

Slovak Republic

In 2009, immigration to the Slovak Republic declined for the first time since its accession to the EU. According to national statistics, the inflow of foreign nationals in 2009 was 6 300, compared with 8 800 in 2008. The economic crisis marked a break in the positive labour market developments registered in the country since 2004 and contributed to interrupt the growing immigration trend.

Regarding outflows, different data sources show conflicting pictures. Recorded outflows continued to increase, from 1 700 in 2008 to about 2 000 in 2009, although these figures – based on administrative data – are only a small fraction of actual outflows from the Slovak Republic. In contrast, Labour Force Survey data on Slovaks working abroad indicate not only that there has been a decline in emigration, but that there has even been significant return migration. While at the end of 2008 there were about 170 000 Slovaks working abroad, by the second quarter of 2010 their number had decreased to about 130 000. The top two destination countries in 2008, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom, both experienced a decline in the number of Slovak workers between the 2008 average and the second quarter of 2010, from 70 200 to 53 500, and from 20 200 to 10 500, respectively. In contrast, over the same period, the number of Slovak workers registered in Austria increased from 17 700 to 23 500, and by the first quarter of 2009 Austria had replaced the United Kingdom as the second main destination country for workers from the Slovak Republic.

Inflows have been traditionally dominated by nationals from neighbouring or at least nearby European countries. The main development in the national distribution of migrant inflows in 2009 was the decrease in the inflows from Romania, from more than 2 100 persons in 2008 to less than 600 persons in 2009.

The total number of registered immigrants increased from about 53 000 in 2008 to more than 58 000 in 2009. EEA nationals account for more than 80% of the population with permanent permits, while nationals of the countries outside the EEA account for almost all residents with a temporary permit.

The total population of registered foreign workers was about 14 000 at the end of 2009, an increase of 1 000 persons compared with the previous year. This increase was mainly attributable to the growth of the

number of registered foreign workers from EEA countries (mainly Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Germany), which rose from 10 000 in 2008 to 11 300 in 2009, while the population of nationals from third countries holding a work permit decreased from 3 300 to 2 600, in the same period. Foreign workers account only for a small fraction of the labour force in the Slovak Republic (0.7% in 2009).

Illegal migration to the Slovak Republic, as well as asylum seeking, continued to decline. The number of asylum seekers fell from 900 in 2008 to 800 in 2009 and preliminary figures for 2010 suggest that this decline is ongoing. In 2009, the largest groups of applicants came from Pakistan, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, and India.

New amendments to the Act on the stay of foreigners introduce several changes in 2010, such as providing more flexibility for some categories of foreign workers and foreign students, notably in granting and extending their temporary stay in the Slovak Republic. Notably, some categories of foreign employees (such as employees of key investors or employees sent to the Slovak Republic by their foreign employer for a short period of time) can start their work activities immediately after legally entering the Slovak territory and without having to wait to get a temporary stay permit. Similarly, foreign students admitted for study in the Slovak Republic for a period longer than 90 days can also start with their studies without having to wait to get a temporary stay permit. Any student accepted for higher studies in the Slovak Republic can as of 2010 apply for temporary residence status. Before such option was only granted to the students participating in governmental or EU programmes. Students with temporary residence who are also entrepreneurs can, after completing their studies, continue to ask for re-classification of their temporary residence purpose (from studies to entrepreneurship) in the Slovak Republic and thus can continue their business activities without having to leave and re-enter the Slovak territory.

For further information:

www.minv.sk


www.employment.gov.sk

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	0.9	1.4	3.0	2.7	1.0	2.4	14.4
Outflows	..	0.2	0.6	0.6	..	0.4	3.3
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	2003-2008 annual average		
Work	..	..	..	..	Czech Republic		
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..	Ukraine		
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..	Serbia		
Free movements	..	..	..	..	Hungary		
Others	..	..	..	..	Viet Nam		
Total	..	..	..	..	Romania		
					Poland		
					Korea		
					China		
					Germany		
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average			
				2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	822
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	0.7	0.8	2.2	2.4	-0.5	1.5	13
Natural increase	0.4	0.2	0.9	1.6	0.1	0.6	9
Net migration	0.3	0.6	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.9	4
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.8	63
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	1.3	0.4	..	2.9	262
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
					2000-04	2005-09	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	64.6	69.9	67.5	..	67.5	
Foreign-born men	..	67.1	75.4	72.4	..	71.7	
Native-born women	..	51.0	54.6	52.8	..	52.7	
Foreign-born women	..	37.7	60.3	50.6	..	49.7	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	15.5	8.4	11.4	..	11.5	
Foreign-born men	..	17.4	5.2	12.1	..	10.4	
Native-born women	..	17.2	11.0	12.9	..	13.7	
Foreign-born women	..	28.6	8.9	14.2	..	15.4	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	1.4	6.7	5.8	-4.8	3.9	5.3	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	1.3	6.6	5.6	-5.0	3.9	5.2	16 806
Employment (level in thousands)	-1.4	2.2	3.2	-2.7	0.3	1.8	2 366
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	18.8	16.2	9.5	12.1	18.5	12.5	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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