

## Portugal



Migration inflows in Portugal in 2008 were 32 300, the same as in 2007. Inflows were increasingly from within Europe. EU26 citizens represented 44% of the total. Romania has become the main source country (5 300, or

16%), 8 times greater than its average share in the previous 3 years. African lusophone (PALOP) countries comprised 21% of inflows, led by Cape Verde (3 500, or 11%). Inflows of Brazilians fell 30%, to 3 500.

The total stock of foreign population, after rising from 430 000 in 2005 to 446 000 in 2007, slightly declined (by 0.7%) in 2008 to 443 000. The decline is the result of opposite national trends. From 2007 to 2008, EU25 foreigners registered a reduction of 44.7% and PALOP citizens a decline of 13.8%. In the same period, increases were seen in the number of Ukrainians (31%), Moldovans (42.9%), Romanians (41.4%) and Brazilians (53.7%). The latter increased their dominance as the largest foreign group (24% of the total), followed by Cape Verdeans (despite the 25% fall in the stock, they still have a share of 14.7%) and Ukrainians (11.8%, up 2.8 percentage points from 2007).

Permanent inflows, which include changes of status among temporary immigrants, rose 21.1% between 2007 and 2008, from 60 100 to 72 800.

The total number of long term visas issued to non-EU citizens declined in 2008, falling from 21 082 (2007) to 17 548. PALOP nationals received a significant share of these visas (41.5%), particularly citizens from Cape Verde (20%) and Guinea-Bissau (around 9%). Brazilians registered a share of 20%, Moldovans of 12% and Chinese, a growing group, of 4.1%.

According to Labour Force Survey data, employment rates were 6% higher for foreign-born than native-born, for both sexes. 79.5% of foreign-born men and 67.1% of foreign-born females were employed in 2007. The unemployment rate was 7.0% for native-born and 7.3% for foreign-born men. The difference was larger for women (9.9% vs. 12.1%).

After the promising 10% decline observed in 2007, the registered unemployment of foreigners has followed the general trend in 2008, and rose significantly (24%), reaching a decade high (24 200 unemployed foreigners at the end of 2008). Foreign men saw a much higher rise in unemployment (38%) than foreign women (13.1%).

The reform of the Portuguese nationality law, which took effect at the end of 2006, led to an increase in the number of applications. From 7 227 in 2006, applications rose to 29 853 in 2007 and to 36 640 in 2008. The 2006 reform reduces the residence requirement for foreigners coming from non-Portuguese speaking countries from 10 to 6 years of continuous formal residence, and allows naturalisation due to attendance of basic schooling in Portugal. In 2008, 22 408 foreigners obtained Portuguese nationality. Almost  $\frac{2}{3}$  of these were PALOP nationals, particularly from Cape Verde (27% of the total share); most of the others were Brazilian (18%) and Moldovan (10%).

Portugal changed its immigration law in 2007, eliminating sector-specific quotas for labour migration. It now establishes an "orientative" target for labour migration, set at 8 500 in 2008. In May 2009 Portugal halved this orientative target to 3 800 for 2009. However, only 3 300 foreign workers were requested by employers.

The 2007 law also expanded eligibility for case-by-case regularisation. About 30% of the long term visas attributed in 2007 were already under the new legal framework. Approximately 12 000 people used the new dispositions to regularise their situation between July 2007 and July 2008, contributing to the increase observed in the stocks of some nationalities.

Concerning asylum seekers, levels continued to be very low, and even declined from 2007 (224 applications) to 2008 (only 161 applications). However, the status recognition rate increased substantially in 2008, to 50.9%. 70 people obtained humanitarian protection and 12 full refugee status.

In June 2008, Portugal passed a new asylum law (Law No. 27/2008) that adopted relevant EU Directives, harmonizes procedures with the 2007 Immigration Act in matter of rights, reinforces the protection regime of particularly vulnerable people (*e.g.*, unaccompanied minors) and strengthens the non-refoulement principle. Also as a consequence of the dispositions of this new law, Portugal has started a resettlement programme for refugees initially arriving in other EU countries. In 2008, this programme involved 23 people from Eritrea, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### For further information:

[www.imigrante.pt](http://www.imigrante.pt)

[www.sef.pt](http://www.sef.pt)

[www.acidi.gov.pt](http://www.acidi.gov.pt)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## PORTUGAL

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	0.5	1.6	3.1	3.0	4.2	2.9	32.3			
Outflows	0.1	0.0	..	..	..	..	..			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	2007	2008	2007	2008						
Work	18.5	23.4	43.1	35.5						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	13.7	26.1	31.9	39.6						
Humanitarian	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1						
Free movements	8.0	14.8	18.7	22.5						
Others	2.6	1.5	6.0	2.3						
Total	42.9	65.9	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2000	2007	2008	Average 2003-2008						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	3.9	4.8	5.0	4.2						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	3.4	5.4	5.4	6.8						
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average 1997-2002	Average 2003-2008	Level 2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	161			
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average 1997-2002	Average 2003-2008	Level ('000) 2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	2.7	5.9	..	..	5.5	..	..			
Natural increase	0.4	1.5	..	..	0.9	..	..			
Net migration	2.2	4.6	..	..	4.6	..	..			
Stocks of immigrants	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average 1997-2002	Average 2003-2008	Level ('000) 2008			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Foreign population	1.7	2.0	4.2	4.2	2.5	4.2	443			
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average 1997-2002	Average 2003-2008	Level 2008			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	0.8	0.3	1.3	5.1	0.4	1.4	22 408			
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	71.5	76.2	73.4	73.4	76.9	73.8				
Foreign-born men	65.4	75.5	79.5	80.5	74.7	78.5				
Native-born women	54.5	60.2	61.4	62.0	60.7	61.5				
Foreign-born women	49.9	65.1	67.1	68.0	61.8	66.8				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	6.6	3.1	7.0	6.8	3.4	6.5				
Foreign-born men	10.5	6.0	7.3	7.8	6.3	8.2				
Native-born women	7.8	4.9	9.9	9.1	4.9	8.7				
Foreign-born women	14.0	6.9	12.1	11.2	9.1	10.9				
Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level 2008			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	4.3	3.9	1.9	0.0	3.3	0.8				
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	3.9	3.4	1.6	-0.2	2.7	0.4	17 737			
Employment (level in thousands)	-0.6	2.3	0.1	0.6	1.7	0.2	5 167			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	7.2	4.0	8.0	7.6	4.9	7.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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