

Bulgaria



Migration from and to Bulgaria appears to have increased markedly in 2006 and 2007 in light of Bulgaria's accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007. However, the impact on outflows has been somewhat

more limited than expected. Emigration had already accelerated following the liberalisation of the visa regimes for Bulgarian citizens since 2001. Post-accession labour migration from Bulgaria has mainly concentrated in the Southern European countries Spain, Italy and Greece – in spite of the fact that none of these countries have fully opened their labour market to Bulgarian nationals. There are some indications, however, that many of the Bulgarian nationals concerned were already in these countries prior to accession.

In spite of growing labour shortages, policy continues to focus on encouraging emigration. However, with EU accession, Bulgaria fully opened its labour market for EU citizens, who do not require a work permit. This has facilitated entry of labour from the EU, which was previously burdened by long and complicated procedures. This is also important in the context of the growing inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). In 2006, Bulgaria had the largest per capita FDI in the EU.

Preliminary data for 2007 show a significant increase in immigration. Especially noteworthy are the increases in immigration from Macedonia and the United Kingdom. Almost 4 100 new long-term permits were issued to Macedonians in the first ten months of 2007, compared to less than 2 800 in the whole of 2006. The United Kingdom is now the third most important origin country in terms of newly issued long-term residence permits, following Macedonia and Turkey.

The number of new foreign students has also increased markedly in recent years. They reached a new high of 3 140 in 2006-07, a two-fold increase within four years.

Naturalisations continued their strong upward trend observed since 2001. More than 6 600 were counted in 2006, a new all-time record.

Remittance data showed an unexpected decline in 2006 in the order of almost 13%, to reach a total volume of about EUR 330 million. Data for the first

nine months of 2007 show that this decline is continuing.

Migration policy in 2006 and 2007 focused on the completion of legal and institutional harmonisation related to the accession to the EU and the implementation of EU directives. This included an amendment to the law on foreign nationals in 2007, providing easier entry to Bulgaria for foreign researchers, students and trainees. In addition, foreign citizens who have received permanent resident status in another EU member state are granted a resident permit for up to three months and their families have the right to join them. The law also provides for a mutual recognition of decisions taken by other EU member states on the expulsion of third country citizens.

In recent years, Bulgaria has enhanced efforts to conclude readmission agreements. Negotiations with Tunisia are under way. Co-operation with Russia and Turkey in this area is also strong, although formal readmission agreements have not yet been concluded.

Legal harmonisation for applying the Schengen acquis continued in 2006. Further efforts to strengthen border control and combat border crime were made and border facilities are being upgraded. A key priority is attached to the prevention of trafficking. The corresponding law was amended in 2006 to create better conditions for its implementation. A programme against trafficking of people has been initiated by the government in a partnership with local authorities, non-governmental and international organisations. Information campaigns are being organised to target groups at risk; reintegration and financial assistance for victims is being planned and local centres for victims have been established. In early 2007, a Centre for Co-operation with the Black Sea Countries was further strengthened and aimed at better protecting this part of the border. Full compliance with the Schengen requirements is expected to be met by 2009.

For further information...

www.nsi.bg/Index_e.htm

www.aref.government.bg

www.government.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0150&n=000004&g=

Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)																											
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006																											
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>																																		
Inflows	0.3	0.5	2.0	2.8	0.4	1.7	21.8																											
Outflows																											
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 origin countries as a % of total inflows of foreigners <table border="1"> <caption>Inflows of top 10 origin countries as a % of total inflows of foreigners (2006)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Turkey</td><td>69.9</td></tr> <tr><td>Macedonia</td><td>~12</td></tr> <tr><td>United Kingdom</td><td>~10</td></tr> <tr><td>Russian Federation</td><td>~8</td></tr> <tr><td>United States</td><td>~5</td></tr> <tr><td>Greece</td><td>~4</td></tr> <tr><td>Ukraine</td><td>~3</td></tr> <tr><td>Germany</td><td>~2</td></tr> <tr><td>Moldova</td><td>~1</td></tr> <tr><td>Cyprus</td><td>~1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Country	Percentage (%)	Turkey	69.9	Macedonia	~12	United Kingdom	~10	Russian Federation	~8	United States	~5	Greece	~4	Ukraine	~3	Germany	~2	Moldova	~1	Cyprus	~1					
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2005	2006	2005	2006																															
Work																														
Family (incl. accompanying family)																														
Humanitarian																														
Free movements																														
Others																														
Total																														
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average	Inflows of asylum seekers <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">1995</th> <th rowspan="2">2000</th> <th rowspan="2">2005</th> <th rowspan="2">2006</th> <th colspan="2">Average</th> <th>Level ('000)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="8"><i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>									0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6
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International students	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.8																														
Trainees																														
Working holiday makers																														
Seasonal workers																														
Intra-company transfers																														
Other temporary workers	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.6																														

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	2.4	4.2	..	2.8	3 072
Unemployment (% of labour force)	..	16.4	10.1	9.0	14.9	13.7	..
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total
Natural increase
Net migration
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born
Foreign-born
National	-0.5	-0.7	..	-0.6	7 624
Foreign ¹	-2.3	16.0	..	7.5	75
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	8.8	10.2	..	11.1	6 632

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/433852408546>

1. Data on foreign population for 2006 has been estimated.
Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.