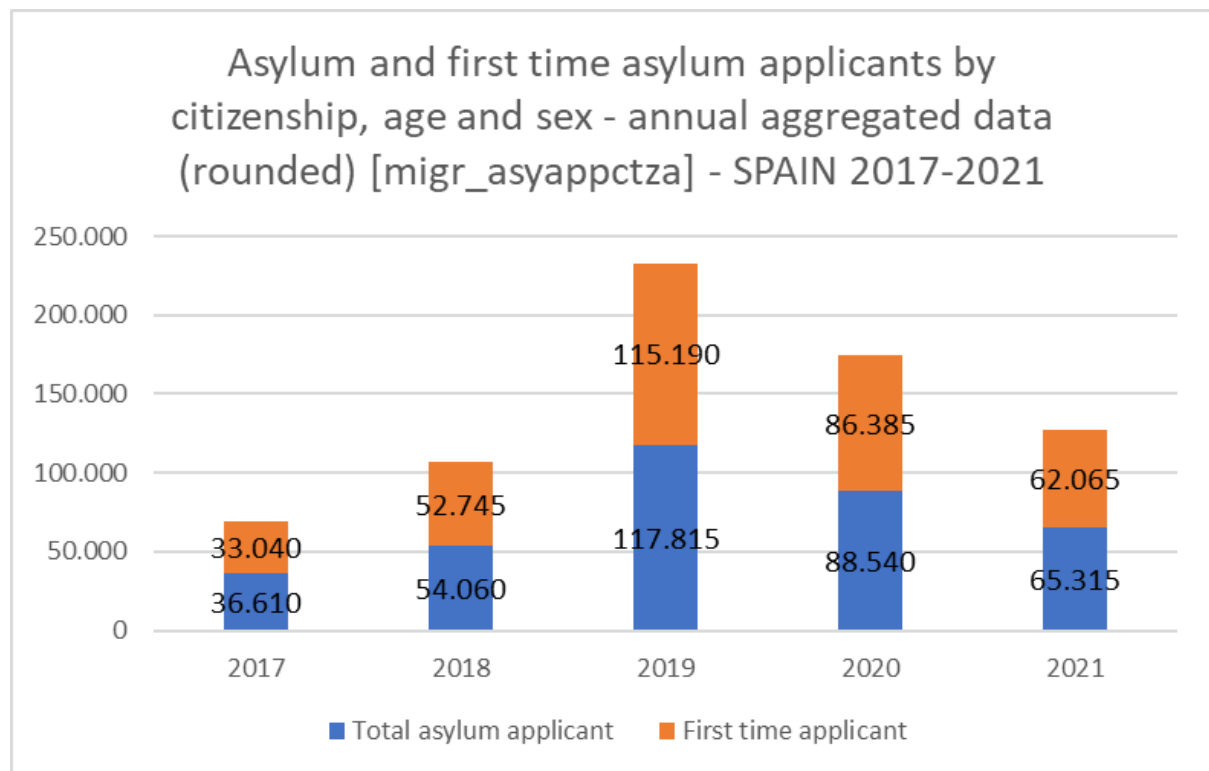
7.1.1 Refugees and asylum seekers



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza]

In the following graph we put together data about asylum applicants and about permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection. It is evident that initially both lines follow the same inclination. However, when asylum applicants reach their peak in 2019 with 111.815 requests, the number of refugees grows in a lesser measure. The most substantial sum for refugees corresponds with the year 2020, after which the data on EUROSTAT are silent.

