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ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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Migration Facts Algeria

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Introduction Until recently, the history of migration from and to Algeria was mainly related to its relations with France: European migration to Algeria during the colonial period; and Algerian migration to France, first a flow of skilled workers followed by a second later flow in the context of family reunification. Since the beginning of the 2000s, migration flows have significantly changed. First, out-migration has risen and migrant profiles and destination countries have diversified. Although family reunification still represents the main channel of migration, highly-skilled labour migration has grown due to high unemployment among university graduates and the unstable political situation in Algeria. Second, Algeria has become a receiving country for: expatriates in foreign companies (especially from China in the construction sector); sub-Saharan and Maghreb migrants destined to cover labor shortages in a variety of sectors; and a number of refugees mainly from Western Sahara. Third, irregular migration to Europe has grown considerably, both in terms of Algerian migrants and sub-Saharan transit migrants passing through Algeria - one of the reasons being the modification of the main transit route (from Morocco to Algeria) as a consequence of cooperation between Morocco and the EU.

Demographic-Economic framework of migration																									
Outward Migration			Inward Migration																						
STOCK																									
Algerian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)			Immigration stocks in Algeria - year 2008 (b)																						
Total emigrants: 982,672			Total immigrants: 95,000 (0.3% of the total resident population)																						
Five top countries of residence: France: 721,796 Spain: 60,456 Canada: 33,515 Italy: 23,233 United Kingdom: 22,000			Five top countries of nationality (year 1998) (c): Morocco: 18,661 Tunisia: 8,389 Egypt: 5,943 UAE: 4,143 Saudi Arabia: 3,051																						
Sex: Males: 54.7% Females: 45.3%		Age group: Less than 15: 4.4% 15-64: 67.4% 65+: 28.2%		(c) Irregular migrants are not included																					
Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (51.9%); secondary (29.1%); tertiary (19.0%)			Notes: (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion.																						
Occupation (year 2006): technicians and associate professionals (15.8%); professionals (14.9%); elementary occupations (14.1%)			Source: Algerian population census (2008-1998).																						
Notes: (a) Algerian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence.			Refugees in Algeria, years 2002-2011																						
Source: destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey).			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>169,233</td> <td>169,033</td> <td>169,048</td> <td>94,101</td> <td>94,180</td> </tr> <tr> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> </tr> <tr> <td>94,137</td> <td>94,093</td> <td>94,137</td> <td>94,144</td> <td>94,148</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	169,233	169,033	169,048	94,101	94,180	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	94,137	94,093	94,137	94,144	94,148
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			Top countries of nationality (year 2011) Western Sahara: 90,000 (b) West Bank and Gaza: 4,017																						
			Notes: similarly, an estimate of 90,000 Saharawi refugees living in the camps around Tindouf was provided by EU satellite image in 2009.																						
			Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).																						
FLOWS																									
Outflows of Algerian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011			Inflows of foreign nationals in Algeria – years 2003-2011																						
Total outflows: 35,325			2003 2004 2005 2006 2007																						
Five top countries of destination: France: 23,556 United Kingdom: 1,936 Spain: 4,162 United States: 1,056 Italy: 2,911			10,564 6,963 18,000 18,191 23,000																						
			2008 2009 2010 2011 2012																						
			n.a. n.a. n.a. n.a. 50,760																						
Source: flow data are provided by first residence permits (EU MS + Norway) and visas (US + Australia) issued annually to Algerian nationals.			Source: flow data are provided by work permits granted annually to foreign nationals by Algerian authorities (<i>Agence Nationale de l'Emploi</i>) who however do not make any distinction between first permits and renewals.																						

