

# **GALAPAGOS REPORT 2011-2012**

## **HUMAN SYSTEMS**

### **POPULATION AND MIGRATION IN GALAPAGOS**

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Photograph: Lori Ulrich

## Population and migration in Galapagos

Marianita Granda León and Geovanny Chóez Salazar

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Governing Council of Galapagos

### Introduction

The official population of any jurisdiction, whether a country, province, canton or parish, is the number of inhabitants present there at a particular point in time. In Ecuador, seven population censuses have been carried out since 1950. The census counts all citizens and foreigners who are present in a particular jurisdiction on the day of the census. The censuses include those who were born and live in a place, people born elsewhere but who have made their residence in that jurisdiction, and visitors present at the time of the census.

### Floating population and usual residents

According to the latest census conducted in Ecuador on November 28, 2010, Galapagos has a population of 25,124 inhabitants. Galapagos has the smallest population of all of the provinces and represents only one percent of the national population.

The total population consists of usual residents and a floating population. Usual residents, in demographic terms, are people who have been living in a place for at least six months or if they have been there for less time, plan to stay in that place for more than six months. For example, students traveling to Quito for university become usual residents of that city, since they plan to stay there for longer than six months.

The floating population consists of people who are in a place for vacation, business, medical care, family visits or other reasons, and do not plan to stay there for more than six months. For example, on a given day there are people from other provinces and other countries in Galapagos, but there are also Galapagos residents who are outside of the province, either in mainland Ecuador or abroad.

Unfortunately census results do not distinguish between "Permanent Residence" or "Temporary Residence," which is determined in Galapagos by the Governing Council; in a national census questions and criteria conform to situations that are common throughout the country. Permanent and temporary residences describe conditions that occur only in Galapagos, the only province with a special regime under the Constitution.

Of the 25,124 people who were in the archipelago on Census Day in 2010, 23,046 declared that the islands are their usual place of residence. The remaining 2078 were part of a floating population consisting of two groups: 1394 from abroad and 684 from mainland Ecuador. At the same time, a total of 584 Galapagos

residents were counted in mainland Ecuador, indicating that their main place of residence was Galapagos and they were on the continent for a short stay (less than six months; Figure 1).

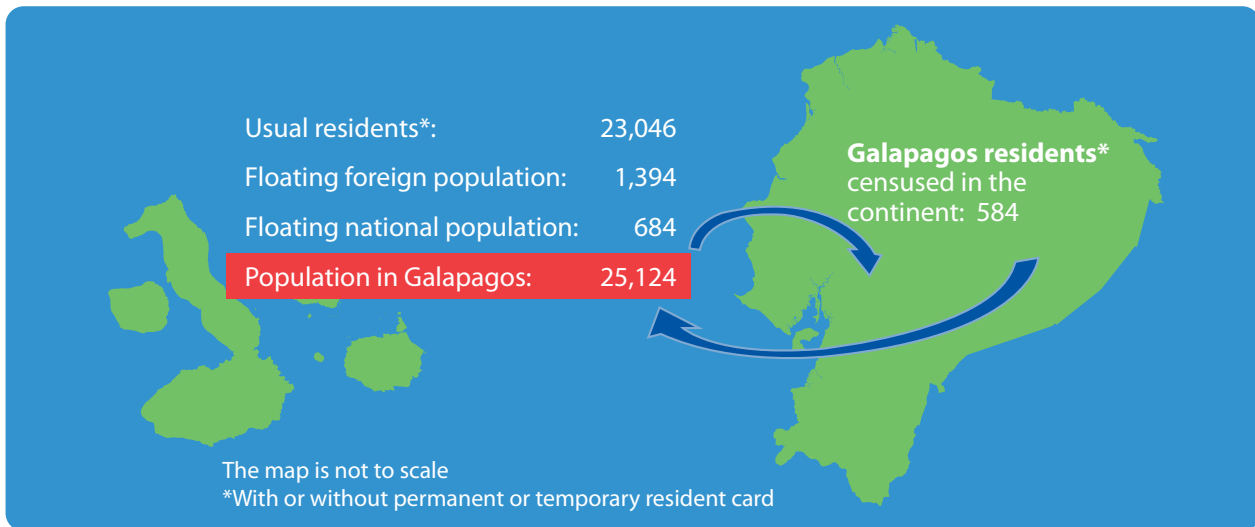


Figure 1. General distribution of the population of Galapagos on the day of the census 2010 (28 November).

