

SPAIN

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2018

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

In 2018, the Students and Researchers Directive was transposed.¹ As a result, a new residence authorisation was created which incorporated the right to EU intra-mobility and simplified the migration procedures for foreign researchers who already have an authorisation to reside in another Member State. It also allows third-country nationals to remain in Spain to seek employment once the research activity ended. Similar provisions were also adopted in favour of international students and a new residence permit was introduced for interns. The adoption of the Directive strengthens Spain's efforts in the attraction and retention of foreign talents.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In terms of labour migration, Spain adopted the GECCO order (TMS/1426/2018), which regulates the collective management of hiring third-country nationals for 2019. Unlike in the past, the hiring of third-country nationals is no longer limited to the agricultural sector. Firstly, the order coordinates secure, orderly and regular migration channels in collaboration with those countries of origin involved in the process of conforming the pool of candidates. Secondly, it contributes to the coverage of uncovered workers' needs who already reside in Spain.

¹ Directive [2016/801/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies,

KEY POINTS



The Students and Researchers Directive ((EU)2016/801) was transposed which resulted in the setup of simplified procedures for residence permits and visas for students and researchers. More employment/job search opportunities were provided to students and researchers after their academic period was over.



Specific provisions for hiring migrant workers were adopted. The new order set out rules and procedures overseeing selection of workers, work conditions and rights of labour migrants.



To respond to an increasing number of asylum applications, Spain invested significantly into public services in the field of asylum and reception facilities. Institutions expanded their human and technical resources and further support was provided to the autonomous regions.

It was forecasted that for the 2018/2019 red fruit harvest season, 19 000 seasonal workers will come to Spain from Morocco.

In order to improve this seasonal work programme, significant changes were introduced, for example concerning selection in origin, organising cultural

training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing, OJ L 132.

activities, language classes, providing social assistance, and ensuring transparency of the procedure.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The number of first residence permits issued in 2018 for family reasons was 134 196 out of a total of 259 600 (51.7 %).



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

In 2018, Spain received 54 050 asylum applications, 47.7 % more than in 2017. Such an increase required restructuring available human and IT resources, as well as organisational aspects at the Spanish Asylum Office (OAR). To address this, among others, 231 new vacancies were opened, and a new software was developed. On a managerial level, some procedural functions were delegated to the police leaving more time for OAR to undertake other urgent duties. Furthermore, human resources were secured to accelerate certain migration procedures on a 24/7 basis and the information made available on the website of the OAR was revised to inform about the most important aspects of the asylum procedures. Lastly, the cooperation with relevant actors was enhanced (e.g. with the Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR), ACCEM (state-run NGO), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)).

Works to guarantee the participation of autonomous communities were carried out in 2018. Specifically, a regulatory framework which guarantees both the balanced distribution of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection as well as homogenous reception conditions was established throughout the national territory.

The Emergency Reception and Referral Centres (CAED) were created (1 030 in total), which carry out an analysis of the needs of the migrants for their subsequent referral. In addition, an action protocol was developed to prepare for the arrival of large contingents of irregular immigrants on Spanish coasts.

In December 2018, the Government approved the National Plan for resettlement for moving 1 200 potential beneficiaries of international protection from third countries to Spain.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The constant increase of arrivals of unaccompanied minors had a significant impact on the means and resources of public entities available for the protection of minors in autonomous communities and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. The General State Administration directly granted subsidies amounting to € 40 million to the autonomous regions to support them to meet the needs of these minors.



INTEGRATION

In 2018, measures to elaborate the Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration were prepared. Its objectives are to structure integration policy, guarantee social cohesion and curb discourse against immigration.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers approved the Strategic Plan for Inspection of Labour and Social Security aimed at the labour market integration of migrants.

Another development in 2018 was the approval of the 2018-2020 Management Plan for Decent Work, which emphasises the integration of immigrants in the labour market on equal grounds with national workers.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

According to data of the Permanent Observatory of Immigration (December 2018), Spanish nationality by residence was granted to 92 501 applicants in 2018.

