

## Norway



According to national statistics, immigration of foreign nationals in 2006 was 37 400, an increase of more than 6 000 compared to 2005. This is the highest level ever recorded. The significant increase was mainly the

result of the high level of labour immigration, especially from Poland. Inflows of Polish citizens more than doubled since 2005 to reach 7 500 in 2006. In total, one-third of all immigrants came from the new member states. But labour migration from non-EEA countries has also increased. The number of permits issued for skilled labour – which mainly concern non-EEA nationals, with Indians now being the leading nationality – almost doubled to 2 000. Preliminary figures for 2007 indicate a further increase.

In spite of a strong increase in share of labour migration in total immigration flows, family ties remained the most important source of long-term immigration from non-Nordic countries. In this context, it is noteworthy that more than 20% of all marriages in 2006 in Norway involved a Norwegian and a foreign national.

Since August 2007, the same transitional regulations as for eight of the countries joining the EU in 2004 apply for workers from Bulgaria and Romania and will be applicable in principle until May 2009. In the context of the prolongation of the transitional arrangements, the government launched an action plan against social dumping.

In view of the current labour market situation with high demand for labour, as well as the long term outlook of demographic change, a white paper on the future need for labour migration was presented to the Norwegian parliament in the spring of 2008. In this context, possible amendments to the current legislation and relevant policy measures for the entry and stay of labour migrants will also be discussed.

A proposal for a new immigration and asylum act was submitted to the Norwegian parliament in June 2007. The proposal was adopted in April 2008, and is expected to enter into force in January 2010. The main objective of the new act is to modernise the current legislation in light of international legal

obligations. In the field of asylum, the main change is a broader definition of refugees. In particular, those who are eligible for subsidiary protection status under the EU asylum qualification directive will be granted refugee status under the new act. A practical result of this change will be a strengthening of the right to family reunification for those who fall under the new refugee concept. In the proposal the government furthermore signals that it intends to tighten the rules regarding subsistence requirements related to family migration.

Within the framework of the ongoing action plan for integration and social inclusion of the immigrant population, measures to prevent forced marriages, to provide better assistance and protection to victims of such marriages, as well as language instruction for adult immigrants and young children will receive particular attention in 2008. Moderate affirmative action for persons with immigrant background to public administration positions will be tried out in a two-year pilot project, starting in 2008. This means that if candidates have equal or approximately equal qualifications, a candidate with an immigrant background is to be preferred. The funding in the fiscal budget of the plan of action for integration and social inclusion is increased for 2008, totalling EUR 80 million.

A Commission to propose comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation was appointed by the government in June 2007. This relates to the prohibition of both direct and indirect discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, descent, colour, language, religion or belief. The government intends to present a new national action plan against racism and discrimination by the end of 2008.

One significant change in legislation concerning international students took effect in May 2007. Students are now granted a general part-time (maximum 20 hours per week) work permit together with their first residence permit for education. An offer of employment is no longer required. Further measures facilitating the transition to work after completion of education are being considered.

### **For further information...**

[www.ssb.no/innvandring\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/innvandring_en/)

[www.udi.no/default.aspx?id=2112](http://www.udi.no/default.aspx?id=2112)

## Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)								
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006								
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>															
Inflows	3.8	6.2	6.8	8.0	5.4	6.5	37.4								
Outflows	2.1	3.3	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9	12.5								
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners										
	2005	2006	2005	2006											
Work	1.3	2.1	5.2	7.6											
Family (incl. accompanying family)	13.0	14.0	50.7	50.0											
Humanitarian	4.4	3.4	17.2	12.0											
Free movements	6.9	8.5	26.9	30.4											
Others	-	-	-	-											
Total	25.7	28.0													
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average				Inflows of asylum seekers							
				2000-2006											
<i>Thousands</i>															
International students	2.3	4.3	4.9	3.4				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Average</th> <th>Level ('000)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.3</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>5.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Average	Level ('000)	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Average	Level ('000)														
1995-2000	2001-2006	2006													
1.3	2.4	5.3													
Trainees	..	0.3	0.4	0.4											
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..											
Seasonal workers	9.9	20.9	36.1	19.7											
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..											
Other temporary workers	2.5	1.1	1.2	2.1											
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Average</th> <th>Level ('000)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.3</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>5.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Average	Level ('000)	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	1.3	2.4	5.3
Average	Level ('000)														
1995-2000	2001-2006	2006													
1.3	2.4	5.3													
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.3	2.4	1.2	1.1											

## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.2	3.7	2.2	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	3.7	2.6	2.1	1.3	3.1	1.6	39 633
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	2.2	0.5	0.6	3.2	1.8	0.7	2 363
Unemployment (% of labour force)	4.9	3.4	4.6	3.4	3.9	4.1	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	4.8	5.3	7.4	9.0	5.9	6.4	
Natural increase	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.1	
Net migration	1.4	2.0	3.9	5.1	2.4	3.3	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	4 265
Foreign-born	3.0	4.3	5.3	6.5	4.9	5.1	405
National	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	4 432
Foreign	-1.9	3.2	4.2	7.2	2.8	5.1	238
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>	7.2	5.3	5.9	5.4	6.4	5.0	11 955
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
Employment/population ratio							
Native-born men	76.7	82.3	78.6	79.0	80.9	79.6	
Foreign-born men	63.6	75.3	67.2	71.7	72.6	71.8	
Native-born women	68.4	74.6	72.4	73.3	72.5	73.6	
Foreign-born women	55.6	63.3	60.2	61.3	61.2	62.3	
Unemployment rate							
Native-born men	6.1	3.4	4.2	3.1	4.1	3.8	
Foreign-born men	11.0	6.8	12.4	8.9	7.5	9.6	
Native-born women	6.1	3.2	4.3	3.0	4.4	3.7	
Foreign-born women	11.9	..	8.6	7.7	5.3	6.6	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434414510846>