

MAY 2024

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS GLOBALLY

 **7.77 M**

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN


 **6.59 M**



POPULATION PER COUNTRY

- <50K
- 50K-200K
- 200K-1M
- >1M

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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These figures represent the sum of Venezuelan refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers shared by host governments. They do not necessarily imply individual identification, nor registration of each individual, and may include a degree of estimation, as per each government's statistical data processing methodology, at times in collaboration with national R4V Platforms.

*This includes other countries outside the 17 Latin American and the Caribbean R4V countries. For more information on the countries included, refer to the table in the last page.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: May 2024, more information available in: <http://r4v.info>

POPULATION PER COUNTRY

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Colombia | 2.86 M |
| Peru | 1.54 M |
| Brazil | 568.1 K |
| Chile | 532.7 K |
| Ecuador | 444.8 K |

| THE SOUTHERN CONE | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Argentina | 164.0 K |
| Uruguay | 39.7 K |
| Bolivia | 18.0 K |
| Paraguay | 5.3 K |

| THE CARIBBEAN | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Dominican Republic | 124.1 K |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 36.2 K |
| Guyana | 21.7 K |
| Aruba | 17.1 K |
| Curaçao | 14.0 K |

| CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mexico | 113.1 K |
| Panama | 58.2 K |
| Costa Rica | 29.0 K |

| OTHER COUNTRIES* | |
|------------------|---------------|
| | 1.19 M |

CONTEXT: The statistics displayed above on refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the 17 countries of the R4V Response reflect official figures issued by the respective host governments. Their use and publishing for R4V products is closely coordinated with relevant government statistical offices and/or other national government departments responsible for management of refugee and migrant statistics. These statistics are periodically updated, with some governments updating them on a monthly basis, while others update them in other undefined intervals. As a result, an increase in shared figures from one month's R4V publication to the next in any particular country could appear as a significant increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, while, in fact, it is mostly related to individual host country reporting and publishing procedures.

What is the reason for the recent increase in number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela?

ARGENTINA: In January 2024, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) published the final results of the 2022 census for the foreign population residing in the country, showing an estimate of 1,933,463 people born outside the country, as of May 2022, of which 161,495 were Venezuelans (8.4%, representing the third most prominent nationality in the country, after Paraguayans and Bolivians).

The census conducted in 2022 was a *de jure* census, in which people were counted according to their usual place of residence. The *de jure* census definition is the most commonly used globally, due to integration opportunities provided by the variable of usual residence in households for household surveys, and its assimilation with administrative records.

Based on census data and official data on entries to and exits from the country, it is estimated that as of September 2023, the Venezuelan population in the country amounted to 164,230 persons.

Following the publication of census data, it supersedes the previously used source for the determination of the 'stock' of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (the population statistical system of the National Registry of Persons - RENAPER). RENAPER counts individuals identified with a National Identity Document (DNI) residing in the country, based on their administrative records.

Reasons for the difference between the number of Venezuelan individuals reflected in the census, versus the figure that was previously published by RENAPER (-59,000), are being explored, but

may be attributable to administrative records may not accurately counting individuals who do not habitually reside in the country; a failure in capturing individuals who may have left the country irregularly; the number of possible duplications considering individual asylum and regularization procedures; etc.

BOLIVIA: The estimate of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Bolivia is based on data by the General Directorate of Migration (DIGEMIG) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and takes into account the accumulated regular migratory balance since 2015, to which an estimate of irregular stay is added. For the year 2023, the percentage of irregularity in the migratory balance was adjusted to 57%, based on results of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercises carried out in 2022. By March 2024, an increase of 1,656 Venezuelans is anticipated, raising the total from 16,350 to 18,006 Venezuelan individuals residing in the country. The percentage of irregularity is expected to be updated based on data collected on the population in-destination within the framework of the national JNA.

BRAZIL: As of March 2024, the population balance (arrivals minus departures) of Venezuelans in Brazil amounts to 568,058 individuals. During the first quarter of this year, there have been 48,210 arrivals of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil, an increase of 5.4% compared to the last quarter of 2023, according to data from the International Traffic System (STI) of the Federal Police Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. Furthermore, from January 2017 to March 2024, 479,751 Venezuelans with active residence permits have been registered, as per the Federal Police through the National Migratory Registration System (SISMIGRA). The governmental entity in charge of recognizing refugee status, CONARE, has granted refugee status to 132,626 Venezuelans.

CHILE: The updated official estimate of the foreign population in Chile, published on 29 December 2023 by the National Migration Service (SERMIG) and the National Statistics Institute (INE), indicates that, as of December 31, 2022, 1,625,074 foreign nationals resided in the country, of which 32.8% were Venezuelan (532,715 people). For the first time in Chile, this update includes an estimate of the population in an irregular situation (107,223), of which 70,647 (13%) were Venezuelans.

The figure of those in an irregular situation takes into account new/previously not considered sources of administrative records, including: 1) extensions of expired tourism permits issued by SERMIG, and

2) police reports and self-denunciations (voluntary declaration of irregular entry), issued by the Investigative Police (PDI).

Concerning those in a regular situation, it includes the following data sources: 1) the 2017 Population and Housing Census provided by INE; 2) administrative records of residence permits by SERMIG; 3) consular visas, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREL); 4) death records by the Civil Registry and Identification Service (SRCel). It does not include administrative records from healthcare, education or pension systems.

For the purpose of this update, SERMIG and INE considered foreign populations as those “who are habitual residents of the country or applicants for a residence permit as of December 31 of each year studied” and the variable “country” which refers to the “country of residence of the mother at the time of birth (country of birth) according to the 2017 Census and country of nationality declared by the person in the registry”.

