

MIGRATION IN SPAIN

Country Report

2020-2021



Bertolotti Anna
Collinetti Francesca
D'Ambra Giulia
Gramer Katharina
Lucchesi Giovanni
Riis Bøe Thomas
Scarpino Barbara

INDEX:

- Introduction.
- Stock of population.
- Stock of migrants in the last 10 years.
- Immigrants stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration).
- Population growth.
- Flows of migrants in the last 10 years.
- Immigration flows by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason of migration).
- Total number of refugees (asylum seekers, sex, age).
- Share of refugees on total migration.
- Migrants' integration indicators employment or unemployment.

INTRODUCTION:

This paper is aimed to analyse migration in Spain as a destination country. Since the late 80s, when Spain has ceased to be a country of emigration, it has always been a country of immigration, with a negative trend only in the period 2012 - 2015. It is possible to underline two main reasons: its geographical location and its cultural and linguistic heritage. Spain is the European country closest to North Africa: it is only 13 km at the Strait's narrowest point between Point Marroquí in Spain and Point Cires in Morocco; it is also one of the few countries facing the Atlantic Ocean. Furthermore, its past as an imperial colony has brought both the Spanish language and traditions to almost all of South America, thus transforming Spain into the most chosen European country by South American immigrants. However, it is important not to forget all those Europeans who decide to move to Spain. Also in this case the reasons are different but its geographical position, its climate and its living conditions certainly play a fundamental role. For example, there are many people, especially retired, who choose this destination as a place to spend the last years of life.

This paper, focused on 2019 - with some data on 2020 - and the previous 10 years (2009-2019) is structured as explained below: firstly, the population, its growth and its percentage of migrants will be analysed; secondly the flows of migrants, their composition by sex, age, country of birth and reason to migrate; thirdly there will be a focus on refugees; finally, the employment and integration situation of migrants will be taken into consideration.

The report is mainly based on Eurostat Database and World Bank Database.

STOCK TOTAL POPULATION 2020

Spain is the second European country for surface area, but it is only the fourth for population. A population is a group of individuals living in a particular country in a specific time¹. According to the Eurostat Database, on 1st January 2020, have been estimated 47,332,614 people in Spain.

STOCK OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Migrant stocks are based on "the total number of international migrants present in a given country at a particular point in time" (UN SD, 2017: 9). An international migrant is defined as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" (UN DESA, 1998); is a person born in a country other than that in which he/her lives, it also includes refugees². United Nations data on these stocks are based mostly on the country's population that is born abroad, and on holding a foreign citizenship (UN DESA 2020a: 5; UN SD, 2017)³. Once the definition of "stock of migrants" is understood, it is possible to analyse the case of Spain.

The table [table 1] and the chart [figure 1] represent the stock of migrants in Spain in the last 10 years with a distinction between European migrants, non-European migrants, and those who are stateless - so few that they are not visible in the graph. No data were available prior to 2014 for Europeans and non-European migrants. During the last 10 years, the number of migrants living in Spain remained essentially stable, it is just possible to notice a little decrease until 2016 and a new increase in the following years. In 2010, in Spain there were 5'386'659 foreign people, and they were 5'226'906 in 2020.

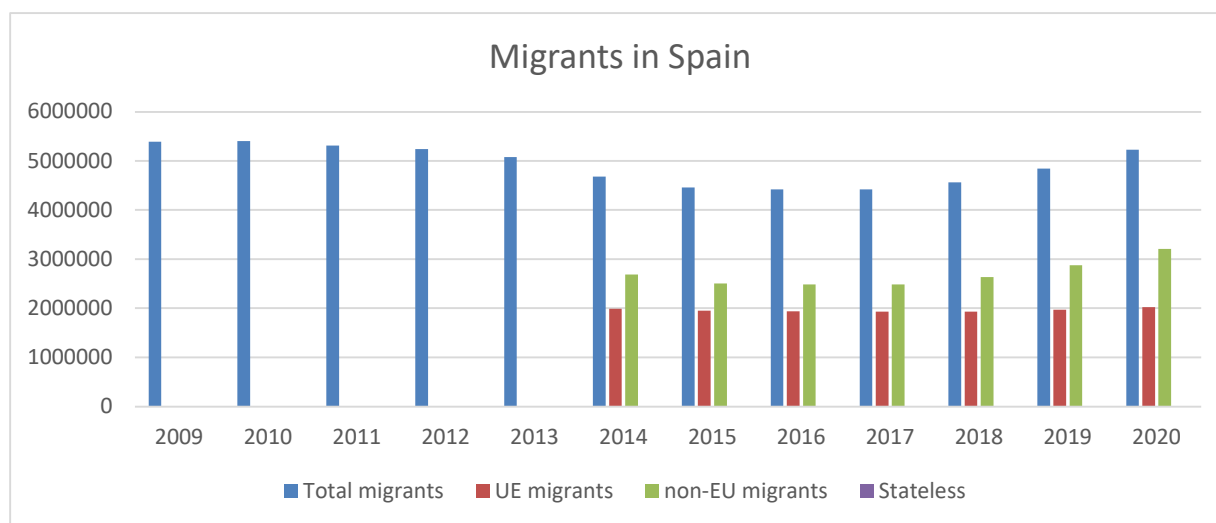


Figure 1

¹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/it/dizionario/inglese/population>

² <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/indicators/SM.POP.TOTL>

³ <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-migrant-stocks>

| TIME | TOTAL MIGRANTS | UE MIGRANTS | NON-EU MIGRANTS | STATELESS |
|------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 2009 | 5386659 | | | 617 |
| 2010 | 5402575 | | | 570 |
| 2011 | 5312439 | | | 523 |
| 2012 | 5236030 | | | 501 |
| 2013 | 5072680 | | | 547 |
| 2014 | 4677059 | 1991093 | 2685348 | 618 |
| 2015 | 4454354 | 1948413 | 2505196 | 745 |
| 2016 | 4417517 | 1933831 | 2482814 | 872 |
| 2017 | 4419621 | 1932817 | 2485761 | 1043 |
| 2018 | 4562962 | 1930905 | 2630781 | 1276 |
| 2019 | 4840207 | 1966631 | 2871969 | 1607 |
| 2020 | 5226906 | 2019487 | 3205467 | 1952 |

Table 1

Source: Eurostat Database [migr_pop1ctz];[migr_pop3ctb]

IMMIGRANT STOCK BY CATEGORY (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

1. Immigration stock - sex and age

The graph [figure 2] shows the immigration stock by sex and age in 2020. We can observe that the older the immigrants were (from 55-59 upwards) the higher the number of women were entering Spain. From the age groups below from (age 0-54) the number of men is higher. Furthermore, we can observe that the majority of immigrants, female and male, in 2020 are between 20-50 years old.