Spain ratified the United Nations 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, through the Adhesion Instrument of 3 September 2018, which entered into force on 24 December.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

Spain continued the installation of the automated border control system at the main border crossing points. The border surveillance system SIVE was updated and expanded to new locations. The Coordinating Authority at the Strait of Gibraltar and Alboran Sea was set up to coordinate operations at sea and disembarkments. Lastly, the training of staff at

border crossing points in the framework of the future EU Entry-Exit System and European Travel Information and Authorisation System systems started.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

During 2018, a total of 62 126 people arrived in Spain irregularly (in 2017 – 27 253). To effectively manage the arrivals on the coasts, resources were enhanced and CAED centres were created. Exceptionally, the assistance of migrants arriving at ports or on coasts was financed by the Spanish Red Cross via a grant.

Additionally, improvements were made to the integrated systems for external monitoring (SIVE) to combat irregular immigration.

Lastly, cooperation with countries of origin and transit was maintained and strengthened to prevent irregular migration. During his visit to Mali, the President of the Government highlighted the importance of combatting emigration mafias operating in Sahel.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

To combat human trafficking, preventive activities were increased through administrative inspections in work centres. Additionally, four pillars of action by the State Attorney General were put forward:

- Increased investigations related with trafficking for labour exploitation;
- The creation of an Annex to the Framework Protocol on minor victims of trafficking;
- Improved investigation of trafficking crimes for the purpose of forced marriages;
- The case of slave children was analysed.

Additionally, the development of a plan to combat the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation continued and various projects aimed at related training- and awareness raising received funding.



RETURN AND READMISSION

In December 2018, the President of the Government travelled to Mali where he agreed the implementation of a pilot project for assisted voluntary return for migrants from Mali. The social assistance voluntary return programme for third-country nationals in a

situation of special vulnerability is the largest programme of its kind and registered 784 cases as of October 2018.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

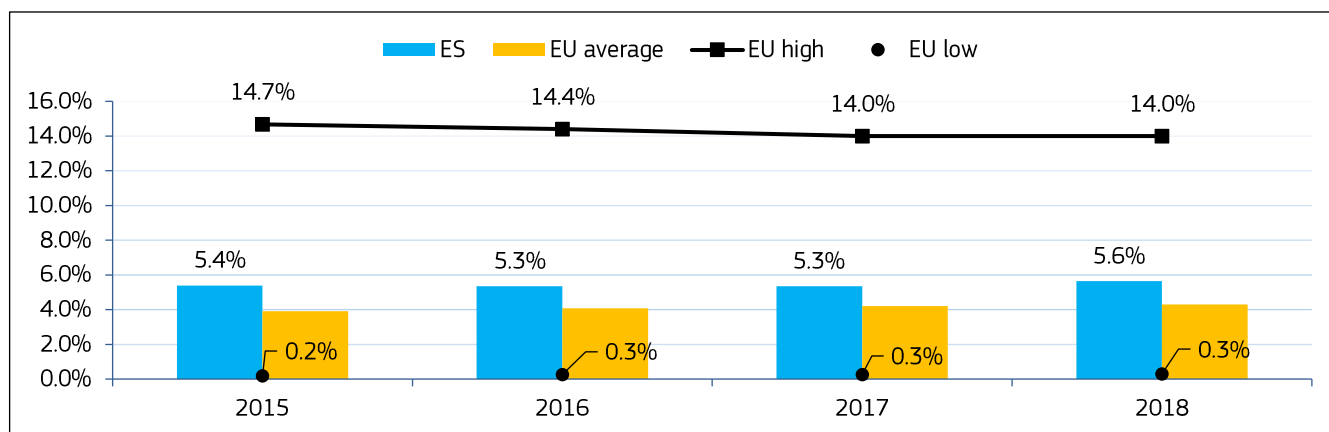
The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Spain on aspects of migration and international protection (2015-2018), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “N/A”.

STATISTICAL ANNEX: MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN SPAIN (2015-2018)

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Eurostat data on first residence permits for 2018 was not available at the time of writing. Please consult the 2018 ARM Statistical Annex for statistics on the number of first residence permits by reason (to be published in July 2019).

