

## Czech Republic

Immigration into the Czech Republic continued to decline in 2010, following a trend started in 2008. According to national statistics, about 30 500 immigrants entered the country in 2010, a decrease by 21% compared with the previous year (39 000). In parallel, outflows increased from almost 12 000 to almost 15 000 persons. In total, net migration declined to 15 600, about 11 700 less than in 2009.

The decline in immigration from Ukraine accounted for more than half of the decrease in the total inflow into the Czech Republic in 2010. With 3 500 inflows in 2010, Ukraine lost its longstanding position as the main origin country for immigration into the Czech Republic, preceded by the Slovak Republic and the Russian Federation, with about 5 000 and 3 700 inflows respectively. Immigration of Vietnamese also continued to decline in 2010. With inflows of about 1 400, Viet Nam fell from the fifth to seventh position in the ranking of source countries (it had been second in 2006 and 2007), preceded by Germany and the United States. In contrast to the trend observed for all other main origin countries, inflows from Germany increased in 2010, albeit remaining at modest levels (about 2 200).

The total number of foreigners holding a residence permit slightly decreased in 2010, to about 425 000, compared with 433 000 in 2009, due to a 6% decline in the number of migrants with a long-term residence permit, following a trend already visible in 2009. In contrast, the stock of permanent residents increased by almost 5% compared with 2009, reaching almost 190 000 persons. The decline in long-term residents was largely due to the decrease in the number of labour migrants, while the stock of family and business migrants continued to increase. In the context of the crisis, many foreigners who lost their job and did not find another within 60 days would have been obliged to leave the country. Many thus changed their purpose of residence as a way to stay legally in the Czech Republic. Abuse of business authorisations (the so-called “Schwarz” System) by foreign nationals (which had declined in previous years) appears to have become more frequent since 2009. In 2010, almost 91 000 foreigners held a trade license in the Czech Republic, an almost 4% increase compared with 2009. The amendment to the “Act on Residence of

Foreign Nationals”, which entered into force on 1 January 2011, introduced restrictions to the permit regime for the purpose of carrying out an independent economic activity, including a two-year legal residence requirement for status changes into self-employment.

The 2009 economic crisis interrupted the trend started in 1993 towards a growing share of foreign workers in the Czech labour market. From almost 7% in 2008, it decreased to 5.6% in 2009 and 5.4% in 2010. Although the programme for the voluntary return of unemployed immigrants was extended to illegal migrants in September 2009, only 221 voluntary returns were registered in 2010 (2000 in the previous phase in 2009).

The Green-Card scheme – introduced in January 2009 to facilitate labour market access to qualified workers from selected countries – remained limited, at 213 applicants in 2010.

Asylum seeking in the Czech Republic continued to decline in 2010, to less than 900, its lowest level ever. The most important source country for asylum seekers in the Czech Republic continued to be Ukraine. 125 persons obtained refugee status in the Czech Republic in 2010, mostly nationals of Myanmar, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Amendments to the “Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals” and to the Employment Act entered into force on 1 January 2011, transposing various EU directives (Blue Card, return, employer sanctions, as well as regulations on Visa Code and on a uniform residence permit format).

The High-Skilled Migration Programme (“Project of Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers”), in place since 2003, was terminated by Government Resolution in December 2010. This programme aimed at attracting young, qualified people to the Czech Republic by offering faster access to permanent residence. The programme covered nationals of 51 non-EU countries, and the final number of beneficiaries was about 1 800 principal applicants and 1 700 family members.

### **For further information:**

[www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz)

[www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

CZECH REPUBLIC

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	0.4	5.7	3.8	2.9	4.3	6.1	30.5
Outflows	0.0	2.1	0.9	1.4	2.8	1.5	14.9
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	39.0	30.5	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	4.4	..	..	5.6			
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>							
	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.2	979
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-1.1	3.0	3.7	2.5	-0.3	5.4	26
Natural increase	-1.8	-0.6	1.0	1.0	-1.2	0.9	10
Net migration	0.6	3.5	2.7	1.5	1.7	4.5	16
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	4.2	5.1	6.4	6.3	4.7	6.2	661
Foreign population	2.0	2.7	4.1	4.0	2.4	3.9	424
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	3.6	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.9	0.5	1 495
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	73.3	73.8	73.4	..	74.2	
Foreign-born men	..	71.0	74.6	79.1	..	75.7	
Native-born women	..	56.4	56.7	56.3	..	57.0	
Foreign-born women	..	51.3	56.8	56.2	..	55.4	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	6.4	5.9	6.5	..	5.2	
Foreign-born men	..	9.7	8.5	5.6	..	6.9	
Native-born women	..	9.7	7.7	8.5	..	7.5	
Foreign-born women	..	15.8	11.0	9.5	..	11.4	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.2	6.8	-4.7	2.7	4.1	2.8	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.3	6.5	-5.3	2.5	4.2	2.2	25 245
Employment (level in thousands)	-0.7	1.4	-1.3	-1.0	0.3	0.5	4 870
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	8.9	8.0	6.7	7.3	7.9	6.2	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616106>