

Denmark



In 2005, long-term immigration to Denmark reached 32 800 people, an increase of 1 700 over the previous year. 2006 figures are not yet available, as national statistics define immigrants

on an *ex post*-basis as persons who entered in a given year and stayed for at least 12 months.

Behind this modest increase is, however, the continuation of a further shift in the composition of immigration, with a strong increase in labour migration and declining (albeit now somewhat stabilising) levels of humanitarian migration and family reunification. This is most apparent in the number of residence permits for employment, which increased since 2004 by a factor of three, to reach almost 13 600 in 2006. Permits for EEA and Swiss citizens who enjoy freedom of movement and are thus often linked with labour migration also registered a further 30% increase in 2006, and reached more than 12 800. The strong increase in labour migration is linked with the tight labour market – unemployment in Denmark is at its lowest level ever, around 3.4% in 2007.

In light of the labour shortages, Denmark is increasingly focusing on the recruitment of qualified workers from abroad. Already in March 2007, the current job card scheme was expanded by opening 15 occupations in sectors with labour shortages to non-EEA nationals. On 3 October 2007 the Danish government published “Denmark – a good place to work”, the governments’ new plan for the international recruitment of labour. The government proposes, among other measures, that foreigners with a specific job offer with a yearly salary of at least DKK 375 000 (about EUR 50 300) can obtain a residence permit. This would also apply to sectors in which there is no shortage of labour. The proposal also includes a further expansion of the positive list of the job card scheme to jobs that do not require a master’s degree, and an expansion of the current green card scheme for job seekers. In addition, the plan contains a range of measures to facilitate integration of labour immigrants and their families. The proposal is still being discussed, and no bill has been presented to parliament yet.

Furthermore, the government, the Danish Social Democrats, the Socialist People’s Party and the

Danish Social-Liberal Party entered into an agreement in June 2007 on a further phase-out of the transitional scheme for citizens from the new EU member states. The phase-out of the transitional scheme implies that employees covered by a valid Danish collective agreement are given the same employment opportunities as other EU nationals and thus have easier access to the Danish labour market.

On the basis of the so-called welfare compromise concluded by the Danish Government and the Danish People’s Party in June 2006 on future immigration, an immigration test as a further requirement for foreign spouses being granted family reunification was introduced in May 2007. The immigration test includes a test in Danish language skills and knowledge of Danish society. The immigration test is expected to be put into effect in early 2009.

In May 2007 further legislation tightening conditions for being granted permanent residence also took effect. An applicant must now have passed a Danish language test of a certain level or at a lower level combined with an English language test at the same level. Furthermore, the integration exam states that the applicant must have had two and a half years of full time employment prior to the application to be eligible for a permanent residence permit.

In June 2007, new support measures were introduced for certain groups of rejected asylum seekers who cooperate on voluntary return. These may obtain, among other reintegration aid, six to nine months of education and vocational training in Denmark. This is based on the condition that the applicants sign a contract with the Danish Immigration Service to return voluntarily once the training in Denmark has been accomplished. The scheme is currently only open to Iraqi asylum seekers but may later be extended, pending an evaluation in May 2008.

Finally, the Minister of Integration initiated an integration programme for ethnic women in 2007, including a range of initiatives to improve the network of ethnic women, their employment and their ability to further the development and integration of their children.

For further information...

www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/

Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows ¹ (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)			
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	6.3	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.0	23.0			
Outflows	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.7	9.8			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		<p style="text-align: center;">Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</p>					
	2005	2006	2005	2006						
Work	2.5	3.3	14.0	15.2						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	5.2	5.2	28.6	23.8						
Humanitarian	1.1	1.1	6.4	5.0						
Free movements	8.0	11.0	44.1	50.5						
Others	1.3	1.2	7.0	5.5						
Total	18.0	21.7								
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average						
				2000-2006						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	4.2	6.9	5.0	5.4						
Trainees	1.4	1.9	2.6	1.8						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..		
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	1.4	2.6	3.3	2.5						
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)			
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	1.0	2.3	0.4	0.4	1.6	0.9	1.9			

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.5	2.9	1.9	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	2.6	3.2	2.8	3.2	2.4	1.6	31 280
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	0.9	0.4	0.7	2.0	1.0	0.3	2 822
Unemployment (% of labour force)	6.7	4.3	4.8	3.9	5.4	4.8	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	6.9	3.4	2.9	3.5	4.2	2.9	
Natural increase	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.4	
Net migration	5.5	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.7	1.5	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	–	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	5 074
Foreign-born	11.1	4.0	2.1	3.0	4.3	2.3	361
National	–	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	5 156
Foreign	13.2	–0.3	0.9	3.0	3.0	0.8	278
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>	2.7	7.3	3.8	2.9	4.2	4.3	7 961
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	78.9	80.9	80.8	81.9	..	..
Foreign-born men	51.2	59.0	69.4	70.6	..	..
Native-born women	69.5	73.9	72.6	74.8	..	..
Foreign-born women	41.5	48.3	52.7	58.0	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	6.4	3.4	4.0	3.1	..	..
Foreign-born men	20.5	9.5	7.2	7.4	..	..
Native-born women	8.4	4.3	5.0	4.4	..	..
Foreign-born women	20.7	9.6	12.4	7.7	..	..

1. Data for 2006 have been estimated.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434104851625>

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter. Data on labour market outcomes refer to population register till 2000 and to labour force survey since 2005.