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MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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# Migration Facts Morocco

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**Introduction** Morocco remains a major sender of migrants with annual flows estimated at 140,400 individuals (OECD.stat). During the 1960s, emigration from Morocco was mainly directed towards France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In the 1980s, however, after limitations had been put in place by the traditional receiving countries in Europe, Moroccan low-skilled often irregular migration increased in Spain and Italy. In North America, the United States and Canada currently play an important role in attracting highly-skilled Moroccans. Since 1990s, Morocco has also evolved into an important transit and immigration country, receiving flows of migration mainly from Sub-Saharan countries. Sub-Saharan migrants generally attempt to cross to Europe illegally but many of them also tend to stay in Morocco to improve their life conditions.

Demographic-Economic						
Outward Migration		Inward Migration				
<b>STOCK</b>						
<b>Moroccan emigration stocks - year 2011 (*)</b>		<b>Immigration stocks in Morocco - year 2004 (a)</b>				
<b>Total emigrants:</b> 2,648,684 (according to 2012 consular statistics: 3,371,979)		<b>Total immigrants:</b> 50,520 (0.2% of the total resident population)				
<b>Five top countries of residence:</b>		<b>Five top countries of nationality (b):</b>				
<b>Destination countries' statistics</b>	<b>Moroccan consular statistics (2012)</b>	France: 14,660 Algeria: 8,240 Spain: 2,380 Tunisia: 2,140 Syria: 1,260				
Spain: 763,491 France: 663,985 Italy: 392,122 Belgium: 189,116 Netherlands: 167,724	France: 1,193,540 Spain: 671,628 Italy: 486,558 Netherlands: 264,909 Belgium: 251,031	(b) Irregular migrants are not included				
<b>Sex:</b> Males: 55.2% Females: 46.6%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 5.3% 15-64: 81.8% 65+: 12.9%	<b>Sex:</b> Males: 51.5% Females: 48.5%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 19.7% 15-64: 68.8% 65+: 11.5%			
<b>Level of education (year 2006):</b> primary or below (51.9%); secondary (29.1%); tertiary (19.0%)		<b>Level of education:</b> primary or below (48.2%); secondary (28.1%); tertiary (23.6%)				
<b>Occupation (year 2006):</b> elementary occupations (15.5%); craft and related workers (13.4%); professionals (13.3%)		<b>Occupation:</b> professionals (21.2%); legislators, senior officials and managers (19.8%); Service workers and shop and market sales workers (17.5%)				
<b>Notes:</b> (*) Moroccan emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. <b>Source:</b> destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey). Data on the distribution of Moroccan migrants by level of education and occupation had been taken from the DIOC-OECD Database.		<b>Notes:</b> (a) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion. <b>Source:</b> Moroccan population census (2004).				
<b>FLOWS</b>						
<b>Outflows of Moroccan nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011</b>		<b>Apprehended foreign nationals at entry Moroccan borders – years 2000-2009</b>				
<b>Total outflows:</b> 122,785		<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Five top countries of destination:</b> Spain: 50,586 Italy: 30,018 France: 23,589		14,395	15,000	15,300	23,851	17,252
Belgium: 8,161 United States: 2,814		<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Source:</b> flow data are provided by first residence permits (EU MS + Norway) and visas (US + Australia) issued annually to Moroccan nationals.		21,894	9,469	7,830	8,735	2,877
		<b>Source:</b> Ministry of Interior – Morocco				

## Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

### General legal references

- Moroccan Constitution of 1 July 2011
- Law n°02-03 of 11 November 2003 on entry and stay of foreign nationals, emigration and irregular migration
- Law n°65-99 of Labour Code
- Nationality Code, 2007

### Irregular migration – inward and outward

By implementing Law n°02-03, the Moroccan Government comprehensively reformed its legal system in order to strengthen sanctions against irregular immigration and emigration. Irregular entry, stay, exit and assistance providing a migrant to enter irregularly are crimes punishable by a fine and/or prison sentence. A decision to return an irregular migrant to the border can also be ordered when officials of the administration encounter the migrant. Additionally, protection of some foreign categories from deportation was instituted, including pregnant women or minors. Government also working with international organisations (e.g. IOM) as to better address trafficking and smuggling of persons, and has signed various readmission agreements (below).