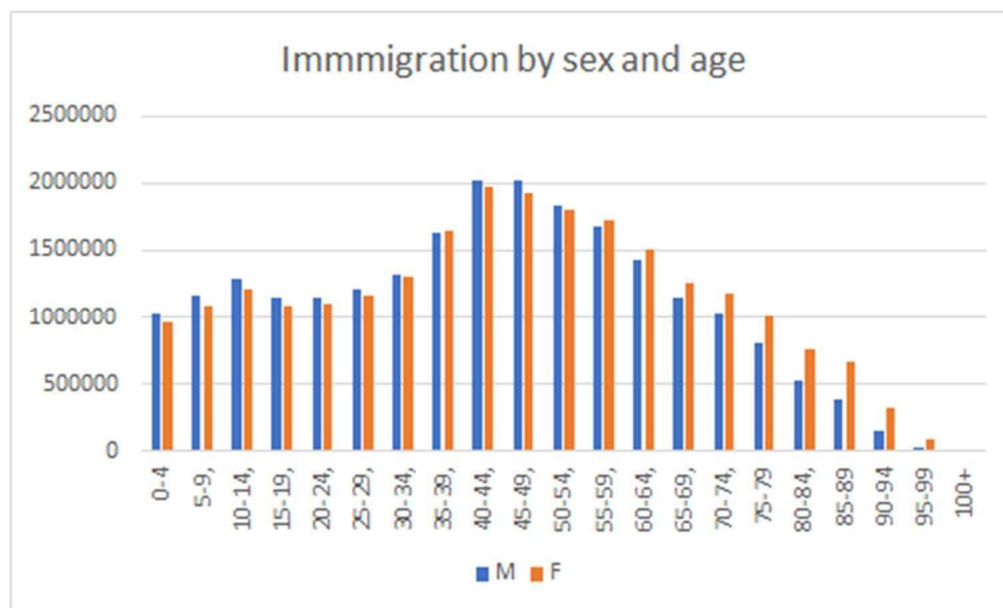


Figure 2

Source: [Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

2. Immigration stock - country of birth

The graph [figure 3] shows the immigration stock by country of birth from 2013 to 2019. We can notice that there has been an increase throughout the years from immigrants coming outside the European Union. From 2013 there has been an increase from 174,137 to 586,992 people in 2019, while the number of immigrants from EU-countries has always been below the numbers of non-EU immigrants. Furthermore, we can notice that the numbers do not only differentiate by a couple of thousands but there has always been a major difference of around 100.000 people leaving the immigrants coming from non-EU countries leading always the top.

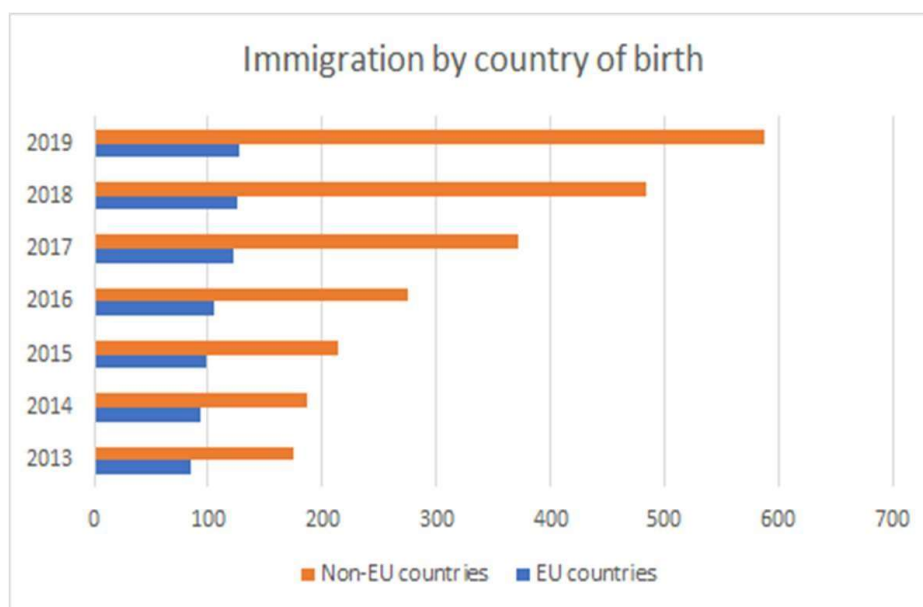


Figure 3

Source: [Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-explorer)

3. Immigration stock - reason for migration:

The graph [figure 4] shows the immigration flow by reason for migration from 2010 to 2019, while the reason for migration is divided into family, education, remunerated activities and others. We can notice that leading the top among the reasons for migration are family reasons, followed by remunerated activities in most of the years, and education coming at the last reason after not more specifically defined other reasons for migration. Furthermore, we can notice a big difference between the reason for family for migration and the other reasons, which shows us that the majority of immigrants entering Spain do so because of family reasons.

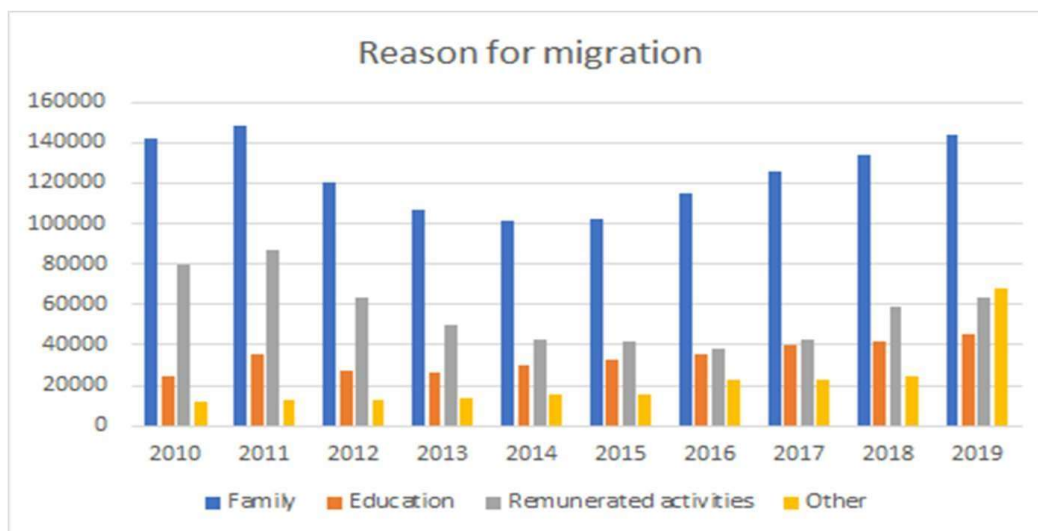


Figure 4

Source: [migr_resfirst]⁴

POPULATION GROWTH

Demography

In 2020, the total population reached 47,332,614 people. The two graphs [figure 5] and [figure 6] presents the demographic development of the Spanish population last year, displaying a slow growth and a slightly higher life expectancy for women. From 2012 the population growth has experienced a decrease until 2016, when it starts growing rapidly, due to the increase in the immigration flows as a consequence of the Syrian crisis.

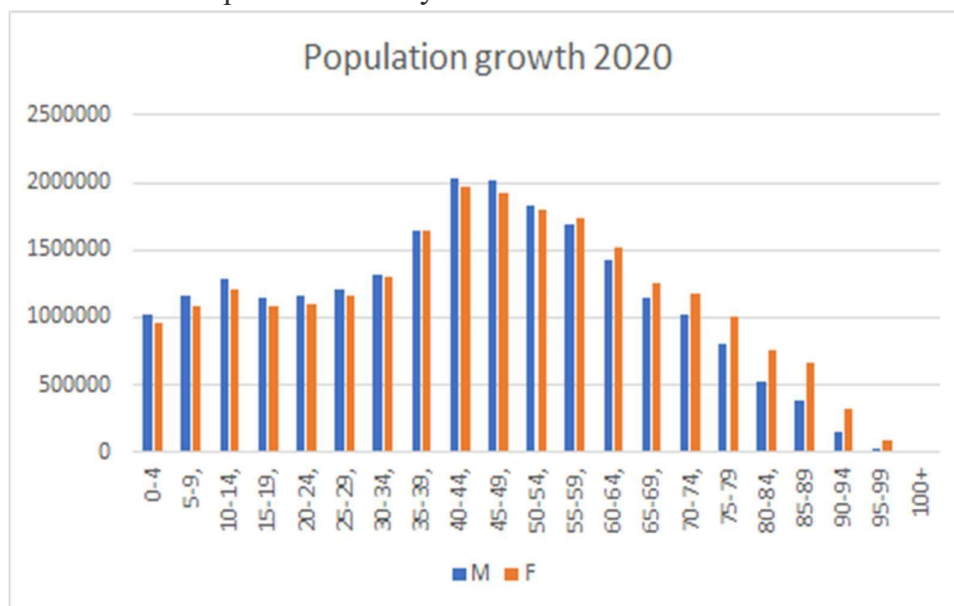


Figure 5

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00170/default/table?lang=en>

