

Austria



In 2006, the inflow of foreigners to Austria continued to decline to 85 400 (-16 100 compared to 2005) after having reached a peak of 108 900 in 2004. At the same time, outflows of foreigners increased, resulting in a net migration of 32 500, the lowest level since 2002.

The number of asylum seekers has declined continuously since 2002 and dropped sharply to 13 300 in 2006. This represents a 40% reduction over 2005 and only about a third of the 2002 level. About half of the reduction of the number of asylum seekers in Austria in 2006 was the result of fewer demands from Serbia and Montenegro and the Russian Federation, the two main origin countries of asylum seekers in Austria.

On 1 January 2006, the new immigration law came into effect. This law brought about significant changes in the permit system, making comparisons over time on immigration cumbersome for many categories. On the aggregate, the number of new permanent (settlement) permits for non-EEA nationals declined in 2006 by almost 50% (to about 16 400); the number of new temporary permits even declined by two-thirds. One of the key changes of the law was to make family reunification and formation more difficult, by requiring that the sponsoring partner in Austria needs to have a regular income at or above the minimum wage. As a result, entries in the category of family reunification declined significantly. However, the vast majority of third-country entrants for settlement still come under the heading of family migration. Nevertheless, the more restrictive policy towards family reunification has been associated with a higher proportion of EU nationals in both migration flows.

For foreign students graduating from Austrian universities, the new law provides the opportunity to change their status to become permanent residents as highly skilled workers (outside of the quota system). However, very few persons have taken advantage of this so far – less than 100 graduates in

2006. The required wage to become eligible for a skilled worker title (a monthly wage of EUR 2 250) appears to have been too high for entrants into the labour market. An amendment to lower the income requirement for university graduates is in preparation.

With the new immigration law, access to Austrian citizenship was also made more restrictive. Partly as a result of this, only 26 300 foreigners were naturalised in 2006, compared to 35 500 in 2005. About 50% of the naturalised foreigners came from the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, and a further 30% came from Turkey.

Irregular migration and illegal residence and/or employment are increasingly contentious issues in Austria. In 2006, several court cases concerned undeclared care work in the household sector, which is often undertaken by persons from the new EU member states, in particular from the neighbouring Slovak Republic. To promote the legalisation of these services, new legislation came into effect in 2008. EU nationals, including those from the new EU member states, can now register as service providers and are thus not subject to the transition rules. For persons who have done this by the end of June 2008, there will be no sanctions.

Integration policies are mainly decided upon and implemented in the regions. Thus, little is known on the federal level about the amount of money spent on integration in the various regions, the instruments and measures implemented and their respective effectiveness. The implementation of an “integration platform” in October 2007 constitutes a first measure to co-ordinate efforts in the area of integration policy among different government levels. The aim of the platform is to advance proposals for better integration.

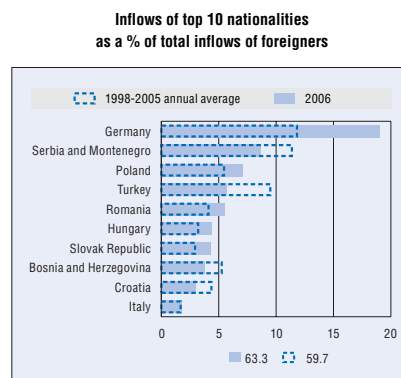
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www.bmi.gv.at/

www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/population/index.html

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	..	8.1	12.3	10.3	8.1	11.4	85.4	
Outflows	..	5.5	5.8	6.4	5.6	5.8	52.9	
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution					
	2005	2006	2005	2006				
Work	1.5	0.7	2.7	1.5				
Family (incl. accompanying family)	29.4	19.0	51.7	41.0				
Humanitarian	5.9	5.1	10.4	11.1				
Free movements	19.4	21.4	34.1	46.2				
Others	0.7	0.2	1.2	0.3				
Total	56.8	46.4						
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average				
	<i>Thousands</i>				2000-2006			
International students	3.2	6.3	..	5.0				
Trainees	0.9	..	..	..	
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	9.1	..	..	14.1			
Intra-company transfers	0.2	..	..	0.2			
Other temporary workers	6.3	..	..	9.1			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)	
	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	
	0.7	2.3	2.7	1.6	1.5	3.3	13.3	



Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	1.9	3.4	2.0	3.3	2.9	1.9	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	1.8	3.1	1.3	2.7	2.8	1.3	31 285
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	-0.1	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.3	4 185
Unemployment (% of labour force)	5.3	4.6	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.4	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	
Total	1.2	2.3	6.3	3.7	1.6	5.0	
Natural increase	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	
Net migration	0.3	2.2	5.9	3.3	1.1	4.7	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
	<i>(Annual growth %)</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Native-born	..	0.7	0.2	-	..	-0.3	7 131
Foreign-born	..	-3.3	3.9	4.6	..	5.2	1 152
National	..	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	7 464
Foreign	..	1.1	3.3	2.0	0.7	2.6	818
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
	<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
	..	3.5	4.5	3.2	3.3	4.8	25 746
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
	<i>Employment/population ratio</i>				1995-2000	2001-2006	
Native-born men	77.5	76.2	74.5	77.8	76.4	75.4	
Foreign-born men	78.5	76.1	67.9	72.5	76.3	70.9	
Native-born women	59.4	59.9	62.9	65.3	59.5	62.1	
Foreign-born women	57.5	58.3	55.9	55.1	56.2	55.0	
	<i>Unemployment rate</i>						
Native-born men	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.3	4.3	4.0	
Foreign-born men	6.2	8.7	11.6	9.7	9.2	10.2	
Native-born women	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.2	
Foreign-born women	7.0	7.2	9.7	9.8	8.0	8.9	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/433847088066>