

Luxembourg



The recent revision of the population figures for Luxembourg shows that the foreign population is continuing to grow: in January 2007, it accounted for nearly 42% of the resident population, as compared with around 41% in 2005 and 37% in 2001. This is by far the largest proportion among all OECD countries. Although net migration in 2006 accounted for more than 75% of population growth (approximately 5 400 out of 7 100), it should be pointed out that only foreigners make a positive contribution to the natural balance (an increase of nearly 2 400 as opposed to a decrease of approximately 600 for nationals). The totality of Luxembourg's population growth is therefore due to foreigners.

In 2006, inflows of foreigners were close to the figures for 2005, both in terms of numbers (13 700) and in terms of countries of origin: Portugal and France remained the two main sending countries, accounting respectively for 28% and 18% of inflows. Outflows of foreigners increased in comparison with 2005, chiefly because of greater outflows of nationals of EU countries.

Naturalisations have continued to increase: more than 1 100 persons became Luxembourg citizens in 2006, an 18% increase over 2005. The naturalisation rate (i.e. the number of naturalisations as a percentage of the foreign population) has been increasing regularly since 2001, in particular following the relaxation of the naturalisation procedure in 2002, but it still remains very low in comparison with other countries (it is some ten times lower than in neighbouring countries such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands).

The downward trend in the number of asylum applications that began in 2005 continued in 2006 and 2007 (preliminary figures), with only around 520 and 430 applications filed respectively during these two years, as against 1 500 in 2004. Nationals of the former Yugoslavia accounted for roughly half of asylum seekers in 2006 and 2007, with Kosovo being by far the main region of origin.

Foreign residents are of course strongly represented in Luxembourg's labour market, but not

as much as their proportion of the population would suggest because of the very large share of the workforce who work in Luxembourg but do not live there (approximately 129 000 in 2006). These cross-border workers, who live in France, Belgium and Germany, accounted for nearly 40% of employment in Luxembourg in 2006 (as compared with roughly 27% in 1996). The French constitute by far the largest group of cross-border workers (62 000), followed by Belgians (31 000) and Germans (28 000).

To better evaluate the educational needs of the many young people who arrive every year in Luxembourg with their parents and to prepare their integration into school, a school reception centre was set up at the beginning of the 2005 school year. Between December 2005 and December 2006, this centre received nearly 600 pupils over 12 years of age, informed them about school in Luxembourg, assessed their mathematics and language skills and steered them to a secondary school that matched their profile. Since over half the new arrivals were Portuguese speakers, reception in Portuguese is provided two days per week.

On 1 May 2006, the transitional measures enabling nationals of the new EU member states to obtain work permits were extended for three years and their application was broadened to include nationals of Bulgaria and Romania in January 2007. For these nationals, access to the Luxembourg labour market is subject to labour market testing.

As from the beginning of the 2007 academic year, students enrolled in the University of Luxembourg who are nationals of a third country may obtain a work permit allowing them to work on a part-time basis while pursuing their studies. They may only work ten hours per week during the academic year, but this restriction is lifted when the university is not in session. This permit is renewable upon presentation of proof of re-enrolment in the university, but may be withdrawn if a student fails to attend classes on a regular basis.

For further information...

www.mae.lu/

www.statistiques.public.lu/

www.cge.etat.lu/

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	23.2	24.7	30.2	29.9	24.1	27.4	13.7			
Outflows	12.0	16.3	15.8	16.7	14.5	16.8	7.7			
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						
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>										
	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.1	2.5	2.3	0.5			

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	1.4	8.4	5.0	6.1	6.1	4.4	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	–	7.0	3.4	4.4	4.7	3.0	62 991
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	0.9	4.2	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.6	206
Unemployment (% of labour force)	3.0	2.6	4.7	4.4	3.1	3.7	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	15.1	12.8	9.7	..	13.7	8.1	
Natural increase	3.9	4.5	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.6	
Net migration	11.2	8.3	5.8	..	9.6	4.5	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	0.7	0.2	–0.7	–0.4	0.4	0.2	300
Foreign-born	3.3	2.2	2.6	3.7	2.6	2.0	160
National	0.2	–0.5	–1.5	–1.2	–0.2	–0.5	268
Foreign	4.2	3.3	3.3	4.1	3.6	2.8	191
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	1 128
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	70.7	73.2	68.8	68.1	71.4	69.6	
Foreign-born men	81.3	78.1	80.1	79.2	80.0	79.9	
Native-born women	38.8	46.5	50.5	51.9	42.6	49.0	
Foreign-born women	48.9	55.3	58.3	58.6	51.9	57.1	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	2.1	1.4	3.0	2.6	1.7	2.2	
Foreign-born men	2.1	2.5	4.2	4.7	2.5	3.6	
Native-born women	3.7	3.0	4.5	4.1	3.2	3.5	
Foreign-born women	5.5	3.3	7.5	8.9	4.8	6.9	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

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