

# Immigration, crime, and women's safety

Report N. 30



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## Executive summary

*The Fundación Disenso [Dissension Foundation] has produced a new report analysing the statistical relationship between immigration, crime, and violence against women in Spain based on official statistics released by the National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of the Interior, the General Council of the Judiciary, national and regional police forces, and the prison services. The analysis concludes that a rapidly expanding population of foreign origin has coincided with an alarming trend in certain crime indicators, particularly those relating to sexual offences, and that foreign nationals are significantly over-represented among persons arrested, convicted, and incarcerated.*

- Spain is facing unprecedented demographic change. **Nearly 10 million residents, one in five of the country's inhabitants, are of foreign origin**, and that figure is rising year by year.
- The **main foreign nationalities** in Spain are Moroccan (968,999 people), Colombian (676,534), Romanian (609,270), Venezuelan (377,809), and Italian (345,777). Furthermore, population growth from Latin American countries like Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela is in the double digits annually.
- As the pace of this process has picked up, sexual offences have been on the rise. **Sexual assaults by penetration have risen by 67%** over the past six years, and crimes impacting women's safety now exceed **20,000 cases each year**.
- Official figures show foreign nationals to be over-represented in crime statistics. In 2024 **nearly 40% of people arrested and under investigation were foreign nationals**, even though they made up only 13.4% of the population.
- This over-representation is even more marked in the case of sexual offences. **Foreign nationals accounted for 41.7% of arrests for sexual assault by penetration** and nearly 40% of arrests for sexual offences as a whole.
- Sexual assaults committed by groups, referred to in Spanish as "**manadas**", that is, "gangs", have been climbing steadily. Since 2018, 3,737 victims have been recorded, and 43% of the perpetrators identified have been foreign nationals.
- The situation in **Catalonia, Navarre, and the Basque Country** is particular concerning. In Catalonia foreign nationals made up more than 60% of arrests

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for sexual assault in 2025; in the Basque Country they accounted for 67.6% of sexual assaults by penetration; in Navarre foreign nationals were named as the alleged offenders in 62.96% of sexual offences in 2025.

## 1. Introduction

Spain is going through a demographic shift of an intensity unprecedented in modern history. According to the annual population census published by the National Institute of Statistics [*Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)*], on 1 January 2025 our country's population was 49,128,297 people, 6,911,971 of whom (14.1%) were foreign nationals. This figure, already high, kept growing throughout 2025. Provisional figures from the continuous population survey [*Estadística Continua de Población (ECP)*] put the foreign population on 1 January 2026 at around 7,243,561 people, i.e., a net increase of more than 330,000 people in the past year alone.

According to National Institute of Statistics data, the combined population of foreign origin consisting of naturalised Spanish citizens plus foreign nationals came to over 9.9 million people on 1 January 2025, i.e., approximately one in five people living in our country. Mired in a fertility rate of just 1.12 children per woman according to the National Institute of Statistics' final basic demographic indicators [*Indicadores Demográficos Básicos*] for 2024, the population of Spanish nationals has hardly budged and in certain segments has even declined, so in recent years Spain's population growth has come almost exclusively from migration inflows.

This demographic phenomenon is not evenly distributed across the country. The Mediterranean region of Spain, insular Spain, and Madrid are home to the highest percentage population born abroad. By contrast, figures are considerably lower in northwestern Spain and the country's interior. Table 2 in section 2 of this report gives a detailed regional breakdown by Spanish autonomous community based on the National Institute of Statistics' continuous population survey.

The large-scale influx of foreign migrants has a direct impact on public services, the housing market, employment dynamics, and, as will be discussed in detail in this report, public safety indicators. Besides this, the phenomenon has cultural and social ramifications that fall outside the scope of this report but nonetheless need to be taken into consideration.

The situation brought about by the mass influx of foreign nationals painted by the available crime statistics has to be taken into account for a variety of reasons. The crime statistics report [*Balance de Criminalidad*] for the fourth quarter of 2025 released by the Ministry of the Interior [*Ministerio del Interior*] recorded 2,474,156 criminal offences last year, a slight increase over 2024,

driven chiefly by cybercrime, which now accounts for about 20% of the total. Conventional crime, namely, the combination of traditional crimes against the person, crimes against property, and sexual offences, excluding cybercrime, was down overall, with robberies involving violence or intimidation and residential forced entry burglaries both declining. By contrast, sexual assaults by penetration rose by 2.9% in 2025, continuing a sustained upward trend in recent years. At the same time, the number of offences involving grievous bodily harm rose as well.

These aggregate figures nonetheless conceal a factor that is not systematically broken down in the official crime statistics reports published by the Ministry of the Interior: offender nationality. The reason for delving into these figures is to try to find explanatory variables capable of shedding light on the factors that could be driving the trends observed in each category, in particular the persistent rise in sexual offences as detailed in the sections below.

It is precisely in this respect where the limited data available prove revealing. On 18 March 2026 it emerged that out of 1,033 arrests carried out by the police that day, some 527 (51%) involved foreign nationals (although the data reported did not distinguish between arrests made on suspicion of having committed a criminal offence and those carried out under immigration regulations). The over-representation is striking, considering that according to the National Institute of Statistics foreign residents accounted for 14.1% of the total population on 1 January 2025. Proportionately, immigrants made up more than three times the number of arrests than they should have had their crime levels been comparable to the level for the native-born population.

The police sources that provided the figures informed the media that this was the usual pattern, not an isolated case. According to the press release, the proportion of foreign nationals arrested in Madrid was even larger, 160 foreign nationals to 90 Spaniards. In Catalonia 72% of those arrested were people born in other countries.

If data of this type were provided regularly and transparently, it would be easier to take stock of the public policy implications arising from the issues being analysed. Instead, the information available to the public is released in dribs and drabs without regard to the public interest.

A one-time exercise in transparency by the Police Force of the Department of the Interior of the Regional Government of Catalonia [*Departamento de Interior*

*de la Generalitat de Catalunya*] broke with this pattern by providing data disaggregated by nationality of arrestees. In the city of Barcelona, the percentage of foreign nationals caught by law enforcement officers was 91% for theft and 83.5% for robberies involving violence.

Similarly, the Regional Police Force of Navarre also made a one-time effort at transparency in January 2026, reporting that foreign nationals were identified as the alleged perpetrators in 62.96% of sexual offences, 73.3% of homicides, and 71.77% of robberies committed in the Navarre Region in 2025. The announcement highlighted the particularly high number of nationals from Morocco and Algeria involved.

The reason for this report is to elucidate this situation, characterised by growing migratory pressure and crime statistics that lack the required transparency but suggest that certain nationalities are statistically over-represented. Back in 2025 the *Fundación Disenso* published a study on migration focusing on issues relating to the strain placed on basic services and public finances by the influx of foreign nationals. The document quantified the pressure on the tax, health, and educational systems posed by immigration and sparked broad public debate. Similar studies have been carried out in other countries, e.g., the paper by Van de Beek *et al.* (2021) in the Netherlands, reports by the UK's Office for National Statistics, and the annual editions of the OECD International Migration Outlook. Broadly speaking, the conclusions drawn by these analyses have been that a significant proportion of the immigration arriving in Europe in recent years contributes negligible tax revenue and is instead a net recipient of state benefits and expenditures.

By contrast, this report focuses on a different but associated aspect, namely, the relationship between certain migration profiles and crime. Furthermore, the study specifically examines the extent to which these trends affect the safety of women and whether there is a statistical association between immigration and crime rates.

This discussion requires data that enable us to elucidate what is actually taking place. The dominant narrative of the institutional feminist movement and the political left holds that the main threat to women's safety is systemic toxic masculinity, our country's own homegrown patriarchal culture, and the political forces that deny the existence of gender-based violence as a separate phenomenon. From that perspective, linking immigration and violence against women is a xenophobic tactic that exploits the suffering of women for electoral gain.

Nevertheless, the available data presented and discussed in this report, though undoubtedly fragmentary and in many cases obtained solely through freedom of information requests, investigative journalism, and rare announcements by law enforcement agencies, suggest that certain nationalities have crime rates far higher than those of the non-immigrant population or other foreign groups and are particularly over-represented in cases of sexual offences.

Ignoring this empirical evidence does not make women safer; it simply forces debate into the realm of feelings and beliefs. This report aims to move beyond that futile wrangling and instead to frame the issue rigorously in analytical terms. We want to know what the data actually tell us.

The starting point of this report is that immigration is not a uniform phenomenon. Certain migration flows integrate more readily into Spanish society without significant friction and contribute positively to the economy, demographics, and the sustainability of productive sectors in need of workers. Conversely, based on available statistics, nationals from other countries of origin have rates of arrest, imprisonment, and conviction that are significantly higher than those of the non-immigrant population. This over-representation is particularly marked in relation to sexual offences against women.

The purpose of this report is therefore to examine these differences as painstakingly as possible, to identify the countries and profiles that pose the greatest risk to public safety, and to explore the hypothesis that gender inequality in the country of origin is linked to the patterns of crime observed in Spain. With that in mind, we have drawn on a wide range of sources.

The crime data have been compiled from the quarterly crime statistics reports by the Ministry of the Interior; data on arrests published or provided by various police forces (the Spanish National Police Force, the regional Mossos d'Esquadra Police Force in Catalonia, the Navarre Regional Police Force, the regional Ertzaintza Police Force in the Basque Country, and local police forces); prison statistics released by the General Secretariat for Penitentiary Institutions [*Secretaría General de Instituciones Penitenciarias (SGIP)*] and the Department of Justice of the Regional Government of Catalonia; and data on final convictions from the General Council of the Judiciary [*Consejo General del Poder Judicial (CGPJ)*] and the National Institute of Statistics. The following indices have been used in connection with gender equality and women's safety: the Georgetown University Women, Peace, and Security Index (WPS Index); the Cato Institute's and Fraser Institute's Human Freedom Index; the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index; and the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index. A comparative analysis of gender equality in immigrants' countries of origin and the criminal profiles of nationals from those countries in Spain is one of this report's most valuable contributions.

A descriptive analysis is presented, and the spatial dimension of the phenomenon has also been explored. This report has cross-referenced data from the continuous population register [*Padrón Continuo*] with indicators from the crime statistics portal [*Portal Estadístico de Criminalidad*] to examine the extent of spatial correlation between the concentration of the foreign population and crime rates by region (autonomous community) and, where the data allow, by province. This exercise does not seek to establish causal relationships, given that the spatial correlation is influenced by numerous confounding variables ranging from age structure to income levels. However, it does provide descriptive evidence useful in directing debate and guiding public policy.

Its purpose is rather to underscore that to be able to actually protect women, ideological bias has to be set aside when considering the data. Attributing all risks to women's safety exclusively to a purportedly "sexist system" that is wholly domestic in nature while at the same time turning a blind eye to indicators associated with certain migration flows is not just intellectually dishonest but in fact harmful to the very women those doing so profess to defend.

This report will show that the data are there. What has been lacking up to now is a readiness to interpret them without bias.

## 2. Demographic overview. Changes in the foreign population in Spain

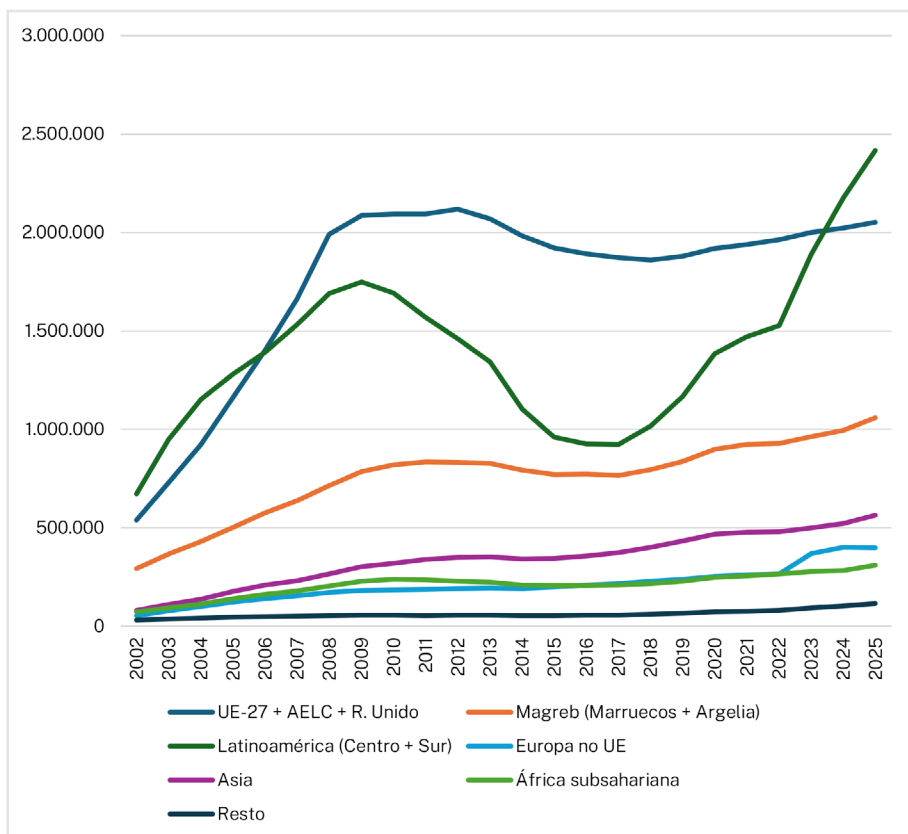
A rigorous analysis of the relationship between immigration and crime must be rooted in a detailed examination of migration in quantitative, geographic, and demographic terms. This section provides an in-depth analysis using data sourced exclusively from the National Institute of Statistics, primarily the continuous population survey on 1 January 2025.

On 1 January 2025 the population residing in Spain stood at 49,128,297, an all-time high, representing an increase of 508,602 people over the previous year. Of that total, 42,216,326 were Spanish nationals (85.9%) and 6,911,971 were foreign nationals (14.1%). The foreign population grew by 6.3% in 2024, compared with a meagre 0.2% growth for nationals. The provisional continuous population survey on 1 January 2026 puts the number of foreign nationals at 7,243,561, bringing the total population to 49,570,725.

The historical time series from the National Institute of Statistics' continuous population survey can be used to trace trends back to 2002. Back then, 1.7 million foreign nationals lived in Spain. That figure tripled in the space of just six years, climbing to 5.4 million in 2009–2010, coinciding with the economic boom and the demand for workers in the construction, agricultural, and service industries. The financial crisis reversed the trend: between 2010 and 2016, the foreign population fell to 4.4 million as some EU and Latin American immigrants returned home. Starting in 2017 growth resumed, initially at a moderate pace and then picking up sharply from 2020–2021, driven mainly by the arrival of nationals from other Latin American countries (Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and Honduras).

There was a particularly sharp spike between 2022 and 2025, and the foreign population rose from 5.5 to 6.9 million in three years, a 25% increase. The composition by region of origin has changed substantially over the past 20 years. Immigration from the EU Member States and associated countries (EU-27, the European Free Trade Association, and the United Kingdom) rose steadily until 2010 and has since levelled off at around two million people. The Latin American community, which stood at 672,000 people in 2002, has grown 3.6-fold to its current figure of 2.4 million, making it the largest group. Immigration from North Africa (chiefly Morocco, with a smaller number from Algeria) has been rising steadily and has now reached over one million people, entrenching Moroccans as the largest single group of foreign nationals in Spain.

Figure 1. Foreign population in Spain by place of origin.



Source: National Institute of Statistics.

The twenty countries that have the largest populations make up the bulk of foreign nationals. Morocco tops the list with 968,999 people (14% of all foreign nationals), followed by Colombia (676,534, 9.8%), Romania (609,270, 8.8%), Venezuela (377,809, 5.5%) and Italy (345,777, 5%). Growth trends vary widely: Romania, the Ukraine, Bulgaria, and the United Kingdom had net decreases in 2024, while Latin American countries had double-digit year-on-year growth: Peru by 18.6%, Colombia by 17%, Venezuela by 16.2%, and Paraguay by 10.3%. The influx from North Africa grew at a slower but steady pace (Morocco, 5.2%), cementing its position as the largest foreign community. The Pakistani and Honduran populations have both risen (by 7.4% and 3.6%, respectively) and have moved up into the group of the fifteen largest nationalities in recent years.

