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# Ceuta, the Canary Islands and the routes to Spain

**6,194**

**Arrivals in the Canary Islands, Atlantic route, October 2026 (1,221 in October 2025)**

UNHCR, Spain Arrivals Snapshot October 2026, 10 November 2026

**32,942**

**Arrivals in Spain by sea and land, January to October 2026, 9% more than in 2025**

UNHCR, Spain Arrivals Snapshot October 2026, 10 November 2026

**856**

**Dead or missing, Atlantic route, 1 Jan to 19 Nov 2026 (937 in same days of 2025)**

IOM Missing Migrants Project, 19 November 2026

**57,880**

**First-time asylum applicants in Spain, January to August 2026**

Eurostat, August 2026

Source: PRISM, from the sources each figure names
**prismonitor.eu**

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# The Situation, November 2026

**More than 70,000 people entered Ceuta from Morocco on 30 and 31 July 2026 (Euronews, 11 October 2026). Spain's Ministry of the Interior counted 44,238 irregular entries into Spain from 1 January to 15 November 2026, against 31,742 in the same period of 2025, and its count leaves out the entries into Ceuta on 30 and 31 July (Spain's Ministry of the Interior via Europa Press, 16 November 2026). The Cabildo of El Hierro declared a social emergency after more than 8,000 people reached the island in 5 weeks (RTVE, 7 November 2026).**

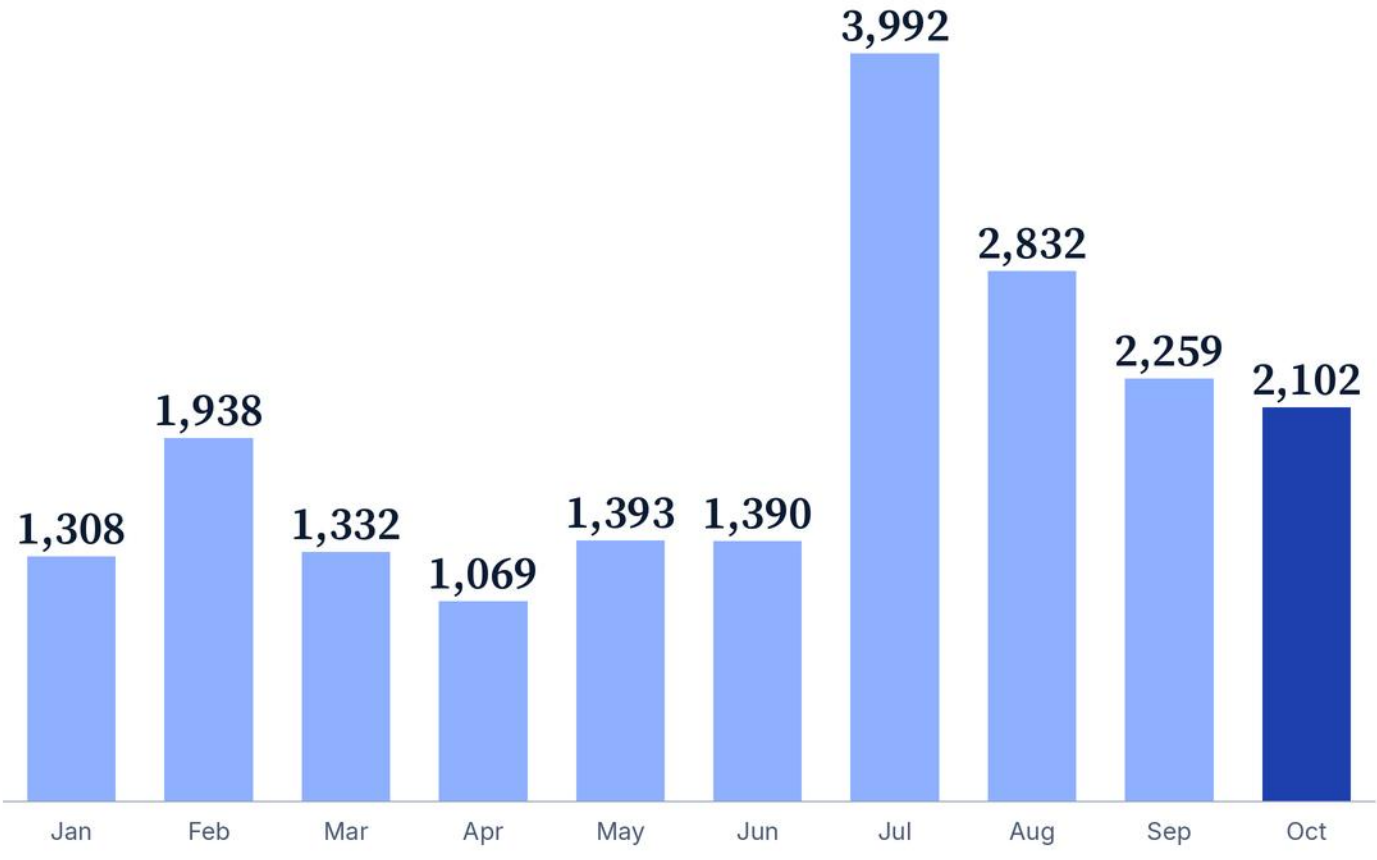
# Arrivals and Deaths at Sea

- **Canary Islands.** 6,194 people arrived in the Canary Islands in October 2026, against 1,970 in September 2026 and 1,221 in October 2025 (UNHCR, Spain Arrivals Snapshot October 2026).
- **Spain.** From January to October 2026, 13,327 people arrived in the Canary Islands, 7,188 in the Balearic Islands, 4,078 in Ceuta and 734 in Melilla (UNHCR, Spain Arrivals Snapshot October 2026).
- **Atlantic route.** 856 people died or went missing on the Atlantic route from 1 January to 19 November 2026, against 937 in the same days of 2025, and 474 on the Western Mediterranean route, against 408 (IOM Missing Migrants Project).
- **The Gambia.** 26 people died or went missing on the Atlantic route in October 2026, and 18 of them drowned off Jinack Kajata, The Gambia, on 13 October (IOM Missing Migrants Project).

