

# RECENT EXTRA-REGIONAL, INTRA-REGIONAL AND EXTRA-CONTINENTAL MIGRATION TRENDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

## EXTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION

In recent years, there has been an increase in migration flows from the Caribbean, Asian and African countries towards South America.

### Main characteristics

Increase in numbers of extra-regional migrants, with notable flows from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa.

These migrants are more vulnerable compared to regional migrants due to challenges with accessing regular migration status (and subsequently protected work), along with language and cultural barriers, among others.

South America is a transit region (United States of America being as final destination) and also a final destination region.

## CARIBBEAN MIGRATION

In the recent years there has been an increase in the presence of Caribbean nationals in the region, mainly originating from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba.



### South America is a region of both, transit and destination for migrants from the Caribbean:

There is a significant presence of citizens from Haiti and Cuba transiting Colombia in route to the United States of America. The municipality of Turbo (Antioquia, Colombia) on the border with Panama is one of the areas with major numbers of migrants in transit.

There is a notable increase in residence permits, humanitarian visas and special amnesties issued through regular channels.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the recent years, the Dominican emigration has expanded beyond its historical destination in the region – Venezuela - towards the southernmost countries in the continent.

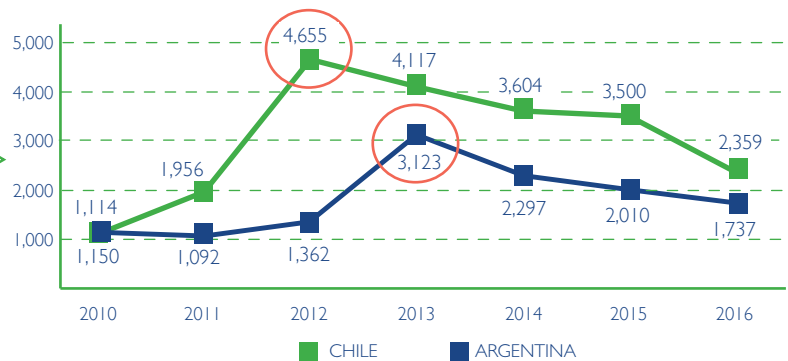
### Argentina, Chile and Uruguay

A consular visa was imposed in Chile and Argentina in 2012 and in Uruguay in 2014.

## Residence permits issued to Dominican Republic nationals

The number of Dominican Republic nationals in **Argentina**<sup>1</sup> and **Chile**<sup>2</sup> has increased, a trend that dates back to the 1990s in Argentina and mid-2000 in Chile. In the period of 2010 - 2016, approximately 35,000 residence permits were issued. However, a sustained decrease has been noted since 2012 in Chile and 2013 in Argentina.

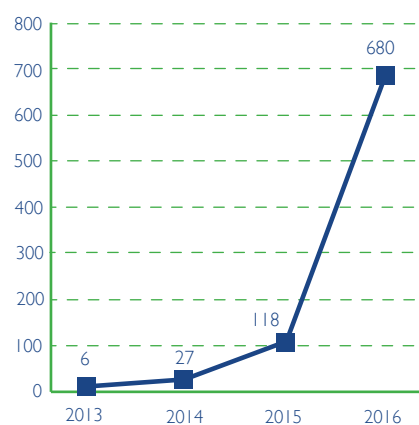
EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE



Flows of Dominican Republic citizens have been the most dynamic ones in **Uruguay**, in recent years.

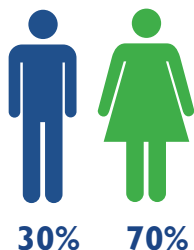
Since 2013, a total of 831 residence permits have been issued.<sup>3</sup> The last inter-annual variation was almost 600 per cent. In the 2012 - 2015 period 2,544 Identity Cards were issued. The cards are an identification document issued prior to residence requests. More than half of such ID cards were issued to women, highlighting the female profile of the Dominican population (MIDES, 2017).<sup>4</sup>

EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NATIONALS IN URUGUAY



## Gender of Dominican migrants

In **Chile**, **70 per cent** of all permanent residence permits issued between 2005 and 2015 were granted to **women**.



In **Argentina**, while the pattern continues to be characterised by larger share of female migrants, there is an increase in presence of male migrants, families and children. This indicates the beginning of a more gender balanced pattern.<sup>5</sup>



## Labor integration of Dominican migrants

In **Chile**,<sup>6</sup> a clear gender segmentation is noted in the job market. Dominican women mainly engage in domestic and care services work. There are cases also of work in bars, nightclubs and related establishments and an emerging of small businesses in areas such as beauty salons, clothing and hairdressing.

While for men, labour integration is more related in the field of construction – mainly as electricians and manual labourers.

In **Argentina**,<sup>7</sup> the most significant change in recent years has been noted in the increased participation of Dominican women in areas such as hairdressing, domestic work, child and elderly care, retail and the food industry. Such integration is attributed to longer periods of permanence in country, better knowledge of employment opportunities and stronger kinship and friendship networks.