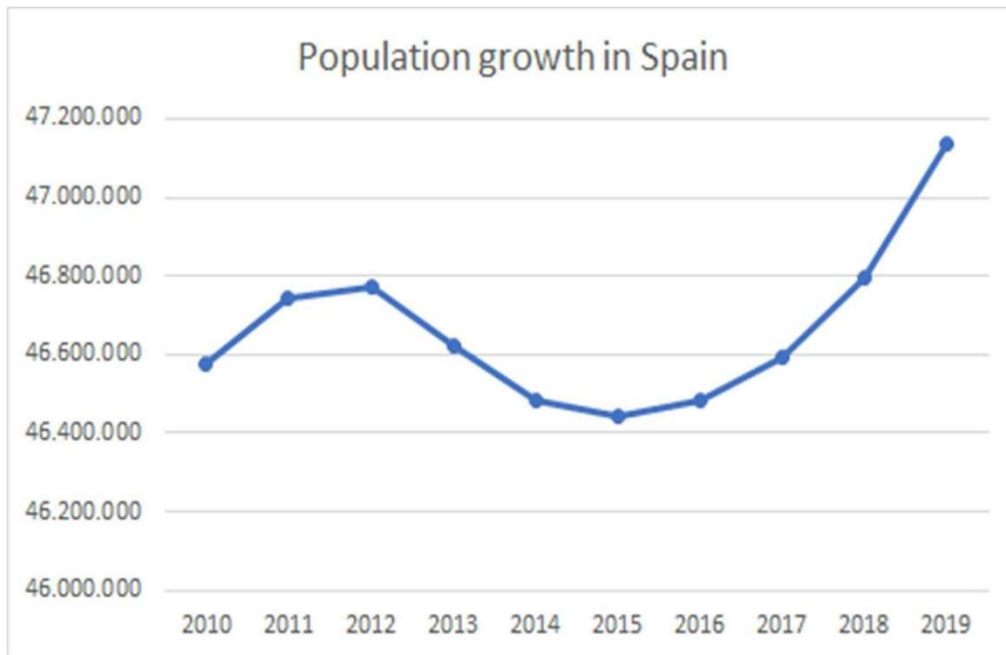


Figure 6

Source of data: Eurostat [DEMO_GIND]

FLOWS OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

The graph [figure 7] shows that in 2013 the number of outflow migrants was high, in 2014 it started to decrease. In 2016 there is a growth of inflow migrants until 2019.

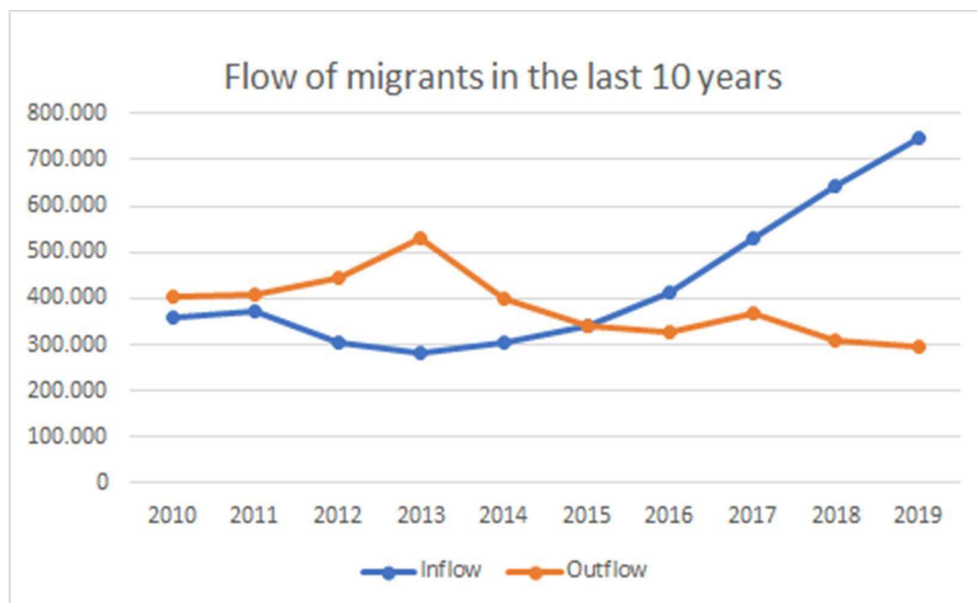


Figure 7

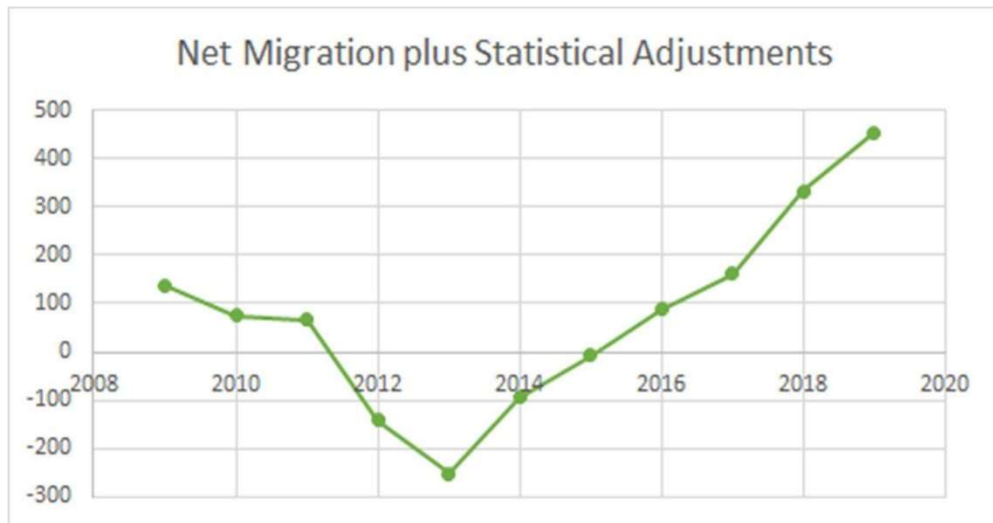


Figure 8

Source: Eurostat Database [demo_grind]

IMMIGRATION FLOW (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

The graph [figure 9] shows the immigration flow by reason for migration from 2010 to 2019, the reason for migration is divided into four main groups: family, education, remunerated activities, and others (asylum, climate migrants). We can notice that leading the family reasons, followed by remunerated activities in most of the years. Starting from 2015 education is increasing, other motivations are increasing in starting from 2018. Furthermore, we can notice a big difference between the reason for family for migration and the other reasons, which shows us that the majority of immigrants entering Spain do so because of family reasons.

