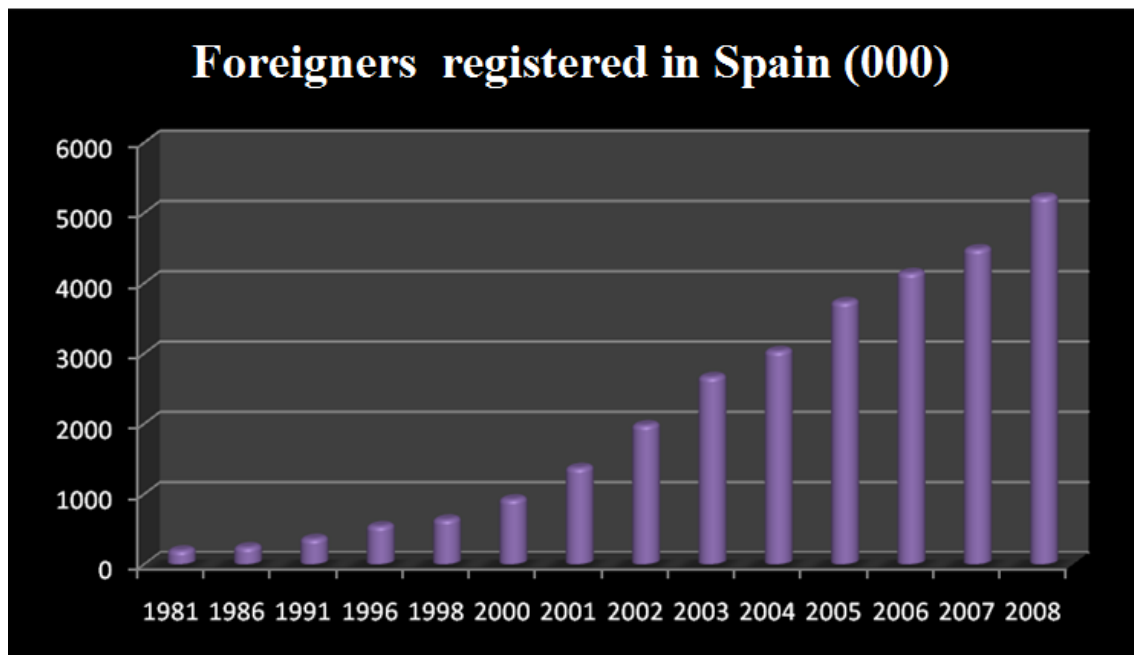


Immigration in Spain – Some data worth a reflection.

Migration and population movements have become a global fact. It is estimated that a total of 115 Million people have immigrated to occidental countries from the 3rd world, of which 38 Million have done it in the last 15 years.

Spain is not immune to this tendency although the phenomenon of immigration is more recent in Spain. In the last 10 years it has gone from a testimonial immigration of around 500.000 people to more than 5 million after the last census of 2008.

The origin of this strong increase of immigration can be found in the extraordinary dynamism that Spanish economy has recently had since the ending of the 90s till recently. Since the year 2000, Spain has had one of the highest immigration rates in the world (three to four times higher than the average rate of the United States, eight times more than France) and it has become, after the USA, the second country of the planet with more immigration received in absolute numbers. In the five next years, the foreign population had multiplied by four, with almost 3 million new inhabitants. According to the 2008 census, 11,3% of the residents in Spain are of foreign nationality, which is the equivalent of more than 5.2 million people.



Likewise, the geographical origin of the immigrants has changed, going from a fundamental base of Hispano-Americans, and as such, without idiomatic problems, to a varied group of origins and diverse languages.

As can be deduced from the attached chart, immigrants proceeding from Europe are almost a 39% of the immigrants in the 2005 census, followed by those of Hispano-American origin (35%) and from Africa (20%). Immigrants of Asian descent are only around 5% although they are rapidly increasing, specially the Chinese and Pakistani groups.