## HAITI

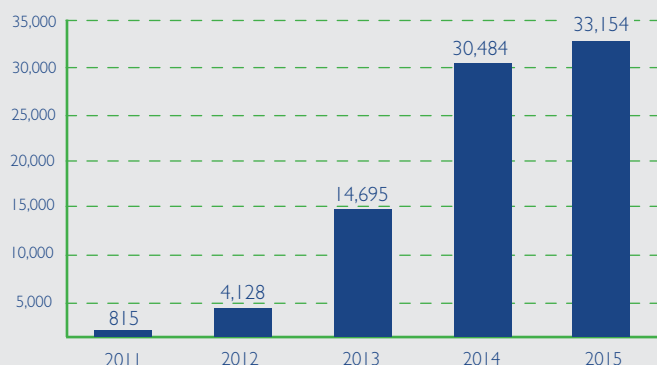
The economic crises in Haiti, along with natural disasters, have driven migration to various destinations in South America. In response to this situation, some countries have provided amnesties and specific measures for regularization: amnesty in Ecuador (2010) and humanitarian visas issued in Brazil (2012) and Argentina (2017).

### Brazil

This country is the main destination for Haitians in South America.<sup>8</sup>

Haitian nationals have exponentially increased their participation in the formal Brazilian labour market. Haitians engaged in regular employment passed from 815 in 2011 to over 30,000 in 2015. They currently occupy the first position among migrants, predominantly among men.

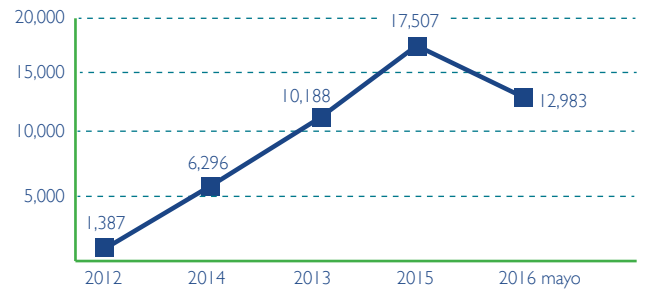
HAITIANS ENGAGED IN FORMAL LABOUR IN BRAZIL



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on the Social Information Annual Report (RAIS) / Ministry of Labour, Brazil.

Approximately 70,000 residence permits were issued in the period 2010 – 2016. As of 2012, and with the establishment of a humanitarian visa system, 48,361 visas were granted through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More than 40,000 permits were issued in Port-au-Prince through the Brazil Visa Application Centre (BVAC) administered by IOM. The Brazilian Consulates in Quito and Santo Domingo issued 7,815 and 152 visas, respectively.

### EVOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN VISAS

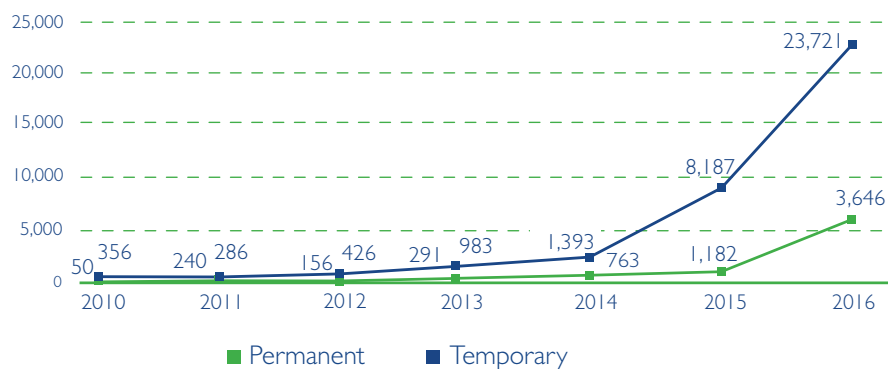


Source: Elaborated by the authors based on data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

## Chile

More than 40,000 residence permits were issued in Chile, during 2010 - 2016. The last inter-annual variation is noteworthy, considering the number of residences granted, tripled. Likewise, visa applications rose from 8,419 in 2015 to 35,277 in 2016.

### EVOLUTION OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS IN CHILE

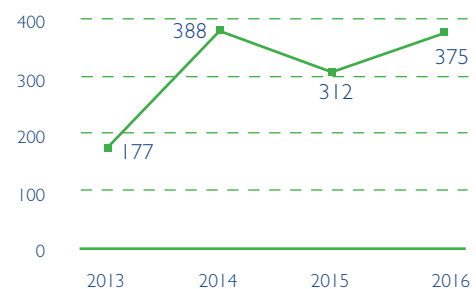


## Colombia

In 2016, **Colombia**<sup>9</sup> identified **20,366** Haitian nationals in irregular condition, making them the largest migrant group in such situation.

Between 2013 and 2016, there was an increase in the number of visas granted, which reached its highest peak in 2014.

### EVOLUTION OF VISAS FOR HAITIAN MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on data from Migration Colombia.

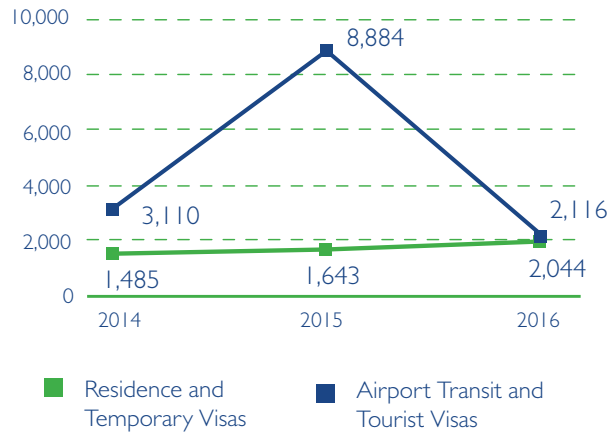
## CUBA

In the recent years, there has been a growing presence of Cuban nationals in some countries in South America, which is both a region of transit and a destination, with more than 50,000 residence permits issued.

