

## Luxembourg

Luxembourg has the highest rate of foreigners in the total population of any OECD country, and the rate is rising. In January 2008, foreigners accounted for 43% of the population, up from 41% in 2006 and 37% in 2001. In 2007, net migration of 6 000 was much greater than natural growth of 1 600, and population growth is largely due to foreigners.

Inflows of foreigners increased from 13 700 to 16 675 in 2007. Portugal is still the main origin country, with 38% of inflows, up 10% from the previous year. The proportion of French and Germans among inflows increased slightly, by 19% and 7%. Belgians and Danes had net outflows in 2007.

Naturalisations continued to increase following the entry into force of the 2002 reforms to the naturalisation law; more than 1 200 people became Luxembourg citizens in 2007. This still places the rate of naturalisations relative to the foreign population below that of neighbouring countries.

Foreigners play a major role in the Luxembourg labour force, although less than their role in the population would suggest, in part because of many cross-border workers (138 000 in 2007). These cross-border workers, resident in France, Belgium or Germany, accounted for 43% of total employment in 2007 (compared to 20% in 1990). Most are French (47%), followed by Belgians (24%) and Germans (22%). Most German cross-border workers are in construction, while the others, as well as foreign residents, work largely in real estate, leasing, and business services.

Among the unemployed, in 2007, the proportion of Luxembourg citizens fell slightly, to 35%; the main nationality of unemployed foreigners was Portuguese, which accounted for 23% of the total.

On 1 November 2007, the government decided to open all sectors of the labour market to citizens of the 8 Central European countries which joined the EU in 2004. Bulgarians and Romanians are still required to hold a work permit, subject to a labour market test.

The number of asylum seekers in 2007 (426) was lower than in previous years, especially when compared to the peak of 1 577 in 2004. About half are from the former Yugoslavia, principally Kosovo. The main countries to which voluntary returns from Luxembourg were directed in 2007 were Kosovo, Montenegro and Bosnia.

The Reception Desk for Newly Arrived Pupils (CASNA) has enjoyed success since introduced in autumn 2005. In order to better assess the educational needs of the many young people who arrive each year in Luxembourg with their parents, and to assist their scholastic and vocational training integration, all 12-18 year-olds must pass through CASNA. During the 2006-2007 school years, about 460 youth were welcomed, informed about the school, assessed in terms of math and language skills, and oriented towards an appropriate secondary school. Since more than half the arriving students are Portuguese or Brazilian, Portuguese-language reception is offered twice a week.

Since the 2007-2008 school years, the Ministry for Family and Integration has offered a weekly programme on Radio Latina for Portuguese and Cape Verdian families, explaining the Luxembourg school system and the opportunities available for training for their children, as well as answering questions from callers.

The Luxembourg Office of Welcome and Integration (OLAI) was created by the 16 December 2008 law. The OLAI, within the Ministry for Family and Integration, is responsible for implementing Luxembourg's integration policy. This includes, among other responsibilities, coordination of welcome and integration policy, the Welcome Contract (CAI), and a five-year national report on integration of foreigners.

For more information :

<http://www.mae.lu/>

<http://www.statistiques.public.lu/>

<http://www.cge.etat.lu/>

<http://www.men.public.lu/>