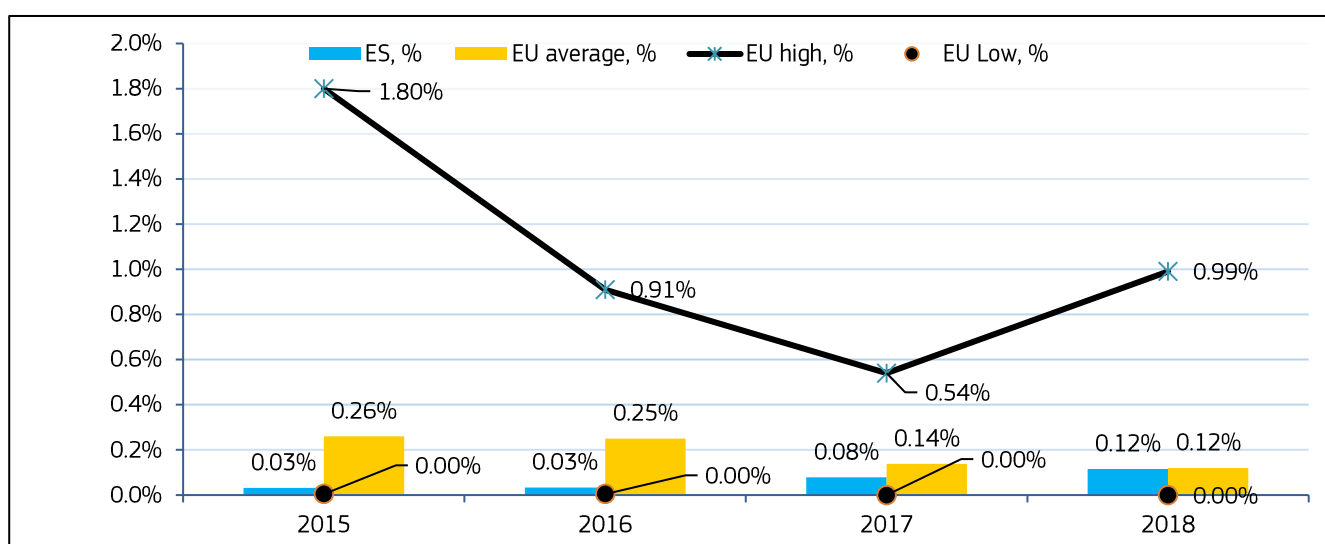
Figure 1: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Spain, EU average, EU high and low (2015-2018).



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), data extracted 02.05.19

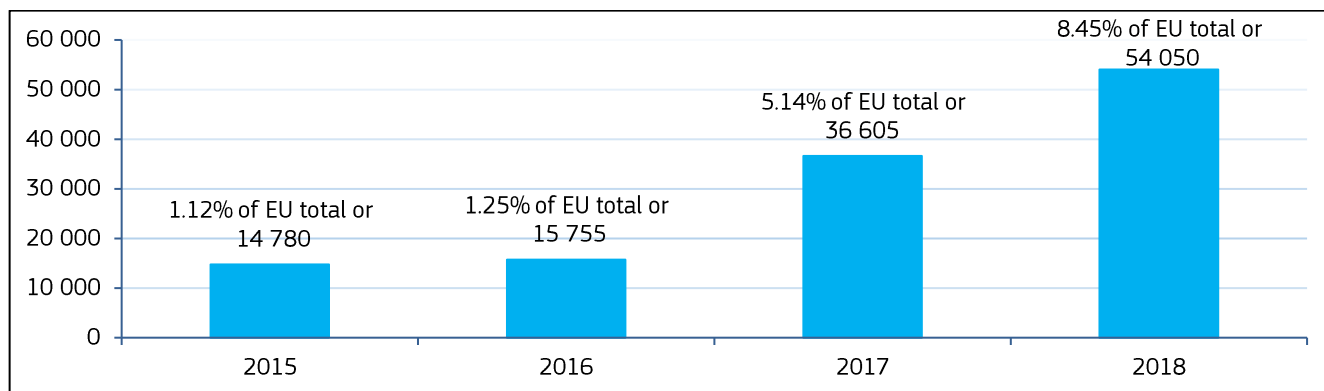
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Figure 2: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Spain, EU average and EU high and low (2015-2018).



