

Statistics on Permits for Migrants



The compilation of the database and the preparation of the report was coordinated by Jeremy Harris, Sector Specialist of the IADB Migration Unit, and was written in collaboration with Georges Lemaitre, consultant, and Véronique Gindrey of the International Migration Division in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD. Kenji Hokonohara, Kyungjo An and Emilio Urteaga provided invaluable support with the data collection and analysis, and Mauro de Oliveira provided systems support. The report benefited from helpful comments from Felipe Muñoz, Jean-Christophe Dumont, Denisse Pierola, Diego Acosta, and an anonymous referee. Juan Camilo Perdomo, Mariana Sobral, and Matías Sodor provided vital assistance in the production of the report.

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MIGRATION FLOWS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Statistics on Permits for Migrants



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Preface

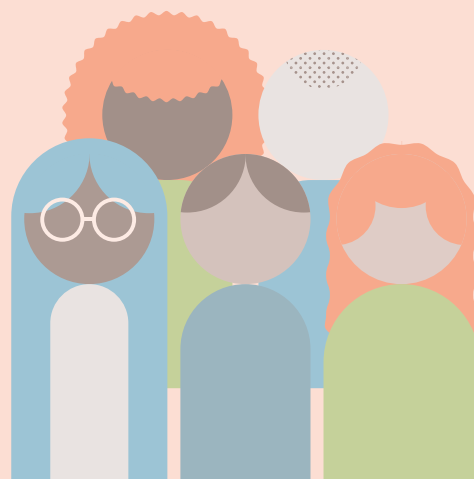
We are pleased to present this new database of residence permits in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), compiled by the Migration Unit of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in collaboration with the Migration Division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The ability of institutions like the IADB to support countries effectively in the socioeconomic integration of immigrants, fully leveraging their potential to promote economic growth, depends on accurate data on the movement of people within LAC, and the ongoing evolution of the diaspora within and beyond the borders of the region. This compilation of data on residence permits granted to foreign nationals, based on national permit types, is unique among multi-country data collection efforts related to international migration. It is intended to provide researchers and policy makers with statistics on international migration which are both comparable and understandable in national terms.

Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing significant changes in migration patterns. The crisis in Venezuela has generated the second largest displacement of people after the one in Syria and is receiving far less international attention and resources. At the same time, there is a large and growing population of Haitians that have migrated to South America, and large numbers are moving from the Northern Triangle of Central America into Mexico and towards the United States, and from Nicaragua into Costa Rica.

The new database presented and described in this report compiles data on the number of permits granted in fifteen countries of the region by type of permit and nationality of the migrant over a five-year period from 2015-2019. This time frame clearly shows the ongoing transformation of the region from primarily one of emigration to a much more complex scenario of growing intra-regional movements, with all the challenges of countries that send migrants, receive them, and host them in transit. **This evolution presents challenges to all countries, and this new database is one measure to better understand these phenomena and help guide policy and investments in the region.**

The data show that on average over one million permits to reside in the fifteen countries were issued each year over the period, with levels in 2017-2019 more than 50% above the average in 2015-2016. At the same time, the number of immigrants from outside the region obtaining residence permits declined, in both relative and absolute terms. Within the region, the role of regional mobility schemes, such as the Mercosur permits and the movement of skilled nationals in CARICOM, have made significant contributions to the movement of persons.

Monitoring migration flows in the region is fundamental to the ongoing work of both the IADB and the OECD. This new database, which will be updated and expanded going forward, is a key part of that effort.



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Data Sources

Unless otherwise indicated, all statistics cited in this report are derived from data obtained from the following entities or their web pages.

Country	Data provided by
Argentina	Ministerio del Interior, Dirección Nacional de Migraciones
Barbados	Barbados Immigration Department
Bolivia	Ministerio de Gobierno, Dirección General de Migración
Brazil	Observatório das Migrações Internacionais (OBmiga), Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública; e Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE)
Chile	Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública, Departamento de Extranjería y Migración
Colombia	Migración Colombia y Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Costa Rica	Ministerio de Gobernación y Policía, Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería
Ecuador	Ministerio de Gobierno, Subsecretaría de Migración
El Salvador	Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad Pública, Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería
Guyana	Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services
Mexico	Secretaría de Gobernación, Unidad de Política Migratoria
Panama	Servicio Nacional de Migración
Peru	Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones, Oficina General de Planeamiento y Presupuesto
Paraguay	Ministerio del Interior, Dirección General de Migración
Suriname	Ministry of Justice and Police, Secretariat, Sub-Directorate of Immigration Affairs
Uruguay	Ministerio del Interior, Dirección Nacional de Migración



Executive Summary

This report presents a new database of residence permits issued in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean over the period 2015-2019. The database includes data from 15 countries of the region and representing all subregions, disaggregated by nationality of the migrant, type and purpose of permit, and in some cases by gender of the migrant. The analysis included in this document describes the general trends and patterns in the flows of migrants as these are reflected in the administrative records of the countries.

The main observations that emerge from analysis of these data are the following:

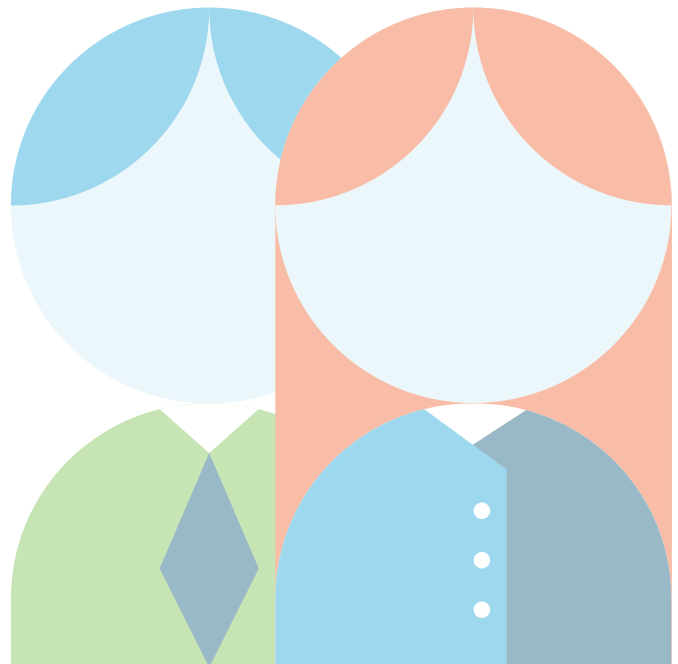
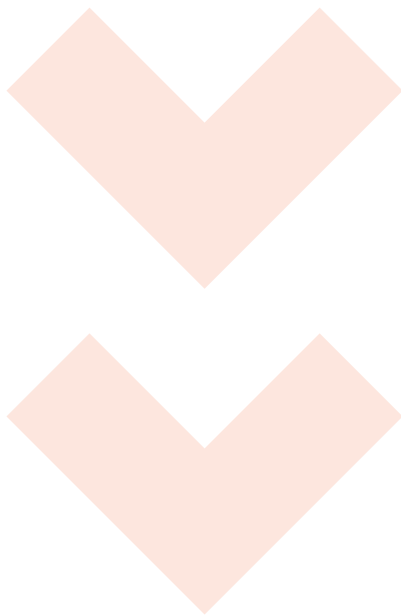
- » The crisis in **Venezuela** is the overriding factor in LAC migration over the past five years. In this period, more than 1.75 million permits have been issued in LAC countries to Venezuelans as more than 3.8 million were estimated to have left their country in that period. These migrants have dramatically affected not just the migration statistics of their destination countries, but also their migration systems and migration policy frameworks as new residence permit types and procedures were created to integrate these large numbers of migrants into the formal economies and societies of the region.
- » The five years from 2015 to 2019 have seen a **continuing reorientation of migrant destinations in LAC** – even excluding the large effects of Venezuelan migrants. Colombia and Peru have seen their shares of intra-regional migrants increase significantly over the period, by ten percentage points each, as the share going to Argentina and Mexico fell by 13 percentage points and four percentage points, respectively. Even when calculated excluding Venezuelans, Chile's share of intra-regional migrants increased by eight percentage points over the period, and Peru gained three points. Meanwhile, immigrants from outside LAC also declined, from 26% to 14% percent of total immigrants, having fallen as low as 9% in 2018.
- » Within this reorientation towards intra-regional migration, the **decline in the share of migrants from outside LAC** is not only in relative terms. There has also been a marked decline in flows from outside the region in absolute numbers as well. Total migrants from outside the region fell by over 40 thousand per year, from nearly 250 thousand in 2015 to under 208 thousand in 2019. Immigrants from Europe fell the most, a decline of over 25 thousand per year, accompanied by declines in immigration from Asia and North America of around 15% each in absolute terms. While statistics from a five-year period that includes one of the largest displacements of people in history is an imperfect measure, this reorientation of regional migration patterns suggests the beginnings of a transition of LAC from a region that is predominantly a source of emigrants to one that is more mixed, with greater intra-regional flows.
- » Meanwhile, emigration from LAC to OECD countries outside the region increased significantly. Total emigration to extra-regional OECD countries was 45% higher in 2018 (the latest year for which data are available) than in 2015. Principal destinations include the United States, Canada, Spain, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. The growth is driven not only by Venezuelans. Emigration from the four Southern Cone countries of Mercosur, along with Colombia and Peru in the Andean region, and Honduras and Nicaragua in Central America, all increased more than the regional average, collectively increasing 55% over the period. Only Panamá and three countries of the Caribbean show declining emigration beyond the region. This growth of the regional diaspora in these countries increases the base for future knowledge transfer and increasing remittances.
- » The data also demonstrate the importance of **regional mobility schemes**, especially the Mercosur Residence Permit but also

permits for skilled and self-employed Caribbean Nationals under the CARICOM framework. Both programs play a very significant role in enabling movement of persons within the respective regions. In Brazil, more than three quarters of migrants from eligible countries use the Mercosur Residence Permit, and over two thirds in Bolivia. Lower but still significant figures of 40% and 35% are observed in Peru and Colombia. In Barbados, over 100 CARICOM nationals per year obtain residence under the Right of Establishment or under the CARICOM Skilled Nationals program, where women disproportionately benefit.

- » Finally, among the large numbers of Venezuelan migrants in recent years are many **without a formal status** in their countries of destination. Despite the solidarity shown by countries of the region in receiving these migrants, there are still many who lack regular permits. A comparison of the numbers of

permits granted to Venezuelans in the database with estimates from the R4V platform at the end of 2019 show a gap of over 1.1 million people, or 31% of displaced Venezuelans, without documentation to enable them to work in the formal sector, and imposing obstacles to access to fundamental social services. While an important part of this gap will be reduced by the regularization announced by Colombia in late 2020, this is still an issue in several countries.

Although reliance on administrative records will, by definition, not cover migrants in irregular situations, figures based on residence permits are the only available measure of these flows. Still needed is a more complete coverage of the countries of the region, a better disaggregation by gender and other characteristics, and better identification of renewals and status changes to enable more precise measures of migrant populations and their evolution. This is an ongoing project for which the statistics are expected to improve in future editions.



Introduction



Since 2015, the number of international migrants residing in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has increased from an estimated 8.4 million to 12.8 million in 2019 – an increase of over 50%. This dramatic surge has brought about a qualitative change in the way that countries in the region think about migration. In recent decades, with few exceptions migration in LAC was primarily a matter of migrants leaving the region to seek work in developed countries. In terms of economic development, migration was primarily an issue of balancing “brain drain” and remittances.

In the last several years, however, the deterioration of economic conditions in Venezuela has caused millions of people to leave the country – approximately four fifths of these emigrants have moved to other countries of the region, while emigration from Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake continued. In consequence, traditional countries of emigration have become host to large numbers of immigrants. While for the most part LAC countries have shown solidarity with migrants, the unprecedented scale of the flows in many countries has led to new challenges for the integration of these populations into the economies and societies of the destination countries, as well as putting a strain on limited infrastructure and social services unprepared to accommodate the numbers of new arrivals.

In seeking to address these challenges, another problem has arisen. Measurement of migration flows can be limited in its precision and timeliness. Statistics on the number and characteristics of migrants depend primarily on censuses which are only carried out once a decade, making them impractical for monitoring flows. Household surveys and/or labor force surveys in LAC generally do not oversample areas where migrants tend to concentrate, which limits the reliability of samples for analysis of the migrant population. Some countries choose to carry out ad hoc surveys designed specifically for the purpose of gathering information on immigrants, which tend to be quite expensive. This presents many challenges for analysts and policymakers who need timely

measures of migrant flows that are comparable across countries.

The solution pursued in this report is to use administrative data from interior, border management and/or consular affairs agencies regarding the granting of permission to reside in the country. This includes permits, visas, and in some countries, foreigners’ registers. While estimates of net border crossings can serve as simple, convenient measures of net flows of migrants (and in some countries are the only statistics available), of greater use for policy purposes are statistics that identify the types of permits that are being granted, and to whom. Not only does this allow a better focus on those immigrants who have the right to remain and reside within the country, but it is also directly aligned with the policy measures in place aimed at regulating the flows.

This report summarizes an initial compilation of these data by the IADB in collaboration with the OECD. Data on the residence permits granted over the five-year period 2015-2019 were received from 16 countries of the region, disaggregated by nationality of the permit recipient. In most cases these statistics were also disaggregated by type of permit so that classification into temporary and permanent permits was possible, in addition to identification of the purpose of the permit (work, study, family reunification, etc.) and the activities the recipient is eligible to carry out. For some countries, the permits are also disaggregated by gender.

Most of the findings in this new database are not surprising. The most notable group receiving permits in many countries is Venezuelans, to which over 2.1 million permits have been issued over the five years. This figure is far short of the estimated 3.9 million that were present in the region at the end of 2019 according to the R4V platform, highlighting the limitations of these administrative data in tracking migrants who do not, or have not yet, obtained permits¹. There is also clear evidence of large numbers of Haitians granted permits in Chile and Brazil, and of Nicaraguans in Costa Rica.

¹ Note that many Venezuelans may be in transitory status, or on tourist visas that may be converted to a more stable status in time.

But other trends show up that are less obvious. That migrants from outside LAC are falling as a share of total migrants is to be expected, as the number of intra-regional migrants has increased due to the flows of Venezuelans and others. But the numbers of extra-regional migrants are actually falling in absolute numbers as well. Separately, the importance of regional mobility programs such as the provisions for CARICOM Skilled Nationals and the Mercosur Residence Permit are more significant than may be commonly known. In Barbados, the CARICOM Skilled National permits are going disproportionately to women. In Ecuador the UNASUR (Mercosur) Permit is the most common permit granted to Venezuelans.

This database is the first result of an initiative at the IADB Migration Unit to compile data on

regional migration flows. It can be accessed at <https://datamig.iadb.org/permits> both in an interactive visual tool and for downloading of the disaggregated data.

The ability of governments to respond to the large flows is a significant issue. The economic and political situation in Venezuela, the prolonged effect of the earthquake in Haiti, and hurricanes in Central America all prompt people to move abroad seeking work and opportunities, and this presents challenges for origin, transit, and destination countries. But it is also important to pick up on the more subtle changes in trends that can only be observed by careful analysis of regional data, so that policies and programs can be tailored to maximize the benefits of migration, both for the migrants themselves and for the societies that receive them.



Methodology



Methodology

International cross-border movements of persons are regulated everywhere and what is regulated tends to leave an administrative trail², in this case of persons who are allowed to enter and stay in a country but do not have a right of residence in the country. Such cross-border movements are very diverse and include movements for reasons such as tourism, business prospecting, study, visiting family, fleeing persecution, war or political and economic instability, engaging in work, and establishing a new residence, to name a few. They also evidently include unauthorized movements, which are generally not captured by the administrative statistics.