It must be observed, nonetheless, that the percentage of immigrants proceeding from South and Center America is higher than the indicated before, owing this effect to three reasons that are invisible to statistical calculations:

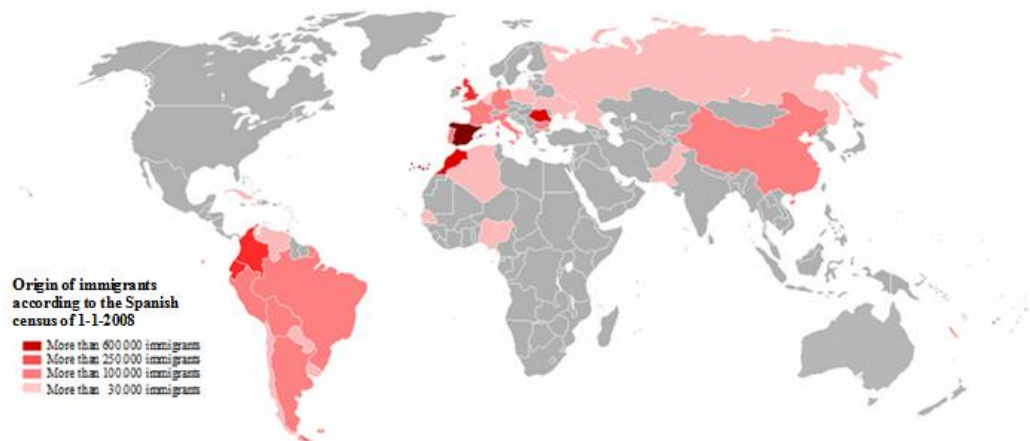
1.- A great number of immigrants proceeding from South and Center America keep or acquire the Spanish nationality with ease from their parents and grandparents, causing them to count as having

Spanish nationality. They are usually considered to be “returning” to the country, so they can benefit from state helps to establish themselves.

2.- South and Center Americans have a greater ease to nationalize than the rest of foreigners, causing them to take a relatively shorter time to stop counting as foreigners.

3.- The high percentage of Italians in the Spanish census (111.791, 2,79% of the total) hides Argentineans, Chileans and Uruguayans of Italian ascent and who have kept this nationality.

Sources of immigration



The biggest group per country is Moroccan, more than a 13.6% of the total come from the neighbor to the South. After that, Equatorials (11.3%) and Romanians (9.8%) also go over the 400.000 immigrant threshold. After that are British (6.6%) and Colombians (6.4%), both collectives going over 250.000 people.

It is possible nonetheless that this ranking changes in the following months and goes on to be spearheaded by Romanians since thanks to the incorporation of Romania to the European Union, they count with greater helps and incentives to clear their administrative situation in the country.

To put these numbers into context and to get an idea of the magnitude of it all, here are a series of comparatives:

- The number of Moroccans present in Spain is the equivalent of the total population of their capital, Rabat.
- There are as many Equatorials in Spain as inhabitants in Valladolid.
- The number of Romanians in Spain is the equivalent of 5% the total population of Romania.
- The number of British residents in our coasts is as big as if the whole city of Southampton had been moved to Spain.

Geographical origins of the foreign population present in Spain (2006)

Area of origin	Population	Total foreigner %	Main countries of origin	Total foreigner %
Center and South America	1501	36,2	Ecuador Colombia Argentina Bolivia Perú Brazil	11,3 6,4 3,6 3,4 2,3 1,8
Western Europe	873	21,1	United Kingdom Germany Italy France Portugal The Netherlands	6,6 3,6 2,8 2,2 2 1
Eastern Europe	736	17,8	Romania Bulgaria Ukraine Poland Russia Lithuania	9,8 2,5 1,7 1,1 1 0,4
North Africa	614	14,8	Morocco Algeria	13,6 1,1
Sub-Saharan Africa	171	4,1	Senegal Nigeria Gambia	0,9 0,8 0,4
Eastern Asia	132	2,7	China Philippines	2,5 0,5
Indian Subcontinent	69	1,5	Pakistan India	1 0,5
Rest of Asia-Pacific	20	0,5		

The foreign populace tends to concentrate in the areas of bigger economic dynamism in the country, and as such, in more need of workforce. As such, the zones with a higher proportion of immigrants in Spain correspond to Madrid and its area of influence, the Mediterranean arc and the islands.

Catalonia is the Autonomous Community with most immigrants registered in the public social protection system, with 486.784 workers, which comprises a 22.6% of the total affiliated immigrants in Spain, which sums up 2.14 million people. After Catalonia come Madrid (454.980), Valencian Community (240.029), Andalusia (226.723) and Murcia (100.645).