### Colombia

Over the past three years, **Colombia** has issued **5,172** residence and temporary visas (2014-2016), with a sustained increase noted for such visas. At the same time, **14,110** airport transit and tourist visas were issued.

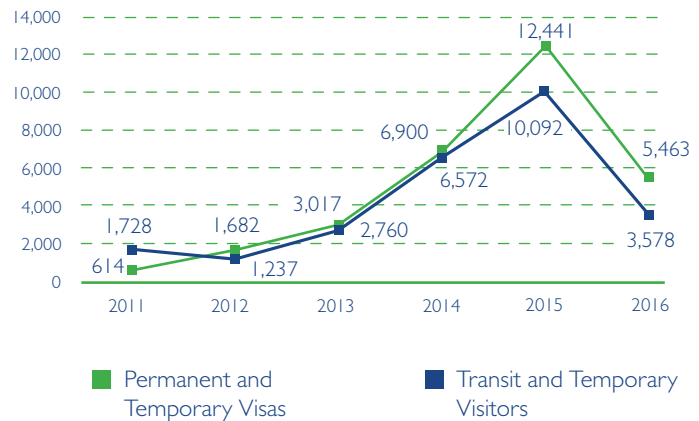
EVOLUTION OF VISAS FOR CUBAN MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA



### Ecuador

**Ecuador**<sup>10</sup> issued **30,117** residence and temporary visas during the 2011 – 2016 period. In parallel, **25,967** visas were issued to transit passengers and temporary visitors. As of 1 December 2015, Ecuador requests a tourist visa for Cuban nationals. Subsequently, a decrease in entries is noted.

EVOLUTION OF VISAS FOR CUBAN MIGRANTS IN ECUADOR



Permanent  
Visas

**62%**

Temporary  
Visas

**38%**

**49.9%**



**50.1%**



# INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION

## RECENT VENEZUELAN MIGRATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Migration dynamics in South America have traditionally been marked by intra- and extra-regional patterns. In recent years, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has seen changes in its migration dynamics, with a decrease in immigration and increased emigration to other countries within the region and the world.

Since the 1980s, there has been an increase in the emigration of Venezuelans to developed countries. In recent years, flows to traditional destinations have intensified as well as towards new destinations in the region and the world.

### Concentration of Venezuelan emigration

United States of America, Colombia and Spain

More than half a million people

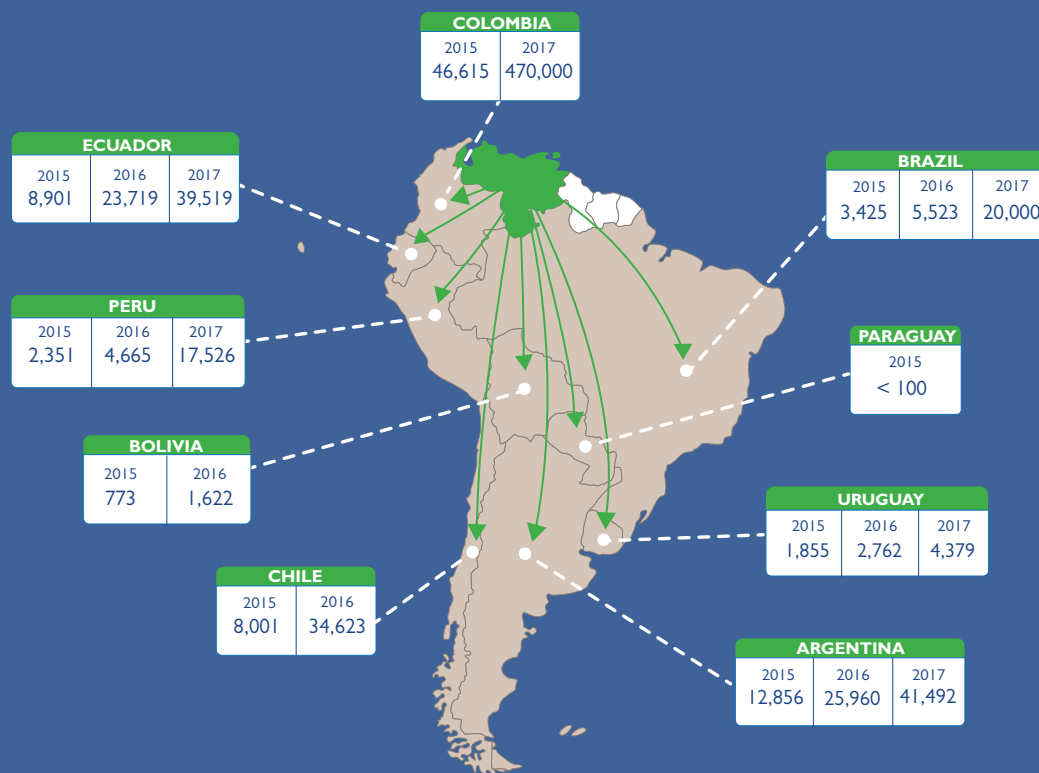
### Increase in flows towards historical destinations

United States of America, Spain, Italy, Colombia

### Diversification towards other destinations

Panama, Caribbean Islands, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, among others

### OVERVIEW OF SOUTH AMERICA 2015/2017\* ESTIMATES



According to updated information based on available official sources (such as population statistics, migration registers and estimates), the map shows the approximate Venezuelan migrant stock in selected countries.

