Traditionally, the migration dynamic in South America is marked by intra- and extra-regional patterns. In recent years, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has seen changes in its migration processes. Thus, in recent times, there has been an intensification of flows towards traditional destinations as well as new destinations in the region and the world.

### Concentration of Venezuelan emigration

Colombia, United States of America and Spain

### Growth of flows towards historic destinations

United States of America, Spain

### Diversification towards other destinations

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

#### Estimate on significant destinations 2015/2017*

According to updated information based on official available sources (such as population statistics, migration records and estimates), the map shows the approximate Venezuelan migrant stock in selected countries. Likewise, due to the limited sources, it is difficult to quantify irregular migration as well as transit population.

*Estimates based on authors' calculation for 2016 and 2017 do not add data of refugees or asylum seekers.

**Estimates calculated by the authors based on the National Census and permanent residence permits issued.

***Estimates calculated by the authors based on the 2015 figure, including residence permits that have been since then issued.

---

**United States of America:**
- American Community Survey from the US Census Bureau

**Spain:**
- Spanish Continuous Register /National Institute for Statistics

**Italy, Portugal, Canada:**
- UN DESA 2015 and 2017

**Mexico:**
- UN DESA 2015, 2016*** and 2017***
- Migration Colombia¹

**Panama:**
- UN DESA 2015, 2016*** and 2017***

**Costa Rica:**
- General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners

**Colombia:** UN DESA 2015, 2017
- Migration Colombia¹

**Brazil:**
- UN DESA 2015, June 2016 and 2017. Estimate based on the Brazilian Federal Police database

**Ecuador:**
- UN DESA 2015, 2016*** and 2017***

**Argentina¹:**
- 2015**, 2016*** and 2017***
There has been an increase in the number of Venezuelans arriving from South American countries. This dynamic is confirmed both by the number of entries and exits, as well as by the difference between them. By way of example:

![Graph showing 2016-2017 difference between entries and exits in South America.]

**REGULARISATION OF VENEZUELAN POPULATION (2015-2017)**

Between 2015 and 2017, more than **300,000** (temporary and permanent) residence permits were issued to Venezuelan nationals by ordinary and extraordinary migration normative tools. Venezuelans have benefited by the approval of specific legislation in the following countries of the region:

**ARGENTINA**

*Law No. 25,871/2004*

Apart from the residence permits issued by means of the usual criteria (employment, family reunification, etc.), Argentina applies to Venezuelan citizens the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of the States Parties and Associated States of MERCOSUR*. Through the Disposition DNM°594/2018, the deadlines to present required documentation (for instance criminal records) were extended.

In February 2018, the National Ministry of Education decided to simplify the procedure to accredit university studies from Venezuelan institutions.

**URUGUAY**

*Law No. 19,254/2014*

Uruguay granted legal (temporary and permanent) residence to Venezuelans through the application of the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of MERCOSUR. Since 2014 the country has directly granted Permanent Residence to nationals of the member states of MERCOSUR, including Venezuela.

*This Agreement is pending Venezuela’s accession.*
ECUADOR

Ecuador-Venezuela Migration Statute and UNASUR Visa

Through the Migration Statute (2011), Ecuador grants temporary residence if economic solvency is proven. Through the UNASUR Visa (2017), the nationals of the block can have access to a two-year temporary residence.

PERU

Supreme Decree No. 002-2017, No. 023-2017 and No. 001-2018

In January 2017, Peru introduced a specific “Temporary Residence Permit” (PTP in Spanish) for the benefit of Venezuelans that had entered the country before January 2017. Currently the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2018. Since its implementation, more than 27,000 Venezuelans have received the PTP.

COLOMBIA

Resolution No. 5797/2017, 1272/2017 and 0740/2018 (See page 4)

BRAZIL

CNIg Resolution No. 126/2017 (See page 5)

Other South American countries issue residence permits to Venezuelan nationals only through the ordinary channels of regularisation. In this sense, the number of residence permits issued by Chile is noteworthy.

CHILE

Between 2015 and 2017, Chile issued more than 120,000 residence permits considering permanent residence and temporary visas. Temporary visas are divided into three categories: subject to a contract, study or temporary.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND TEMPORARY VISAS ISSUED

![Graph showing the number of residence permits issued in Chile between 2015 and 2017]

During 2016 and 2017, 108,206 Venezuelans who had entered the country with tourist visa have submitted applications for residence permits. It is the foreign group that submitted the largest number of applications for legal residence in such period.

NUMBER OF VISA APPLICATIONS IN 2016 AND 2017

![Bar chart showing the number of visa applications in 2016 and 2017]

APPLICATIONS BY REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Region</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valparaiso Region</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maule Region</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the Country</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISA APPLICANTS BASED ON GENDER

![Gender distribution chart]

VISA APPLICANTS BASED ON AGE

![Age distribution chart]
Colombia is the main destination for Venezuelans in South America. Likewise, a large percentage of Venezuelan citizens enter Colombia in transit towards third destination countries. This dynamic not only has remained steady, but also increased in recent months, with the following key destinations: Ecuador, Peru, Chile, the United States, Panama, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica (Colombia Migration, 2017).