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**Table 1. Main foreign nationalities in Spain.**

Country	January 2025	% total	January 2024	Absolute change	Percentage change
Morocco	968,999	14.0%	920,693	48,306	5.2%
Colombia	676,534	9.8%	578,477	98,057	17.0%
Romania	609,270	8.8%	620,463	-11,193	-1.8%
Venezuela	377,809	5.5%	325,254	52,555	16.2%
Italy	345,777	5.0%	325,358	20,419	6.3%
United Kingdom	266,462	3.9%	272,402	-5,940	-2.2%
Peru	260,544	3.8%	219,643	40,901	18.6%
China	238,372	3.4%	226,718	11,654	5.1%
Ukraine	202,105	2.9%	210,012	-7,907	-3.8%
Honduras	177,929	2.6%	171,771	6,158	3.6%
Argentina	148,585	2.1%	137,089	11,496	8.4%
Ecuador	132,372	1.9%	124,750	7,622	6.1%
Germany	131,830	1.9%	128,049	3,781	3.0%
France	127,015	1.8%	123,420	3,595	2.9%
Paraguay	122,635	1.8%	111,136	11,499	10.3%
Pakistan	116,641	1.7%	108,594	8,047	7.4%
Russia	110,665	1.6%	106,375	4,290	4.0%
Portugal	109,930	1.6%	106,843	3,087	2.9%
Bulgaria	109,604	1.6%	112,834	-3,230	-2.9%
Brazil	105,990	1.5%	101,779	4,211	4.1%

Source: National Institute of Statistics.

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The spatial distribution of foreign nationals is far from uniform. Looking at the percentage of people born abroad (a measure that includes both those who retain foreign nationality and those who have already been naturalised), the Balearic Islands top the regional rankings with 28.7%, followed by Catalonia (25.1%), the Autonomous Community of Madrid (24.9%), the Autonomous Community of Valencia (22.7%), and the Murcia Region (21.9%). Between one in four and one in three people in these five regions was born outside Spain. Conversely, Extremadura (6.3%), Asturias (9.4%), and Galicia (9.8%) have the lowest percentage shares. The pattern is similar if nationality is taken as the measure instead of place of birth, though the percentages are lower because of naturalisation: In the Balearic Islands, around 18.6% of residents are foreign nationals. That figure is 17.8% in Catalonia and 16.5% in Madrid.

**Table 2. Foreign and foreign-born population by autonomous community on 1 January 2025.**

Autonomous Community	Total population	Foreign nationality	% foreign-born	Born abroad	% born abroad
Balearic Islands	1,249,844	270,891	21.7%	358,420	28.7%
Catalonia	8,124,126	1,522,819	18.7%	2,038,870	25.1%
Madrid	7,113,886	1,181,319	16.6%	1,769,811	24.9%
Melilla	87,067	12,081	13.9%	21,387	24.6%
Valencia	5,425,182	1,055,925	19.5%	1,308,152	24.1%
Canary Islands	2,258,866	342,612	15.2%	529,739	23.5%
Murcia	1,586,989	252,671	15.9%	324,282	20.4%
Navarre	683,854	90,049	13.2%	135,668	19.8%
La Rioja	326,803	48,436	14.8%	61,548	18.8%
Aragon	1,364,621	202,430	14.8%	256,113	18.8%
Castilla-La Mancha	2,126,378	256,586	12.1%	320,297	15.1%

**Table 2. Foreign and foreign-born population by autonomous community on 1 January 2025.**

Autonomous Community	Total population	Foreign nationality	% foreign-born	Born abroad	% born abroad
Basque Country	2,242,343	228,365	10.2%	320,744	14.3%
Ceuta	83,567	5,307	6.4%	11,348	13.6%
Andalusia	8,676,713	900,913	10.4%	1,139,086	13.1%
Cantabria	593,623	48,359	8.1%	74,909	12.6%
Galicia	2,714,741	174,494	6.4%	331,997	12.2%
Castilla y León	2,401,221	203,169	8.5%	282,218	11.8%
Asturias	1,015,128	68,989	6.8%	116,209	11.4%
Extremadura	1,053,345	46,556	4.4%	63,412	6.0%
TOTAL ALL SPAIN	49,128,297	6,911,971	14.1%	9,464,210	19.3%
Source: National Institute of Statistics.					

This concentration in certain areas is no coincidence. It reflects the pull exerted by large urban labour markets (Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia), areas of intensive agriculture where there is more work for unskilled workers (Murcia, Almería, Huelva), and major coastal and island tourist destinations (the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, the Costa del Sol, the Costa Blanca). The result is an uneven distribution: the percentage foreign population in the regions of Mediterranean Spain, insular Spain, and the capital, Madrid, is two or three times the level in the northwestern and inland regions of mainland Spain. This unequal distribution between regions directly impacts the analysis that follows. This spatial disparity is relevant to the purpose of this report, because any relationship that exists between the migrant population and public safety, whether positive or negative, tends to be more distinctly observable in areas where the proportion of the foreign population is higher but less visible when considered nationwide.

Lastly, a methodological aspect that shapes the subsequent analysis as a whole should be noted. National Institute of Statistics data classify the population according to the nationality recorded on the population register. Foreign nationals who take Spanish nationality are removed from the foreign population registers despite having a country of birth other than Spain. The naturalisation rate was high in 2024, particularly for nationals of Latin American countries. Traditionally, naturalisation rates have been highest for Ecuadorians, Colombians, Bolivians, and Moroccans. As a result, the figure of 6.9 million foreign nationals underestimates the actual scale of migration.

According to the National Institute of Statistics's own statistics, the immigrant population (that is, both those who are still foreign nationals and those who have already been naturalised) was more than 9.9 million on 1 January 2025. In other words, one in five people living in Spain was born outside the country. This is an important distinction to make, because the police and judicial statistics analysed in the following sections are classified by nationality, and in consequence criminal offences committed by people born abroad who have subsequently naturalised Spanish citizens are counted as offences committed by Spanish nationals, in that way partially diluting the statistical link between migrant background and crime.

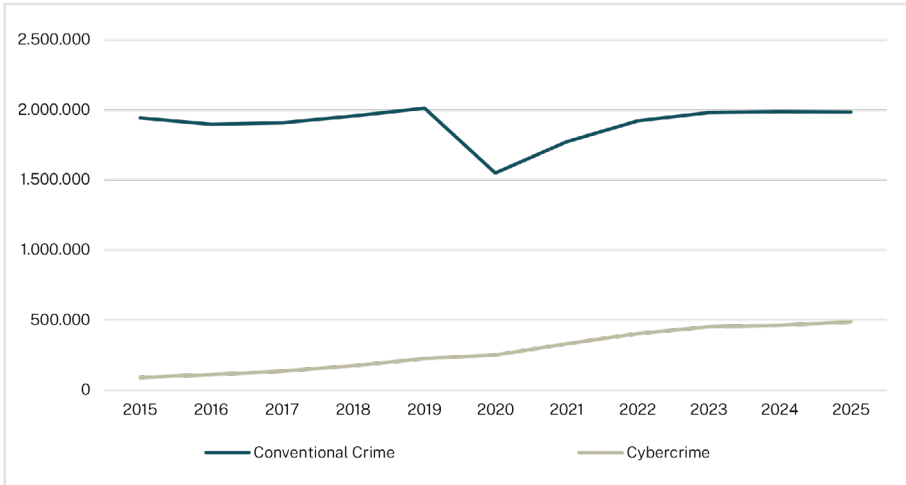
### 3. Crime statistics in Spain

Before migration can be introduced into the analysis as a variable, an overview of crime in Spain is in order. This section is based on the quarterly crime reports [*Balances Trimestrales de Criminalidad*] published by the Ministry of the Interior, a statistical compilation of criminal offences recorded by the National Police Force, the Civil Guards, the Ertzaintza, the Mossos d'Esquadra, the Navarre Regional Police, and local police forces that report data to the crime statistics system [*Sistema Estadístico de Criminalidad (SEC)*]. That is to say, alleged criminal offences recorded by the police forces as a result either of reports filed by the public or of direct police action, not arrests or final convictions, which are separate metrics analysed later on. They are, therefore, the most comprehensive official figures available.

The crime statistics report is a compilation of police recorded crimes, not crimes actually committed. Statistically speaking, only incidents that have been reported and recorded exist, and this is a source of bias due to under-reporting to a degree that varies depending on the type of offence concerned. This bias is particularly significant in cases of sexual offences and domestic violence: social stigma, fear of retaliation, emotional or financial dependence on the perpetrator, difficulties in providing evidence, and in the case of foreign victims mistrust of the authorities can deter victims from reporting offences, so official figures tend to underestimate the true extent of the problem. Offences are classified by type and spatially disaggregated to the local level of municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. The crime statistics reports do not record either the age or sex of the offender or any information on the alleged offender's nationality or country of origin. Although this information is present in internal police records, it is not included in the official published statistics.

The crime statistics report published for the fourth quarter of 2025, covering the period from January to December, records 2,474,156 criminal offences in Spain, an increase of 0.8% over the 2,454,581 incidents recorded in 2024. This overall figure encompasses two radically different trends. Conventional crime, that is, all offences other than computer crime, totalled 1,984,908 offences, virtually the same as in 2024 (1,989,728), representing a marginal decrease of 0.2%. By contrast, there were 489,248 cybercrime offences, 5.2% more than the year before. This type of crime now accounts for around 20% of all crime recorded. At 430,493 cases, cyber fraud rose by 4.3% year-on-year and now accounts for 88% of all cybercrime.

Figure 2. Recorded crimes in Spain.



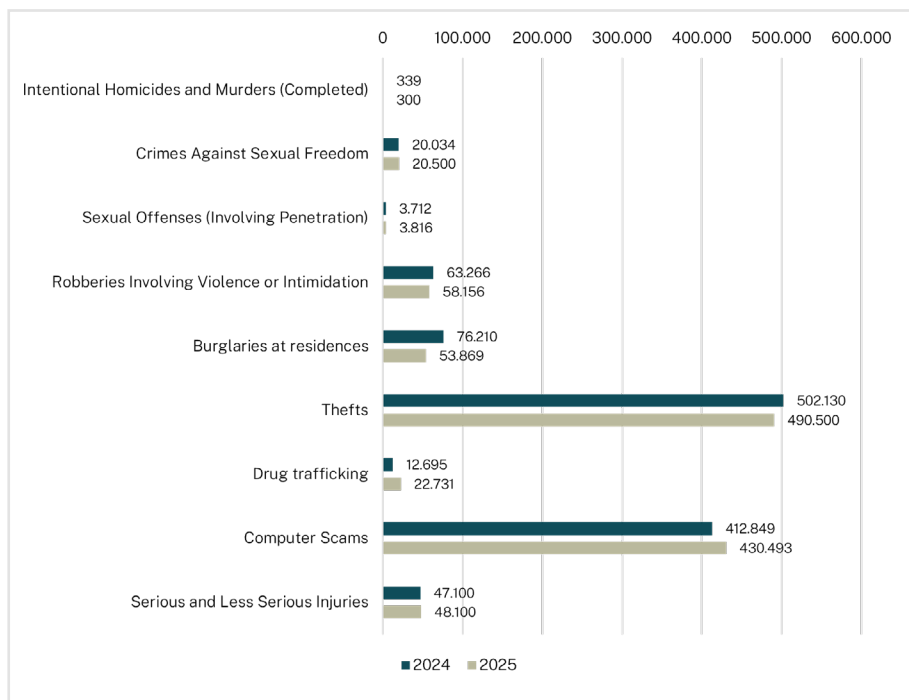
Source: Ministry of the Interior.

The time series helps put these data into perspective. Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of criminal offences rose steadily, from 2.04 million to 2.24 million, a cumulative increase of 10%. There was an abrupt downturn in 2020 as a result of the lockdown, with the total falling to 1.80 million, the lowest level in the recent series. The subsequent recovery was rapid: by 2022 the figure had already climbed back to over 2.3 million and has continued to rise since then, to an all-time high in 2025. However, if cybercrime is excluded, the picture changes: conventional crime in 2025 (1,984,908) was lower than in 2019 (2,013,186) and just 2% higher than in 2016 (1,897,374). In terms of the rate per thousand inhabitants, conventional crime fell from 42.8 offences per thousand inhabitants in 2019 to 40.4 in 2025 thanks to the denominator effect produced by population growth. It should be underscored that this decline is basically the result of dividing an absolute figure that has remained virtually unchanged by a substantially larger population rather than an actual reduction in the number of criminal offences. Therefore, “street crime” was down in per capita terms, but in absolute terms the figure has remained virtually unchanged, and the effect has been cancelled out by the substantial growth in cybercrime.

On the other hand, an analysis of the criminal offences recorded by the police by type reveals different trends that are highly relevant in the context of this report. The number of intentional homicides and murders in 2025 fell by 11.5% compared with 2024. Offences against property also showed an improvement

overall: robberies involving violence or intimidation fell by around 8%, residential forced entry burglaries were down by 29.3% (one of the most noteworthy figures in the crime statistics reports), and thefts dropped by 2.3%. Vehicle theft also fell. Conversely, sexual offences continued their upward trend, rising by 2.3% over 2024. Sexual assaults by penetration climbed by 2.8%, continuing the trend observed since before the reform brought in by the Spanish Comprehensive Sexual Freedom Protection Act [*Ley Orgánica 10/2022*] (known as the “Only yes means yes” Act). Entry into force of that legislation has failed to reverse the trend. Offences involving high and low-severity bodily harm also rose, by around 2%. The most striking figure is drug trafficking, which rose by 75–79%, from 12,695 to 22,731 cases.

**Figure 3. Main types of crime in Spain, 2024 and 2025.**

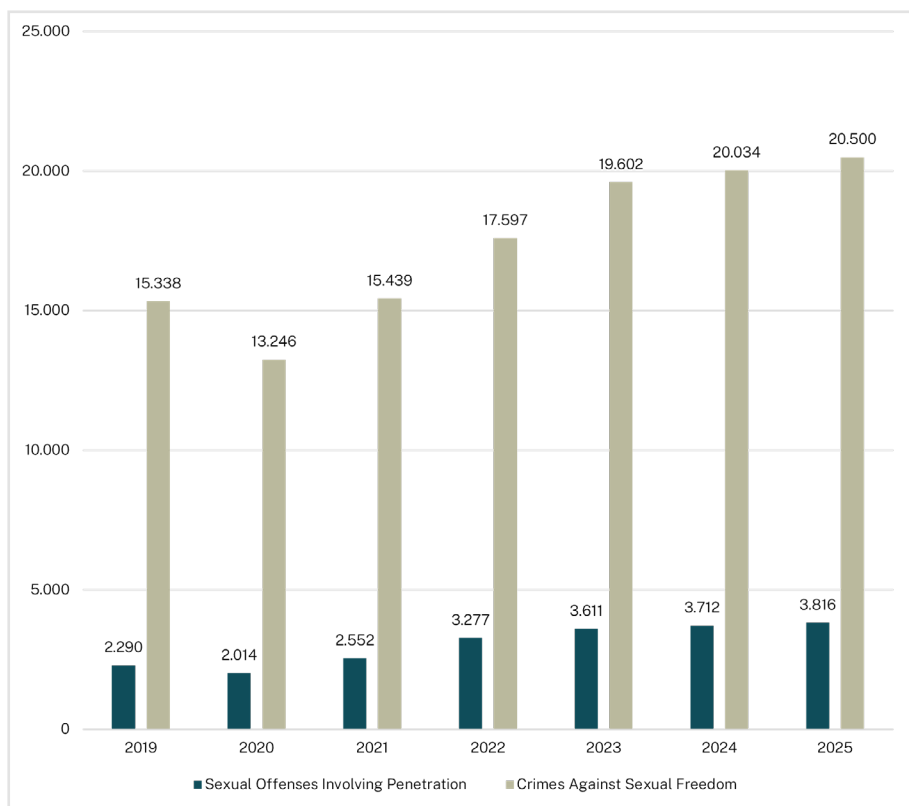


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

Sexual offences merit a careful look, as they are most closely associated with women’s safety. The total number of these offences has risen from 15,338 in 2019 to over 20,000 in 2025, a cumulative increase of more than 30% over six years. Cases of sexual assault by penetration, the most serious category,

have risen from 2,290 to 3,816, a 67% increase. It is to be noted that these are aggregate figures covering all victims as a whole, regardless of sex or age. According to the special ministerial report on sexual offences in 2024, 85.7% of victims are women and 41.2% are under the age of 18, meaning that any upward trend has a particularly severe impact on these two groups. These figures are high enough to warrant an in-depth analysis of offender profiles, not provided by the official crime statistics reports.

