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Werkstatt für Sozialforschung

Erasmus+ Project European Network of Returnees and Emigrants

What do we know about spanish returnees?

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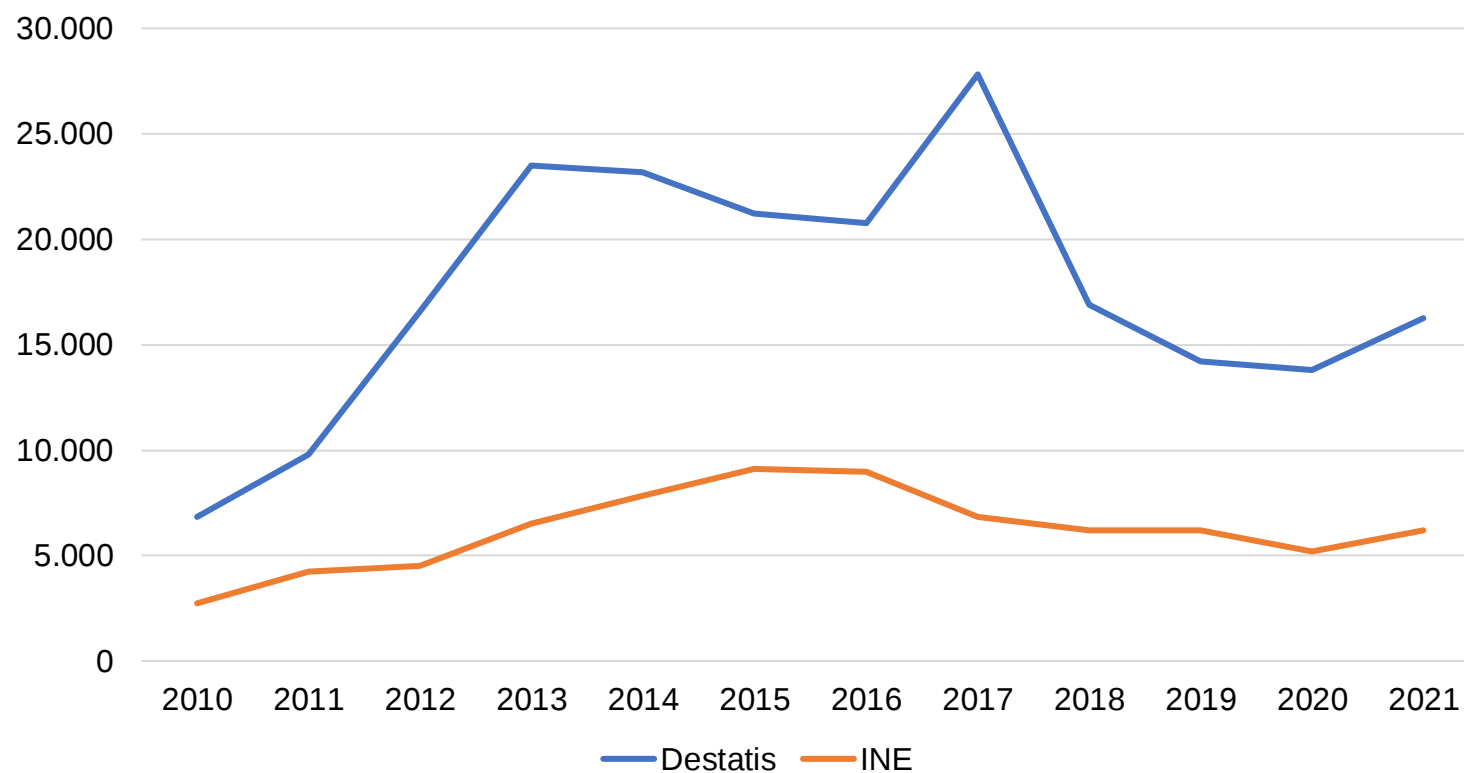
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What do we know about Spanish emigration to Germany?

The figures vary enormously depending on the source.

According to the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), 210,933 Spaniards emigrated to Germany between 2010 and 2021, compared to 74,667 according to the Spanish statistics authority (INE). 16,281 y 6,190 Spaniards emigrated to Germany in 2021.

Emigration of Spaniards to Germany



Destatis, INE (2022)

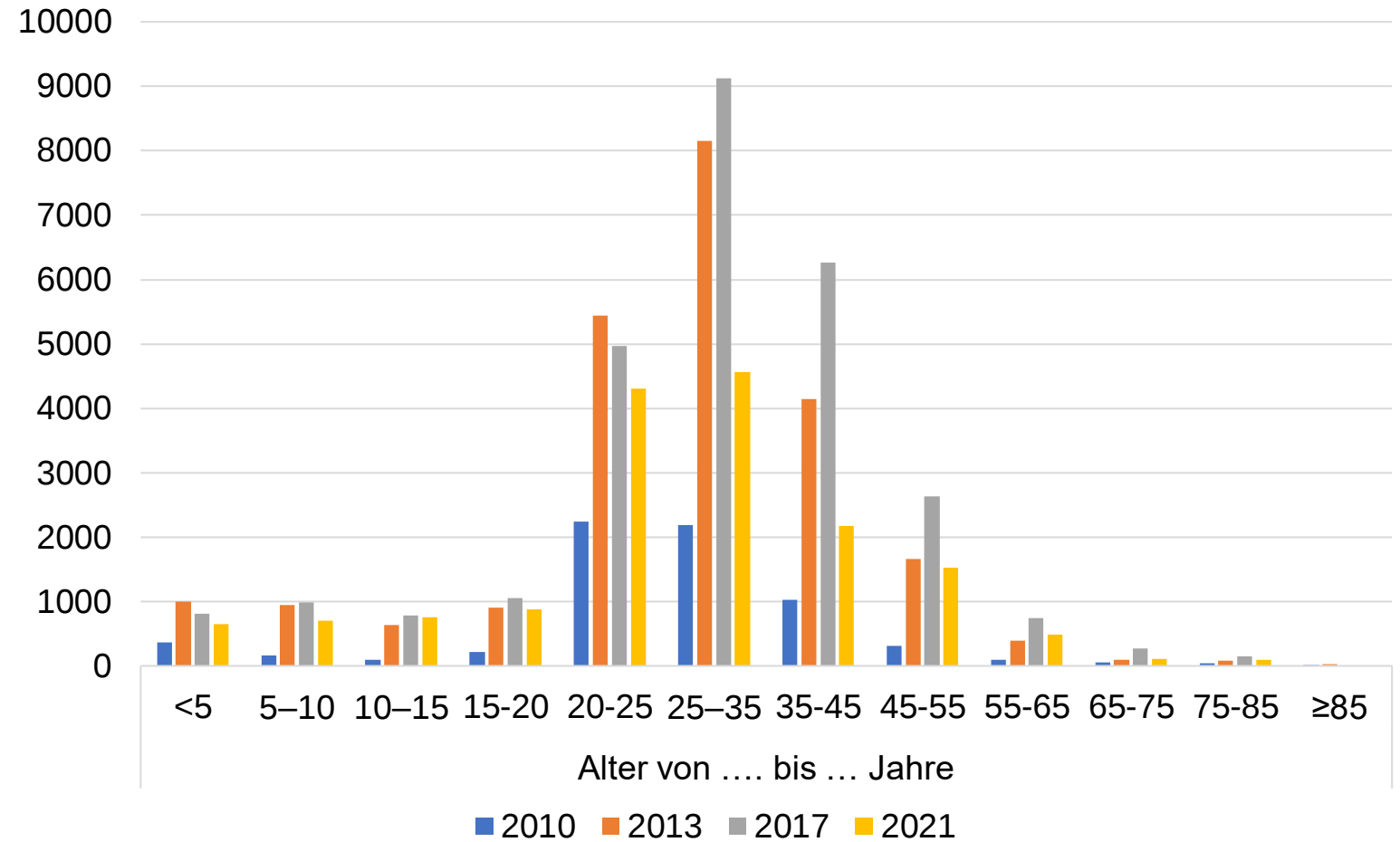


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Spaniards emigrating to Germany by age group, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2021

People aged 25 to 35, 20 to 25 and 35 to 45 are the main age groups to emigrate.



