

Hungary



Compared to other OECD countries, migration movements play a limited role in Hungary. This appears to be the case for both in- and outflows, although the current registration system is not designed for monitoring long-term emigration. Immigrants account for less than 2% of the population, and the vast majority of these are Hungarian speaking. After the 2005 peak with an inflow of almost 25 600 foreign nationals, immigration to Hungary decreased by 14% to about 19 400 in 2006. In spite of a strong decline in recent years, Romanians remained the main nationality concerned (about 6 800, compared to more than 12 100 in 2004), followed by Ukrainians. Chinese are now the third most important nationality among the inflows, following a strong increase (almost 1 500 in 2006, compared to about 550 in 2005).

In 2006, about 6 100 persons were granted Hungarian citizenship, almost 40% less than the previous year which was marked by legislative changes aimed at facilitating naturalisations of ethnic Hungarian minorities from the neighbouring countries. Indeed, as in previous years, around 90% of those receiving Hungarian citizenship were from neighbouring countries – which mainly concerns ethnic Hungarians. More than 70% of naturalisations were Romanian citizens.

The number of asylum seekers rose by more than 30% in 2006. This is nevertheless still much lower than in the period prior to Hungary's accession to the EU. The largest group of asylum seekers were from Viet Nam (19%), followed by Serbia-Montenegro (18%) and China (13%).

Two new immigration laws entered into force on 1 July 2007. The first concerned the entry and stay of EU/EFTA nationals and their family members. It established the right of permanent residence for these persons after five years of residence. Administrative procedures were also streamlined under this Act.

The second act concerned the entry and stay of non-EU/EFTA nationals. It provided for Hungary's entry into the Schengen regime, which took place on 21 December 2007. This brought about a restructuring of the previous visa and residence permit system.

A substantial change in the new Act is that the upper duration of the residence permit is now five years. Rules on family reunification and on the victims of human trafficking have been adapted to comply with EU legislation in these fields. Provisions for foreign students have also been relaxed.

A government decree in December 2006 concerning Romanian and Bulgarian citizens made their access to the labour market in Hungary subject to authorisation. However, in sectors of labour shortages (currently 219 professions), indicated on a government list, an employment permit is automatically issued. Since January 2007, the government has been reviewing the labour market situation on a quarterly basis to amend the list of professions without labour market testing. These provisions have to be viewed in light of the fact that Romanians have accounted for about 50% of the inflows of foreign nationals since 2000.

Regarding labour market access of nationals from the other EU member countries, Hungary is the only country among those who became EU members in 2004 which maintains the application of the reciprocity principle (i.e. only giving access to those nationals whose countries have opened their labour market for Hungarians).

Following the 2006 election in Hungary, a separate Department for Migration, responsible for migration strategy and policy was established within the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement.

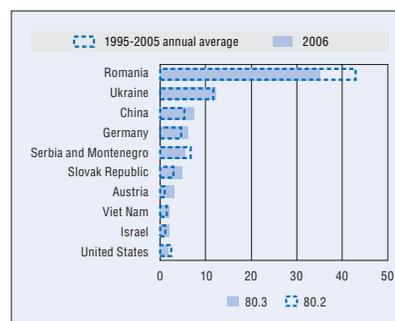
For further information...

www.mfa.gov.hu/kum/en/bal/

www.magyarorszag.hu/english

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 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 19.4 |
| Outflows | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 3.2 |
| Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised) | Thousands | | % distribution | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | | | |
| Work | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Family (incl. accompanying family) | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Humanitarian | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Free movements | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Others | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | | | | | |
| Temporary migration | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Annual average | | | |
| | | | | 2000-2006 | | | |
| <i>Thousands</i> | | | | | | | |
| International students | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Trainees | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Working holiday makers | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Seasonal workers | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Intra-company transfers | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Other temporary workers | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Inflows of asylum seekers | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Average | | Level ('000) |
| | | | | | 1995-2000 | 2001-2006 | 2006 |
| <i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i> | – | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 2.1 |

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, %) | 1.5 | 5.2 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.3 | |
| GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars | 0.8 | 5.5 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 15 954 |
| Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands | –1.8 | 1.6 | – | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 3 887 |
| Unemployment (% of labour force) | 10.4 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 8.5 | 6.4 | |
| Components of population growth | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Average | | |
| | | | | | 1995-2000 | 2001-2006 | |
| <i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i> | | | | | | | |
| Total | –1.5 | –2.1 | –2.2 | –1.3 | –2.2 | –2.2 | |
| Natural increase | –3.2 | –3.7 | –3.9 | –3.2 | –3.9 | –3.6 | |
| Net migration | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.4 | |
| Total population | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Average | | Level ('000) |
| | | | | | 1995-2000 | 2001-2006 | 2006 |
| <i>(Annual growth %)</i> | | | | | | | |
| Native-born | –0.1 | –0.3 | –0.3 | –0.3 | –0.3 | –0.3 | 9 726 |
| Foreign-born | – | 1.8 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 345 |
| National | –0.2 | 0.2 | –0.3 | –0.3 | –0.2 | –0.3 | 9 905 |
| Foreign | 1.4 | –28.1 | 8.6 | 7.5 | –4.7 | 7.4 | 166 |
| Naturalisations | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Average | | Level |
| | | | | | 1995-2000 | 2001-2006 | 2006 |
| <i>As a percentage of foreign population</i> | 7.3 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 5.0 | 6 101 |
| Labour market outcomes | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | Average | | |
| | | | | | 1995-2000 | 2001-2006 | |
| <i>Employment/population ratio</i> | | | | | | | |
| Native-born men | .. | 62.6 | 62.8 | 63.6 | 61.1 | 63.1 | |
| Foreign-born men | .. | 69.4 | 71.9 | 71.8 | 68.5 | 72.1 | |
| Native-born women | .. | 49.4 | 50.9 | 51.2 | 47.4 | 50.5 | |
| Foreign-born women | .. | 49.8 | 53.7 | 51.0 | 48.8 | 50.3 | |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | | | | | | | |
| Native-born men | .. | 7.3 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 8.6 | 6.5 | |
| Foreign-born men | .. | – | – | – | – | 2.6 | |
| Native-born women | .. | 5.8 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 6.1 | |
| Foreign-born women | .. | 4.8 | 7.7 | 10.3 | 5.7 | 7.2 | |

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434208362671>