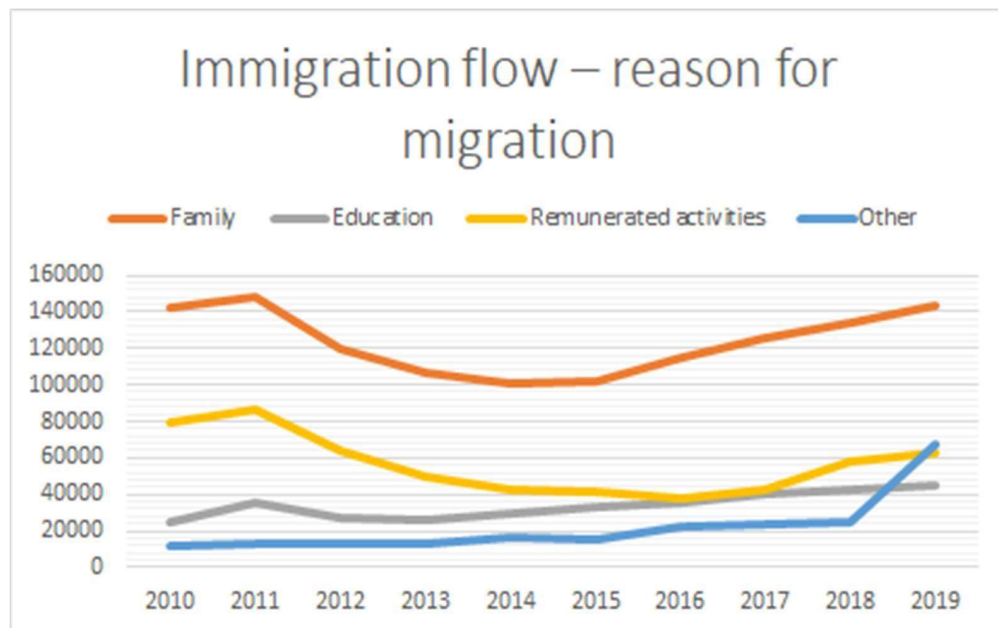


Figure 9

Source of data: Eurostat [MIGR_RESFIRST]

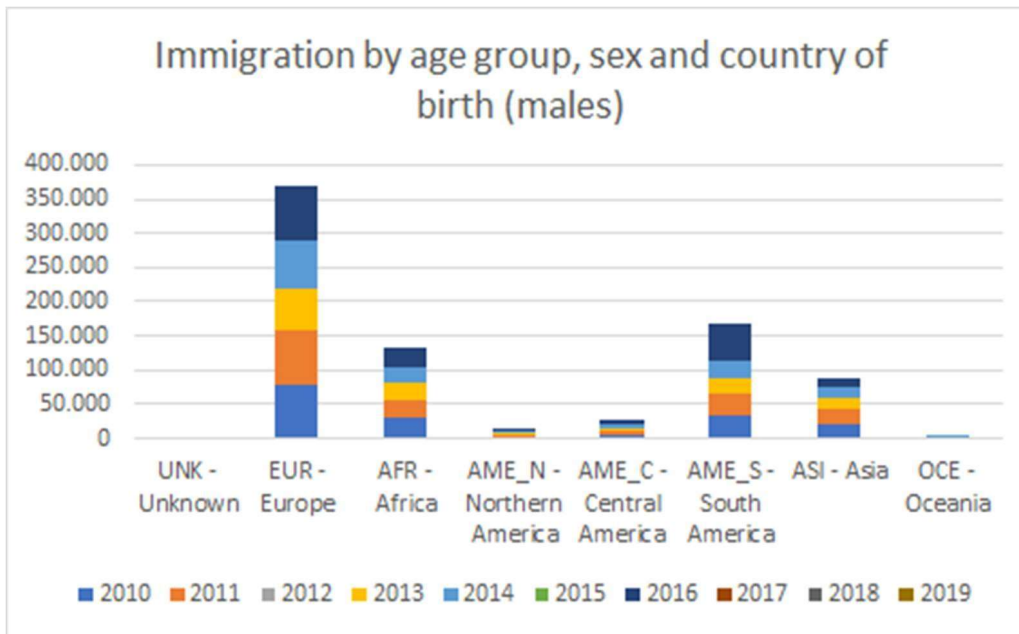


Figure 10

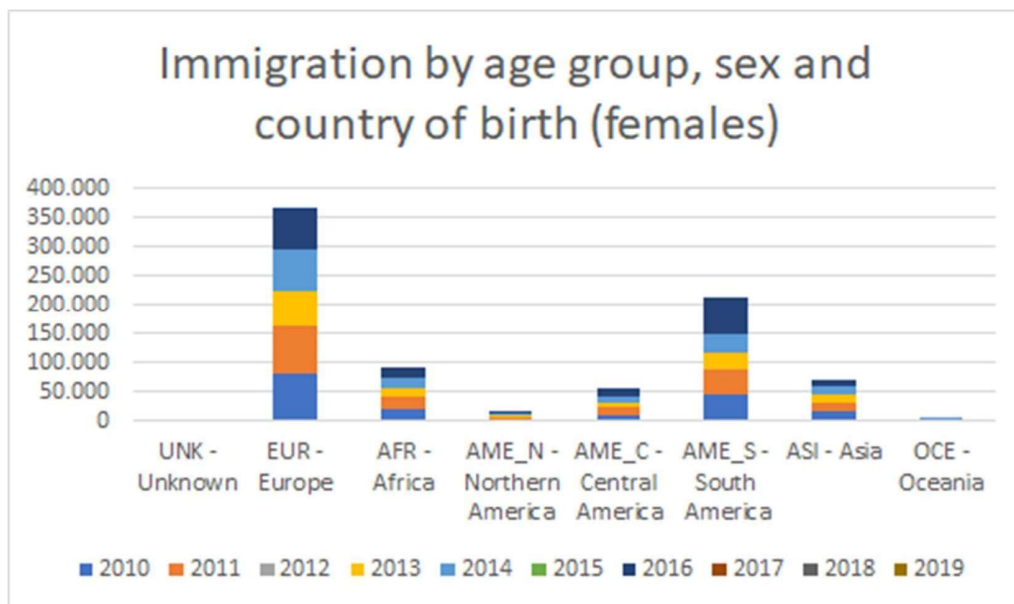


Figure 11

Source: Eurostat database [migr_imm3ctb]

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES (asylum seekers, sex, age)

Asylum and first time applicants by age and sex: age

The graphics below [figure 12] show the asylum applicants and the first time asylum applicants in Spain. It is possible to acknowledge how the asylum requests have changed in the first decade of 2010s, by dividing the data by age of the applicants. It is shown that the numbers have increased since 2015, following the so-called “refugee crisis” that affected the Mediterranean and the EU; particularly by observing the age of the applicants, we can see how the majority of the asylum seekers were in a working age, particularly the group from 18 to 64. We can also see an increase in 2019, following the worsening of the geopolitical refugee crisis⁵.