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 3: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2015-2018)



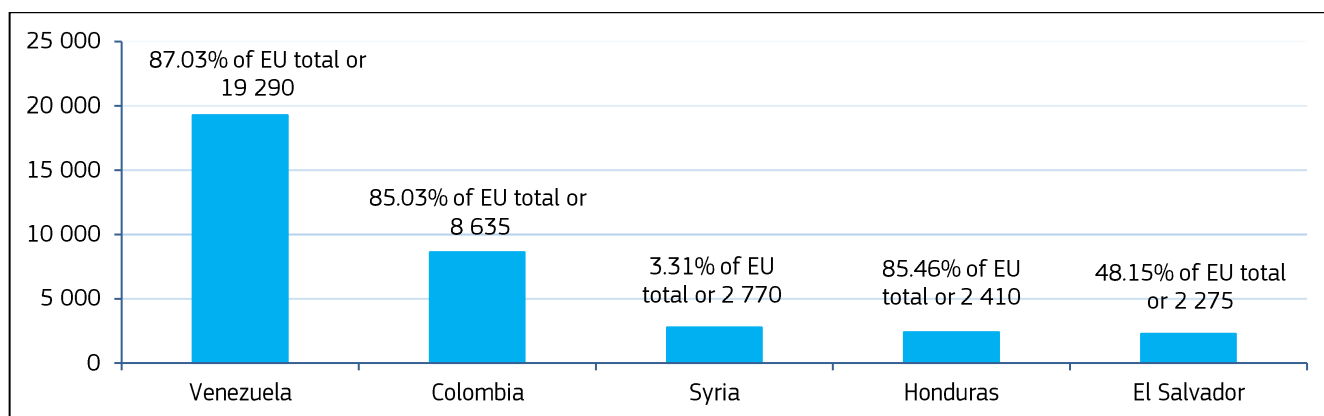
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.2019

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2015-2018)

2015			2016			2017			2018		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
Syria	5 725	39%	Venezuela	3 960	25%	Venezuela	12 875	35%	Venezuela	19 290	36%
Ukraine	3 345	23%	Syria	2 975	19%	Syria	4 195	11%	Colombia	8 635	16%
Palestine	800	5%	Ukraine	2 570	16%	Colombia	3 805	10%	Syria	2 770	5%
Algeria	675	5%	Algeria	740	5%	Ukraine	2 260	6%	Honduras	2 410	4%
Venezuela	585	4%	Colombia	615	4%	El Salvador	1 400	4%	El Salvador	2 275	4%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 29.04.2019

Figure 4: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.2019

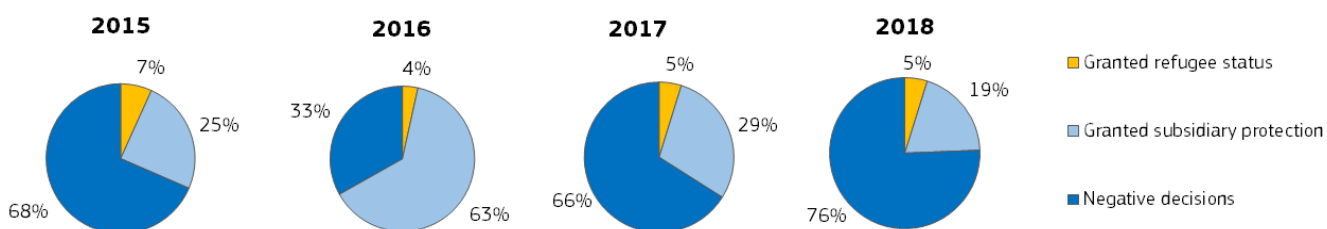
Note: the figure reads as: Spain received 19 290 asylum applications from Venezuela or 87.03 % of all asylum applications launched by Venezuela in EU in 2018.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2015-2018)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2015	3 240	1 020	220	800	:	2 220
2016	10 250	6 855	355	6 500	:	3 395
2017	12 055	4 090	580	3 515	:	7 965
2018	11 875	2 895	575	2 320	:	8 980

