

Austria

In 2009, according to national statistics, the total inflow of foreign nationals to Austria declined slightly, back to the 2007 level of about 91 800. At the same time, outflows increased from 55 300 in 2008 to 66 100 in 2009, resulting in a net migration of 25 700, 38% lower than in 2008.

About half of all new immigrants to Austria came from outside the EU, and one-quarter each from the old and new EU member countries. Germany remained the main country of origin, making up for almost 20% of total inflows. In 2009, however, immigration of Germans decreased for the first time since 2001, while their outflow increased by 20%. Other major countries of origin were Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Hungary, all of which recorded slight increases in inflows. Taken together, the successor countries of the former Yugoslavia accounted for 11% of new immigrants.

Family migration accounted for the bulk of permanent migration from outside the EU, with a large share of third country nationals entering outside the quota system, that is, as family members of Austrian or EEA-citizens. Among the 4 400 persons who acquired residence permits under the quota system, only about 530 were admitted under the key worker scheme, while the remainder were mainly family members of third country nationals. As a measure to prevent forced and arranged marriages, the minimum age of partners requesting to enter Austria as family migrants was raised from 18 to 21 years in 2010.

As a consequence of the economic downturn, the number of temporary migrants slightly decreased to 17 200 in 2009. This was partly due to a 3% decline in the number of seasonal workers to 11 700 in 2009. However, this group still accounted for the bulk of temporary inflows. The second major group was international students from inside and outside the EU whose share remained rather stable at 18%. The number of temporary residence permits acquired by third country nationals decreased slightly, to 5 500. The inflows registered under temporary migration have become less volatile since 2006, as seasonal labour migration of less than 6 months is no longer subject to such permits, but regulated by special work visas.

After several years of steady decline, the number of asylum seekers had started to rise again in 2008 and reached 15 800 in 2009, an increase of 23% compared with 2008. However, preliminary data for 2010 indicate a significant decline for that year. By the end of November 2010, Austria registered 30% fewer claims than for the same period a year before. The main countries of origin continued to be the Russian

Federation, Afghanistan and Kosovo. The acceptance rate was 19% in 2009.

In January 2010, a comprehensive revision of the Alien Law Act came into effect. It introduced several changes to tighten alien police and asylum legislation. As a measure to reduce unfounded asylum claims, the protection from deportation was abolished for claimants of subsequent applications. Moreover, the amendment redefined the offenses which may lead to detention of asylum seekers, and introduced the possibility to deprive, under certain conditions, delinquent refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection of their status. In addition, asylum seekers whose request for asylum is judged by the authorities as unlikely to be successful are now required to register. Finally, the legal framework for granting residence permits to rejected asylum seekers based on humanitarian grounds was redefined.

As a measure to harmonise the Austrian legislative framework with EU legislation, the grant of residence permits to EEA-citizens was redefined. The law now distinguishes a temporary residence permit from a permanent residence permit which is granted after 5 years of uninterrupted legal residence. Moreover, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can now request a permanent residence permit after five years of residence. Further measures aimed at preventing forced marriages, and at facilitating, under certain conditions, naturalisation for Austrians' spouses working abroad, as well as for adopted children residing outside Austria.

As a reaction to shortages in skilled labour, the Austrian government has included a reform of labour migration policy in its recent government programme. In October 2010, the social partners agreed on the introduction of the so called "Red-White-Red-Card" that will provide a job-search permit for highly-qualified persons without a job offer as well for skilled workers in shortage professions and "key workers" with a job offer, based on a point system. Moreover, it is planned to facilitate access to the labour market for international students and family members of labour migrants. It is also intended to introduce a requirement for family migrants to have basic knowledge of German prior to arrival. The draft of the corresponding legislation is currently being discussed in parliament, and implementation is expected for the second half of 2011.

For further information:

www.bmi.gv.at

www.bmask.gv.at

www.parlament.gv.at

www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/population/index.html

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

AUSTRIA

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	8.1	11.9	11.4	11.0	10.5	11.1	91.8			
Outflows	5.5	6.1	6.6	7.9	5.9	6.7	66.1			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	0.8	0.6	1.7	1.2						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	10.8	10.2	21.8	22.0						
Humanitarian	5.5	5.0	11.2	10.9						
Free movements	32.2	29.9	65.0	65.4						
Others	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5						
Total	49.5	45.7	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.0						
Trainees	0.4	0.4						
Working holiday makers						
Seasonal workers	11.4	12.1	11.7	11.5						
Intra-company transfers	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2						
Other temporary workers	6.3	2.7	2.4	3.6						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	2.3	2.7	1.5	1.9	2000-04	2005-09	2009			
					3.6	1.8	15 821			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	2.5	6.4	4.4	2.4	2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Natural increase	0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.1	4.9	4.2	20			
Net migration	2.2	5.4	4.1	2.5	0.2	0.2	-1			
					4.3	3.8	21			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	10.4	14.5	15.3	15.5	2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Foreign population	8.7	9.7	10.4	10.7	13.3	15.0	1 293			
					9.1	10.1	895			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	3.5	4.4	1.2	0.9	2000-04	2005-09	2009			
					4.8	2.3	7 978			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Native-born men	76.2	76.2	79.2	77.7	75.3	78.0				
Foreign-born men	76.1	71.1	74.9	72.5	74.4	73.2				
Native-born women	59.9	63.5	67.9	68.4	60.8	66.3				
Foreign-born women	58.3	54.2	56.6	57.5	57.6	55.9				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	4.3	3.9	2.9	3.9	4.2	3.4				
Foreign-born men	8.7	10.8	7.3	10.7	9.4	9.4				
Native-born women	4.2	4.6	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.1				
Foreign-born women	7.2	10.5	7.8	8.2	7.8	9.2				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Real GDP	3.7	2.5	2.2	-3.9	1.8	1.6				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.4	1.8	1.7	-4.2	1.4	1.1	31 475			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.6	2.2	1.5	-0.3	0.3	1.7	4 078			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	3.5	5.2	3.8	4.8	4.0	4.6				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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