Historical values were also re-estimated given the nature of administrative records and their susceptibility to modifications through improvements in the criteria for information processing. Thus, the new estimates for 2018-2021 were carried out following the same criteria as the 2022 estimate, which explains the retroactive modifications to the figures previously published. This explains the adjustment of the number of Venezuelans in Chile in December 2021 from 444,423 to 492,061.

This explanation is based on the methodological document published by the institutions responsible for the exercise; available at: <https://serviciomigraciones.cl/estudios-migratorios/estimaciones-de-extranjeros/>.

COLOMBIA: According to the January 2024 update of the Colombian migration authority, the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Colombia is 2,857,528. This figure reflects a reduction of 7,268 (0,25%) people compared to the previous update of December 2023, when 2,864,796 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were reported in the country.

As of January 2024, the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia with a regular status is 2,293,006, including 384,312 people in the process of obtaining the Temporary Protection Status, and 1,908,694 people with a Temporary Protection Permit (PPT acronym in Spanish) issued. Also, the Colombian migration authority estimates that there are 488,974 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in an irregular situation in the country.

The Colombian migration authority’s update clarifies that the values reported are in the process of “consolidation, depuration and standardization”, which means that the entity reserves the right of making revisions or adjustments to the report in the future.

COSTA RICA: According to data provided by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), there was a slight decrease in the population of Venezuelan nationals residing in the country, from 29,405 in July 2023, to 29,048 in March 2024; a decrease of 1.21%. This figure is based on an analysis of the official records documenting regular entries and exits of Venezuelan nationals. The records were provided by the DGME in March 2024. This trend suggests a modest net outflow of Venezuelan residents, potentially attributable to factors such as changes in immigration policies, economic conditions, or personal decisions to return to their home country or relocate elsewhere. It does not include the number of Venezuelans in an irregular situation, including the majority of those entering (irregularly) via the land border with Panama.

ECUADOR: Through the Flow Monitoring and Characterization System (SMFCF) of the National R4V Platform in Ecuador (GTRM), the estimate of the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants intending to stay in Ecuador has been reviewed. This estimate is based on information on irregular entries and exits provided by the SMFCF, and official/regular entries and exits recorded by the Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador. Compared to the last published figure of about 474,900 people in June 2023, the March 2023 data shows a decrease of more than 30,000 people.

By adding the estimated monthly irregular movements provided by the SMFCF to the official monthly regular movements recorded by the Ministry of the Interior, it shows that monthly departures exceed entries from April 2023, a trend that continues through the first quarter of 2024 in most of the months analyzed.

PARAGUAY: The estimate of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Paraguay is based on data provided by the National Commission for Stateless Persons and Refugees (CONARE). According to CONARE’s records, the official number of refugees and asylum seekers has already surpassed previous estimates from the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), reaching a total of 5,349 people.

UPDATE ON THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA – MAY 2024

Since CONARE’s administrative records are the only official source on the Venezuelan population in the country, and considering the current limitations of other data, such as accumulations of movements and residency procedures that do not allow for the identification of specific individuals, we have decided, after internal consultations at the subregional level, to provisionally use the official number of refugees and asylum seekers as the representative figure for the Venezuelan population in Paraguay within the R4V platform. This decision will be maintained until we have data from the census or a more adjusted methodology. It is important to note that the difference between the refugee and asylum seeker figures and the accumulated migration balance (5,118 as of December 2023) is minimal (less than

300 people), so it will not significantly affect the R4V statistics. Furthermore, this approach will allow us to prioritize the data provided by the government for estimating our population and to use harmonized figures across the different reporting mechanisms of our agencies.

URUGUAY: The estimate of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population in Uruguay is based on data provided by the National Directorate of Migration (DNM), using the accumulated migratory balance since 2015. As of March 2024, an increase of 20% in the population ‘stock’ is estimated, compared to the last Platform update in August 2023. This means that the estimated number of Venezuelan individuals living in the country rose from 32,939 to 39,689.

| COUNTRY | PREVIOUS UPDATE (PUBLISHED NOV 2023) | CURRENT UPDATE (PUBLISHED MAY 2024) | DIFFERENCE |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Colombia | 2,875,743 (as of August 2023) | 2,857,528 (as of January 2024) | -18,215 |
| Peru | 1,542,004 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Brazil | 510,499 (as of September 2023) | 568,058 (as of March 2024) | +57,559 |
| Chile | 444,423 (as of December 2021) | 532,715 (as of December 2022) | +88,292 |
| Ecuador | 474,945 (as of June 2023) | 444,778 (as of March 2024) | -30,167 |
| Dominican Republic | 124,141 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 36,218 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Guyana | 21,676 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Aruba | 17,085 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Curaçao | 14,000 (as of June 2022) | | |
| Argentina | 217,742 (as of January 2023) | 164,024 (as of March 2024) | -53,718 |
| Bolivia | 16,350 (as of September 2023) | 18,006 (as of March 2024) | +1,656 |
| Paraguay | 5,234 (as of September 2023) | 5,349 (as of December 2023) | +115 |
| Uruguay | 32,939 (as of June 2023) | 39,689 (as of December 2023) | +6,750 |
| Mexico | 113,108 (as of June 2023) | | |
| Panama | 58,158 (as of July 2023) | | |
| Costa Rica | 29,405 (as of July 2023) | 29,048 (as of December 2023) | -357 |
| Other countries | 1,188,909 (as of May 2023) | | |
| TOTAL | 7,722,579 | 7,774,494 | +51,915 |