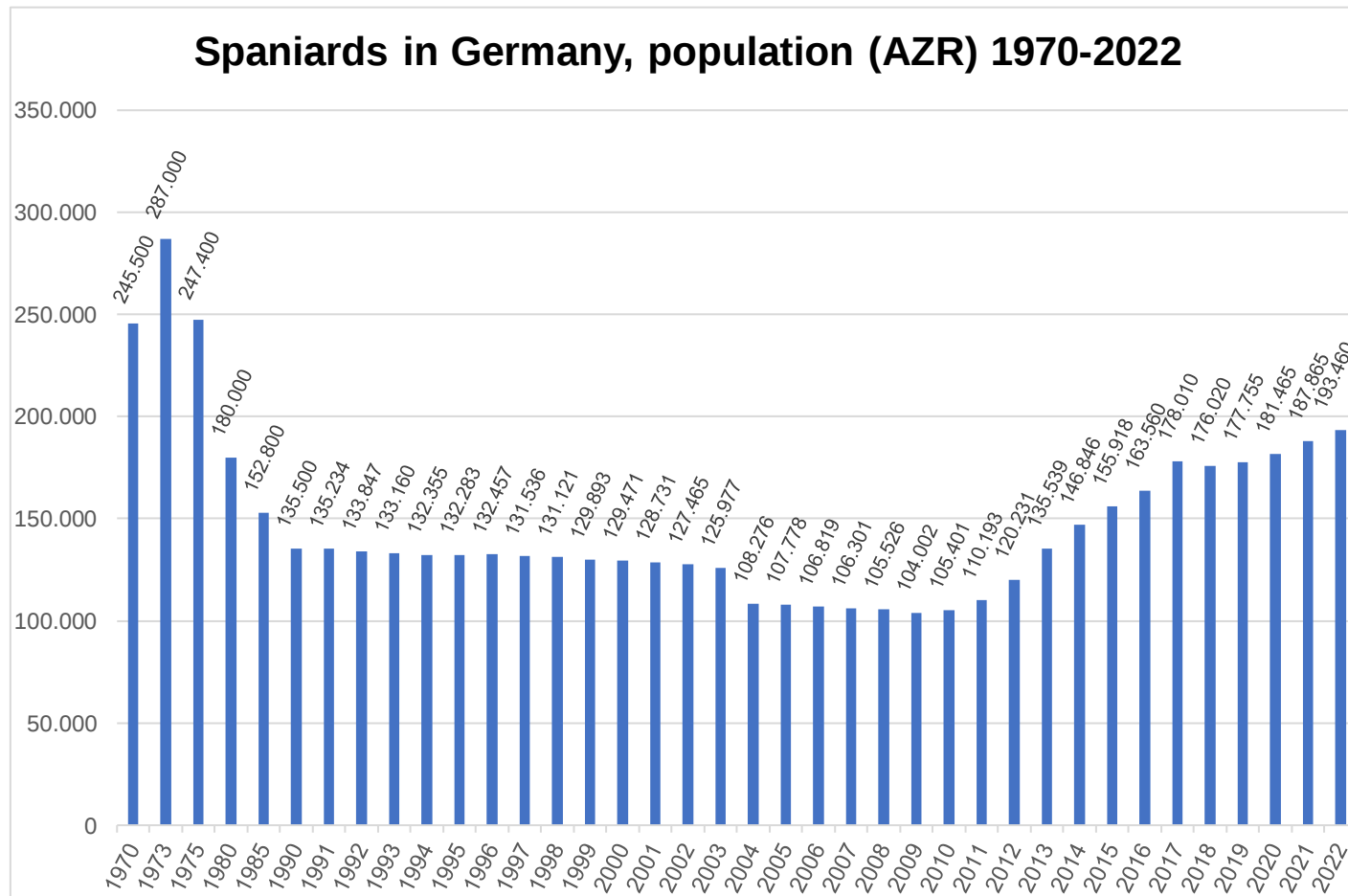
Destatis (2022)



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The number of Spaniards living in Germany is once again approaching 200,000, the fourth highest figure since 1970



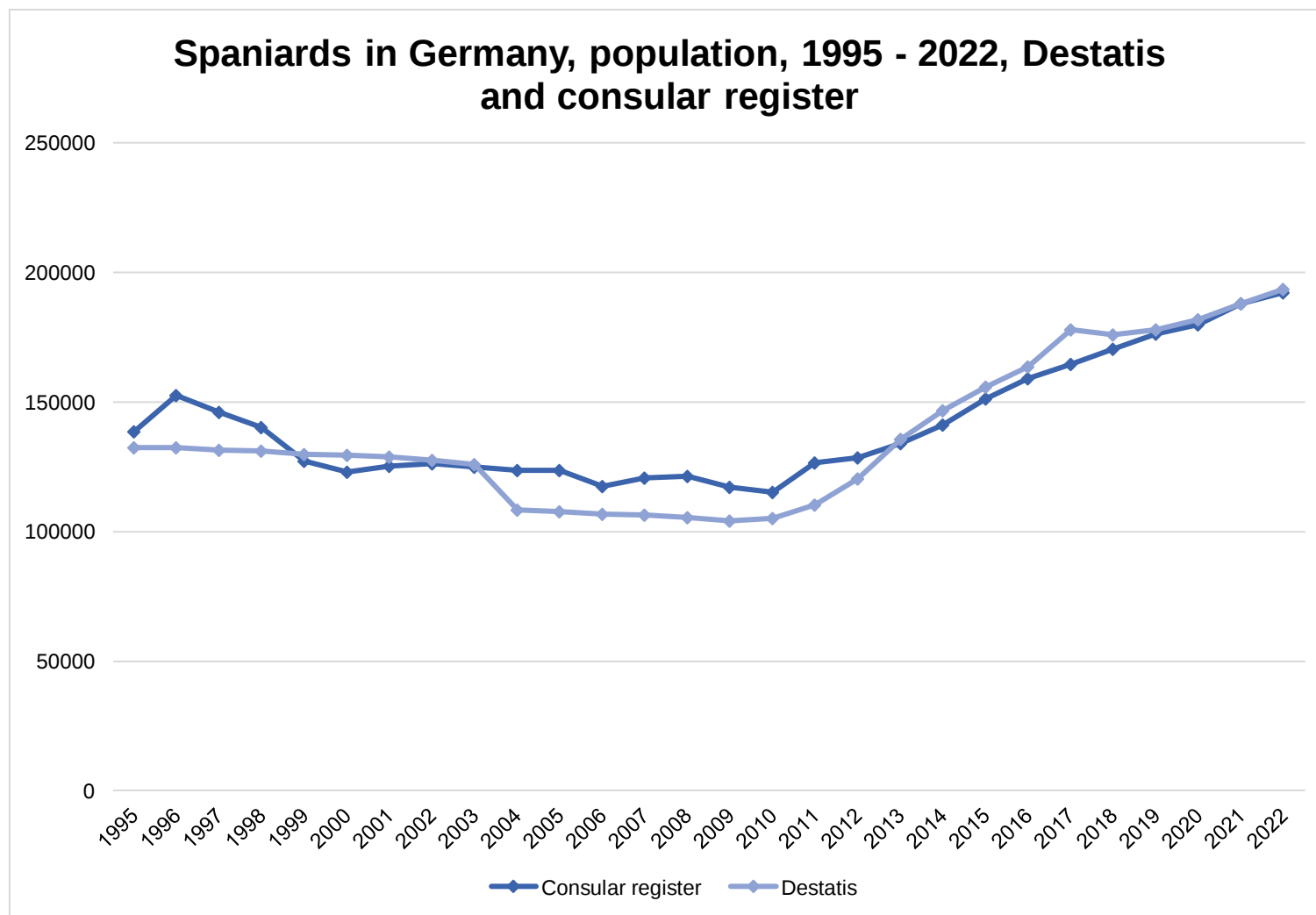
Destatis (2023)



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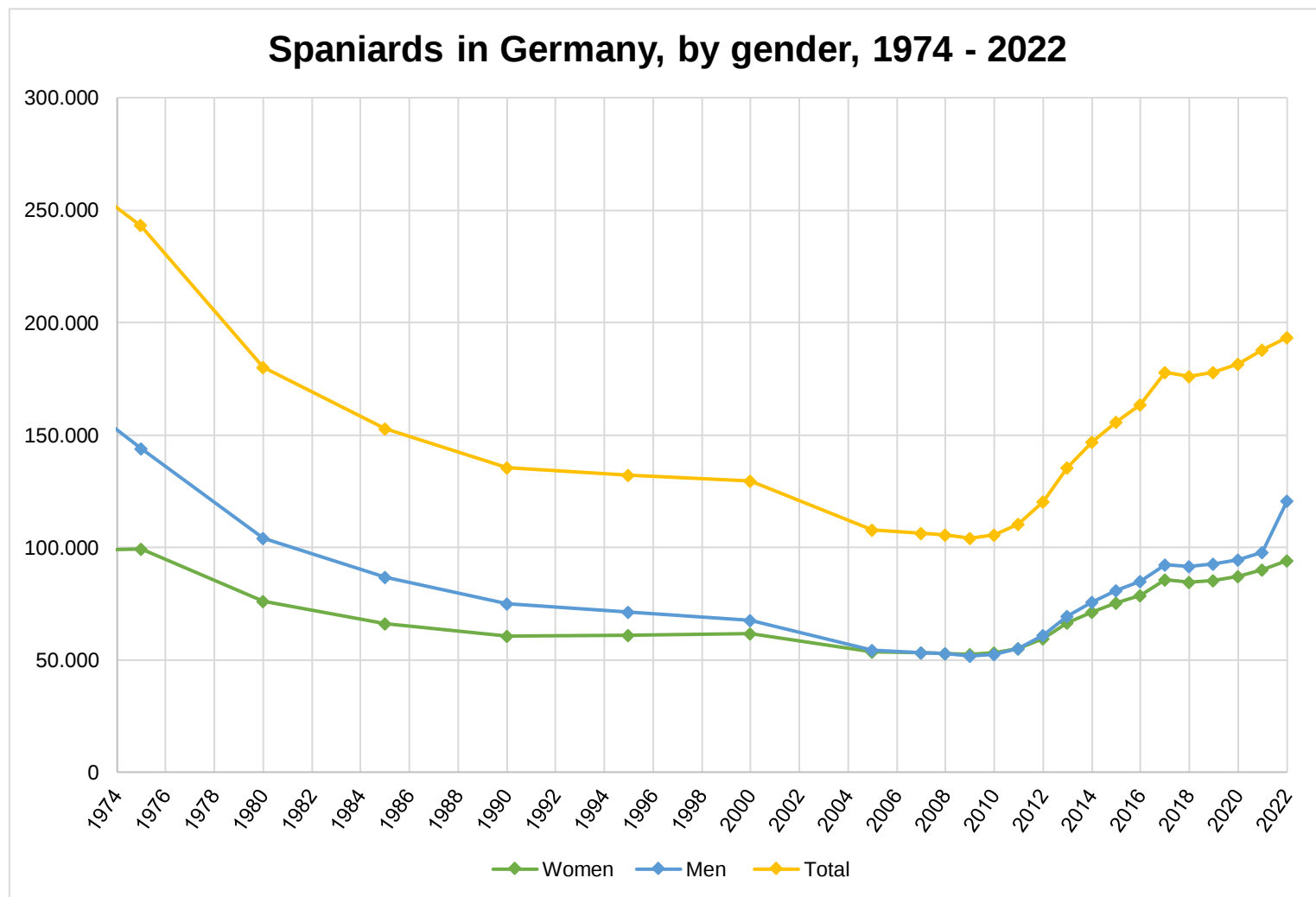
The figures for the Spanish resident population also vary depending on the source, but ... there is a trend towards convergence.



