

FACT SHEET



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

U.S.-Spain Cooperation

Strong Defense Partnership: The United States and Spain work together to promote peace, rule of law, and freedom worldwide. Our security forces serve side-by-side in key international missions around the globe. We are deployed together in Iraq to degrade and defeat DAESH, with Spain's 300 trainers co-located with U.S. troops south of Baghdad to train the Iraqi Army. A committed NATO Ally, Spain continues to support the Afghan government, taking a leading role in Herat under Operation Resolute Support. Spanish planes have patrolled the skies over the Baltics as part of reassurance measures in light of Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and its ships steam as part of a NATO security mission in the Mediterranean. Spanish forces participate in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, conduct anti-piracy patrols off the horn of Africa, and are active in Mali and the Central African Republic. In addition, Spain hosts U.S. Sailors, Marines, Department of Defense civilian employees, and their families at Naval Station Rota and Morón Air Base. Making an important contribution to U.S. and NATO security, Spain agreed to home port four multi-mission, ballistic missile defense-capable U.S. destroyers at Naval Station Rota, the last of which arrives on September 25th, 2015. Spain also hosts a Marine contingency force that is instrumental in protecting U.S. and allied personnel and facilities in North and West Africa in times of heightened instability. Spanish – U.S. bilateral engagement includes more than 80 exercises in the last two years, thousands of ships and aircraft transiting through Spain, and a robust foreign military sales program.

Global Security Cooperation: The United States and Spain are key partners in international counterterrorism and law enforcement efforts. Spain is an active participant in the global strategy against international terrorists and contributes to the UN Global Counterterrorism Forum, as well as EU training missions in Mali and the Sahel that build local counterterrorism capacity. Our two nations enjoy robust law enforcement cooperation and cooperate extensively in countering international criminal threats. We are working closely together on counterterrorism, particularly the issue of foreign fighters. Spain has arrested dozens of suspected terrorists in the past year alone. The United States continues to support Spain's leadership among European nations in fighting drug trafficking and in confronting, disrupting, and dismantling organized criminal groups. In 2013, Spain and the United States agreed to establish prepositioned warehouse space in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria Free Zone to support global food security and ensure the flow of humanitarian and development assistance to populations in need in developing countries, particularly in Africa.



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Strong Economic Ties: Our two countries share a robust trade and investment relationship. Spain is the ninth largest, and one of the fastest growing, investors in the United States, with a foreign direct investment stock of \$58 billion in 2014. U.S. subsidiaries of Spanish firms employ over 81,000 U.S. workers in fields such as banking, wind and solar power, biofuels, road construction, and food. The United States is the third largest direct investor in Spain, with almost \$31 billion invested as of the first quarter of 2015. In March, the Spanish Ministry of Economy reported the U.S. had become the largest portfolio investor in Spain, with \$3.5 billion in investments in Spanish company stocks. U.S. companies employ over 163,000 Spaniards, notably in the automotive and chemical industries. In 2014 U.S. exports to Spain totaled \$10.11 billion, while Spain exported goods totaling \$14.4 billion. Over 1.17 million U.S. tourists visited Spain in 2014, while 700,000 Spaniards traveled to the United States. To create jobs and generate growth in both countries, the U.S. Embassy is undertaking numerous initiatives to deepen the connections between the U.S. and Spanish entrepreneurial ecosystems, including educational tools, workshops, and mentorship programs.

Educational Partnerships: Spain is the third most popular destination in the world for U.S. exchange students, with over 26,000 Americans studying in Spain in 2014. Each year approximately 5,000 Spanish students, professors, and professionals participate in a wide variety of exchange programs that take them to the United States. The Commission for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Exchange between the United States of America and Spain (the Fulbright Commission) was established in 1958, and since then more than 7,000 U.S. and Spanish students, English Teaching Assistants, lecturers, and researchers have been awarded Fulbright grants. The Fulbright Alumni Association boasts 1,000 members. In 2014, nominated by the U.S. and Spanish Ambassadors, the Fulbright Program was given the prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. In addition, nearly 2,500 Americans come to Spain each year as English Teaching Assistants through programs sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport as well as regional governments.

Cultural Diplomacy: Recent anniversaries have provided further opportunities for exchanges and linkages: 2013 was the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de León and the 300th anniversary of the birth of Fra Junípero Serra, the founder of the California mission system, while 2015 is the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine by Pedro Menéndez of Avilés. In addition to a rich variety of cultural exchange programs in music, film, and art, the U.S. Embassy is reaching minority and underserved youth throughout the country with programs in English-language learning, entrepreneurship, and countering violent extremism.

50 Years of Space Cooperation: The partnership between the United States and Spain on space exploration goes back fifty years. Spain participates in the Deep Space Network through the Madrid Deep Space Communication Complex, which provides communications with more than 40 probes and space vehicles engaged in solar system exploration. The Complex, managed by the Defense Ministry's Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA), is one of three deep space tracking stations in the world and has been in operation since 1964. This cooperation between the United States and Spain has played a significant role in the exploration of outer space.



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