

Denmark

In 2010, the total number of new residence permits granted in Denmark was about 59 000, a slight increase compared with the corresponding figure for 2009 (57 000). 43% of residence permits were granted on the basis of EEA free movement, 26% for study (including permits granted to au pairs and interns), 18% for employment (including self-employment) and 8% for family reunification. More than 2 100 persons were granted refugee status (4% of the total number of residence permits), which was the highest level since 2004.

The number of residence permits issued in Denmark in a given year represents an approximate indication of the level of immigration that year, as Nordic nationals may enter and stay in Denmark without a residence permit, while foreign nationals may subsequently apply for – and be granted – different types of residence permits (e.g. a person granted family reunification may also be granted asylum).

In 2010 net migration to Denmark was 22 400 persons. By 1 January 2011 immigrants represented around 10% of the Danish population of 5.6 million.

Foreign-born men are more frequently unemployed than native-born men. This is particularly true for first generation immigrants of Non-Western origin, for which the unemployment rate was 8.9%, compared with 4.1% for native-born men and 4.2% for foreign-born men of Western origin. The discrepancy is even larger among women: while only 2.5% of native-born women are unemployed, the rate rises to 7.4% for foreign-born women from non-Western countries.

After ten years of centre-right coalitions, a new left coalition government came out from September 2011 elections and was appointed in October 2011. The new government abolished the Ministry of Refugees, Immigrants and Integration Affairs, which had been created in 2001, and divided its portfolio between the Social Affairs Ministry – renamed as Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration – and the Ministry of Justice.

In its official policy platform, entitled “A Denmark that stands together”, the new government has announced wide-ranging reforms of migration and integration policy. According to the government programme, the points-based system for permanent residence introduced in June 2010 would be abolished and the issuance of a permanent residence permit made conditional on four requirements: at least five years residence in Denmark, three years full-time

employment in the previous five years, financial self-support, and passage of a language test.

Admission requirements for family migrants would be loosened. The “attachment” requirement for the family migration of spouses or partners would be reviewed, and the length of legal residency/citizenship granting exemption from this requirement would be reduced from 28 to 26 years. The financial collateral requirement will be halved. However, the minimum age required to both partners for family migration will be restored to age 24, while the current points-system allows for younger spouses with high points scores. Revised rules concerning family reunification of children have also been announced, as has the establishment of an independent board of appeal dedicated to family reunification cases.

In addition, asylum seekers should be allowed to live and work outside the asylum centres six months after arrival. The criteria for selecting quota refugees will be revised and the Refugees Appeals Board will be expanded, with two additional members. Finally, requirements for acquiring Danish citizenship, and, especially, the citizenship test, will be adjusted in order not to exclude the lower educated. Dual citizenship will be allowed.

In the area of integration the focus remains on facilitating immigrant access to the labour market and education. Following the previous government plan “Denmark 2020”, the new government has set a target of 10 000 additional immigrants in employment by the end of the decade. More broadly, the creation of the new Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration brings a different approach to integration, one which allows for differentiations among immigrants and their needs according to their social context.

The government has also announced the abolition of lower social benefit rates applied for immigrants, and the launch of a national integration survey tool for statistically monitoring developments in various aspects of the integration of immigrants, including employment, education, and acquisition and exercise of citizenship.

For further information:

www.sm.dk/Sider/Start.aspx
www.justitsministeriet.dk/english.html
www.newtodenmark.dk
www.workindenmark.dk

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

DENMARK

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
					2001-05	2006-10	2010			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	4.3	3.7	5.8	6.0	3.8	5.7	33.4			
Outflows	2.6	3.0	4.8	4.9	2.9	4.1	27.1			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2009	2010	2009	2010						
Work	6.6	8.1	17.2	19.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	6.8	7.5	17.8	18.2						
Humanitarian	1.4	2.1	3.6	5.1						
Free movements	21.9	21.0	57.0	50.9						
Others	1.7	2.5	4.5	6.2						
Total	38.4	41.3	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average 2006-10						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	6.9	6.1	5.8	6.1						
Trainees	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.6						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..		
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	2.6	3.8	3.8	3.5						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	2.4	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.5	4 965			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	3.6	3.0	5.3	5.6	2.9	5.5	31			
Natural increase	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.6	9			
Net migration	1.7	1.2	4.0	4.0	1.4	3.9	22			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	5.8	6.5	7.5	7.7	6.3	7.2	429			
Foreign population	4.8	5.0	6.0	6.2	5.0	5.7	346			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	7.3	3.8	2.0	0.9	4.6	1.7	3 006			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	81.5	80.4	78.8	76.6	80.9	80.5				
Foreign-born men	67.0	71.0	73.5	67.6	67.0	71.2				
Native-born women	73.3	73.2	74.3	72.6	73.0	74.5				
Foreign-born women	53.3	55.7	63.2	60.0	54.4	59.4				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	3.7	4.2	6.4	7.7	4.1	4.6				
Foreign-born men	10.7	9.0	10.0	15.1	11.3	9.5				
Native-born women	4.9	4.9	5.0	6.0	4.9	4.5				
Foreign-born women	6.6	10.4	9.7	12.1	9.7	9.1				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.5	2.4	-5.8	1.3	1.3	-0.1				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.2	2.1	-6.3	0.9	1.0	-0.5	40 170			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.5	1.0	-3.1	-2.1	0.1	0.3	2 807			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	4.3	4.8	5.9	7.2	4.9	4.8				

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616125>