Destatis, consular registers (2023)



Spaniards in Germany have a clear surplus of men, except in the years 2004 to 2012.



Destatis(2023)



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Spaniards in Germany live mainly in NRW, BW, BY, HE and, now new, BE.

Strong percentage growth: BB; MV, SN, ST, TH





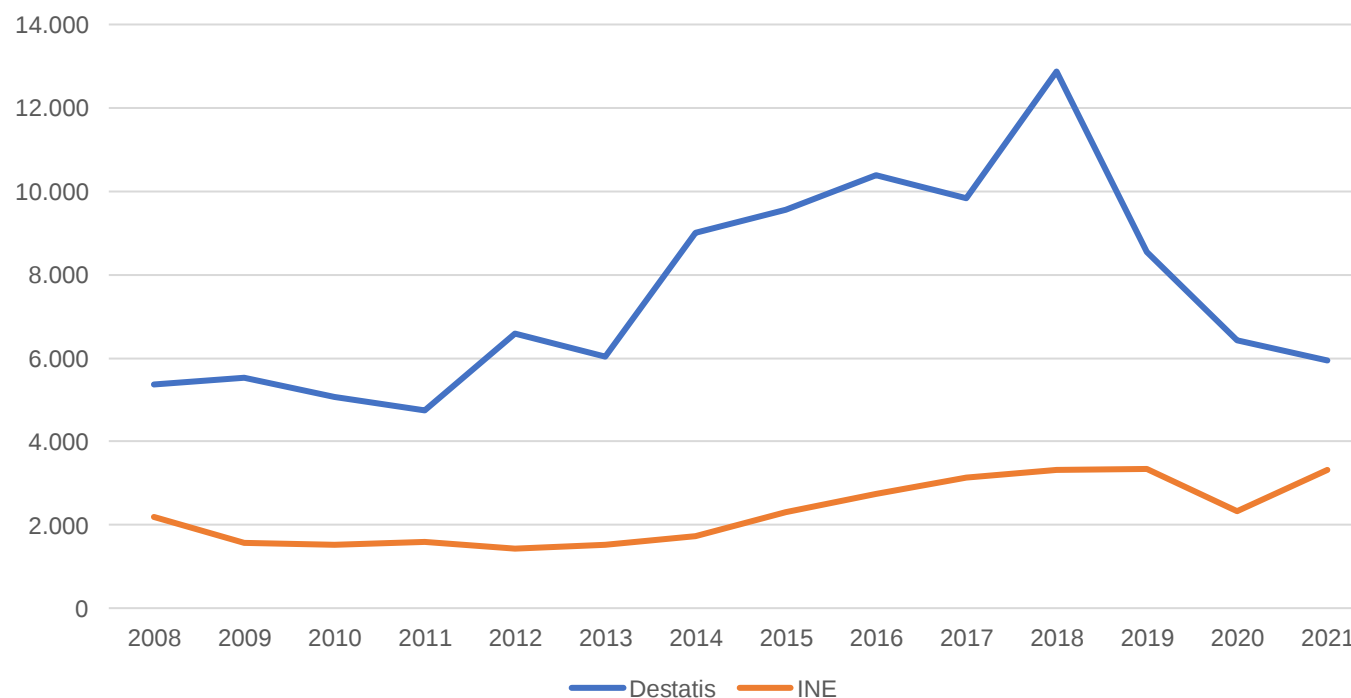
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¿What do we know about the Spanish returnees from Germany?

The number of Spanish returnees from Germany also depends heavily on the source: 105,933 (Destatis) y 32,115 (INE).

Spaniards returning from Germany, 2008 to 2021



Destatis, INE (2022)



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With a single exception (2018), the migration balance between Germany and Spain is always positive.

The number of Spaniards who return, die or are officially deregistered is lower than those who emigrate to Germany.

Net migration, 2012 to 2021			
	Total	Men	Women
2012	10.776	6.121	4.655
2013	15.963	8.754	7.209
2014	11.731	6.290	4.710
2015	9.307	5.242	4.065
2016	7.655	4.145	3.505
2017	14.745	7.620	7.125
2018	-1.155	-480	-670
2019	2.090	1.290	805
2020	4.525	2.210	2.315
2021	7.155	3.770	3.380

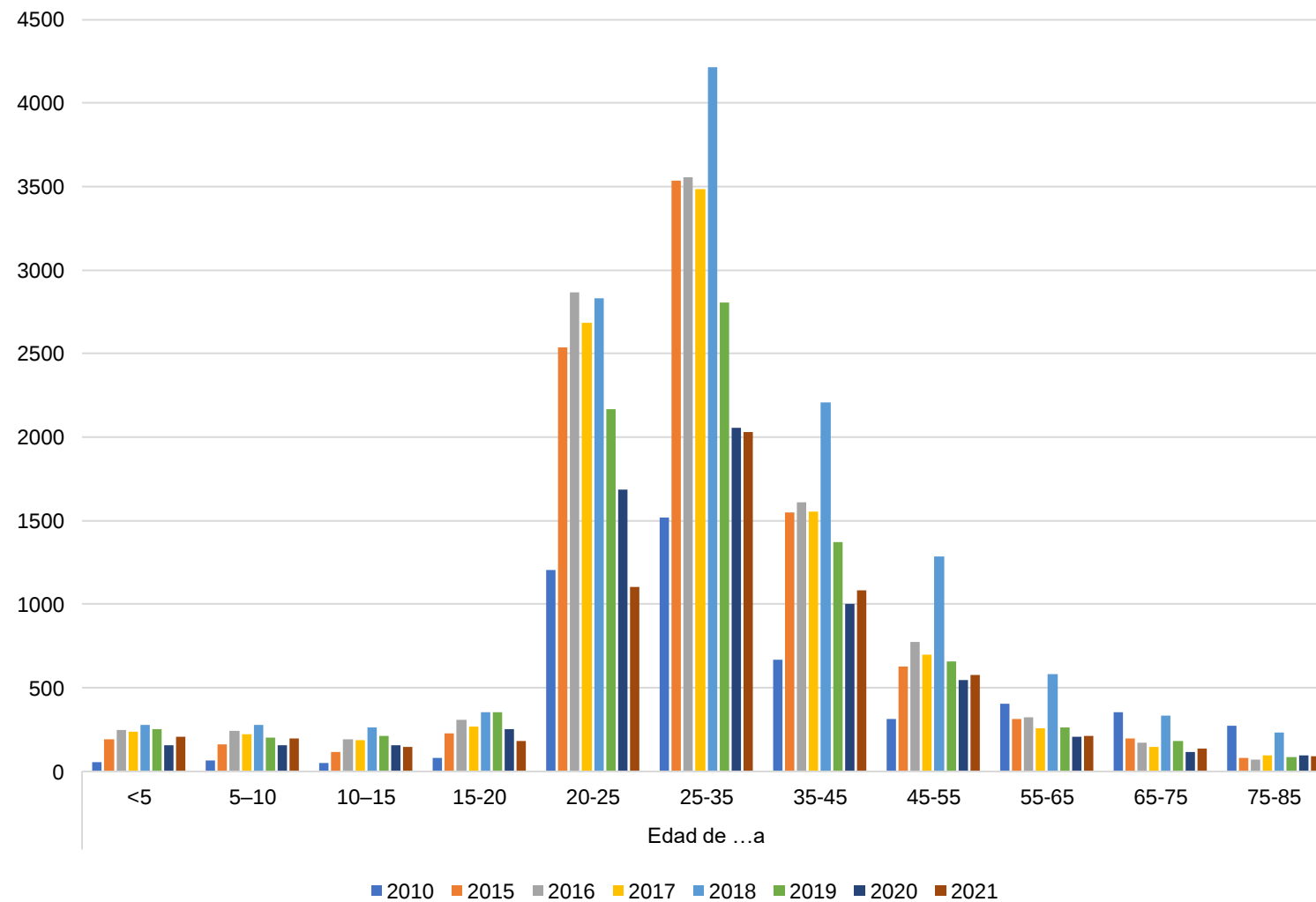


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Most of those returning from Germany are Spaniards aged 25 to 35, 20 to 25 and 35 to 45.