The administrative trail consists of records of the persons entering the country on visas or residence permits granted to those intending to arrive or having recently done so. Visas in principle grant the bearer the right to enter and stay in a country for a specified length of time and for a specified reason. They are generally stamped or affixed in the passport of the potential or actual mover and are verified by immigration control officers upon entry into the country. By law visa holders must leave the country before the date of expiry of the visa, unless the visa is renewed, or the holder obtains some other status authorizing them to remain. In many countries, once the visa bearer has entered the country, he/she must apply for a residence permit before the visa has expired, indicating the reason and expected duration of stay, which normally correspond to what was indicated on the original visa. Elsewhere, the visa itself may serve as a residence permit, especially for movements of a temporary nature.

Conventional definitions of international migration are often demographic in nature and aim for concepts which are independent of the data used for measurement. In most countries, however, statistics on visas and residence permits serve as the main source of statistics on the authorized immigration of foreign nationals, and indeed may be

the only reliable source of such statistics. In the data presented here, international concepts have been adapted to reflect issues of relevance to migration as well as to accommodate shortcomings in the data.

The most significant of these concepts is that of the duration of stay. Generally, international migration movements are defined as those involving a certain minimum duration of stay, often three months. For a number of reasons, imposing a minimum duration of stay to define immigration is inconvenient, because certain movements may be relatively short but are nevertheless of policy interest, if not always of long-term demographic importance. These could include, for example, some asylum seekers and seasonal workers, enterprise trainees, and service providers as well as artists/performers/sportspersons. Rather than attempting to define who is an immigrant through a minimum duration of stay, however, it is simpler in practice to define who is not an immigrant. The categories of border crossers excluded from the immigration statistics in the tables of this report are tourists, business visitors, border workers, transport crew members and diplomats, their families and retainers. All other border-crossers are considered to be in-scope and are counted as immigrants, to the extent rendered possible by the available data.

In addition to the number of entries of immigrants in a given year, a second issue of interest is that of their eventual residence. Internationally, and particularly in Europe, a distinction is made between “long-term migration” and “short-term migration”, with the cut-off which defines the distinction between the two established at one year of residence. Although this definition may be of interest demographically³, the one-year-of-residence criterion is not linked to any fundamental policy concern, where the interest rather is in distinguishing between persons who are allowed to come or to stay permanently and those who must return to

² This is not the case, for example in the European Union, where persons can change residence without having to obtain a permit. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are spaces where there is free establishment, but any intention to remain requires a permit, and is thus trackable.

³ This demographic approach to defining migration has a certain conceptual appeal, because it permits treating all migrants the same statistically, whether they are nationals or foreigners, authorized or unauthorized. However, the approach generally requires a wholesale reclassification of national migration statistics, rendering them unrecognizable to national authorities, which is a significant handicap in understanding differences in national policies.

their countries of origin after the period for which they were admitted has expired. Indeed, in most migration regimes around the world there is a clear identification in the law of persons with the right of unlimited residence, whether this authorization is granted at entry or after a certain number of years of residence. It is the usual pathway to obtaining the nationality of the country. Even in countries which generally do not grant the right of permanent residence to first entrants, there very often is an implicit distinction made between persons on a permanent pathway and those who are only temporarily resident. The distinction rests on the fact that a person on a permanent pathway receives a permit which is indefinitely renewable, until such time as an unlimited residence permit is granted and/or the holder acquires the nationality of the country.

There are a number of implicit restrictions underlying this administrative approach to defining, and thus quantifying, immigration. The first, evidently, is that immigrants that enter through irregular channels are not covered in the statistics by such a definition. Although ideally one would want this population covered by a definition of “immigration”, in practice few sources are able to capture it with any precision and it seems at best counterproductive to hold a definition of immigration hostage to the requirement of the inclusion of this population. Better to estimate it separately by whatever means and methodology one can draw upon.

A second restriction is that the definition reflects the perspective of the host country with respect to immigration and not that of the immigrant herself. However, the immigrants’ entry and rights in the country of current residence depend evidently on their legal mode of entry and status there, and this information is of particular value in examining the integration of immigrants into the labor market and society. In practice, immigrants intending to settle permanently in a particular country may sometimes initially appear as temporary migrants, if that is the type of visa or permit which the destination country is willing to grant them, and will only appear as permanent immigrants once they receive the right of permanent residence from the national authorities.⁴

The statistics presented in this report are disaggregated by permanent and temporary where data availability permits. In principle, the statistics of temporary immigrants cover first temporary visas or permits, but evidently do not include permanent entries, while those of permanent immigrants cover both those who entered under this status and those who obtained it by changing from a temporary status. They do not identify permanent entries separately. In most cases, what is presented is the sum of all permits that grant the right of residence, net of renewals where possible. Strictly speaking, then, these figures are an imprecise measure of the migration flows of foreign nationals, as changes from temporary to permanent status will result in some inevitable double-counting, and any irregular flows will be missed entirely.

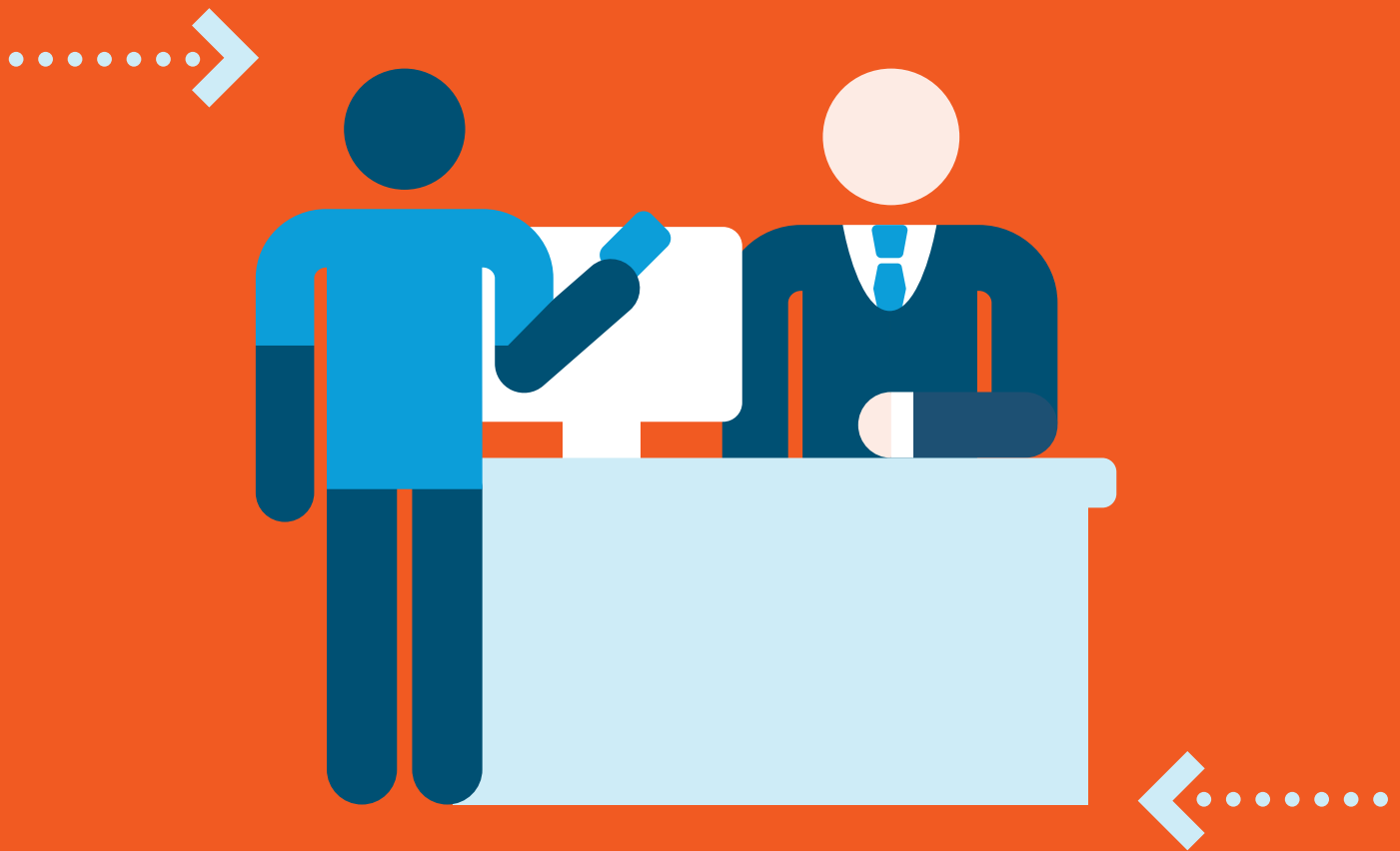
In some cases, most notably Brazil, countries maintain a register of foreigners who are resident in the country⁵. While in principle this is an efficient and clear approach, in its application some drawbacks can arise. First, there can be a substantial delay between a migrant’s arrival and their inclusion in the register, such that the date of registration does not correspond to the year of entry. Second, some migrants may never actually register, especially if their stay is of short duration despite being of particular policy interest. Finally, such registers often only record migrants’ current permit, so that changes in status (from one type of permit to another, or from temporary to permanent) cause a loss of data regarding the year and conditions of entry.

Note finally that different countries may not accord the same initial duration of stay to the same kind of immigrant at entry. For example, a refugee may be initially accorded a permanent status in one country but a temporary status in another, even if the eventual status of the latter is likely to be permanent as well. Although one would like to be able to harmonize on the basis of the category of migration, national practices are too diverse for this to represent a reliable harmonization criterion. The right of permanent residence, on the other hand, represents a fundamental reality present in virtually all migration regimes, which makes it difficult to ignore in an international definition rooted in observable behavior.

⁴ With these observations as background, one is led to a view of international migration characterized by a focus on two statistics of interest, namely 1) the number of immigrants entering the country in a particular year (disaggregated by whether their status at entry was temporary or permanent); and 2) the number of persons having received the right of permanent residence in a particular year, whether at entry or as the result of a change in status.

⁵ In one register country, namely Spain, all immigrants, regardless of their legal status, are allowed to register in the local municipal register, which serves as the principal source of population statistics in that country.

Migration to Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean



Migration to Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

Total Regular Immigration in LAC

The total number of residence permits granted to regular⁶ migrants to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean⁷ (LAC) reached 1.41 million in 2019 (Table 1), a decline from over 2 million in 2018, but still more than 50% higher than the 2015-16 average. The surge in migrants in 2017-2019 has

been driven principally by the massive exodus of Venezuelans, moving primarily to other Andean countries, but with significant numbers going to many other countries as well. In the past three years, the average number of migrants in LAC has been more than 70% above the average for 2015-16.



Table 1: Total number of permits granted by destination country

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average per 1000 pop.
Argentina	262,798	217,898	215,400	224,187	164,528	4.84
Barbados	5,268	5,082	5,669	4,005	5,127	17.53
Bolivia	25,758	28,526	30,905	32,295	23,981	2.46
Brazil	114,473	125,467	102,721	121,735	182,920	0.61
Chile	215,172	228,449	355,218	536,895	416,641	18.49
Colombia	55,849	58,390	133,576	543,028	98,042	3.53
Costa Rica	30,901	14,646	19,191	17,545	17,114	3.94
Ecuador	48,772	50,987	57,558	83,889	109,854	4.04
El Salvador	2,156	2,127	2,229	2,798	2,545	0.37
Mexico	105,681	110,385	118,237	125,146	128,494	0.92
Panama	22,300	22,142	46,022	50,397	51,381	9.05
Paraguay	11,151	12,163	15,354	20,724	24,041	2.37
Peru	17,984	25,134	75,019	319,411	173,308	3.76
Suriname	3,052	3,053	6,745	2,355	2,844	6.21
Uruguay	1,705	3,182	2,976	2,820	3,331	0.81
Total	923,020	907,631	1,186,820	2,087,230	1,404,151	2.41
Index 2015=100	100	98	129	226	152	

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Notes: Values include both temporary and permanent permits issued, which will result in some double counting over time as some migrants change from temporary to permanent status. Reference population is sourced from UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), using figures for 2019. See Methodology above and Country Notes in the Appendix for more detail. Note that in Chile there is known double-counting, because the data include renewals and changes from temporary to permanent; see Country Notes for further information. Data obtained for Guyana are not sufficiently comparable. See summary on page 26.

Over the past five years Chile has granted the largest number of permits to migrants⁸, accounting for 27% of permits granted in the region, for an average of over 350 thousand per year over the 2015-2019 period. Next is Argentina, having issued 17% of residence permits in the region to an average of nearly 220 thousand immigrants per year in the same period, followed by Colombia⁹ with 14%, while Mexico and Brazil each gave permits to an average of around 110 thousand people per year (around 10% each) and Peru and Ecuador accounted for 9% and 5% of the aggregate, respectively.

However, the totals for the five-year period do not tell the whole story. 2017 marks the beginning of the Venezuelan migration crisis and has resulted in countries that traditionally received fewer migrants taking in a disproportionate share of them. In the past three years, Colombia's share of total intra-regional migrants was 16% -- ten percentage points higher than it was in the 2015-16 period. Peru also saw a surge, with its share of migrants expanding from about 2% in 2015-16 to over 12% in the last three years. The expansions in these countries' shares was reflected in lower shares for Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, where the figure fell from an average in 2015-2016 of 26%, 13%, and 12%, to 13%, 9% and 8%, respectively. Chile's share remained stable at around 27% to 28% over the period.

But even if one excludes Venezuelan migrants, there are visible changes in the regional patterns. Comparing the shares for the same two periods excluding all migrants from Venezuela, the same declines are visible in Argentina and Brazil, with both even showing reductions in absolute terms. Meanwhile, excluding Venezuelan migrants Chile gained 8 percentage points in regional share (from

24% to 33%), and Peru gained 3 percentage points, while Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay each showed smaller increases in share. The Venezuelan crisis is the most visible phenomenon in regional migration, but broader patterns are shifting also.

The levels of permits granted relative to population are both widely varying and, on average, still generally low compared to OECD levels. Barbados and Chile stand out as having the highest levels, at 18 and 19 per 1,000 population on average over the period, respectively (Chile is also a member of the OECD). For all other countries in the database, none exceed 10 per 1,000, and only Panama and Suriname exceed 5 per 1,000. For OECD countries, the average for 2010-2018 is 8 per 1,000 *accounting for permanent permits alone*¹⁰. That is, it is higher than all but three countries in LAC without factoring in temporary permits. While this is to be expected insofar as LAC countries have not been common destination countries for migrants in recent decades, it is still worth noting that with migration in LAC at very high levels by standards of the recent past, it is still below the levels of the more traditional migrant-receiving countries. The trend in total migration to LAC countries is nonetheless upward, especially with respect to intra-regional migration.

Note that for all countries in Table 1, the numbers are for total permits, not just permanent residence permits. In the case of Barbados, only 3% of all permits confer permanent status, whereas in Chile¹¹ this figure is slightly above one-fifth (See Table 2). The share of permanent permits is also low in Colombia and Peru, though these figures are depressed by the large numbers of temporary permits issued to regularize the large numbers of Venezuelans who have arrived in recent years¹².

⁶ "Regular" migrants, or "migrants in a regular situation" refers to those with valid official permission to reside in the country, and is in contrast to "unauthorized" migrants, or migrants in an "irregular" situation, who have entered the country through informal border crossings, or have stayed beyond the validity period of their permits.