Figure 4. Sexual offence time series.



Source: Ministry of the Interior.

Spatial disaggregation of this data series shows that growth is not concentrated in a handful of regions but is spread across the entire country. Table 3 lists the ten autonomous communities with the highest number of reported incidents in 2024 and compares those figures with the situation six years earlier, based on the annual data series available on the Ministry of the Interior’s crime statistics portal.

**Table 3. Sexual offences by autonomous community. Reported figures, 2018 and 2024.**

Autonomous Community	2018	2024	Percentage change
Catalonia	2,598	4,589	+76.6%
Andalusia	2,339	3,453	+47.6%
Madrid	2,014	3,212	+59.5%
Valencia	1,580	2,679	+69.6%
Canary Islands	750	1,336	+78.1%
Basque Country	659	1,150	+74.5%
Balearic Islands	584	997	+70.7%
Murcia	478	890	+86.2%
Galicia	536	880	+64.2%
Castilla y León	439	745	+69.7%
Remaining autonomous communities	1,805	2,915	+61.5%
National total	13,782	22,846	+65.8%
Source: Crime statistics portal, Ministry of the Interior.			

Analysing these figures reveals three main aspects of interest. First, the 65.8% growth nationwide has been widespread: all top 10 regional autonomous communities, without exception, have surpassed the level of 47% growth between 2018 and 2024, with eight at levels of more than 60%. Second, the regions experiencing the highest migratory pressure are the same regions that have the highest number of reported incidents in absolute terms, although they do

not necessarily have the highest per capita rates. The Balearic Islands and Navarre top the per capita rankings, with rates of 8.1 and 7.8 offences per 10,000 inhabitants, respectively, compared with the national average of 4.7. Third, the sharpest percentage increases over the period were recorded in Navarre (+96.3%), La Rioja (+95.1%), and Extremadura (+88.0%), all regions with low volumes in 2018 where figures have nearly doubled over six years.

It is worth pausing briefly to consider the case of Andalusia, which ranks second nationally in terms of the absolute number of recorded incidents, behind Catalonia. Despite this, its per capita rate (4.0 incidents per 10,000) remains below the national average (4.7), and the cumulative increase between 2018 and 2024 (+47.6%) is the most moderate of all the top 10 regions. The breakdown by type follows the overall pattern: there were 2,150 sexual assaults without penetration in 2024 and 626 sexual assaults by penetration. The remainder are divided into offences involving minors, namely, child pornography (146), contacting a child under the age of 16 using digital means (82), and child sexual abuse [*corrupción de menores*] (68); sexual harassment (162); exposure (139); and other offences such as those relating to prostitution (42) and exposing vulnerable individuals to sexually explicit material [*provocación sexual*] (26).

At the provincial level, Málaga leads the Andalusian rankings with 908 reported incidents and a rate of 5.1 per 10,000 inhabitants, above the national average. Málaga is followed by Seville (798), Cádiz (465), Almería (340), Granada (318), Córdoba (258), Huelva (190), and Jaén (176). Málaga and Seville together account for 49.4% of the regional total. The number of persons arrested and under investigation in Andalusia is 2,297, with Málaga (616) and Seville (457) being the areas where with the highest policing demand.

Sexual offences committed by two or more perpetrators, commonly referred to as “gang” or “group” assaults, make up a specific category within these types of offences. According to data published by Escrivá (2026), the Ministry of the Interior’s data series shows the number of incidents of this kind to have risen from 465 in 2018 to 552 in 2024, with a cumulative total of 3,737 victims over the period. Of the attackers identified, 43% are foreign nationals, 33% are Spanish, with the remaining 24% unspecified. Within the category of foreign nationals, the proportion of offenders from North Africa, especially Morocco, is particularly high. This distribution is consistent with the study by the Autonomous University of Madrid’s Institute of Forensic Science and Safety [*Instituto de Ciencias Forenses y de la Seguridad*] (Soldino, 2016), which put the figure for Spanish offenders at 31%, for foreign offenders at 49%, and for North African

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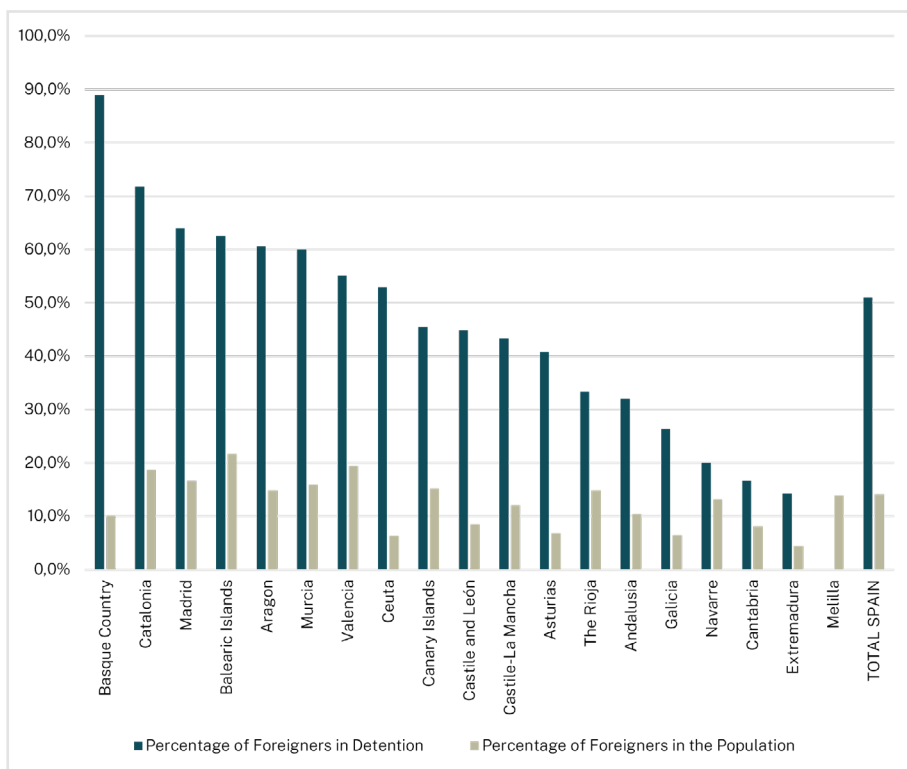
offenders at 22%. It is also in keeping with the records of Barcelona's Hospital Clínic, which treated 53 victims of gang rape between January and October 2025, nearly one every week.

However, it needs to be pointed out that this source has a structural constraint: the crime statistics reports do not break down criminal offences by offender nationality. The crime statistics system records type of offence, geographic location, and time trends but does not publish systematic details as to whether the offender is Spanish or a foreign national. In its response to questions put to the Government by Parliament, the Ministry of the Interior has argued that the data in the crime statistics reports “do not signify guilt or a conviction” and that the nationality recorded is not a basis for distinguishing between legal residents, illegal residents, or EU citizens. The result is opaque official statistics that are a necessary but insufficient starting point for analysing the relationship between immigration and crime.

## 4. Criminality and nationality: what the data tell us

The Ministry of the Interior's crime statistics reports do not break criminal offences down by offender nationality. This practice contrasts with approaches taken by other European countries and considerably restricts the utility of the analysis. To answer the central question of this section – namely, is the foreign population statistically over-represented in crime data, and to what extent? – it is necessary to draw on a range of different sources: arrest data published by various police forces, prison statistics disaggregated by nationality, and statistics obtained through freedom of information requests or answers given in response to questions from Parliament. Despite being fragmented and methodological differences between them, the answer provided by these sources is unequivocal.

**Figure 5. Proportion of the foreign population in the arrests made by the National Police Force on 18 March 2026 by autonomous community.**



Source: Arrest figures released by the police, published in the press.

To overcome the limitations referred to above, the analysis that follows draws chiefly on the annual series of the Ministry of the Interior's own crime statistics reports, which provide consolidated data on persons arrested and under investigation broken down by Spanish or foreign nationality for all police forces combined. The 18 March 2026 data are used as additional explanatory material only.

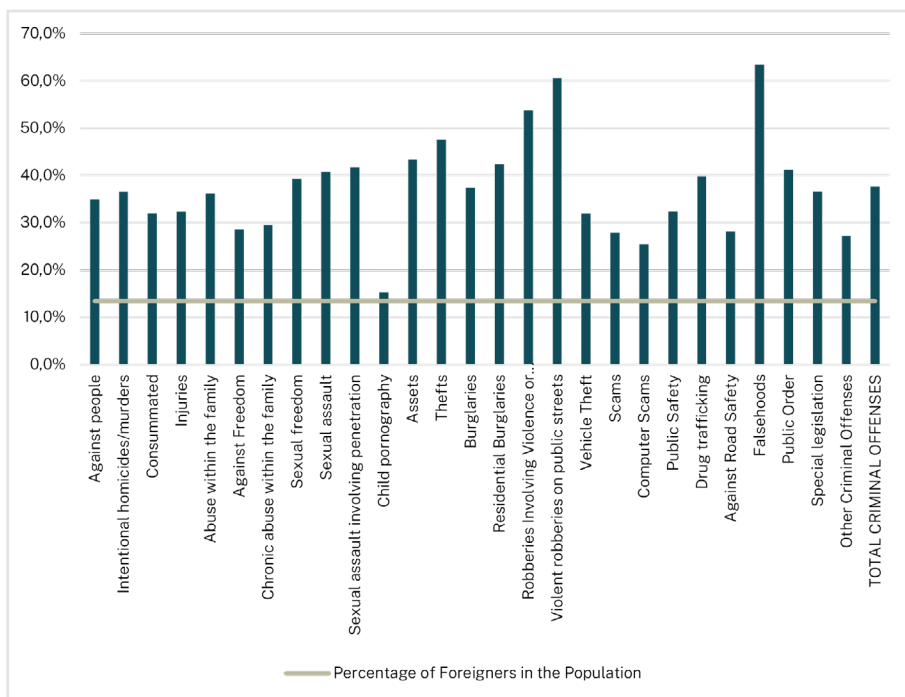
The crime statistics reports compile data on persons arrested and under investigation by all the police forces involved in the system, i.e., The National Police Force, the Civil Guards, the Ertzaintza, the Mossos d'Esquadra, the Navarre Regional Police, and the local police forces that voluntarily report data. The classification variable is nationality of the person arrested or under investigation as recorded at the time of arrest, namely, Spanish or foreign, not broken down by country in the tables available to the public. Individuals arrested multiple times over the year have been counted as many times as they have been arrested, which could increase the weight of repeat offenders in the statistics. The crime statistics reports do not collect data on the sex or age of the persons arrested by nationality. Another potential source of bias is the higher visibility of certain groups of people to law enforcement because of their irregular immigration status, lack of a fixed address, or a tendency to frequent certain public places. This could have the effect of partially inflating the presence of foreign nationals among those arrested in proportion to their actual involvement in criminal activities.

The 2024 figures speak for themselves: of the 577,107 arrests and investigations recorded nationwide, 217,377 (37.7%) were foreign nationals, even though the foreign population accounted for 13.4% of the total population on 1 January of that year. For criminal offences as a whole, the over-representation ratio was almost three times, but it rose appreciably for certain types of offences. Thus, foreign nationals accounted for 43.4% of those arrested or under investigation for property offences; 47.6% of the total for theft; 53.8% for robbery involving violence or intimidation, rising to 60.6% for robberies involving violence in public places only; and 63.5% for alleged forgery and related offences.

The statistics relating to sexual offences are of particular relevance to this report. 39.2% of persons arrested or under investigation for these offences in 2024 were foreign nationals. That figure rose to 40.7% for sexual assaults and to 41.7% for sexual assaults by penetration. Foreign nationals accounted for 36.3% of those arrested for domestic abuse. All these percentages are between 2.5 and 4.7 times higher than the proportion of foreigners in the

population. The ratio is similar to – though still higher than – that for the national population only for child pornography offences.

Figure 6. Proportion of the foreign population among those arrested by type of offence, 2024.



Source: Ministry of the Interior.

Unlike the crime statistics reports and the arrest figures published for 18 March 2026, two datasets in which nationality is the classification variable, the Basque regional police (Ertzaintza) use place of birth as the classification variable. This distinction is methodologically significant: a person born in Morocco who has become a Spanish national will be counted as a foreign national in the Ertzaintza’s data but as a Spanish national in the crime statistics reports. As a result, groups with high naturalisation rates tend to be more highly represented in the Ertzaintza’s figures than in the crime statistics reports, so the two sources are not directly comparable. The statistics break down the data by region of birth (North Africa, Latin America, Europe, rest of Africa, Asia), yielding a higher level of detail than the crime statistics reports. The sex of arrestees is not broken down by origin, but age is recorded for certain segments. The potential biases are the same as for any other arrest

statistics: possible over-representation due to repeat offenders and potential bias in police conduct.

The nationwide figures can be broken down further by looking at the reports released by regional police forces. The Ertzaintza produce the most comprehensive and detailed statistics on the link between migrant background and crime. The Ertzaintza have released figures for the whole of 2025. Of 41,811 arrests and investigations carried out during the year, 19,528 (46.7% of the total) involved people born abroad. Breaking down these two categories yields figures that are even more revealing: of the 9,222 arrests made in 2025, 5,654 (61.3%) involved people born outside Spain. That percentage decreased to 42.5% in the case of the investigations performed (13,874 of 32,615). In other words, arrests, which involve deprivation of liberty and are reserved for the most serious or flagrant cases, involve a much higher proportion of foreign nationals than investigations, where the suspect is not placed under arrest. By comparison, the foreign population accounts for approximately 10.2% of the region's residents, hence the over-representation ratio of immigrants in the total number of police operations carried out in the Basque Country is 4.6. The breakdown by country of origin shows that North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) accounts for the bulk of cases involving people born abroad, with 9,094 arrests and investigations, followed by Latin America (6,107), Europe (2,573), the rest of Africa (943), and Asia (414).<sup>1</sup>

An analysis by type of offence reveals quite marked differences. For robberies involving violence or intimidation, 28% of arrests and investigations involved people born outside Spain (848 of 1,124), overwhelmingly people from North Africa (671, 79% of the foreign nationals in this category). For theft, people born abroad made up 53.6% (4,476 of 8,352); for forced entry burglary, 57.7%; and for residential forced entry burglary, 69.6%.

Here again, for purposes of this report, data relating to sexual offences have been examined with particular care. For these offences, 56.1% of arrests and investigations involved people born abroad (440 of 785). That percentage rises to 57.6% for sexual assaults alone (401 of 696). The figure is even more pronounced if consideration is restricted to sexual assault by penetration, i.e., the criminal category that covers rape: 48 of the 71 people arrested for this

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1 Ertzaintza, Basque Regional Government. Crime statistics. Arrests and investigations by cause and place of birth. Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, data for 2025. Available at: <https://www.ertzaintza.euskadi.eus/lfr/web/ertzaintza/estadisticas-delictivas>

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offence in 2025 (67.6%) were foreign nationals, from a foreign population of just over 10% in the Basque Country. In this category, North Africans were responsible for 122 incidents, Latin Americans for 187, and migrants from the rest of Africa for 36. For the category of domestic violence, 47.6% of arrests for domestic abuse and 46.1% of arrests for persistent abuse involved people born outside Spain. The proportion of foreign arrestees from North Africa and Latin America was similar, and neither group accounted for a clear majority, unlike the case of property offences.

**Table 4. Arrests made by the Ertzaintza by type of offence and place of origin, 2025.**

Type of offence	Spaniards	Foreigners	% foreigners
Homicide and related offences	33	34	50.7%
Intentional homicide/murder	10	8	44.4%
Intentional homicide/attempted murder	13	20	60.6%
Offences involving bodily harm	3,646	3,502	49.0%
Domestic abuse	1,643	1,491	47.6%
Torture and offences against the person	1,162	947	44.9%
Persistent domestic abuse	1,052	899	46.1%
Sexual offences	345	440	56.1%
Sexual assault	295	401	57.6%
Offences against property	9,565	9,062	48.6%
Theft	3,876	4,476	53.6%
Forced entry burglary	813	1,107	57.7%
Residential forced entry burglary	187	429	69.6%
Robbery involving violence or intimidation	276	848	75.4%
Vehicle theft	71	68	48.9%

**Table 4. Arrests made by the Ertzaintza by type of offence and place of origin, 2025.**

Type of offence	Spaniards	Foreigners	% foreigners
Fraud	3,208	1,335	29.4%
Public safety offences	1,779	1,104	38.3%
Drug trafficking	383	293	43.3%
Other criminal offences	4,607	3,139	40.5%
Source: Ertzaintza.			