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
<b>Visa</b>	<b>Visa</b>
Even if not required by law, the authorities expect foreign and national citizens leaving the country to show an entry visa for the country of destination.	Passport and visa are required for entry. Visa exemptions for citizens of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Congo, Ivory Coast, the EU, the United States, and Mexico among others.
<b>Labour</b>	<b>Labour</b>
Morocco-Spain labour agreements (2001 and 2005) regarding employment of Moroccan seasonal agricultural workers, among others. National authorities may check that Moroccan workers wanting to leave Morocco have a regular work contract, a medical certificate and respect entry conditions of the destination country.	Access to labour in Morocco is granted with a labour contract submitted for work authorisation. There is no access to the liberal professions, except through bilateral agreements.
<b>Rights</b>	<b>Rights</b>
According to the 2011 Moroccan Constitution, the Moroccan government will work for the protection of the rights of Moroccan citizens abroad (Article 16); and grant residents abroad the full rights of citizenship, including the right to vote and run as candidates to the elections at the local, regional and national electoral levels (Article 17).	Family reunification with card of residence. Equal access to public services. There is no specific law protecting rights of migrant workers. The 2011 Moroccan Constitution grants foreigners the fundamental freedoms recognized to Moroccan citizens in accordance with the law. Those among them who reside in Morocco can participate in local elections by virtue of the law, of the application of international conventions or of practices of reciprocity (Article 30). Protection of pregnant women or minors from deportation.
<b>Readmission Agreements</b>	<b>International Protection</b>
Readmission agreements for Moroccan nationals include: Germany (1998), France (1993, 2001), Portugal (1999), Italy (1998, 1999), and Spain (1992, 2003). The EU and Morocco have been negotiating a readmission agreement since 2000s. Proposed EU-Morocco mobility partnerships include aspects of readmission.	Although Morocco recognises UNHCR refugee status determination, since 2004 Moroccan authorities no longer recognize refugees as such. They are generally not granted residency status by the Moroccan authorities and thereby lack rights to employment, education, and health care. Refugees recognised prior to the decision to 2004 have been able to get residence permits and enjoy the right to stay, the right to work, etc. There is no national procedure for asylum. 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol ratified. Country agreement between UNHCR and Morocco in 2008.
<b>Diaspora</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Consolidation of links with the Diaspora is a priority for the Moroccan Government. As evidenced in the 2011 Moroccan Constitution, the Moroccan government proposes to: work towards preserving national identity of Moroccans abroad; reinforce their contribution to development of Morocco; and strengthen ties between governments and the societies of the countries where they reside (Article 16). The Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad was also charged with fostering and maintaining ties with Moroccans abroad, to guarantee their rights, and encourage their contribution to development of Morocco. (Article 163). Relevant government bodies dealing with Diaspora include: Delegated Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad, and the Council of the Moroccan Community Residing Abroad. Government cooperation with international organisations (e.g. IOM) to mobilise expatriate competencies aboard and facilitate return and reintegration.	<i>Jus sanguinis</i> by descent of a father or mother whatever the birthplace. Unlike a Moroccan father's child, a Moroccan mother's child has the right to repudiate his/her Moroccan citizenship under certain conditions. Unlike Moroccan men, Moroccan women may not transmit citizenship to foreign spouse. Double <i>jus soli</i> under certain conditions.
<b>Multiple Citizenship</b>	
Moroccan legislation allows dual citizenship. Dual citizenship granted at birth to children born to a Moroccan father and foreign woman or Moroccan mother and foreign man (provided that the law of the foreigners 'country of origin enables them to pass on their nationality).	