### Geographic distribution of the population

For political and administrative purposes, the province of Galapagos is divided into three cantons each with a corresponding municipal capital or urban parish: San Cristóbal/Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, Santa Cruz/Puerto Ayora and Isabela/Puerto Villamil. In addition to the urban parishes, each canton has at least one rural parish: El Progreso and Santa María/Floreana Island in San Cristóbal; Bellavista, Santa Rosa and Baltra in Santa Cruz, and Tomás de Berlanga in Isabela.

More than half of the province’s population (61%) is concentrated in Santa Cruz, while San Cristóbal has 30% and Isabela 9% (Table 1, Figure 2). The Galapagos

population lives mainly in urban areas, with 83% residing in the three municipal capitals and only 17% in rural parishes.

On the day of the census, 1059 people were at sea, but not all those counted on cruise ships were tourists; some members of the usual population of Galapagos were at sea as crew members. The majority of people counted at sea (458 people) embarked at the port on Baltra Island, and were thus included in the total count for Baltra, which in turn forms part of the Santa Rosa parish of Santa Cruz. A total of 385 people embarked at Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz), while 176 and 17 people embarked at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal) and Puerto Villamil (Isabela), respectively.

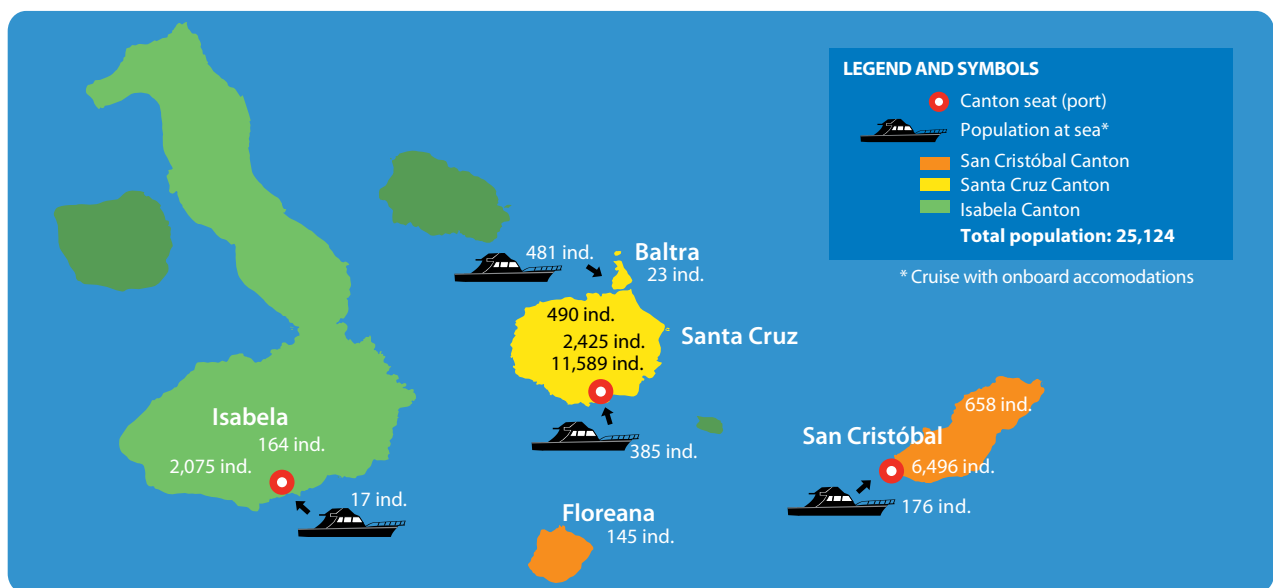


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of the Galapagos population on the day of the 2010 Census (map not to scale). The arrows indicate the port from which the individuals departed on cruises, not the direction that they took. Source: Population Census 2010, INEC

**Table 1.** Galapagos population by canton and area in 2010. Source: Population Census 2010, INEC

Canton	Urban	Rural		Total	Percentage
San Cristóbal	6,672	658 (El Progreso)	145 (Floreana)	7,475	30
Isabela	2,092	164 (T. de Berlanga)	---	2,256	9
Santa Cruz	11,974	2,425 (Bellavista)	994 (Sta. Rosa and Baltra)	15,393	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,738 (83%)</b>	<b>Total Rural: 4,386 (17%)</b>		<b>25,124</b>	<b>100</b>