The data from the Navarre Regional Police Force have not been taken from any regular official statistical publication but from information provided in January 2026 in answer to a parliamentary question tabled by the Vox Party in the Navarre Parliament. Origin of the person arrested is the classification variable used. As used in police practice, the term origin may refer interchangeably to the country of birth or to nationality, depending on the internal recording procedure. However, which of the two criteria is systematically applied cannot be established from the documents publicly available. The data by origin are not broken down by sex or age of the persons arrested. Because this was a one-time response to a parliamentary question rather than a set of aggregated statistics, no information on the aggregation methodology used is available, and transcription errors cannot be ruled out. The value of the information lies in the fact that it provides a breakdown by type of offence not obtainable from other regional sources.

The figures released by the Navarre Regional Police point in the same direction. According to information disclosed in January 2026 following a request by the Vox Party, foreign nationals were identified as the alleged offenders in 62.96% of the sexual offences recorded by the Regional Police Force, 73.3% of the homicides, and 71.77% of the robberies committed in this Autonomous Community in 2025. The Regional Police also reported that the percentage of persons of Spanish origin arrested was down (from 37.36% in 2024 to 33.73% in 2025) the percentage of arrestees of foreign origin was rising commensurately, particularly persons from Morocco, a group that recorded the highest year-on-year growth overall, with an increase of 17.2% between 2024 and 2025, and from Algeria. Between January and November 2025, 227 Moroccans and

Algerians were arrested, more than the 199 Spanish nationals arrested during the same period. The percentages figures need to be viewed in the context of the proportion of the foreign population in Navarre, 13.2% according to National Institute of Statistics Table 56942. The over-representation ratio ranges from 4.8 to 5.6 times, depending on the type of offence considered.<sup>2</sup>

Unlike the data provided by the Ertzaintza, the data for Navarre and the city of Barcelona have a series of methodological constraints that should be discussed. First, their geographic scope is limited: they cover only the Autonomous Community of Navarre or the city of Barcelona, not Catalonia as a whole, which limits their suitability for use in drawing generalisations. Second, they have been sourced not from a regular official statistical publication but from information supplied at the request of the Vox Party in a regional parliamentary and a city council, which prevents the methodology used to aggregate the data from being verified. Third, the publicly available documents do not specify whether the classification variable is the arrested person's nationality or place of birth, nor do they provide disaggregated data on the arrestee's sex or age. Despite these constraints, the percentages are high enough that the pattern is hard to deny, even allowing for generous margins as a precaution.

A third batch of relevant data comes from Catalonia. An internal report by the Directorate-General of Police [*Direcció General de la Policia*] of the Regional Government of Catalonia [*Generalitat*], which reports to the Regional Department of the Interior, was made public on 11 May 2026. It had been drawn up in response to a question raised by the Vox Party in the Catalan Parliament. The report documents the arrests made by the Mossos d'Esquadra over the course of 2025 broken down by nationality (Spanish or foreign) and by broad geographic regions of origin (Africa, the Americas, Asia, the rest of Europe). As in the case of Navarre, this was not a regular statistical publication but rather information provided in response to requests from parliament, not broken down by individual country. Nonetheless, the spatial coverage of this batch is regional, i.e., for autonomous communities, not limited to the city of Barcelona like the data published a year earlier, and this helps in drawing up a picture comparable to that for the Basque Country.

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2 Report by the Information Division of the Navarre Regional Police Force prepared in response to a request from the Vox Party in the Parliament of Navarre. Data for the whole of 2024 and for 2025 up to 25 November. The figures were published at the end of January 2026 and can be found, for instance, in the online daily *El Español* at [https://www.elespanol.com/espana/politica/20260129/extranjeros-cometen-delitos-sexuales-homicidios-robos-navarra-policia-foral/1003744104824\\_0.html](https://www.elespanol.com/espana/politica/20260129/extranjeros-cometen-delitos-sexuales-homicidios-robos-navarra-policia-foral/1003744104824_0.html)

The figures speak for themselves. For thefts, the Mossos recorded 1,269 arrests of Spanish nationals compared with 6,806 of foreign nationals, that is, 84.3% of the total, with 3,145 being of African origin. For robbery involving violence and intimidation, 1,968 Spaniards were arrested, in contrast with 5,335 foreign nationals (73%), including 3,899 Africans, double the total number of Spaniards arrested for this same type of offence. For sexual assaults, foreign nationals accounted for 60.3% of arrests (1,008 of 1,672). For homicides and murders committed and attempted, 55.1% (190 of 345). For offences involving bodily harm, 59.0% (1,063 of 1,801) and for threat offences, 56.8% (1,870 of 3,295). The prominent involvement of Africans, especially in property offences, closely mirrors the pattern reported by the Ertzaintza for North Africans, though it should be noted that the Mossos grouped North Africans and sub-Saharan Africans together in a single category.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 5. Arrests made by the Mossos d'Esquadra by type of offence and origin, 2025.**

Type of offence	Spaniards	Foreigners	% foreigners
Murder (committed or attempted)	155	190	55.1%
Offences involving bodily harm	738	1,063	59.0%
Threat offences	1,425	1,870	56.8%
Sexual assault	664	1,008	60.3%
Theft	1,269	6,806	84.3%
Robbery involving violence or intimidation	1,968	5,335	73.0%
Source: Mossos d'Esquadra.			

These figures are for an autonomous community in which the foreign population accounts for 18.7% of the total. The resulting over-representation ratios

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by the Directorate-General of Police of the Department of the Interior of the Government of Catalonia to the Vox Party in the Barcelona City Council in response to a public information access request. The document presents a compilation of arrests made in the city of Barcelona during 2024 and was signed by Josep Lluís Trapero, Chief of the Mossos d'Esquadra. The data were published in May 2025.

range from 2.9 times (homicides) to 4.5 times (thefts), in line with the levels recorded in the other regions considered. The figure for Catalonia of 60.3% of sexual assaults committed by foreign nationals, who make up just 18.7% of the population, is particularly relevant in the context of this report.

By way of an historical aside, in May 2025 the Directorate-General of Police of the Department of the Interior of the Regional Government of Catalonia had, at the request of the Vox Party in the Barcelona City Council, already provided a table listing arrests made in that city in 2024 broken down by nationality of the arrested person. According to that information, 91% of those arrested for theft and 83.5% of those arrested for robbery involving violence in Barcelona were foreign nationals. These percentages were higher than the regional average and were consistent with the higher concentration of foreign nationals in Barcelona proper.<sup>4</sup>

The figure for Catalonia was also highest in the 18 March 2026 report on arrests released by the National Police Force, in which 72% of those arrested on a given day were foreign nationals.

Although the data are from multiple regions, a number of cross-cutting patterns can be discerned:

- First, **the over-representation of foreign nationals among arrestees is a widespread phenomenon not limited to any particular region.** This is observable both in the national statistics and in the statistics for the Basque Country, Navarre, and Catalonia.
- Second, the over-representation ratios range from 2.8 times (national crime statistics system data for all criminal offences) to 8.1 times (Basque Country, thefts). The average range is a proportion of immigrants in arrest statistics between 4 and 6 times higher than their contribution to the overall population. Simply put, arrest rates for foreign nationals range around 4 to 6 times higher than would be expected for a population group of its size.

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<sup>4</sup> Report by the Directorate-General of Police of the Regional Government of Catalonia, which reports to the Regional Department of the Interior, drawn up in response to a question raised by the Vox Party in the Catalan Parliament. It presents a compilation of the arrests made by the Mossos d'Esquadra during 2025 broken down by nationality (Spanish/foreign) and by broad geographic regions of origin (Africa, the Americas, Asia, the rest of Europe). The figures were published on 11 May 2026 and can be found, for instance, in the online daily El Español at [https://www.elespanol.com/espana/politica/20260511/extranjeros-comesen-agresiones-sexuales-cataluna-robos-mossos/1003744238458\\_0.html](https://www.elespanol.com/espana/politica/20260511/extranjeros-comesen-agresiones-sexuales-cataluna-robos-mossos/1003744238458_0.html)

- Third, **over-representation is highest for property offences (theft, robbery involving violence) and for sexual offences.** This latter figure has direct ramifications for the safety of women, who make up 85.7% of victims, and children, who make up 41.2% of the total, irrespective of sex, as will be discussed later in this report.
- Fourth, where the statistics identify the country of origin, the group accounting for the majority of arrests of foreign nationals varies according to the type of offence. **For property offences, namely, theft and robbery involving violence, North Africans, mainly Moroccans and Algerians, account for the vast majority of arrests. For sexual offences, in contrast, arrests are more evenly distributed among North Africans, sub-Saharan Africans, and Latin Americans, with no clear majority for any single group.** The Ertzaintza report is particularly stark in this regard: North African men, despite making up barely 1.7% of the Basque population, are responsible for 70.4% of robberies involving violence and 75.6% of thefts, while their share of arrests for sexual assault drops to 28.5%, highlighting different patterns of criminal behaviour according to origin. The Mossos' report confirms this pattern in the Catalan region. The African group, which lumps North Africa together with the rest of Africa without a country-by-country breakdown, accounts for 3,145 of the 8,075 arrests for theft (39% of the total) and 3,899 of the 7,303 arrests for robbery involving violence or intimidation (53.4%). This latter figure is itself double the number of Spaniards arrested for this type of offence.

It is important to draw attention to the limitations of these data. First of all, the figures are arrests, not convictions: an arrest does not imply guilt or a final verdict. Arrests may, furthermore, include repeat offences where the same individual is arrested on multiple occasions, so the statistics could be skewed by the presence of multiple repeat offenders, particularly common for property offences committed by members of socially marginalised groups and for sexual offences. The analysis presented in this section has therefore been supplemented below in section 5 of this report, setting out data on the prison population actually serving actual sentences, i.e., no longer corresponding to arrests.

Some data analysts argue that the figures could be partially inflated by higher exposure of the foreign population to law enforcement or by biases in policing. The far left goes even further and claims “systemic racism” by the police. Nevertheless, the scale of the differences observed, with over-representation ratios ranging from 3 to 8 times, depending on the source and the offence,

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would seem to undercut those arguments. It is no surprise, then, that if 84.3% of those arrested for theft in Catalonia or 77% of those arrested for robbery involving violence and intimidation in the Basque Country are foreign nationals, we are clearly confronted with a phenomenon of a scale that outstrips explanations based on police bias alone.

## 5. Breakdown of the prison population and those serving sentences by nationality.

Apart from arrests, which reflect police action at the stage of identifying alleged offenders without implying conviction or imprisonment after sentencing, there are two sources that provide insight into more advanced stages of the criminal justice process, namely, the prison population, i.e., incarcerated persons, who for the most part have been tried and convicted, and final sentences recorded in the National Institute of Statistics' Central Register of Convicted Offenders [*Registro Central de Penados*]. This section examines both under the same prism used for the preceding analysis: is the foreign population over-represented, and to what extent?

The National Prison Service Annual Report [*Informe General de la Administración Penitenciaria*], released annually by the General Secretariat for Penitentiary Institutions publishes the number of prison inmates in the custody of the Spanish National Government Administration [*Administración General del Estado*], i.e., the national prison service, at the end of each year. The classification variable is inmate nationality according to their files. Two structural constraints should be kept in mind. One: national prison service statistics do not cover prisons in Catalonia or the Basque Country, as responsibility for prisons in those regions has been transferred to those autonomous communities, which publish their own statistics. The national statistics in the national prison service report therefore underestimate actual totals. Two: the prison population includes both convicted prisoners serving a final sentence and prisoners in custody on remand awaiting trial. These categories should not be combined without qualification, because the proportion of foreign nationals in custody on remand is significantly higher than in the population of convicted inmates. The publicly available statistics in the national report do not systematically break inmate sex down by nationality, nor is there any breakdown by both type of offence and nationality in the national prison service's regular publications.

Prison statistics for Catalonia are collected by the Department of Justice of the Regional Catalan Government, which publishes its own statistics on the prison population in the Catalan penitentiary system. Inmate nationality is the classification variable used. Although the statistical recording methods used are conceptually equivalent to those used by the national prison service, i.e., the same nationality criterion, the same distinction between convicted inmates and prisoners on remand, the two sources are separate bodies, each

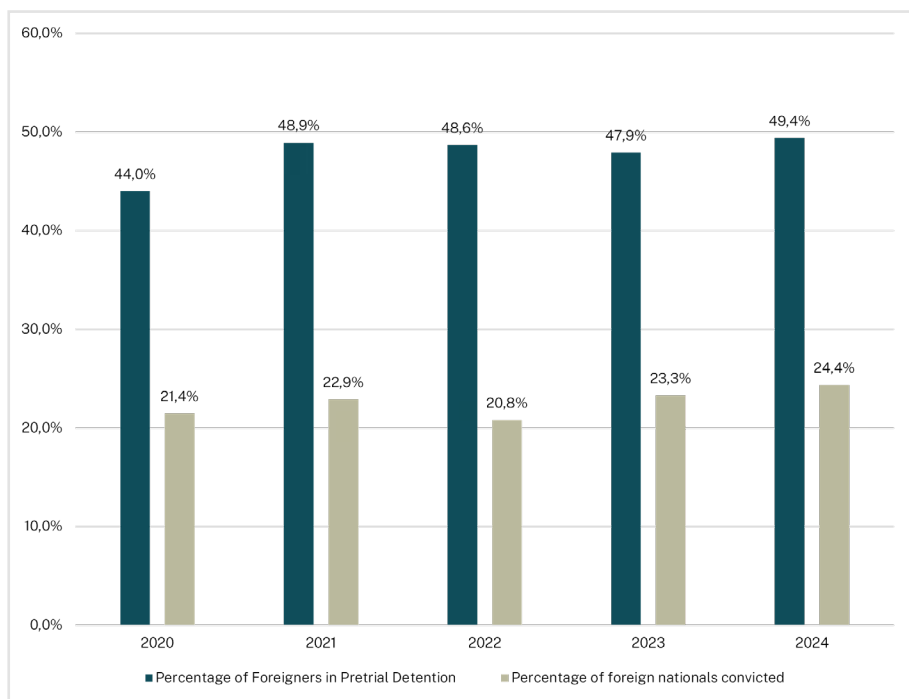
with its own administrative procedures. Therefore, combining their figures should be regarded as an approximation to the national total rather than as the aggregation of strictly homogeneous data. Regular Catalan Department of Justice statistics do not systematically publish any combined breakdown of the prison population by nationality and type of offence or by sex and nationality.

According to the 2024 National Prison Service Annual Report, the prison population in facilities in the custody of the national prison service on 31 December 2024 came to 48,947 inmates, 14,336 of whom (29.3%) were foreign nationals. In other words, nearly one in three inmates in the custody of the national prison service was born outside Spain. These figures do not include data for Catalonia or the Basque Country, which operate their own prison systems under devolved powers. Adding the figures published by the Department of Justice of the Government of Catalonia (4,437 foreign prisoners of a total of 8,594, or 51.6%), the national total rises to 18,773 foreign prisoners in a total prison population of 57,541 inmates, for a combined percentage of 32.6%. The over-representation rate in the prison system is 2.3-2.4 times the proportion of foreign nationals in the general population.

The time trend confirms a worrisome upward trajectory, a pattern that has persisted over time, resulting in a gradual upswing. The average annual number of foreign prisoners in national prison service prisons has grown from 12,290 in 2020 to 13,850 in 2024, an increase of 12.7% in four years. The specified figure at the end of 2024, already mentioned above, was 14,336 foreign inmates. The difference between the two figures is attributable to the fact that the annual series is an average, whereas the figure for 31 December 2024 was a spot value. During the same period the Spanish prison population fell from 37,128 to 34,630, a 6.7% decrease. The proportion of foreign nationals has thus risen from 25% of inmates in 2020 to approximately 30% in 2024.

