

MIGRATION FLOWS, IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION IN SPAIN.



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION.

Spain has always been a country where immigration has been present. However, nowadays, although the flow of immigrants is still very high, emigration has increased considerably compared to before the 2008 crisis. But we will talk about this later.

Immigration to Spain has increased significantly since the end of the 20th century, reaching 12.2% of the Spanish population in 2010. However, in 2017, it declined, although it remains one of the highest in Europe. Spain is the tenth country with the most immigrants, behind countries such as the United States, Russia, Germany, Ukraine, France, Canada and the United Kingdom. Some flows could be sub-Saharan immigrants from Africa and

others such as Romanians, Moroccans, Latin Americans and Chinese. We are going to focus on the immigration of Romanians and Africans to Spain.

Spain has generally always been a country of emigration, but in a few decades, it has gone from being a country that generates emigration to one that receives a very high number of immigrants, as we have already seen. However, the 2008 crisis not only stopped immigration, but made many people emigrate to other countries looking for job offers. It's estimated that 400,000 people have left Spain annually since 2009, while in the period 2002-2005, 50,000 people left. We are going to focus on Spanish emigration to France and Argentina.

Historically, Spain has experienced strong waves of emigration, such as emigration to America in the 19th and early 20th centuries, due to the Civil War, and emigration to developed Europe in the 1960s and 1970s, so the phenomenon is not new. However, this has always generated some alarm because there's fear that the most qualified young people are leaving the country. Nevertheless, an analysis shows that most of the people who have emigrated are foreigners and immigrants who arrived in 1998-2007.

inally, it is believed that many of the emigrants who have left in recent years are likely to return. A recent analysis estimated that between 20% and 50% of the immigrants that a country receives leave within the first five years, either to return home or to move to a third country. Spain, which has already achieved a growth in economic activity and employment, may be able to offer those who emigrated opportunities for professional and personal development to return.

Julia Castillo Asencio

IMMIGRANTS IN SPAIN

According to the UN, 6,104,203 immigrants live in Spain, which represents 12.9% of the Spanish population. Let's continue with some more figures; female immigration is higher than male immigration, with 3,190,456 women, or 52.26% of the total number of immigrants, compared to 2,913,747 male immigrants, or 47.73%.

The immigration ranking shows that Spain is the 46th country in the world in terms of percentage of immigration. Immigrants in Spain come mainly from Morocco (11.66%), Romania (10.20%) and Ecuador (6.80%).

In recent years, the number of immigrants living in Spain has increased by 157,097 people, or 2.64%.



IMMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA

Romanians in Spain make up the third largest Romanian community in Europe and in the world, outside Romania, of course. They are, in turn, the second largest foreign nationality in Spain after the Moroccan community. Despite the economic crisis that affected Spain from 2008 onwards, this nationality continued to grow, although more slowly, to reach a peak of 895 970 Romanian immigrants in 2012, or about one sixth of the total of 5 711 040 immigrants, according to the figures from the INE (Statistics National Institute). Since then, Romanian immigration has declined to 669 434 people in 2019. Nowadays in 2021, it keeps on being the same.

About Simona Raluca

Simona Raluca is a Romanian girl who came to Spain when she was 4 years

The reasons why they have come to Spain are mainly economic, as wages in Spain are higher than in Romania. Another reason is the linguistic proximity of Romanian to Spanish, both being Romance languages.

The geographical distribution of Romanian immigrants is characterised by a strong concentration in a few provinces and cities with an extraordinary increase in the number of residents. At the same time, this immigration flow is undergoing an intense process of diffusion throughout the Spanish territory, so you can find a Romanian in every corner of our country.

old with her parents and grandparents from Vaslui. When I asked her why she had come, she told me that she had come to Spain because her parents

were having a very bad time because of financial problems and her grandmother had a very bad illness, she didn't specify the illness. However, after having been here for 2 years, her grandmother died.

At the moment, Raluca is 17 years old, her father works in the fields picking

olives near La Puebla de Cazalla, my village in Spain, and her mother has worked in a sweetshop in the village since they came to Spain. They are happier and their life has changed.

José Miguel González Núñez



AFRICAN IMMIGRATION TO SPAIN

As for African immigrants in Spain and from our point of view there are two ways of considering a foreigner depending on the conditions in which they travel to Spain.

On the one hand, Spain receives thousands of immigrants of African origin who flee their country seeking better living conditions, job opportunities or for any other reason. They are generally poor people who need help and, in most cases, they are people who do not have enough resources to access Spain legally, so they do it illegally, in boats for example.

There is a general feeling of rejection towards these people for the simple fact

of being poor people, adding to it the characteristic that they are people from another country. Therefore, the presence in society of people born in Africa is 2.4%, according to the definitive data of the Continuous Register Survey of the National Institute of Statistics.

On the other hand, we have many African footballers who reside in Spain and towards whom we do not feel any kind of rejection, for example we have the case of the African player from Barcelona Ansu Fati.

All of this leads us to the conclusion that the immigration of Africans to Spain represents a considerable percentage, and that is not what causes rejection,

but the economic situation of these people, that is, rejection of the poor, something to which the philosopher Adela Cortina called aporophobia; something that seems unfortunate to us since not everyone has the same possibilities and our priority should be to help others although always within our possibilities. As Cortina says:

"No society can function if its members do not maintain an ethical attitude.