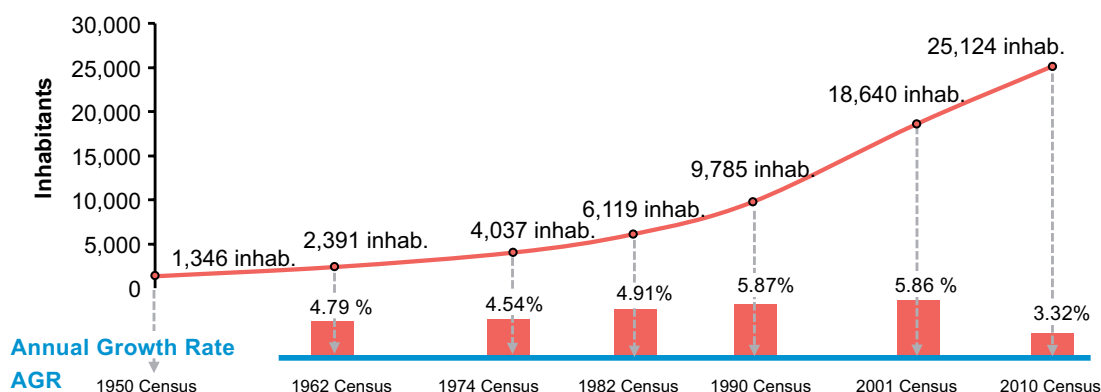
**Table 2.** Floating population by urban and rural areas in 2010. Source: Population Census 2010, INEC

Canton	Urban	Rural		Total	Percentage
San Cristóbal	532	4 (El Progreso)	9 (Floreana)	545	26
Isabela	91	0 (T. de Berlanga)	---	91	4
Santa Cruz	975	39 (Bellavista)	428 (Sta. Rosa and Baltra)	1,442	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 598 (77%)</b>	<b>Total Rural: 480 (23%)</b>		<b>2,078</b>	<b>100</b>

### Population growth

Measurements of population growth in Galapagos began in 1950 (Figure 3). Between 1950 and 2001, each census recorded a near doubling of the population. However,

population growth slowed sharply during the last decade because of a policy restricting entry into Galapagos that was established via Law 67 called the Special Law for Galapagos (LOREG, for its initials in Spanish) enacted in 1998.



**Figure 3.** Annual rate of population growth in Galapagos from 1950 to 2010. Source: Population Censuses I to VII, INEC.

Galapagos has traditionally been one of the provinces with the highest population growth rates, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s when it led the other provinces with an annual growth rate (AGR) that reached nearly 6% (Table 3). Currently the AGR is 3.3% per year, which for 2011 represented an increase of approximately 848 "new" people in the islands.

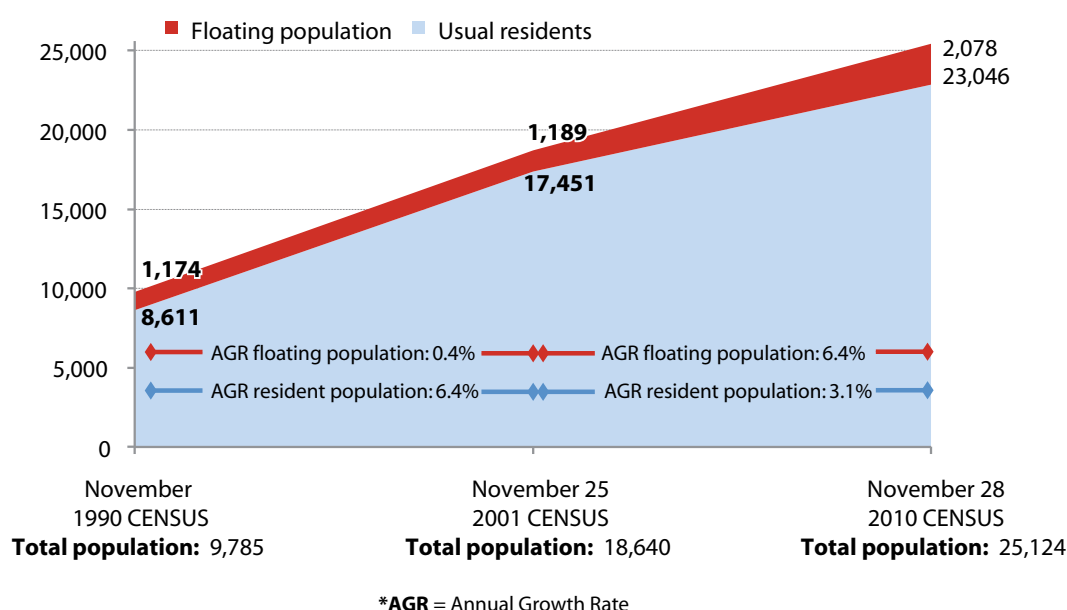
The presence of tourists has affected Galapagos population figures, especially in recent years, although tourists usually have no intention of staying in the archipelago for more than a week. According to the Tourism Observatory of Galapagos, 80% of tourists interviewed in November 2011 indicated that they would not be staying in the islands for more than seven days.

