

Slovenia

At the beginning of 2010, out of Slovenia's total population of 2 million, about 82 300 were foreign citizens, representing 4% of the total population. The vast majority – more than 88% – of the foreign population is from the successor countries of the former Yugoslavia, with Bosnia and Herzegovina (47%), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) (11%), Serbia (11%) and Croatia (9%) being the main origin countries of foreign nationals. Among the foreign population, 73% are men.

27 400 foreigners immigrated to Slovenia in 2009, roughly the same number as in 2008. The vast majority were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (47%). A further 13% were from Kosovo, 11% from Macedonia (FYROM) and 11% from Serbia. Most immigration is temporary labour migration, in particular for construction. The vast majority of the corresponding work permits which are issued to migrants are tied to a specific employer.

According to official data based on deregistration from registers, about 3 700 Slovene citizens emigrated from Slovenia in 2009, the majority to Germany (18%), Croatia (13%) and Austria (12%). This is a decline of about 22% vis-à-vis 2008. In particular, registered emigration to Germany has declined strongly. Return migration of Slovene citizens was about 2 900 in 2009, mainly from Germany (17%) and Croatia (16%).

It was expected that after Slovenia's 2004 accession to the EU, the number of migrant workers would steadily rise. As a consequence, in 2004, Slovenia adopted an overall quota for the annual issuance of new work permits for immigrants from outside of the European Economic Area. The quota has been set at a maximum of 5% of the active population.

Within this overall framework, annual numerical limits are fixed depending on the economic situation. In light of the economic downturn which hit Slovenia harder than most other OECD countries (a drop in GDP in 2009 by more than 8%), numerical limits were lowered from 32 000 in 2008 to 24 000 in 2009, and further reduced to 12 000 in 2010.

Also in response to the severe crisis, the government introduced in June 2009 a *Decree on restrictions and prohibition of employment and work of aliens* which aims at limiting labour migration from non-EEA countries by a number of measures. These include a ban on employment in seasonal work for all sectors except agriculture and forestry and a prohibition of issuing new permits for “representatives of micro and small

companies and for representatives of branch offices” to foreigners from Kosovo. In addition, companies can no longer request work permits unless they have a declared vacancy. Finally, the decree limits employment of immigrants from certain countries and regions. The decree sets a regional distribution of the quotas, 95% of the annual numerical limits are reserved for nationals of one of the successor countries of the former Yugoslavia, with the exception of Kosovars. The remaining 5% are for citizens of Kosovo and all other non-EEA nationals.

In 2011, the eligibility to integration courses has been extended to all non-EEA migrants residing in Slovenia on the basis of a temporary residence permit issued for at least one year and to family members who get temporary residence based on family reunion provisions. The courses include Slovene language, history, culture and political system.

Slovenia's entry in the Schengen border regime in 2008 made the immigration of nationals from the other successor countries of the former Yugoslavia more difficult. However, since December 2009, visas to enter the Schengen area are no longer required for citizens of Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Montenegro who are holders of new biometrical passports.

As a consequence of Slovenia's entry into Schengen, border controls have been reinforced which seems to have been associated with a decline in irregular migration. The police registered about 1 200 irregular border crossings in 2008, which was the lowest number since Slovenia's independence in 1991.

Slovenia has engaged in negotiations about bilateral agreements with some of the main countries of origin of migrants, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) that aim at facilitating labour migration from these countries. Until now, no such agreement has been signed. However, there are protocols in place that are based on mutual co-operation between employment agencies, such as a protocol on mutual co-operation between the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina which was signed in 2007.

For further information:

www.mnz.gov.si/en/

www.stat.si/eng/index.asp

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

SLOVENIA

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	2.6	6.6	13.8	13.4	3.6	11.3	27.4		
Outflows	1.0	3.3	3.6	7.4	2.0	5.1	15.1		
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	..	..	..	..	
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..	
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..	
Free movements	..	..	..	..	
Others	..	..	..	..	
Total	..	..	..	..	
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		
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>									
	4.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	1.4	0.3	183		
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)		
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>									
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Natural increase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net migration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)		
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>									
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	2.1	2.4	3.5	4.0	2.2	3.2	82		
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level		
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>									
		
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>									
Native-born men	66.7	70.2	72.6	71.0	68.1	71.5			
Foreign-born men	66.7	72.7	74.0	70.9	68.9	72.6			
Native-born women	58.2	61.3	64.4	64.1	58.9	62.9			
Foreign-born women	61.3	61.6	62.1	61.0	61.8	61.6			
<i>Unemployment rate</i>									
Native-born men	6.6	6.2	4.0	5.9	5.9	5.0			
Foreign-born men	10.0	6.2	4.7	7.5	7.5	5.6			
Native-born women	7.1	7.1	4.8	5.8	6.5	6.2			
Foreign-born women	7.9	7.8	6.0	7.2	8.9	7.5			
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level		
<i>Annual growth in %</i>									
Real GDP	4.4	4.5	3.7	-8.1	3.7	2.6			
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.1	4.3	3.6	-9.0	3.5	2.1	21 990		
Employment (level in thousands)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>									
Unemployment		

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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