Spaniards returning to Spain, by age group, 2010, 2015 a 2021



Destatis(2022)

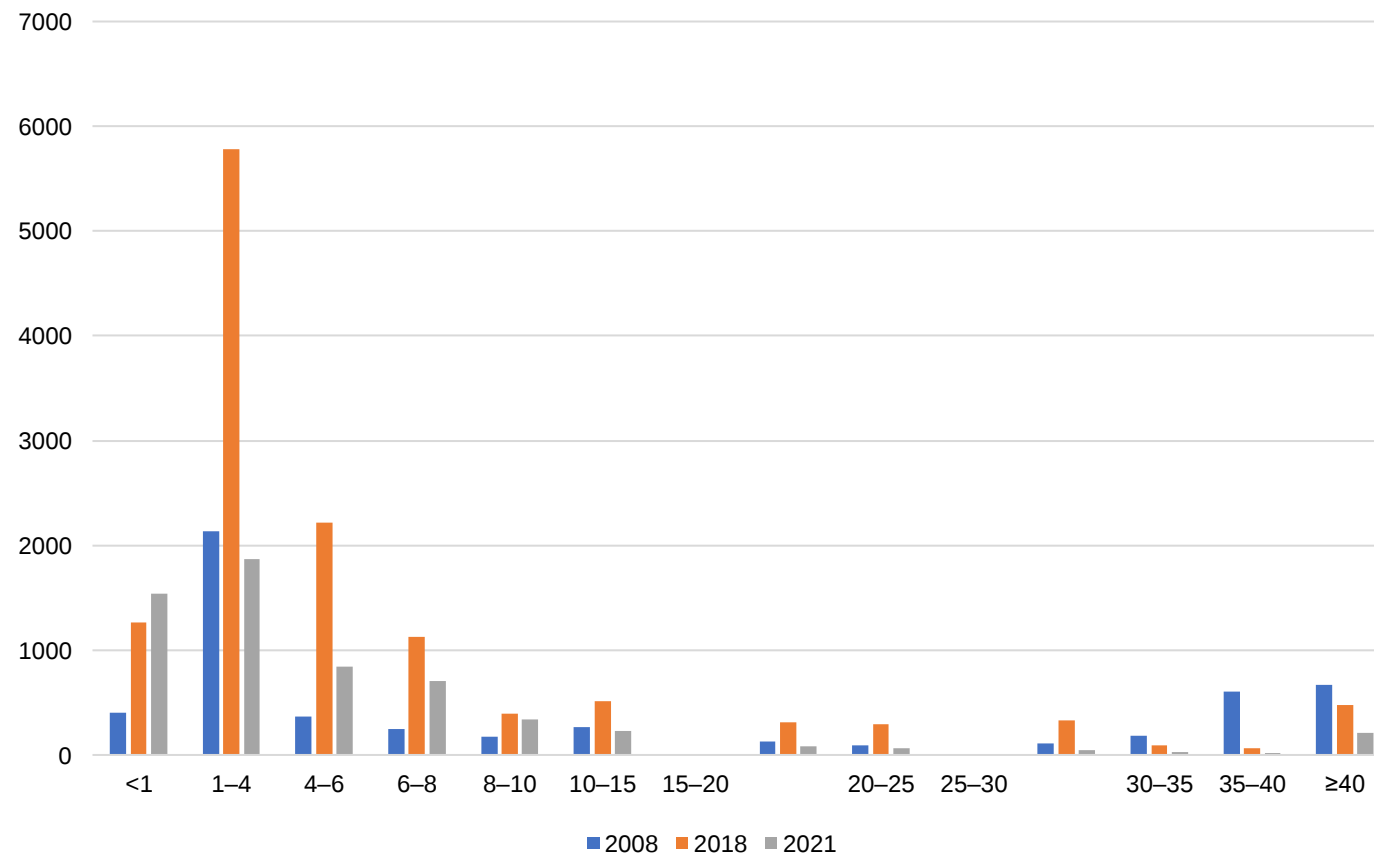


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It is mainly Spaniards with short (1 to 4 years) to very short durations of stay (less than 1 year) who return.

Spanish returnees from Germany by length of stay, 2008, 2018
y 2021



Destatis(2022)

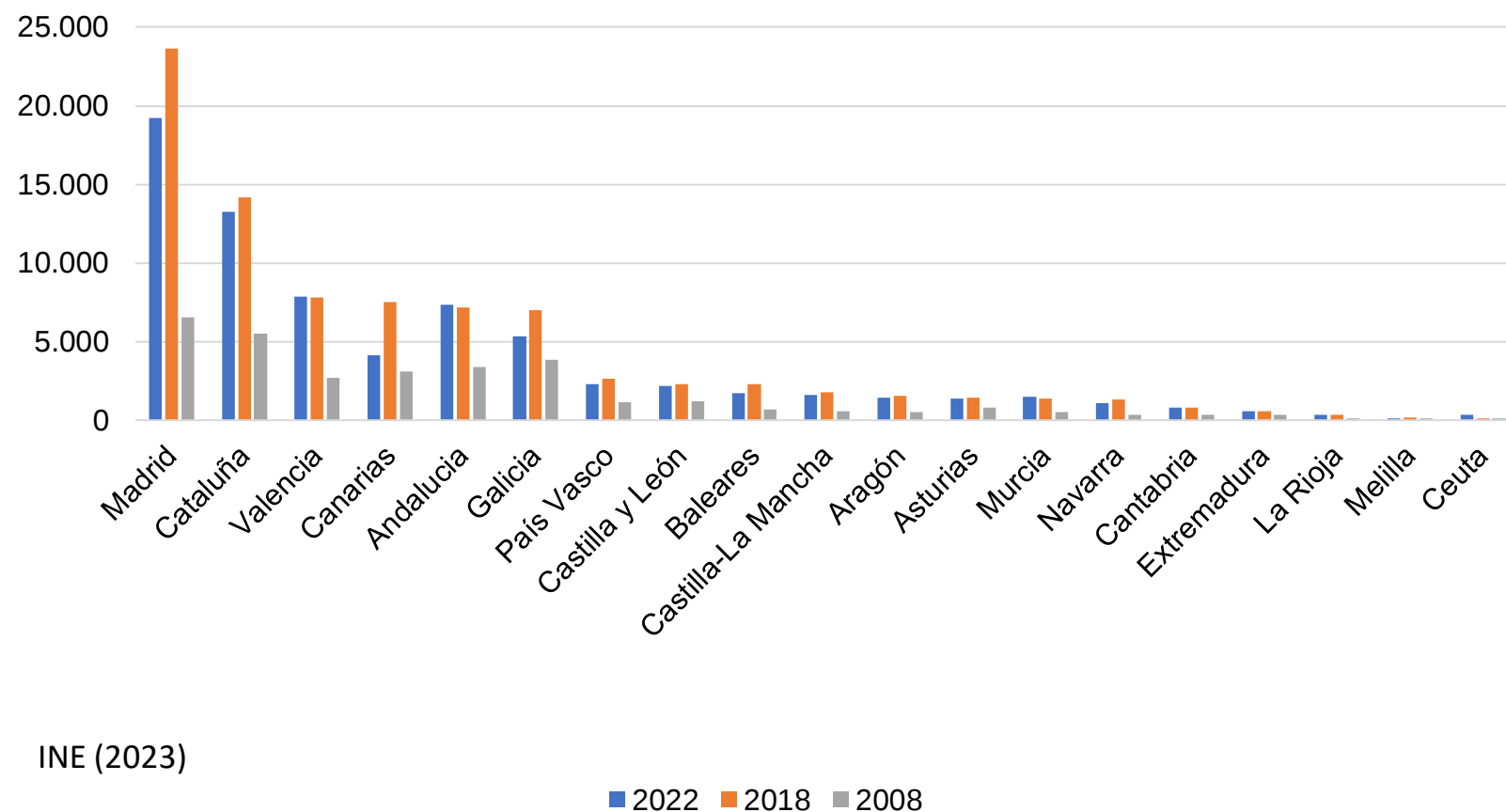


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Overall, the main destinations for Spanish returnees are Madrid, Catalonia, Valencia, the Canary Islands, Andalusia and Galicia.