**2015: 84,777**

**2017: 629,261** (This figure includes data for 2017 for all South American countries except for Bolivia and Chile, where 2016 data is used)

\*\* Estimates based on authors' elaboration for 2016 and 2017 do not include refugees or asylum seekers. Due to limitations in information sources, it is difficult to quantify irregular migration as well as transit population.

\*\*Elaborated by the authors based on National Censuses and permanent residence permits issued.

\*\*\*Elaborated by the authors based on the 2015 figure and including residence permits that have since been issued.

\*\*\*\*Official record up to June 2016

See page 8.

**Colombia:**  
2015: 46,615 (UN DESA 2015)  
2017: 470,000 (Data released on 26 October 2017 by Migration Colombia. Comprises 202,000 regular Venezuelan nationals)

**Brazil:**  
2015: 3,425 (UN DESA 2015)  
June 2016\*\*\*\*: 5,523 (SINCRE Brazil)  
October 2017: 20,000 (Estimate based on data from the Federal police)

**Ecuador:**  
2015: 8,901 (UN DESA 2015)  
2016\*\*\*: 23,719  
2017\*\*\*: 39,519

**Peru:**  
2015: 2,351 (National Superintendence of Migration)  
2016\*\*\*: 4,665 (National Superintendence of Migration)  
August 2017\*\*\*: 17,526 (National Superintendence of Migration)

**Chile:**  
2015: 8,001 (Estimate of the Foreigners and Migration Department)  
2016\*\*\*: 34,623

**Argentina:**  
2015\*\*: 12,856  
2016\*\*\*: 25,960  
June 2017\*\*\*: 41,492

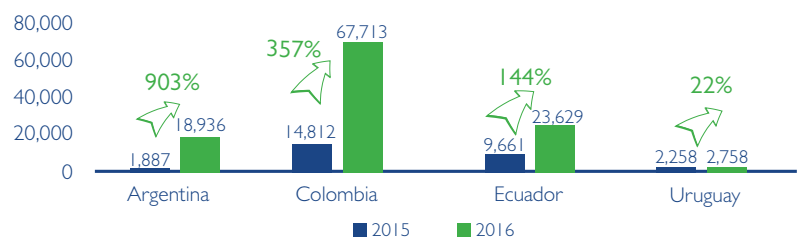
**Uruguay:**  
2015\*\*: 1,855  
2016\*\*\*: 2,762  
July 2017\*\*\*: 4,379

**Bolivia:**  
2015: 773 (UN DESA 2015)  
2016\*\*\*: 1,622

**Paraguay:**  
2015: Less than 100 (UN DESA 2015)

There has been an increase of Venezuelans arriving in South American countries in recent years. This dynamic is confirmed by a demonstrated increase in the number of entries as well as difference between entries and exits of these nationals. For instance, this difference in **Peru** was **32,813** between **January** and **July 2017**.

DIFFERENCES AND INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE IN 2015/2016



## MIGRATION MECHANISMS IMPLEMENTED

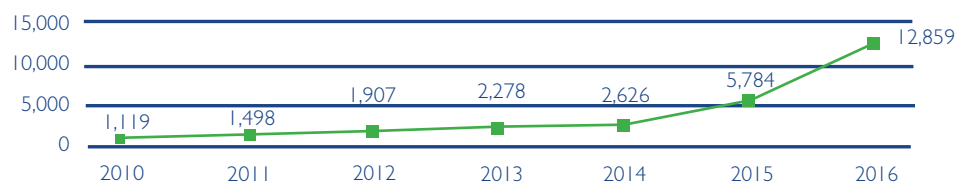
Venezuelans have benefited by the approval of normative instruments which grant them legal residence in the following countries in the region:

### ARGENTINA

#### Law 25.871/2004

Apart from the residence permits issued through usual criteria (employment, family reunification, etc.), Argentina also applies the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of the States Parties and Associated States of MERCOSUR to Venezuelan citizens.\*

NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO VENEZUELAN NATIONALS

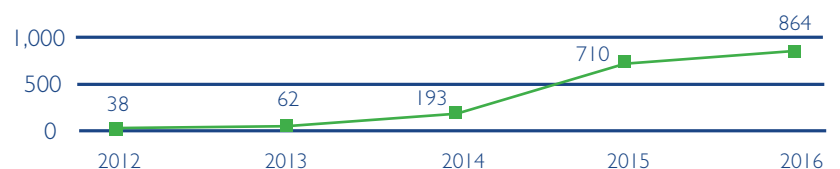


### URUGUAY

#### Law 19.254/2014

Uruguay granted legal residence (temporary and permanent) to Venezuelans through the application of the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of the States Parties and Associated States of MERCOSUR. Since 2014, Uruguay grants directly Permanent Residence to nationals of the members States of MERCOSUR including Venezuelans.

NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO VENEZUELAN NATIONALS



### PERU

#### Supreme Decree 23/2017

In January 2017, Peru introduced a specific "Temporary Residence Permit" in benefit of Venezuelans. 14,291 Venezuelans received the TPP during the period of February - August 2017. 9,000 scheduled appointments remain pending up to January 2018.

