

## Finland



Immigration of foreign citizens into Finland has continued to grow. It reached about 13 900 in 2006, which represents a new high and an increase of about 9% relative to 2005. Most of the increase in foreign immigration was due to movements from EU countries, especially Estonia, as a result of the removal of the transition arrangements in May 2006. Finland also fully opened its labour market to Romanian and Bulgarian nationals in 2007.

Permit data indicate that about 7 200 persons from non-EU countries were granted work-related residence permits in 2006, almost half of them Russians. The most common occupations were cooks, truck drivers, garden workers and cleaners. A further 15 000 EU citizens entered Finland for work-related reasons, and another 14 000 persons were visa-exempt, largely berry pickers and seasonal workers in the gardening industry. As is evident by a comparison of the labour migration data and the long-term immigration numbers, many of the foreign workers are in Finland on a temporary basis.

Migration of ethnic Finns (Ingrians) from the former Soviet Union, an important source of migration to Finland in the past, is being phased out. Inflows of these migrants numbered about 600 in 2006, not counting family members. The current migration potential from this source, that is, ethnic Finns registered with the Directorate of Immigration, is about 10 000 persons, 30% of whom hold a degree.

The number of asylum seekers declined from peak of 3 900 in 2004 to 2 300 in 2006. Recognition rates have been running in the order of about 20%.

There were 9 200 international students in Finland in 2006, an increase of almost 20% relative to 2005. The offer of courses and masters programmes in English and in other languages has considerably increased with the attempt to attract potential workers from abroad.

Finland is among the countries that are feeling the upcoming consequences of ageing most acutely, with a small population speaking a language not used outside its borders. By 2010 it is expected that the working-age population will begin to decline despite immigration. It is considered that the labour force shortage will have a considerable impact on the availability and quality of basic services in municipalities.

In this context, in 2007 the government started the gradual implementation of the comprehensive Migration Policy Programme that aims at actively promoting labour migration. Among other measures, it is expected that work rights will be included in every residence permit issued to foreign nationals, with the possible exception of work in certain sensitive fields. This means that the assessment of domestic worker availability will be suppressed. In addition, schemes involving reception of recent arrivals, as well as the promotion of labour migration and forecasting of foreign labour needs are being launched with funding by the European Social Fund (ESF) over the period 2007-13. In this context, it is planned to provide consultation and guidance services for immigrants in "one-stop shops". A further objective is to improve links to employers to accelerate the transition into employment and to develop services in native languages. Increasing the level of co-operation in labour mobility with neighbouring regions and other countries that are Finland's main providers of foreign labour is also planned.

Until 2007, the Ministry of Labour was responsible for the integration of immigrants into society and the promotion of employment, reception of asylum seekers and employment of foreign labour. The new government which took office in 2007 decided to combine all migration related affairs into the Finnish Immigration Service, a new agency under the Ministry of the Interior that was established in January 2008.

### **For further information...**

[www.migri.fi/netcomm/Default.asp?language=EN](http://www.migri.fi/netcomm/Default.asp?language=EN)

## Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.6	1.6	2.2	13.9
Outflows	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.7
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution				
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Work	..	1.3	..	9.1			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	5.0	..	35.9			
Humanitarian	..	1.7	..	12.4			
Free movements	..	5.4	..	38.7			
Others	..	0.5	..	3.9			
Total	12.7	13.9					
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average			
				2000-2006			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	3.1	..			
Trainees	..	..	..	..			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	8.8	12.2	13.0	11.5			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	2.3

Inflows of top 10 nationalities  
as a % of total inflows of foreigners

## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	3.9	5.0	2.9	5.0	4.8	3.0	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	3.5	4.8	2.6	4.6	4.5	2.7	30 009
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.5	0.6	2 434
Unemployment (% of labour force)	16.7	9.8	8.4	7.7	12.8	8.7	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	3.3	1.9	3.6	4.0	2.6	3.1	
Natural increase	2.7	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.7	
Net migration	0.6	0.4	1.7	1.9	0.6	1.4	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	..	0.1	0.2	0.2	..	0.1	5 079
Foreign-born	..	3.9	6.2	6.4	..	5.3	188
National	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	5 145
Foreign	10.6	3.9	5.1	6.9	5.8	4.3	122
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	1.1	3.4	5.2	3.9	3.2	4.4	4 433
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	61.8	71.2	71.3	71.9	66.2	71.1	
Foreign-born men	..	..	62.5	66.5	69.4	65.3	
Native-born women	58.4	65.3	68.0	68.6	61.3	67.6	
Foreign-born women	..	..	49.1	53.4	55.5	50.9	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	17.7	10.3	9.3	8.6	13.6	9.8	
Foreign-born men	..	..	23.1	16.0	19.9	20.0	
Native-born women	16.1	12.0	9.3	8.9	14.0	9.8	
Foreign-born women	..	..	23.5	20.4	17.7	22.2	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434140571246>