**Table 3.** Ranking of Annual Growth Rates (AGR) by province. Source: Population Censuses IV to VII, INEC.

N°	Period 1982-1990		Period 1990-2001		Period 2001-2010	
	Province	AGR	Province	AGR	Province	AGR
1	Galapagos	5.9%	Galapagos	5.9%	Orellana	5.1%
2	Zamora Chinchipe	4.4%	Sucumbíos	4.7%	Esmeraldas	3.6%
3	Pastaza	3.4%	Pastaza	3.5%	Sucumbíos	3.5%
4	Pichincha	3.0%	Pichincha	2.8%	Pastaza	3.4%
5	Guayas	2.6%	Guayas	2.5%	Galapagos	3.3%

According to statistical information provided by the Governing Council of Galapagos, 173,977 tourists (including Ecuadorians and foreigners) entered Galapagos in 2010, but the number per day, according to the 2010

census, was 2078 tourists. The 2001 census, nine years earlier, showed that only 1189 tourists entered per day, and the 1990 census counted 1174 per day (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Evolution of the number of usual residents and the floating population. Source : Population Censuses V to VII, INEC

The current AGR for Galapagos indicates an increase of approximately 848 people per year. Of these 848 individuals, it is estimated that 136 correspond to the increase in tourists. The remaining 712 people are new usual residents in Galapagos; 406 correspond to natural population growth and 306 migrate to Galapagos.

Natural population growth refers to the number of births minus the number of deaths. In the case of births, children of mothers who usually reside in Galapagos were included even if the delivery occurred in another province or even in another country. Likewise, deaths included all those of usual residents without regard to where they died (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Natural population growth by year. Source: Vital Statistics – Civil Register & INEC

Date of Birth	No. of Births*	No. of Deaths	Natural Population Growth
2000	472	39	433
2001	437	31	406
2002	464	30	434
2003	472	35	437
2004	442	24	418
2005	370	40	330
2006	429	27	402
2007	418	35	383
2008	415	29	386
2009	455	43	412
2010	404	43	402

\*Births from mothers who live in Galapagos (with or without a resident card), including those who give birth in Galapagos, in another part of Ecuador or in a foreign country,

**Gross immigration 2001 y 2010**

Gross immigration is based on the birthplace of each person who was counted in the Galapagos population on the day of the census. In every census each individual

indicates their place of birth (province, canton and parish); for this study "birthplace" was considered the province of birth. In both censuses 65% of the population was born outside of Galapagos (Table 5).