### BRAZIL

#### CNIg Resolution 126/2017

In March 2017, the National Council of Immigration (CNIg) introduced a MERCOSUR temporary residence visa (valid for 2 years). As of November 2017, 3,015 of these temporary permits have been issued.

\* This Agreement is pending Venezuela's accession.

In July 2017, Colombia implemented a Special Permit of Permanence (SPP) for Venezuelan citizens. Since that moment and up to October, approximately 67,000 SPPs have been issued to Venezuelan citizens.

### Border Mobility Card (BMC)

This document was created to facilitate mobility in border areas. As of 30 October 2017, the Border Mobility Card has been approved for 1,002,576 Venezuelans. It happens in a context of circular migration of citizens who reside in the border areas and who move habitually between the two countries, some even registering several entries and exits per day.

## CASE STUDY: BRAZIL

There is an increase of Venezuelan citizens entering to Brazil in the past two years, through Roraima State – a land border with Venezuela. In fact, a large part of residence and asylum applications were requested in the State of Roraima. According to a recent OBMigra<sup>11</sup> report, most non-indigenous Venezuelans enter the Pacaraima territory by bus. This is a predominantly young population (72% are in 20 - 39 age group), and characterised by male profile (63%). They also have a good level of education (78% have completed their secondary education and 32% have completed university and graduate studies).



The presence of the indigenous Warao people has also been observed, with an increase recorded in 2017, particularly in the States of Roraima, Amazonas and Pará. The Immigrant Reference Centre in the city of Boa Vista, established in November 2016, shelters approximately 500 people, all of which belong to the Warao ethnic group (data from November 2017). In the border city of Pacaraima, around 200 indigenous people have been housed in a recently opened shelter.

In March 2017, the Civil House of the Presidency of the Republic established a Crisis Working Group aiming to coordinate actions and design a plan for migration related challenges in Roraima. IOM together with UNHCR, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies have provided technical assistance.

Between March and October 2017, 3,015 temporary residence permits were issued through CNlg Resolution 126. In July, by month's end, a judicial ruling exempted persons of insufficient resources from the paying a migration tax. Of the total number of temporary residence applicants, 2,275 were initiated in the State of Roraima.

Brazil is the South American country with the largest number of asylum seekers. According to the Federal Police, 13,271 applications were initiated in 2017, a much higher number than in 2016 (3,373) and 2015 (829). Most of these were initiated in the State of Roraima.



# EXTRA-CONTINENTAL MIGRATION

## AFRICAN AND ASIAN MIGRATION

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, there was a significant increase in migration from Africa and Asia. Such phenomenon is noted in a context of increasingly restrictive policies in traditional destination countries, along with visa liberalization in some South American nations.<sup>12</sup>

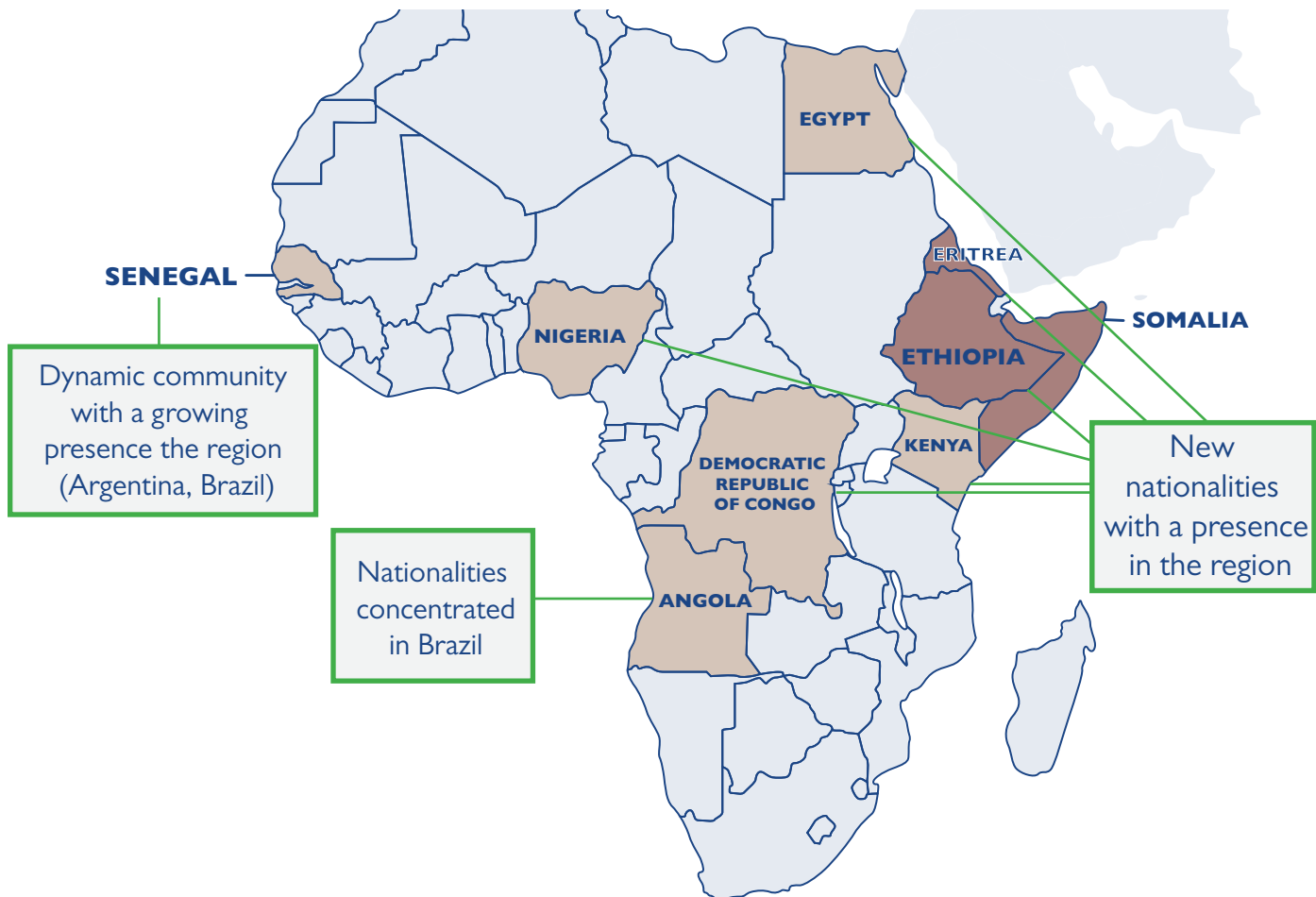
Some of these migrants have settled permanently in the region, as it is demonstrated by the number of residence permits issued. However, part of them, travelling either by air or sea, use various countries in South and Central America as transit points, in their journey towards a final destination<sup>13</sup> in United States of America and Canada.

