

Portugal



The declining trend of immigration to Portugal observed since 2003 apparently stopped in 2006. The different components of legal migration totalled more than 42 000 in 2006, an

increase of almost 50% compared to 2005. The largest increases were observed among migrants from Eastern Europe, most of whom appear to have come to Portugal for family reunion motives.

At the same time, however, the stock of legal foreigners resident in Portugal increased only marginally, by about 2 800 people. This appears to be linked to the fact that many immigrants from Eastern Europe (especially Ukrainians) who came to Portugal around the turn of the millennium for employment reasons have subsequently left the country. This is indicative of both the labour market which has become less favorable and the change in the nature of immigration flows to Portugal which is now shifting from labour migration to migration on family reunion grounds.

A very significant increase in the number of foreigners who obtained Portuguese nationality was observed in 2006. About 3 600 persons obtained citizenship, almost four times the 2005 figure. This is partly a result of the new, more liberal regulations regarding access to Portuguese nationality that entered into force in December 2006.

In 2007, there were several key changes in the legal and institutional framework of migration to Portugal. The most important change concerns the new law on the “Entry, Stay, Departure and Expulsion of Foreigners”. This law transposes a set of EU directives into Portuguese legislation. At the same time, it aims at establishing a more realistic and effective framework to direct labour migration into legal channels by adjusting the number of immigrants entering Portugal to the Portuguese labour market needs and simultaneously improving official procedures related to migration. This also includes measures to facilitate family reunion and strengthened measures against trafficking and exploitation of immigrants.

The changes included a simplification of the visa system, by reducing the former nine juridical categories to two types of visa: a temporary stay visa and a residence visa. The former is intended for people who come temporarily to Portugal to pursue medical treatment, for research, or for temporary professional tasks for periods of less than six months. The residence

visa is given to people who intend to set up “permanent” residence in Portugal for purposes such as regular work, highly qualified work, entrepreneurial activities, study or family reunion. Persons with a residence visa are therefore supposed to have this transformed into a residence permit within four months after arrival.

The former quota system that governed the admission of labour migrants has been replaced by a so-called “global contingent” based on annual estimates of labour market needs that cannot be filled by the domestic labour market (including by other EU nationals). The Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) will advertise, using an internet database in conjunction with the Portuguese consulates network, the labour shortages reported by Portuguese employers that cannot be met by the domestic labour market. Foreign workers interested in these offers are expected to contact the employer and to obtain either a work contract, the promise of a work contract or a “personal and explicit manifestation of interest in her/his recruitment” and can subsequently apply for a residence visa at a Portuguese embassy or consulate.

In May 2007, the Portuguese government presented a comprehensive Plan for the Integration of Immigrants. The plan covers all dimensions of the integration of immigrants and co-ordinates a series of actions undertaken by all ministries involved in integration. It features 122 measures from initial reception to housing, education, health and other areas.

In the area of institutional reforms, in May 2007 the ACIME (the former High Commissariat for Integration and Ethnic Minorities) became a Public Institute with the new name of High Commissariat for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI). Linked with this was a strengthening of its financial and administrative autonomy, although the nature of its mandate did not change.

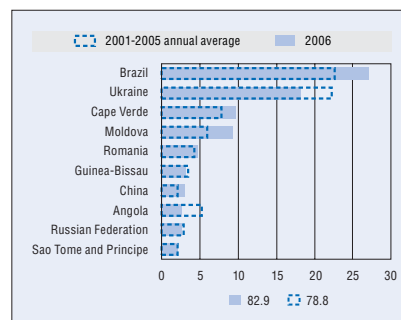
The Portuguese consular services are engaged in a comprehensive restructuring process, involving, among other measures, the modernisation of the computing system and some changes in the consulates network. Similarly, the Services for Foreigners and Border Control (SEF) undertook a modernisation programme in 2006 and 2007.

For further information...

www.acidi.gov.pt/
www.ine.pt

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	0.5	1.6	2.7	4.0	0.7	5.8	42.2
Outflows	0.1	–	–	–	0.1	–	0.1
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	2001-2005 annual average		
Work	4.0	7.2	35.1	28.7	Brazil		
Family (incl. accompanying family)	4.4	15.6	37.9	62.1	Ukraine		
Humanitarian	–	–	–	–	Cape Verde		
Free movements	3.1	2.2	26.6	8.8	Moldova		
Others	–	0.1	0.4	0.4	Romania		
Total	11.5	25.1			Guinea-Bissau		
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average 2000-2006	Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
					2006		
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.0	China		
Trainees	..	..	..	..	Angola		
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..	Russian Federation		
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..	Sao Tome and Principe		
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	3.4	7.7	6.8	5.6			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.1



Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	4.3	3.9	0.7	1.2	4.1	0.7	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	3.9	3.4	0.3	0.9	3.7	0.1	17 399
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	–0.6	2.3	0.1	0.7	1.7	0.2	5 130
Unemployment (% of labour force)	7.2	4.0	7.7	7.7	5.8	6.2	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	2.6	6.1	3.7	..	3.9	6.0	
Natural increase	0.4	1.5	0.1	..	0.7	0.5	
Net migration	2.2	4.6	3.6	..	3.2	5.5	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	..	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.8	0.6	9 937
Foreign-born	..	0.7	–7.4	–1.8	–0.4	–0.1	649
National	–	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.4	10 151
Foreign	7.2	8.8	–7.9	0.7	4.3	3.8	435
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	3 627
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	71.5	76.2	73.1	73.7	76.3	74.9	
Foreign-born men	65.5	75.5	78.4	76.8	70.2	78.3	
Native-born women	54.5	60.2	61.4	61.5	59.5	61.3	
Foreign-born women	49.7	65.2	67.5	67.1	56.8	66.4	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	6.6	3.1	6.8	6.9	3.7	5.3	
Foreign-born men	10.8	6.0	8.3	8.2	8.2	7.5	
Native-born women	7.8	4.9	8.4	9.3	5.0	7.2	
Foreign-born women	13.6	6.9	9.5	11.4	11.2	9.4	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434530220150>