

### Austria - 2009

The total inflow of migration to Austria rose slightly from 85 400 in 2006 to 92 000 in 2007. As the outflow of foreigners slightly increased to 53 700 in 2007 (with an outflow rate of 6.5 compared to 5.8 in 2005), total net immigration of foreigners declined in 2007.

More than half of the EU nationals migrate for employment, about 10% for study and the rest for family reunification. 46% of overall inflow of foreign migrants is free movement, 40% is family, about 12% humanitarian and less than 2% are non-EEA labour migrants.

EEA citizens accounted for much of the increase, with inflows more than doubling from 30 100 in mid 2007 to 66 200 in 2008, half from the new EU-12. From outside the EU, about 15% came from former Yugoslavia region and 6% from Turkey. Germans constitute the largest group of arrivals with 63 800 (15% more than in 2006), and also of those leaving. This is mainly due to the increasing integration of the Austrian and German labour markets, promoting cross-border mobility of workers, and the social and cultural proximity of the countries.

Austria (along with Germany) decided in August 2008 to extend the transitional period for free movement of workers from the new EU countries until April 2011. Access to the Austrian labour market will also be restricted for Bulgarian and Romanian workers until December 2011.

The inflow of permanent immigrants from third countries (non-EEA citizens) has declined by half, to 15 900, since a minimum income requirement and quota on family reunification, and quotas for highly skilled immigrants (2 700 in 2008, double the quota of 2007) were imposed in 2005. Still, most non-EEA entrants (two-thirds) still enter through family migration.

Naturalization also declined from its peak in 2003 at 45 100 to 14 000 in 2007. This is largely due to the reform of the citizenship law of 2005, which set barriers to acquire Austrian citizenship through marriage by increasing the cohabitation period, and the end of the effect of the immigration wave of the 1990s. Naturalized Austrians are still largely from the traditional recruiting countries Turkey (15%) and the former Yugoslavia (36%), and the new EU-member states (8%). An increasing proportion of naturalized Austrians (41% in 2007) are under the age of 18.

Asylum claims have been falling since 2002 and further dropped from 13 300 in 2006 to 11 900 in 2007. Austria is surrounded by other Schengen countries, so asylum seekers usually must pass through another Schengen country before applying for asylum in Austria. The acceptance rate is relatively high with 44% of applicants being granted refugee status.

Temporary migration of third country nationals is not regulated by quota, but decreased between 2006 and 2007 to 5 700. Most of them are students (40%) and researchers, scientists, artists, and their families (40%). However, these numbers do not include temporary migrants from the EU, who far outnumber the 10 000 registered non-EU workers and those from new EU-member states for 2007.

Irregular migration and illegal residence and/or employment are increasingly contentious issues in Austria. In 2006, several court cases concerned undeclared care work in the household sector, which is often undertaken by persons from the new EU member states, in particular from the neighbouring Slovak Republic. Through the new legislation in 2007, some 20 000 of the current care workers (estimated at 40 000) from new EU-countries were legalised their status.

The implementation of an 'integration platform' in October 2007, to support proposals for better integration, is an attempt to co-ordinate efforts in the area of integration policy among the different government levels. Furthermore, the Austrian Integration Fund has been given more resources to promote linguistic, professional, and social integration of migrants in Austria. It is also responsible for execution of the European Refugee Fund and, since 2008, for the European Integration Fund. Integration policies and their implementation remain in the hands of federal states.

For further information:

<http://www.bmi.gv.at/>

[http://www.statistik.at/web\\_en/statistics/population/index.html](http://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/population/index.html)