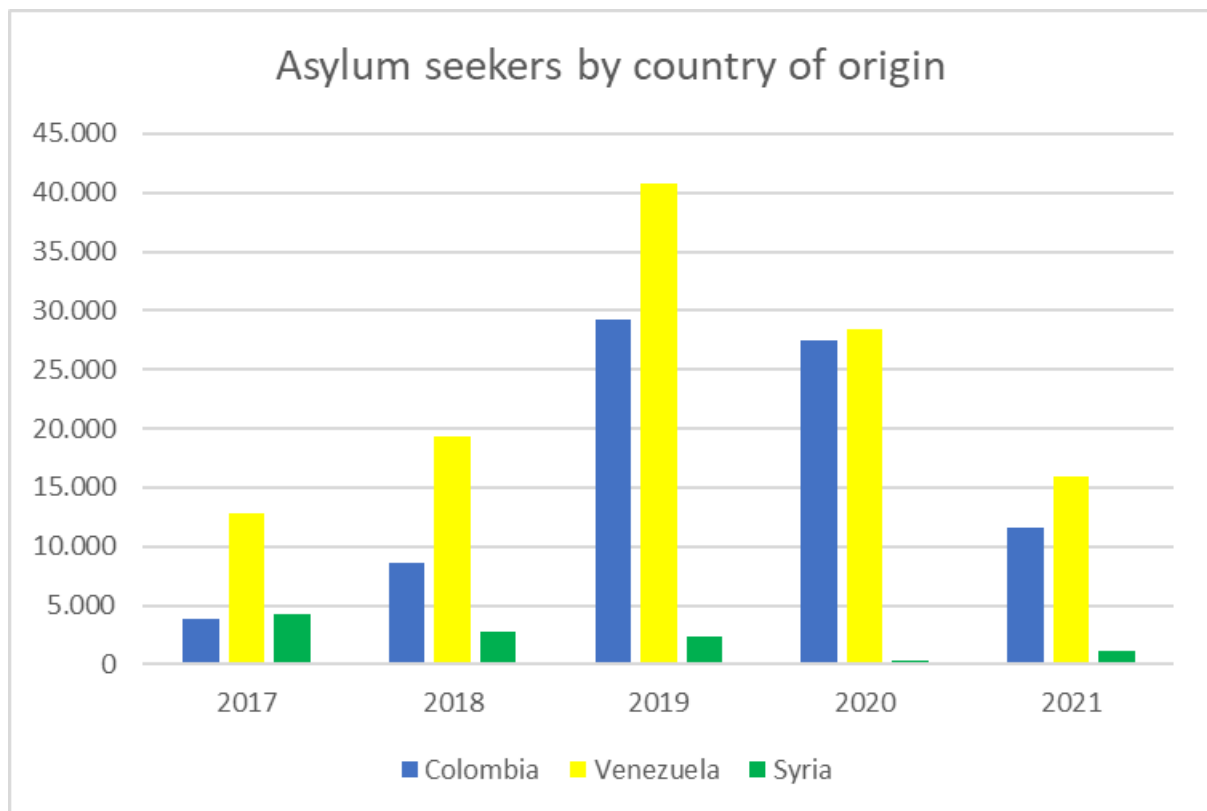
7.1.2 Asylum seekers: asylum and first time asylum applicants (2017-2021)



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza]

This particular chart compares and separates the general number of asylum seekers from that of first time asylum applicants. In 2017 and 2018, the total number of asylum applications were respectively 36.610 and 54.060, of which 33.040 and 52.775 were first time applications. As the graph shows, 2019 was a significant year. While the total number of asylum applications increased up to 117.815, first time applications counted 115.190, out of which the majority originated from Latin-American countries, namely Venezuela, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. However, in 2020 and 2021, both the total amount of asylum applications and first time applicants gradually decreased due to the global pandemic.

