

## Czech Republic

In the context of the economic crisis, immigration inflows into the Czech Republic declined rapidly in 2009, following a trend already started in 2008. According to national statistics, about 39 000 immigrants entered the country in 2009, which was nearly half the number of entries registered in the previous year (78 000). In parallel, outflows almost doubled, growing from about 6 000 to almost 12 000 persons. In total, net migration declined by almost two-thirds.

A sharp decline in immigration inflows from Ukraine and Viet Nam accounted for more than half of the decline in the total inflow into the Czech Republic in 2009. Despite a decrease by almost 60% in the entries of Ukrainians compared to 2008, Ukraine remained the main origin country of immigrants into the Czech Republic, with 8 100 inflows, followed by the Slovak Republic and the Russian Federation. Immigration of Vietnamese declined by some 83% in 2009. With a little over 2 300 inflows, Viet Nam went down in the ranking of the main origin countries of immigrants into the Czech Republic from the second to fifth position. Inflows of German and Moldovan nationals also more than halved. In contrast to the general trend, inflows from the United States continued to increase in 2009, albeit at modest levels (about 2 500).

The total number of foreigners holding a residence permit slightly decreased in 2009, to about 433 000, compared with 438 000 in 2008. Most of the decrease was attributable to a decline in the number of labour migrants with a long-term residence permit, whose number declined by 17%. In contrast, the stock of family migrants and persons receiving business authorisations increased by 28% and 16%, respectively. In the context of the crisis, many foreigners who would have been obliged to leave the country as a consequence of job loss (after a so-called “protection period” of 60 days), changed their purpose of residence from “employment” to “business activity” as a way to legalise their stay in the Czech Republic. Abuses of the system for issuing business authorisations to foreign nationals (the so-called “Schwarz” System), which had slowly diminished in the previous years, thus appear to have become more frequent again in 2009.

The number of persons seeking asylum in the Czech Republic continued to decline in 2009, to less than 1 300, its lowest level ever. Less than 10% of asylum seekers obtain refugee status. The main countries of origin of persons having been granted asylum in the Czech Republic in 2009 were Myanmar, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Kazakhstan.

An amendment to the “Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals” entered into force on 1 January 2011. Among

the main changes with respect to the previous legislation has been the introduction of new (and tighter) requirements for the proof of secure accommodation and of health insurance to be submitted by the applicants for a long-term visa, a long term residence or permanent residence (which are three different categories in the Czech Republic). The proof of secured funds, required for certain types of permits, including permanent residence, has also been strengthened. In addition, the new law introduced some restrictions to the permit regime for the purpose of carrying out an independent economic activity, among which is a two-year legal residence requirement for status changes into self-employment. Other measures have been introduced as a consequence of the transposition of the EU “Blue Card”-directive and the directive on employer sanctions. Finally, under the new legislation, the responsibility for the issuance of long-term visa and residence permits has been transferred to the new regional offices of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior. The foreigners’ police, which was previously in charge of this dossier, remains competent for the issuance of short-term visas and residence certificates.

In 2010, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs sent out a proposal for the elimination of the High-Skilled Migration Programme called “Project of Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers”, approved in 2001 and in place since 2003. This programme aimed at attracting young, qualified people to the Czech Republic by facilitating their settlement in the country (together with their family members) through the shortening of administrative terms for obtaining permanent residence. After a pilot phase, when it applied only to nationals from Bulgaria, Croatia and Kazakhstan, the programme was extended to nationals of 51 countries from outside of the EU. According to data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as of 30 September 2010, a total of 1 820 principal applicants and more than 1 700 family members were registered within the “Project of Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers”.

In September 2009, the programme for the voluntary return of immigrants having lost their jobs as a result of the crisis entered in its second phase. In this phase, the facilitations to the return are extended also to illegal migrants.

### For further information:

[www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz)

[www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

CZECH REPUBLIC

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	0.4	5.7	7.5	3.8	3.3	6.7	40.0			
Outflows	0.0	2.1	0.4	0.9	2.3	1.6	9.4			
<b>Migration inflows (foreigners) by type</b>	<b>Thousands</b>		<b>% distribution</b>		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	..	..	..	..						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..						
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..						
Free movements	..	..	..	..						
Others	..	..	..	..						
Total	71.8	39.0	..	..						
<b>Temporary migration</b>	2005	2008	2009	Average				<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>		
<i>Thousands</i>				2005-09						
International students	4.4	6.0	..	5.3						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..						
<b>Inflows of asylum seekers</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.2	1 355			
<b>Components of population growth</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level ('000)				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Total	-1.1	3.0	8.3	3.7	-1.2	5.5	39			
Natural increase	-1.8	-0.6	1.4	1.0	-1.4	0.6	11			
Net migration	0.6	3.5	6.9	2.7	1.1	4.9	28			
<b>Stocks of immigrants</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level ('000)				
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Foreign-born population	4.2	5.1	6.5	6.4	4.6	5.9	676			
Foreign population	2.0	2.7	4.2	4.1	2.2	3.6	433			
<b>Naturalisations</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>	4.1	0.9	0.4	0.4	2.5	0.6	1 621			
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average					
					2000-04	2005-09				
Employment/population ratio										
Native-born men	..	73.3	75.4	73.8	..	74.2				
Foreign-born men	..	71.0	77.5	74.6	..	74.0				
Native-born women	..	56.4	57.6	56.7	..	57.0				
Foreign-born women	..	51.3	55.4	56.8	..	54.4				
Unemployment rate										
Native-born men	..	6.4	3.5	5.9	..	5.2				
Foreign-born men	..	9.7	4.5	8.5	..	7.7				
Native-born women	..	9.7	5.6	7.7	..	7.7				
Foreign-born women	..	15.8	10.2	11.0	..	12.6				
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Annual growth in %</i>					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
Real GDP	3.6	6.3	2.5	-4.1	3.2	3.5				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.8	6.0	1.4	-4.9	3.4	2.9	19 607			
Employment (level in thousands)	-0.7	1.4	1.6	-1.3	-0.1	1.0	4 920			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.9	7.9	4.4	6.7	8.1	6.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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