

## Portugal

Exact data on migration flows for Portugal continue to be difficult to obtain, because available sources mix different situations (*e.g.* new entries and status changes) and are unable to register the full magnitude of some inflows, namely the one of EU nationals. Estimates based on new residence permits and long-term visas suggest that in spite of the difficult economic situation in Portugal, overall migration inflows were slightly higher in 2009 than in 2008 (34 000 compared with 32 000). The National Statistics Institute (INE) estimates of net migration was positive, albeit at a low level of about 15 000.

The number of long-term visas issued for citizens from non-EEA countries continued to decline in 2009, to less than 16 000, the lowest value since 2003. Study and family visas account for over one-third each, while work visas account for less than 20% – approximately 3 000, a value below the 3 800 indicative quota established by the government. Immigration from lusophone countries – in particular from Brazil and Cape Verde – re-gained importance. Most visas were issued to citizens from the lusophone countries of Africa (PALOP) (39%), Brazil (19%), non-EU Eastern Europe (14%) and China (8%).

Between 2008 and 2009, the number of new residence permits issued in Portugal declined from 72 800 to 61 400. This figure, which includes EU and non-EU foreigners, is not equivalent to the inflow because some of the later are people who changed their status or regularised their situation on a case-by-case procedure. Despite the decline observed from 2008 to 2009, Brazilians (39%) account for the majority of these residence permits, followed by Romanians (13%; in 2008 they represented around 7%), Cape Verdeans (8%), Ukrainians (4%) and Chinese (3%).

The total stock of foreign population reached 457 000 in 2009, from 443 000 in 2008. The largest group were Brazilians (who account for 26% of the total foreign population with a valid residence permit), followed by Ukrainians (12%) and Cape Verdeans (11%).

Portugal is among the countries which receive the lowest number of asylum applications in the OECD. In 2009, only 139 asylum applications were received, a further drop from the 161 applications received in 2008.

No major changes occurred in migration policies in Portugal in 2009, after comprehensive reforms in 2006 (Nationality Law), in 2007 (Foreigners Law) and in 2008 (Asylum Law).

Following the reform of the Portuguese Nationality Law in 2006, the number of naturalisations continued increasing and reached a new peak of 25 500 in 2009, more than seven times the 2006 level. The majority of the naturalisations originates from the PALOP (about 40%), in particular from Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Angola, and from Brazil (approximately 15%). These immigrant communities have been living on average longer in Portugal (and thus are more likely to satisfy the required six years of legal residence) and also automatically satisfy the Portuguese language requirement. Nevertheless, the weight of other groups, such as Moldavians (about 11%), Ukrainians (4%) and Indians (4%), is increasing.

An overall guidance target for non-EU labour migration was established after the elimination of sector-specific numerical limits in 2007. This quota was reduced from 8 500 in 2008 to 3 800 in 2009, but nevertheless it was not reached, since only 3 000 visas were requested on this basis. Following the new Migration Law which entered into force in 2007, irregular migrants can regularise their status on a case-by-case basis. The requirements are to have legally entered Portugal, to have a work contract and to pay Social Security contributions. By the end of 2009, more than 50 000 migrants had regularised their situation through this framework.

Integration of immigrants remained a policy priority in 2009, following the guidelines defined in the National Plan for the Integration of Immigrants established in 2007. Among other measures, the network of Local Centres for Immigrant Support was expanded in and a new “one stop shop for immigrants” was created in Faro in 2009. In the domain of Portuguese language tuition, the Programme “Portuguese for All (PPT)” involved more than 1 600 foreign trainees until May 2009. A diploma in the Portuguese language through this programme exempts foreigners from the Portuguese test required for obtaining Portuguese citizenship or a permanent residence permit.

### For further information:

[www.imigrante.pt](http://www.imigrante.pt)

[www.sef.pt](http://www.sef.pt)

[www.acidi.gov.pt](http://www.acidi.gov.pt)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## PORTUGAL

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.6	2.7	3.0	3.2	5.9	2.8	33.8			
Outflows	0.0	0.0	..	..	0.0	..	..			
<b>Migration inflows (foreigners) by type</b>	<b>Thousands</b>		<b>% distribution</b>		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>						
Work	23.4	18.3	35.5	30.5						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	26.1	19.9	39.6	33.3						
Humanitarian	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0						
Free movements	14.8	18.0	22.5	30.0						
Others	1.5	3.7	2.3	6.2						
Total	65.9	59.9	100.0	100.0						
<b>Temporary migration</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Average 2005-09</b>						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	4.1	5.0	..	4.7						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	7.7	3.4	3.4	5.4						
<b>Inflows of asylum seekers</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	139			
<b>Components of population growth</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	6.1	3.9	0.8	1.0	6.4	2.1	11			
Natural increase	1.5	0.2	0.1	-0.5	0.8	0.0	-5			
Net migration	4.6	3.6	0.8	1.4	5.7	2.0	15			
<b>Stocks of immigrants</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	5.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.2	673			
Foreign population	2.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.2	457			
<b>Naturalisations</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	0.3	0.2	5.1	6.3	0.3	2.8	28 888			
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	76.2	73.1	73.4	70.8	75.7	72.9				
Foreign-born men	75.5	78.1	80.5	74.8	78.1	77.9				
Native-born women	60.2	61.2	62.0	61.2	61.0	61.5				
Foreign-born women	65.1	67.3	68.0	65.6	65.8	67.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	3.1	7.0	6.8	9.0	4.2	7.3				
Foreign-born men	6.0	8.3	7.8	13.2	6.8	9.0				
Native-born women	4.9	9.1	9.1	10.5	6.1	9.6				
Foreign-born women	6.9	10.4	11.2	13.0	8.2	11.6				
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.9	0.8	0.0	-2.5	1.4	0.4				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.4	0.3	-0.1	-2.6	0.8	0.2	17 994			
Employment (level in thousands)	2.3	0.1	0.6	-2.7	0.9	-0.2	5 025			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	4.0	7.7	7.6	9.5	5.2	8.1				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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