

Germany

Partly as a result of the economic crisis, overall long-term immigration to Germany declined further in 2009 from the already modest level observed in 2008. According to data from the Central Foreigners Register, family migration continued its declining trend, recording only about 48 000 new immigrants under this title, the lowest in more than a decade. The immigration of ethnic Germans (*Spätaussiedler*) from Eastern Europe and Central Asia also continued to decline. Only 3 400 ethnic Germans entered in 2009, compared to annual averages of between 100 000 and 230 000 throughout the 1990s. This component of immigration flows is gradually disappearing, as is the resettlement of Jews from countries once in the former Soviet Union (about 1 100 in 2009).

On 1 January 2009, amid the crisis, Germany introduced a number of measures which facilitated immigration of highly-skilled labour to Germany. In spite of this, permanent-type labour migration from non-EU countries – which is essentially highly-skilled – remained very limited.

About one out of four permanent-type labour migrants from non-EU countries in 2009 were graduates from German tertiary educational institutions. Indeed, international students have evolved as a key source of labour migration to Germany. In 2009, more than 60 000 students entered Germany to study, the highest number on record. The Chinese account for almost 15% of international students.

Germany is among the OECD countries in which the demographic change is already associated with a decline in the working-age population. In light of the upswing of the German economy in 2010/2011 and reports of labour shortages in certain occupations, several proposals to further facilitate skilled labour migration have been discussed, but an agreement has not yet been reached. The debate has been fuelled by national statistics which show for both 2008 and 2009 negative net migration (including nationals). This, however, seems to be mainly attributable to comprehensive adjustments in the registers which took place in these two years.

To get more precise information on the country's labour needs, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is currently developing a job monitoring system. First results are expected in the autumn of 2011.

Entries in the two main categories of temporary labour migration – seasonal workers and contract workers – remained broadly at the same level as in 2008. Both programmes were essentially for nationals from the new EU member countries, in particular Poland.

Germany has applied the transitional arrangements for labour migration from the new EU member countries which joined the EU in 2004. These arrangements will end on 1 May 2011.

Following the low in 2007, the number of asylum requests has started to grow again in recent years. Preliminary figures for 2010 show a further strong increase of 50% for that year, to a total of more than 41 300. Afghanistan replaced Iraq as the main country of origin. Asylum seekers from Serbia were the third most important group, their number increased almost eight-fold in 2010.

Over the past few years, integration has gained increasing importance in the federal government's policy. The national integration plan is currently being further developed into a national action plan with clearly defined and measurable objectives. Eleven thematic dialogue forums have been set up to address key issues of integration policy to be included in the new action plan.

One area which has received particular attention is a better utilisation of the skills of migrants with foreign qualifications. A new law on the recognition of foreign qualifications is currently being elaborated. The new law will provide a legal right to a recognition procedure. Bridging offers for those who do not get full recognition are also foreseen.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Employment Agency, the Network "Integration through Qualification" has been developing and testing new labour market concepts over the past few years to increase the chances of persons of migrant origin to find lasting employment. Between 2011 and 2014 the network's tasks will be extended with the aim of consolidating the many existing labour market policies and instruments; ensuring a migration-sensitive approach to labour market policy by building intercultural skills among employment service personnel; and finally, developing a structure for the implementation of the planned law on the recognition of foreign qualifications.

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	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	7.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.8	7.0	606.3			
Outflows	6.8	5.9	6.9	7.1	6.3	6.3	578.8			
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>	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	21.9	18.1	9.6	9.1						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	51.2	48.2	22.4	24.4						
Humanitarian	37.5	11.2	16.4	5.6						
Free movements	113.3	116.7	49.6	59.1						
Others	4.3	3.4	1.9	1.7						
Total	228.3	197.5	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average				Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
<i>Thousands</i>				2005-09						
International students	55.8	58.4	60.9	56.5						
Trainees	2.6	5.4	4.8	4.4						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..		
Seasonal workers	329.8	285.2	294.8	302.6						
Intra-company transfers	3.6	5.7	4.4	4.8						
Other temporary workers	63.6	34.5	32.2	43.5						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.3	27 649			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level ('000)				
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	1.2	-0.8	..	..	0.8	..	..	
Natural increase	-0.9	-1.7	-2.0	..	-1.3	..	..	
Net migration	2.0	1.0	..	..	2.1	..	..	
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level ('000)				
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	12.5	12.6	12.9	12.9	12.5	12.8	10 601			
Foreign population	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.7	8.2	6 695			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	2.6	1.7	1.4	1.4	2.2	1.6	96 122			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	73.8	72.6	76.5	76.4	72.5	75.0				
Foreign-born men	66.3	64.9	72.5	71.5	65.6	69.1				
Native-born women	59.6	63.2	67.6	68.5	60.4	66.0				
Foreign-born women	46.6	49.1	53.7	55.3	47.4	52.3				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	6.9	10.2	6.8	7.2	8.4	8.3				
Foreign-born men	12.9	18.4	11.8	13.8	14.7	15.1				
Native-born women	8.0	9.8	6.8	6.5	8.4	8.1				
Foreign-born women	12.1	16.8	13.1	12.0	12.9	14.3				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average	Level				
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.2	0.8	1.0	-4.7	1.1	0.6				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.1	0.8	1.2	-4.4	1.0	0.8	27 398			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.9	-0.1	1.4	0.0	0.2	0.7	40 272			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	7.4	10.5	7.3	7.4	8.4	8.7				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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