Spanish returnees by destination region, 2008, 2018 y 2021



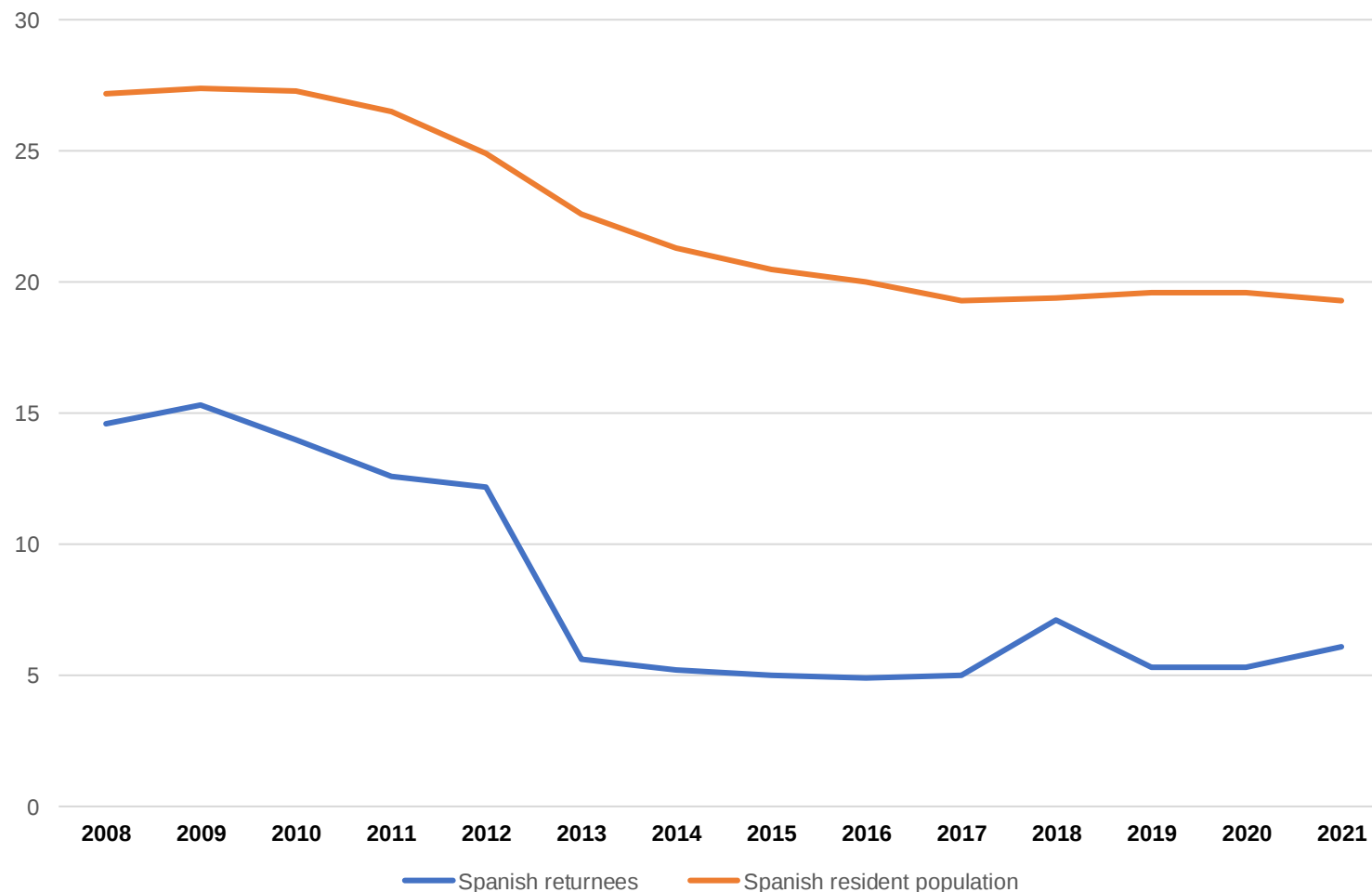


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The average length of stay of the Spanish resident population in Germany fell from 27.2 to 19.3 years between 2008 and 2021, while that of returnees fell from 14.6 to 6.1 years.

Average length of stay, Spanish resident population in Germany and Spanish returnees from Germany, 2008 to 2021





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The expectations that migrants associate with their return and the hurdles they encounter on their return depend heavily on their personal situation and prospects.

Types of migrants			
1. in motion	2. view of Spain	3. satisfied with their situation	4. lifeworld nomads
People who have not been abroad for long or who are experiencing a personal/professional change and would therefore like to stay where they are.	They have been abroad for a while and know that they want to return, but have no idea what steps they need to take to do so. The timing of their return depends on their personal and professional situation.	Due to their professional and/or personal situation, they have decided to settle permanently in the destination country.	They have not put down roots in their country of destination or place of origin. The change was a motivation, they themselves are their own life project.
Return? Not now	Return? Yes	Return? No	Return? Only if it fits into their life project
They need information about resources that are available to them from abroad and about contact points they can turn to.	They need a connection to their professional field, access to job offers, opportunities for their profile to reach companies and role models for how to return successfully.	They need to maintain contact with the country and the family. Access to information about administrative procedures.	They need interesting career opportunities that fulfil their expectations.

Ministerio de Trabajo, Migraciones y Seguridad Social (2018)



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Reverse culture shock

Loss

The feeling of freedom, the work culture, the purchasing power, the relationships established in the host country and the values of the host culture.

Readjustment

Those who return never return exactly from where they left. Those who return never return exactly as they left.

Factors

Expectations, duration of absence, resilience, reasons for departure.

Celia Arroyo (<https://piloto.unpaisparavolver.es/exactamente-choque-cultural-inverso>)



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"When the emigrant decides to return, he is no longer the same person he was when he left. And his friends who have not moved away from the neighbourhood have also changed. You return with the desire to resume the relationships you had back then, but, as Neruda would say, 'we, the ones from back then, are no longer the same. (...) Those who have left will no longer see the world in the same way, there will be aspects of their culture of origin that they will find difficult to adapt to, they will want to introduce the new way of doing things into their environment, the good things that they brought with them from their host country. But these new methods will not always be well received".

Celia Arroyo https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2017/03/14/articulo/1489490451_983473.html

"When you have returned, you need to get to know your place of origin without prejudice and be open to what happens to you. Trust in the new phase as an opportunity to gain new experiences and develop. You also need to build social and family ties in the country of return by accepting the changes and building what excites you day by day. In this sense, we must start from what we are in the 'here and now', so that our inner changes can lead us to new areas of life that we had not considered in previous phases (...) In short, it is about trusting that you have the resources and skills to lead a fulfilling life again (...)". Sergio Delgado: <https://destinoalemania.com/choque-cultural-inverso-evitarlo/>



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"One of the first difficulties of returning is remembering that you are Spanish and realising that you no longer understand much of what is happening in your country. It is common to return to Spain and believe that you will find everything as you left it; but the changes, even though they may seem slow from the inside, feel so strong and radical for those who have emigrated that you are almost just another immigrant in Spain, even though you are Spanish. You are constantly in the situation of having to explain to people: 'That's because I emigrated', so that they understand your confusion in the simplest and most everyday things." (MITRAMISS 2018)

"I often realise that I'm on a different wave. My friends (...) it's a typical problem for us who go abroad, that people who are in Spain stay in Spain, so they carry on with their routine [...] So... I often realise that I'm on a different wave, and then there are times when I say, well, that's just the way it is. It shocked me more after the second year in Germany that I had changed (...) I already had a job and then I had other worries and I noticed a big change." (INJUVE 2018)



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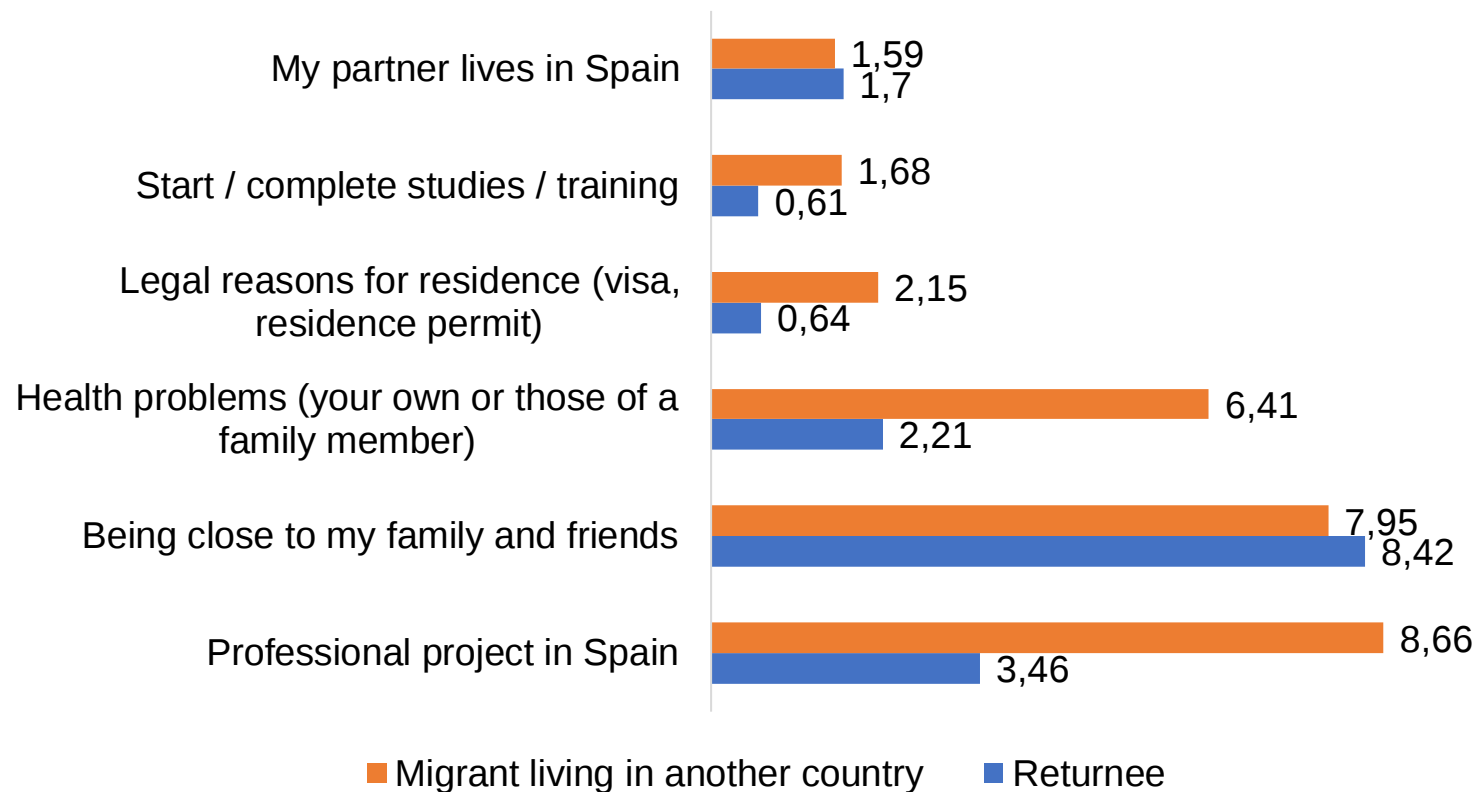
The main reasons for returning are family and work.

