

Chile

Inflows of migrants in Chile continued increasing in 2011, surpassing 76 000, 19.4% more than in 2010 and more than double the number in 2002. This reflects Chile's thriving economy with a GDP growth of 6.1% in 2011. The overall unemployment rate fell to 7.1% in 2011 and continued decreasing in 2012.

41 000 foreign workers entered Chile in 2011, an increase of 28% compared to 2010 (32 000) and more than double the number in 2004 (under 18 000). Most foreign workers in 2011 came from Peru (54%) and Colombia (21%), followed by migrants from the Dominican Republic (4%), Ecuador (4%), China (2%) and the United States (2%). The number of foreign workers from Spain remains small, although fast increasing (590 in 2011 and 950 between January to October 2012, compared with 390 in 2010).

Almost 32 000 temporary visas were granted, an 11% increase with respect to the previous year. Among those, almost one third were nationals from Mercosur countries with Mercosur Agreement Visas, a type of visa granted without having to justify means for self-support. Around 15% of temporary visas were granted to foreigners with ties with Chilean citizens, and 13% to foreigners with ties to permanent residents.

The increasing number of immigrants in the last decade has been accompanied with a growing number of residency permits and naturalisations. In 2011, almost 100 000 permits were granted (including temporary residency, permanent residency and naturalisations), 18% more permits than in 2010. Naturalisation figures nevertheless remain contained: 870 in 2011, compared to 630 in 2010.

While there is a large Chilean-born population abroad – almost a half million in 2000 – migration dynamics have changed in the past two decades. The total number of non-nationals living in Chile has increased gradually since the mid-1990s. The 2010 Census figures show that over 369 000 migrants lived in Chile in 2010, equivalent to 2.2% of the total population, compared with just 0.6% in 1992. This figure is still one of the lowest in the OECD (the average share of foreign-born population in the OECD was 13.5% in 2010). Most immigrants come from neighbouring countries, in particular Peru (37%), Argentina (17%), Bolivia (6%), Ecuador (5%) and Colombia (4%), although there is an increasing presence of immigrants from Colombia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

While accurate figures on irregular migration are difficult to obtain, the Department of Migration estimates that around 5% of non-nationals are irregular migrants, in particular from Peru.

Chile receives few asylum seekers in comparison with other OECD countries. Asylum seeker applications in 2011 were 300, compared to 260 in 2010. The number of international student visas granted was just over 2 000, a figure which has remained stable in the last five years.

A draft migration bill aimed at modernising Chile's migration law was approved by the Chilean president in July 2012 and submitted to Congress for discussion. Existing legislation, established in 1975 under the military regime, is restrictive. The new bill would expand the number of different migration categories, simplify migration procedures, allow more flexibility and facilitate the obtention of a regular migration status. The current limit of a maximum of 15% foreign labour force in each company would be maintained but exceptions will be made for certain groups: highly-skilled professionals; relatives of Chileans; foreigners with more than five years residence in Chile; and companies with fewer than 25 employees. The bill also aims to clearly establish the rights and obligations of non-nationals living in Chile and ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

As part of the Bill, a new institutional body responsible for migration policy will be created under the Subsecretary of the Interior Ministry (*División de Inmigraciones*), replacing the existing *Departamento de Extranjería*. Procedures to recognise foreign diplomas in Chile will be eased as well, extending the right to validate foreign university degrees to all accredited institutions (until now, only the *Universidad de Chile* has been able to validate degrees for which a fast-track validation procedure is not available).

A draft bill on seasonal workers is also under study after increasing demand from the agriculture industry. The industry-supported bill would create a special visa for seasonal workers to alleviate labour shortages in agriculture, similar to the visas existing in New Zealand and Australia that allow for circular migration. Employers would be responsible for the wellbeing of the migrants while employing them and would ensure that they leave the country when their contract finishes.

For further information

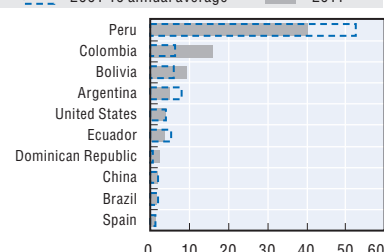
www.extranjeria.gov.cl/

www.minrel.gov.cl

www.interior.gov.cl

Recent trends in migrant flows and stocks

CHILE

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2011
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.2	2.3	3.7	4.4	2.0	3.8	76.3
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners Chile 2001-10 annual average 2011 		
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2010	2011	Average 2006-10			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	305
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	12.2	10.4	9.3	9.0	10.9	9.8	155
Natural increase	11.6	9.7	8.9	8.7	10.4	9.5	150
Net migration	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	4
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	1.5	2.2	..	..	1.9	..
Foreign population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	874
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	..	70.7	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	79.3	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	44.1	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	59.7	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	..	6.7	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	3.9	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	10.0	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	7.7	..	..
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.5	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.1	3.8	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	3.9	2.8	17 312
Employment (level in thousands)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Percentage of the total labour force</i>							
Unemployment	9.7	9.2	8.2	7.1	9.7	8.1	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932823890>