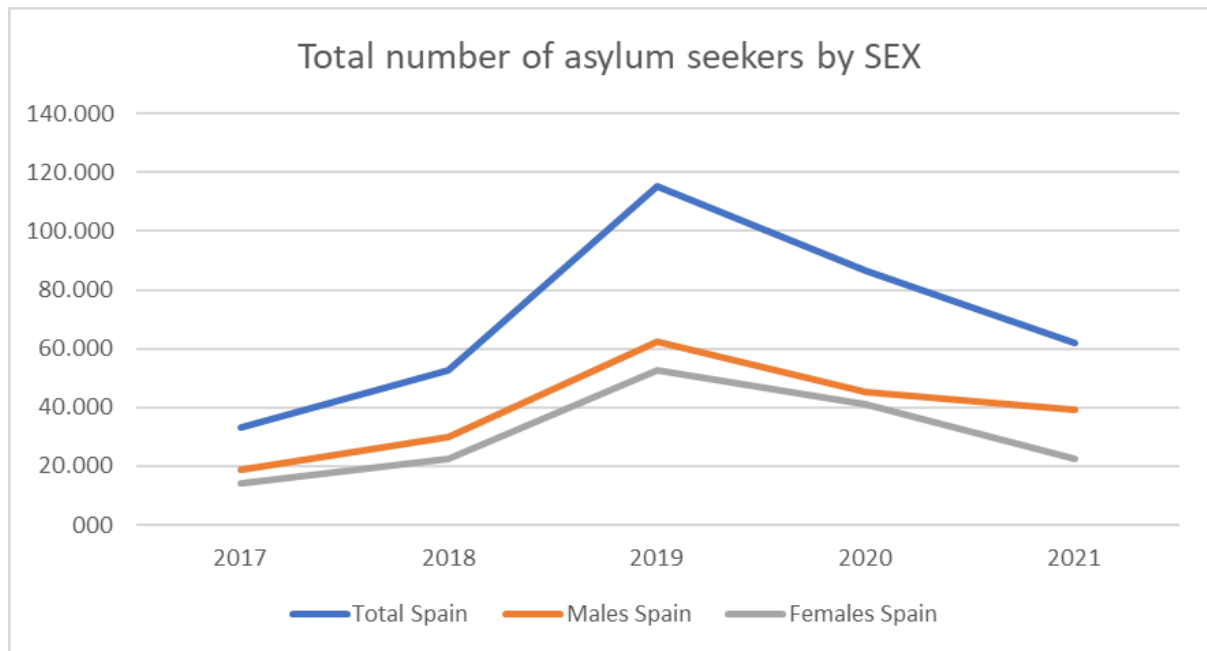
7.1.3 Total number of asylum seekers from specific countries



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza]

As regards the above presented data, we can clearly observe how Venezuela is the country of origin with the greatest number of asylum seekers in Spain, with 19,290 in 2018, almost double the number in 2017 (12,875). Next is Colombia with 8,635 in 2018, then Syria with 2,770 in 2018. 2019 marks a significant year for the exponential growth of asylum seekers from these three countries of origin. Data about Venezuelans even touched 40.835 of international protection applicants. In this respect, Venezuelans and Colombians, such as Hondurans and Savadorians, choose Spain as the first European country because of cultural similarities, such as language, costumes and family ties, and because of facilitations in order to achieve Spanish citizenship. Other cases, such as that of Syrians, Spain is chosen as a destination of safety and salvation from war, conflict and violence.