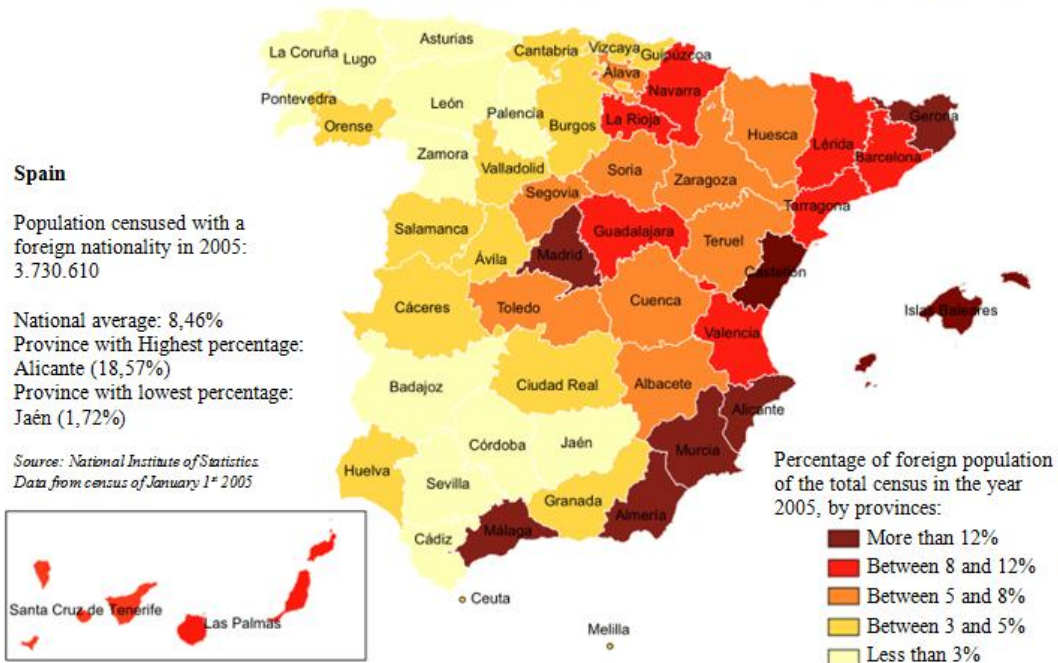
In the case of the European Union immigrants, most come looking to enjoy a softer weather than that of their countries of origin; in this manner, the residents of the EU usually concentrate in the coasts of Levante, Andalusia, Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

On the contrary, the regions with a smaller proportion of immigrants in 2005 are Extremadura (2.3% of the total population), Asturias (2.5%), Galicia (2.5%), Basque Country (3.4%), Castilla y Leon (3.6%) and Cantabria (3.7%). It has to be noted that the 45% of all immigrants in the Spanish census are distributed between only three provinces (Madrid, Barcelona and Alicante).

According to the census of 2005, the Spanish locality with the highest proportion of foreigners is San Fulgencio (Alicante), where a 70% of their 8.197 inhabitants are not Spanish. The only Municipalities with more than 10.000 inhabitants where foreigners overcome nationals are Rojales (65% foreigners), Teulada (60%), Javea(52%) and Alfaz del Pi (58%), Calpe (50%), all of them in the province of Alicante, which is the province with the highest percentage of immigrants in the country.

The city with more than 50.000 inhabitants with a higher proportion of foreigners is Torrevieja (with a 48% of foreigners of 84.348 inhabitants), also in Alicante, and the province capital with the highest percentage is Castellon de la Plana (15% of 167.455 inhabitants).

FOREIGN POPULATION OF SPAIN (2005)



On the other hand, the geographical distribution of the immigrants also depends in a great way of their nationality.

- In Madrid and Catalonia, the sum of Center and South Americans and Africans (counting Maghrebi) represents in both communities two thirds of the immigrants, though in Catalonia there is the double of Africans than Center and South Americans and in Madrid the opposite happens.
- Moroccans are the most numerous colony in Catalonia and Andalusia.
- A 75% of all the Pakistanis in the country are in Catalonia.
- The biggest part of Equatorials is found in Madrid (a 34% of them in 2005), Barcelona and Murcia.
- The British are majority in Alicante and Malaga; the Germans in the Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.
- As for the Romanians, almost half live in Madrid and Castellón.

Finally, the average age of the population residing in Spain according to the census made in 2004 was 40,22 years; 40,99 for Spanish and 32,83 for foreign residents. The majority of the immigrant population comes to Spain looking for work, this having the consequence that 52% of foreign residents in Spain (compared to the 33% of the total population) are between 20 and 39 years old and that 30% foreigners are between 25 and 34 years old (opposed to a 17% of the total population).

Population Pyramid of the foreigners censused in Spain, year 2007