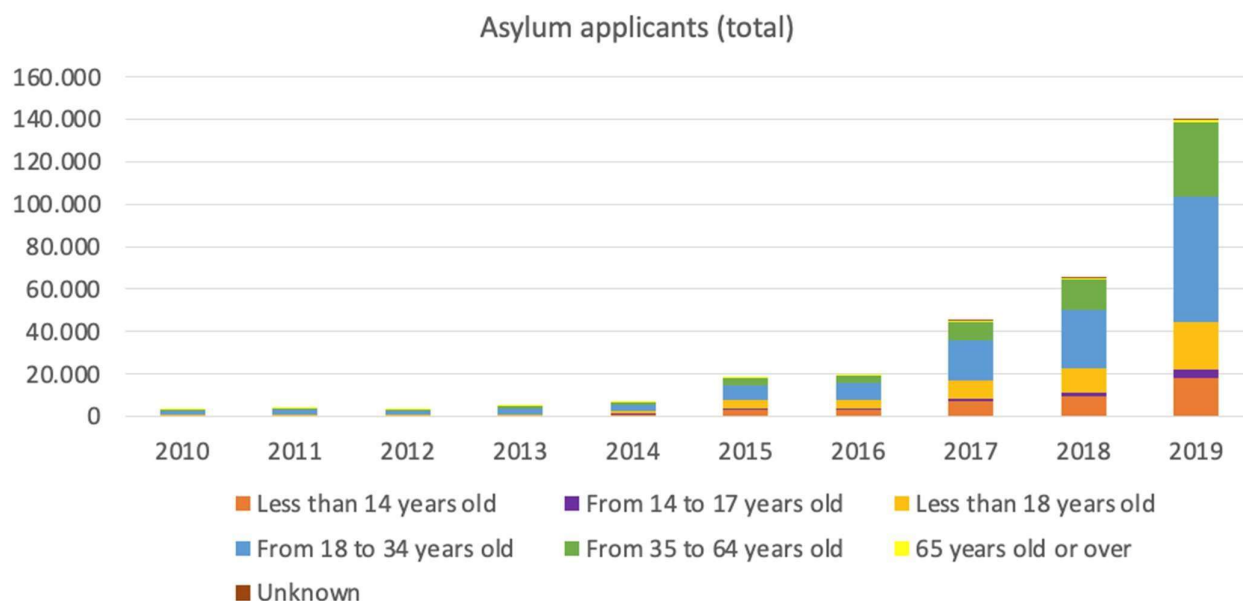


Figure 12

| CITIZEN | Extra-EU27 (from 2020) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| ASYL_APP | Asylum applicant | | | | | | | | | | |
| UNIT | Person | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGE | GEO/TIME | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Less than 14 years | Spain | 315 | 375 | 340 | 410 | 945 | 3.090 | 3.205 | 7.130 | 9.370 | 18.315 |
| From 14 to 17 years | Spain | 65 | 80 | 110 | 120 | 200 | 630 | 540 | 1.330 | 1.895 | 3.855 |
| Less than 18 years | Spain | 385 | 455 | 455 | 530 | 1.145 | 3.720 | 3.740 | 8.460 | 11.270 | 22.170 |
| From 18 to 34 years | Spain | 1.665 | 2.255 | 1.575 | 2.860 | 3.130 | 7.350 | 8.220 | 18.720 | 27.600 | 59.140 |
| From 35 to 64 years | Spain | 655 | 685 | 520 | 1.050 | 1.265 | 3.535 | 3.645 | 9.075 | 14.550 | 34.850 |
| 65 years or over | Spain | 35 | 20 | 10 | 45 | 75 | 170 | 145 | 350 | 630 | 1.630 |
| Unknown | Spain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |

Table 2

Source: Eurostat⁶ [migr_asyappetza]

⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>

⁶ <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

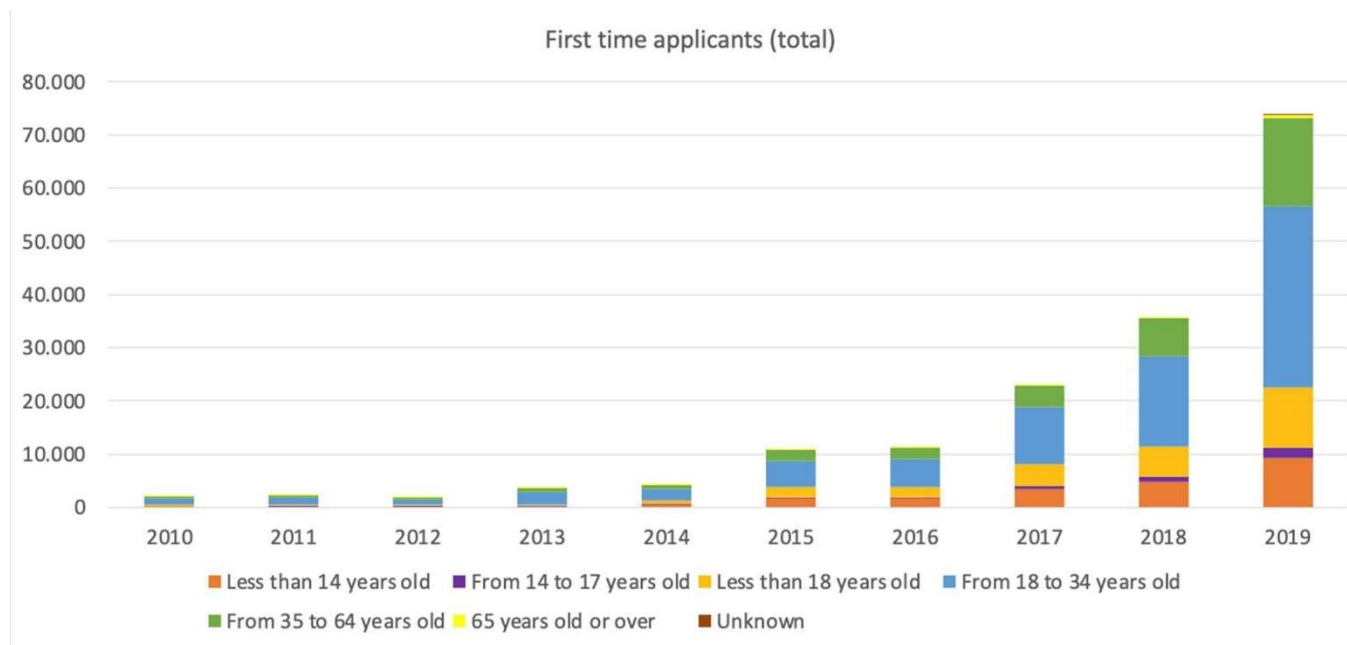


Figure 13

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| CITIZEN | Extra-EU27 (from 2020) | | | | | | | | | | |
| ASYL_APP | First time applicant | | | | | | | | | | |
| UNIT | Person | | | | | | | | | | |
| SEX | Total | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGE | GEO/TIME | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Less than 14 years | Spain | 310 | 365 | 325 | 405 | 940 | 3.090 | 3.185 | 6.520 | 9.180 | 17.935 |
| From 14 to 17 years | Spain | 65 | 80 | 110 | 115 | 200 | 630 | 525 | 1.210 | 1.850 | 3.775 |
| Less than 18 years | Spain | 375 | 440 | 435 | 520 | 1.140 | 3.715 | 3.710 | 7.730 | 11.035 | 21.710 |
| From 18 to 34 years | Spain | 1.545 | 1.920 | 1.450 | 2.745 | 3.045 | 7.250 | 8.125 | 16.995 | 26.930 | 57.800 |
| From 35 to 64 years | Spain | 595 | 595 | 455 | 975 | 1.205 | 3.465 | 3.590 | 8.010 | 14.140 | 34.040 |
| 65 years or over | Spain | 35 | 15 | 10 | 45 | 75 | 170 | 145 | 300 | 620 | 1.615 |
| Unknown | Spain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |

Table 3

Source: Eurostat⁷ [migr_asyappctza]

From that year on, a new route has become more important as a way to enter the European Union borders: the one that goes through the Canary Islands. Migrants depart from West Africa, notoriously from Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia. If we take into consideration 2019 and 2020 data at our disposal thanks to a UNHCR report⁸, we can see how this flow has increased since the previous years.

