

## France

Permanent immigration excluding freedom of movement (that is, nationals from Romania, Bulgaria and non-EEA/Swiss citizens) reached a level of roughly 126 000 entries in 2009, down by 7% compared with 2008. This decrease stemmed as much from labour migration (22 500 entries), which dipped by 6% compared with 2008, as from family migration (78 100 entries), which decreased by 10%. This trend is due in part to the transition that followed institution of the “long-stay visa constituting a residence permit” (*Visa de long séjour valant titre de séjour, VLS-TS*) and which deferred the recording of some entries until 2010. In addition, the economic crisis affected requirements for the recruitment of foreign workers, and criteria for family reunification were tightened subsequent to the entry into force of the November 2007 law on immigration, integration and asylum.

Most non-European Union citizens admitted for permanent residence were from Africa (62%), and especially north Africa (34%). Roughly a third of the new permanent immigrants were from Algeria or Morocco. Asia was the second-ranking region of origin (19%), followed by other European countries (6%).

Following a database overhaul as a result of the latest legislative amendments, temporary non-European Union labour migration in 2008 was not comparable to that of 2009. In 2009, 14 600 new work permits were issued, including 8 000 new seasonal work permits. Over two-thirds of the new temporary work permits (excluding seasonal permits) were granted to immigrants already living in the country under non-job-related immigration categories, for example students.

In 2009, 50 700 permits were granted to foreign students, an increase of approximately 2% over the previous year despite the fact that recent data no longer include Romanian and Bulgarian students. The main countries of origin were China (9 900), Morocco (4 400), Algeria (3 400), the United States (2 500) and Tunisia (2 400).

The number of asylum seekers has been rising constantly for three years, while falling short of the record 59 300 applications registered in 2003. In 2009, more than 42 000 asylum requests were recorded, or roughly 19% more than in the previous year. This trend continued over the first two quarters of 2010 with an increase of 15% from the previous year. Nearly 10% of the applications were from Serbia and Montenegro. The other countries, in order of volume, were Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Russian Federation, Turkey and China. In 2009, approximately

15 000 persons were granted the protection of France, including 4 600 accompanying minors and 2 450 persons qualifying for subsidiary protection.

The number of persons receiving assistance for voluntary departures rose in 2009 to 2 900 but remained limited in spite of the economic crisis. In addition, 12 300 persons qualified for humanitarian repatriation, including 10 000 Romanians, and 16 900 expulsions were carried out in 2009 (82 500 had been ordered).

Subsequent to the Act of 24 July 2006 on immigration and integration, “Welcoming and Integration Contracts” have been compulsory since 1 January 2007. In 2009, these were signed by 97 700 persons. This figure was down slightly compared with the previous year (103 900) because of a drop in entries, but also because of a slight decline in the rate of signatures (98.3% in 2009 versus 99.6% in 2008).

In 2009, 135 800 acquisitions of citizenship were recorded. It should be noted that the majority of acquisitions were by decree (92 000), and that acquisitions by marriage (16 400) declined significantly, due in particular to legislative changes (increasing the length of marriage required before applying for French citizenship).

The purpose of the Decree of 27 April 2009, which entered into force on 1 June 2009, is to enable foreigners in possession of a visa issued by diplomatic or consular authorities to reside in France for one year with all of the rights accruing to possession of a residence permit, while at the same time dispensing them, during this first year, from having to undertake any formalities at the prefecture. This simplification measure applies in particular to foreign spouses of French citizens and to other categories of foreigners in possession of a long-stay visa (for example, temporary workers and visitors and students).

A new immigration bill is currently being debated at the National Assembly and the Senate which aims in particular to transpose three European directives into French law (including the so-called “Return Directive”, the European Blue Card Directive and the directive instituting minimum standards for penalties and measures against employers of undocumented third-country workers).

### For further information:

[www.immigration.gouv.fr](http://www.immigration.gouv.fr)

[www.ofii.fr/](http://www.ofii.fr/)

[www.ofpra.fr](http://www.ofpra.fr)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

FRANCE

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	126.2			
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
<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	23.1	22.5	12.0	12.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	85.3	76.6	44.4	42.8						
Humanitarian	11.4	10.4	6.0	5.8						
Free movements	58.5	54.0	30.4	30.2						
Others	13.9	15.3	7.2	8.6						
Total	192.2	178.7	100.0	100.0						
<b>Temporary migration</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	46.2	49.7	50.7	47.4						
Trainees	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	16.2	11.6	8.0	14.4						
Intra-company transfers	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.0						
Other temporary workers	6.5	5.2	3.5	5.4						
<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>			
	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	42 118			
<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	6.9	7.1	5.4	5.2	7.0	5.9	324			
Natural increase	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.2	254			
Net migration	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.3	70			
<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	10.1	11.0	11.4	11.6	10.5	11.3	7 235			
Foreign population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
<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>										
	..	..	..	..	..	..	135 842			
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>					
					<b>2000-04</b>	<b>2005-09</b>				
Employment/population ratio										
Native-born men	69.8	69.6	70.5	68.6	70.2	69.3				
Foreign-born men	66.7	67.1	68.8	65.0	66.6	66.9				
Native-born women	56.6	59.9	62.1	61.2	58.1	60.9				
Foreign-born women	45.6	48.2	52.3	50.5	47.4	50.0				
Unemployment rate										
Native-born men	7.7	7.5	6.4	8.4	7.1	7.5				
Foreign-born men	14.5	12.5	11.5	15.3	13.6	13.1				
Native-born women	11.3	9.0	7.8	9.1	9.8	8.6				
Foreign-born women	19.7	16.8	12.8	14.9	16.7	15.3				
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
					<b>2000-04</b>	<b>2005-09</b>	<b>2009</b>			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.9	1.9	0.2	-2.6	2.1	0.8				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.2	1.1	-0.3	-3.2	1.4	0.2	26 391			
Employment (level in thousands)	2.7	0.7	1.4	-0.9	1.0	0.7	25 696			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.6	8.9	7.4	9.1	8.3	8.4				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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