

Norway

In 2009, the total inflow of immigrants to Norway reached 65 200, almost as high as the record level of 66 900 in 2008. Out of these, 87% were foreigners and 13% of Norwegian nationality. The decrease of the immigration flow in 2009 was mainly due to less immigration from Poland by 38%, to 10 450 immigrants in 2009. However, Poles still constitute the largest immigrant group, followed by Swedes. Overall, 58% of immigrants came from EU member states, and 31% from the new members in Central and Eastern Europe.

Due to the economic downturn, the demand for labour started to decrease in autumn 2008. About 16 500 persons from outside the Nordic countries immigrated to Norway with labour as the main reason for immigration, which represents 20% fewer than in the previous year. Two-thirds of these immigrants were from the new EEA-countries in Central and Eastern Europe, with about half of them from Poland. Since EEA-nationals no longer need to apply for a residence permit, but only have to register, the total inflow of labour migrants in 2009 is underestimated, and the actual share of labour migration was higher than 38%.

In consequence of the lower demand for labour, the number of work permits issued to skilled workers from countries outside of the European Economic Area dropped from 3 400 in 2008 to 2 600 in 2009. This decrease concerned mainly the sectors which suffered most from the economic downturn, such as retail and construction. In other sectors, such as the petroleum sector and shipbuilding, as well as health and social services, the number of permits issued continued to increase.

Among the 13 700 family migrants who entered in 2009, almost 4 000 came to establish a new family through marriage or partnership. Most family migrants came from Thailand, Pakistan, Turkey, the Philippines and Iraq and about half came to live with a person in Norway without immigrant background.

During 2009, the number of asylum applications increased to 17 200. This represented the second highest number ever recorded in Norway and the highest number of applicants per capita in the OECD. The main countries of origin were Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, stateless (mostly Palestinians) and Iraq.

In 2010, there was a significant decrease in the number of asylum seekers, to about 10 000 applicants. This reduction might be linked with various restrictive

measures that include a strong focus on return of persons whose asylum request was rejected. In 2009, the number of forced returns increased by almost 45% and reached 3 300. The number of voluntary assisted returns almost doubled to more than 1 000. During 2010, forced and assisted voluntary returns increased to a total of about 6 000. In addition, in July 2010, a system was introduced under which the amount of reintegration support offered depends on the time of application.

Almost 1 400 refugees arrived for resettlement in Norway in 2009, the highest number of resettled refugees since 2003. In 2009, Burmese refugees in Malaysia, Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, Afghan refugees in Iran, stateless Palestinians in the Middle East and Eritrean refugees in Sudan were favoured.

In January 2010 a new immigration act was enforced which tightened the requirements for obtaining family migration permits, in particular regarding subsistence requirements. At the same time, the right to family reunification has been strengthened for those applicants who were granted subsidiary protection under the previous act. According to the new Act, they are granted refugee status, and thus are exempted from income and subsistence requirements.

Every year in the period 2007-10, in connection with the presentation of the proposals for next year's fiscal budgets, the government presented a plan of action for integration and social inclusion of immigrants and their children. The attendance of children of immigrants in kindergarten has increased from 54% in 2005 to 71% in 2009. The participation in education or employment of Norwegian-born youth with immigrant parents in the age group 16-19 is almost the same as the majority population. In 2009, 96% of pupils with immigrant parents made a direct transition from lower to upper secondary education. More than 60% of the participants completing the introduction programme and Norwegian language instruction for newly arrived adult refugees in 2006 and 2007 were either employed or attending more education one year later.

For further information:

www.ssb.no/innvandring_en/

www.udi.no/

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

NORWAY

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	6.2	6.8	12.3	11.7	6.1	10.0	56.7			
Outflows	3.3	2.7	3.2	3.8	3.1	3.0	18.4			
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	3.5	2.7	7.2	6.2						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	12.0	12.3	24.6	28.5						
Humanitarian	4.8	6.2	9.7	14.4						
Free movements	28.6	22.0	58.5	50.9						
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total	48.9	43.1	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	4.3	5.9	5.8	5.2						
Trainees	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4						
Working holiday makers	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1						
Seasonal workers	22.7	35.3	10.9	28.3						
Intra-company transfers	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5						
Other temporary workers	2.1	1.7	1.5	2.1						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	2.4	1.2	3.0	3.6	3.0	2.1	17 226			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	5.6	7.4	13.0	12.2	5.6	10.7	59			
Natural increase	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.3	3.0	3.8	21			
Net migration	2.0	3.9	9.0	8.1	2.6	6.9	39			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	6.8	8.2	10.3	10.9	7.3	9.5	527			
Foreign population	4.1	4.8	6.4	6.9	4.3	5.8	334			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	5.2	5.7	3.4	3.4	4.6	4.6	11 442			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	82.3	78.8	80.5	79.0	80.4	79.4				
Foreign-born men	74.6	67.0	77.3	71.8	73.4	72.2				
Native-born women	74.6	72.9	75.8	75.1	74.2	74.3				
Foreign-born women	63.5	59.8	70.6	66.4	63.5	65.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	3.4	4.0	2.4	2.9	3.8	2.9				
Foreign-born men	6.8	12.5	6.6	10.2	8.5	8.9				
Native-born women	3.2	3.9	2.2	2.2	3.6	2.7				
Foreign-born women	5.3	8.5	4.3	6.6	6.8	6.2				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.3	2.7	0.8	-1.4	2.3	1.4				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	2.6	2.1	-0.6	-2.6	1.7	0.4	39 138			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.4	0.6	3.3	-0.6	0.1	2.0	2 508			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	3.4	4.6	2.6	3.2	4.0	3.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441534>