⁷ For purposes of this document "Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)" refers to the fifteen countries for which comparable data is available when referring to reporting or destination countries.

⁸ Estimates based on OECD data obtained from the Chilean Interior Ministry suggest that the number of permits issued by Chile overcounts the number of new migrants by at least 60% due to the inclusion of renewals and changes of status. Overcounting of this type exists in other countries as well, but data to quantify the effect is not available. Therefore, totals for all countries, including Chile, are presented without adjustment.

⁹ In Colombia there are estimated to be about 900 thousand Venezuelans without residence permits. If these are added to those with permits, the total would exceed that for Chile. Peru and Ecuador also have large number of Venezuelans present without residence permits.

¹⁰ OECD. International Migration Outlook 2020.

¹¹ Chile does not grant permanent status at entry. Thus, all permanent permits in Chile are changes in status from temporary permits for migrants that have already entered, generally one or more years prior.

¹² The PEP permits in Colombia and PTP in Peru are formally of a temporary nature, as they have a duration of only one (Peru) or two years (Colombia), and are generally renewable at least once, though these policies are frequently revised.

Elsewhere the share of permanent permits averages between one fifth and one half, exceeding 50% in Paraguay and Suriname. Because the figures in this report add together permanent and temporary permits, except where otherwise specified, the totals cannot be precisely equated to a flow of migrants, for reasons specified in the Methodology above.



Table 2. Percentage of Total Residence Permits that are Permanent

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average 2015-19
Argentina	51%	40%	40%	38%	41%	42%
Barbados	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%	3%
Bolivia	23%	18%	19%	13%	17%	18%
Brazil	46%	53%	37%	24%	13%	33%
Chile	23%	23%	25%	17%	21%	21%
Colombia	10%	14%	8%	2%	8%	5%
Costa Rica	51%	45%	45%	52%	45%	48%
Ecuador	34%	38%	29%	14%	14%	23%
El Salvador	12%	23%	29%	33%	36%	27%
Mexico	33%	35%	30%	32%	29%	32%
Paraguay	53%	52%	55%	51%	54%	53%
Peru	14%	13%	8%	4%	13%	7%
Suriname	53%	53%	71%	36%	35%	54%
Uruguay	37%	47%	43%	45%	51%	46%

Source: IADB DataMIG Database. Note: These statistics are not available for Panama due to data limitations.

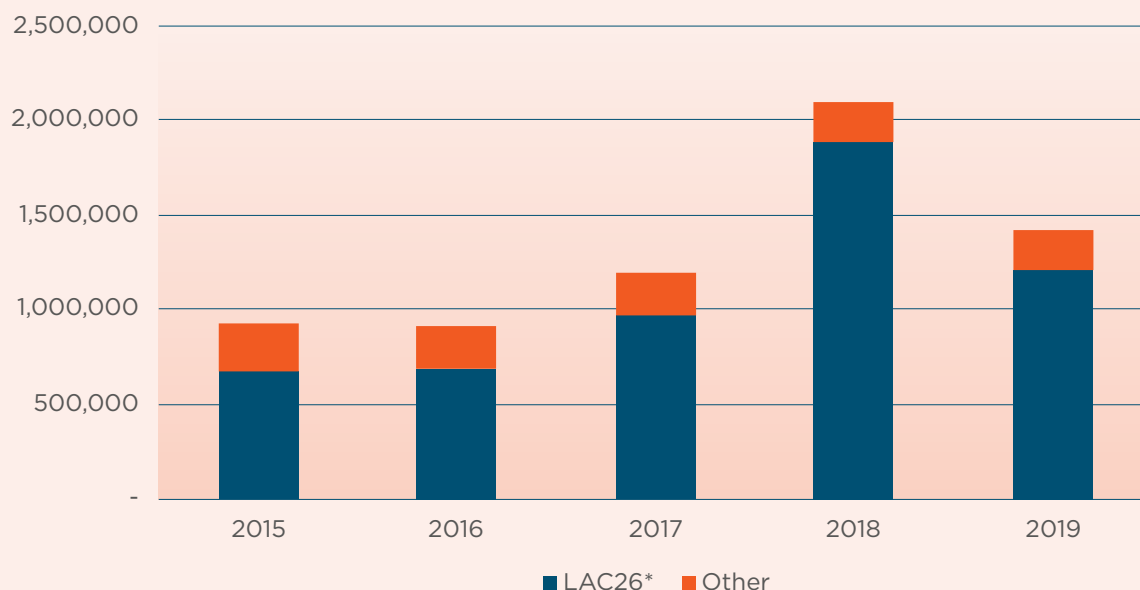
Immigration from Outside the Region

Over the five-year period from 2015-2019, just over 16% of permits issued in LAC countries went to migrants from outside the region (249 thousand out of 923 thousand). This average, however, obscures a marked negative trend. In 2015, 26% of immigrants came from outside the region, but this figure dropped to under 9% in 2018 as Venezuelan migrants became by far the largest group in a number of countries, before rebounding to 14% in 2019 (Figure 1). While dramatic growth in intra-regional migration flows is an important part of this story, immigration from countries outside the region also fell, in absolute terms by about a fifth, from over 249 thousand in 2015 to 204 thousand in 2019.

Immigration to LAC countries from Europe has had perhaps the most dramatic decline over the five-year period, in both absolute and relative terms. Migrants from Europe represented nearly 40% of all migrants from outside the region in 2015 but fell six percentage points over the period, in absolute numbers from 93 thousand persons that year to 67 thousand in 2019, a relative decline of 28%. Nonetheless, Europe remains the largest source of migrants from outside the region in 2019. The next largest source of extra-regional migrants to LAC countries is Asia, which in 2015 accounted for 68 thousand migrants, or 27% of extra-regional immigrants, declining to 59 thousand in 2019. Immigrants from the remaining regions have also uniformly declined in absolute terms over the period, though less consistently and less dramatically (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Permits Granted to Intra- and Extra-Regional Immigrants



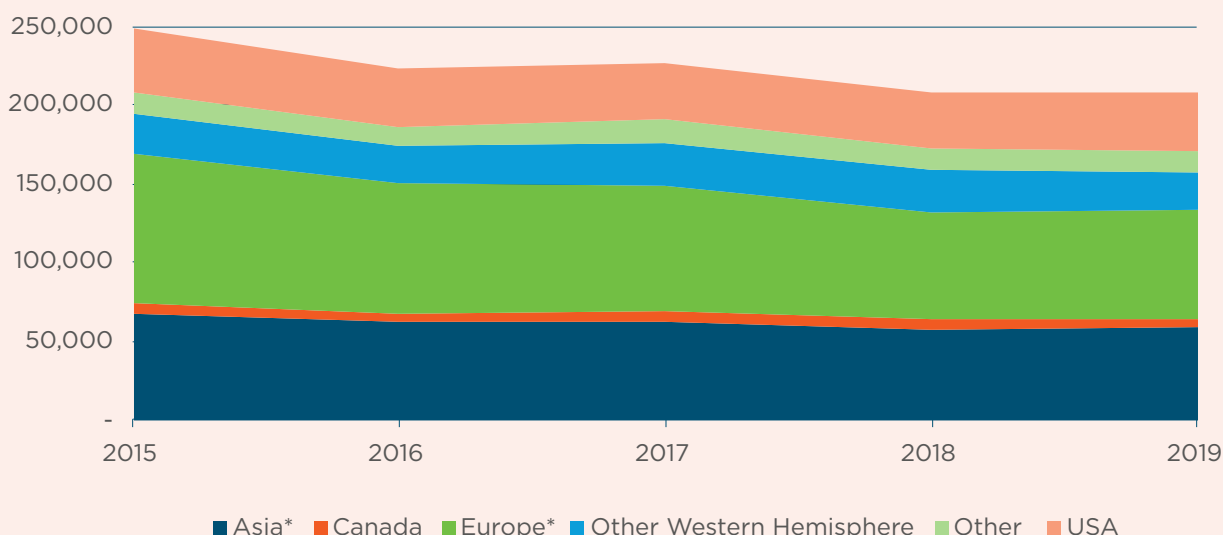
Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Nearly all extra-regional countries from which at least 20 thousand migrants moved to LAC over the past five years saw declines over the period (Table 3). Together, these thirteen countries account for 79% of the decline in extra-regional immigrants to

the region. China, India, Korea, and Japan are the primary sources of immigrants from Asia (in that order), while Spain, France, Italy, and Germany are the primary European countries of origin for migrants to LAC (again, in that order).



Figure 2: Total Permits to Extra-Regional Immigrants



Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

**Table 3. Top Extra-regional Origin Countries of Permits to LAC Immigrants**

Country of origin	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total 2015-19
United States	42,236	37,206	36,353	35,091	36,740	187,626
China	33,927	31,416	31,845	30,058	30,943	158,189
Cuba	21,872	20,837	24,599	25,315	22,841	115,464
Spain	27,099	22,537	20,494	17,671	17,344	105,145
France	11,735	10,920	11,273	10,675	10,253	54,856
Germany	10,191	9,257	8,769	8,339	9,716	46,272
Italy	12,211	10,201	9,673	8,471	8,125	48,681
India	7,301	7,320	7,966	6,664	7,920	37,171
Canada	6,812	6,417	6,229	5,653	5,716	30,827
Japan	5,968	5,711	5,590	5,695	4,924	27,888
Korea, Republic Of	8,319	6,807	5,509	4,597	4,549	29,781
United Kingdom	5,399	5,151	4,626	4,051	4,223	23,450
Portugal	6,753	4,684	3,817	3,154	3,040	21,448
Other Extra-regional	49,459	44,467	50,301	41,778	41,173	227,178
Total	249,282	222,931	227,044	207,212	207,507	1,113,976

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Unsurprisingly, most extra-regional migrants seek permits in the larger countries of the region. Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina grant the most. Ecuador is something of an outlier among the smaller countries, granting almost 85 thousand permits to migrants from outside the region over the five years.

As indicated by the total flows from outside the region, in almost all cases the decline at the aggregate level is replicated at the national level. Of the countries with inflows larger than 10 thousand in 2019, only Peru and Ecuador do not show a substantial decline in the number of extra-regional migrants over the last 5 years. Among the rest, most countries see stable flows from year to year, except for Paraguay and Uruguay, which show increases that are small in absolute terms, (increasing by 1,000 to 1,500 per year) but that imply a rise of 70% and 160%, respectively.

In Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico permits to immigrants from all extra-regional origins declined steadily over the five years, with the largest declines in immigrants from Asia and Europe. In Colombia, while the number of extra-regional permits issued in 2019 was substantially lower at the end of the period than at the beginning, there was more volatility with less of a clear trend.

Peru represents the primary outlier in the general trend, with permits to migrants from outside LAC growing fairly steadily over the period, with particularly large increases in 2019. From Asia, migrants to Peru have come mainly from China and India, while Spain and Germany account for most of the migrants from Europe.



Table 4. Total number of permits granted to extra-regional migrants by destination country

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Argentina	20,775	18,628	16,009	13,859	12,345
Barbados	2,561	2,429	2,819	1,992	2,898
Bolivia	6,651	7,242	8,524	7,973	5,859
Brazil	58,911	47,783	45,901	36,939	33,464
Chile	24,234	20,152	22,736	22,895	17,394
Colombia	29,706	27,275	29,261	28,316	24,019
Costa Rica	5,314	3,468	4,212	3,266	3,400
Ecuador	23,449	17,845	14,256	13,690	15,534
El Salvador	686	587	555	618	567
Mexico	54,760	52,643	51,981	47,870	42,426
Panama	7,869	8,095	9,607	8,454	7,155
Paraguay	1,552	1,767	2,156	2,299	2,630
Peru	10,251	11,993	11,433	15,047	33,020
Suriname	1,672	1,674	4,391	1,441	1,294
Uruguay	891	1,350	1,440	1,818	2,325
Total	249,282	222,931	225,281	206,477	204,330

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Permanent vs. Temporary Permits for Extra-regional migrants

On average, about one third of permits granted to extra-regional immigrants are for permanent residence status, with the rest receiving some sort of temporary residence permit¹³. However, this figure varies substantially across countries. In Barbados, less than 1% of permits granted to migrants from outside the region were of a permanent nature, and this figure is 9%, 9%, and 21% in Bolivia, Colombia, and El Salvador, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, 93% of permits granted to extra-regional migrants in Paraguay were effectively permanent, with the shares at 44% and 40% in Chile and Uruguay, respectively. The other countries for which data are available have percentages closer to the average.

Types of permits

Not all countries report data for the same types of permits, making it impossible to generalize for the region as a whole. However, some kinds of permits are common enough across countries that it is worth making a few observations.

Permits to extra-regional migrants for **study or other educational training** have declined over the period in the ten countries that provide data, averaging nearly 18 thousand per year overall, driven by Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia. Brazilian permits for professional scientists and academics have declined significantly, from over thirteen thousand in 2015 to only about 9,800 in 2019. Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru each issue several hundred permits per year, and El Salvador a few dozen on

¹³ Does not include Panama, for which a temporary vs. permanent disaggregation was not available.

average. Barbados, notably, has averaged about 750 student permits per year, with over 1,300 in 2019.

The same countries that reported student visas show an average of about 53 thousand **work-related residence permits** per year for migrants from outside the region. Mexico presents the largest incidence over the period, with an average of over 15 thousand per year, but levels have been falling each year from nearly 20 thousand in 2015 to 11 thousand in 2019. Brazil also declined continuously over the period, with an average of around 6,500¹⁴. Peru has seen an increasing flow, overtaking Mexico in 2019 with a total of over 16 thousand work-related residence permits. The other countries reporting data for work permits show no clear trend.

The other category reported by a significant number of countries is **family-related migration**¹⁵ of one form or another. Again, for migrants from outside the region the pattern is one of declining numbers over the past five years, in line with the decline in the numbers of other types of migration. In total, the number of these migrants fell continuously from nearly 40 thousand at the beginning of the period to under 30 thousand in 2019. The only exception to this pattern is Ecuador, where there were hardly any family migrants in 2015-2016, and over 1,500 in 2019.

Flows within LAC➔

The intraregional flows of regular migrants into the LAC countries reached a peak in 2018 but declined markedly from 2018 to 2019. It nonetheless remained over 75% higher in 2019 than the average level from 2015-2016. The main explanation of the drop is the fact that there were very large regularizations of Venezuelan migrants in 2018, generally by means of special temporary permits (in Colombia and Peru) that were not repeated in 2019 or were continued with much smaller numbers. Overall intra-regional flows accounted for 84% of total inflows over the five-year period, with

a strong positive trend as the average rose from 70% in 2015 and 2016 to 85% in 2017 through 2019, peaking at 90% in 2018.

While historically Argentina has been the primary destination of intra-regional migration, and issued the largest number of permits in 2015, in the subsequent four years it has been overtaken by Chile and Colombia, and by Peru in the last two years, all of which have taken in large numbers of Venezuelan migrants. Other principal destinations, including Brazil and Mexico, have also issued residence permits to growing numbers of intra-regional migrants.

Main intra-regional destinations of LAC emigrants¹⁶

By far the most common intraregional destination of **Colombian** emigrants is Chile, which granted 250 thousand permits to Colombians over the 5 years. Together with Ecuador, Argentina, and Brazil the four countries account for 80% of total intra-regional Colombian emigrants.

Within Latin America, emigrants from **Peru** went almost exclusively to Chile (62%) and Argentina (22%) over the past five years. The remainder went to the other Andean countries, as well as Brazil and Mexico.

