

STATISTICAL ANNEX

Introduction

Most of the data published in this annex are taken from the individual contributions of national correspondents appointed by the OECD Secretariat with the approval of the authorities of Member countries. Consequently, these data have not necessarily been harmonised at international level. This network of correspondents, constituting the Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI), covers most OECD Member countries as well as the Baltic States, Bulgaria and Romania. SOPEMI has no authority to impose changes in data collection procedures. It is an observatory which, by its very nature, has to use existing statistics. However, it does play an active role in suggesting what it considers to be essential improvements in data collection and makes every effort to present consistent and well-documented statistics.

The purpose of this annex is to describe the “immigrant” population (generally the foreign-born population). The information gathered concerns the flows and stocks of the total immigrant population as well as the acquisition of nationality (series 1.1 to 1.6) and flows and stocks of the immigrant labour force (series 2.1 to 2.3). These data have not been standardised and are therefore not fully comparable at an international level. Because of the great variety of sources used, different populations may be measured. In particular, the criteria for registering population and the conditions for granting residence permits, for example, vary across countries, which means that measurements may differ greatly even if a theoretically unique source is being used.

In addition to the problem of the comparability of statistics, there is the difficulty of the very partial coverage of illegal migrants. Part of this population can be counted through censuses. Regularisation programmes, when they exist, make it possible to account for a far from negligible fraction of illegal immigrants after the fact. In terms of measurement, this makes it possible to better evaluate the volume of the foreign population at a given time, although it is not always possible to classify these immigrants according to the year they entered the country.

Each series is preceded by an explanatory note aimed at making it easier to understand and use the data presented. A summary table then follows (series A, giving the total for each host country), and finally the tables by nationality or country of birth, as the case may be (series B). At the end of each series, a table provides the sources and notes of the data presented in the tables for each country.

Summary of the series published in the Statistical Annex (1999-2008)

SERIES	Total by destination country	Details by origin country (nationality or country of birth)
Total immigrant population		
1.1. Inflows of foreign population	Table A.1.1.	Tables B.1.1.
1.2. Outflows of foreign population	Table A.1.2.	No data by nationality ¹
1.3. Inflows of asylum seekers	Table A.1.3.	Tables B.1.3.
1.4. Stocks of foreign-born population	Table A.1.4.	Tables B.1.4.
1.5. Stocks of foreign population	Table A.1.5.	Tables B.1.5.
1.6. Acquisition of nationality	Table A.1.6.	Tables B.1.6.
Immigrant workers		
2.1. Inflows of foreign workers	Table A.2.1.	No data by nationality ¹
2.2. Stocks of foreign-born labour	Table A.2.2.	No data by country of birth ¹
2.3. Stocks of foreign labour	Table A.2.3.	No data by nationality ¹

1. Detailed data by nationality/country of birth are available online (www.oecd.org/els/migration/imo)

General comments on tables

- a) The tables provide annual series covering the period 1999-2008 (2009 preliminary data on asylum applications are included in Table A.1.3).
- b) The series A tables are presented in alphabetical order by the name of the country using the 3-letter ISO code (www.iso.org). In the other tables, nationalities or countries of birth are ranked by decreasing order of the stocks for the last year available.
- c) In the tables by country of origin (series B) only the 15 main countries are shown. "Other countries" is a residual calculated as the difference between the total and the sum of the nationalities/countries of birth indicated in the table. For some nationalities/countries of birth, data are not available for all years and this is reflected in the residual entry of "Other countries". This must be borne in mind when interpreting changes in this category.
- d) The data on outflows of the foreign population (series 1.2), inflows and stocks of workers (series 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.) are not broken down by nationality/ country of birth but may be viewed online (www.oecd.org/els/migration/imo). Only totals are presented, in Tables A.1.2 and A.2.1, A.2.2. and A.2.3, respectively.
- e) The rounding of entries may cause totals to differ slightly from the sum of the component entries.
- f) "..." Data not available.