"(...) when I finish my PhD, I want to start a family, I want to have children, and I can't imagine raising children in this individualism, I can't imagine it...[...] (INJUVE 2018).

"Spain to live in. Germany to work." (La Voz de Galicia. 19 August 2019)"

I am 29 years old and my mum is ill. Unfortunately, her illness has worsened in the last few months, so I had to choose between my professional career and my family, and I gave up everything to take care of her." (MITRAMISS 2018)

What would be a reason for you to return to Spain?





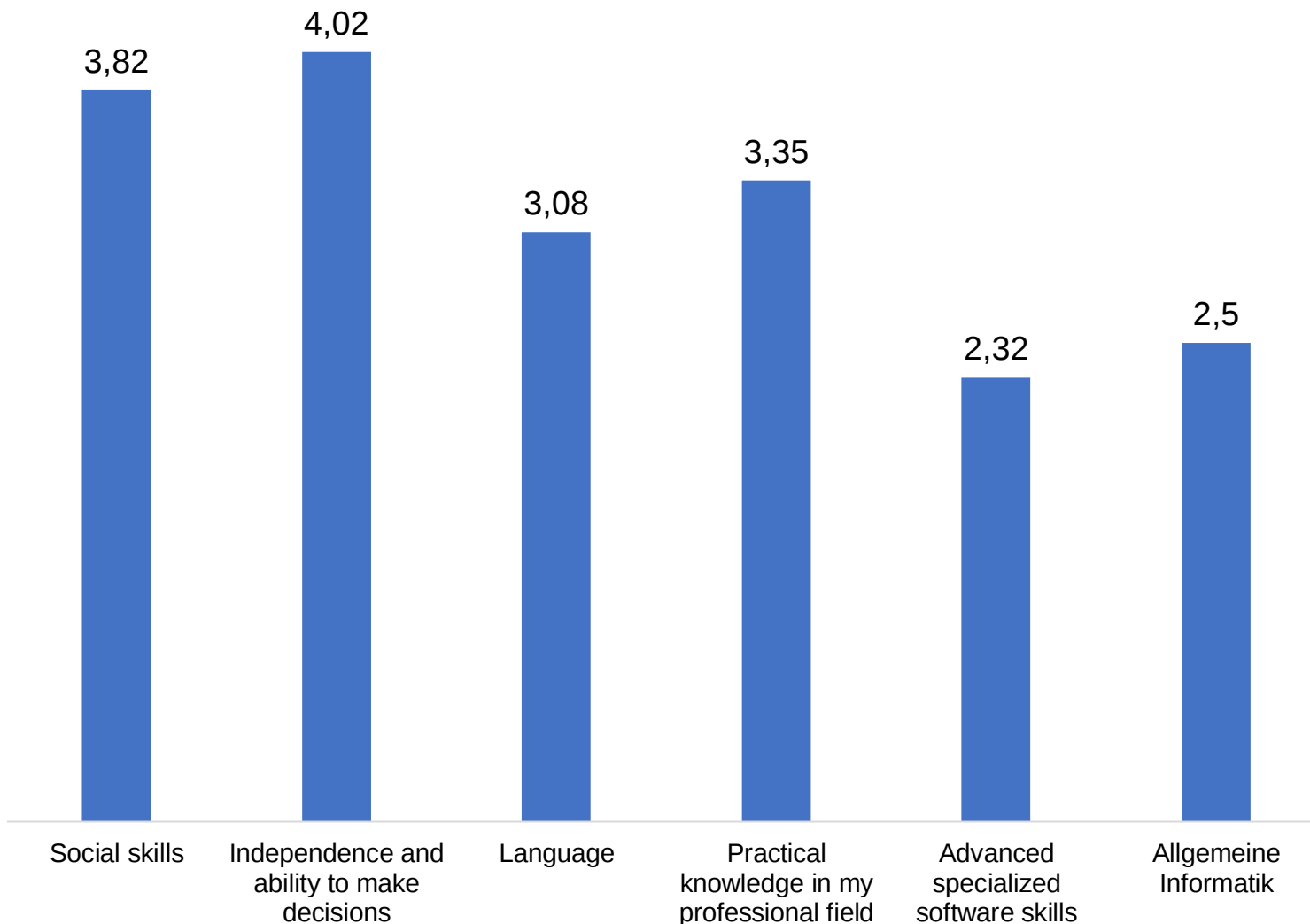
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The returnees are aware that they have acquired competences during their stay abroad.

"The fact of having lived in other parts of the world and having established contacts and relationships of all kinds could certainly be valuable for the expansion plans of companies and public administrations with international projects. The connections, experience and knowledge of these markets and societies would help to expand the business, project, visualise and gain a global presence. " (Barcelona City Council 2018)

Which skills / knowledge did you improve during your stay abroad? (1= not at all, 5 = expert)



INJUVE (2018)



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The professional skills acquired by the returnees belong to all areas, the interpersonal skills are underestimated.

"In my case, it was a complex experience, but I think I have gained a lot of knowledge that has done me a lot of good (...) and I also think I have grown as a person" (INJUVE 2018).

Professional skills that returnees claim to have acquired during their stay abroad	
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Instrumental competences	Systemic competences
---------------------------------	-----------------------------

Languages Oral communication Written communication Problem-solving skills Decision making Dealing with people	
--	--

Leadership qualities Independence Adaptability Pragmatism Emotional management and stress management Self-confidence Dealing with conflicts

Interpersonal skills	
-----------------------------	--

Perseverance Openness towards other people Tolerance	
--	--

Generalidad (2016)



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The companies recognise that the returnees have acquired skills abroad, even if they underestimate the instrumental skills.

"I say: I go there because there is less hierarchy, but the world of work in general seems to me to be a valuable experience because it has nothing to do with what we know, I think... (MITRAMISS 2018).

"Well, I've gained a lot of experience and have also become much more mature. I'm much less afraid to speak, to face things head on. Because I used to be very shy and here I'm not shy at all." (MITRAMISS 2018)

Professional competences that HR managers believe returnees have acquired during their stay abroad	
Instrumental competences Languages	Systemic competences Leadership qualities Independence Adaptability Initiative Courage Competitiveness
Interpersonal skills Working in an intercultural context Working in a team Interpersonal relationships Open-mindedness / cosmopolitanism	



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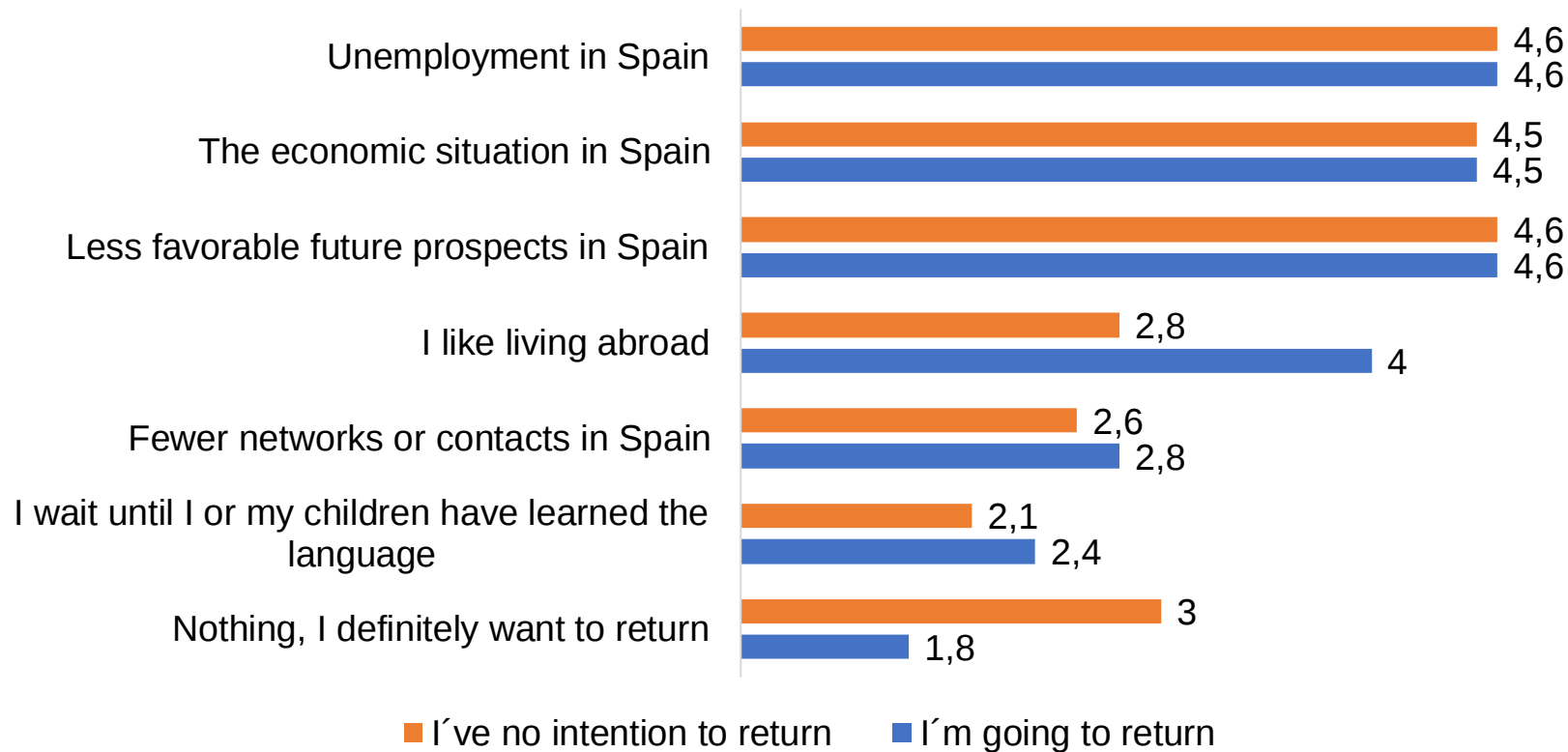
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The main obstacles are related to the labour market, the economic situation and prospects in general.

