

Poland

Registered migration inflows to Poland decreased by 12% in 2010, to around 15 200. Outflows also fell, by 6%, to about 17 400. Outflow from Poland recorded by the Central Population Register reflects permanent emigration, that is, Polish citizens who deregister. 2010 was the fourth consecutive year of decline in registered outflows, which were three times smaller than in the peak year 2006.

Estimations by the Central Statistical Office, on the basis of different data sources, including the 2011 National Census, suggest that almost 2 million Polish citizens were staying abroad for longer than two months by the end of 2010. Labour Force Survey (LFS) data indicate that the number of long-term Polish emigrants stabilised, while the number of short-term emigrants plummeted back to 2004 levels in the third quarter of 2010. Poland now appears to be in a phase of post-accession emigration, with stabilisation of outflow for settlement abroad and intensification of return migration.

According to LFS estimations on the stock of foreign citizens aged over 14 residing in Poland (50 000 in the first quarter of 2010 and 44 000 one year later), the foreign population is marginal compared to a total population of 38 million.

Data indicate increasing foreign employment in Poland, mostly in agriculture, construction, retail and wholesale trade. The number of work permits issued in Poland exceeded 35 000 in 2010 (20% more than in 2009). Preliminary figures for 2011 indicate a further increase. More than one third of work permits were granted to Ukrainians, and almost one fifth to Chinese. Viet Nam, Nepal, Belarus and Turkey followed as the other main countries of origin.

In addition to work permits, the number of work visas issued – mostly to Ukrainian nationals – on the basis of a simplified procedure increased from 22 000 in 2007 to 180 000 in 2010. Under this procedure – extended indefinitely from 2010 – residents of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine may work in Poland without a work permit for up to six months during a year on the basis of a declaration by their Polish employer. Data for the first half of 2011 indicate continuing increase: 164 000 employer declarations were recorded by June 2011. Since July 2011, employers have been required to provide greater detail on employment of foreigners as a measure to improve monitoring of the system and to reduce abuse.

After having reached its highest level ever in 2009, at 10 600, the number of asylum seekers dropped by 38% in 2010, to 6 500. As in 2009, most asylum seekers

in Poland came from the Russian Federation (73%) and Georgia (17%). The largest group of Russian applicants is originated from Chechenia. Prior to 2009, most received subsidiary protection or tolerated status, but the number of Russian citizens granted subsidiary protection in Poland decreased sharply in 2010, to 170 from 2 260 in 2009.

In 2011 the Polish Parliament passed the Act on Legalisation of Stay of Foreigners. A regularisation will be held in the first half of 2012, open to foreigners who have been living continuously in Poland illegally at least since the end of 2007 (since January 2010 for specific groups of asylum applicants). The 2012 regularisation is Poland's third, after 2003 and 2007, and the most liberal, as it is not conditional on any economic requirement. Successful applicants will be granted a 2-year stay permit allowing working in Poland without a work permit but only on the basis of an employment contract.

In July 2011, the inter-ministerial Committee on Migration adopted the “Polish migration policy – current state of play and further actions” which sets out recommendations for a new migration policy for Poland. The document, expected to form the basis for a new Foreigners Act but awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers, recommends a broader set of migration categories (including workers with needed skills, self-employed, students and researchers, as well as immigrants of Polish descent); a clear pathway for regularisation for irregular migrants; and a strategy for integration through better Polish language knowledge among immigrants.

Since 2008, Poland has signed Local Border Traffic Agreements (LBTA) with non-EU neighbouring countries. Under the LBTA, permits allowing for visa-free border crossing and maximum 60 days stay in the area can be issued to persons who are able to prove that they lived in the border region for no less than three years. Only the LBTA with Ukraine has entered into force (July 2009), leading to greater border mobility and stimulating regional enterprise creation. The LBTA with Belarus, signed in November 2010, has not yet been ratified, while a LBTA encompassing the entire Kaliningrad district signed by Polish and Russian authorities on December 2011 should come into force by mid-2012.

For further information:

www.udsc.gov.pl/

www.stat.gov.pl

www.mpips.gov.pl

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

POLAND

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	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	41.1
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	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
<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>							
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	6 534
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-0.2	-0.4	0.8	..	-0.5	..	..
Natural increase	0.3	-0.1	0.9	..	-0.1	..	..
Net migration	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	..	-0.4	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	..	..	0.1	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	4.1	5.9	..	..	2 926
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	59.0	66.2	65.6	..	64.6	
Foreign-born men	..	35.9	54.2	59.3	..	50.9	
Native-born women	..	47.0	52.8	53.1	..	51.5	
Foreign-born women	..	24.0	39.4	43.7	..	35.0	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	16.9	7.9	9.4	..	9.2	
Foreign-born men	..	-	-	12.1	..	8.8	
Native-born women	..	19.4	8.7	10.1	..	10.5	
Foreign-born women	..	-	-	11.1	..	9.2	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.3	3.6	1.6	3.9	3.1	4.7	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.3	3.7	1.5	3.9	3.1	4.7	19 883
Employment (level in thousands)	-1.5	2.3	0.4	0.6	-0.6	2.5	15 961
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	16.1	17.7	8.2	9.6	18.9	9.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

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