Around 70% of **Haitian** migrants to mainland Latin America¹⁷ in the past five years have gone to Chile – almost three hundred thousand permits – along with nearly twenty thousand Dominicans. Over one hundred thousand Haitians obtained permits in Brazil in the period, representing another quarter of this population of migrants.

Of the six countries of **Central America**, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama have relatively constant, if in some cases volatile, rates of emigration to other countries of Latin America. El Salvador and Honduras, on the other hand, have seen sustained and significant growth in the numbers of citizens receiving residency

¹⁴ As described in the Country Notes, figures for Brazil rely on the foreigners register, which for recent years may be missing work permits where recipients failed to register or register in a year after their arrival. When migration is increasing this could bias downward the data for the most recent years, and in any case will show any change in trend with a lag.

¹⁵ These permits include both those that are specifically for reunification of migrants' families and permits for non-citizen spouses and dependents of nationals.

¹⁶ Although the database covers only 15 of the 26 IADB borrowing member countries, these account for most of regional migrant movements and can be taken as a reasonable proxy measure of the regional total. Lack of data for several countries in Central America and the Caribbean will result in undercounting of some of their intra-regional migrants.

¹⁷ There are nearly 500 thousand Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic in 2019 according to UNDESA estimates. However, permit data was not obtained for recent flows there, and so are not discussed in this report.



Table 5. Total number of permits granted to nationals of LAC countries by destination country

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Argentina	242,023	199,270	199,391	210,328	152,183
Barbados	2,707	2,653	2,850	2,013	2,229
Bolivia	19,107	21,284	22,381	24,322	18,122
Brazil	55,562	77,684	56,820	84,796	149,456
Chile	190,938	208,297	332,482	514,000	399,247
Colombia	26,143	31,115	104,315	514,712	74,023
Costa Rica	25,587	11,178	14,979	14,279	13,714
Ecuador	25,323	33,142	43,302	70,199	94,320
El Salvador	1,470	1,540	1,674	2,180	1,978
Mexico	50,921	57,742	66,256	77,276	86,068
Panama	14,431	14,047	36,415	41,943	44,226
Paraguay	9,599	10,396	13,198	18,425	21,411
Peru	7,733	13,141	63,586	304,364	140,288
Suriname	1,380	1,379	2,354	914	1,550
Uruguay	814	1,832	1,536	1,002	1,006
Total	673,738	684,700	961,539	1,880,753	1,199,821

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

permits in other countries of the region. Salvadorans received only about four thousand permits in 2015, growing steadily to over eleven thousand in 2019. The numbers of Hondurans receiving permits grew even more dramatically, rising from under 5,500 in 2015 to over 26 thousand in 2019. In both cases, the primary destination is Mexico, accounting for eight thousand Salvadorans and 23 thousand Hondurans in 2019. Over the five years, Mexico granted more than 60 thousand residency permits to Hondurans and Salvadorans for humanitarian purposes, most of whom have been stranded in transit to the United States, to which entry has become significantly more difficult. This compares to under 24 thousand permits in total for work, family reunification, and miscellaneous other reasons.

Over 60% of all regular migration among the four original members of **Mercosur**¹⁸ in the 2015-2019 period is accounted for by Paraguayans moving to Argentina, totaling over 300 thousand persons.

A further 13% is represented by nationals of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay receiving permits in Brazil, and 7% by Brazilians going to Argentina. A large share of Mercosur migrants beyond the bloc are accounted for by Argentines and Brazilians in Chile (27%) and Brazilians in Bolivia (17%).

Chileans do not migrate in large numbers to other countries of the region, receiving on average about 11 thousand residence permits per year in other countries. Argentina and Peru are the most common destinations, jointly accounting for over half of intra-regional Chilean emigrants in the five years, followed by Brazil and Colombia which account for another quarter.

With the exception of Belizeans moving into neighboring Mexico (about 200 per year), citizens of the English-speaking **Caribbean** do not migrate in significant numbers to Latin America due to language and cultural differences. Within the

¹⁸ This counts total regular migration. Migrants on Mercosur Residence Permits will be discussed more specifically below.



Table 6. Total number of permits granted to nationals of LAC countries by country of origin

Nationality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Venezuela	51,206	86,060	318,610	1,151,098	595,503
Colombia	98,425	101,649	119,773	134,010	134,152
Haiti	26,082	71,090	77,831	157,383	82,688
Bolivia	108,509	85,116	92,843	93,849	72,400
Peru	103,048	92,219	99,318	95,378	63,788
Brazil	31,688	35,276	40,795	45,584	47,866
Paraguay	111,355	80,165	67,231	53,393	31,406
Honduras	5,457	8,372	9,781	15,112	26,781
Argentina	25,778	23,880	23,731	22,503	26,631
Ecuador	16,025	17,951	21,864	22,527	23,192
Nicaragua	22,618	9,782	16,438	15,858	19,071
Guatemala	20,419	19,738	18,168	17,089	16,963
Chile	11,422	10,519	10,352	10,022	13,749
Mexico	11,849	11,719	11,880	11,944	12,720
El Salvador	4,386	7,122	9,562	10,379	11,632
Uruguay	11,744	11,041	9,872	10,817	9,269
Dominican Republic	6,363	6,188	7,002	7,846	7,532
Costa Rica	2,217	2,059	2,194	2,272	2,063
Guyana	2,260	2,336	2,421	1,521	1,983
Panama	1,417	1,190	1,273	1,246	1,344
Jamaica	541	506	576	517	504
Belize	263	235	283	261	426
Trinidad & Tobago	524	378	483	334	298
Bahamas	80	69	113	67	47
Suriname	34	26	136	38	27
Barbados	28	14	14	11	12
Total	673,738	684,700	962,544	1,881,059	1,202,047

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Caribbean the current database includes only Barbados and Suriname as destinations. There are notable, and relatively stable flows of Guyanese to Barbados and Suriname, averaging about 1,500 and 700 per year, respectively, while Jamaicans obtain permits in Barbados at a stable rate of around 300 per year.

Temporary vs. Permanent Permits for Intra-regional migrants

For intra-regional migration, the share of permits that are of a permanent nature has fallen significantly over the period. In 2015-2016, before the surge in Venezuelan migrants, over one third of residence (36%) permits issued were of a permanent nature. During 2017-2019, this figure fell to 23%, having fallen to 14% in 2017. The main factor in this decline was the massive regularizations¹⁹ of Venezuelans in Colombia and Peru which gave these migrants temporary regular status.

But it is not the whole story. Even if all migrants of Venezuelan nationality are excluded from the calculations, the general pattern is similar, though less dramatic. The percentage of permanent permits is almost 40% in 2015 and declines to 27% in 2018 before recovering to 33% in 2019. Excluding Venezuelans increases the percentage of permanent permits (or leaves it unchanged) in all destinations except Mexico, where it only drops one percentage point. In Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the difference is between seven and eleven percentage points which is significant, but not as great as might be expected. In fact, the difference reaches 12 percentage points in Brazil, with 42% of permits being permanent compared to 30% when Venezuelans are included. In Uruguay, in contrast, the share of permanent permits is 21 percentage points higher when excluding Venezuelans. The difference is five percentage points or less in all other destinations.

At the country level, again including Venezuelans, there is considerable variation around the regional average. The average percentage of permits that are permanent in Barbados, for example, is very low at 4% though this is much higher than the 0.7% in the case of extra-regional immigrants

and is relatively stable over the period. Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Paraguay also have each shown stable shares over the five years, though at levels between 30% and 50%.

Colombia and Peru, which have given regular status to large numbers of Venezuelan migrants in recent years, show only 4% and 5% of permits granting a permanent status, respectively. In the case Colombia, this is a decline from 17% on average in 2015-16, while in Peru the average was only 11% before the crisis. The trend is similar in Ecuador, where permanent permits averaged 34% in 2015-16 but only around 11% in the 2018-19. In contrast in Chile, the share has been quite stable around the 5-year average of 21%, dropping only to 17% in 2018 before returning to the period average in 2019.

Regional Mobility Programs

Of the two regional mobility schemes that can be identified in the data, one is in the Caribbean, and the other for members and associate members of the Mercosur bloc. In the Caribbean there are two mechanisms for intra-CARICOM mobility. The more frequently used are permits for certified CARICOM skilled nationals, where persons in certain professional occupations that validate their credentials in their home countries may move to seek work in other CARICOM member states. Alternatively, self-employed CARICOM nationals have the right to move within the region on a permanent basis (after a six-month temporary permit enabling them to demonstrate successful self-employment) under the Right of Establishment (RoE). In both cases, dependents of the recipients of these permits may also obtain residency.

In Barbados, permits for certified skilled nationals of CARICOM member states total 566 over the five years²⁰ and permits under the Right of Establishment 56, which when dependents of these migrants are included, exceeds 700 people. Nearly all of these permits were granted to nationals of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana.

For the other seven countries listed in Table 7, the facility for regional movement is the Mercosur

¹⁹ The granting of special temporary (generally 2-year) permits, the PEP in Colombia and the PTP in Peru, are generally considered “regularizations” in those countries as their purpose is to bring the large numbers of Venezuelan migrants, who entered informally or were on expired short-term permits, into the formal labor and social services systems.

²⁰ Interestingly, two-thirds of CSN permits were granted to women, though only one third of CSN dependent spouses were men. It thus seems likely that single women are the more frequent beneficiaries of this program in Barbados.



Table 7. Use of regional mobility schemes (CARICOM Skilled Nationals and RoE, Mercosur Residence Permit)

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ecuador	-	14,716	28,921	53,978	42,339
Brazil	27,282	23,337	25,725	30,435	32,079
Chile	23,306	17,775	24,989	35,367	30,918
Peru	537	882	2,262	7,079	24,546
Paraguay	5,396	6,160	8,072	11,304	12,107
Bolivia	13,972	12,804	13,097	13,236	11,400
Colombia	4,272	4,709	4,654	3,451	2,537
Barbados	113	98	214	179	104
Total	74,878	80,481	107,934	155,029	156,030

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Note: Argentina, Uruguay, and Venezuela are also signatories of the Mercosur Residence Permit agreement, but data are not disaggregated in the former two. In some of the other countries the eligibility of Venezuelans has been limited during this period. Mercosur Residence Permit figures include both initial Mercosur Residence Permits and conversions to permanent status upon expiration of the permits in countries where these are identified separately from other permanent residence permits.

Residence Permit. By agreement among ten countries of South America, citizens of these countries without criminal records are granted upon request a residence permit with permission to work in any of the others. The duration of the permit varies but is generally for at least two years. In some cases, this permission can be renewed, and in all cases, recipients may request a permanent residence permit once the Mercosur permit expires²¹. Over half a million people have taken advantage of this program over the past five years, with the largest numbers in Ecuador, Brazil, and Chile.

In **Bolivia**, about two thirds of these permits are obtained by citizens of Brazil, Peru, and Chile, while in **Colombia** Ecuadorans take the largest share of Mercosur Residence Permits, followed by Brazilians. In **Ecuador**, 130 thousand of the nearly 140 thousand Mercosur Residence Permits granted go to citizens of either Colombia or Venezuela. Ecuador is the only country for which we have data that continues to grant regional mobility permits to Venezuelans, granting the majority of permits under the UNASUR residence permit program, which is equivalent to the Mercosur Residence Permit. In **Brazil**, Colombians and Bolivians have accounted for about 35 thousand Mercosur permits

each over the five years, while citizens of the other signatory countries²² have each averaged several thousand per year. In **Paraguay** nearly all (over 40 thousand of the 43 thousand permits issued) are granted to Brazilian citizens. In **Peru** the Mercosur Residence Permits are distributed more evenly across the beneficiary countries, though disproportionate numbers do go to Colombians and, to a lesser degree, Ecuadorans.

It is worth noting that the Mercosur Residence Permit is quite important in migration among the participating countries, even if it is not the only mechanism available. Immigrants in Brazil from the other Mercosur Residence Permit countries (excluding Venezuela, whose eligibility is suspended) used this mechanism in 79% of cases over the five years, reaching 86% in 2019. This includes over 90% of Bolivians, 85% of Argentines and Colombians, and nearly 80% of Peruvians. In Bolivia, 70% of immigrants from signatory countries use the permit. In the other countries the numbers are lower, but still reaches 60% in Paraguay, and 54% in Ecuador (including 63% of Venezuelans). In Peru only 40% of migrants from signatory countries use the Mercosur Residence Permit, and in Colombia

²¹ Should they fail to request renewal or permanent residence, they revert to the same status as citizens of third countries.

²² Excepting Venezuela, whose eligibility for this permit is also suspended in Brazil.

only 35%. In Chile, Colombians, Ecuadorans, and Peruvians, as well as Venezuelans, are not eligible for the Mercosur Residence Permit. But still, between 50% and 60% of permits granted to Argentines, Bolivians, Brazilians, Paraguayans, and Uruguayans in Chile are Mercosur Residence Permits.

In Barbados, CARICOM skilled nationals account for just over 2% of total permits over the five years (restrictions on the CSN and RoE movement

make them of limited applicability, though other CARICOM nationals may reside for up to six months without a visa, but not seek employment). The Mercosur Residence Permits, by comparison, is more relevant in some countries. In Bolivia and Ecuador, the share of Mercosur Residence Permits in total permits reaches or exceeds 40% and exceeds 50% in Paraguay. Meanwhile the share in Colombia, Chile, and Peru is in single digits.



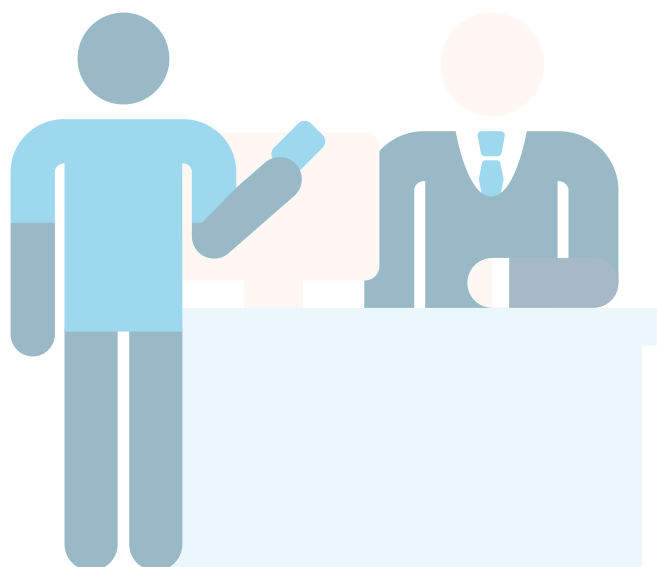
Statistics for Guyana

Data obtained for Guyana are not sufficiently comparable with data for other countries and could not be included in the above analysis²³. However, the available statistics show patterns generally similar to those for other parts of the region.

Between 2015 and 2019, Guyana issued visas granting residency permission for periods beyond one year to almost 2800 people. Of these, nearly 90% were for employment, with a duration of 3 years, which is renewable. The remainder of these visas are for Business persons, whose visas are valid for 5 years, also renewable.

Statistics indicate that over one thousand such permits were granted extensions each year. Additionally, over 100 “CARICOM skilled nationals” and their dependents obtained permits to reside in Guyana, principally from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Venezuelan migrant crisis has also touched Guyana, as the two countries share a long border in remote areas. R4V reported a total of 17 thousand Venezuelans living in Guyana at the end of 2019. Less than 150 visas of any kind are recorded as having been issued to Venezuelans over the five years, indicating that nearly all such migrants lack regular status, creating obstacles for them to access public services.