IOM Colombia leads the coordination of the UN Border Inter-Agency Group. It also works with UNHCR, WFP and the Resident Coordinator on several activities.

Colombia Migration (2017) estimates that around 600,000 Venezuelans are in the country:

**Special Permit of Permanence (PEP in Spanish) (Resolution No. 5797/2017)**

In July 2017, Colombia implemented a Special Permit of Permanence by Resolution No. 5797/2017. In this first stage, the situation of approximately 68,374 Venezuelan nationals who had entered before July 28 was regularised. This Special Permit has been issued mainly in the cities of Bogota, Medellin and Barranquilla.

In February 2018, the second phase of the PEP implementation was authorised for the Venezuelan citizens who are at present in the country and who had entered Colombia before February 2 through an official immigration check post. As from the implementation of the PEP, 155,572 applications have been registered.

**Access to Health**

On August 18, 2017, the Ministry of Health issued Resolution 3015, which allows the Venezuelan citizens who have the PEP to affiliate to the Colombian health system. The PEP is submitted together with the passport and it enables the person to have access to health services, be it as a contributor to a paid health plan or as part of the subsidised system for those who cannot afford it. The nationals who do not have the PEP and are regular have the right to emergencies healthcare.

**Border Mobility Card (TMF in Spanish)**

This document was created to facilitate mobility in border areas in February 2017. The TMF had been approved for 1,624,915 Venezuelans up until its suspension in 2018. It happens in the context of a circular migration of citizens who reside in border areas and who habitually move between two countries, some even registering several entries and exits per day.

Sixty-three per cent of Venezuelans with TMF reported a residence in border States with Colombia.

**Residence of Venezuelans with TMF**

Tachira  Zulia  Barinas  Merida  Other cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bogota</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medellin</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barranquilla</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cali</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cities</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tachira</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zulia</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barinas</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merida</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cities</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There has been an increase of Venezuelan citizens entering 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’ report, most of the non-indigenous Venezuelans enter the Pacaraima territory by land. This flow comes predominantly from the eastern part of Venezuela (Bolivar State - 26.3 per cent, Caracas - 15.4 per cent, Monagas - 16.3 per cent, Anzoátegui - 13.1 per cent and Carabobo - 7.4 per cent). This population is mainly young (72 per cent are in the 20 - 39 age group), and characterised by a male profile (63 per cent). They also have a good level of education (78 per cent have completed their secondary education, and 32 per cent have completed university and graduate studies).

The presence of the indigenous Warao people in the migration flow has also been observed, with an increase seen in 2017, particularly in the States of Roraima (RR), Amazonas (AM) and Pará (PA). Estimates from the National Human Rights Council (January 2018) establish that around 370 indigenous Warao are sheltered in Boa Vista, and other 370 in Pacaraima (RR); 150 in Manaus (AM); 110 in Santarém and 100 in the city of Belém (PA). In addition, there are two other shelters for non-indigenous Venezuelans in the city of Boa Vista (RR), with around 1,000 people.

On March 2 2017, the National Council of Immigration issued CNlg Normative Resolution No. 26, which grants a 2-year temporary residence to foreigners from bordering countries for whom the MERCOSUR Residence Agreement is not effective. Therefore, Venezuelan nationals can apply for that permit. At the end of July 2017, a measure of exemption from the payment of migratory fees was taken through a judicial decision.

Thus, between March and December 2017, 8,470 residence permits were issued through Normative Resolution No. 126. Of the total number of applicants for temporary residence, 4,220 were filed in the State of Roraima. Brazil is the South American country with the largest number of asylum seekers. According to the Federal Police, 17,865 applications were lodged in 2017, a much higher number than in 2016 (3,354) and 2015 (821).

In the framework of the Crisis Working Group created by the Government of Brazil, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies provide technical assistance. Likewise, several activities (training, camp management, regularisation, etc.) are coordinated with UNHCR, UNFPA, the Federal Police and civil society organizations.

DTM Brazil: Implementation in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima in the State of Roraima.