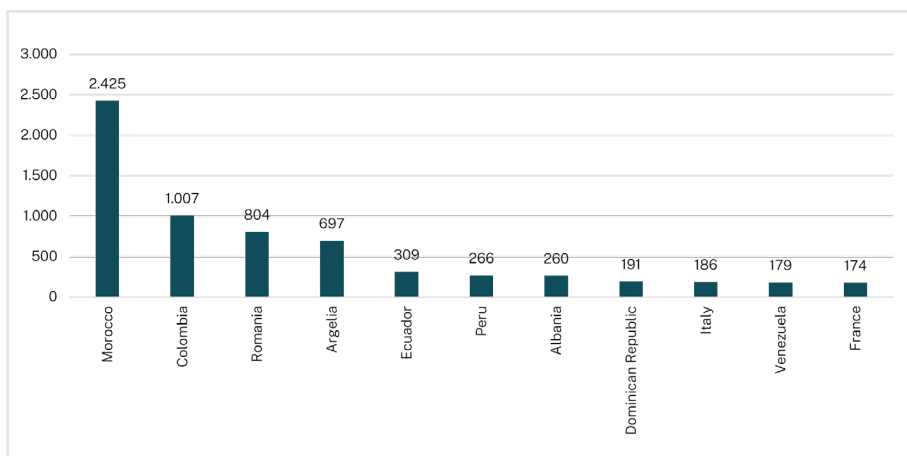
One particularly significant statistic is the composition of the population in pre-trial detention: of the 8,426 pre-trial detainees at the end of 2024, 4,035 (47.9%) were foreign nationals, a proportion significantly higher than for convicted inmates (9,815 of 39,283, or 25%). This reflects the increased use of pre-trial detention for foreign nationals stemming from the higher flight risk attributed to them by the courts, an aspect that should be borne in mind when interpreting the overall data.

Figure 7. Prison population by nationality and custodial status.



Source: Ministry of the Interior.

An analysis of prison receptions reveals that in 2024 8,009 foreign nationals were admitted to Spanish prisons compared with 19,347 new Spanish inmates, i.e., foreign nationals made up 29.3% of admissions. Morocco is the country that tops the ranking of prison admissions by a massive margin, with 2,425 admissions in 2024 (9.3% more than the 2,218 recorded in 2023), more than double admissions of nationals from Colombia (1,007), second in the ranking. Next come Romania (804), Algeria (697), Ecuador (309), Peru (266), and Albania (260). Morocco is also the country of origin with by far the highest number of inmates in Spanish prisons in absolute terms, and the number of new admissions has risen by 64% since 2020 (when there were 1,480). The population of Moroccans in Spain stands at 968,999 people (2% of the total), so their proportion in prison admissions (2,425, 30.3% of foreign admissions, 8.9% of the total) means that the relative incarceration rate is four times higher than the demographic weight of these nationals in the population as a whole. By nationality, Colombians rank second in terms of the number of admissions (1,007), followed by Romanians (804) and Algerians (697).

**Figure 8. 2024 prison admissions by nationality.**

Source: Ministry of the Interior.

National Institute of Statistics data on final sentences provide a third level of corroboration separate from arrests by the police and the prison population.

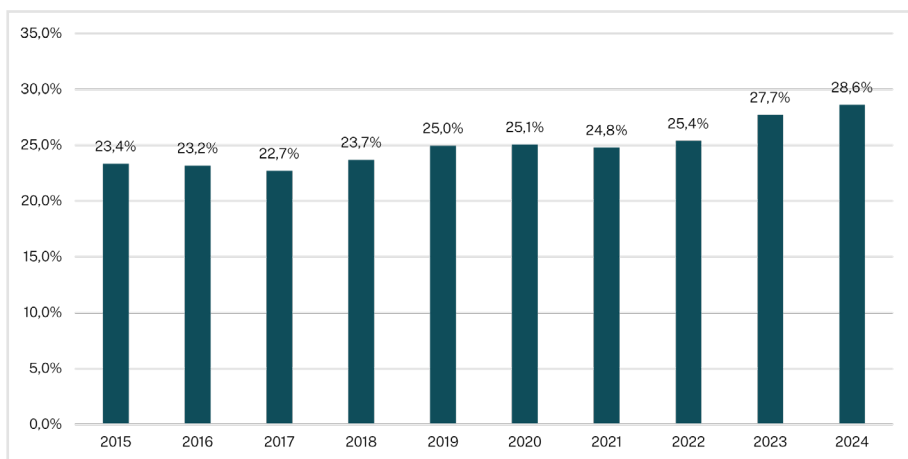
National Institute of Statistics figures on final convictions are compiled from data from the Central Register of Convicted Offenders, which records convictions handed down by Spanish courts that are entered into the register in a given year. Nationality of the convicted person at the time of sentencing is the classification variable. Unlike arrest statistics, which reflect police action, and the prison population, which is a stock at a particular point in time, final convictions are the final outcome of the judicial process and are the most refined indicator of all three. However, this statistic is subject to limitations of its own: one person convicted of multiple offences in the same year may be counted in several categories; there is a lag time between commission of the crime and sentencing, which can be up to several years in the case of serious offences; public National Institute of Statistics tables do not present any breakdown by both nationality and type of offence. The National Institute of Statistics does publish a breakdown of convictions by sex of the convicted person, though these data are not cross-tabulated against nationality in the publicly available tables. One potential source of bias worth noting is that people whose immigration status is irregular experience more difficulty in accessing high-quality legal assistance, which could result in slightly higher conviction rates for the same type of offence.

In 2024 the courts handed down convictions against 306,807 people, of whom 87,817 (28.6%) were foreign nationals, while the foreign population made up 13.4% of the total population on 1 January of that year.

The over-representation ratio for convictions (2.1 times) is the lowest of the three metrics considered. By comparison, the proportion of foreign nationals in arrests is 2.8 times their proportion of the total population of Spain and their proportion in the prison population is 2.3 times their proportion of the country's total population. This is consistent with the gradual screening effect to be expected as the judicial filter becomes more selective.

By region of origin, convicted persons from the Americas (33,104) outnumbered those from Africa (26,934), who were followed by EU nationals (18,894) and then non-EU Europeans (6,146). The time trend exhibits a sharp rise in the absolute number of convicted foreign nationals: from 55,509 in 2020 to 87,817 in 2024, an increase of 58% in four years, well above the growth of the foreign population over that same period.

**Figure 9. Percentage of foreign nationals that have a final conviction.**



Source: National Institute of Statistics.

The fact that over-representation gradually diminishes as cases work their way through the criminal justice system, from 37.7% of arrests to 29.3% of the prison population to 28.6% of final convictions, is in itself a significant finding. It suggests that, though there could be some degree of bias in police conduct, this does not fully account for the phenomenon. The majority of foreign

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nationals who are arrested are in fact prosecuted and convicted, which rules out the possibility that the arrest figures are merely the result of police selection bias. The moderate reduction in the percentage throughout the process, from 37.7% to 28.6%, is more the result of the normal dynamics of criminal proceedings (cases dismissed due to failure to appear, evidential difficulties, or differences in final conviction rates for different types of offences) than of the workings of a judicial filter that negates initial findings.

## 6. Spatial comparison. Immigration and crime by area.

Spatial disparities are a separate aspect of this phenomenon to be taken into account. Is there a statistical correlation between the population levels of foreign nationals and crime rates by geographic region?

This analysis draws on two sources. On the one hand, the criminal offences recorded in the Ministry of the Interior's crime statistics report for the fourth quarter of 2024 publishing crime statistics disaggregated by autonomous community, by province, and by municipality with more than 20,000 inhabitants. On the other hand, the National Institute of Statistics' population data by nationality: the continuous population survey by autonomous community and by province, with data on 1 January 2024; and the continuous municipal population register, for which the latest available statistics by nationality are for 1 January 2022, producing a two-year time lag in the analysis by municipality. The immigration variable used in the three levels of analysis is the percentage of residents who are foreign nationals in the total population, not the percentage born abroad. Immigrants who have since been naturalised are not included in this variable, and in this sense the estimated association is conservative. The dependent variables are the total crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants and the rate of sexual offences per 100,000 inhabitants. The measure of association is Pearson's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ). It should be noted right from the first that correlation does not imply causation: the spatial units with the highest proportion of foreign nationals also tend to be the most urban and the ones with the highest levels of tourism and the most pronounced economic inequality, all factors that can drive up crime rates in their own right and function as confounding variables in this analysis.

Before presenting the results of these correlation analyses, a word on regional differences is in order. The ranking of autonomous communities by crime rate in 2024 spans quite a wide range, from 64.1 offences per thousand inhabitants in the Balearic Islands to 33.5 in Extremadura. For sexual offences, the Balearic Islands top the list with 75.2 offences per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Navarre (70.5) and the Canary Islands (56.0). At the opposite end come Cantabria (26.6), Castilla y León (27.9), and Asturias (28.3). The correlation with the ranking of foreign population presence is immediately apparent: with very few exceptions, the autonomous communities with the highest crime rates and the highest rates of sexual offences are also the ones with the highest proportion of foreign nationals. It should be emphasised that this spatial overlap does not, in itself, imply that the offenders are necessarily foreign nationals: the

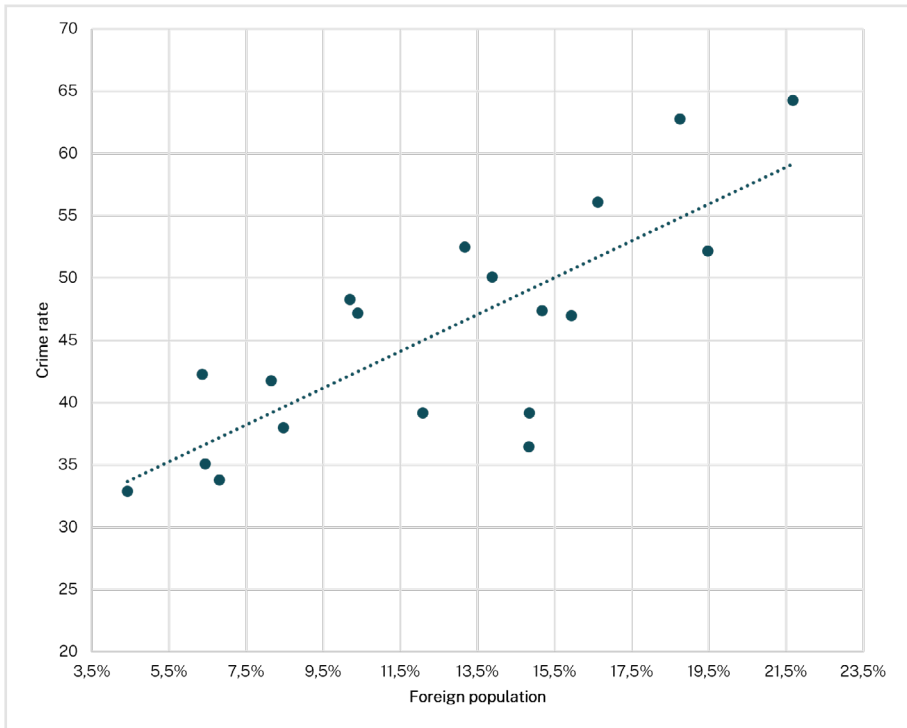
association at the aggregate level is not an accusation at the individual level. The data on arrests and convictions analysed in the preceding sections are not a basis for causal interpretation. Causation must be evaluated based on statistics disaggregated by offender nationality, not a comparative spatial analysis.

**Table 6. Ranking of autonomous communities by crime rate and percentage foreign population, 2024.**

Region	Crime rate (per 1,000)	Sexual offence rate (per 100,000)	% foreign population
Balearic Islands	64.3	75.2	21.7%
Catalonia	62.8	54.2	18.7%
Madrid	56.1	41.9	16.6%
Navarre	52.5	70.5	13.2%
Valencia	52.2	45.7	19.5%
Melilla	50.1	43.6	13.9%
Basque Country	48.3	47.1	10.2%
Canary Islands	47.4	56.0	15.2%
Andalusia	47.2	36.3	10.4%
Murcia	47.0	49.1	15.9%
Ceuta	42.3	55.0	6.4%
Cantabria	41.8	26.6	8.1%
Castilla-La Mancha	39.2	31.1	12.1%
Aragon	39.2	31.5	14.8%
La Rioja	36.5	34.6	14.8%
Galicia	35.1	29.1	6.4%
Asturias	33.8	28.3	6.8%
Extremadura	32.9	33.9	4.4%
Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.			

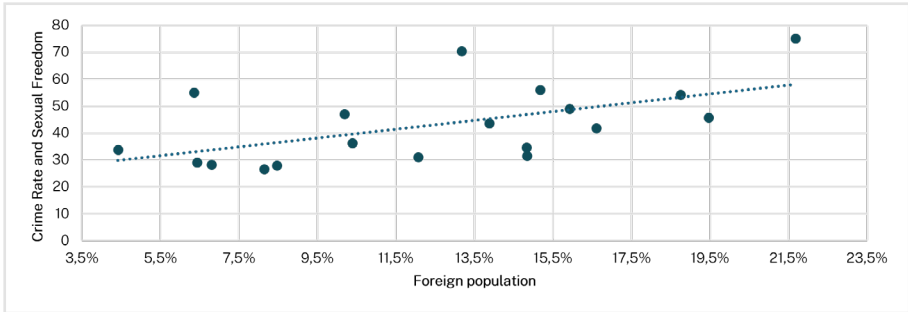
At the regional level, the statistical correlation between the percentage foreign population and the total crime rate is  $r = 0.788$  ( $R^2 = 0.621$ ): 62% of the variation in the crime rate across regions is statistically explained by differences in the proportion of the foreign population. Excluding Ceuta and Melilla, the correlation rises to  $r = 0.802$  ( $R^2 = 0.644$ ). For sexual offences, the statistical correlation is  $r = 0.566$  for all 19 autonomous communities and  $r = 0.672$  ( $R^2 = 0.452$ ) when Ceuta and Melilla are excluded. This statistical association, though somewhat lower than for the total crime rate, is nonetheless appreciable. It should be noted that this correlation links the crime rate with the percentage foreign population, not with percentage foreign offenders. It is an ecological association that is useful in documenting a spatial correlation, not in establishing a direct causal link between nationality and crime rates, which would require individual analysis of the data on arrests and convictions as presented in sections 4 and 5.

**Figure 10. Relationship between the percentage foreign population and the total crime rate in the autonomous communities, 2024.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

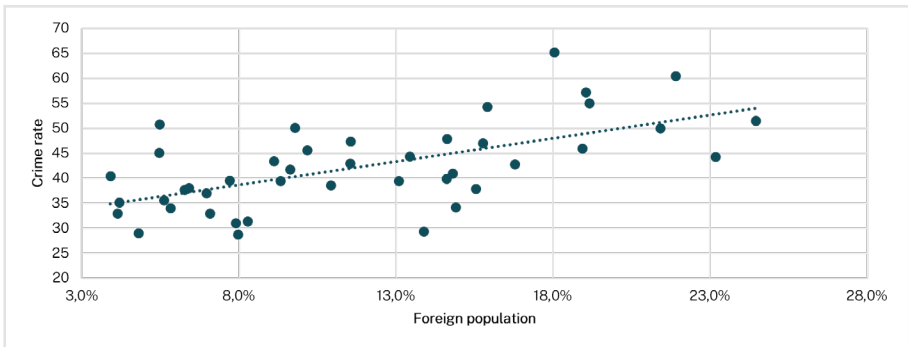
**Figure 11. Relationship between percentage foreign population and the sexual offence rate in the autonomous communities, 2024.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

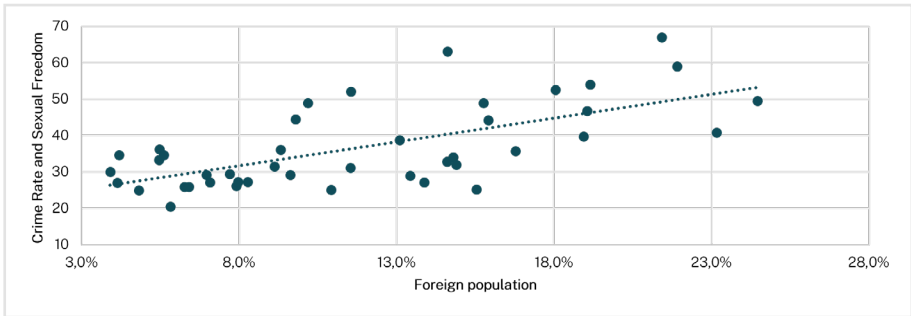
The results are consistent at the provincial level, with 43 cases and greater statistical power. The statistical correlation with the total crime rate is  $r = 0.621$  ( $R^2 = 0.386$ ). The statistical correlation with sexual offences is slightly higher:  $r = 0.655$  ( $R^2 = 0.429$ ). This finding is quite significant: at the provincial level the statistical correlation between the presence of a foreign population and sexual offences is, if anything, slightly higher than correlation observed for the total crime rate. The same methodological caveat noted in the previous paragraph applies here. The correlation links the crime rate with the concentration of foreign nationals, not individual offenders, in the territory concerned. A causal analysis would require combining this evidence with data disaggregated by offender nationality, as presented above.