²³ Data obtained are only for specific types of permits, and within those, only for a subset of countries.

Migration from Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to Extra-regional OECD countries



Migration from Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to Extra-regional OECD countries

Emigration from Latin America and Caribbean countries to OECD countries outside the region²⁴ amounted to 1.3 million in 2018 (Table 7). Two fifths of the emigrants entering OECD countries outside the LAC region were Mexicans. Adding in emigrants from Brazil, Colombia and the Dominican Republic brings the total to two thirds of the outflows from the region. Venezuelan and Jamaican emigration come next.

In 2018, Latin American and Caribbean emigration represented 41% of the inflows to the United States and Canada, 12% of the inflows to OECD European countries but 35% of the inflows to Spain (+ 22 percentage points compared to 2015), and 2% only of the inflows to OECD Asian and Oceanian countries.

The United States attracts 70% of the emigrants from the region with 794 thousand Latin American and Caribbean immigrants in the year 2018 alone. It takes in nine in ten emigrants from El Salvador and Mexico. Another major destination is Spain, which received 226 thousand Latin American and Caribbean immigrants in 2018, which represents 18% of the emigrants from the region and two thirds of the inflows from the region to Europe. This is remarkable considering the size of its economy compared to the United States or the rest of Europe and is clearly due to historical and linguistic causes. Spain was the first country of destination for a third of the countries of Central and South America in 2018. Canada and France continue to attract Caribbean emigrants. Brazilian emigrants have varied destinations: to the United States and Portugal but also Japan. As for Germany, it received slightly more Mexicans than Spain over the period 2015-2018.

Emigration to OECD countries outside the region increased by 396 thousand (45%) from 2015 to 2018. The net increase was driven by growing emigration flows originating from Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras and Peru, in decreasing order of magnitude. In relative terms, the flows originating from Venezuela are those with the highest increase over the period 2015-2018, increasing from 27,800 emigrants in 2015 to 71,000 in 2018. Colombian, Nicaraguan, and Honduran emigration to OECD countries outside the region more than doubled over the same period.

Emigration from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States increased regularly since 2015. In 2018, it was 25% above its 2015 level. However, the bulk of the increase over the period lies in the inflows to Europe (+130%) and to Southern Europe in particular. The Iberian Peninsula has been a particularly attractive destination for Latin American emigrants, in line with its recovery from the economic and financial crises of 2008 and subsequent years. Immigration from the region to Spain nearly tripled in three years (+186%). The share of Colombians and Venezuelans in these rapidly growing flows rose from 11% and 12% respectively in 2015 to 24% and 21% in 2018. Lately, Portugal became the second destination for Brazilian emigrants, just behind the United States. Emigration from Brazil and Venezuela to Portugal increased five- and seven-fold respectively between 2015 and 2018. By comparison, emigration from the region to Italy only doubled but continued to exceed entries observed in Portugal. Emigration to Asia and Oceania (including Australia and New Zealand), though representing only 2.5% of the outflows, is on the rise. Inflows to Japan, the main destination, increased by 52% in three years, due largely to outflows from Brazil.

²⁴ OECD countries in the region include Mexico, Chile and Colombia.



Table 8. Emigration from Latin America and the Caribbean to selected OECD countries, 2015-2018

Nationality	2018	2018/2015 change	Two main destination countries in 2018	2018		
	Selected OECD destinations (15 countries)			Canada and USA	Europe	Asia and Oceania
Argentina	29,680	+50%	Spain, United States	10,700	17,060	1,920
Bahamas	1,430	+23%	Germany, Italy	1,350	60	20
Barbados	1,090	+3%	United States, United Kingdom	960	110	20
Belize	910	-20%	United States, Canada	960	30	20
Bolivia	9,830	+24%	Spain, United States	2,170	7,360	
Brazil	155,640	+76%	United States, Portugal	49,890	86,090	19,660
Chile	15,490	+29%	United States, Spain	6,490	7,430	1,570
Colombia	94,520	+114%	Spain, United States	30,520	62,010	2,000
Costa Rica	5,310	+11%	United States, Spain	4,420	780	
Dominican Republic	78,290	+21%	United States, Spain	65,750	12,390	
Ecuador	27,750	+33%	United States, Spain	15,390	12,000	
El Salvador	32,590	+37%	United States, Italy	30,44	2,010	
Guatemala	34,050	+43%	United States, Canada	33,530	430	90
Guyana	6,120	-6%	United States, Canada	5,800	290	30
Haiti	27,080	+15%	United States, France	23,990	3,060	30
Honduras	40,470	+106%	Spain, United States	16,280	24,100	90
Jamaica	60,470	+30%	United States, Canada	58,630	1,530	
Mexico	497,920	+28%	United States, Germany	481,480	14,320	2,120
Nicaragua	16,370	+107%	Spain, United States	4,410	11,880	80
Panama	2,110	-16%	United States, Spain	1,750	240	
Paraguay	11,140	+75%	Spain, United States	1,070	9,810	
Peru	45,040	+61%	Spain, United States	19,020	24,450	1,570
Suriname	2,090	+45%	Netherlands, France	220	1,860	10
Trinidad & Tobago	5,540	-3%	United States, United Kingdom	5,010	430	
Uruguay	5,030	+50%	Spain, United States	1,450	3,310	
Venezuela	71,030	+156%	Spain, United States	16,450	54,180	
Total LAC	1,277,000	+45%	United States, Spain	888,050	357,220	31,730
2018/2015 change				26%	130%	38%
Share of the total				70%	28%	2%

Source: OECD International Migration Database and national sources. Data based on population registers, permit statistics, surveys, or first issuances of national insurance numbers (United Kingdom). These are the available data most comparable to those gathered for LAC countries. *Note:* Europe includes France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Asia and Oceania includes Australia, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. Statistics follow destination-countries national definitions and therefore are not fully comparable. Australia consider only permanent residents while Canada and the United States include both permanent residents and temporary workers. Other countries include a mix of permit durations or types (where permits statistics are the source) or durations of stay (where surveys or population registers are the source) that vary from one week (excluding tourism) in the case of Germany to one year in the case of Spain.

In addition to the flows originating from Latin America and the Caribbean presented in Table 7, OECD countries outside the region received asylum seekers from LAC in significant numbers: a quarter of a million in 2019, that is ten times more than observed on average in the decade 2005-2014. Table 8 presents the ten major destination countries. Spain and Italy experience the most dramatic progression. The share of nationals of the region among the asylum seekers flows increased in every OECD country; overall it passed from 6% of the new requests in 2015 to 29% of them in 2019.

In 2019, of the 325 000 applications for asylum originating from the region, the United States received the highest share (59%), followed by Spain (29%), and Canada (4%). In the United States, increasing demands from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and to a lesser extent Venezuela, explain the regular progression. In Spain, while asylum requests from the region were still negligible in 2015

and in the preceding decade – about a thousand – they exceeded 90,000 in 2019 and represent 81% of the new asylum requests in this country in 2019. That year, Venezuelan and Colombian nationals lodged three quarters of these requests. In Canada, Latin Americans and Caribbean lodged applications in growing numbers although the pace was slower than observed in Spain. In 2019, the first nationalities of the asylum seekers were Mexicans, Colombians, and Haitians. On 20 November 2017, the United States Department of State announced it would terminate Haiti's Temporary Protected Status established following the 2010 earthquake; that same year close to 8 thousand Haitians lodged an application in Canada. The numbers went down in subsequent years. Italy saw a very rapid increase in the requests originating from LAC countries' nationals in the last years. In that country, nationals of El Salvador and Peru filed more than half of the requests while in France Haitian nationals filed two thirds of the requests.



Table 9. Inflows of asylum seekers from Latin America and the Caribbean to OECD countries outside LAC, 2015-2019

	2005-2014 annual average	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Share of LAC countries' nationals in asylum seekers flows (%)	
							2015	2019
United States	21,937	85,740	139,300	190,640	152,650	192,910	50%	64%
Spain	953	1,100	6,070	15,530	35,070	93,530	8%	81%
Canada	8,276	2,040	3,290	14,480	10,210	13,280	13%	23%
Italy	140	300	1,570	2,460	5,540	8,320	0%	24%
France	2,275	3,740	5,680	6,690	3,910	6,860	5%	6%
Belgium	47	50	180	430	910	2,560	0%	11%
Sweden	392	170	510	750	1,200	1,730	0%	7%
United Kingdom	373	250	510	440	660	1,970	1%	4%
Germany	81	30	250	460	690	1,570	0%	1%
Netherlands	95	60	160	240	320	510	0%	2%
Other OECD countries (outside LAC)	323	90	570	450	850	1,950	0%	1%
Total	34,892	93,560	158,090	232,540	211,990	325,180	6%	29%

Source: OECD International Migration Database.

Venezuelan migrants



Venezuelan migrants

By far the most significant migration flow in LAC in the past five years has been the exodus of Venezuelans due to the deteriorating economic situation in their country. Colombia, Chile, and Peru alone have issued nearly 1.6 million permits, with another 600 thousand issued in the other countries for which data are available²⁵ (see Table 9). These are historic numbers, representing significant fractions of the population in several countries not to mention of Venezuela itself.

Beyond the Andean region, Argentina and Brazil have issued large numbers of residence permits to Venezuelans, totaling over 300 thousand in the five years. While most principal destinations showed a decline in entries in 2019 compared to the previous year, in Brazil the number of permits tripled to over 90 thousand, surpassing Argentina and even Colombia and Ecuador for the year. While the scale is much smaller, Bolivia, Mexico, and Panama have also seen sustained growth in the numbers of permits granted to Venezuelans in the recent years to levels that are multiples of their respective averages in 2015-2016. The exodus from Venezuela is thus having a significant impact on a growing number of countries in the region (see Table 10).

The focus here is on regular migration, which omits a large number of Venezuelans having left their country who have not yet obtained a formal residential status in the countries to which they have emigrated. While the Response for Venezuelans (R4V) Coordination Platform for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants estimated a total of 3.8 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in LAC at the end of 2019²⁶, only 2.2 million residency permits had been issued in the 15 countries covered in this database. In the aggregate, this leaves over 1.7 million Venezuelan migrants without a clear residential status in their current country of residence²⁷ (see Table 11).

The absence of regular a migration status is often a significant barrier to successful socioeconomic integration in the migrants' country of destination. Formal residence documentation is often required to engage in formal employment, and in some cases to access public health and education services, in addition to the more obvious uncertainty regarding the stability of residence. While these estimates are admittedly quite crude, they are generally in line with other official calculations of the numbers of irregular Venezuelan migrants in these countries where these exist.

Other data are consistent with these estimates. In Peru, for example, about 375 thousand tourist visas were issued to Venezuelans in both 2018 and 2019, after averaging about 16 thousand in 2015-2016²⁸. Many of these people will have received more stable permits or moved on to other countries, and nearly 500 thousand asylum requests by Venezuelans are listed as pending in Peru. Still, having a pending asylum request does not guarantee it will be granted, and until such time as it is granted provides little in terms of stability beyond a suspension of the threat of deportation. Colombia and Ecuador do not show similarly large numbers of tourist visas or asylum requests for Venezuelans.

Even where most public services are available without regard to migrants' status, engaging with the public sector can be seen as a risk for those without regular status. While all of the countries listed here have made significant efforts to regularize the large numbers of Venezuelan migrants, this remains a challenge in many cases. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the additional insecurity associated with a lack of formal residence permissions presents a particular vulnerability to large numbers of migrants.

²⁵ To be clear, the number of permits issued can include double counting of some migrants, as individuals may receive multiple permits in a given country as they extend their stay, or in multiple countries as they continue their journey.

²⁶ See <https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/72763>. R4V estimates revised during 2020 indicate that the total has since grown to 4.4 million Venezuelan migrants in LAC (<https://r4v.info/es/documents/details/82847>).

²⁷ This analysis does not include the impact of the December 2020 announcement by the Colombian government of regularization of all Venezuelans that arrived in Colombia by 31 December 2020. Once fully implemented this will resolve the status of these migrants, which in principle includes upwards of 900 thousand people.

²⁸ Note that tourist visas are considered out-of-scope in the database compiled in this project as they are not considered to be Residence Permits.



Table 10. Permits Issued to Venezuelans in LAC Countries

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Argentina	5,803	12,865	31,173	70,545	65,094	185,480
Barbados	49	23	115	42	27	256
Bolivia	499	837	1,167	1,899	2,259	6,661
Brazil	877	869	6,894	32,494	90,194	131,328
Chile	9,730	26,625	85,259	173,825	192,996	488,435
Colombia	10,662	14,884	86,981	498,704	60,094	671,325
Costa Rica	990	949	1,200	1,094	1,060	5,293
Ecuador	8,682	12,336	23,229	43,028	55,108	142,383
El Salvador	48	63	110	158	101	480
Mexico	6,531	7,854	12,258	17,533	16,074	60,250
Panama	6,501	4,881	17,799	24,923	21,450	75,554
Paraguay	34	92	182	219	499	1,026
Peru	635	3,543	51,649	286,393	90,351	432,571
Suriname	6	6	17	55	29	113
Uruguay	43	79	166	49	38	375
Total	51,090	85,906	318,199	1,150,961	595,374	2,201,530

Source: IADB DataMIG Database.

Note: Totals for the 5-year period are included because returns to Venezuela followed by re-emigration are considered uncommon, so double counting should be minimal.

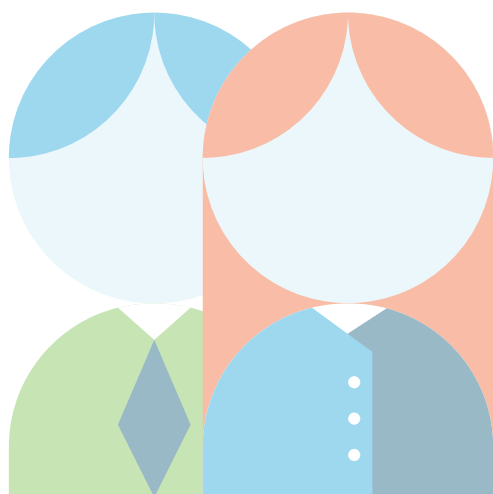




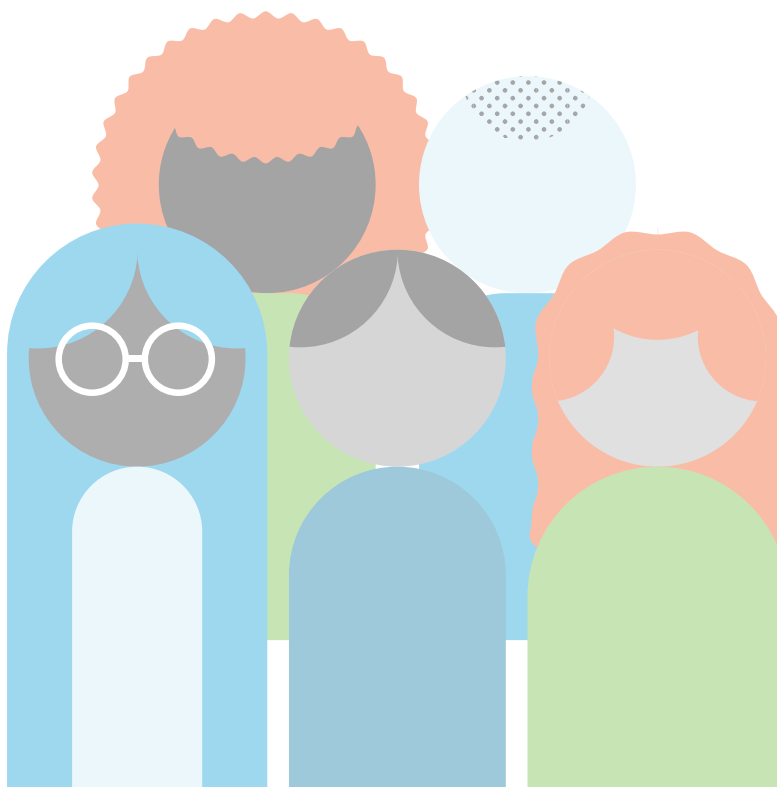
Table 11. Estimates of Venezuelans in Irregular Situations

Destination	Total Permits 2015-2019	Pending Venezuelan Asylum Requests	Permits + Asylum Requests	Number of Venezuelans according to R4V Dec 2019	Difference	% of total R4V estimate	Persons without regular permit per 1,000 population
Argentina	185,480	3,698	189,178	145,000	-	-	-
Brazil	131,328	102,504	233,832	224,100	-	-	-
Chile	410,010	2,861	412,871	371,200	-	-	-
Colombia*	671,325	8,824	680,149	1,600,000	919,851	57%	18.3
Costa Rica	5,293	1,893	7,186	28,900	21,714	75%	4.3
Ecuador	142,383	29,078	171,461	385,000	213,539	55%	12.3
Mexico	60,250	8,510	68,760	71,500	2,740	4%	0.0
Panama	75,554	2,858	78,412	94,600	16,188	17%	3.8
Paraguay	1,026	729	1,755	3,800	2,045	54%	0.3
Peru	432,571	496,095	928,666	863,600	-	-	-
Uruguay	375	583	958	13,700	12,742	93%	3.7
Total	2,115,595	657,633	2,773,228	3,801,400	1,188,819	31%	

Source: Calculations based on IADB DataMIG Permits Database and R4V data on Venezuelan migrants and asylum requests.