Source: given in each sentence; the list is at the end

# Arrivals in Spain on the Western Mediterranean Route by Month

People arriving by sea and land in mainland Spain, the Balearic Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, January to October 2026




Source: UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Mediterranean situation, November 2026

# Border Practices

R15 FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND RESTRICTED MOVEMENT · R01 ABDUCTION AND ARBITRARY DETENTION

- **Ceuta.** 16,475 returns, removals and expulsions from Ceuta had been counted since 30 July, and 15,692 of them were voluntary returns to Morocco, Minister Elma Saiz said on 17 November (Europa Press, 17 November 2026).
- **Algeciras.** Spain's National Police had returned 227 Moroccan nationals held in the Algeciras detention centre to Morocco through Ceuta's Tarajal crossing by 23 October (Hespress English, 15 November 2026).
- **Senegal.** Spain will keep its surveillance aircraft over Senegal's coast until 20 December, later than the 5 December first planned, Minister Ángel Víctor Torres said on 24 November (RTVC, 24 November 2026).
- **Spain.** 17,100 third-country nationals were ordered to leave Spain from January to June 2026, and 3,350 were returned from Spain after an order to leave (Eurostat).

Source: given in each sentence; the list is at the end

# Reception Conditions

R03 FAMILY SEPARATION

- **Ceuta.** Ceuta's protection system had 3,767 children in its care on 17 November, and 361 children had been moved to the mainland, 205 of them under the Aliens Law mechanism (Europa Press, 17 November 2026).
- **Canary Islands.** About 3,325 unaccompanied children were in the Canary Islands on 23 November, 427% above regional reception capacity, the Canary Islands Government said (Europa Press, 23 November 2026).
- **Spain.** Spain issued 134,905 first-instance asylum decisions from July 2025 to June 2026, 59.9% of them positive, and 236,875 people had applications pending in Spain at the end of June 2026 (Eurostat).
- **Spain.** 1,910 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Spain from July 2025 to June 2026 (Eurostat).

Source: given in each sentence; the list is at the end

# Political Debate

- **Interministerial Commission.** Spain's Interministerial Immigration Commission approved €5 million of immediate aid for El Hierro and the Canary Health Service on 17 November (Europa Press, 17 November 2026).
- **Canary Islands Government.** President Fernando Clavijo proposed on 11 November that Spain request Frontex, EUAA, Civil Protection and EU solidarity funds for El Hierro (RTVC, 11 November 2026).
- **European Commission.** The European Commission proposed on 28 October to raise Frontex's standing corps to 30,000 officers and to create a Quick Reaction Force, citing the crisis in Ceuta (European Commission, 28 October 2026).
- **Spanish Government.** Pedro Sánchez, Spain's President, said on 18 November that he had spoken with Senegal's President Faye and that Spain needs much more intense cooperation on departures to El Hierro (Europa Press, 18 November 2026).

Source: given in each sentence; the list is at the end

# Protection and International Law

R15 FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND RESTRICTED MOVEMENT

- **Audiencia Nacional.** Judge María Tardón of the Audiencia Nacional ruled on 28 October that the government must declassify within 15 days all intelligence reports on the entry into Ceuta of 30 and 31 July (Euronews, 28 October 2026).
- **Ceuta.** Asociación Elín said the National Police returned a Yemeni asylum seeker from Ceuta to Morocco with an appeal pending, and the Interior Ministry later accepted an Audiencia Nacional interim measure (El Faro de Ceuta, 29 October 2026).
- **Lanzarote.** At least 7 people died on a boat Salvamento Marítimo rescued off Arrecife, Lanzarote, on 2 November, and survivors said 5 were thrown overboard; the source names no one responsible (RTVC, 2 November 2026).
- **Spain.** PRISM's protection register holds 6 entries for Spain from 8 September to 6 November 2026, and 3 of them record forced displacement and restricted movement (PRISM protection register, 6 November 2026).

Source: given in each sentence; the list is at the end

# Sources


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- UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Mediterranean situation, Spain arrivals, November 2026
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- Euronews, Madrid court gives government 15 days to declassify intelligence reports, 28 October 2026
- Europa Press, Irregular migrant arrivals in Spain rise 39.4% in 2026, 16 November 2026
- Europa Press, Government counts 5,000 migrants in temporary facilities in Ceuta, 17 November 2026
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- RTVE, El Hierro declares emergency after five weeks of arrivals, 7 November 2026
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- RTVC, Clavijo asks Spain to activate European resources, 11 November 2026
- RTVC, Third meeting between the Canary Islands and the State on the migration crisis, 24 November 2026
- Hespress English, Spain resumes returning Moroccan migrants from Algeciras detention centre through Ceuta, 15 November 2026
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- PRISM protection register, Spain entries, 6 November 2026


**PRISM follows arrivals in Ceuta and the Canary Islands and the policies along the routes to Spain: prismonitor.eu/issues**