

THE POPULATION



AN ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST "RECALL ESTADÍSTIC GENERAL DE LA POBLACIÓ" (1989) SHOWS A CONSIDERABLE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES RESIDENT IN ANDORRA: 64.1 % OF THE INHABITANTS ARE OF IMMIGRANT ORIGIN AND FOREIGNERS REPRESENT 75.5 % OF THE TOTAL POPULATION.

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ANDORRA LA VELLA

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According to figures from the population census carried out in 1989, Andorra has 46,166 inhabitants. This population is the result of a relatively short historical process, since it is over a period of only thirty years that the economic boom and expansion has taken place.

It is worth looking at certain historical aspects, especially as regards the moments that have determined the principal demographic fluctuations.

In this respect we can differentiate four important periods:

- Until the end of the last century Andorra had a subsistence economy based on stockfarming and agriculture, and a limited exchange activity promoted by a few textile and iron industries. This made for a stable population of around 5,000 to 6,000 inhabitants.
- After the 1860s the population reached saturation point, provoking a considerable process of migration that lasted until the 1930s. At first, this emigration towards the Spanish plains and

the south of France was of a seasonal nature, but in some cases it became definitive. This led to a drop in the population, which reached the figure of between 4,200 and 4,300 inhabitants at the beginning of the thirties.

- Later on there was moderate growth as a result of the creation of a company for the exploitation of the country's hydroelectrical resources. This company, called FHASA, sparked off a profound change in this little country's economy, since as well as carrying out improvements in communications it also attracted the first waves of immigrants. It is worth pointing out another important aspect of this period stretching from the thirties to the sixties, which is that wars in Europe (to be precise, the Spanish Civil War and World War II) led to a certain commercial exchange and promoted Andorra as a place of refuge. Because of all this the population had grown to some 11,000 inhabitants by the beginning of the sixties.

- The final phase brings us up to the

present day, with Andorra promoted as a tourist country, especially as regards winter sports, and as a commercial centre, an activity that has taken on an international character in recent years. This has provoked an increase in the population, with the arrival of large numbers of immigrants attracted by the possibilities of work.

An analysis of the latest "Recull Estadístic General de la Població" (General Population Census), carried out in the summer of 1989, shows a considerable imbalance between the different nationalities resident in Andorra: 64.1 % of the inhabitants are of immigrant origin and foreigners represent 75.5 % of the total population.

More than half these people have Spanish nationality, followed in order of importance by the Portuguese (8.5 %) and the French (6.5 %).

Both Spaniards and French make up the traditional immigration, some of these residents having lived in Andorra since immigration started (29.6 % of the Spaniards and 10.4 % of the French have lived in Andorra for over twenty years). The Portuguese, however, represent a more recent type of immigration, since most of them have arrived in Andorra during the last ten years.

There are other nationalities of European origin resident in the country, the most numerous of which are the British (1.6 % of the total inhabitants), who look to Andorra chiefly as a place of retirement.

A quarter of the total population studies; but it is interesting to note that amongst Andorrans this proportion reaches 40.1 % of the total of this group and amongst the Portuguese it is only 15.4 %. This is a consequence of what has already been pointed out: the fact that Portuguese immigration started so much later means that family structures are either absent or very recent (in fact, 72 % of the Portuguese are between 20 and 59 and more than 84 % of the schoolchildren of this nationality are in pre-school or primary education). Amongst the adult population it is significant that almost half say they have no more than primary education. In general terms, the proportion of secondary qualifications in Andorra is interesting, representing 9.7 % of the population over 15 years of age. By nationalities, it



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can be observed that the Andorrans and the French show the highest proportion of university qualifications, while the Spaniards and the Portuguese have the highest proportion of individuals with no more than primary studies.

The working population of Andorra represents 55.1 % of the total, more than the figure for the countries of the Common Market and in line with the Scandinavian countries.

83 % of the workforce are salaried workers and three quarters of the working population are employed in the ser-

vice or tertiary sector. The Andorran economy is concentrated largely in three sectors: trade (29.3 %), catering (14 %) and construction (11.9 %). As regards socio-professional categories, 45.8 % of the working population is employed.

The great activity in the construction sector, one of the busiest in Europe, is related to the country's orientation towards tourism. In this respect, it is worth noting the large number of secondary residences, which in Andorra account for 16 % of the total accommodation. At the same time, the 11.5 % of vacant accommoda-

tion is generally aimed at investment. The country's considerable economic activity results, as we have seen, in a considerable influx of immigrants, which results in an imbalance between nationals and foreigners. This raises two issues: first of all, there is the integration of these immigrants, some of whom have lived in Andorra for many years and can not obtain Andorran nationality; secondly, there is the problem of the demographic growth, which, if we are to maintain a certain social well-being, can not be unlimited, because of the small size of the country. ■