"I would return to Spain with my eyes closed if a good opportunity arose on a personal and purchasing level. It has to be a balance, of course." (INJUVE 2018)

"Age is a problem. With every year that passes, I know that it will be more difficult for the few Spanish companies that might be interested in my profile to hire me. Experience is not valued." (MITRAMISS 2018)

What prevents you from returning? (0 = unimportant, 5 = very important)



INJUVE (2018)



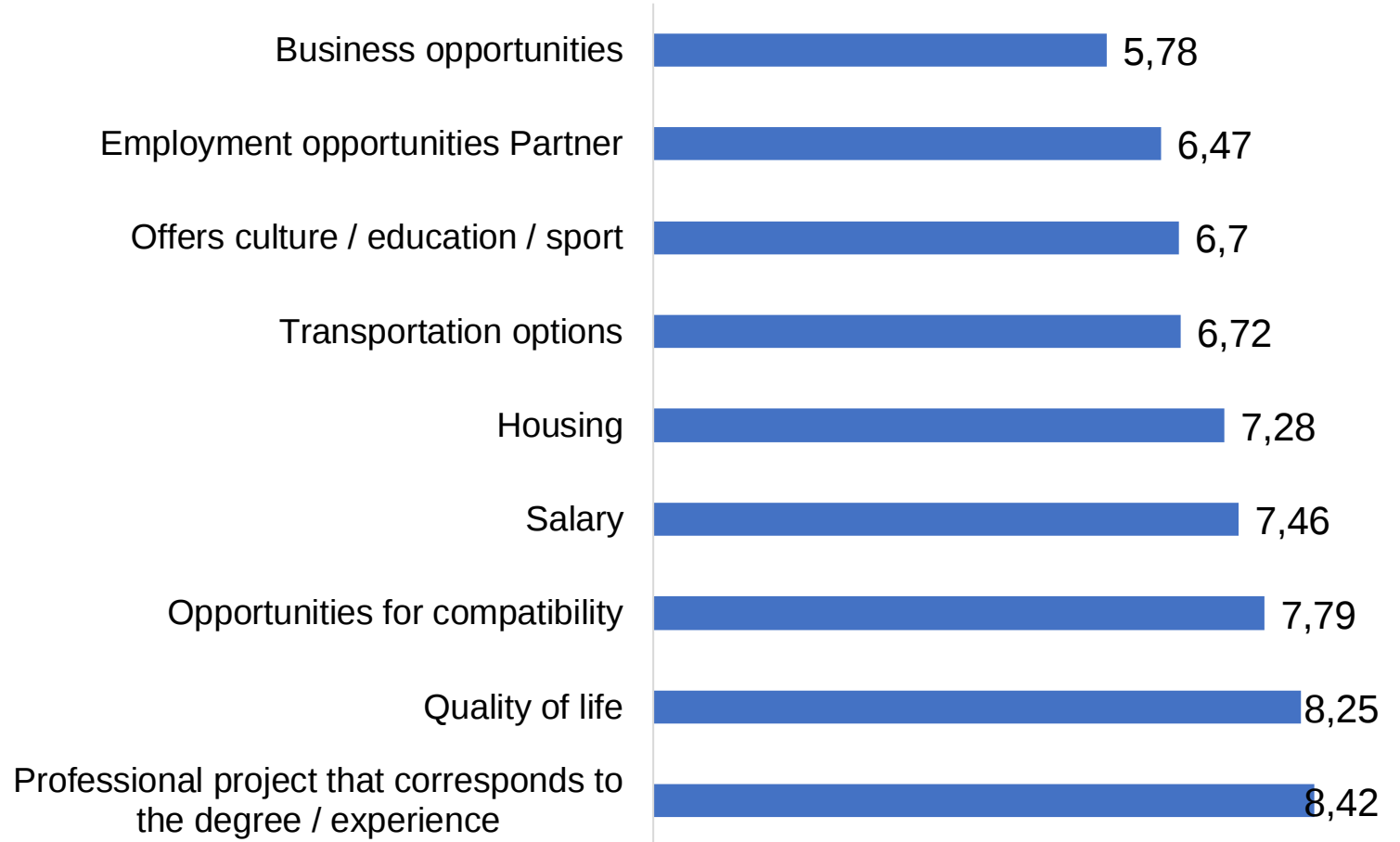
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The most important needs relate to the areas of employment, work-life balance and housing.

"For almost ten years between the ages of 14 and 23, I dreamed of returning "home" where I would finally see the sun again. I knew in advance how difficult the paperwork was in Spain, so I started to validate my studies in Washington while living in Sweden; it took me a year to get it done." (MITRAMISS 2018)

Needs of returnees



Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (2018)



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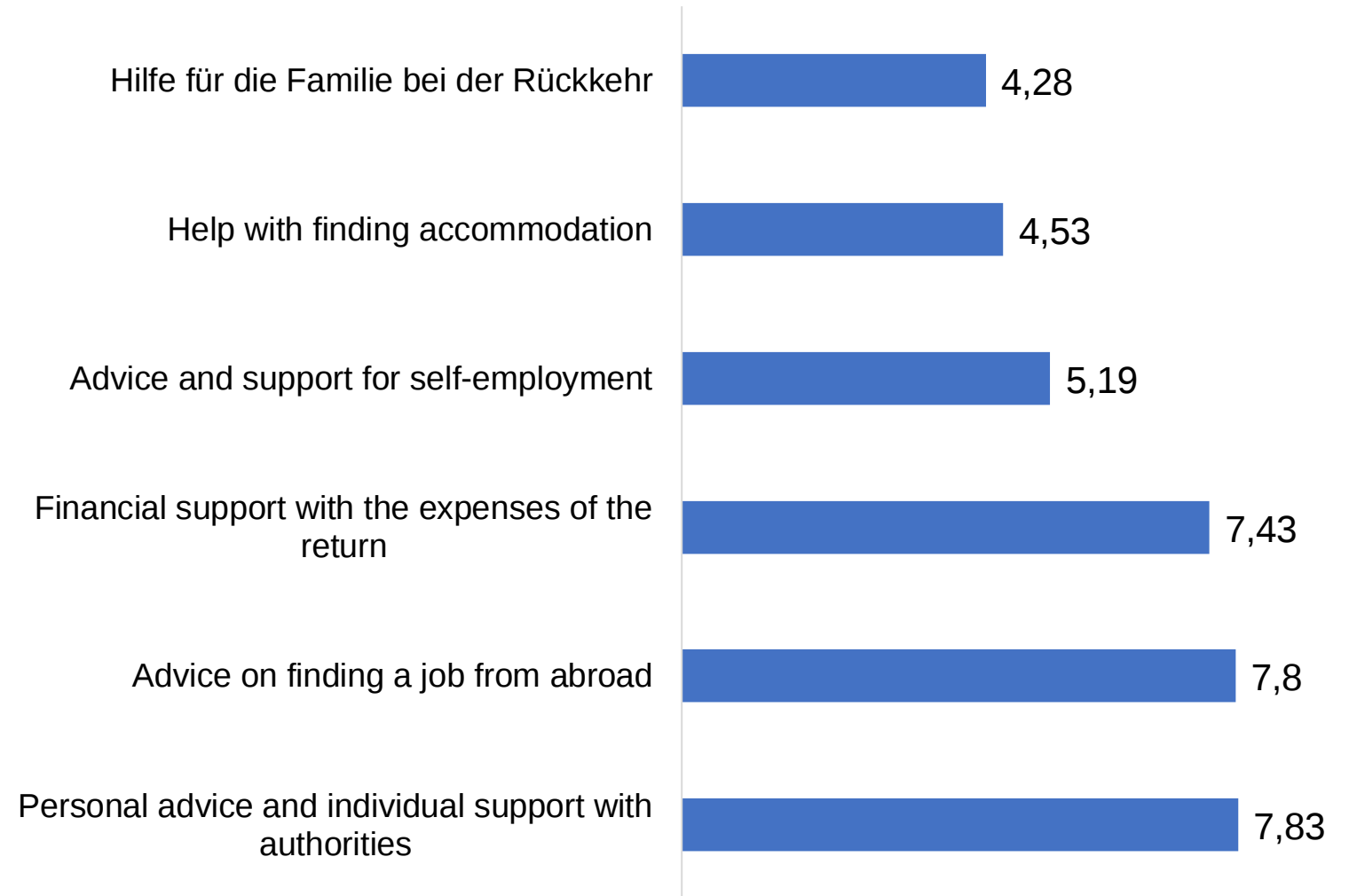
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The measures considered most useful relate to administrative procedures, finding a job abroad and financial support for relocation.