Note: Chile Includes only temporary permits, as Chile does not grant permanent permits at time of entry. Pending asylum requests according to R4V are measured as of December 2019 for Colombia and Paraguay, April 2020 for Ecuador, June 2020 for Chile, Mexico, Panama, and Peru, September 2020 for Argentina, November 2020 for Uruguay, and December 2020 for Costa Rica.

* The analysis for Colombia does not take into account the December 2020 announcement of regularization of all Venezuelan migrants that arrived prior to January 1, 2021. Once implemented, the nearly one million Venezuelans with irregular status are expected to achieve regular permits for ten years.



Conclusions

The past five years have witnessed extraordinary growth in migration in Latin America and the Caribbean. While much of the surge has been driven by specific national circumstances in a few countries, the impact has been felt in almost all countries of the region and have put migration policy and the need for regional cooperation on migration higher on the regional agenda.

At the same time, there have been significant changes in the underlying patterns of regional movements. The share of immigrants from outside the region is declining, seeming to indicate that the region is a less attractive destination for extra-regional migrants. At the same time, the increase in intra-regional flows serves as a separate source of opportunities and challenges, as countries integrate the knowledge and labor of the new arrivals. Meanwhile, increasing levels of emigration to OECD countries outside the region holds the potential for greater future knowledge transfer as those migrants obtain training and return home with new skills. Also, while there are many factors that impact an individual's decisions concerning the sending of remittances, increases in migration to higher-wage countries is associated with larger aggregate flows of remittances. Such flows generally have positive impacts on home economies.

The increasing relative importance of intra-regional migration will continue to pose a development challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean. In all cases, host countries, in facilitating the integration of immigrants, can maximize the benefits of their presence and ensure that they are able to provide for themselves. Immigrants generally bring new skills, and even low-skilled migrants are consumers that can boost local economies. But for host communities to reap these benefits, immigrants must find housing, employment,

education for their children, and access to healthcare for their families. Many countries of the region are not accustomed to accommodating large numbers of new arrivals and adapting to growing migration within the region is a key development challenge, especially in the main emerging destination countries.

In some countries, recent large movements left many people without regular migration status. Over 90% of these estimated irregular migrants are in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, which are the also the three principal destinations of Venezuelan migrants overall. In general, these countries have shown tremendous solidarity with the Venezuelan migrants, providing regular status to hundreds of thousands of migrants in a very short period. Nonetheless, there is still much to be done to ensure the security and welfare of these migrants, especially those that are still without regular status.

A consolidated regional database of these statistics is an important first step towards better understanding and monitoring of regional trends. Sudden movements in the numbers in one country can be the simple result of specific local circumstances, but simultaneous similar changes in multiple countries can signal more meaningful trends. The compilation of this database is a new initiative and every effort has been made to ensure statistics which are comparable and of good quality. However, some errors undoubtedly persist and as knowledge of the national permit systems and of the collection methodology improve, it is expected that most of these will be corrected over time. The IADB, in collaboration with the OECD and national partners, will continue to update and analyze this database and make it publicly available to enable broader analysis.

Appendix

Country Tables and Notes



Appendix

Country Tables and Notes

The statistics in the following tables were extracted from a database compiled from data submissions provided by countries which agreed to participate in this undertaking. They are generally based on entry visas and residence permits granted by national authorities to foreign nationals wishing to enter and stay in the countries of the region. The one exception is Brazil, where the data are taken from a register of foreign nationals residing in the country. The data have been edited, categorised and filtered where necessary, for reasons of clarity and comparability across countries. Although every effort has been made to ensure data of quality, some errors undoubtedly persist, the number of which should decline in future revisions, with a better understanding of the national visa and permit systems and of international data requirements.

The statistics are disaggregated, where possible, by duration (permanent/temporary), by nationality of the immigrant and by the specific visa or permit subtype (work, study, asylum/humanitarian, etc.). The permanent/temporary status of the migrant is determined by whether the permit granted to the migrant is of unlimited duration or not. Where possible, series on temporary migration include only the first temporary permit granted and exclude renewals to avoid double counts of persons – although the statistical apparatus did not always allow such a distinction. Although some immigrants receiving a temporary visa or permit at entry can be considered to be on a permanent migration “track”, they have generally been classified as temporary at entry and remain so in the statistics, until such time as they change status and receive a permit of unlimited duration, at which point they enter the statistics of permanent immigrants. Persons who change status in this way are thus effectively counted twice (although generally not in the same year), once when they enter the country as a temporary migrant and a second time when they become a permanent migrant. This sort of double counting is unavoidable as the national data provided do not track individuals, and so cannot always identify which permanent permits are granted to persons already on temporary permits and which are granted to new entrants.

The nationality of an immigrant has been retained as an identifying characteristic, rather than the country of origin or the country of birth, because it is the characteristic which determines whether a person entering a country is subject to regulation and can stay without authorisation. Some countries participate in free movement or free establishment regimes, which may grant certain immigrants special rights. However, the immigrants covered by these regimes are nonetheless non-nationals and their movements remain of interest and are counted alongside those of other non-nationals.

The categorisation of permits by subtype varies considerably in detail across countries and generally reflects the categories identified and specified in the national legislation regarding migration. Users of the data are free to reaggregate these data as they see fit.

The tables below are preceded by a table of Country Notes, which describes succinctly the nature of the original national data submission, including some basic information concerning the national migration regime.

The tables extracted for each country (where possible) are as follows:

- » Total number of persons granted residence permits, permanent and temporary
- » Persons granted residence permits by sub-type of permit
- » The top ten nationalities of persons granted permits
- » The number of persons granted permits by region of origin
- » Citizens of country X granted permits in other LAC countries, by LAC country of destination

Country Notes>

The objective of the statistics presented in this publication is to provide a measure of the number of foreign nationals who enter and stay in each country to reside, work, study, join an already resident family member or for some other reason. Tourists, business visitors, transport crew members and diplomats and their households are excluded from the count. Some foreign nationals stay on for a limited period, some stay on for good and become citizens. In countries around the world, there are many different sources that could be used to generate statistics on such persons.

In LAC countries the main, indeed perhaps the only, reliable source, consists of entry visas and residence permits granted by national authorities to the persons concerned. However, they do not cover migrants in an irregular situation, for which there are generally no reliable statistics. The data on entry visas and residence permits have been edited and filtered to generate the following two main statistics of interest for immigration: 1) the total number of persons entering the country, whether for a temporary stay or for good; 2) the number of persons allowed to stay on permanently. These are the subjects that are covered in the analyses of this report.



Argentina

Argentinian data distinguish between “permisos”, permits granted to persons outside the country, and “radicaciones”, those granted to persons already in Argentina, which constitute the majority of permits. All holders of “permisos transitoria”, an additional category of permits, are currently not included in the database, although some, in particular seasonal workers, academics, persons arriving for medical treatment and special cases not explicitly covered in the migration law (Ley 25.871) would normally be classified as “temporary” for international purposes but cannot be identified separately. In 2019, the total number of “permisos transitoria” accounted for about 5% of all permits granted, excluding renewals.



Barbados

Data cover 2015-2018 and include free movement of CARICOM skilled nationals and of CARICOM nationals with the right of establishment to set up a business. The data are disaggregated by gender, subtype (27) and nationality of the immigrant.



Bolivia

National permit data distinguish between “definitiva”, “temporal” and “transitoria”. Transitory permits tend to be shorter, generally less than a year, compared to temporary stays. For international purposes, both “transitoria” and “temporal” permits are considered temporary. Only persons on “temporal” permits can apply for permanent residence. The data are disaggregated by nationality and gender.



Brazil

The data summarize registrations of persons in the Foreigners' Register (SisMigra) of foreigners granted residence authorizations, disaggregated by permanent/temporary, nationality and gender. Changes of status from temporary to permanent are included. Registration is a legal requirement but not all immigrants, in particular short-term ones or Mercosur citizens from bordering countries, necessarily register. There are some 200 "legal supports" for the various types of entries and changes in status. The data cover 2010-2019, but there is no gender disaggregation for years prior to 2015. The data source is SisMigra, the Foreigners' Register, Observatório das Migrações Internacionais; Ministry of Justice and Public Security.



Chile

All entrants into Chile are given a temporary permit, which are subdivided into students, persons on contract (*sujeta a contrato*) and other temporary (*temporario*). After one or two years, depending on the entry permit, or after the completion of studies in the case of students, immigrants must request a permanent permit or leave the country. Both temporary and permanent permits are included in the statistics for Chile, which include renewals and changes in status. Although some data are available with renewals removed for 2015-16 it is not possible to reliably estimate numbers beyond that point as there is good reason to believe that the structure of the new migrant population in more recent years is substantially different from that of 2015-2016. The data cover all years from 2015 to 2019.



Colombia

A new migration regime came into force in 2017. Visas are classified into three groups: 1) V (visitor), M (temporary visa) and R (resident/permanent visas). The former system used "RE" as the acronym for permanent and TP to cover both V and M visas. The data also include the "Permisos Especiales de Permanencia", special permits introduced in 2017 for Venezuelan citizens. The data cover a wide range of visa types for 2015-2019.





Costa Rica

The national data are divided into three permit types: “Residente Permanente” (RP), “Residente Temporal” (RT) and “Categoría Especial” (CE). The latter (CEs) are not assigned a permanent or temporary status in the national statistics. For the purposes of international comparisons, most would appear to fall under a temporary migrant classification, the exception being persons admitted for humanitarian reasons and their dependents and persons with links to Costa Rican citizens and permanent residents, who are deemed to be permanent. Data are fully disaggregated over the 2015-2019 period.



Ecuador

A new migration law was passed in 2017 and the statistics for 2017 and part of 2018 are a mix of the old and new systems. The “Residencia Permanente” category in the new system was known as “Inmigrante” under the old system. “No inmigrante” under the old system, on the other hand, is covered by “Residente Temporal”. In addition, persons seeking asylum or who wish to be recognized as refugees or stateless persons are classified as “Visitante Temporales” under the new system. They are considered temporary migrants for the purpose of international comparisons. The data cover the years 2015-2019.



El Salvador

A new migration law was passed in 2019 and statistics for that year are a mix of the old and new systems. National permits are either temporary, special or for permanent residence. The local permit names are preceded by a letter and number code (F-nn or N F-nn which refers to the form used in the application process. Data are fully disaggregated over the 2015-2019 period.



Mexico

The data distinguish between permanent migrants (including refugees and regularizations), temporary migrants and other short-term migrants with visitor permits, namely, workers in border regions and persons granted permission to stay for humanitarian purposes. The data are fully disaggregated by permit subtype, gender and nationality for the entire 2015-2019 period.



Panama

The statistics are for all residence permits granted and include both regularizations and renewals, the latter accounting for approximately 2-5% of the total. They do not include disaggregation by gender or type of permit. Persons intending to settle in Panama are initially granted a provisional permit and can request a permanent permit after two years of residence. Both types of permits are counted in the series for Panama.



Paraguay

The statistics are provided for Amnistia (regularizations), “Ley 978” (regular migration permits) and Mercosur permits, each disaggregated by permanent and temporary. The data cover 2015 to 2019.



Suriname






The permits for Suriname distinguish between foreign nationals of Surinamese origin, Dutch citizens and other foreign nationals. All are disaggregated by permanent / temporary. The statistics exclude short-term authorizations (less than one year), except for persons who extend their stay and obtain a long-term residence permit. The statistics cover 2015-2019.





Uruguay




Statistics for Uruguay cover the entire 2015-2019 period but include no breakdowns by gender or nationality / country of origin, only permanent / temporary.