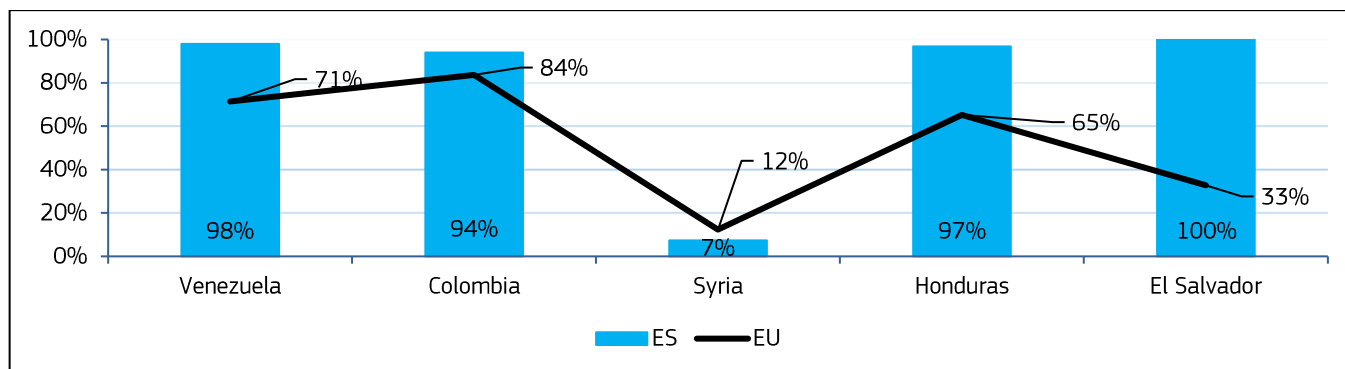
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 29.04.2019

Figure 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2015-2018)



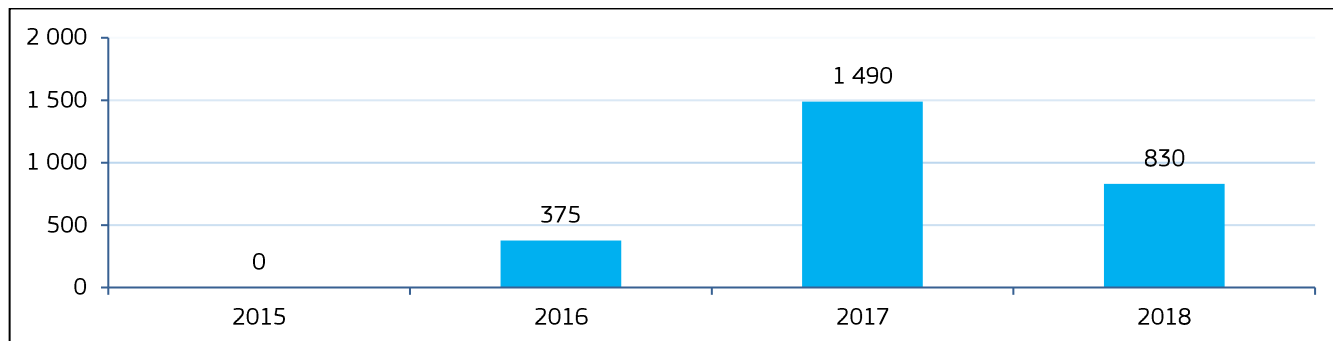
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 30.04.19

Figure 5: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 30.04.19

Figure 6: Third-country nationals resettled (2015-2018)

