

Poland

Registered migration inflows to Poland increased by almost 15% in 2009, to around 17 400, while outflows decreased by 38%, to about 18 600. This resulted in a significant change in net migration, which remained negative but amounted to 1 200 persons, a reduction by more than ten times in absolute value compared with 2008 and by almost 30 times compared with 2006.

The drop in the outflow from Poland recorded by the Central Population Register reflects permanent emigration, that is, Polish citizens who deregister. Estimations by the Central Statistical Office of Poland suggest that the total number of Polish citizens who have been staying abroad for longer than three months declined by about 15% in 2009. The main destination countries for the outflows from Poland continue to be within the EU, especially the United Kingdom and Germany. The United Kingdom and Germany were also the two main origin countries of new permanent immigrants registered in Poland in 2009.

In 2009, the number new issuances of work permits, most of which are for temporary labour migration, rose by almost two-thirds, to 29 300. One-third of these concerned Ukrainians. China, Viet Nam, Belarus and Turkey followed as the other main countries of origin.

The number of persons seeking asylum in Poland increased by 24% in 2009 compared with 2008, and at close to 11 600, reached its highest level ever. In 2009, 94% of asylum seekers in Poland came from only two countries, the Russian Federation and Georgia. While the Russian Federation has traditionally been the main origin country of asylum seekers, the number of asylum seekers from Georgia rose from less than 100 in 2008 to more than 4 200 in 2009.

In 2010, the inter-ministerial Working Group on Migration Strategy adopted the “Polish migration policy – current state and prospects” which sets out recommendations for a new migration policy for Poland. The document is expected to form the basis for a New Foreigners Act. Among the main recommendations is the introduction of a migration policy according to labour market needs with a broader set of privileged categories (including migrant workers with needed skills, self-employed, students and researchers as well as immigrants of Polish descent), a clear pathway for regularisation for irregular migrants, as well as the implementation of a new strategy for integration focused at enhancing Polish language knowledge among

immigrants. Other recommendations relate to the strengthening of the ties of Polish emigrants with Poland and at facilitating the re-insertion of return migrants. In addition, the document proposes the establishment of a single immigration office, by extending the competences of the current Foreigners’ Office. The creation of a comprehensive system for monitoring migration is also envisaged.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy decided in 2010 to extend indefinitely a pilot programme, introduced in mid-2007, which simplified the rules for short-term employment of citizens of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the basis of declarations of Polish employers. The provisions give these foreigners the right to work for six months during a year without a work permit.

In November 2010, a bilateral Local Border Traffic Agreement between Poland and Belarus was ratified, and should enter into force in April 2011. Under this agreement, permits allowing for visa-free border crossing and maximum 60 days stay in the area can be issued to persons who are able to prove that they lived in the border region for no less than 3 years. The annual number of applications under a similar agreement with Ukraine, which entered into force in July 2009, has been around 50 000.

In January 2010, new provisions which aimed at facilitating the integration of foreign children into the Polish school system came into force. The amendments include a right to a year-long assistance during school classes for foreign pupils who have difficulties with the Polish language. The right of foreign students to free-of-charge education, which applied previously only to primary and lower secondary schools, has been extended to general secondary, technical secondary and basic vocational public schools.

A bill on repatriation was introduced at the Polish parliament in September 2010, following a petition procedure, and it is currently pending for examination. The aim of this *civil bill* is to facilitate the resettlement in Poland of foreigners of Polish origin who meet certain conditions.

For further information:

www.udsc.gov.pl/

www.stat.gov.pl

www.mpips.gov.pl

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

POLAND

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	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.7	1.0	41.3			
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	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			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	10 587			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	-0.2	-0.4	0.5	..	-0.5	..	..	
Natural increase	0.3	-0.1	0.9	..	-0.1	..	..	
Net migration	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	..	-0.4	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	..	..	0.2	0.1	..	..	50
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	..	..	1.7	5.0	..	..	2 503
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average					
					2000-04	2005-09				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	..	59.0	66.4	66.2	..	63.2				
Foreign-born men	..	35.9	51.4	53.8	..	46.3				
Native-born women	..	47.0	52.4	52.8	..	50.2				
Foreign-born women	..	24.0	35.7	39.4	..	31.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	..	16.9	6.5	7.9	..	10.7				
Foreign-born men	..	10.2	2.6	12.2	..	8.5				
Native-born women	..	19.4	8.0	8.7	..	12.4				
Foreign-born women	..	15.3	8.5	10.9	..	10.0				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	4.3	3.6	5.1	1.7	3.2	4.7				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.3	3.7	5.1	1.6	3.3	4.7	14 950			
Employment (level in thousands)	-1.5	2.3	3.7	0.4	-1.3	2.8	15 868			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	16.1	17.7	7.1	8.2	18.6	11.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441572>