

**Title:** Venezuelan Immigrants in the United States  
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#### Abstract

This article presents an overview of the Venezuelan international migration to the United States.

Considering the global characteristics and the current situation of the country, I argue that actual political and socio economic conditions in the country, as well as the criminal violence, are at the base of the explanation for the recent Venezuelan international migration to the United States.

The initial parts of the article will review the current socio economic dynamic existent in Venezuela, as well as the political arena and the violence that affected different layers of society. The combination of these three elements; exposed economy and dependence on the international oil price market, an extremely centralized government with authoritarian and personality characteristic, and finally, the expansion of the violence creating a higher level of insecurity, explains the recent flow of immigration to the United States.

In the second part, I review two important aspects of Venezuelan migration. First, there is the dynamics of migration into Venezuela during the twentieth century, and secondly, the elements that characterized the Venezuelan migration to the United States. In recent years Venezuelans became one of the most dynamic South American immigrant countries to the United States. Finally, the last part relates to how Venezuelans are negotiating their identity and integration to the American society.

The analysis drives to the scenario of integration into the American society, but if the conditions in the country of origin varies in the near term, we can predict a return of immigrants as we observed with the Chilean or the Spanish experience.

Methodologically speaking, and due to the deficiency of data, we are using different sources of information in order to achieve our analytical goal. In this sense we used the Encuesta de Migración 1981, and the American Community Survey 2007, (A nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look on changes, it collects and produces population and housing information every year instead every 10 years), Indicators of the World Bank for structural data of Venezuela, and finally the statistics from US Homeland Security. In the last part of this article I used personal data related with the emergence of Venezuela's immigrant organizations in the United States.