## AFRICAN MIGRATION

Although not significant in quantitative terms, in some countries of the region, African migration is characterized by greater visibility and high levels of vulnerability (challenges in accessing regular migration status and subsequently access to protected work as well as language barriers, cultural differences, etc.).

These flows include economic migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, etc.

New nationalities within African migration towards the region been noted, such as: from countries in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea), Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt, among others.



## Brazil

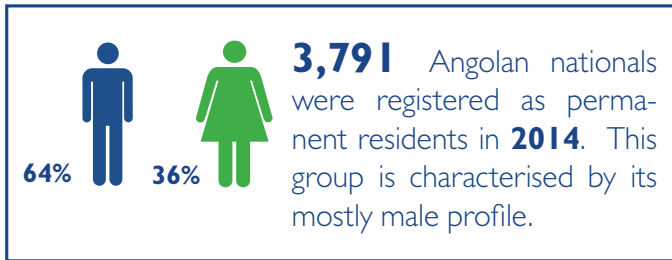


Constant increase in 2011-2014: Almost **15,000** residence permits issued African countries' nationals.

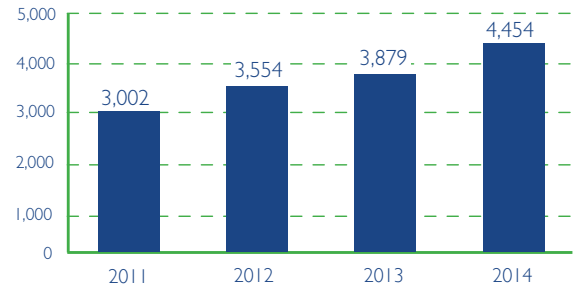


## ANGOLA

This community is highly concentrated in Brazil, representing the first African community with permanent residence status.



## EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN BRAZIL



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on OAS/ IOM (2017)

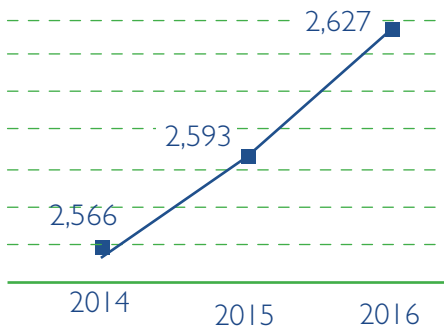
The majority asylum seekers in Brazil originate from **Africa**, highlighting nationals from Senegal, Nigeria, Angola, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In February 2017, 972 humanitarian visas were issued to citizens of Ghana and Senegal who had sought asylum and were residing in the **States of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo**.

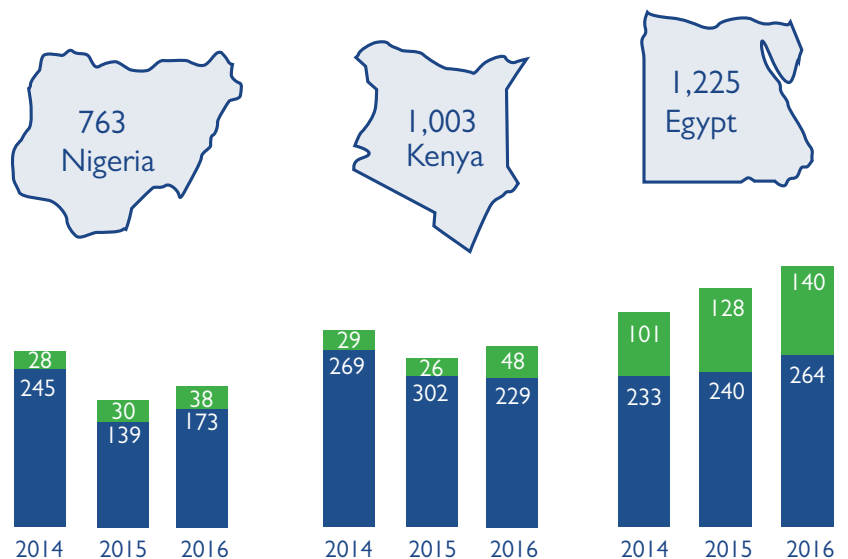
## Colombia

Between 2014 and 2016, 7,786 visas were issued to African countries' nationals (temporary and permanent residences, transit visas, tourism, etc.).