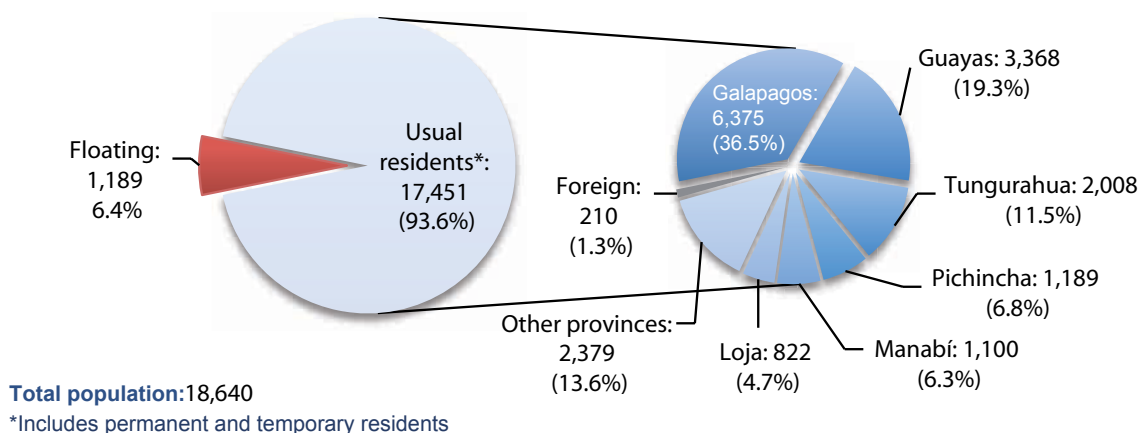
**Table 5.** Galapagos population by province of birth in the 2001 and 2010 censuses. Source: Population Censuses VI and VII - INEC

Province of Birth	Census 2001		Census 2010	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Galapagos	6,392	34.3	8,571	34.1
Other province	11,401	61.2	14,773	58.8
Foreign country	847	4.5	1,780	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25,124</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Usual residents and recent immigration**

On the day of the penultimate census (25 November 2001), a total of 18,640 people were counted in Galapagos, of which 17,451 (94%) reported living in the

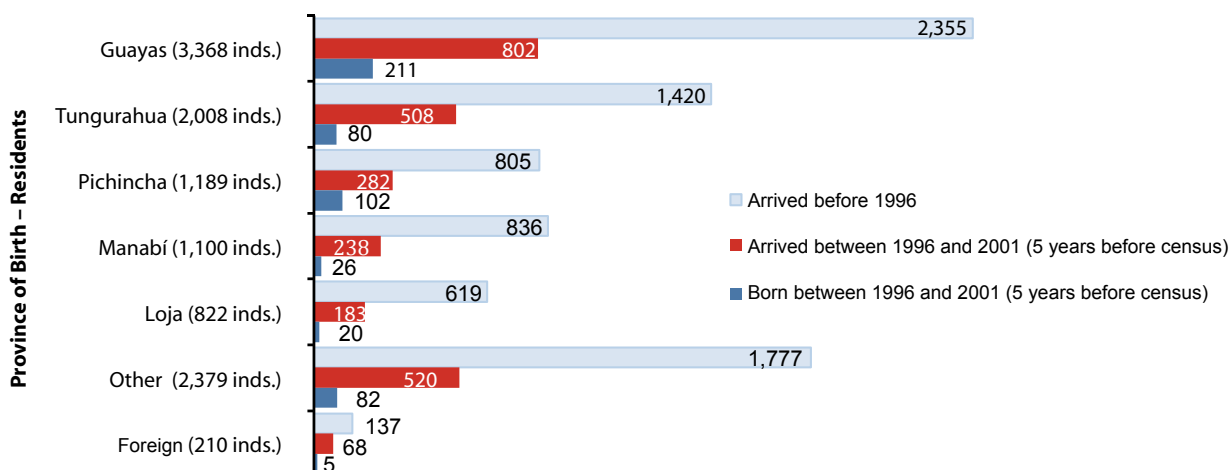
province; the rest constituted the floating population. The usually resident population was structured as follows: approximately 37% were born in Galapagos, 19% in Guayas, 12% in Tungurahua and less than 10% in each of the other provinces (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** Usual residents by place of birth, 2001 census. Source: Population Census 2001, INEC

The census provides information on recent migrations, i.e., the movement of individuals during the five years preceding the date of the census. The question dealing with migration information is: "Five years ago, where did you reside?" This question identifies current residents who arrived "recently" and where they came from (Figures 5 and 6).

In November 2001, total recent migration to Galapagos consisted of 2601 individuals who did not live in Galapagos five years earlier (1996) but who in 2001 declared that the archipelago was their usual place of residence. This figure included 802 people from Guayas, 508 from Tungurahua, 282 from Pichincha, 238 from Manabí, 183 from Loja, 520 from other provinces, and 68 people from abroad.



