

Denmark

In 2009, the total number of new residence permits granted in Denmark was about 57 000, a decrease of more than 15% compared with 2008, but still well above the levels of 2004-06. The numbers in all major categories, except for family reunification, registered a decline.

New rules regarding permanent residence permits entered into force in June 2010. In order to qualify for a permanent residence permit, the applicant must meet a number of criteria along a points-based system. Points are awarded for Danish language knowledge, active participation in Danish society, a completed degree in Denmark, and employment for a number of years prior to acceptance of the application, among other criteria. Exemptions may apply for disabled, pensioners, young applicants, and applicants with strong ties to Denmark. In addition, all applicants must have at least four years of residence and no serious criminal record. If the foreigner cannot obtain the required 100 points, he or she can apply for an extension of the time-limited residence permit and apply for a permanent residence permit at a later date.

Since 1 August 2010, a spouse/partner living in Denmark must not have received public assistance for a period of three years prior to the application of his/her spouse/partner. This period was one year before. Since 15 November 2010, spouses/partners are also required to pass an immigration test verifying Danish language skills and knowledge about Denmark and Danish society. This test has to be taken in Denmark, and a fee of DKK 3 000 (EUR 400) applies.

On 1 September 2010, the practice for residence permits for au pairs was modified to respond to the growing flow and to reports of abuse. As a starting point au pairs may no longer have children back in their country of origin and during the assessment of the application, the applicant's family ties to the host family may be taken into account. In addition, every host family must have a separate room for the au pair.

On 16 March 2010, legislative changes passed parliament which amend the Danish Repatriation Act. The purpose of the amendments is to facilitate voluntary return for elderly persons and for persons without contact to the labour market. The payment for voluntary return was increased significantly from up to DKK 28 256 (about EUR 3 800) in 2009 to DKK 117 581 (about EUR 15 800) in 2010 for each adult.

In addition, a foreigner holding a residence permit based on family reunification no longer must hold a permanent residence permit to qualify for financial assistance, but must have had a residence permit in Denmark for at least five years. Furthermore, the age condition to be eligible for the so-called "reintegration allowance for elderly persons" has been lowered from 60 to 55 years. In addition, this allowance was increased, and certain groups of foreigners can be granted additional payments. Finally, the municipality spending on repatriation grants and reintegration allowances is fully covered by state subsidies.

In February 2010, the Government launched its work plan "Denmark 2020", including goals for boosting labour supply and for strengthening the integration of migrants and their descendants into the labour market by 2020. To reach these goals, facilitations for high-qualified immigrants to work and study in Denmark are considered, as well as improved facilities and integration measures for accompanying spouses and children. In addition, in October 2010, the Government launched a campaign to combat residential segregation and social exclusion.

Since 1 August 2010, the Integration Act also covers newly arrived labour migrants, students and nationals of EU and EEA countries benefiting from the rules on free movement of persons in the EU. These groups will be offered a so-called "introductory course" (a lighter version of the integration programme for refugees and family reunified persons). Furthermore, a course of Danish society and Danish culture and history will be offered to all newly arrived refugees and immigrants covered by the Integration Act. In addition, municipalities must be able to offer employment-related activities to newly arrived refugees and immigrants who do not work and are supported by their spouse.

In October 2010, a new agreement – called the "Four-Partite Agreement 2010" – was signed between the Government, the local municipalities and the social partners. The main focus of the agreement is to improve training and education for the offspring of immigrants with a view to providing them with more opportunities in the labour market.

For further information:

www.newtodenmark.dk

www.workindenmark.dk

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

DENMARK

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	4.3	3.7	5.6	..	3.9	..	..	
Outflows	2.6	3.0	3.6	..	2.8	..	..	
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	6.0	6.6	13.1	17.2						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	6.0	6.8	13.3	17.8						
Humanitarian	1.5	1.4	3.2	3.6						
Free movements	30.8	21.9	67.6	57.0						
Others	1.3	1.7	2.9	4.5						
Total	45.6	38.4	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average						
								2005-09		
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	6.9	7.4	6.1	6.3						
Trainees	1.9	3.1	3.1	2.8						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..		
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	2.6	4.2	3.7	3.3						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	2.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.4	0.4	3 819			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	3.6	3.0	7.2	5.3	3.0	5.0	29			
Natural increase	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.7	8			
Net migration	1.7	1.2	5.3	4.0	1.5	3.3	22			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	5.8	6.5	7.3	7.5	6.1	7.0	414			
Foreign population	4.8	5.0	5.8	6.0	4.9	5.5	330			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	7.3	3.8	1.8	2.0	5.3	2.3	6 537			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average					
					2000-04	2005-09				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	81.5	80.4	82.6	78.8	81.1	81.2				
Foreign-born men	67.0	71.0	73.8	72.9	66.2	71.4				
Native-born women	73.3	73.2	75.8	74.3	73.0	74.7				
Foreign-born women	53.3	55.7	59.3	62.3	53.9	58.5				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	3.7	4.2	2.8	6.4	4.0	3.9				
Foreign-born men	10.7	9.0	6.6	10.3	11.6	8.4				
Native-born women	4.9	4.9	3.3	5.0	4.9	4.3				
Foreign-born women	6.6	10.4	7.5	10.1	9.0	8.7				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.5	2.4	-1.1	-5.2	1.5	0.2				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.2	2.1	-1.7	-5.7	1.2	-0.2	29 193			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.5	1.0	1.9	-3.4	0.0	0.9	2 864			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	4.3	4.8	3.2	5.9	4.8	4.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441211>