



OECD Demographics Survey

Spain

Executive Summary by Levente Kardkovács



Factsheet

Fertility rate (births/woman)	Net migration rate (entering-leaving/1000)	Family policies	Attitude towards immigration
1.19 (37th in the OECD)	6.27 (21st in the OECD)	Lacking	Friendly

Immigration Policies

Once a country dominated by emigration, Spain is now on par with countries such as Germany in the percentage of foreign-born residents. This is primarily due to two factors: a near doubling of the share of foreign-born residents from Latin America (who have an easier time integrating due to cultural ties and a common language), and an inclusive immigration policy. For example Spain has regularized irregular immigrants in 6 waves during the 2000s, and people who are in the country illegally can now obtain legal status by e.g. showing proof of employment history. However their living standards lag behind those of natives.

Family Policies

Spain has the second lowest fertility rate in the OECD, only higher than that of the Republic of Korea. This is in contrast to the country having one of the highest fertility rates in the EU only a couple of decades ago. Spanish family policy has only seen minor changes in the 21st century, and no major reforms. The lack of definition of the 'family unit' has left many families without financial support such as social benefits and tax breaks, when financial burdens (increasing housing and childcare costs) and societal changes (acceptance of co-habitation, dual-income households) already make it challenging to raise children.

Potential allies: Canada, Germany, France

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