⁷ <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

⁸ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5226>

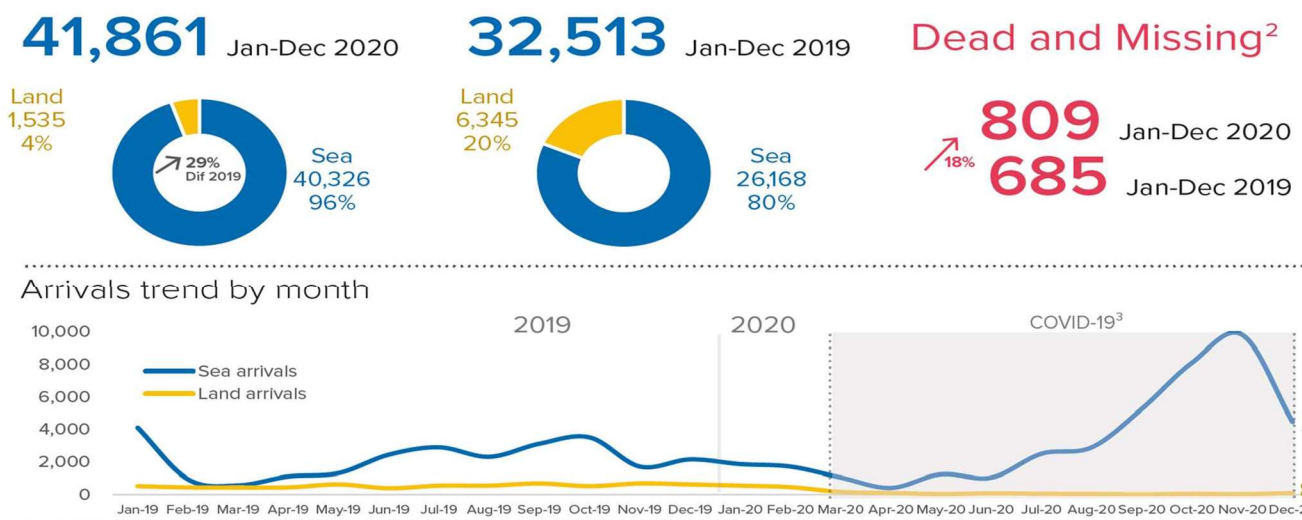


Figure 14

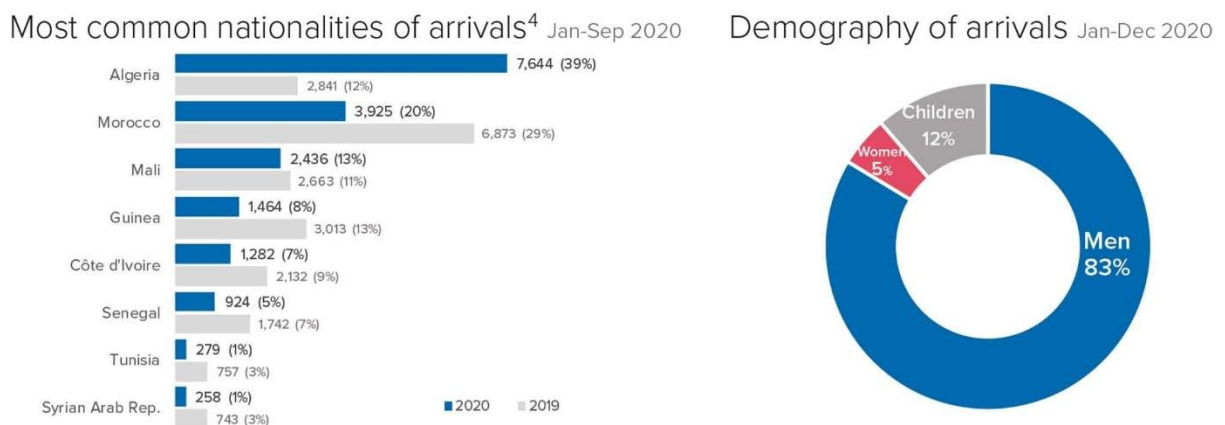


Figure 15

Asylum and first-time applicants by age and sex: sex

The graphic [figure 16] shows the number of males and females' applicants in Spain in the first decade of the 2010s. It shows how the numbers are not so distant from one sex to another, that is because of the frequency of family reunifications, which is the main channel of entrance in Europe. As a European Commission study reports: "Family reunification in Spain has changed from being a mere consequence of labor migration to being a substantive channel, one of the major sources of new immigrant arrivals. The interest in and the importance of studying this specific entry channel is a result of its strong increase and the implications that it has in various areas, particularly integration, education and employment. With regard to current legislation on family reunification, current immigration legislation addresses this concept based on the content of Directive 2003/86/EC. Accordingly, in general terms, a foreign national who has resided in Spain for one year has the right to reunite with the members of his/her family. In order to do so, he/she must have sufficient financial resources and suitable accommodation. In Spain, the requirements do not include integration measures"⁹.

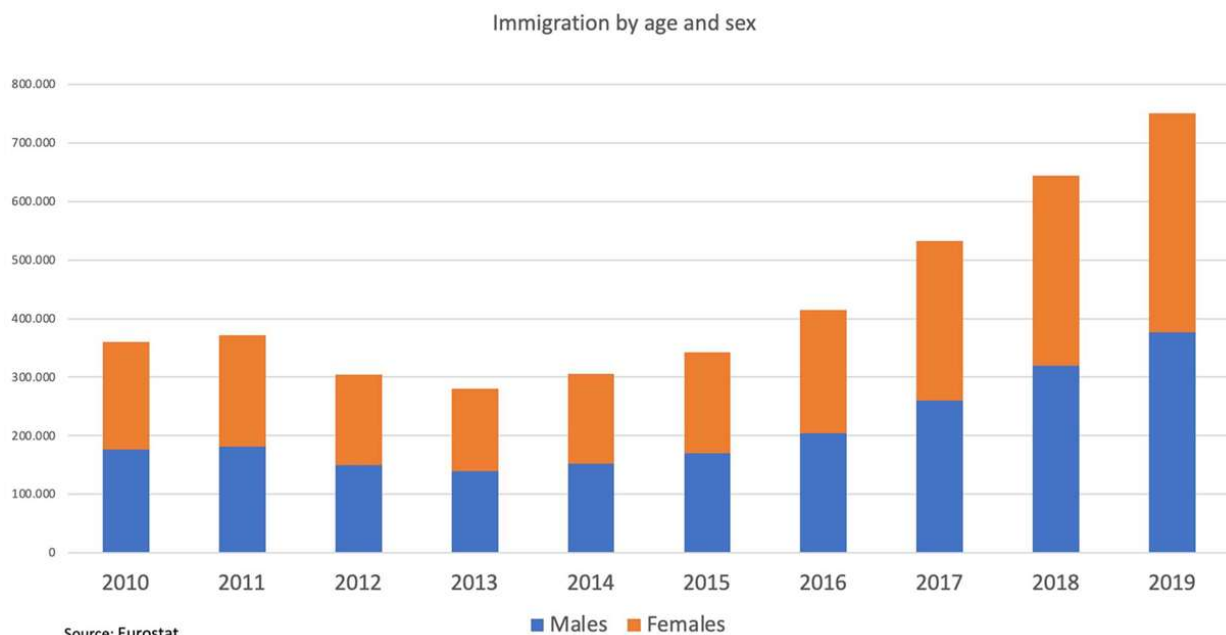


Figure 16

| SEX | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total | 360.705 | 371.331 | 304.053 | 280.772 | 305.454 | 342.114 | 414.746 | 532.132 | 643.684 | 750.480 |
| Males | 176.828 | 180.945 | 149.749 | 139.473 | 151.949 | 169.626 | 204.209 | 260.161 | 319.082 | 376.035 |
| Females | 183.877 | 190.386 | 154.304 | 141.299 | 153.505 | 172.488 | 210.537 | 271.971 | 324.602 | 374.445 |

Table 4

Source: Eurostat¹⁰

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/26a_spain_family_reunification_final_en.pdf

¹⁰ <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

SHARE OF REFUGEES ON TOTAL MIGRATION

This graph [figure 17] shows how many of the migrants are refugees. Of the total 750 480 migrants entering Spain only 8 percent have come as refugees. The share of refugees on total migration is 8%. The data is collected from The World Bank and Eurostat database.