 Argentina	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration					
Permanent	133,269	86,883	86,709	85,050	68,070
Temporary	128,381	130,179	127,974	138,346	95,823
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Bolivia	59,480	49,485	48,167	37,204	25,261
Brazil	5,998	7,689	8,015	8,587	6,507
Chile	4,871	4,107	3,800	3,175	2,325
Colombia	20,987	16,249	16,158	17,793	10,048
Ecuador	3,302	3,787	3,687	3,009	2,692
Mexico	1,691	1,457	1,542	1,523	1,399
Paraguay	103,739	74,292	61,342	47,391	25,533
Peru	29,673	23,587	20,271	16,644	10,045
Uruguay	4,823	4,147	3,174	2,739	1,786
Venezuela	5,793	12,863	31,171	70,545	65,086
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	5,443	5,096	4,922	3,979	3,593
Canada	159	201	168	113	129
Europe	6,827	5,881	5,778	5,097	4,544
IDB26	241,947	199,236	199,365	210,308	152,137
Other	1,713	1,672	568	401	404
OWH	2,990	2,642	2,003	1,566	1,352
USA	2,571	2,334	1,879	1,932	1,734
 Permits granted to citizens of Argentina in other LAC countries					
Barbados	10	9	11	6	4
Bolivia	1,860	1,899	1,955	1,899	1,295
Brazil	5,863	5,105	4,892	4,892	5,689
Chile	9,626	8,194	8,737	7,563	8,058
Colombia	1,695	1,844	1,848	1,483	1,567
Costa Rica	185	127	133	122	169
Ecuador	782	896	728	663	739
El Salvador	35	29	53	72	38
Mexico	3,471	3,378	2,737	2,910	2,598
Panama	439	384	380	398	389



 Argentina	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Permits granted to citizens of Argentina in other LAC countries					
Paraguay	1,012	916	888	1,069	1,628
Peru	566	756	958	1,224	4,174
Suriname	-	-	-	1	1
Uruguay	234	343	411	200	235




 Barbados	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - International Agreements	106	96	211	177	58
Permanent - Residency	22	27	13	15	20
Temporary - Family Reunification	258	310	225	158	156
Temporary - Immigrant	58	69	128	185	747
Temporary - Other	195	250	253	222	140
Temporary - Residency	7	2	3	-	44
Temporary - Special	51	71	66	29	33
Temporary - Study/Training	1,893	1,442	1,917	1,061	1,919
Temporary - Work	2,678	2,815	2,853	2,158	2,010
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Bahamas	63	54	92	40	36
Canada	323	290	287	229	284
China	61	104	184	101	56
Guyana	1,690	1,784	1,631	1,220	1,571
India	158	178	457	270	197
Jamaica	347	319	327	317	290
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	296	323	272	163	187
Trinidad and tobago	371	272	350	176	174
United Kingdom	327	333	307	225	253
United States	352	295	344	326	1,084
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	280	363	721	445	326
Canada	323	290	287	229	284
Europe	682	679	564	471	469
IDB26	2,707	2,653	2,850	2,013	2,229





 Barbados	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Other	190	123	129	117	179
OWH	734	679	774	404	556
USA	352	295	344	326	1,084
 Permits granted to citizens of Barbados in other LAC countries					
Bolivia	1	-	-	-	
Brazil	9	5	5	1	
Colombia	14	6	5	6	
Costa Rica	1	1	1	4	
Ecuador	-	1	-	-	
Mexico	2	1	2	-	
Paraguay	-	-	1	-	
Peru	-	-	-	-	
Suriname	1	-	-	-	



 Bolivia	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - International Agreements	5,016	4,177	4,380	3,295	3,085
Permanent - Spouse/Dependent	364	334	622	293	314
Permanent - Work	473	520	969	599	565
Temporary - International Agreements	8,956	8,628	8,718	9,941	8,315
Temporary - Other	209	40	57	46	11
Temporary - Regularisation	-	155	1,184	318	1,744
Temporary - Spouse/Dependent	1,938	2,444	2,455	2,749	2,560
Temporary - Study/Training	1,012	1,230	995	1,232	1,203
Temporary - Work	7,790	10,998	11,525	13,822	6,184
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	1,860	1,899	1,955	1,899	1,295
Brazil	7,212	6,640	7,810	7,284	6,024
Chile	1,062	871	782	922	608
China	1,219	1,684	2,421	2,159	1,645
Colombia	2,440	2,483	2,573	3,097	2,456
Ecuador	461	722	534	631	450



 Bolivia	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Mexico	634	1,334	1,355	1,061	416
Paraguay	847	908	731	1,066	695
Peru	3,604	5,037	4,813	5,941	3,514
Venezuela	499	837	1,167	1,899	2,259
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	1,775	2,639	3,128	2,853	2,069
Canada	209	221	253	125	96
Europe	2,746	2,712	2,973	2,881	1,925
IDB26	19,107	21,284	22,381	24,322	18,122
Other	191	159	206	249	187
OWH	752	809	910	888	1,108
USA	978	702	1,054	977	474
 Permits granted to citizens of Bolivia in other LAC countries					
Argentina	59,477	49,485	48,165	37,203	25,246
Barbados	4	-	4	1	1
Brazil	8,265	6,145	6,572	7,862	9,286
Chile	39,126	27,852	36,226	46,540	34,199
Colombia	343	372	394	401	377
Costa Rica	33	21	17	36	42
Ecuador	226	228	187	188	249
El Salvador	5	9	13	23	12
Mexico	438	394	443	476	413
Panama	41	57	51	68	65
Paraguay	164	117	126	119	191
Peru	361	405	613	918	2,262
Uruguay	22	31	27	13	19




 Brazil	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Asylum/Refugee	28	13	23	17	-
Permanent - Family Reunification	23,106	15,848	14,569	336	1
Permanent - Humanitarian	10,444	19,644	12,540	3,354	226





 Brazil	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - International Agreements	8,318	3,107	3,312	7,374	8,272
Permanent - Investment	758	157	12	102	131
Permanent - Other	7,341	25,439	6,072	4,013	1,034
Permanent - Regularisation	48	70	21	16	-
Permanent - Religious	3	6	2	-	-
Permanent - Residency	12	17	15	43	11
Permanent - Scientist/Academic	91	94	97	16	-
Permanent - Spouse/Dependent	2,181	1,878	1,679	14,226	14,198
Permanent - Work	174	151	56	11	-
Temporary - Artist	2	50	140	124	105
Temporary - Asylum/Refugee	-	-	-	-	924
Temporary - Athlete	97	43	22	37	20
Temporary - Border-Work	2,410	2,364	1,825	1,321	931
Temporary - Cultural	208	165	175	14	-
Temporary - Family Reunification	1,537	1,154	750	68	1
Temporary - Humanitarian	1,182	963	884	9,865	18,621
Temporary - International Agreements	19,030	20,280	22,618	23,155	23,894
Temporary - Investment	2	112	116	6	3
Temporary - Journalist	41	40	25	2	-
Temporary - Medical Treatment	20	17	22	65	77
Temporary - Other	3,406	2,540	2,266	4,234	4,551
Temporary - Regularisation	1	6	5,935	31,687	89,384
Temporary - Religious	1,275	1,246	1,323	1,782	2,023
Temporary - Scientist/Academic	1,023	675	1,179	1,230	396
Temporary - Spouse/Dependent	1,440	903	1,312	2,441	2,991
Temporary - Study/Training	12,205	11,692	9,991	9,011	9,475
Temporary - Work	18,082	16,784	15,731	7,115	5,442
Temporary - Working Holiday	7	4	7	70	209
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	5,863	5,105	4,892	4,892	5,689
Bolivia	8,266	6,145	6,572	7,862	9,286
China	5,732	4,662	4,266	4,582	4,006
Colombia	7,180	7,422	8,742	9,697	9,253
Haiti	14,524	42,458	14,711	14,226	19,863





 Brazil	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Paraguay	4,706	3,027	3,086	2,856	3,152
Peru	4,201	3,317	3,277	3,055	3,170
United States	4,624	3,829	2,980	3,251	3,320
Uruguay	4,493	4,587	4,132	5,597	4,458
Venezuela	877	868	6,894	32,479	90,192
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	18,989	13,900	13,150	12,143	11,005
Canada	580	520	356	271	247
Europe	26,659	19,654	15,984	12,570	11,710
IDB26	55,562	77,681	56,820	84,796	149,456
Other	5,952	5,352	8,005	6,802	6,078
OWH	2,106	4,526	5,424	1,902	1,104
USA	4,624	3,829	2,980	3,251	3,320
 Permits granted to citizens of Brazil in other LAC countries					
Argentina	5,993	7,682	8,000	8,572	6,497
Barbados	16	22	26	10	8
Bolivia	7,212	6,640	7,810	7,284	6,024
Brazil	-	-	32	-	-
Chile	3,109	3,279	4,080	3,834	4,079
Colombia	1,861	2,097	2,341	2,295	2,042
Costa Rica	173	96	242	190	196
Ecuador	354	516	518	366	448
El Salvador	67	57	39	51	39
Guatemala	-	-	43	1	41
Mexico	2,540	2,812	2,880	2,848	2,638
Panama	620	497	646	762	822
Paraguay	7,491	8,483	11,104	16,079	17,776
Peru	1,355	2,059	1,944	2,551	6,518
Suriname	759	759	901	574	488
Uruguay	128	269	173	147	191




 Chile	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Immigrant	48,809	53,593	87,713	92,984	88,526
Temporary - Other Temporary	142,215	167,922	261,240	423,571	209,739
Temporary - Study/Training	2,245	2,369	2,291	1,965	1,815
Temporary - Work	21,903	4,565	3,974	18,375	116,561
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	9,626	8,194	8,737	7,563	8,058
Bolivia	39,126	27,852	36,226	46,540	34,199
Brazil	3,109	3,279	4,080	3,834	4,079
Colombia	44,538	47,358	58,593	58,212	42,680
Dominican Republic	3,518	2,361	2,776	4,860	4,779
Ecuador	6,374	7,261	10,805	11,973	8,988
Haiti	10,071	27,397	57,515	140,442	57,649
Mexico	1,608	1,346	1,485	1,202	1,063
Peru	59,768	53,624	63,598	62,100	41,343
Venezuela	9,730	26,625	85,259	173,825	192,996
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	5,758	5,657	7,363	6,512	5,378
Canada	290	249	259	218	133
Europe	12,444	9,423	8,779	6,602	5,113
IDB26	190,938	208,297	332,482	514,000	399,247
Other	758	630	596	535	713
OWH	1,559	1,499	3,324	7,109	4,121
USA	3,425	2,694	2,415	1,919	1,936
 Permits granted to citizens of Chile in other LAC countries					
Argentina	4,865	4,099	3,798	3,168	2,320
Barbados	1	2	1	-	-
Bolivia	1,062	871	782	922	608
Brazil	1,581	1,387	1,257	1,140	1,206
Colombia	989	1,021	1,110	996	834
Costa Rica	69	45	83	64	63
Ecuador	441	512	579	457	532
El Salvador	9	15	11	17	23



 Chile	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Permits granted to citizens of Chile in other LAC countries					
Guatemala	-	-	-	4	17
Mexico	999	955	989	883	845
Panama	225	226	198	244	261
Paraguay	123	117	102	108	159
Peru	1,010	1,189	1,365	1,963	6,787
Suriname	-	-	2	-	-
Uruguay	40	71	71	46	40





 Colombia	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Asylum/Refugee	-	-	-	21	135
Permanent - Permanent Residence	5,714	8,324	11,290	10,647	7,766
Temporary - Adoption	853	865	901	-	-
Temporary - Family Reunification	5,644	5,784	6,722	5,786	5,072
Temporary - Humanitarian	21	42	68,820	480,781	47,950
Temporary - International Agreements	10,405	9,074	8,990	4,695	4,051
Temporary - Investment	-	-	103	3,984	1,182
Temporary - Journalist	-	-	-	48	29
Temporary - Medical Treatment	-	-	5	383	425
Temporary - Other	4,453	5,923	6,855	6,932	3,368
Temporary - Religious	1,795	2,043	1,858	1,918	2,000
Temporary - Retired	-	-	25	1,404	773
Temporary - Study/Training	4,786	4,729	4,628	4,663	4,060
Temporary - Treaty Worker	-	-	437	-	-
Temp. - Voluntary, Aid, Social Service	1,354	1,121	1,080	-	-
Temporary - Work	20,823	20,349	21,641	21,561	20,997
Temporary - Working Holiday	1	136	206	205	234
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	1,695	1,844	1,848	1,483	1,567
Brazil	1,861	2,097	2,341	2,295	2,042
Chile	989	1,021	1,110	996	834
Costa Rica	255	293	329	317	313



 Colombia	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Ecuador	2,886	2,849	3,081	2,540	2,620
Mexico	3,242	3,100	3,122	3,131	2,700
Panama	231	254	300	314	310
Peru	1,841	2,092	2,181	2,117	1,163
United States	7,835	6,411	6,542	6,133	5,449
Venezuela	10,778	15,030	87,369	498,835	60,168
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	5,910	5,025	5,371	4,103	5,529
Canada	877	878	964	761	640
Europe	12,584	12,535	13,586	11,969	9,954
IDB26	26,143	31,115	104,315	514,712	74,023
Other	1,816	1,608	1,792	1,472	1,479
OWH	684	818	991	3,878	968
USA	7,835	6,411	6,542	6,133	5,449
 Permits granted to citizens of Colombia in other LAC countries					
Argentina	20,844	16,185	16,118	17,693	9,844
Barbados	23	34	113	76	20
Bolivia	2,440	2,483	2,573	3,097	2,456
Brazil	7,180	7,422	8,742	9,697	9,253
Chile	44,538	47,358	58,593	58,212	42,680
Colombia	-	-	-	1	-
Costa Rica	749	592	720	556	531
Ecuador	11,043	14,355	14,008	21,945	32,904
El Salvador	166	176	162	245	234
Guatemala	-	-	17	10	8
Mexico	6,202	6,663	7,160	8,454	7,596
Panama	2,902	3,295	6,996	6,632	9,483
Paraguay	131	118	124	134	185
Peru	2,013	2,812	4,305	7,105	18,606
Suriname	8	8	10	3	4
Uruguay	29	74	91	41	50



 Costa Rica	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Asylum/Refugee	169	565	226	139	907
Permanent - Family Reunification	14,656	5,964	8,302	8,998	6,834
Permanent - Humanitarian	862	51	33	25	14
Permanent - Immigrant	11	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Other	-	-	-	-	2
Temporary - Artist	1	37	50	63	57
Temporary - Athlete	3	6	12	5	11
Temporary - Business Visitors	968	843	1,264	949	1,121
Temporary - Family Reunification	1,060	926	1,368	825	1,156
Temporary - Investment	396	242	328	307	478
Temporary - Journalist	-	1	2	-	1
Temporary - Other	467	493	1,200	294	388
Temporary - Religious	266	232	278	280	246
Temporary - Rentier	534	469	521	346	375
Temporary - Retired	828	436	675	313	374
Temporary - Scientist/Academic	226	21	38	15	11
Temporary - Spouse/Dependent	8	1	3	3	4
Temporary - Study/Training	2,065	1,182	1,470	1,446	1,589
Temporary - Work	8,381	3,177	3,421	3,537	3,546
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Colombia	749	592	720	556	531
Dominican Republic	195	114	141	101	118
El Salvador	552	656	543	543	606
Guatemala	241	158	186	173	265
Honduras	478	278	390	348	422
Mexico	438	285	423	306	299
Nicaragua	20,626	7,464	10,429	10,332	9,477
Panama	493	128	159	164	151
United States	1,911	1,166	1,497	1,082	1,091
Venezuela	990	949	1,200	1,094	1,060
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	1,252	878	1,096	1,000	839
Canada	318	184	202	126	214

 Costa Rica	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Europe	1,582	1,073	1,165	912	1,126
IDB26	25,587	11,178	14,979	14,279	13,714
Other	126	85	152	67	62
OWH	125	82	100	79	68
USA	1,911	1,166	1,497	1,082	1,091
 Permits granted to citizens of Costa Rica in other LAC countries					
Argentina	258	243	209	197	149
Barbados	-	4	9	3	5
Bolivia	49	16	23	35	21
Brazil	142	120	110	116	106
Chile	217	157	190	155	146
Colombia	255	293	329	317	313
Ecuador	71	73	81	69	104
El Salvador	95	61	58	86	48
Guatemala	-	-	3	-	-
Mexico	618	582	600	689	529
Panama	430	430	539	522	493
Paraguay	6	5	3	6	5
Peru	70	63	29	67	128
Uruguay	5	12	11	9	7





 Ecuador	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Family Reunification	-	-	2,724	4,877	5,716
Permanent - Humanitarian	-	-	208	69	13
Permanent - Immigrant	16,674	19,509	9,800	345	1
Permanent - International Agreements	-	-	2,749	4,605	6,427
Permanent - Other	-	-	1,273	1,812	2,791
Permanent - Religious	-	-	111	290	216
Permanent - Rentier	42	56	16	-	-
Temporary - Artist	-	-	243	208	88
Temporary - Asylum/Refugee	-	-	830	9,041	24,136