**Figure 12. Relationship between percentage foreign population and total crime rate at the provincial level, 2024.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

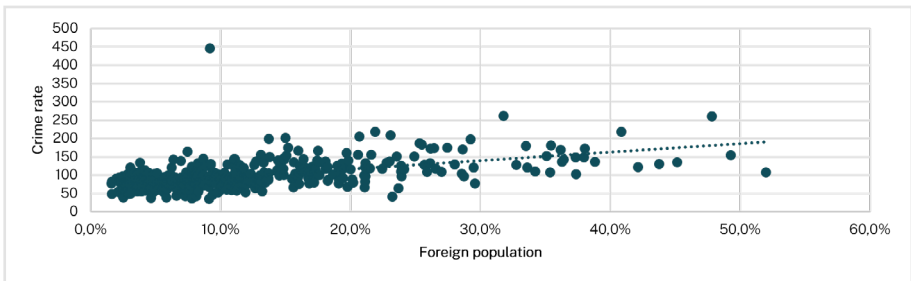
**Figure 13. Relationship between percentage foreign population and sexual offence rate at the provincial level, 2024.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

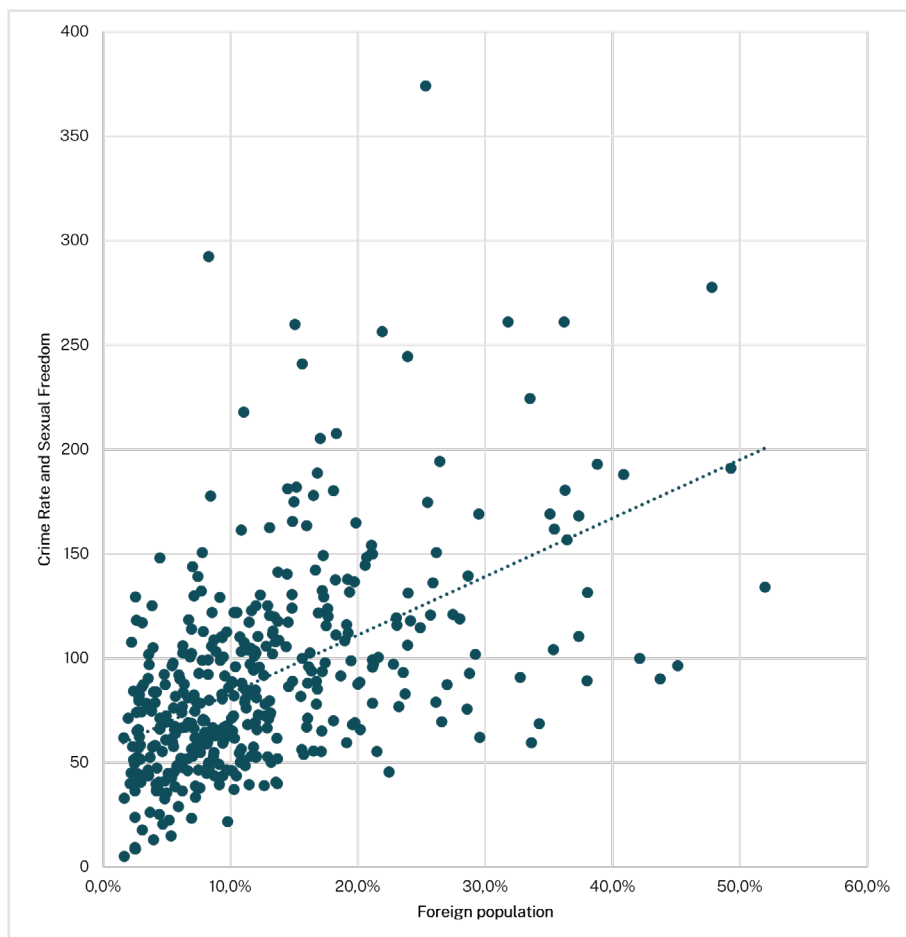
The third level of the analysis, at the municipal level, uses data for 422 municipalities and is the most rigorous test of the association being considered. In this case, the source of the crime statistics is the Ministry of the Interior’s fourth-quarter 2024 report, which records offences in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. The source of the municipal population data is the National Institute of Statistics’ continuous register, the most recent version that contains data broken down by nationality if from 1 January 2022, that is, two years behind in time. Far from invalidating the analysis, this time difference may actually strengthen the interpretation. Not without reason: if the demographic composition in 2022 can predict crime levels in 2024, it suggests that the effect is persistent. The results confirm that there is a statistical association: the correlation with total crime is  $r = 0.540$  ( $R^2 = 0.292$ ), with sexual offences  $r = 0.528$  ( $R^2 = 0.279$ ). With 422 observations, both correlations are statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Figure 14. Relationship between percentage foreign population (2022) and total crime rate (2024) in 422 municipalities.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

**Figure 15. Relationship between percentage foreign population (2022) and the sexual offence rate (2024) in 422 municipalities.**



Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

The summary table of correlation values shows that the statistical association is positive and consistent across all three levels of analysis for both crime rates. The statistical correlations decrease as granularity increases (from  $r = 0.80$  at the autonomous community level to  $r = 0.54$  at the municipal level), which is to be expected, since smaller units have higher internal heterogeneity, introducing more noise. However, the persistent statistical association at the municipal level, with hundreds of observations, drastically decreases the likelihood that it is due to an aggregation artefact (ecological fallacy).

**Table 7. Summary table of correlations between crime rates and the proportion of the foreign population.**

Spatial scale	N	Dependent variable	Pearson's r	R <sup>2</sup>	p-value
<b>Autonomous Communities</b>	19	Total crime rate	0.788	0.621	< 0.001
<b>Autonomous Communities excluding Ceuta and Melilla</b>	17	Total crime rate	0.802	0.644	< 0.001
<b>Autonomous Communities</b>	19	Sexual offence rate	0.566	0.321	< 0.05
<b>Autonomous Communities excluding Ceuta and Melilla</b>	17	Sexual offence rate	0.672	0.452	< 0.01
<b>Autonomous Communities excluding Ceuta and Melilla</b>	17	Sexual assault by penetration	0.534	0.285	< 0.05
<b>Provinces</b>	43	Total crime rate	0.621	0.386	< 0.001
<b>Provinces</b>	43	Sexual offence rate	0.655	0.429	< 0.001
<b>Municipalities (&gt;20,000 inhabitants)</b>	422	Total crime rate	0.540	0.292	< 0.001
<b>Municipalities (&gt;20,000 inhabitants)</b>	422	Sexual offence rate	0.528	0.279	< 0.001

Source: Ministry of the Interior and National Institute of Statistics.

Note: the total crime rate is per 1,000 inhabitants (‰) and the sexual offence rate is per 100,000 inhabitants. The statistical correlation is positive and statistically significant at the level given in the “p-value” column in all cases.

Once again, it should be noted that correlation does not imply causation. Areas with the highest proportion of foreign nationals also tend to be areas with higher demographic density, where populations are larger and crime is more prevalent than in rural areas. Nevertheless, three factors act to limit the scope of this caveat:

- First, the statistical association holds across all three scales, which reduces the likelihood of an aggregation artefact.

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- Second, the statistical correlation with the sexual offence rate is comparable to the correlation with the total crime rate at the provincial level ( $r = 0.655$  vs  $0.621$ ), even though sexual offences are impacted less by tourism and business activity.
- Third, the over-representation of the foreign population in arrests, convictions, and the prison population as documented in this report is consistent with the spatial pattern observed and provides a plausible explanation, though one not definitively demonstrated by these data.

## 7. The status of women in Spain

The data on arrests, the prison population and final convictions presented in the preceding sections reveal a pattern: foreign nationals are over-represented at every stage of the Spanish criminal justice system, although the breakdown by nationality varies depending on indicator and region. North Africans, especially Moroccans and Algerians, account for most of the arrests in several autonomous communities, while Latin Americans accumulate the highest absolute number of final convictions. One question that these statistics do not answer by themselves is, what is special about these countries of origin? International indices on the status of women provide partial though relevant insight. Not as evidence of causation – the indices do not prove that gender inequality in the country of origin causes crime in the host country – but as context: they show that **the groups most over-represented in Spanish crime statistics come from societies where women’s status, safety, and rights are structurally much more tenuous than in Spain**. This initial contrast is, in itself, something that deserves to be noted.

The Women, Peace, and Security Index (WPS Index), compiled every two years by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), is the international benchmark for measuring the women’s status within three dimensions: inclusion (education, employment, financial inclusion, mobile phone use, and parliamentary representation), justice (absence of legal discrimination, access to justice, maternal mortality, and son bias), and security (intimate partner violence, community safety, political violence targeting women, and proximity to armed conflict). The fifth edition, published in October 2025, scores and ranks 181 countries on a scale of 0 (worst) to 1 (best).

Spain ranks 25th out of 181 countries, with a score of 0.862, placing it in the middle of the group of developed countries. Denmark tops the world rankings (0.939), followed by Iceland (0.932) and Norway and Sweden (0.924). Germany (21st, 0.869), France and the United Kingdom (23rd, 0.864) and Portugal (26th, 0.861) are in the same bracket as Spain, which indicates that our country is on a par with its western European neighbours though ranked clearly below the Nordic countries.

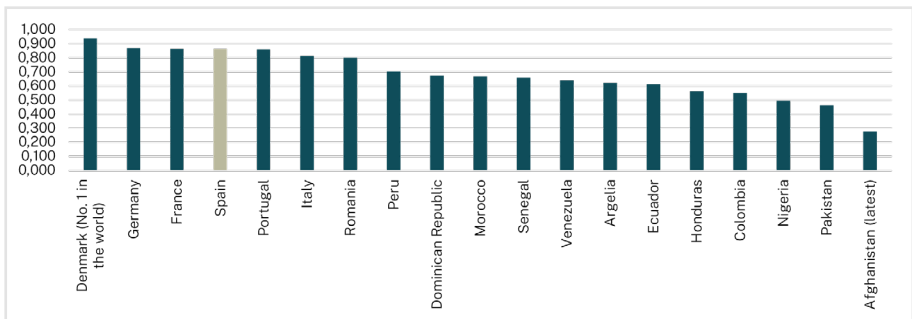
The indicator for which Spain performs most strongly is the absence of legal discrimination (100 out of 100) and the high proportion of women in parliament (43.5%, one of the highest in the world). However, **the community safety**

**indicator, which measures the percentage of women who say they feel safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhood, stands at 75%, a figure below that recorded for Germany (78%), Finland (78%), Denmark (85%), or Norway (86%).** This factor is directly linked to one of the issues covered in this report.

The WPS Index’s value to this study lies, first and foremost, in the comparison of Spain with the main countries of origin. Vast differences are documented in this respect. Morocco, the country with the highest number of new prison admissions in Spain (2,425 in 2024), ranks 102nd on the Index at a score of 0.668. 10.5% of Moroccan women report having suffered physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partner in the last year, compared with 2.9% in Spain, and only 57% of women there feel safe walking alone on the streets of their cities at night. Colombia, the second most common nationality among new prison admissions, ranks 149th on the Index (0.551), with 11.9% of cases involving intimate partner violence and a perceived sense of community safety of just 42%. Algeria, which ranks fourth in terms of new prison admissions of foreign nationals, ranks 123rd (0.621). Other nationalities that contribute significantly to Spain’s demographic make-up are also notable for their low rankings. Ecuador ranks 127th (0.612), Venezuela 118th (0.638), Nigeria 162nd (0.495). and Pakistan 169th (0.462).

Consequently, levels of protection for women in the countries of origin of the majority of immigrants arriving in Spain are significantly lower than those in Spain, with rates of intimate partner violence between 3 and 6 times higher, perceptions of community safety that are between 20 and 50 percentage points lower, and legal frameworks that fail to ensure effective equality between men and women.

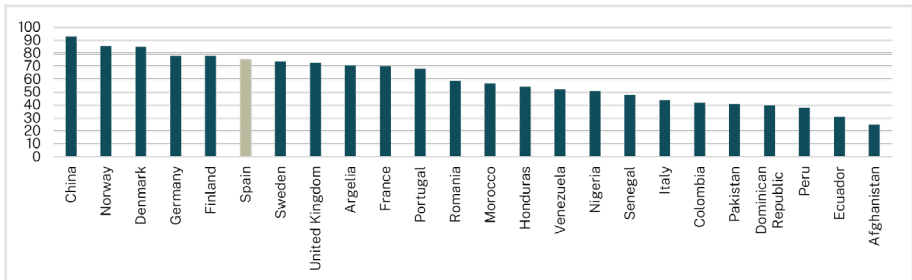
**Figure 16. Women, Peace, and Security Index scores for selected countries, 2025.**



Source: Georgetown Institute.

This picture is consistent with the data presented in the preceding sections. Morocco, which ranks 102nd on the WPS Index with a rate of intimate partner violence three times higher than that in Spain and a 57% perception of night-time safety among women, is also the nationality that accounts for the highest number of new prison admissions in Spain (2,425 in 2024) and the country that ranks at the top, usually first or second, of regional rankings for arrests when data are broken down by nationality (the Basque Country, Navarre, and Barcelona). Algeria, ranked 123rd on the WPS Index, comes in fourth for prison admissions and has the highest per capita arrest rate among all the countries analysed. Colombia, ranked 149th, is the second-highest nationality in the prison admissions data. Correlation is not proof of causation, but neither is it purely coincidental: **the countries whose nationals are most over-represented in the Spanish criminal justice system are, consistently, the countries with the worst indicators for women’s protection and safety in their societies of origin.**

Figure 17. Women’s perception of community safety in selected countries, 2025.



Source: Georgetown Institute.

These differences are not merely academic and of no practical significance. The evidence set out in sections 4, 5, and 6 of this report shows that nationals of the countries with the worst WPS Index scores are precisely those who are most over-represented among those convicted of sexual offences in Spain. In the Basque Country, for example, people born in North Africa (55) and in the rest of Africa (64) accounted for 119 of the 187 arrests made for sexual offences in 2025 (63.6% of the total), with Spaniards (61) and Latin Americans making up a much smaller proportion of this category. Nationwide, foreign nationals accounted for 41.7% of arrests for sexual assault by penetration.

It is worth considering, by way of a tentative hypothesis, whether people who have been socialised in contexts where violence against women is more

prevalent and less severely punished, as reflected on the WPS Index, are prone to maintain or whether they mitigate these patterns of behaviour in their host country. The WPS Index neither proves nor refutes this hypothesis: it provides a contextual framework that allows a more in-depth interpretation of the empirical data presented in this report, without taking the place of the case-by-case analysis (in the form of arrests, convictions, and qualitative studies) required to verify any causal mechanism.

The WPS Index time series for Spain adds an important dimension to the analysis. In the first edition in 2017, Spain ranked 5th in the world (out of 153 countries), with a score of 0.860, behind only Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Slovenia. It dropped to 15th place (out of 167) in 2019, and in 2021 it held steady in 14th place (out of 170), but in 2023 it fell to 27th place (out of 177). Finally, the 2025 edition ranked Spain 25th out of a total of 181 countries evaluated. What is notable is that the absolute score has not improved in eight years (from 0.860 to 0.862), suggesting that Spain is not making any progress despite the “feminist” rhetoric of Pedro Sánchez’s government.

The gap with respect to the country at the top of the global rankings has tripled, rising from 0.026 points in 2017 (Iceland, 0.886) to 0.077 points in 2025 (Denmark, 0.939). This decline has occurred entirely under the governments of Pedro Sánchez (2018–present), a period during which immigration has risen and crimes targeting women have increased, leading to a corresponding decline in the feeling of safety expressed by women.