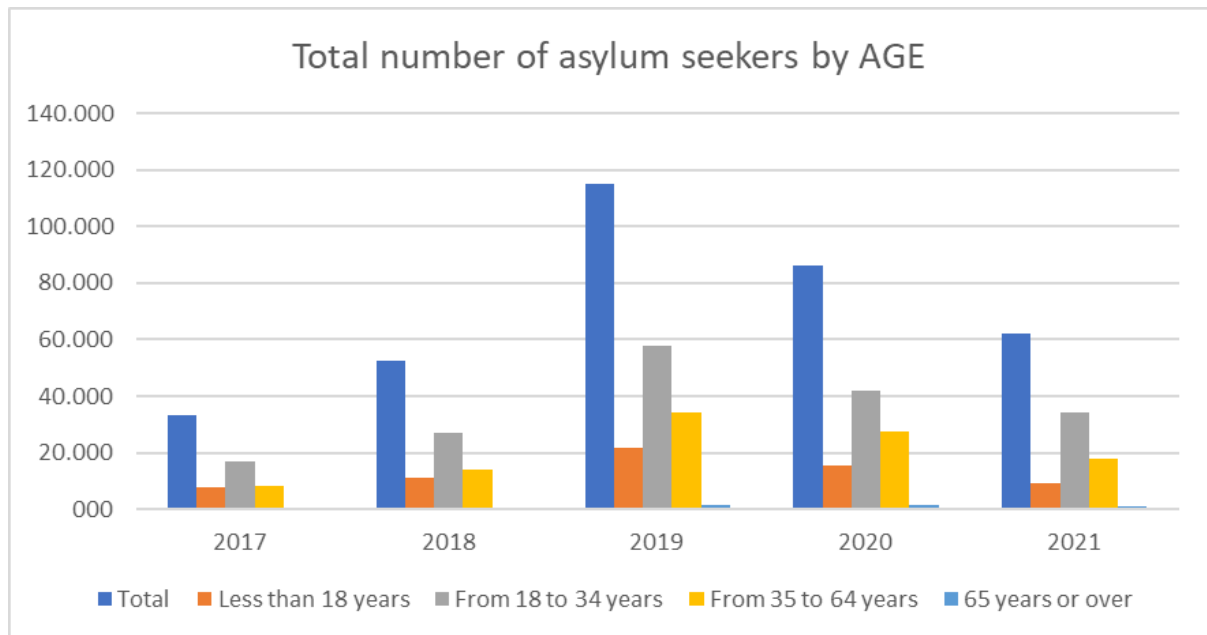
7.2 Asylum seekers by sex



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza]

Considering the sex ratio of asylum seekers, the following graph clearly evidence how the number of female and male asylum seeker do not amply distance themselves from one another. As a matter of fact, it is interesting noticing that the lines follow the same inclination during the years, with a peak in 2019. This specific result is in harmony with what we found in the 7.1.2 graph of this section.