**Figure 6.** Arrival time of Galapagos residents who were not born in the Islands, Census 2001. Source: Population Census 2001, INEC

The 2010 census revealed a similar situation: the five most frequent provinces represented in Galapagos in terms of birthplace were Guayas, Tungurahua, Manabí, Pichincha and Loja (Figure 7).

Guayas (1000 individuals), Tungurahua (601), Manabí (299), Pichincha (251), Loja (233), other provinces (817) and abroad (160; Figure 8).

Recent migration (within the five years prior to the 2010 census) includes a total of 3361 individuals, all of whom were living outside the province of Galapagos five years before the census but in 2010 indicated that Galapagos is now their usual residence. Recent arrivals came from

By comparing the 2001 and 2010 censuses, it is evident that immigration to Galapagos has increased slightly. A total of 160 foreign-born individuals have moved to Galapagos between the two censuses, more than double the number counted in the 2001 census (Figure 9).

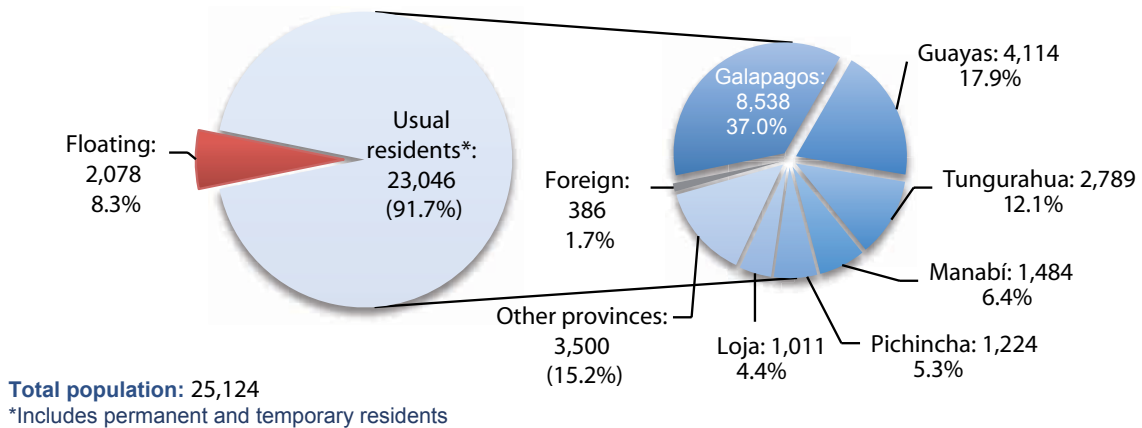


Figure 7. Usual residents by province of birth, Census 2010. Source: Population Census 2010, INEC

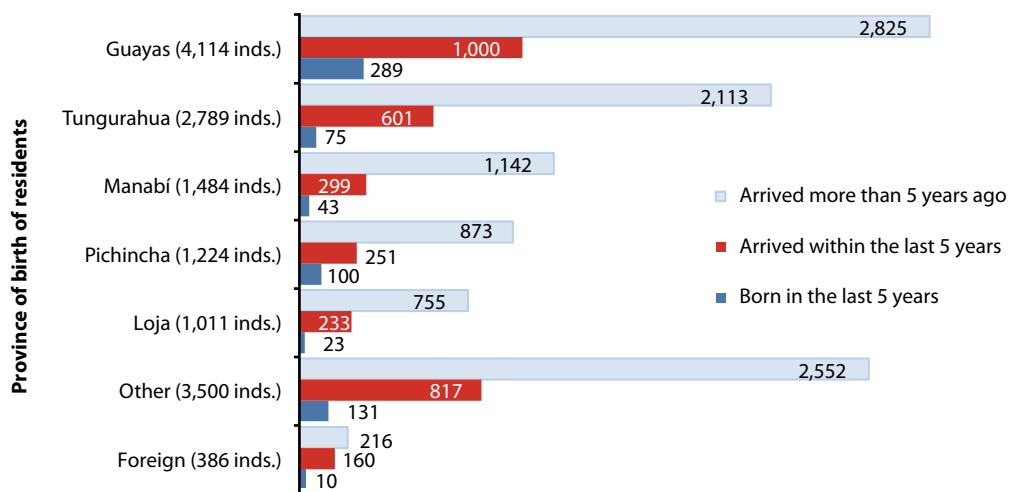


Figure 8. Arrival time of the Galapagos residents not born in the Islands, Census 2010. Source: Population Census 2010 - INEC