## EVOLUTION OF VISAS ISSUED TO MIGRANTS ORIGINATING FROM AFRICA IN COLOMBIA



## Main nationalities



■ Permanent and Temporary Visas

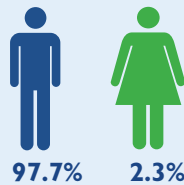
■ Transit and Temporary Visitors

## Argentina

In 2016, approximately one thousand five hundred residence permits (1,451) were issued to African countries' nationals.

Argentina issued **4,747** residence permits to Senegalese citizens during the period of 2010-2015, most of them issued through a "**Special Regularization Scheme for Senegalese Foreigners**" (DNM Regulation 2/13 and successive extensions).

A predominantly male profile  
(4,637 males, 110 females)

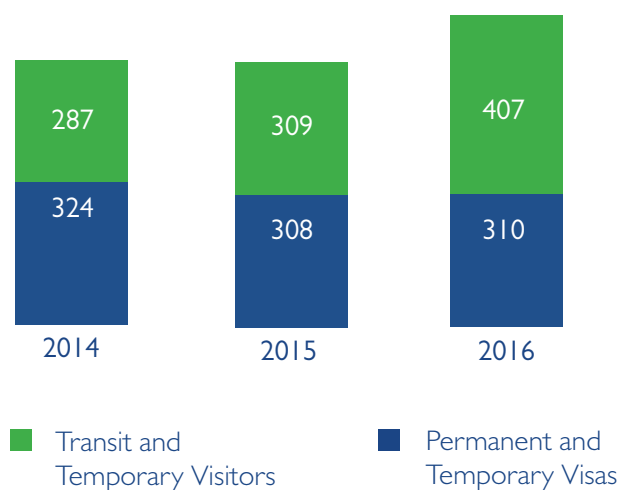


## Ecuador

The number African countries' nationals in Ecuador increased between 2014 and 2016, with almost 2 thousand (1,945) visas issued, of which, 52 per cent correspond to Temporary and Permanent permits. As in the case of Colombia, the main countries of origin were Nigeria, Kenya and Egypt.

Ecuador re-imposed tourist visas (Ecuador had implemented visa liberalization in 2008) for nationals from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia in 2010, and Senegal in 2015.

### EVOLUTION OF VISAS ISSUED TO AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN ECUADOR BY CATEGORY



## ASIAN MIGRATION

There has been a longstanding migration of populations from **Asia** (particularly from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) in the region. Today, Chinese and Korean migration continues to be dynamic and with varying degrees of increment in some countries as validated by the increase in number of residence permits issued.

The largest Asian community in the region is from **China**. During 2016, more than 15,000 residence permits (temporary and permanent) were issued in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, representing the largest group of Asian nationals to receive residence permits in those countries.

There is a small presence of new and non-traditional Asian countries' nationals in the region, such as from: **Bangladesh, India, Pakistan** and **Nepal**, among others.

The emigration of nationals from the **Republic of Korea** has witnessed an upsurge in recent years in some of the region's countries.

Recent arrivals of nationals from the **Syrian Arab Republic** because of the armed conflict.

**Japan** accounts for one of the oldest and most significant migration flows to Brazil (86,541 registered nationals) representing the third largest foreign community (following Portugal and Bolivia).



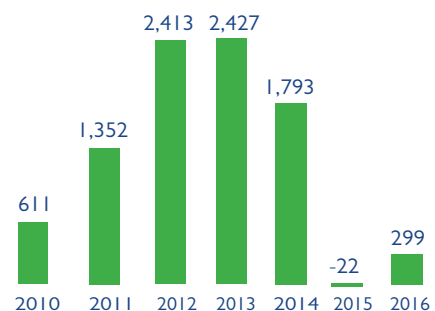
## CHINA

### Ecuador and Colombia

The visa exemption in Colombia (2007) and Ecuador (2008) caused a marked increase in Chinese nationals' flows. The exemption measure was reversed after a few months in both countries.

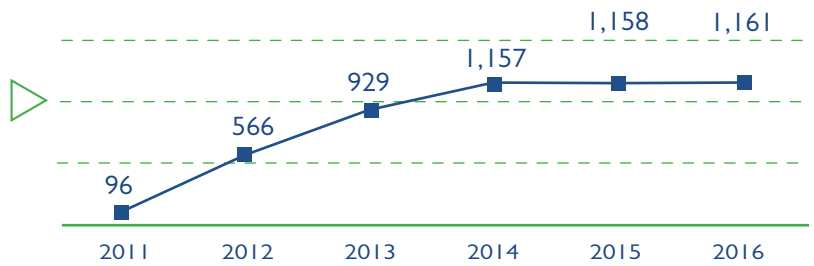
For example, in Ecuador there was a rise from 4,776 entries in 2007 to 14,459 in 2008. A decrease to 6,886 entries in 2010, and increases thereafter - 14,747 in 2013 and 22,554 in 2016. The differences between entries and exits of Chinese nationals have been variable in recent years.

