

Hungary

Hungary is not a major destination for international migrants. The stock of foreign nationals is comparably small and makes up only 2% of the overall population. By January 2011 it stood at 209 000 persons. It is estimated that up to 40% of these are ethnic Hungarians from neighbouring countries.

Long-term migration to Hungary (as defined by residence of at least one year) continued to decline in 2010, to 23 900, 6% less than in 2009 and 32% less than the record level observed in 2008. This trend reflects the economic crisis, which hit Hungary hard from 2009-10. Outflows of foreign nationals peaked at around 6 000 in 2010. Net long-term migration thus amounted to about 17 800, a decrease of 10% compared with 2009.

Romania has been, by far, the most important country of origin of immigrants over the past decade, although its share in long-term inflows declined from 50% in 2001/2002 to 27% in 2010. At the same time, the share of nationals from the EU15 rose from less than 10% during the first half of the decade, to 21% in 2010. After Romania, the other main countries of origin for long-term migration were Germany (10%), Ukraine (7%), the Slovak Republic and China (both accounting for about 5% of total inflow).

As a consequence of the economic downturn and the worsening employment situation, only some 24 500 work permits were issued by the National Employment Office in 2010, a decrease of 13% compared with the 2009 figure, which was already almost half of the 2007 level. Two thirds of the work permits were issued to immigrants from neighbouring countries. The number of residence permits issued by the Office of Immigration and Nationality for the purpose of "gainful employment" increased by 14%, to roughly 16 000. Family migrants obtained almost 4 700 permits, 9% more than in the previous year. The number of permits for students also increased, to about 11 200, 14% more than in 2009.

The 2 100 persons seeking asylum in Hungary in 2010 represented half the number of 2009. This was mainly due to a sharp decline (more than 70%) in the number of asylum seekers from Serbia and Kosovo, a decline that might be related to the December 2009 implementation of the EU visa exemption agreement with Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Montenegro. The main origin countries of asylum seekers remained Afghanistan (700 applicants) and Kosovo (380). However a new phenomenon is the emergence of applicants from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (220).

Following amendments to the Asylum Act in 2010, Hungary changed its reception system of unaccompanied minors by conferring a major role to child-protection facilities. From May 2011, unaccompanied minors are placed in specific child-protection facilities outside reception centres. While Hungarian legislation exempts third-country family members of a recognised refugee from general maintenance requirements for family reunification, the Act on the Entry and Stay of Foreigners was amended in 2010 to exclude family members of beneficiaries of subsidiary protection from this exemption.

About 6 000 persons were apprehended for attempted or actual illegal border crossing at the borders with Ukraine, Serbia and Romania in 2009. The number of border apprehensions decreased by 21% in 2010. The EU Return directive was transposed into Romanian legislation in 2010, and amendments to the Act on the Entry and Stay of third country-nationals entered into force in April 2011, providing for harmonisation with the Community Visa Code.

About 5 500 foreign nationals acquired Hungarian citizenship in 2010, a slight decrease over 2009 (5 800). Nearly 90% of the new citizens came from neighbouring countries, in particular from Romania (60%), followed by Ukraine (15%) and Serbia and Montenegro (12%). An amendment to the Hungarian citizenship law introducing a simplified and preferential naturalisation procedure for persons of Hungarian descent came into effect in January 2011.

Various projects in the field of migrant integration were carried out in 2010, largely supported by the European Integration Fund. The main focus was on integration of migrant children through education. Other initiatives included the introduction of language course opportunities for adults, and media campaigns for strengthening intercultural dialogue and consciousness about immigration in the Hungarian society.

For further information:

<http://portal.ksh.hu>

www.bmbah.hu/

<http://mfa.gov.hu/kum/en/bal>

<https://magyarorszag.hu/>

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

HUNGARY

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.6	23.9
Outflows	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5	6.0
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2009	2010	2009	2010			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average 2006-10			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	2 104
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-2.2	-2.2	-1.7	-2.8	-2.4	-1.8	-28
Natural increase	-3.7	-3.9	-3.4	-4.0	-3.7	-3.4	-40
Net migration	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.6	12
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	2.9	3.3	4.1	4.5	3.1	3.9	451
Foreign population	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.1	1.3	1.9	209
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	4.9	6.9	3.1	3.1	4.9	3.8	6 086
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	62.6	63.0	60.9	60.2	63.0	62.3	
Foreign-born men	69.4	72.3	74.0	69.2	72.0	72.4	
Native-born women	49.4	50.9	49.7	50.4	50.3	50.5	
Foreign-born women	49.8	54.3	59.2	62.4	49.8	57.5	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	7.3	7.1	10.4	11.7	6.4	8.9	
Foreign-born men	3.5	3.0	8.6	7.6	2.4	5.8	
Native-born women	5.8	7.4	9.8	10.8	5.7	8.9	
Foreign-born women	4.8	6.4	9.6	7.4	6.5	7.9	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.2	4.0	-6.8	1.3	4.2	-0.1	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.5	4.2	-6.7	1.5	4.4	0.0	20 545
Employment (level in thousands)	1.6	0.0	-2.3	0.0	0.2	-0.5	3 756
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	6.5	7.3	10.1	11.2	6.2	8.8	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616239>