

Germany

Total inflows of foreigners in Germany were 683 500 in 2010, an increase by 13% over 2009. In the same period, outflows of foreigners decreased by 8%, to just under 530 000, leading to a net inward migration of foreigners of almost 154 000 in 2010, a fivefold increase on the corresponding figure for 2009. Net migration of German nationals, however, was negative 26 000 in 2010. The main origin countries of arriving foreigners remained Poland (17%) and Romania (11%), followed by Bulgaria (6%) and Hungary, which replaced Turkey in the fourth position.

All major categories of immigration flows grew in 2010, with the highest relative increases recorded for family migration and free mobility, both up by 14% compared with the 2009 levels. Permanent-type labour migration from non-EU countries – which is essentially highly skilled – remained very limited in international comparison, at 20 000, 2 000 more than in 2009.

Following the expiration of the transitional arrangements for labour migration from Central and Eastern European countries which joined the European Union (EU) in 2004 (EU8), since 1 May 2011 workers from those countries have been granted unrestricted access to the German labour market. A substantial increase in the inflows from the EU8 was recorded in the first month of application of free movement rules. While April 2011 saw around 4 500 entries from the EU8, their number more than doubled in May 2011, to 10 200 entries. Inflows from EU8 countries subsided after the May 2011 spike, but remain well above the 2010 levels.

The Federal Employment Agency, approved a total of almost 11 400 work authorisations for third-country nationals in 2010. Half of those authorised held a degree from a German institution. By the end of 2010, around 185 000 foreign students were enrolled in German universities. The main country of origin of those students was China (12%), followed by the Russian Federation (5%), Bulgaria and Poland (4% each).

The government adopted, in June 2011, the “Concept for Securing the Skilled Labour Base”. The five-pronged strategy aims at sustaining the supply of skilled workers in Germany in the medium and long term, in light of the decline in the working-age population. The main pillar of the strategy is the activation of the domestic labour force. The improvement of the labour market integration of migrants already living in the country is one of the key objectives.

The “Law to improve the assessment and recognition of foreign professional qualifications”, due to come into force in April 2012, is meant to improve the

labour market integration of persons with foreign professional qualifications. The law entitles holders of a foreign qualification in one of 350 specified occupations (mostly requiring vocational qualifications) to the right, within three months from application, to have their credentials assessed in terms of equivalence with German degrees. The assessment procedure has been standardised and foreign qualifications are evaluated exclusively in terms of “essential differences” with the German equivalent, while the applicant’s nationality is no longer relevant. The new recognition act covers immigrants residing in Germany and potential immigrants abroad who may seek recognition before arrival. An estimated 285 000 current residents hold foreign qualifications eligible for evaluation. Eleven regional contact points are being established to provide basic information and support in finding the appropriate recognition authority.

The “Concept for Securing the Skilled Labour Base” also aims to attract skilled workers from abroad through managed migration in response to labour market needs. One measure is the establishment of a “positive list” of shortage professions granting exemption from the labour market test. The list, reviewed by the Federal Employment Agency every six months on the basis of a job monitoring system, initially included doctors as well as mechanical, automotive and electrical engineers, with several other occupations added in 2012. An additional measure is a proposal to lower the salary threshold for the issuance of permanent residence permits to highly qualified specialists and executive staff with exceptional professional experience, from EUR 66 000 annually to EUR 48 000 (prior to 2009, it stood at EUR 88 000).

Finally, implementation of the EU Blue Card Directive is expected to be approved by the Parliament in the first half of 2012. According to the law, highly qualified persons from outside the European Economic Area (EEA), with a minimum annual salary of EUR 44 000, will be allowed to obtain a residence permit in Germany without being subject to the labour market test. The threshold will be further lowered to EUR 33 000 for workers having qualifications in shortage occupations.

For further information:

www.bmas.bund.de

www.bmi.bund.de

www.bamf.de

www.integrationsbeauftragte.de

www.destatis.de

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

GERMANY

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	7.9	7.0	7.4	8.4	7.6	7.3	683.5
Outflows	6.8	5.9	7.1	8.2	6.1	6.8	670.6
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	18.0	20.1	9.0	9.0			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	48.2	54.9	23.9	24.7			
Humanitarian	11.1	11.8	5.5	5.3			
Free movements	120.7	133.3	59.9	59.9			
Others	3.4	2.4	1.7	1.1			
Total	201.4	222.4	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	55.8	60.9	66.4	58.6			
Trainees	2.6	4.8	4.8	4.8			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	329.8	294.8	296.5	295.9			
Intra-company transfers	3.6	4.4	5.9	5.2			
Other temporary workers	63.6	32.2	33.9	37.5			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	41 332
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level ('000)	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	1.2	-0.8	..	..	0.4	..	..
Natural increase	-0.9	-1.7	..	..	-1.5	..	..
Net migration	2.0	1.0	..	..	1.9	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level ('000)	
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	12.5	12.6	12.9	13.0	..	12.9	10 591
Foreign population	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.2	6 754
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	2.5	1.7	1.4	1.5	2.0	1.6	101 570
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	73.8	72.6	76.4	76.7	72.3	75.9	
Foreign-born men	66.3	64.9	71.7	72.9	65.3	70.4	
Native-born women	59.6	63.2	68.5	68.3	61.1	66.5	
Foreign-born women	46.6	49.1	55.7	55.7	47.9	53.3	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	6.9	10.2	7.2	6.7	9.0	7.5	
Foreign-born men	12.9	18.4	13.6	12.4	15.8	14.0	
Native-born women	8.0	9.8	6.5	5.9	8.7	7.3	
Foreign-born women	12.1	16.8	11.8	10.7	13.8	13.0	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	3.1	0.7	-5.1	3.7	0.6	1.3	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	2.9	0.7	-4.8	3.8	0.5	1.5	37 411
Employment (level in thousands)	1.7	-0.1	0.0	0.5	-0.2	0.8	40 552
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	7.5	10.6	7.4	6.8	9.0	7.9	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616201>