IOM Action Plan in Roraima

(i) Support for the migration regularisation.
(ii) Training on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).
(iii) Development of two types of research: one on the legal status of the migrant indigenous population and the other on the integration and access of the Warao people to public policies using the city of Manaus as a case study.
(iv) Support to civil society organisations to provide direct assistance to Venezuelan migrants, income generation and labour market inclusion of the Warao indigenous people.
In the face of the rising flows of Venezuelan nationals in the region it is evidently necessary to understand the profile of Venezuelan migrants, the characteristics and dynamics of migration routes. The DTM is a system to track and monitor the displacement and mobility of population. Some countries in the region have implemented (and/or are about to implement) this tool to have a better understanding of the Venezuelan population that is migrating into the region:

**DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)**

In the face of the rising flows of Venezuelan nationals in the region it is evidently necessary to understand the profile of Venezuelan migrants, the characteristics and dynamics of migration routes. The DTM is a system to track and monitor the displacement and mobility of population. Some countries in the region have implemented (and/or are about to implement) this tool to have a better understanding of the Venezuelan population that is migrating into the region:

**COLOMBIA**

- **First Phase: October-December 2016**
  The DTM pilot project was implemented by the IOM and Colombia Migration, and provided knowledge about the nationality profile of the people that make up the migration flow between Colombia and Venezuela. The universe of the methodology comprised moving population encompassing three municipalities: Arauca (Arauca), Cucuta and Villa del Rosario (North of Santander).

- **Second Phase: June-October 2017**
  The information was collected in nine municipalities of the country from the border area with Venezuela and intermediate cities: Arauca (Arauca), North of Santander (Cucuta and Villa del Rosario), La Guajira (Uribia, Manaure, Maicao, Dibulla and Riohacha) and Bolivar (Cartagena). The process was divided into two parts: household surveys where the Venezuelan population lives and interviews to transit population (border crossing, land terminal). The results will be published soon.

- **DTM Bogota: being implemented.**

**PERU**

- **Round I: October-November 2017**
  This tool has been applied in the regions of Tacna (border with Chile) and Tumbes (border with Ecuador), as they represent the main entry and exit points, respectively, of the Venezuelan migrants.

**RESULTS**

Venezuelan migrants are mainly young and professional (from 18 to 35 years of age), mostly single. There is a greater proportion of males. A significant number of those surveyed have children, most of them in Venezuela.

In parallel with the DTM, a qualitative tool was implemented in the metropolitan region of Lima, gathering information through primary sources such as interviews.
Map of migration routes in Latin America.
MEXICO

There has been an increase in the number of migrants from Venezuela. The issuance of Visiting Cards on Humanitarian Grounds stands out, increasing from 181 in 2016 to 1,443 in 2017. These permits are granted to asylum seekers, on humanitarian grounds or for public interest.

PANAMA

This is the main destination for Venezuelans in Central America. As from October 1, 2017, the country requires a visa from Venezuelan nationals. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of permits issued tripled. In 2017, 10,617 permits were issued by the Extraordinary Regularisation Scheme.

COSTA RICA

The flows of entries and exits of Venezuelan nationals, as well as the difference between them, show a sustained growth over the past three years.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

There is a clear increase in the difference between the entries and exits of Venezuelan nationals from 2015 to 2016, as well as a rise in the number of residence permits issued.

NEIGHBOURING CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Aruba, Curaçao and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago have received an increased number of Venezuelans. Short distances facilitate mobility.

The Government of Curaçao required IOM’s assistance to receive migrants and manage shelters.
In the United States, the Venezuelan population has experienced a sustained growth in recent years. According to the Homeland Security Department (Office of Immigration Statistics 2016), 12,242 Venezuelans with tourist visas overstayed during the last fiscal year (from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017).

According to the Homeland Security Department (Office of Immigration Statistics 2016), about 10,000 legal residence permits per year were issued over the 2004-2015 period. In 2016, 5,662 permanent residence permits were granted to Venezuelans. In the 2006-2016 period, 64,000 Venezuelans became American citizens.

In Europe, Spain is the main destination from the quantitative point of view for Venezuelan emigration. The stock of people born in Venezuela has increased in recent years and it is one of the most dynamic in the group of South American ones.

The interannual variation in the 2014-2015 period was 3.3 per cent, increasing to 8.6 per cent in the 2015-2016 period and almost doubling (15.5 per cent) between 2016 and 2017. In Spain, about 10,000 legal residence permits per year were issued over the 2004-2015 period. In 2016, 5,662 permanent residence permits were granted to Venezuelans. In the 2006-2016 period, 64,000 Venezuelans became American citizens.

In 2017, around 200,000 people born in Venezuela were registered in Spain. The number of women (113,292) is larger than that of men (95,041). More than 60 per cent (127,825) have Spanish citizenship, related to the previous Spanish emigration towards Venezuela.

In Italy and Portugal, these countries are receiving increased flows of Venezuelans. Similarly to Spain, many of them already have or are entitled to obtain European citizenship.
According to UNHCR, the number of asylum applications submitted by Venezuelans has risen in recent years. Around **100,000** asylum applications were lodged from 2014 to 2017.

Asylum Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Asylum Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>3,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>3,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>4,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>11,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>12,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>22,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>46,248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR and Brazilian Federal Police (2018)

It is the South American country with the greatest number of asylum applications. According to the Federal Police, most of them (16,841) were lodged in the State of Roraima.

Asylum applications per year

Source: Brazilian Federal Police (2018)

References

1. Colombia Migration.
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility.
4. Department of Registration and Migration.