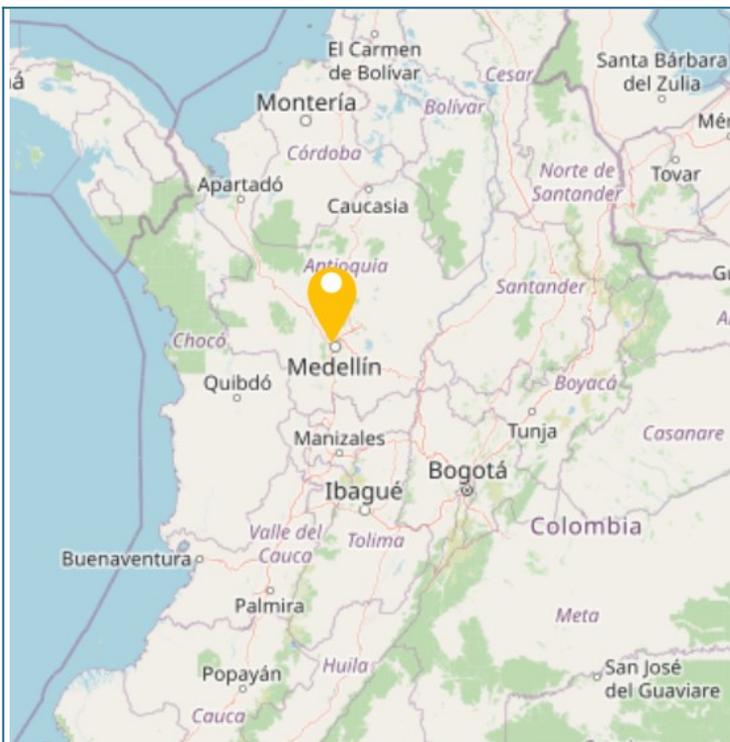


Colombia Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	1,142,319
New asylum applications (2019)	10,621

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/colombia>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	119,269	2017	Percentage of foreign prisoners	0.7	2017
	119,815	2014		0.7	2014
	120,032	2013			
	84,444	2010			
	63,603	2007			
	68,020	2004			
	49,302	2001			
	44,398	1998			
	33,258	1995			
	27,316	1992			
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	236	2017			
	246	2014			
	247	2013			
	181	2010			
	142	2007			
	159	2004			
	121	2001			
	115	1998			
	90	1995			
	78	1992			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	50,900,000	2020	International migrants	1,142,319	2019
	48,229,000	2015		133,100	2015
International migrants as a percentage of the population	0.3	2015	Refugees	634	2019
				310	2018
				277	2017
				221	2016
				226	2015
				213	2014

Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.01	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	10,621	2019
				399	2016
				720	2014
Refugee recognition rate	22.9	2014	Stateless persons	11	2016
				12	2015

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Articles 28 and 29	1991	2018

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Decreto Numero 4000 de 2004, por el cual se dictan disposiciones sobre la expedición de visas, control de extranjeros y se dictan otras disposiciones en materia de migración	2004	
	Decreto Numero 834 de 2013, por el cual se establecen disposiciones en materia migratoria de la República de Colombia	2013	
	Decreto Numero 1067 de 2015, por medio del cual se expide el Decreto Único Reglamentario del Sector Administrativo de Relaciones Exteriores	2015	
	Decreto 4062 de 2011, por el cual se crea la Unidad Administrativa Especial Migración Colombia, se establece su objetivo y estructura	2011	

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Additional legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Decreto 2840 de 2013, por el cual se establece el Procedimiento para el Reconocimiento de la Condición de Refugiado, se dictan normas sobre la Comisión Asesora para la Determinación de la Condición de Refugiado y otras disposiciones	2013	

GROUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION

Immigration-status-related grounds	Name	Observation Date
	Detention to establish/verify identity and nationality	2004
	Detention to effect removal	2004