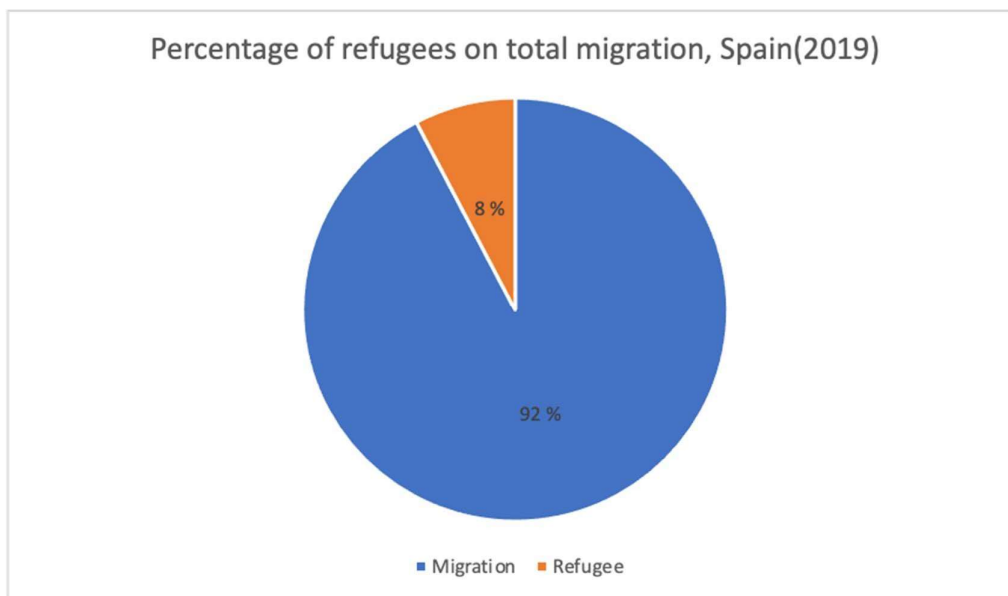


Figure 17

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| | Spain | Source |
| Total migration | 750 480 | migr_imm3ctb |
| Refugees | 57 751 | https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SM.POP.REFG&country=ESP#advancedDownloadOptions |

Table 5

MIGRANTS INTEGRATION INDICATORS EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

In Spain migrants have equal rights like Spanish citizens, the necessary condition in the field of work for non-EU workers is that they have to obtain the work permit. Spain is characterized by a high rate of undeclared work, because there are still many foreigners without adequate permits. Here below are shown unemployment [figure 18] and employment [figure 19] by sex, age and country of birth (%), official data from Eurostat [figure 18] and [figure 19].

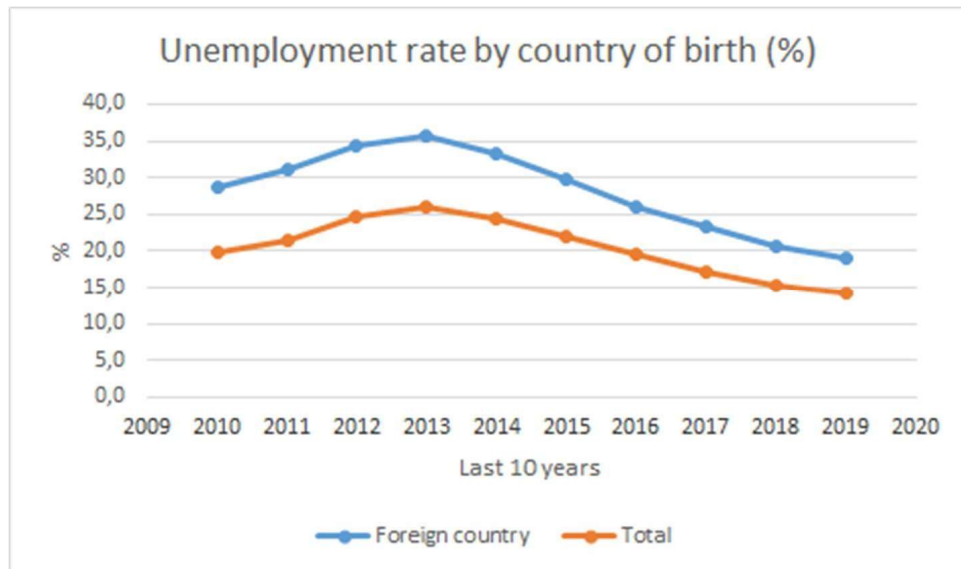


Figure 18

Unemployment rates by country of birth (%) age from 15 to 74.

Source: EUROSTAT [lfsa_urgacob]

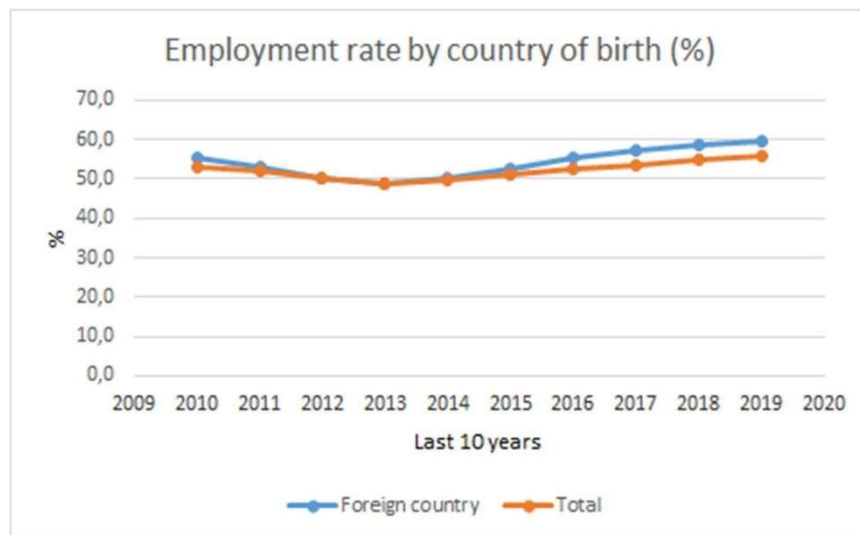


Figure 19

Employment rates by country of birth (%) age from 15 to 74.

Source: EUROSTAT [lfsa_ergacob]

As we can observe in the graphs [figure 20] and [figure 21], in the last 10 years, male unemployment rate is higher than the female ones. As we can see, the trend shows that the maximum level of unemployment was reached in 2013 with 40% (male unemployment rate [figure 20]), especially for migrants from non-EU countries. From 2013 to 2019 the unemployment rate has been falling. The 2020 data are not yet available to see the change due to the pandemic from Covid-19.