**Table 8. Spain’s standing in the Women, Peace, and Security Index.**

Edition	Spain Ranking	Spain’s score	No. of countries evaluated	World no. 1	World no. 1 score	Difference from no. 1
2017/18	5	0.860	153	Iceland	0.886	0.026
2019/20	15	0.860	167	Norway	0.904	0.044
2021/22	14	0.872	170	Norway	0.922	0.050
2023/24	27	0.859	177	Denmark	0.932	0.073
2025/26	25	0.862	181	Denmark	0.939	0.077

Source: Georgetown Institute.

## 8. Gender equality in the sending countries.

A legitimate objection to any international index is the issue of robustness: Do the findings change if the measuring instrument is changed? To check on this aspect, this section examines two additional indices that measure gender equality from methodological perspectives distinct from those used by the WPS Index: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index (GII) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI). If the countries whose nationals are over-represented in Spanish crime statistics rank low not only on the WPS Index but also on the GII and the GGGI, it is then harder to attribute this finding to the specific characteristics of an individual index and more difficult to dismiss it.

Thus, the UNDP GII included in the Human Development Report 2025 with final data for 2023 estimates gender inequality on a scale of from 0 (full equality) to 1 (maximum inequality) based on five indicators: maternal mortality rate, adolescent birth rate, female representation in parliament, education levels, and labour force participation rates by sex. Spain ranks 15th out of 191 countries on the GII with a score of 0.043, a strong position that places it among the world's most equal societies. The GII does not directly include indicators of violence against women, but the international literature shows a close correlation between the structural dimensions it does cover, i.e., political participation, labour market participation, reproductive health, and educational attainment, and the actual incidence of gender-based violence; it therefore remains a useful reference for contextualising the cultural and institutional environment from which the migrant population originates. The gap between Spain and the main sending countries is, at any rate, enormous.

For example, Morocco has a GII score of 0.438 (ranked 113th), Algeria scores 0.443 (ranked 114th), Colombia scores 0.393 (ranked 98th), and Ecuador scores 0.358 (ranked 88th). In relative terms, Morocco's GII score is more than ten times higher than Spain's. The underlying indicators are equally telling: the maternal mortality rate in Morocco (72 per 100,000 live births) is 21 times higher than in Spain (3.4); the adolescent birth rate in Colombia (59.5 per 1,000 women aged 15–19) is 12 times that of Spain (4.8); and the proportion of women with secondary education in Algeria (27.8%) is one-third that of Spain (75.5%). The figures for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa are even more extreme: Nigeria ranks 171st (GII score 0.677), with a maternal mortality rate of 1,047 per 100,000 live births.

**Table 9. Gender Inequality Index in Spain and countries of origin, 2023.**

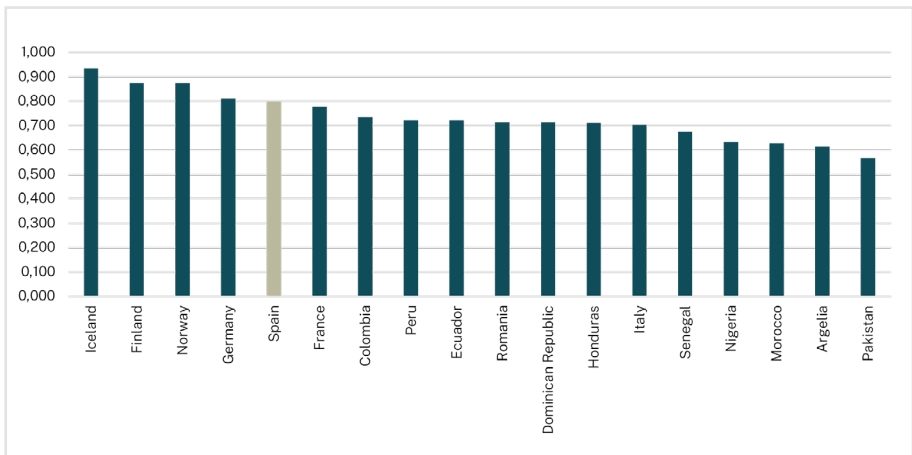
Country	GII score	GII ranking	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000)	Women in parliament (%)	Secondary education, women (%)
Denmark	0.003	1	4.7	1.1	43.6	100.0
Norway	0.004	2	1.7	1.4	46.2	96.0
Sweden	0.007	3	4.5	3.4	45.0	96.2
France	0.034	11	7.9	3.5	37.2	84.9
Spain	0.043	15	3.4	4.8	43.7	75.5
Italy	0.043	15	4.6	2.9	33.6	74.4
Germany	0.057	21	4.4	5.5	35.3	91.5
Portugal	0.076	26	12.3	5.9	37.4	55.4
Romania	0.227	59	10.1	33.8	18.9	78.7
Peru	0.340	83	68.5	43.6	38.8	55.6
Ecuador	0.358	88	65.7	55.5	43.1	47.4
Colombia	0.393	98	74.8	59.5	29.4	53.2
Dominican Republic	0.417	106	107.3	52.8	25.7	58.2
Honduras	0.437	112	71.8	82.1	27.3	31.2
Morocco	0.438	113	71.9	25.1	21.4	27.1
Algeria	0.443	114	77.7	8.7	6.8	27.8
Senegal	0.490	127	260.9	60.2	46.1	13.3
Venezuela	0.512	137				
Pakistan	0.536	145	154.2	41.1	20.1	29.4
Afghanistan	0.661	168	620.4	64.1	27.2	13.7
Nigeria	0.677	171	1,047.2	86.4	3.6	32.0

Source: United Nations.

The latest edition of the World Economic Forum GGI was published in June 2025. That analysis examines gender disparities on a scale of from 0 to 1 (where 0 indicates complete inequality and 1 indicates full parity) across four main dimensions: economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. Spain ranks 12th out of 148 countries, with a score of 0.797. It reached the top 10 for the first time in 2024 (10th place, with 0.797), but in the 2025 edition it was overtaken by other countries and dropped down two places. Like the GII, the GGI does not directly address violence against women, but the four dimensions it does assess, economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment, serve as a good proxy for the degree of autonomy and institutional protection available to women in each country, variables which in the literature are associated with lower rates of gender-based violence.

The countries of origin people leave to migrate to Spain rank considerably lower. Morocco ranks 137th (0.628), making it one of the 15 worst in the world. Algeria is ranked 141st (0.614), among the 10 worst, and Pakistan brings up the rear of the ranking, coming in last (148th, 0.567). The Latin American countries have better indicators than those in North Africa or sub-Saharan Africa, but they rank significantly below Spain. For instance, Colombia ranks 53rd with a score of 0.734, Ecuador ranks 66th with a score of 0.721; and Honduras ranks 79th with a score of 0.710.

**Figure 18. Global Gender Gap Index in Spain and sending countries, 2025.**



Source: World Economic Forum.

A tabulation comparing the three indices (the UNDP GII, the WEF GGGI, and the Georgetown WPS Index) shows that, despite the methodological differences between these indices, they converge in their conclusions to a remarkable degree. Morocco, the country whose nationals make up the largest number of new prison admissions in Spain, ranks 113th on the GII, 137th on the GGGI, and 102nd on the WPS Index. In all three cases it places in the lower half of the ranking. Algeria, the fourth leading nationality in terms of admissions to our country's prisons, ranks even lower, in 114th, 141st, and 123rd place, respectively. Colombia, second in terms of prison intake, exhibits a somewhat more nuanced picture, with a better ranking on the GGGI (53rd place thanks to greater political parity) and a much lower score on the WPS Index (149th place, impaired by women's safety issues) and on the GII (98th place).

In every case the distance with respect to Spain is massive. **It is therefore clear that the countries from which the majority of immigrants arriving in Spain originate are societies in which gender inequality is structural and violence against women is more prevalent and less severely punished, insofar as the social norms governing relations between men and women are very different from those that are customary in Spain.**

Convergence by all three indices takes on greater significance when viewed in the context of the crime statistics documented above. Morocco ranks among the countries with the worst scores across all three indices, 113th on the GII, 137th on the GGGI, and 102nd on the WPS, and at the same time it is the country with the largest prison population in Spain and the highest number of arrests in absolute terms. Algeria ranks even lower on the GII (114th) and the GGGI (141st) and has the highest per capita arrest rate of all the nationalities analysed. Pakistan ranks last on the GGGI (148th) and next-to-last on the WPS Index (169th). Its impact on Spanish crime statistics is modest presence in absolute terms, but its per capita arrest rate is substantially higher than the average. The pattern is the same in all cases: the countries with the worst gender equality indicators are the same countries that are most over-represented in the Spanish criminal justice system. The three indices, each using a different methodological approach and compiled by separate organisations, all point to the same group of countries. That convergence is not a statistical artefact.

**Table 10. Gender equality performance in Spain and in countries of origin according to various international indices.**

Country	GII (UNDP, 0 = equal)	GII Ranking	GGGI (WEF, 1 = equal)	GGGI Ranking	WPS Index (Georgetown, 1 = best)	WPS Ranking
<b>España</b>	0.043	15	0.797	12	0.862	25
<b>Rumanía</b>	0.227	59	0.713	74	0.801	43
<b>Marruecos</b>	0.438	113	0.628	137	0.668	102
<b>Colombia</b>	0.393	98	0.734	53	0.551	149
<b>Argelia</b>	0.443	114	0.614	141	0.621	123
<b>Ecuador</b>	0.358	88	0.721	66	0.612	127
<b>Honduras</b>	0.437	112	0.710	79	0.561	144
<b>Perú</b>	0.340	83	0.722	64	0.701	80
<b>Rep. Dominicana</b>	0.417	106	0.713	74	0.675	97
<b>Senegal</b>	0.490	127	0.675	119	0.657	110
<b>Nigeria</b>	0.677	171	0.633	133	0.495	162
<b>Pakistán</b>	0.536	145	0.567	148	0.462	169

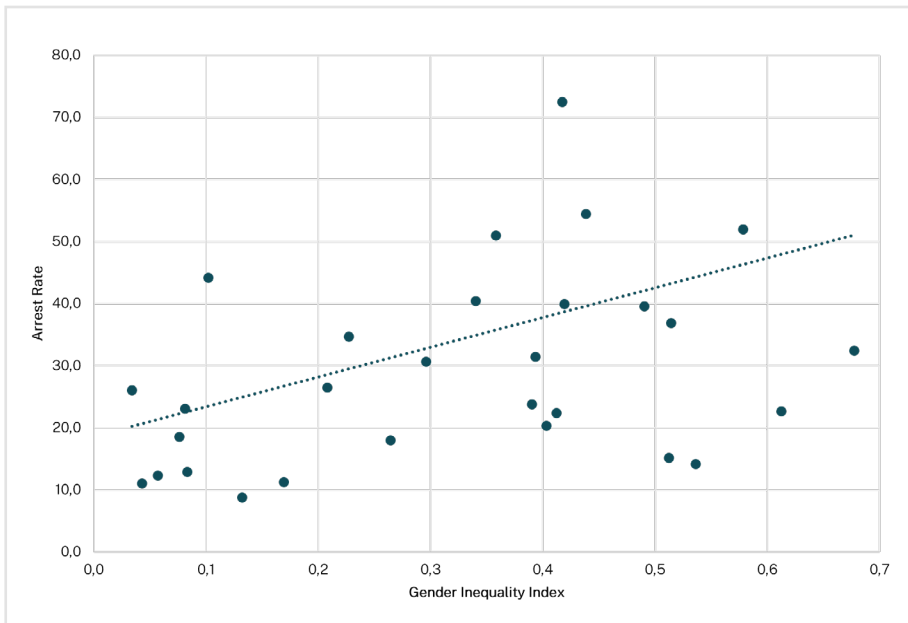
Source: World Economic Forum, United Nations, and Georgetown Institute

The final exercise in this section examines whether there is a link between the level of gender inequality in the country of origin and the rate of arrests of that country’s nationals in Spain. The crime statistics system does not break arrests down by both nationality and type of offence, so the GII cannot be directly cross-referenced with sexual offences the at national level. However, the total number of arrests and investigations by nationality for 2024 are published on the statistics portal. Furthermore, data on the resident population by nationality can be used to calculate an arrest rate per 1,000 residents for each nationality and cross-reference that with the GII for their countries of origin.

Of the 30 nationalities for which both sets of data are available, there was a positive correlation ( $r = 0.380$ ) between the GII and the arrest rate for the 25 nationalities with more than 40,000 residents. The trend was clear: **on average, arrest rates in Spain are higher for nationals of countries with higher levels of gender inequality.** Accordingly, the arrest rates for nationals of Algeria (175.2 arrests per 1,000 residents), the Dominican Republic (72.5), Morocco (54.5), Ecuador (51.0), and Peru (40.5) are distinctly high, and all these countries have a GII score higher than 0.30. By contrast, arrest rates for nationals from China (8.8), Italy (11.1), Russia (11.3), and Germany (12.4) are much lower, and all these countries have GII scores below 0.20.

Taking into account the number of intermediate factors that can exert an influence on arrest rates, such as administrative status, socio-economic profile, form of migration, or urban population concentration, the correlation is significant, and in addition these figures are for total crime, not specifically crimes targeting women. The trend is in any case clear: **the greater the gender inequality in the country of origin, the higher the arrest rate in Spain.**

**Figure 19. Relationship between the Gender Inequality Index and the arrest rate per 1,000 inhabitants for the nationalities with the highest populations in Spain, 2024.**



Source: National Institute of Statistics and United Nations.

## 9. Conclusions

This report has used official sources and international indices to examine the relationship between certain migration flows, crime, and women's safety in Spain. The conclusions that can be drawn from the analysis are summarised below:

- The foreign population in Spain is over-represented for all criminal offence indicators measured by the criminal justice system.** Despite making up just 14.1% of the population, foreign nationals accounted for 37.7% of the total arrests and investigations recorded in the crime statistics system in 2024. They made up 29.3% of the population in the national prison system, or 33% if Catalonia is included. And they made up 28.6% of the final convictions recorded on the Central Register of Convicted Offenders (National Institute of Statistics). The over-representation ratios range from 2.1 times (convictions) to 4.6 times (arrests in the Basque Country), with a national average of around 2.5 times. The fact that over-representation gradually decreases as criminal justice proceedings progress from arrest and ultimately to conviction, including incarceration, suggests that while there could be some degree of police bias, this would not be enough to fully explain the phenomenon.
- Over-representation is particularly pronounced for crimes that directly bear on women's safety.** In the Basque Country, 56.1% of arrests and investigations for sexual offences in 2025 involved people born abroad. That figure rises to 67.6% if the analysis is restricted to arrests for sexual assault by penetration. In Catalonia, foreign nationals accounted for 60.3% of the arrests for sexual assault carried out by the Mossos d'Esquadra in 2025. In Navarre, the figure was 62.96% of sexual offences. Nationwide, foreign nationals accounted for 41.7% of arrests for sexual assault by penetration (crime statistics system, 2024) and for 39.2% of all sexual offences. These figures, for a population that makes up just 14.1% of the total, imply that this group is over-represented by a factor of between three and four.
- Where the country of origin can be gleaned from the data, nationals from North Africa (chiefly Morocco and Algeria), followed by nationals from Latin America, account for the majority of arrests of foreign nationals.** Morocco is the nationality that generates the most prison admissions by far (2,425 in 2024, more than twice the number for the second-highest country, Colombia) and also the nationality with the highest number of arrests in absolute terms (52,811 in 2024). Algeria has the highest per capita arrest rate of all the nationalities analysed, 175.2 per 1,000 residents.