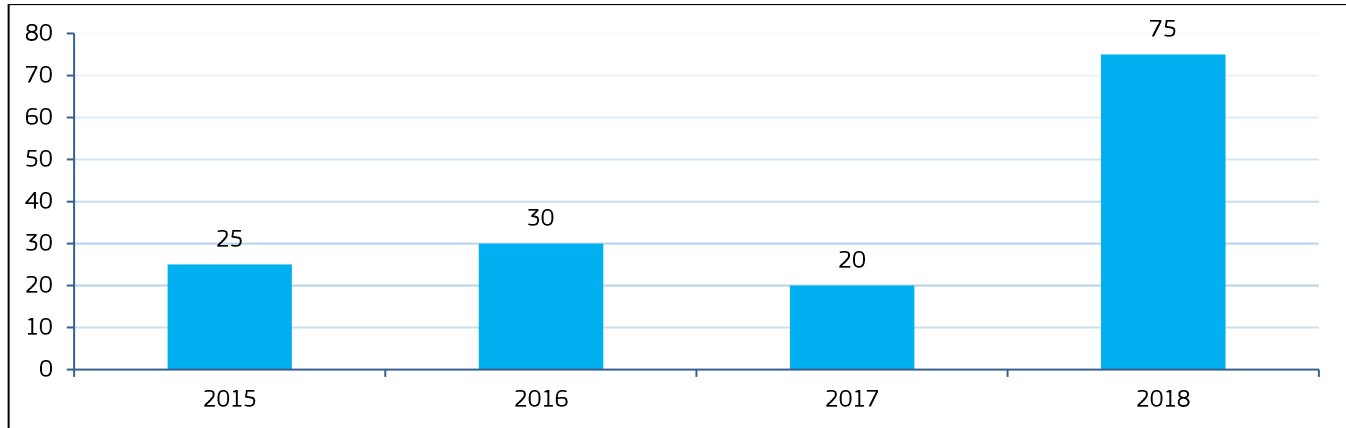


Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyresa](#)), data extracted 02.05.19



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2015-2018)



Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) ([migr_asylum](#)), data extracted 02.05.19.



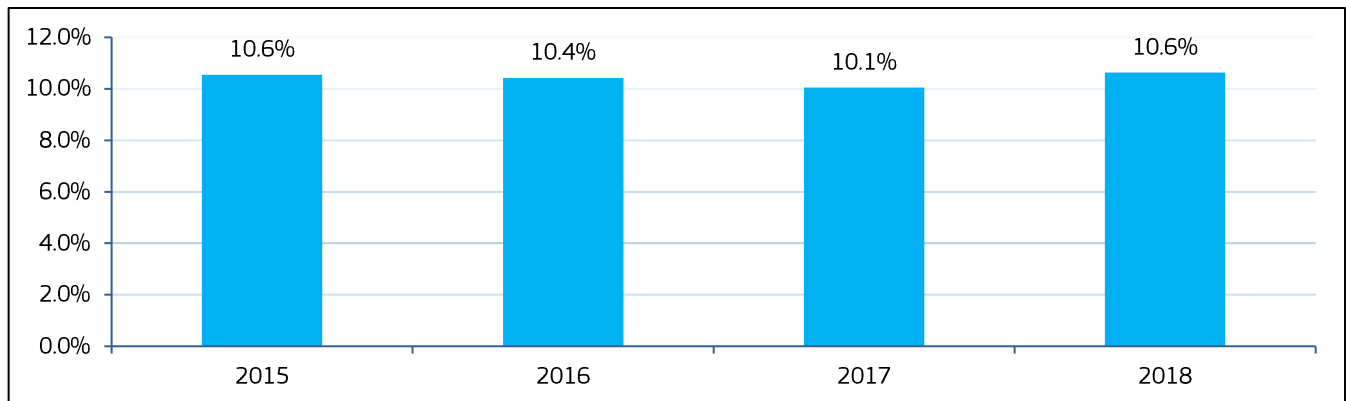
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

Table 5: Number of Schengen visas applications (2015-2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	1 629 753	1 583 848	1 624 276	1 701 379

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 9: Uniform visa applications received in Spain as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2015-2018)



Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 4: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Spain was lodged (2015-2018)

2015		2016		2017		2018	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russian Federation	481 284	Russian Federation	454 032	Russian Federation	489 566	Russian Federation	504 208
Morocco	165 924	China	187 351	China	211 247	China	241 825
China	142 890	Morocco	185 503	Morocco	194 075	Morocco	200 968
Algeria	119 805	Algeria	109 093	Algeria	101 123	Algeria	103 806
Ukraine	82 289	Ukraine	92 151	India	54 431	India	67 248

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders, found to be illegally present, ordered to leave and returned following an order to leave (2015–2018) (2015–2018)

Third-country nationals:	2015	2016	2017	2018
Refused entry at external borders	168 345	192 135	203 025	230 540
Found to be illegally present	42 605	37 295	44 625	78 280
Ordered to leave	33 495	27 845	27 340	59 255
Returned following an order to leave	13 315	10 185	10 785	12 560

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_eirfs](#))([migr_eipre](#))([migr_eiord](#))([migr_eirtn](#)) data extracted 03.05.2019



RETURN

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2015-2018)

Year	Returned as part of forced return measure ²	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2015	10 960	2 794	2 794
2016	9 280	1 052	1 052
2017	9 470	1 545	1 545
2018	11 730	940	940

Source: EMN Spain

² Source: Eurostat