

Jan. 2013 Moroccan Immigration to France

Since World War I, Morocco has been one of France's main sources of labour, and in 2010, according to INED, the Moroccan immigrant population in France numbered 663,502, second only in size to the Algerian immigrant population.

Along with the French colonization of Algeria in 1830 came new migration patterns within the Maghreb region, with the increasing demand for wage labourers on French colonists' farms. However, it was during WWI that this urgent need came from France itself, with active recruitment of tens of thousands of men for the army, industry and mines. While many of these men returned to Morocco, this acted as a precedent for labour demands during the post war period, and then during WWII (and later in Korea and Indochina), where 126,000 Moroccan men served in the French army.

Moroccan immigration to France dropped both after Morocco won her independence from France in 1956, and during the Oil Crisis of 1973, due to political tensions and decreased labour supply. However, with France's *Regroupement Familial* put into place in 1974, the Moroccan population in France once again increased. The European Community's movement towards the implementation of stricter immigration policies in the 1990's increased the number of undocumented immigrants to France, and also led to the diversification of migration destinations, primarily to those countries (such as Italy and Spain) with easy access for clandestine migrants.

Since the 1970s, this migration has been viewed as less temporary, and efforts to discourage integration (such as the imams and Arabic teachers sent abroad by the Moroccan government) have been abandoned.

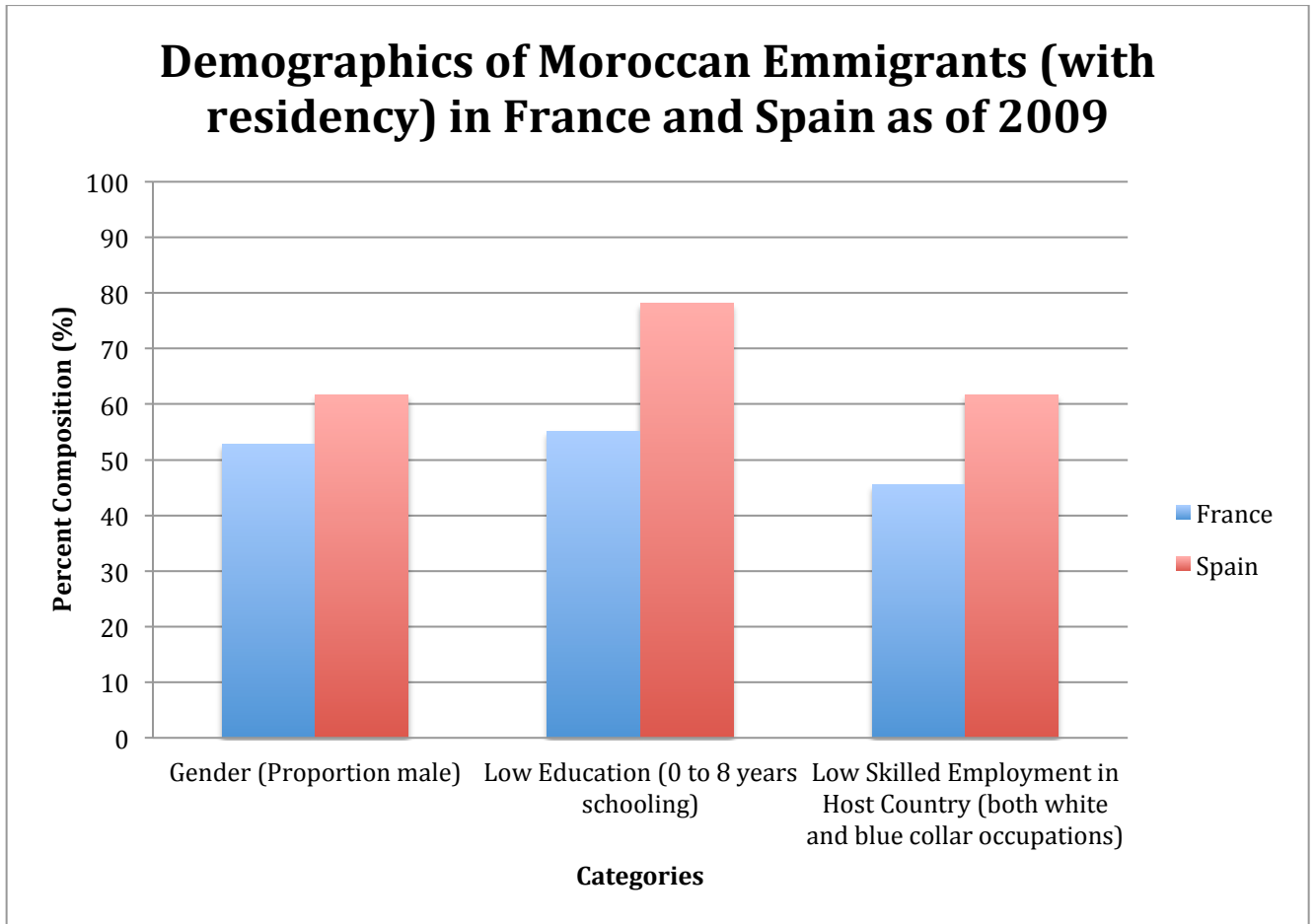
Currently, France has the highest population of Moroccan immigrants abroad, with a fairly equal gender split (52.8% male). Approximately half of these immigrants tend to have a low level of education (55.1%), with 45.5% employed in low skilled jobs.

Moroccan Immigration to Spain

With France's implementation of stricter immigration policies in the late 20th century, Spain has become increasingly popular as destination for Moroccan immigrants. Despite the fact that this shift in migration patterns only happened fairly recently, in 2005, Spain was only second to France in the size of her legal Moroccan immigrant population.

While originally an exporter of labourers, rather than an importer of labourers, Spain's high economic growth in the 1990's increased demand for cheap labour in sectors such as agriculture and construction, leading to a rise in Spain's popularity as an immigration destination. As the EU tightened visa requirements to enter the Schengen zone, the number of undocumented immigrants to Spain began to rise, with two main gateways of entry; either by sneaking over the walls into Melilla or Ceuta, two Spanish territories in Morocco, or by crossing the Strait of Gibraltar in small boats known as patera.

Even without including the number of clandestine migrants, in 2007, Spain held the highest annual growth rates of immigrant flow, increasing 63.7% from 1998 to 2007, and this Spanish Moroccan immigrant population continues to grow even today. The composition of this population is quite different to that of France, with a higher ratio of men to women (61.7% male), as well as a higher proportion of immigrants with low education and low-skilled employment in Spain (78.1%, and 61.7% respectively). However, CARIM attributes the differences in these statistics to the recentness of Spain as a main destination for Moroccan immigrants.



This information is extracted from the CARIM – Migration Profile for Morocco.

BARTOLOMEO, Anna, Tamirace FAKHOURY, and Delphine PERRIN. "CARIM - Migration Profile." *Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies*. CARIM, 11/2009 Web. 23 Jan 2013.
 <http://lms.dickinson.edu/file.php/21040/CARIM_Migration_Profile_Morocco_EN.pdf>.

Works Cited:

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