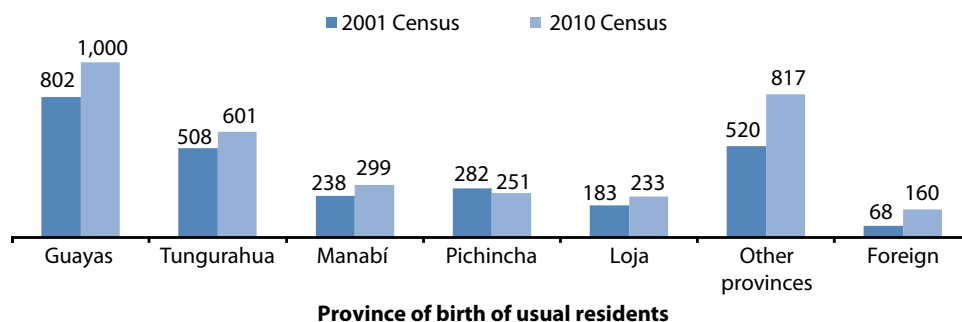


Figure 9. Recent immigration 2001 and 2010. Source: Population Censuses 2001 and 2010 - INEC

## Emigration

**Gross emigration** is determined by the place of birth in comparison with the place of residence. Between the 2001 and 2010 censuses, the number of people

born in Galapagos who are now residents outside the province has increased (Table 6). The provinces with more individuals migrating to Galapagos also received the more individuals from Galapagos, although the balance of migration (immigration-emigration) "favors" Galapagos.

**Table 6.** Number of individuals born in Galapagos with usual residency in provinces in continental Ecuador, 2001 and 2010. Source: Population Censuses 2001 and 2010 - INEC

Census 2001			Census 2010		
Usual Residency	Number	Percentage	Usual Residency	Number	Percentage
Guayas	838	49.6	Guayas	1,022	43.1
Pichincha	438	25.9	Pichincha	626	26.4
Tungurahua	98	5.8	Tungurahua	152	6.4
El Oro	54	3.2	Manabí	66	2.8
Manabí	53	3.1	Santa Elena	64	2.7
Other	208	12.3	Other	443	18.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Recent emigration** included those people who emigrated from Galapagos in the five years prior to the census. The number of emigrants moving from Galapagos

to provinces of mainland Ecuador doubled in the 2010 census compared to the 2001 census.

**Table 7.** Usual residency of individuals born in Galapagos who emigrated within the last five years. Source: Population Censuses 2001 and 2010, INEC

Census 2001			Census 2010		
Usual Residency	Number	Percentage	Usual Residency	Number	Percentage
Guayas	441	38.4	Guayas	903	37.1
Pichincha	320	27.9	Pichincha	585	24.1
Tungurahua	101	8.8	Tungurahua	238	9.8
Manabí	44	3.8	Manabí	97	4.0
Esmeraldas	33	2.9	Loja	82	3.4
Other	210	18.3	Other	527	21.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Emigration abroad** is based on information provided by the head of household from which the emigrant

departed. During the last two decades, between 200 and 300 people emigrated abroad from Galapagos (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Number of Galapagos residents who emigrated outside Ecuador from 1990 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2010, by gender. Source: Population Census 1990, 2001 and 2010, INEC

Gender	Period 1990 to 2001		Period 2001 to 2010	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Male	115	49.6	147	52.1
Female	117	50.4	135	47.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## Conclusions

The analysis of census data from Galapagos provides the following conclusions:

- Galapagos has the greatest percentage of floating population of any province of Ecuador.
- The rate of population growth has declined by almost half in Galapagos (according to the 2010 census) compared to previous decades, demonstrating the effectiveness of LOREG in controlling population.
- The trend of increasing numbers of tourists swells the floating population and thus the total population.
- Approximately two-thirds of the Galapagos population was born outside the province; this proportion has remained relatively the same in the last three censuses (1990, 2001 and 2010).
- Both in the 2010 and the 2001 censuses, gross immigration to Galapagos primarily came from five provinces: Guayas, Tungurahua, Manabí, Pichincha and Loja. Recent migration, over the last five years based on the 2010 census, has been mainly from Guayas and Tungurahua.
- Approximately seven in ten children under the age of five living in the Galapagos were born in this province.