

France

Permanent immigration excluding freedom of movement (nationals of Romania, Bulgaria and third countries do not benefit from freedom of movement) reached a level of roughly 137 000 entries in 2010, an 8% increase over 2009. This increase was driven by an 8% rise in family reunification, to 84 000, while humanitarian and labour migration flows were stable. In part the increase reflects the entries with a “long-stay visa constituting a residence permit” (*Visa de long séjour valant titre de séjour, VLS-TS*) in 2009, some of whom were not registered until 2010.

Most permits issued for permanent residence went to citizens from Africa (62%), and especially North Africa (34%, principally Algeria and Morocco). Asia was the second-ranking region of origin (18%). Over two-thirds of the new temporary work permits (excluding seasonal permits) were granted to immigrants already living in the country under other immigration categories, more than half as students. In 2010, 15 000 new temporary work permits were issued, including 8 000 new seasonal work permits.

In 2010, 65 000 permits (89% of which were VLS-TS) were granted to foreign students, an increase of approximately 28% over the previous year. The main countries of origin were China (10 500), Morocco (5 700), the United States (5 600), Algeria (3 900) and Tunisia (3 000).

The number of asylum-seekers has been rising constantly for four years. In 2010, more than 48 000 asylum requests were recorded, about 14% more than in the previous year. Nearly 10% of the applications were from Serbia and Montenegro. The other countries were, in order of ranking, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, and China. In 2010, as in 2009, approximately 15 000 persons were granted protection by France, including 4 600 accompanying minors and 2 450 persons who received subsidiary protection.

The number of persons receiving assistance for voluntary departures rose in 2010 to 4 000 (38% higher than in 2009), its highest level ever. In addition, 9 700 persons qualified for humanitarian repatriation, including 8 000 Romanians. 16 000 expulsions were carried out in 2010, out of 73 500 ordered.

In 2009, 101 000 persons signed compulsory “Welcoming and Integration Contracts”, a slight increase over the previous year.

In 2010, 140 000 acquisitions of citizenship were recorded. Most were by decree (95 500). The number for reasons of marriage (22 000) was higher than the

previous year (16 400), as 2009 figures were influenced by legislative changes which increased the required length of marriage before application for French citizenship.

The worsening employment situation led the government to set an objective of reduced immigration for employment, except for temporary and seasonal workers, the highly qualified and intra-corporate transfers. In light of that objective, the government issued instructions to the prefectures on 31 May 2011, indicating strict controls when evaluating applications for work permits, especially for status changes, less qualified employment, and from students offered their first job. A new set of instructions issued on 12 January 2012 loosened the criteria for issuing work permits to students who have successfully completed at least a masters-level degree programme. Expulsion orders issued to students under the previous instructions were suspended pending re-examination of their applications.

A new immigration law was adopted on 16 June 2011, transposing three European directives into French law (the so-called “Return Directive”, the European Blue Card Directive and the directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals). In addition, the new law directly conditions stay and acquisition of nationality on respect of the Welcoming and Integration Contract. The residence requirement for naturalisation may be reduced to two years for those who clearly meet the criterion of assimilation. A “Charter of Rights and Duties of the French Citizen” must be signed at the moment of naturalisation. Some of the rules for acquiring a residence permit, especially the temporary permit of stay for health reasons, have been made stricter.

On 11 August 2011, the list of shortage occupations applied to those outside of the free movement zone was cut back, from 30 to 14 occupations. A single list, which provides exemption from the labour market test, is valid for all of France.

For further information:

www.immigration.gouv.fr

www.ofii.fr/

www.ofpra.gouv.fr

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

FRANCE

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
					2001-05	2006-10	2010			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.6	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	136.0			
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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	22.5	22.9	12.6	11.9						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	76.6	82.8	42.8	42.9						
Humanitarian	10.4	10.3	5.8	5.4						
Free movements	54.0	58.5	30.2	30.3						
Others	15.3	18.5	8.6	9.6						
Total	178.7	193.1	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average 2006-10						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	46.2	50.7	65.2	51.2						
Trainees	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	16.2	8.0	7.8	12.7						
Intra-company transfers	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0						
Other temporary workers	6.5	3.5	4.7	5.0						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	48 074			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	6.9	7.1	5.2	5.4	7.1	5.6	337			
Natural increase	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.3	262			
Net migration	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.2	75			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	7.4	8.1	..	..	7.8	..	..	
Foreign population	..	..	..	6.0	..	..	3 769
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	4.6	..	3.6	3.8	..	..	143 275	
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	69.8	69.6	68.8	68.4	70.2	69.0				
Foreign-born men	66.7	67.1	65.5	66.4	66.7	66.7				
Native-born women	56.6	59.9	61.3	61.1	58.8	61.0				
Foreign-born women	45.6	48.2	50.6	49.7	48.0	50.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	7.7	7.5	8.2	8.4	7.0	7.6				
Foreign-born men	14.5	12.5	14.2	13.7	13.2	13.3				
Native-born women	11.3	9.0	8.8	8.9	9.3	8.4				
Foreign-born women	19.7	16.8	14.3	16.0	16.1	14.9				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.7	1.8	-2.7	1.5	1.6	0.7				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.0	1.1	-3.3	0.9	0.9	0.1	34 148			
Employment (level in thousands)	2.7	0.7	-0.9	0.2	0.8	0.6	25 694			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.5	8.9	9.1	9.4	8.4	8.5				

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616182>