DIFFERENCE IN ENTRIES AND EXITS – ECUADOR



## EVOLUTION OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS – ECUADOR

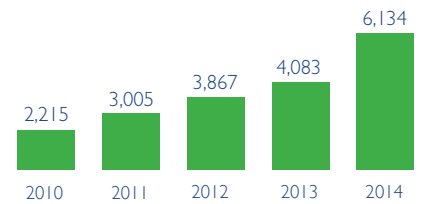
The number of permanent residence permits granted to Chinese nationals increased steadily between 2011 and 2016, with more than 5 thousand (5,067) residence permits issued. During that period, the change is reflected at 1,200 per cent.



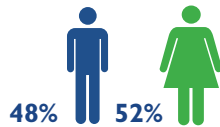
### Brazil

In 2016, 48,847 Chinese citizens were registered. Between 2010 and 2014, a total of 19,304 residence permits were issued, of which almost 55 per cent (10,612) were permanent.

### EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS



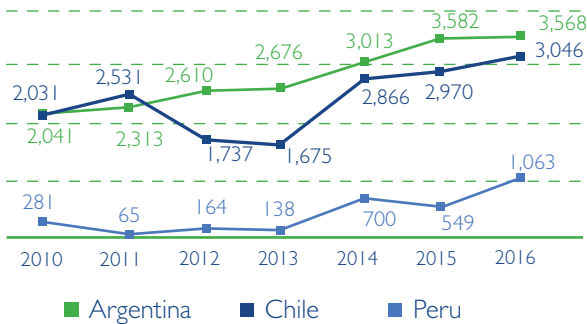
Permanent residence permits



### Argentina, Chile y Peru

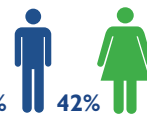
In these countries, the Chinese migrant population represents the largest Asian group.

### EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS



In **Chile**, between 2010 and 2016 a total of **19,803** residence permits were issued, of which almost one third (**5,382**) were **permanent**.

Permanent residence permits



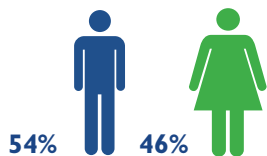
In **Argentina**, between 2010 and 2016 a total of **16,856** residence permits were issued, of which **65** per cent (11,027) were **permanent**.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

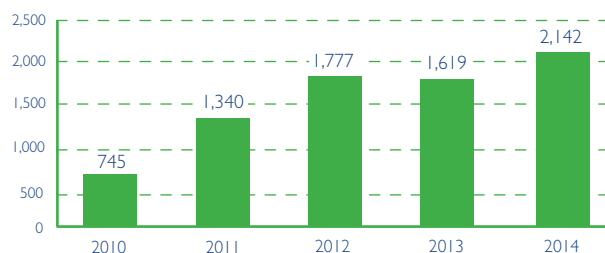
### Brazil

Between 2010 and 2014, a total of **7,623** residence permits were issued, of which one third (**2,750**) were **permanent**.

Permanent residence permits



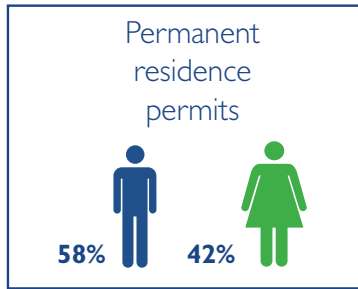
### EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS



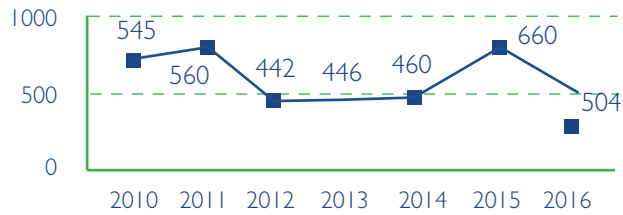
## Chile



Between 2010 and 2016, more than **3,617** residence permits were issued, of which **20** per cent were permanent.



## EVOLUTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS



## Argentina



In April 2014, through the "**Special Scheme for regularization of foreigners of Korean nationality**" (DNM Regulation 979/14) almost 1,000 citizens from the Republic of Korea received temporary residence in the country.

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Migration flows to South America of Syrian nationals can be traced back to mid twentieth century. As a result of the conflict in Syria, in the recent years, the number of Syrians in the region has increased. In this context, some South American countries have granted humanitarian visas and implemented resettlement programs.

## Argentina



The "Special Humanitarian Visa Program for Foreigners affected by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic", known as the "Syria Programme" has been implemented since October 2014. As of October 2017, 828 entry permits were requested. Upon entering Argentina, a 2 year residence is granted which is extended further by one year, and thereafter such extension, these nationals can apply for permanent residence.<sup>14</sup>

## Brazil



Brazil has adopted legal instruments that facilitate issuing of humanitarian visas to persons affected by the conflict in Syria.

## Chile and Uruguay



Both Uruguay and Chile established Solidarity Resettlement Programmes and are receiving Syrians affected by the conflict.

## References:

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- 2- Source of data for Chile: Department of Foreign Affairs and Migration.
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- 7- International Organization for Migration (IOM) / Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants (CAREF) (2015) Dominican migration in Argentina. Pathways in the new century.
- 8- Source of data for Brazil: National System for Registration of Foreigners (SINCRE), Ministry of Justice, Federal Police Department.
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