

## Finland

In 2009, according to national statistics, 26 700 persons migrated to Finland, which is 8% less than in 2008. Out of these immigrants, foreign nationals accounted for 18 100, a slight decrease compared to the previous year (19 900). The main immigrating groups came from Estonia (3 176), the Russian Federation (2 336), Iraq (907), Somalia (804) and Sweden (836). Preliminary statistics show that 24 600 people moved to Finland in 2010.

The number of residence permits for employment purposes decreased in 2009 by 42%, whereas the number of permits issued on the basis of family ties increased by 15%. Preliminary figures for the first eight months of 2010 suggest an increase for that year, in particular on family ties.

The number of asylum seekers reached a record high number in 2009, to around 6 000, a 48% rise compared with 2008. Most asylum seekers are of Iraqi (1 200) and Somali (1 180) origin. Preliminary data for 2010 suggest that asylum seeking is declining again; in 2010 there were around 4 000 applications, nearly 33% less than in 2009.

New amendments to the Aliens Act came into force on 1 August 2010. Provisions were added to the Aliens Act regarding a medical age assessment of minors. An examination will be conducted if there are apparent grounds to suspect the credibility of the information provided by the alien concerning his or her age. Participation is voluntary, but refusal to participate in the test without acceptable cause will result in treating the person concerned as an adult. Family reunification provisions were amended. A residence permit can be refused, if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the sponsor's own residence permit is based on false information given by the sponsor concerning his or her identity or family relations. The requirements for granting a residence permit to a minor on the basis of family ties were amended, so that the permit may be granted to a minor only if the child is a minor on the day that a decision is made on the permit application. However, the permit may not be refused if the processing of the application has been delayed considerably for reasons beyond the applicant's control. The Aliens Act was also amended so that a sponsor, who has received international protection, is required to have secure income to be able to be reunited with his/her family if the family has been formed after arriving in Finland. Finally, restrictions were made to the asylum seeker's

right to work. In the future, only asylum seekers with valid travel documents will have the right to work after a three months waiting period. Without a valid travel document, the waiting period is six months.

A new *Act on the Promotion of Integration* was adopted in Parliament in December 2010 and will enter into force on 1 September 2011. The Act will apply to all immigrants with a valid residence permit or whose right of residence has been registered. At present, integration measures only apply to immigrants who are registered as unemployed. The objective of the new Act is to expand the scope of application of the Act and to promote integration especially at early stages. Under the new Act, all immigrants will be provided basic information on the Finnish society and their rights and obligations when granted a residence permit. All immigrants are also entitled to a needs assessment regarding language training and to determine whether they require an integration plan.

The new Act envisages minimum standards for municipal integration plans and the integration programme will become part of municipal budgeting. Municipalities will receive computational state subsidies based on the number of refugees or persons under international protection allocated to them. The Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment are charged with drafting a multi-year agreement with regional municipalities on the allocation of refugees. This agreement will, together with the integration plan, be a precondition for payment of state subsidies.

In addition, the new Act includes provisions for trials to study new models of integration training under the project *Participative Integration in Finland*. The objective of the project is to develop new models of arranging integration training. The aim is to find the most effective ways to assign people to the labour market or support the integration of those who are already in the labour market. The provisions for the trial included in the Act came into force on 1 January 2011 and will be effective until the end of 2013.

### For further information:

[www.migri.fi/netcomm/?language=EN](http://www.migri.fi/netcomm/?language=EN)

[www.intermin.fi](http://www.intermin.fi)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## FINLAND

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.8	2.4	3.7	3.4	2.0	3.1	18.1			
Outflows	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	4.0			
<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>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>						
Work	3.0	1.6	15.1	8.8						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	6.7	6.3	33.7	35.0						
Humanitarian	2.2	3.0	10.8	16.6						
Free movements	7.5	6.5	37.5	35.8						
Others	0.6	0.7	2.8	3.7						
Total	19.9	18.1	100.0	100.0						
<b>Temporary migration</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>				<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>		
<i>Thousands</i>				<b>2005-09</b>						
International students	..	4.8	4.3	4.2						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	12.2	12.0	12.5	12.7						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	6.5	13.0	10.0	9.7						
<b>Inflows of asylum seekers</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Level</b>				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>					<b>2000-04</b>	<b>2005-09</b>	<b>2009</b>			
	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.7	5 910			
<b>Components of population growth</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level ('000)</b>			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	1.9	4.0	4.7	4.5	2.5	4.3	25			
Natural increase	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.5	2.0	10			
Net migration	0.4	1.7	2.6	2.6	1.0	2.3	14			
<b>Stocks of immigrants</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level ('000)</b>			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	2.6	3.4	4.1	4.4	2.9	3.8	233			
Foreign population	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.9	2.0	2.5	156			
<b>Naturalisations</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	3.3	5.0	4.7	2.2	3.9	3.8	3 413			
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	71.2	71.2	73.0	69.5	71.0	71.6				
Foreign-born men	49.9	61.7	73.0	66.2	62.6	67.4				
Native-born women	65.3	68.0	69.3	67.9	66.8	68.5				
Foreign-born women	39.0	49.7	58.2	62.7	48.6	56.2				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	10.3	9.3	6.0	8.7	10.2	7.8				
Foreign-born men	36.6	22.4	11.0	17.9	23.6	15.8				
Native-born women	12.0	9.4	6.3	7.4	10.5	7.8				
Foreign-born women	21.3	22.7	19.1	14.6	22.3	18.8				
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	5.3	2.9	0.9	-8.2	3.1	1.1				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	5.1	2.6	0.5	-8.6	2.9	0.7	28 841			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.7	1.5	1.6	-2.9	0.6	0.8	2 449			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	9.8	8.4	6.4	8.3	9.2	7.5				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441268>