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General legal references

- Algerian Constitution of 1963 and amendments;
- Law n°08-11 of 25 June 2008 governing foreign nationals' conditions of entry, stay and circulation;
- Law n°09-01 of February 25, 2009, modifying the Penal code (irregular migration);
- Law n°08-11 (irregular migration);
- 1970 Code of Algerian nationality

Irregular migration – inward and outward

Fighting against irregular migration has been the main objective of Algerian laws and policies regarding migration. In 2008 and 2009, the Government strengthened sanctions against those who contribute to irregular migration and sanctions against migrants themselves, be they foreign or national citizens, immigrants or emigrants. For both irregular entry and exit of a foreign resident or national citizen, a 6-month to 2-year prison penalty was imposed. In addition, a 2 to 5-year prison penalty for facilitation of foreign resident's entry, circulation, stay or exit in an irregular manner. Human trafficking was penalized with 3 to 10-year prison penalty, a 300,000-1 million dinar penalty, and up to 20-year prison penalty in case of aggravating circumstances. Marriages of convenience and irregular stay or labour were also penalized. Regional cooperation regarding control of borders (specifically with its neighbours Mauritania, Tunisia, Niger, Mali, and Libya but not Morocco) has been strengthened. The EU-Algerian Association Agreement (2002) includes cooperation in order to prevent and control irregular migration, and Algeria has worked with the EU and other Member States (France, Italy and Spain) to strengthen judicial administration and the police. Algeria has signed several bilateral readmission agreements (below). Algeria and France have an agreement whereby they agree to cooperate to fight against irregular migration and human trafficking (Decree No. 2008-373 of 18 April 2008).

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
Algerian citizens do not need visas to enter Maghreb countries, among others. Freedom to leave the country is guaranteed in the Constitution. Several agreements have been signed with European countries which address outmigration of Algerian citizens: Agreement on persons' circulation (2000) with Italy; Agreement on circulation and stay of persons with France (1968, modified in 1985, 1994, 2001); Protocol on individuals' circulation with Spain (2004).	Visas are waived for Maghreb nationals (except Moroccans) and for Malian and Nigerian citizens.
Labour	Labour
Agreement on cooperation in the field of labour and use of human resources signed between Algeria and Libya (1987); Protocol on labour with Jordan (2004).	Temporary labour authorisation for 3 months renewable once a year or work permit linked to a 2-year renewable labour contract. Delivered only for posts which cannot be undertaken by domestic nationals or emigrants. Recruitment of foreign nationals in certain government and public jobs is allowed within a contract for teachers in scientific and technic fields.
Readmission Agreements	Rights
Readmission agreement with Italy (2000); Switzerland (2006); and the United Kingdom (2006). EU-Algeria Association Agreement (2002): Algeria agrees to readmit any of their nationals illegally present in any Member State, and agrees to negotiate the conclusion of agreements regarding readmission of third country nationals.	Foreign nationals enjoy the same rights as nationals (wages, access to public services). Family reunification under certain conditions. Constitution guarantees that any foreigner being legally present enjoys the protection of his person and his properties by the law (Article 67). Immigrants have right to time-limits on detention (30 days renewable) and have procedural protection for some categories of foreign nationals awaiting expulsion (based on vulnerability or links with Algeria).
Rights	International Protection
Since 1997, the Algerian Government has granted emigrant voting rights in presidential and parliamentary elections, and they are represented in the National People's Assembly.	Algeria does not have any specific legislation or procedure for refugees, only constitutional mention of prohibition to extradite political refugees (Article 69). Recognition of UNHCR refugee status determination mandate regarding Saharawi refugees. Algerian policy has been not to allow "transit camps" for irregular migrants on Algerian territory; however, it allows refugee camps and one settlement (mainly for refugees of Western Sahara). 1951 and 1969 Refugee Conventions ratified. Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States accepted.
Diaspora	Citizenship
The Algerian government has attempted to reorganize relations with Algerians abroad in order to support the active contribution of the Diaspora in the development of the homeland. Government bodies for Diaspora affairs include the Delegate Ministry in charge of the National Community Established Abroad, along with the Consultative Council of the National Community Established Abroad. The Government also supports the political participation of Algerians abroad during the presidential and parliamentary elections. Responsibility of the State to ensure the protection of every citizen abroad is also stipulated in the Constitution (Article 24).	Algerian citizens have the right to transmit their nationality to a foreign-born spouse and children born from an Algerian citizen and a foreign-born father/mother. Naturalisation possible after 7 years residence, under certain conditions (but no longer renunciation of nationality).
Multiple Citizenship	
Dual citizenship is authorized. In the past, some obstacles for Algerians voluntarily obtaining another nationality as the Government has viewed obtaining another citizenship as a threat to homeland (especially given Algeria's colonial history with France).	