

Germany



The decline in long-term migration that has been evident for a number of years continued in 2006. This notably concerns family migration, humanitarian migration, and – in particular –

immigration of persons of German origin from the successor countries of the former Soviet Union. Less than 8 000 persons immigrated under this category in 2006, compared to more than 35 000 in 2005 and between 100 000 and 230 000 in the 1990s. Likewise, immigration of Jewish resettlers from the former Soviet Union decreased to about 1 000 in 2006 compared to about 6 000 in 2005 which was already the lowest number since the establishment of the programme in the early 1990s. Family migration also reached its lowest point for more than a decade with only about 50 000 visas for family reunification in 2006. Asylum seeking has also continued its strong decline, reaching about 21 000 in 2006 – the lowest level since the early 1980s.

Data for work-related permanent migration remain difficult to obtain, although there are several indications that this increased in 2006 – in contrast to the other migration categories, reflecting the tightening of the labour market. In 2006, almost 30 000 work permits were issued for labour migrants having a nationality from outside of the EU25, an increase of more than 60% compared to 2005. The settlement permit for the highly qualified, introduced in 2005, has only led to very modest changes in immigration. Only about 1 100 people benefited from this in 2005-06, and the vast majority of these had already been in Germany with a temporary permit on other grounds.

After reaching a peak of about 330 000 in 2004 and 2005, the number of seasonal workers has been declining, reaching a little over 300 000 in 2006. This was a result of a government decree which generally limited the recruitment of seasonal workers from abroad to 90% of seasonal workers employed by the same company in 2005, in order to encourage the employment of persons already resident in Germany.

In light of the favourable economic development and the demographic changes which are gradually

beginning to have an impact on the labour market, the government adapted a variety of measures in 2007 to facilitate skilled labour migration. Already with the immigration law of 2005, foreign graduates from German universities could stay in Germany for up to one year to find a job. Since November 2007, foreign graduates of German universities are also exempt from the labour market test if their employment corresponds to their studies. In addition, the government has opened labour market access for nationals from the EU accession countries in a range of engineering professions.

The second national integration summit took place in July 2007. Among the key measures adopted in this context has been a greater flexibility of the integration courses. The 630 hours set previously will be increased to up to 900 lessons for special target groups (e.g. young people and illiterate people), and special intensive courses are now also available. Further measures relate to integration into the labour market and the strengthening of early intervention policies for the children of immigrants.

The immigration law was amended in 2007, in part to reflect EC directives. This includes the introduction of a new residence permit for third-country nationals who have been residing in Germany for five years. A further key change relates to spouses from most third countries. These can now generally only enter Germany if they are at least 21 years old, compared to 18 years old previously. They also have to prove basic knowledge of German. Further noteworthy amendments concern facilitating entry for foreign entrepreneurs and researchers.

Finally, a solution has been found for the foreigners without residence permits whose deportation has been suspended and who have been resident in Germany for many years. These can apply for a so-called “trial residence permit” that can later be transformed into a regular residence permit if they generally prove to earn their own living.

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Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	9.7	7.9	7.0	6.8	8.2	7.5	558.5
Outflows	6.9	6.8	5.9	5.9	7.1	6.1	483.8
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Work	13.0	13.2	5.4	6.1			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	53.2	50.3	22.0	23.3			
Humanitarian	9.5	6.1	4.0	2.8			
Free movements	130.1	138.7	53.9	64.2			
Others	35.5	7.7	14.7	3.6			
Total	241.4	216.0					
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average 2000-2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	45.7	55.8	53.6	55.0			
Trainees	3.6	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	255.5	320.4	294.5	297.1			
Intra-company transfers	1.3	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	99.8	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.6	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.3	0.6	21.0

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	1.9	3.2	0.8	2.9	2.0	0.9	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	1.6	3.1	0.8	3.0	1.9	0.9	27 375
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	0.2	1.9	-0.1	0.6	0.8	-0.1	39 088
Unemployment (% of labour force)	7.1	6.9	9.1	8.1	7.7	8.3	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	3.4	1.2	-0.8	-1.5	1.5	0.1	
Natural increase	-1.5	-0.9	-1.7	-1.8	-1.0	-1.6	
Net migration	4.9	2.0	1.0	0.3	2.4	1.7	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	-0.2	0.1	..	..	-0.1	-	..
Foreign-born	4.4	0.8	..	..	1.8	1.0	..
National	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.2	75 612
Foreign	2.6	-0.6	0.3	-	0.3	-1.6	6 756
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	1.0	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.6	2.0	124 832
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	73.8	72.2	..	73.6	72.2	
Foreign-born men	..	66.3	66.0	..	65.7	65.5	
Native-born women	..	59.6	61.8	..	59.3	60.8	
Foreign-born women	..	46.6	48.0	..	45.7	47.7	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	6.9	10.6	..	7.3	9.1	
Foreign-born men	..	12.9	17.5	..	14.1	15.7	
Native-born women	..	8.0	10.1	..	8.3	8.8	
Foreign-born women	..	12.1	16.3	..	13.8	13.9	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

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