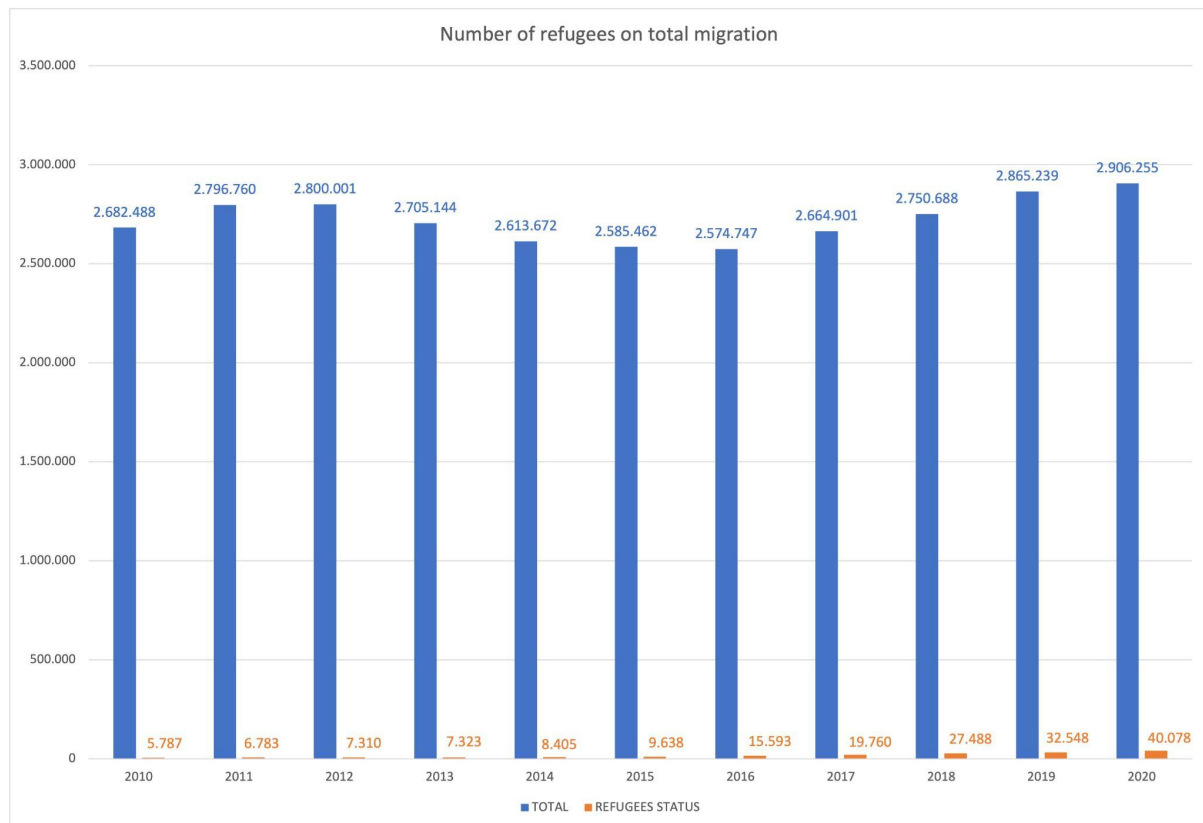
7.3 Asylum seekers by age



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_asyappctza]

In the aforementioned chart, it is possible to observe the distribution of asylum seekers under four age groups and the total number of them, from 2017 to 2021. Essentially, we can point out that the age group “From 18 to 34 years” includes the most meaningful number of asylum seekers. In addition, the fact that the age group “from 34 to 65 years” is immediately following the precedent one, it is clear to deduce that the majority of asylum seekers are students and young or elderly workers.

8. Share of refugees on total migration



Source EUROSTAT: [migr_resvalid]

The graph above shows the share of asylum seekers on total migration in the time period that goes from 2010 to 2020.

As we can see, the number regarding total migration varies just a little bit but it remains always under 3 million people.

While it is interesting to see how the refugee status reached the peak of 40.078 in 2020, so 8 times higher compared to 2010.