Do foreigners really bother, or are the poor bothering, whether they are foreigners or from the home itself?

The poor cannot aspire to be happy according to that".

Instead of judging them by the simple fact of not having a favourable economic position, we could think of this: life takes many turns and, in the future, you might need to emigrate to another country and need the help of other people.

Celia Gómez Bermudo

SPANISH EMIGRATION



SPANISH EMIGRATION TO FRANCE

Throughout history there has been a constant flow of emigration between Spain and France due to the obvious proximity and also because of the need for workers due to the Industrial

Revolution between 1850 and 1914, but Spanish people not only emigrated to France, they also emigrated to Germany.

Curiously enough, people with economic stability also emigrated in search of better living conditions, as in the case of the famous Spanish painter Pablo Ruiz Picasso. That was a political exile that opened a route to other people who really needed to emigrate because they didn't have anything left.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the civil war broke out and many refugees and exiles emigrated to France in search of temporary refuge. This emigration accelerated massively during the course of the tragic Battle of the Ebro during the Civil War

and in the months after that date, almost half a million Spaniards had already emigrated, mainly to southern areas of France, such as

Bordeaux and Toulouse where they were welcomed because there was already a Spanish population there, while other areas in the north of France viewed this emigration with mistrust and hostility; it was not easy at all for them.

Spain was destroyed after the war and so my grandfather emigrated to Bordeaux to find work. One day I sat down to talk to him quietly and he told me the following:

"I had to leave in search of a living wage to feed our family because after the disastrous period of war we lived through, there was not a shred of prosperity. I was afraid because I only spoke Spanish, I had never travelled

outside Andalusia, I would even say that I could barely write as I had not been to school. With all this I faced the unknown and went to Bordeaux to work in wine production, I met other Spanish people who worked in the harvesting of the grapes from which the wine would be produced.

Bordeaux was a city with a large Spanish population and we all supported each other and learned some French, we lived in shared houses where we slept five workers per house in acceptable conditions, of course,

compared to the terrible conditions in Spain.

After several years of work, I saved enough money so that my family could get out of

the post-war conditions and return to the life we had before. I have to assume that it was not an easy time but I suppose we do everything we can for our family."

The Spanish emigration to France benefited both countries and created a link that continues today; the Spanish emigrants to France are still 303,245 inhabitants, a quite significant amount that resembles the time when Spanish people emigrated in search of refuge., today that situation has changed as we do not seek refuge although we do emigrate for work because France increases the opportunities for Spanish people to work and we are very grateful for it.

Carlos Gallego Rodríguez





SPANISH EMIGRATION TO ARGENTINA

As most of the immigrants who arrived in Argentina before and during the 20th century were Spanish or from the Spanish origin, we can say that around 20 million Argentines are of Spanish descent. In addition, since Argentina declared its independence from Spain and up to the present day, people from Spanish origin from all over Latin America have migrated to Argentina in search of economic opportunities and have contributed to Argentina's Spanish heritage.

The vast majority of Argentines are of Spanish descent and Argentina and Spain continue to share many cultural aspects and elements: the Spanish language, the majority Catholic religion and various cultural traditions, but some Argentines whose origin is in other European countries emigrants have reduced the weight of Spanish culture after the country's independence, creating an Argentine culture with elements of its own. However, the legacy of Spanish culture, colonialism

and immigration remains in Argentina to this day.

The great Spanish immigration of the last half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century was mostly made up of Galicians (mainly from Pontevedra and La Coruña) and Asturians, followed at some distance by Leonese and Catalans, with a not inconsiderable contribution from the Basque Country and the Canary Islands.

According to the Register of Spaniards Residing Abroad (or PERE in Spanish), Argentina is home to the second largest community of people born in Spain in the world. The backbone of Argentine society today is the sum of Argentines from the colonial stock (a mixture of European colonisers, mainly Spanish, indigenous peoples and Africans brought as slaves), Italian settlement in Argentina, and Spanish immigration in the late 19th and early-mid 20th centuries.

Andalusians constituted between 15% and 20% of immigrants from Spain after the Galicians. In the fourteen years between 1885-1895 and 1912-1914, some 150,000 Andalusians emigrated to Argentina. Between 1880 and 1930, the average percentage of all Spaniards was between 15 and 20 percent.

One of my great-grandfather's brothers emigrated to Argentina due to the difficult situation in our country. Life in Spain was not easy. People like my great-grandfather and his brothers worked in the fields to survive, regardless of the harsh weather conditions.

My great-grandfather's brother, Antonio Montesinos Viedma then decided to emigrate to find a better life in the newly created country of Argentina, which was full of great opportunities.

Jorge opened a bakery, where he worked all his life, he returned to Spain but only on holidays to see his family, since then I have family in Rio de la Plata, Argentina.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcDAj41KVuA>

Pablo Romero Pérez

A FEW WORDS MORE

Throughout its history, Spain has captured on the faces of its inhabitants the many features of the different peoples that have passed through this land: in wars, in conquests, in commercial ties, or in cultural exchanges, which are really the ones that remain. We are a country used to travelling abroad, so welcoming immigrants nowadays with open arms should be a priority.

To leave a country by force is not the goal for any human being of this planet. Through the illustrations of these texts, one sees the lives of those migrants in black and white and in sepia, because coming or going is painful when they crawl towards the unknown, no matter the historical moment, it is the same event, the same thing, something that seeks colour.

María Dolores Bulnes Prats