

Luxembourg

Luxembourg is still experiencing population growth and in 2009 crossed the threshold of a half-million residents, 43% of whom are foreign nationals.

In 2009, 14 600 migrants entered Luxembourg. This represents a 13% decline as compared with 2008 entries, but it is still greater than the levels experienced prior to 2007. Portugal remained the leading country of origin, with more than a quarter of the entries. The breakdown of new arrivals by nationality has for that matter been particularly stable for several years.

The highlight of 2009 in Luxembourg was the entry into force on 1 January of the new law on Luxembourg citizenship, the main feature of which was to introduce dual citizenship. An immediate consequence of the law was a sharp increase in acquisitions of Luxembourg citizenship: from 1 200 acquisitions (options and naturalisations) in 2008 to over 4 000 naturalisations in 2009. Of these naturalisations, 31% involved Portuguese citizens and 20% citizens of countries of the former Yugoslavia.

In 2009, employment in Luxembourg rose at a slow pace as compared with previous years. The slowdown in dependent employment was observed in respect of both resident and cross-border employment. The latter was hit harder by the crisis. According to data from the general inspection of the social security (IGSS), the number of cross-border workers at the end of December 2009 was 145 400, down 0.4% from the month of December 2008. This drop in cross-border employment stems from a number of factors, such as a high proportion of cross-border workers in sectors affected by the crisis (industry, finance and business services, and especially temporary work, where cross-border workers account for roughly 80% of the workforce).

Luxembourg took in 504 new asylum-seekers in 2009. This figure represents an 8.9% increase over 2008, but it is still at a low level. More than a

quarter of the asylum-seekers arriving in 2009 were originally from Kosovo, and 13% were Iraqi citizens.

Among the measures instituted to foster the integration of foreigners in Luxembourg was the Act of 18 December 2009 on access of European Union citizens to the civil service. By adopting this law, the parliament sought a general opening of the civil service while at the same time reserving jobs involving participation in the exercise of public authority for Luxembourg citizens, and it maintained the requirement for knowledge of the country's three official languages: Luxembourgish, French and German. To facilitate learning of the Luxembourgish language, the Act of 17 February 2009 introduced "language leave" – a special, additional period of leave to allow persons of any nationality to learn Luxembourgish or improve their knowledge of the language, in order to facilitate their integration.

In addition, a bill was presented which aims at establishing a legal framework to combat forced marriages or partnerships, or marriages or partnerships of convenience, and to empower marriage registrars to summon just one of the future spouses for an interview, in addition to the joint interview, if he or she has any doubts as to the legitimacy of a marriage.

The grand ducal regulation of 3 February 2009 on medical examinations for foreigners set forth the procedure and the content of medical examinations for European Union and non-EEA/Swiss citizens. Medical examinations are compulsory for the latter citizens applying for a residence permit.

For further information:

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Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

LUXEMBOURG

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	24.7	29.8	34.7	29.7	25.8	31.3	14.6
Outflows	16.1	15.5	16.4	14.7	16.7	16.2	7.3
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands			% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners	
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.0	2.4	1.1	477
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	12.8	17.0	19.9	17.1	11.4	17.0	9
Natural increase	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.7	2
Net migration	8.2	13.1	15.8	13.3	7.6	13.2	7
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	33.2	35.0	37.3	36.9	33.4	36.2	182
Foreign population	37.7	41.5	44.5	43.8	38.7	43.1	216
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.9	0.4	0.8	4 022
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	73.2	68.8	68.2	69.2	70.8	68.3	
Foreign-born men	78.1	80.1	75.9	78.1	79.9	78.5	
Native-born women	46.5	50.5	50.4	54.5	47.7	51.7	
Foreign-born women	55.3	58.3	61.8	59.7	56.2	60.3	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	1.4	3.0	2.5	2.8	1.9	2.8	
Foreign-born men	2.5	4.2	6.4	6.1	3.1	5.1	
Native-born women	3.0	4.5	5.4	3.8	3.0	4.4	
Foreign-born women	3.3	7.5	6.8	8.8	5.6	7.4	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	8.4	5.4	1.4	-3.7	4.2	3.0	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	7.0	3.8	-0.3	-5.4	2.9	1.3	61 422
Employment (level in thousands)	4.2	1.7	3.2	1.3	2.2	2.1	220
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	2.6	4.7	4.4	5.7	3.2	4.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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