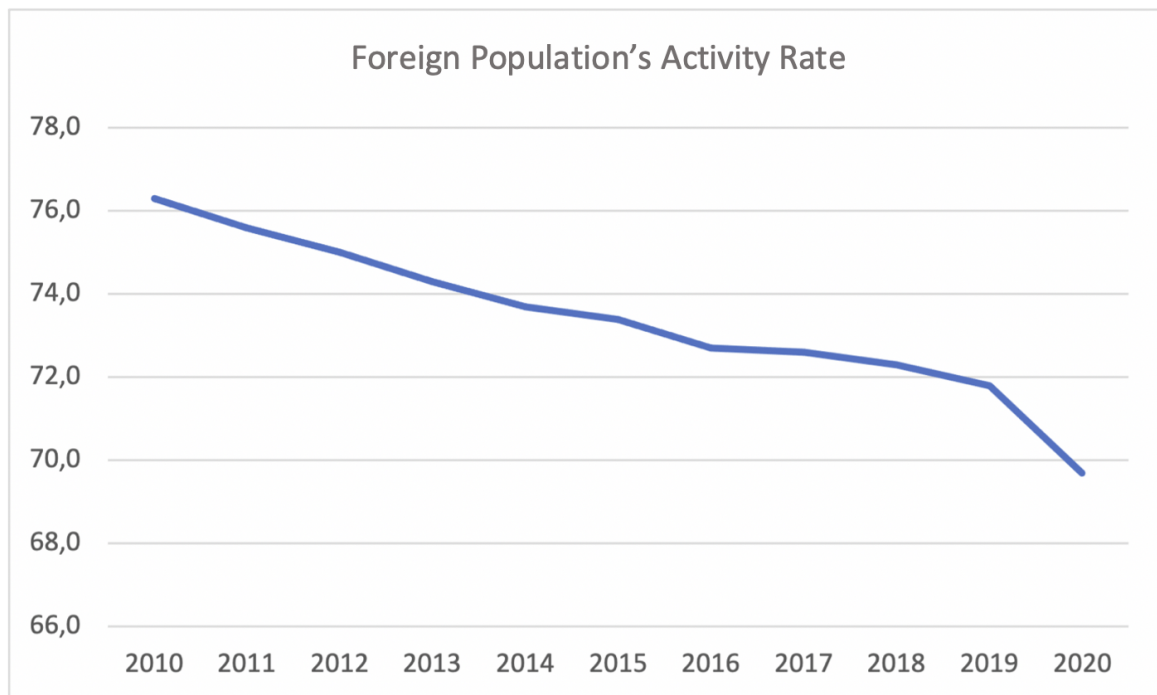
9. Migrants' integration indicators

In this last section we will focus on some migrants' integration indicators, which are essential for showing the trend of *activity and unemployment*, both phenomenon correlated to the labour market. The time period we will refer to is from 2010 to 2020 for the first two graphs; however, for the last two reference is made to the time period that goes from 2009 to 2019 because of the impossibility to rely on data, which for the year 2020 were not available.

We had the possibility to show more details of the most affected categories thanks to the correlation of the two mentioned rates - activity and unemployment - with two distinct variables, which are sex and country of origin.

Of course, difference is made when referring to males or females (for the variable *sex*), while when we refer to the variable *country of origin*, difference is made when referring to foreigners coming from an EU28 country or from a non-EU28 country.

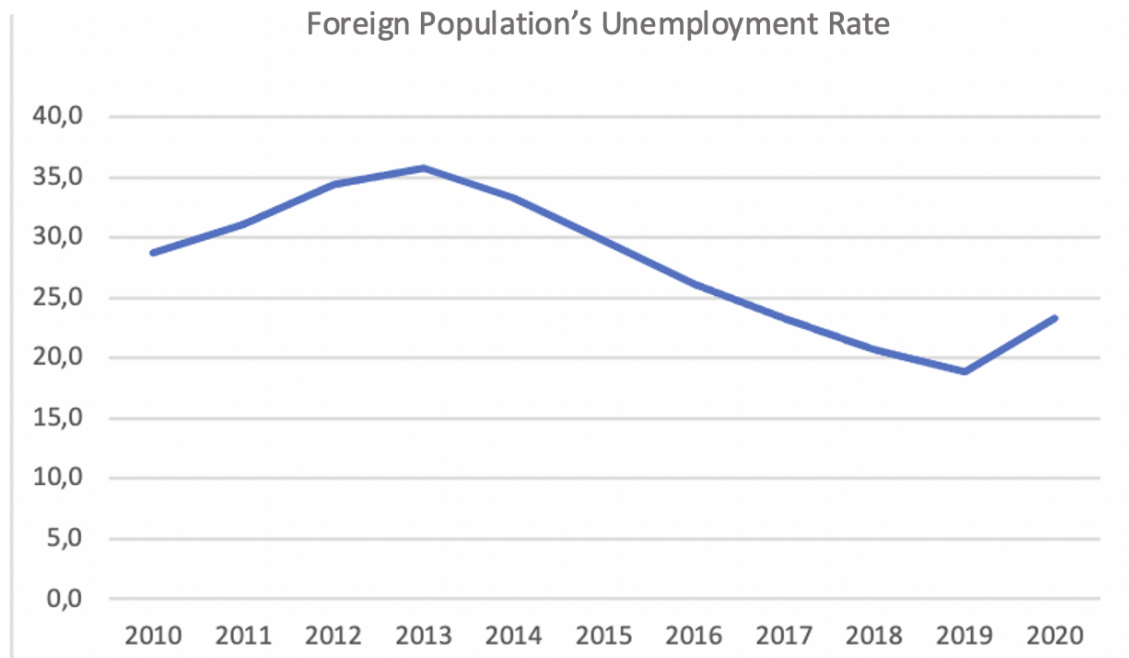
9.1 Foreign Population's Activity Rate



Source EUROSTAT: [lfsa_argacob]

This line graph shows the foreigners' activity trend, in percentage, in the decade 2010-2020. The rate shown through the graph includes all people of working age, without any distinction on whether we are referring to employed people or unemployed people. More specifically, it is clear that there is a dramatic fall: it starts with a percentage of 76.3% in 2010 and it ends with a percentage of 69.7% in 2020.