"Promoting the compatibility of family and work, for example through equal and non-transferable maternity leave for parents. Ensuring access to housing. Maintaining or improving public transport or health services." (Barcelona Mayor's Office 2018)"

Three months passed before I started collecting unemployment benefits, which I exported to Spain after my return (...) I had to go several times to remind them to send the document." (MITRAMISS 2018)

What would have helped you on your return



Ministerio de Trabajo, Migraciones y Seguridad Social (2018)

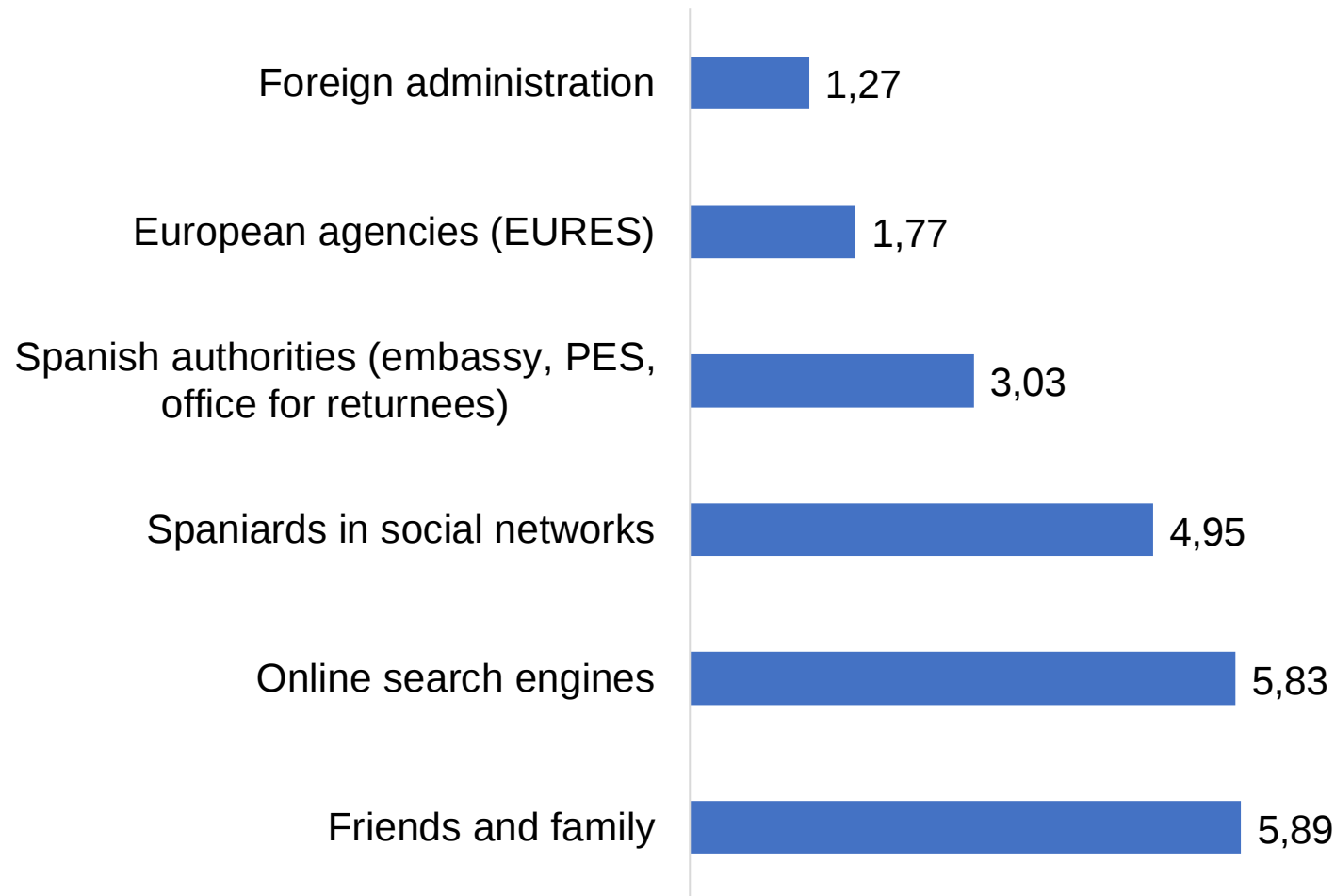


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The most important sources of information for returnees are family and friends, online search engines and groups of Spaniards in social networks.

Did you use any of these sources to prepare for your return?



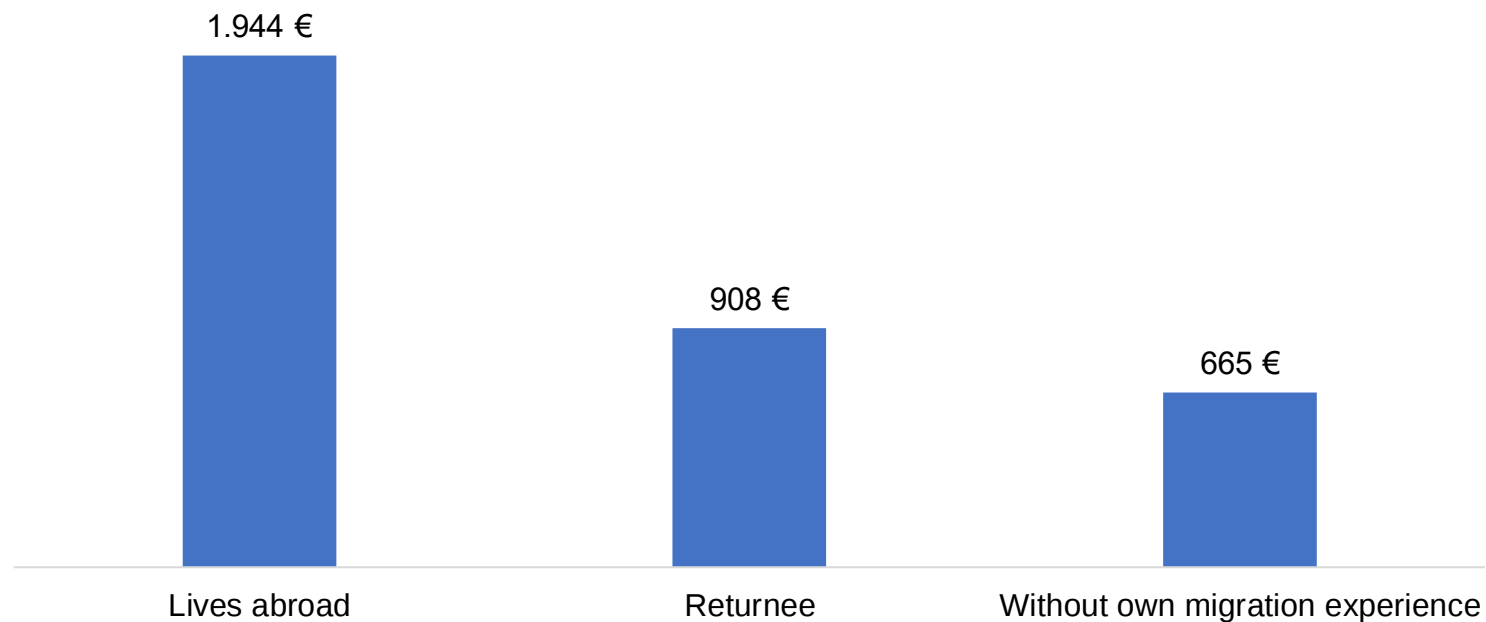


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One's own mobility experience has a major influence on the average income level.

What is your average monthly income?





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RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

"The problems come when you have already arrived and encounter a multitude of obstacles when it comes to having your qualifications and experience gained abroad recognised. Two years to validate a Master's degree is a ridiculous amount of time. I started the process before I came back and I'm still waiting. Fortunately, the University of Valladolid has done an excellent job in recognising my doctorate. Nevertheless, this is not enough to obtain ANECA certification and become a university professor (...)" (MITRAMISS 2018)

"Things were more difficult than I had expected. I worked in a hotel for six months and now I was about to throw in the towel and go abroad, where my professional skills are recognised, unlike here. At the clinic, I only work as an employee. That means no employment contract and only part-time work. Even though I'm much more optimistic going into the new year, I'm not ruling out the possibility of having to leave again, because I still don't have the official recognition of the qualification I need to be qualified and legally work in my profession here." (MITRAMISS 2018)



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Handbook for the return

1. Formalities before your return
2. Formalities after your return
3. Unemployment
4. Help for returnees
5. Healthcare
6. Pensions
7. Other forms of social protection
8. Education
9. Attachments

http://www.ciudadaniaexterior.mitramiss.gob.es/es/pdf/GUIA_DEL_RETORNO.pdf





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Thank you very much !!!