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
<p>Latest Update</p>	<p>According to the Colombian Ministry of Health, as of 23 June, Colombia had 73,572 cases of Covid-19 and 2,404 deaths related to the disease. As reported by CNN, Venezuelan migrant workers, who left the country when its economy collapsed, are now returning as Covid-19 cases surge across Latin America. The Colombia-Venezuela border crossing has been closed since March and migrants wishing to return to Venezuela find themselves stranded at the border in Cucuta. According to UNHCR, on 5 June Colombia's migration authority issued Resolution No. 1265, which outlines the protocol for the return of Venezuelans and details coordination measures between local authorities, Colombia's immigration authority (Migracion Colombia), local health institutions, and the police. Under this resolution, Venezuelans who decide to return are at risk of losing their refugee status or having their application for asylum rejected. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has called its own citizens "biological weapons" and accused Colombia and other governments of infecting them with Covid-19 to spread the pandemic across Venezuela. Colombia has categorically rejected these accusations, calling them deplorable. As reported by UNHCR, quotas have been established for the maximum number of returnees that can be received in Venezuela via the humanitarian corridor that is open three days a week (100 people per return day via the Arauca border crossing and 300 per return day in Cucuta). Everyone else must wait in makeshift migrant camps, where many have been waiting for weeks in worsening conditions. Social distancing is non-existent in the Cucuta camp, which increases the risk of contagion and spread of Covid-19. In addition, without toilets or adequate medicines, and with exposed raw sewage and waste, the camps expose children and families to other serious illnesses. Al Jazeera reported in June that at least 500 Venezuelan migrants who had been left jobless and homeless during the pandemic, built a makeshift camp in the outskirts of Bogota. Most are trying to return home, but the Colombian authorities were preventing them from continuing their trip after the Venezuelan government began limiting the number of returnees, causing bottlenecks along the route. This camp has no running water or electricity and people survive from the charity of others that bring them food and supplies. UNHCR and its partners are concerned over the increased risks of forced recruitment of adolescents by armed groups. As a result of quarantine measures, families face economic hardship and are therefore more vulnerable to pressure from armed groups. The National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences reported that nine Venezuelan women were killed during the period of mandatory isolation that began on 20 March, representing a 12% increase from the same period in 2019. Also, the Children's Delegate of the Ombudsperson's Office identified 54 unaccompanied and separated Venezuelan children in North Santander, 129 in Arauca and 107 in Guajira during the Covid-19 crisis. From 16 March to 12 June, UNHCR registered 2,206 cases of children at risk and 90 cases of unaccompanied and separated children.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>Migrants and refugees in Colombia find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation due to the Covid-19 crisis and the measures taken by the government, including confinement and border closures. Many have lost their homes and been left on the street as they are not able to afford rent. UNHCR has urged the country to adopt measures to support all vulnerable populations during the pandemic. However, of the 33 emergency decrees issued by the government to date as a consequence of the pandemic, none of them mention support for migrants. The GDP has been unable to find any reports indicating the measures taken to assist migrants and asylum seekers in detention. It is likely that people arrested for immigration reasons are held in prisons or police stations. Colombia's President Ivan Duque announced the suspension of visits to all of the country's 132 prisons until adequate measures are put in place to ensure that Covid-19 does not spread within prisons. On 25 March 2020, the "National Carceral Movement" denounced the use of firearms and tear gas by the prison administration in response to a peaceful protest. The group of prisoners reports that 39 detainees were injured. The Ministry of Justice subsequently decided that 10,850 particularly vulnerable prisoners would be released and placed under "transitory house arrest" to mitigate the risk of infection. Prisoners that will be allowed to leave are those older than 60, nursing mothers, severely ill inmates and prisoners with sentences lower than five years who have served the obligatory three-fourth of their sentence, but were never released.</p>	<p>2020</p>

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	2019
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2012
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2011
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2004
	ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	1995
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1991
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1987
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1982
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1981
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1980
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1972
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1969
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1969
CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1961	
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	14/19	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2007
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1969
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	2/9	
	2/9	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee on Migrant Workers	<p>§23. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary steps to ensure that migration status checks are conducted in a way that does not violate the rights of the persons concerned, particularly the right to integrity of the person. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that the procedures used when detaining migrant workers and members of their families who are in an irregular situation, including those who are in transit, are in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Convention. The Committee invites the State party to make sure that conditions in temporary migrant holding centres meet international standards.</p>	2013
	Committee on Migrant Workers	<p>§21. The Committee noted that the centres run by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) are used to detain migrants in an irregular situation. However, the Committee is concerned at gaps in the information provided by the State party with regard to the procedures for the detention of migrants by the Administrative Department of Security.</p> <p>§22. The Committee invites the State party to provide detailed information on the procedures applied by the Administrative Department of Security for the detention of migrant workers and members of their families. The Committee would also like to receive detailed information on the registration system and the physical conditions of the facilities in which migrants are held in the DAS centres.</p> <p>§23. The Committee notes that it is planned to establish a migrants' reception centre in the near future.</p> <p>§24. The Committee recommends that the State party finalize its plans for a migrants' reception centre, so as to establish a special centre to receive migrant workers and their family members, which respects and guarantees the rights enshrined in the Convention.</p>	2009
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name		Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	ACHR, American Convention on Human Rights		1973
	IACPPT, Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture		1998
	APACHR, Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		1997
	CBDP, Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para)		1996
	IACFDP, Inter-American convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons		2005

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1996	2015
	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	2001	2015
	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	2003	2015
	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2007	2015
	Working Group on arbitrary detention	2008	2015
	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	2009	2015

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2009	2017
	No	2013	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

Institutions responsible for immigration detention

Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date

More information about immigration detention in Colombia is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)