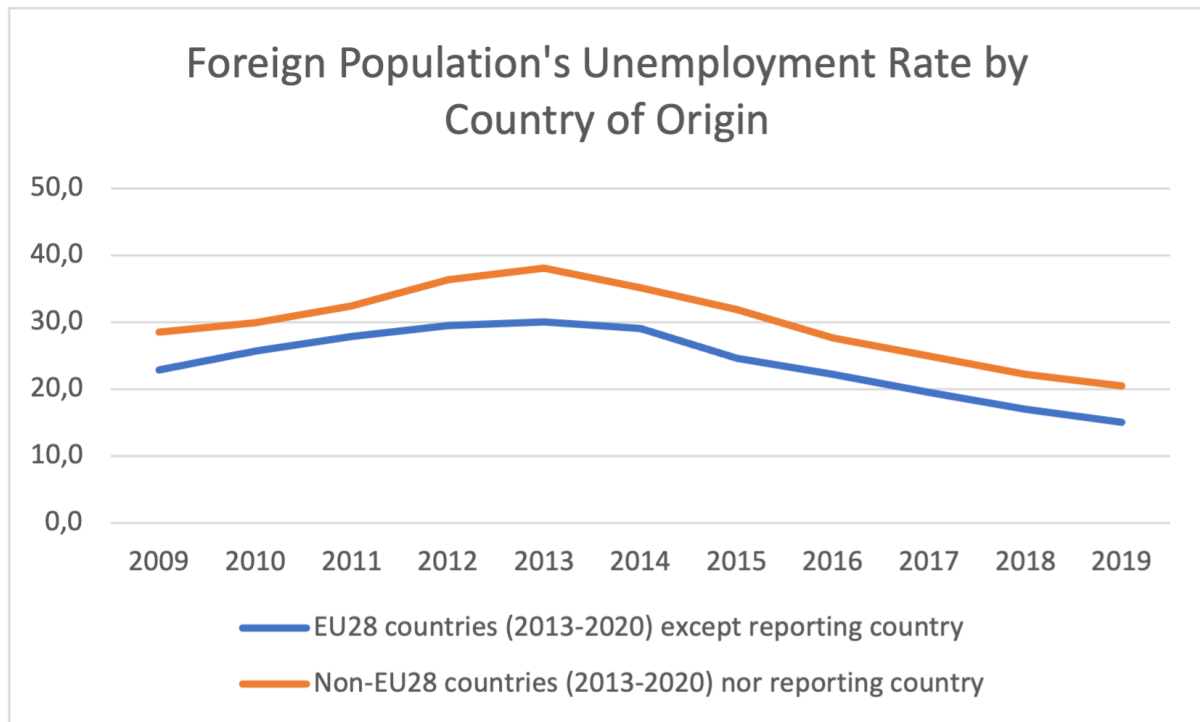
Foreign Population's Unemployment Rate



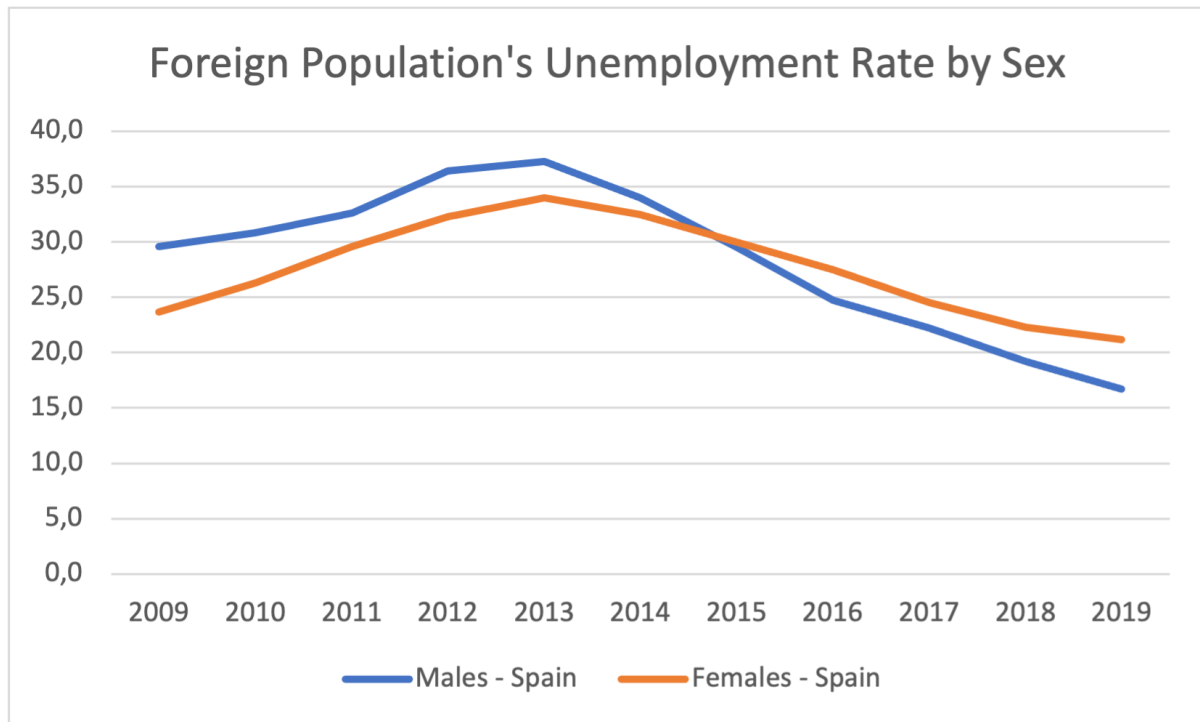
Source EUROSTAT: [lfsa_urgacob]

Here, instead, we focused on the unemployment rate and what comes out from this line graph is more dynamic. The time period we are referring to is always 2010-2020, and the age range goes from 15 to 74 years old. As we can see, it starts from a percentage of 28.7 in 2010, goes up until 2013, the year in which it reached the peak of 35.7. Right after 2013, it started to go down significantly, until when it reached the percentage of 18.9 in 2019, which still remains the lowest point reached in the time period of reference. However, in 2020 it started to go up again.

Foreign Population's Unemployment Rate by Country of Origin and Sex



Source EUROSTAT: [lfsa_urgacob]



Source EUROSTAT: [lfsa_urgacob]

As we said into the introduction to this section we will end up by describing the foreign population's unemployment rate through two distinct variables: country of origin and sex. For the variable country of origin we can see that the trend of both lines is pretty the same, even if, of course, we are referring to different percentages. In fact, when we look at the foreigner population's unemployment rate coming from one of the EU28 countries, the percentage is much lower if compared to the ones coming from Non-EU28 countries. So then we could say that the unemployment issue affects more the immigrants coming from a country of origin which is not part of the EU. Still, in 2013 the highest peak was reached, for both EU28 (30,0%) countries and Non-EU28 countries (38,1%). Also, both rates declined in the considered time period: EU28 started from 22.8% in 2009 and ended up with 15.0% in 2019, while Non-EU28 started from 28.5% and ended up with 20.4%.

Coming to the second graph, which concerns the same rate but related to another variable which takes into consideration gender identity. By looking at the data taken by EUROSTAT it is interesting to notice that from 2009 to 2015 females unemployment rate - always of foreign population - is much lower than the one related to males. In fact, for example, we have in 2009 a percentage of 23.7% for females and a percentage of 29.6% for males and goes significantly up until 2015, when the unemployment rate related to both females and males began to decrease. The only period in which we can see, thanks to the intersection in the line graph, that the rates are almost the same is in 2015, in which we have a percentage of 30.0% for females and 29.5% for males. At the end of the decade 2009-2019, we have a percentage of 21.2% for females and 16.7% for males.