 Ecuador	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Temporary - Athlete	-	-	-	3	-
Temporary - Cultural	440	390	74	1	-
Temp. - Dipl./Consulate/Int. Agency	-	-	-	145	730
Temporary - Humanitarian	1,247	233	746	1,700	21,223
Temporary - International agreements	-	14,727	26,180	49,390	35,921
Temporary - Investment	-	-	308	390	436
Temporary - Journalist	-	-	-	3	1
Temporary - Other	-	671	1,111	2,102	3,247
Temporary - Out-of-Scope	27,069	12,066	1,718	8	-
Temporary - Religious	541	1,620	1,769	1,544	1,422
Temporary - Retired	-	-	359	391	400
Temporary - Scientist/Academic	-	-	78	41	28
Temporary - Study/Training	400	386	746	729	889
Temporary - Tourist	2,119	1,029	574	16	-
Temporary - Work	240	300	5,941	6,051	4,260
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	782	896	728	663	739
Chile	441	512	579	457	532
China	6,558	5,233	3,673	3,809	2,975
Colombia	11,043	14,355	14,008	21,945	32,904
Cuba	9,094	4,833	3,078	2,330	2,213
Mexico	685	754	649	570	604
Panama	34	74	62	61	78
Peru	1,817	2,434	2,327	1,951	2,114
United States	2,680	2,735	2,573	2,309	2,957
Venezuela	8,682	12,336	23,229	43,018	55,089
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	7,483	6,152	4,680	5,265	4,678
Canada	251	281	357	313	380
Europe	3,601	3,356	3,054	2,901	3,280
IDB26	25,323	33,142	43,302	70,161	93,871
Other	334	484	510	478	556
OWH	9,100	4,837	3,082	2,334	2,223
USA	2,680	2,735	2,573	2,309	2,957




 Ecuador	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Permits granted to citizens of Ecuador in other LAC countries					
Argentina	3,301	3,784	3,687	3,007	2,690
Barbados	50	3	1	1	1
Bolivia	461	722	534	631	450
Brazil	1,113	1,057	1,027	981	960
Chile	6,374	7,261	10,805	11,973	8,988
Colombia	2,886	2,849	3,081	2,540	2,620
Costa Rica	125	110	121	74	103
El Salvador	19	24	17	38	44
Guatemala	-	-	38	29	16
Mexico	976	1,106	1,058	1,068	994
Panama	202	201	277	297	341
Paraguay	49	43	51	57	52
Peru	445	758	1,142	1,823	5,903
Suriname	1	1	2	-	-
Uruguay	22	28	22	6	28



 El Salvador	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Family Reunification	186	212	238	377	286
Permanent - Investment	-	-	2	1	-
Permanent - Other	6	116	232	293	458
Permanent - Religious	58	82	74	85	77
Permanent - Rentier	8	8	6	3	4
Permanent - Work	10	81	93	154	89
Temporary - Business Visitors	-	-	-	-	45
Temporary - Investment	6	1	23	-	3
Temporary - Other	113	107	134	211	122
Temporary - Religious	660	607	442	568	332
Temporary - Rentier	11	9	7	1	3
Temporary - Spouse/Dependent	243	339	350	334	404
Temporary - Study/Training	301	88	94	108	75
Temporary - Work	554	477	534	663	647



 El Salvador	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Belize	5	-	8	8	3
Chile	9	15	11	17	23
Colombia	166	176	162	245	234
Costa Rica	95	61	58	86	48
Guatemala	301	320	299	342	301
Honduras	216	278	317	379	354
Mexico	177	157	148	231	169
Nicaragua	207	217	273	371	427
Panama	35	45	55	41	39
Venezuela	50	63	109	156	132
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	99	115	136	141	143
Canada	24	11	9	18	17
Europe	185	137	124	167	158
IDB26	1,470	1,540	1,674	2,180	1,978
Other	13	12	19	17	18
OWH	37	38	38	38	56
USA	328	274	229	237	175
 Permits granted to citizens of El Salvador in other LAC countries					
Argentina	307	313	353	335	271
Barbados	-	3	3	-	-
Bolivia	66	51	51	50	42
Brazil	93	98	85	48	91
Chile	-	-	-	-	252
Colombia	255	351	359	371	343
Costa Rica	552	656	543	543	606
Ecuador	98	110	95	93	145
Guatemala	-	-	175	36	361
Mexico	2,675	5,141	7,203	8,088	8,035
Panama	272	326	623	729	1,299
Paraguay	26	12	10	11	23
Peru	38	52	48	57	117
Uruguay	4	9	14	16	36





 Mexico	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Asylum/Refugee	773	2,821	2,905	1,327	-
Permanent - Family Reunification	16,530	16,030	16,403	19,142	16,945
Permanent - Humanitarian	606	1,958	3,195	5,732	6,915
Permanent - Other	3,536	6,489	6,541	4,505	4,759
Permanent - Retired	5,057	2,853	1,186	3,187	3,080
Permanent - Work	8,668	8,566	5,312	5,721	6,017
Temporary - Asylum/Refugee	114	555	1,297	654	-
Temporary - Family Reunification	15,230	13,468	15,909	15,387	12,041
Temporary - Humanitarian	1,470	3,956	9,623	17,715	38,054
Temporary - Other	4,857	8,829	11,488	11,052	8,667
Temporary - Retired	2,096	1,659	2,350	2,235	2,034
Temporary - Study/Training	6,836	4,314	3,723	6,120	5,654
Temporary - Work	39,908	38,887	38,305	32,369	24,328
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	3,471	3,378	2,737	2,910	2,598
Bolivia	438	394	443	476	413
Colombia	6,202	6,663	7,160	8,454	7,596
Cuba	6,072	6,622	8,502	6,712	7,068
El Salvador	2,675	5,141	7,203	8,088	8,035
Guatemala	18,572	17,996	16,387	15,417	15,255
Honduras	3,698	6,759	7,637	12,931	23,466
Spain	5,359	4,880	4,490	4,222	3,060
United States	14,169	13,427	13,136	12,795	11,344
Venezuela	6,531	7,854	12,258	17,533	16,074
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	13,453	12,802	11,712	11,034	9,957
Canada	3,239	3,079	2,803	2,814	2,536
Europe	16,525	15,436	14,492	13,374	10,437
IDB26	50,921	57,742	66,256	77,276	86,068
Other	1,280	1,254	1,310	1,119	1,068
OWH	6,094	6,645	8,528	6,734	7,084
USA	14,169	13,427	13,136	12,795	11,344





 Mexico	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Permits granted to citizens of Mexico in other LAC countries					
Argentina	1,678	1,442	1,530	1,493	1,361
Barbados	25	22	18	75	24
Bolivia	634	1,334	1,355	1,061	416
Brazil	1,711	1,452	1,255	1,262	1,260
Chile	1,608	1,346	1,485	1,202	1,063
Colombia	3,242	3,100	3,122	3,131	2,700
Costa Rica	438	285	423	306	299
Ecuador	685	754	649	570	604
El Salvador	177	157	148	231	169
Guatemala	-	-	10	13	43
Panama	707	623	631	726	755
Paraguay	23	56	44	60	40
Peru	823	1,051	1,095	1,702	3,845
Suriname	-	-	1	-	1
Uruguay	44	65	86	67	55




 Panama	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits					
Total	22,300	22,142	46,022	50,397	51,381
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Brazil	620	497	646	762	822
China	619	1,534	2,347	1,697	1,435
Colombia	2,902	3,295	6,996	6,632	9,483
Costa Rica	430	430	539	522	493
Dominican Republic	856	1,472	2,097	1,116	932
Mexico	707	623	631	726	755
Nicaragua	473	745	4,349	2,977	6,202
Spain	1,910	1,357	1,192	1,018	759
United States	995	1,097	1,390	1,308	1,004
Venezuela	6,501	4,881	17,799	24,923	21,450




 Panama	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	1,093	2,340	3,591	2,803	2,610
Canada	222	239	300	334	259
Europe	5,228	3,990	3,788	3,224	2,478
IDB26	14,431	14,047	36,415	41,943	44,226
Other	182	176	308	468	495
OWH	149	253	230	317	309
USA	995	1,097	1,390	1,308	1,004
 Permits granted to citizens of Panama in other LAC countries					
Argentina	142	130	121	121	112
Barbados	4	45	30	3	4
Bolivia	37	35	33	45	29
Brazil	50	65	61	43	35
Chile	131	131	186	141	149
Colombia	231	254	300	314	310
Costa Rica	493	128	159	164	151
Ecuador	34	74	62	61	78
El Salvador	35	45	55	41	39
Guatemala	-	-	4	-	2
Mexico	224	236	218	239	207
Paraguay	2	4	2	3	2
Peru	25	36	25	63	215
Suriname	5	5	5	-	-
Uruguay	4	2	12	8	3





 Paraguay	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - International agreements	295	449	1,302	1,285	1,422
Permanent - Other	4,819	5,721	7,060	9,122	11,623
Permanent - Regularisation	777	109	53	73	8
Temporary - International agreements	5,101	5,711	6,774	10,020	10,685
Temporary - Other	145	146	161	224	303
Temporary - Regularisation	14	27	4	-	-




 Paraguay	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	1,012	916	888	1,069	1,628
Bolivia	164	117	126	119	191
Brazil	7,491	8,483	11,104	16,079	17,776
Chile	123	117	102	108	159
Colombia	131	118	124	134	185
Germany	265	548	720	742	1,102
Mexico	23	56	44	60	40
Peru	194	119	120	123	181
Uruguay	308	285	401	398	603
Venezuela	34	92	182	219	499
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	415	354	585	598	467
Canada	17	14	27	33	21
Europe	726	1,018	1,181	1,309	1,716
IDB26	9,599	10,396	13,198	18,425	21,411
Other	60	70	69	51	80
OWH	153	163	97	78	84
USA	181	148	197	230	262
 Permits granted to citizens of Paraguay in other LAC countries					
Argentina	103,739	74,292	61,342	47,391	25,532
Bolivia	847	908	731	1,066	695
Brazil	4,706	3,027	3,086	2,856	3,152
Chile	1,559	1,421	1,589	1,615	1,368
Colombia	163	113	113	101	90
Costa Rica	19	12	15	7	14
Ecuador	65	106	86	53	63
El Salvador	6	2	12	6	9
Mexico	159	167	135	146	154
Panama	16	13	17	18	19
Peru	33	54	68	103	274
Suriname	-	-	-	1	-
Uruguay	43	50	37	30	28





 Peru	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration and Purpose					
Permanent - Immigrant	1,002	1,170	1,546	2,232	8,427
Permanent - Rentier	64	77	63	141	530
Permanent - Spouse/Dependent	1,011	1,432	4,040	8,758	9,790
Permanent - Work	345	581	321	342	782
Temporary - Artist	1,341	1,722	1,709	2,101	3,327
Temporary - Asylum/Refugee	3	4	2	1	3
Temporary - Athlete	-	-	-	2	-
Temporary - Family Reunification	-	1	-	-	2
Temporary - Humanitarian	196	1,502	14,951	145,375	59,566
Temporary - International agreements	30	63	154	326	237
Temporary - Investment	35	20	20	10	24
Temporary - Journalist	523	547	320	564	1,771
Temporary - Other	505	541	728	901	2,104
Temporary - Religious	360	265	290	589	2,057
Temporary - Scientist / Academic	1	1	165	472	1,328
Temporary - Special	122	1,116	33,045	132,365	23,705
Temporary - Study / Training	163	220	330	1,082	1,379
Temporary - Work	11,762	15,023	15,211	17,375	33,904
Temporary - International agreements	521	849	2,124	6,775	24,372
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	566	756	958	1,224	4,174
Bolivia	361	405	613	918	2,262
Brazil	1,355	2,059	1,944	2,551	6,518
Chile	1,010	1,189	1,365	1,963	6,787
Colombia	2,013	2,812	4,305	7,105	18,606
Ecuador	445	758	1,142	1,823	5,903
Mexico	823	1,051	1,095	1,702	3,845
Spain	976	1,470	1,499	2,022	4,701
United States	1,864	1,760	1,872	2,177	5,033
Venezuela	638	3,556	51,662	286,416	90,363
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	4,195	5,085	4,076	5,042	10,426
Canada	281	224	222	283	708

 Peru	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Europe	2,942	4,071	4,166	6,095	13,977
IDB26	7,733	13,141	63,586	304,364	140,288
Other	453	395	445	577	995
OWH	516	458	652	873	1,881
USA	1,864	1,760	1,872	2,177	5,033
 Permits granted to citizens of Peru in other LAC countries					
Argentina	29,672	23,585	20,270	16,638	10,043
Barbados	1	-	2	2	1
Bolivia	3,604	5,037	4,813	5,941	3,514
Brazil	4,201	3,317	3,277	3,055	3,170
Chile	59,768	53,624	63,598	62,100	41,343
Colombia	1,841	2,092	2,181	2,117	1,163
Costa Rica	141	86	115	105	138
Ecuador	1,817	2,434	2,327	1,951	2,114
El Salvador	32	50	42	59	50
Guatemala	-	-	-	1	1
Mexico	1,434	1,439	1,500	1,514	1,300
Panama	281	338	989	1,695	664
Paraguay	194	119	120	123	181
Suriname	1	1	1	5	1
Uruguay	59	94	82	61	52

 Suriname	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration					
Permanent	1,607	1,607	4,182	841	995
Temporary	1,445	1,446	2,563	1,514	1,849
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Brazil	759	759	901	574	488
China	419	419	1,102	305	428
Croatia	1	1	2,087	1	-
Guyana	508	508	718	252	264
Haiti	84	84	682	18	761

 Suriname	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Malaysia	28	28	27	186	81
Netherlands	862	863	678	526	550
Philippines	90	90	96	133	-
Venezuela	1	1	15	51	19
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	594	594	1,321	699	573
Canada	2	2	3	6	8
Europe	920	925	2,836	581	599
IDB26	1,380	1,379	2,354	914	1,550
Other	25	22	39	29	16
OWH	92	92	163	87	75
USA	39	39	29	39	23
 Permits granted to citizens of Suriname in other LAC countries					
Argentina	-	-	1	3	-
Barbados	4	7	10	3	7
Bolivia	2	2	96	2	-
Brazil	15	10	10	10	11
Chile	5	4	3	-	-
Colombia	7	3	11	16	4
Costa Rica	-	-	1	-	-
Ecuador	-	-	1	1	-
Mexico	1	-	2	1	1
Peru	-	-	1	2	4

 Uruguay	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Total Residence Permits - By Duration					
Permanent	632	1,480	1,287	1,283	1,699
Temporary	1,073	1,702	1,689	1,537	1,632
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Argentina	234	343	411	200	235
Bolivia	22	31	27	13	19

 Uruguay	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
 Top 10 Countries of Origin					
Brazil	128	269	173	147	191
Chile	40	71	71	46	40
Dominican Republic	118	682	313	264	177
Ecuador	22	28	22	6	28
Mexico	44	65	86	67	55
Paraguay	43	50	37	30	28
Peru	59	94	82	61	52
Venezuela	43	79	166	49	38
 Total Permits by Region of Origin					
Asia	134	314	365	521	620
Canada	8	12	14	4	11
Europe	428	480	451	461	290
IDB26	814	1,832	1,536	1,002	1,006
Other	22	40	21	29	45
OWH	113	279	447	532	1,156
USA	186	225	142	271	203
 Permits granted to citizens of Uruguay in other LAC countries					
Argentina	4,820	4,147	3,170	2,735	1,784
Bolivia	118	248	203	138	117
Brazil	4,493	4,587	4,132	5,597	4,458
Chile	1,073	858	970	1,037	997
Colombia	196	244	269	209	230
Costa Rica	27	14	23	19	23
Ecuador	148	127	147	106	123
El Salvador	6	7	14	13	21
Guatemala	-	-	-	-	1
Mexico	415	356	333	332	294
Panama	69	73	92	85	76
Paraguay	308	285	401	398	603
Peru	67	95	113	143	531
Suriname	-	-	1	1	-