- **The data show a link between the spatial concentration of foreign nationals and crime rates.** The correlation between the percentage foreign population and the crime rate is positive and statistically significant at all three geographic levels analysed, namely, at the autonomous community ( $r = 0.80$ ), provincial ( $r = 0.62$ ), and municipal ( $r = 0.54$ ) levels. The correlation with sexual offences is comparable or even higher at the provincial level ( $r = 0.66$ ). These results do not demonstrate causation, and as ecological correlations between the proportion of foreign nationals and crime rates at the spatial level, they are not equivalent to the individual-level analysis the arrest and conviction data by nationality. They do, however, rule out the possibility that the association is due to chance and provide evidence of convergence with the individual patterns documented in sections 4 and 5.
- **The main countries of origin for immigrants to Spain have levels of gender equality that are significantly worse than Spain based on the three international indices considered** (UNDP GII, WEF GGGI, Georgetown WPS Index). Morocco ranks 113th out of 191 on the GII, 137th out of 148 on the GGGI, and 102nd out of 181 on the WPS Index. Algeria, Colombia, Pakistan, and Nigeria fare even worse on several of these indices. The rate of intimate partner violence in the countries of origin is between three and six times higher than in Spain, and women's perception of community safety is between 20 and 50 percentage points lower. Although the GII and the GGGI do not include direct indicators of violence targeting women, they do contemplate structural dimensions (political participation, education, reproductive health, the labour market) associated with lower rates of gender-based violence in the literature. The WPS Index, on the other hand, does measure explicit indicators for safety and violence. The convergence of the three indices in respect of the main sending countries thus suggests that the pattern described is a robust finding.
- **When the gender inequality indices of the countries of origin are cross-referenced with the rates of arrest of their nationals in Spain, it is clear that nationals from countries with higher levels of gender inequality also have higher arrest rates.** This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that socialisation in social environments where there is less equality partially contributes to the conduct subsequently exhibited in the host country.
- **Spain has been stagnating in international rankings on the status of women.** In the Georgetown WPS Index it has fallen from 5th to 25th place between 2017 and 2025, not so much because of an absolute decline but rather because of a lack of relative progress compared with other countries. In the

WEF GGGI it dropped out of the top 10 in 2025 after entering the top 10 for the first time in 2024. The women's community safety indicator (75%) places Spain below Germany, Finland, Denmark, and Norway. This stagnation has taken place entirely concomitantly with the governments of Pedro Sánchez, when sexual offences have been climbing steadily.

- **The safety of women in Spain cannot be addressed without taking migration into account, just as migration policy cannot be addressed without considering its impact on safety.** Statistical data are neither right-wing nor left-wing, they are just data.
- **The Ministry of the Interior's follows a policy for publishing crime statistics by nationality that is unjustifiably non-transparent.** The fact that the Ertzaintza was the first police force to publish these data systematically shows that transparency without leading to stigmatisation is possible. The call for public, disaggregated, regularly updated data on the origin of offenders is a legitimate democratic demand, not an expression of xenophobia.
- **Any public policy aimed at improving the quality of the debate on these issues must begin by ensuring maximum transparency** regarding the aspects and statistics addressed in this report.

## Appendix. Comments on the crime statistics report for the first quarter of 2026

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published its crime statistics report for the first quarter of the year (January–March) early in June 2026. This is the first comprehensive report by law enforcement agencies for 2026, and it therefore provides the first opportunity to look at whether the trends described in section 3, namely, stable levels of conventional crime, a rise in cybercrime, and an increase in sexual offences, are continuing this year. It should be noted that the quarterly figures are provisional and that, like all other statistics, they do not classify alleged offenders by nationality or country of origin.

### A.1. Overall findings

A total of 595,240 criminal offences were recorded from January to March 2026, 1.0% more than in the same quarter in 2025. The figures bear out the underlying trends already identified: conventional criminal offences (472,512, 79.4% of the total) rose by just 1.0%, while cybercrime (122,728, 20.6%) grew by 1.2% to take a firm share of about one-fifth of all recorded crime. Computer fraud, at 110,640 cases, now accounts for 90.2% of all cybercrime. The conventional crime rate, 40.5 offences per thousand inhabitants, lies in the lower range for the time series and is nearly the same as the 40.4 offences recorded in 2025. This bears out the analysis in section 3, which found the absolute number of offences to be basically holding steady while being spread across a larger population, with the effect of reducing the per capita rate without representing an actual drop in the number of offences. Property offences (robbery, theft, and vehicle theft) accounted for 40.9% of conventional crime and fell by 2.9% overall. Theft decreased (-3.2%), as did residential forced entry burglaries (-3.0%), while vehicle thefts rose slightly (+2.6%).

**Table A.1. Criminal offences recorded in Spain by type. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026**

Type of offence	2025	2026	% Var. 26/25
<b>I. Conventional crime</b>	<b>467,888</b>	<b>472,512</b>	<b>+1.0</b>
<b>1. Intentional homicide and murder</b>	85	94	+10.6
<b>2. Attempted intentional homicide and murder</b>	318	295	-7.2

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**Table A.1. Criminal offences recorded in Spain by type. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026**

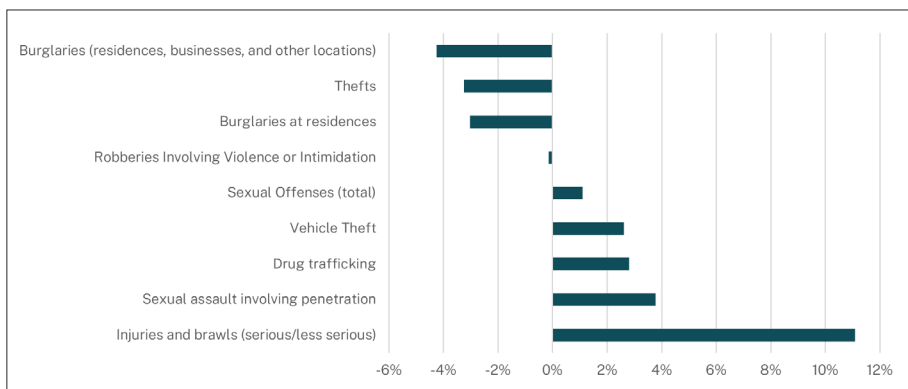
Type of offence	2025	2026	% Var. 26/25
<b>3. High and low-severity offences involving bodily harm and violent disorder</b>	6,411	7,122	+11.1
<b>4. Kidnapping</b>	24	28	+16.7
<b>5. Sexual offences</b>	4,754	4,806	+1.1
<b>5.1. Sexual assault by penetration</b>	1,243	1,290	+3.8
<b>5.2. Other forms of sexual offences</b>	3,511	3,516	+0.1
<b>6. Robbery involving violence and intimidation</b>	13,506	13,487	-0.1
<b>7. Domestic, business, and other forced entry burglaries</b>	26,313	25,195	-4.2
<b>7.1. Residential forced entry burglaries</b>	18,135	17,586	-3.0
<b>8. Theft</b>	151,743	146,815	-3.2
<b>9. Vehicle theft</b>	7,707	7,908	+2.6
<b>10. Drug trafficking</b>	5,276	5,424	+2.8
<b>11. Other conventional criminal offences</b>	251,751	261,338	+3.8
<b>II. Cybercrime</b>	<b>121,225</b>	<b>122,728</b>	<b>+1.2</b>
<b>12. Cyber fraud</b>	106,450	110,640	+3.9
<b>13. Misc. cybercrime offences</b>	14,775	12,088	-18.2
<b>III. Total criminal offences</b>	<b>589,113</b>	<b>595,240</b>	<b>+1.0</b>

Source: Ministry of the Interior, crime statistics report for the first quarter of 2026.

## A.2. Crimes that affect women’s safety

The updated statistics are particularly relevant to the main focus of this report. The number of sexual offences in the first quarter was 4,806, up 1.1% on the previous year. This figure adds some detail but does not reverse, the upward trend documented in section 3. The growth rate has slowed compared with the +2.2% year-on-year figure for 2025, but the most serious category, sexual assault by penetration, is accelerating and has risen by 3.8% (from 1,243 to 1,290 incidents), outpacing both the aggregate figure for sexual offences and the total crime rate. The number of other sexual offences has held steady (+0.1%). Apart from this, there has been a sharp rise in high and low-severity offences involving bodily harm and violent disorder (+11.1%) and in intentional homicide and murder (+10.6%), although the rise in this latter category should be interpreted with caution as it is volatile due to the small absolute number of cases (from 85 to 94). Figure A.1 depicts the contrast: while property crime is going down, violent crime and the offences that most directly affect women’s safety are steadily going up.

**Figure A.1.** Year-on-year change by type of offence. First quarter of 2025 compared with first quarter of 2026



Source: compiled by the author based on the crime statistics report for the first quarter of 2026, Ministry of the Interior.

The Ministry itself attributes the sustained increase in these offences “partly” to awareness-raising policies and to less tolerance of crime by society, which are thought to make people more willing to report offences, decreasing under-reporting. That explanation could be plausible as a contributing factor, but it does not, in itself, account for the persistence of the trend or for the fact that the type of criminal offence that is increasing the most is precisely the most

serious one that is least dependent on a willingness to report it to the police. As discussed in sections 3 and 7, analysing trends in sexual offences requires information on offender profiles, which the report, once again, does not provide.

**A.3. Ongoing lack of transparency in data by nationality**

The report for the first quarter of 2026 reflects the structural limitation highlighted in section 4: it classifies offences by type and by region (now with an expanded level of detail covering 433 municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants), but it does not publish any information on the nationality or origin of the alleged offenders. The updated statistics thus confirm the scale and direction of the overall trends, but the link to the variable migration continues to depend on the alternative sources used in this report, i.e., the crime statistics system time series classified into Spanish and foreign nationals, reports by the Ertzaintza, and the data provided by the Navarre Regional Police Force. The call for a regular, official, public breakdown by offender nationality made in the conclusions thus remains entirely warranted following this statistical publication.

**A.4. Spatial dimension**

The statistics in the report are disaggregated by autonomous community, province, city, and municipality, which should in principle make it possible to replicate the spatial comparison in section 6. However, there are two aspects that make re-estimating the correlations based on quarterly data inadvisable, i.e., the provisional nature of the statistics and the high volatility of data for a single quarter, which introduces noise, particularly for smaller-scale units. Table A.2 therefore presents the total number of criminal offences by autonomous community in the first quarter of 2026, the year-on-year change, and the proportion of foreign nationals in 2024 for descriptive purposes only.

**Table A.2. Total number of criminal offences by autonomous community. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026**

Autonomous community	2025 Total	2026 Total	% Var. 26/25	% foreign nationals (2024)
<b>Aragon</b>	13,187	14,569	+10.5	14.8
Balearic Islands	15,876	17,248	+8.6	21.7
<b>Asturias</b>	8,492	9,132	+7.5	6.8

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**Table A.2. Total number of criminal offences by autonomous community. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026**

Autonomous community	2025 Total	2026 Total	% Var. 26/25	% foreign nationals (2024)
Murcia	17,380	18,672	+7.4	15.9
Castilla y León	23,154	24,481	+5.7	8.5
Castilla-La Mancha	20,667	21,828	+5.6	12.1
Extremadura	8,788	9,241	+5.2	4.4
Cantabria	6,125	6,442	+5.2	8.1
Valencia	66,607	69,753	+4.7	19.5
Canary Islands	27,299	28,320	+3.7	15.2
Madrid	98,974	101,238	+2.3	16.6
Navarre	8,254	8,279	+0.3	13.2
Basque Country	26,414	26,405	0.0	10.2
La Rioja	2,844	2,832	-0.4	14.8
Andalusia	98,705	98,237	-0.5	10.4
Melilla	1,005	997	-0.8	13.9
Galicia	23,250	22,812	-1.9	6.4
Ceuta	839	813	-3.1	6.4
Catalonia	119,279	112,089	-6.0	18.7
<b>National total</b>	<b>589,113</b>	<b>595,240</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>

*Source: Ministry of the Interior (crime statistics report for the first quarter of 2026) and the National Institute of Statistics (percentage foreign population on 1 January 2024). Provisional data pending consolidation. Listed in order of year-on-year change.*

The quarterly snapshot basically mirrors the annual pattern described in previous sections of this report. Consequently, the bulk of crime continues to be concentrated in the most populous regions with the highest proportion of foreign residents, with Catalonia, Madrid, Valencia, Andalusia, the Canary Islands, and the Balearic Islands accounting for the lion’s share, while regions in the interior with lower levels of migration, like Extremadura, Castilla y León, and Galicia, continue to be ranked low. Still, year-on-year changes need to be interpreted cautiously. The decreases in Catalonia (-6.0%) and Andalusia (-0.5%) and the increases in Aragon (+10.5%) and the Balearic Islands (+8.6%) are partly due to volatility of the data for just a single quarter and do not themselves enable any change in the trend to be inferred. Analysis of the link between the proportion of foreign nationals and crime rates should continue to be based on the consolidated annual data in section 6, which are more reliable than any quarterly dataset.

**A.5. Sexual offences by autonomous community**

The crime statistics system also publishes statistics for sexual offences by autonomous community, enabling a regional analysis of the indicator most directly linked to the topic of this report. Table A.3 presents the total number of sexual offences and, within that category, sexual assaults by penetration, the most serious type of offence, in the first quarter together with the year-on-year change.

**Table A.3. Sexual offences by autonomous community. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026**

Autonomous community	Sexual offences			Sexual assault by penetration		
	2025	2026	% Var.	2025	2026	% Var.
Catalonia	1,014	1,015	+0.1	421	451	+7.1
Madrid	741	727	-1.9	168	152	-9.5
Andalusia	665	712	+7.1	139	150	+7.9
Valencia	546	572	+4.8	101	124	+22.8
Canary Islands	272	252	-7.4	60	46	-23.3
Basque Country	241	228	-5.4	80	75	-6.3

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Table A.3. Sexual offences by autonomous community. Comparison for January–March 2025 and 2026

Autonomous community	Sexual offences			Sexual assault by penetration		
	2025	2026	% Var.	2025	2026	% Var.
Balearic Islands	160	179	+11.9	23	26	+13.0
Castilla-La Mancha	160	170	+6.3	37	37	0.0
Galicia	188	168	-10.6	42	43	+2.4
Murcia	160	168	+5.0	35	42	+20.0
Castilla y León	154	153	-0.6	37	35	-5.4
Aragon	100	119	+19.0	23	20	-13.0
Navarre	86	93	+8.1	14	21	+50.0
Asturias	78	69	-11.5	22	19	-13.6
Extremadura	79	67	-15.2	16	23	+43.8
La Rioja	30	42	+40.0	4	6	+50.0
Cantabria	37	30	-18.9	10	9	-10.0
Ceuta	11	10	-9.1	1	3	+200.0
Melilla	5	8	+60.0	2	0	-100.0
<b>National total</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>4,806</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>+3.8</b>

*Source: Ministry of the Interior, crime statistics system (safety indicators for the first quarter of 2026 by autonomous community). Provisional data pending consolidation. Listed in order of the number of sexual offences in 2026.*

Volume of cases is linked to the most populous regions: Catalonia (1,015 incidents), Madrid (727), Andalusia (712), and Valencia (572) account for more than half of all sexual offences recorded during the quarter. Again, caution is called for when interpreting these variations, as the small number of cases in many autonomous communities can produce sharp variations (e.g., the figures

for Ceuta, Melilla, and La Rioja are for just a handful of reports), and drawing conclusions based on a single quarter is not advisable. With this in mind, it should be underlined that sexual assault by penetration is on the rise in large regions such as Valencia (+22.8%) and Catalonia (+7.1%, to 451 incidents), in line with the nationwide increase in this category (+3.8%) noted in section A.2. The distribution shows that monitoring women's safety also needs to be carried out on a regional basis, while keeping in mind that the statistics do not provide information on offender nationality or origin.

In summary, the first recorded figures for 2026 not only do not change but actually strengthen the findings of this report: conventional crime is holding steady in absolute terms while falling on a per capita basis; cybercrime is on the rise; sexual offences, especially sexual assaults by penetration, are continuing their upward trend; and there is a lack of statistical transparency as regards offender origin.

### **Sources used in the appendix**

National Institute of Statistics. (2026). Continuous population survey and population statistics. National Institute of Statistics.

Ministry of the Interior. (2026). Crime statistics report. First quarter of 2026. Secretaría General Técnica [*General Technical Secretariat*], Ministry of the Interior.

## List of abbreviations

- AGE: Administración General del Estado [*National Government Administration*]
- CGPJ: Consejo General del Poder Judicial [*General Council of the Judiciary*]
- ECP: Estadística Continua de Población [*Continuous population survey*]
- GGGI: Global Gender Gap Index
- GII: Gender Inequality Index
- INE: Instituto Nacional de Estadística [*National Institute of Statistics*]
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- SEC: Sistema Estadístico de Criminalidad [*crime statistics system*]
- SGIP: Secretaría General de Instituciones Penitenciarias [*General Secretariat for Penitentiary Institutions*]
- EU: European Union
- WEF: World Economic Forum
- WPS: Women, Peace, and Security











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