

## Switzerland



Immigration into Switzerland increased in 2006, reaching a total of 102 700 persons, 63% of whom came from an EU country. This was the highest level since the beginning of the 1990s. Germans and Portuguese remained the two largest groups,

accounting respectively for 24% and 12% of new arrivals. There was a decline in immigration from Italy (5%), Serbia (5%) and Spain (1.5%), which were formerly the main sending countries of foreign workers. This increase in immigration is primarily due to the growth of labour migration, although immigration for family and humanitarian reasons also rose in 2006. According to the OECD's standardised statistics, slightly more than 38 000 people immigrated to Switzerland for work purposes, a 20% increase over the previous year, accounting for approximately 44% of total permanent immigration in 2006.

In 2006, 10 530 asylum applications were filed (500 more than in 2005), reflecting a trend towards levelling off that marked, together with 2005, the lowest levels since the end of the 1980s. Among asylum seekers, some 1 200 were from Eritrea, which was a sharp increase over 2005 when 160 applications from this country were filed.

The number of naturalisations rose significantly (+20%) to approximately 46 700 in 2006 following the legislative amendments that entered into force on 1 January 2006 limiting costs and facilitating the naturalisation of certain groups of persons of Swiss ancestry. This is the highest level observed for several decades. Serbian nationals formed the largest group among those granted Swiss citizenship and accounted for over 25% of all naturalisations (roughly 11 700 persons).

In April 2006, the provisions of the treaty on the free movement of persons from EU15/EFTA countries were extended to the ten new EU member States, but these contain transitional arrangements that will apply until 2011 to salaried workers who are nationals of these states, with the exception of Cypriot and Maltese nationals. These transitional arrangements include quotas and gives priority to residents for labour market access. In addition, a provision is made for monitoring of wages and working conditions. Since June 2007, the labour market has been open to EU17 countries (EU15 as well as Cyprus and Malta) and to self-employed workers who are nationals of Central European countries (EU8). The negotiations with the EU aimed at extending the agreement on the free movement of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals ended in February 2008. The protocol on this extension provides

for maintaining national restrictions on labour market access for a seven-year period. After these transitional arrangements end, a unilateral safeguard clause would allow Switzerland to reintroduce quotas for three years if there is considerable immigration. This protocol will be submitted to Parliament and to Swiss citizens if a referendum is held.

The new Alien Act entered into force on 1 January 2008. For the first time, the main objectives of policies concerning admission and labour market integration have been included in legislation. Among its other provisions, the new act limits the labour migration of nationals of countries outside the European Economic Area to skilled workers, eliminates certain barriers to professional and geographic mobility inside Switzerland and introduces stricter measures against illegal immigration, undeclared work and marriages of convenience. It also provides for the possibility of linking granting of residence permits and short stay permits with participation in a language or integration course through an integration agreement signed between the authorities and the migrant.

The new Asylum Act that entered into force in 1999 was partially amended between 2007 and 2008. Since January 2008, the asylum procedure has been streamlined and accelerated and the full asylum procedure similar to that practiced inside the country can now be conducted at airports. In addition, a flat-rate integration allowance is granted to recognised refugees and persons admitted on a provisional basis, new models of financing between the cantons and the Confederation have been established and return assistance programmes have been developed. In parallel with these legislative amendments, pilot projects – such as the “learning programme for refugees” – have been established.

The Schengen and Dublin association agreements, which involve, among other provisions, the removal of checks on persons at borders within the Schengen area and co-operation in determining the State responsible for examining an asylum application, are scheduled for implementation in autumn 2008. Since these agreements were signed in 2004, Switzerland has participated on a provisional basis in all working groups and committees dealing with these issues in the European Union.

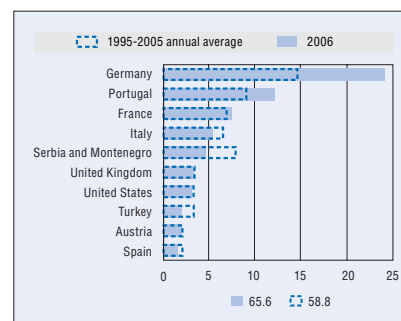
As part of integration policy, major efforts are being made to provide language and other training through the development of skills centres. In this context, significant reform projects are being prepared, in particular in the fields of urban and employment policy.

### For further information...

<http://www.bfm.admin.ch>

## 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	12.5	12.2	12.6	13.7	11.5	13.4	102.7
Outflows	9.6	7.8	6.7	7.1	8.7	6.8	53.0
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution				
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Work	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	19.7	18.1	25.0	20.9			
Humanitarian	3.3	4.3	4.2	5.0			
Free movements	52.4	60.3	66.5	69.9			
Others	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.4			
Total	78.8	86.3					
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average			
				2000-2006			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	8.6	9.4	9.0			
Trainees	..	0.3	0.2	0.3			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	49.3	-	-	-			
Intra-company transfers	..	1.8	4.0	6.9			
Other temporary workers	..	101.6	112.4	118.1			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	2.4	2.5	1.3	1.4	3.8	2.3	10.5

Inflows of top 10 nationalities  
as a % of total inflows of foreigners

## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	0.4	3.6	2.4	3.2	2.0	1.7	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	-0.3	3.0	1.8	2.5	1.7	0.9	33 119
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	-	1.0	0.4	2.3	0.7	0.6	4 291
Unemployment (% of labour force)	3.3	2.5	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.7	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	4.7	5.0	6.5	6.4	3.4	7.1	
Natural increase	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.7	2.5	1.5	
Net migration	2.1	2.8	4.8	4.7	0.9	5.5	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	5 698
Foreign-born	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	0.9	2.3	1 811
National	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.6	5 985
Foreign	2.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.4	1 524
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	1.3	2.1	2.6	3.1	1.6	2.5	46 711
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	85.1	85.8	..	85.7	
Foreign-born men	..	..	80.7	81.6	..	81.3	
Native-born women	..	..	73.1	73.7	..	73.2	
Foreign-born women	..	..	63.0	64.2	..	63.6	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	2.7	2.4	..	2.7	
Foreign-born men	..	..	7.8	6.8	..	7.3	
Native-born women	..	..	3.7	3.3	..	3.3	
Foreign-born women	..	..	9.7	9.4	..	9.4	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434017750673>