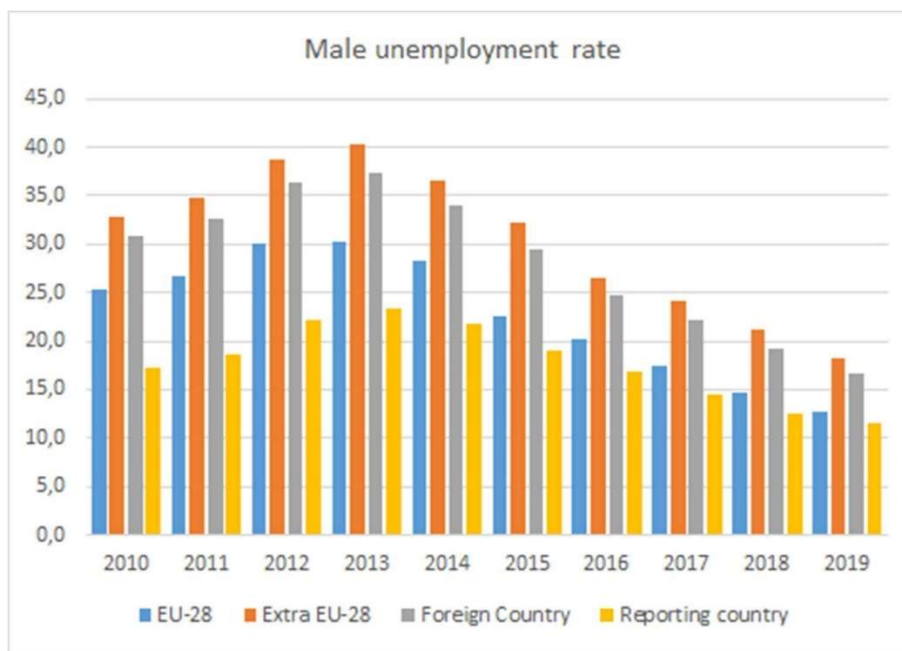


Figure 20

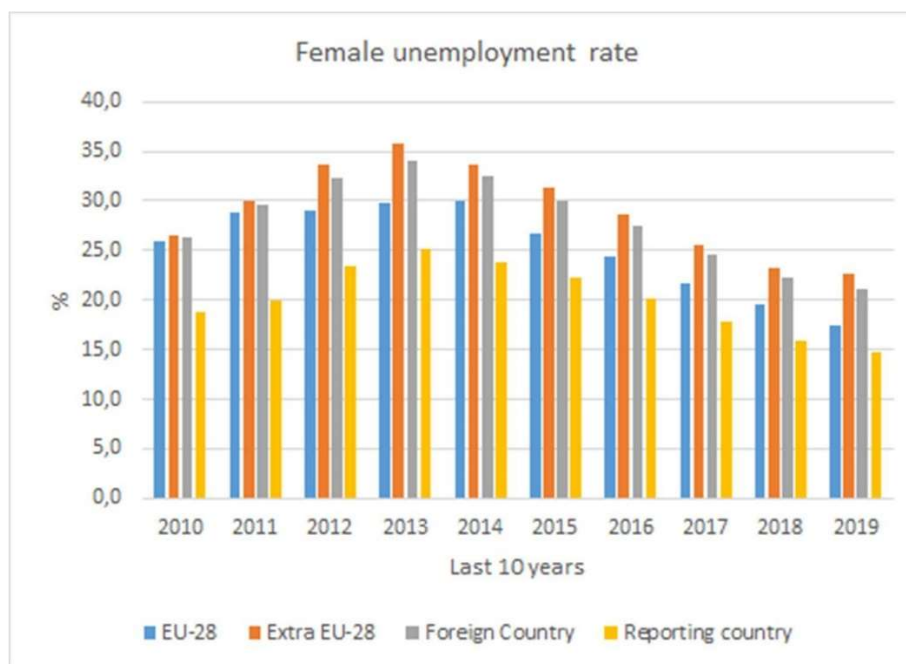


Figure 21

Unemployment rates by sex and country of birth (%) (2010-2019) age from 15 to 74.

Source: EUROSTAT [lfsa_urgacob]

The trend of the last 10 years of employment between males [figure 23] and females [figure 22] shows that male employment is higher compared to female ones. The lowest employment rate was reached in 2013, especially for migrants from non-EU countries. From 2013 onwards, it can be noted that the employment rate is growing [figure 22] and [figure 23], but even in this case it will be necessary to wait for the updated data of 2020 to understand the most recent trend.

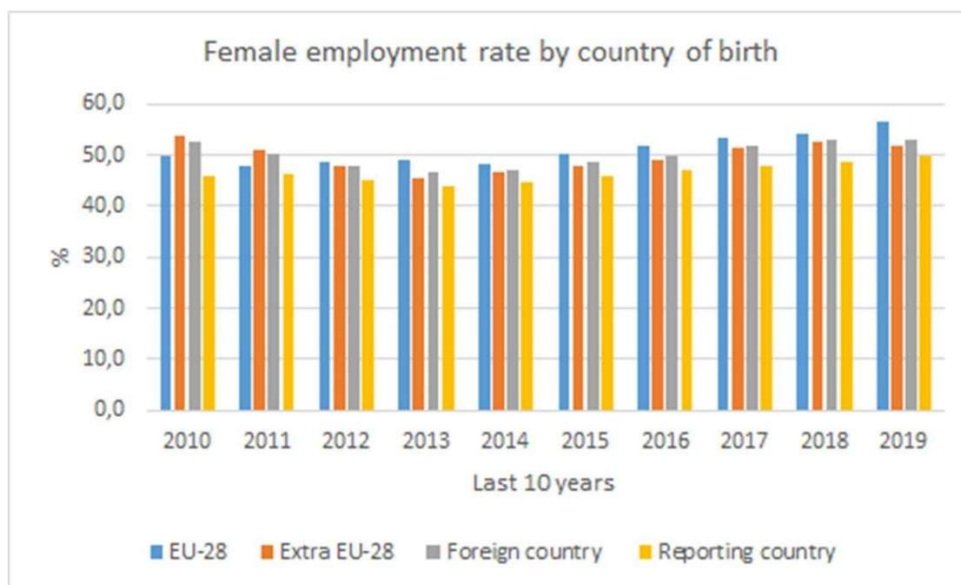


Figure 22

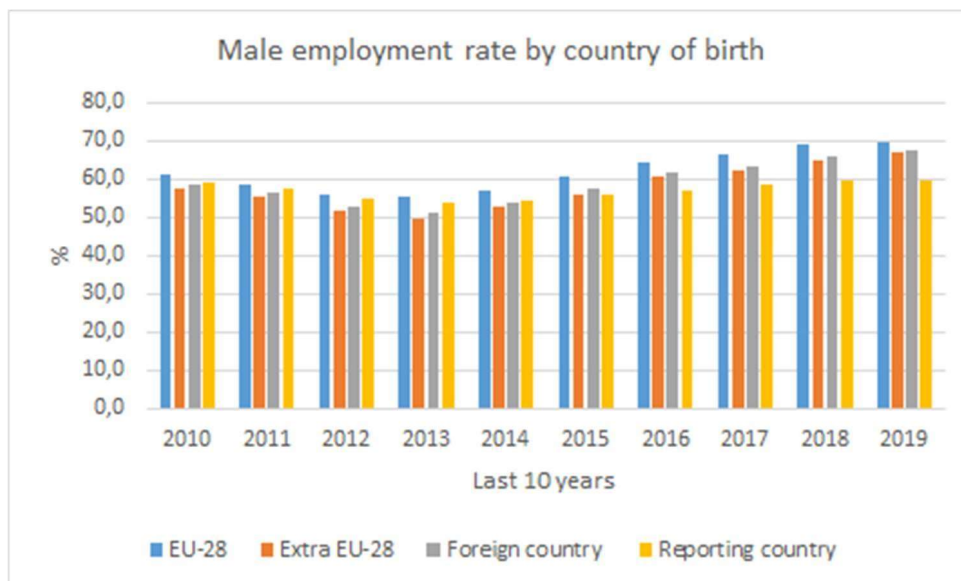


Figure 23

Employment rates by sex and country of birth (%) (2010-2019) age from 15 to 74.

Source : EUROSTAT [lfsa_ergacob]

SITOGRAPHY

- https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/figures/living_en
- <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Migration>
- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migrant_population:_23_million_non-EU_citizens_living_in_the_EU_on_1_January_2020
- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_pop1ctz/default/table?lang=en
- https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_imm8&lang=en
- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_imm1ctz/default/table?lang=en
- <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-migrant-stocks>
- <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SM.POP.TOTL?end=2015&start=2015&view=map>
- <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-migration-flows>
- [Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex - annual aggregated data \(rounded\)](#)
- [Immigration by age and sex](#)
- [Population on 1 January](#)
- [Foreign-born population, Spain](#)
- [Residents who acquired citizenship as a share of resident non-citizens by former citizenship and sex](#)
- <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/it/dizionario/inglese/population>
- <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/indicators/SM.POP.TOTL>
- <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-migrant-stocks>
- [Eurostat - Data Explorer \(europa.eu\)](#)
- <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00170/default/table?lang=en>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>
- <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5226>
- https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/26a_spain_family_reunification_final_en.pdf
- <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>
- <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>
- <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>
- [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#)