

## Austria

In 2010, according to national statistics, the total inflow of foreign nationals to Austria was 98 300, up 7% over 2009, when there had been a decline related to the economic crisis. At the same time, outflows remained fairly stable at 66 400, leading to net immigration of foreign nationals of 31 900, 24% higher than in 2009.

One third of all new immigrants to Austria came from countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, a higher share than in 2009. Another third came from the EU15, 16% from the EU10 and 21% from Romania and Bulgaria. Germany remained the main origin country, making up one quarter of total inflows. Immigration of Germans has been diminishing in importance, in favour of the countries that entered the European Union (EU) in 2004 and 2007. In contrast, the inflows of third country citizens were similar to those in 2009, although immigration of citizens from Serbia and Montenegro more than tripled. Taken together, the successor countries of the former Yugoslavia accounted for 11% of new immigrants, and Turkey 4%.

The total permanent inflows of third-country nationals was 16 200 in 2010. Family migration of family members of Austrian or EEA-citizens, which is not subject to quotas, accounted for almost two-thirds of this. Among the 4 400 persons who acquired residence permits under the quota system, only about 610 were admitted under the key worker scheme, while the remainder were mostly family members of third-country nationals.

The inflow of temporary migrants continued to decline slightly in 2010 to 16 700. The slow decline is due to fewer third-country national seasonal workers, as demand is increasingly filled by nationals from new EU member countries. Seasonal workers, however, still comprise two-thirds of temporary inflows. Seasonal labour migration of less than 6 months is not subject to permits, and is regulated by special work-visas. The second major group was international students from outside the EEA whose share rose to 21%. The total number of temporary residence permits acquired by third-country nationals rose slightly to 6 200.

The number of asylum seekers rose from 2007 to reach 15 800 in 2009. In 2010 the numbers declined again to 11 000. Inflows started to climb again from mid-2011, and the total for 2011 was 14 400. The main countries of origin continued to be Afghanistan and the Russian Federation, followed by Pakistan, Somalia and Iraq. The acceptance rate in 2010 was about 18%.

Following a comprehensive revision of the Alien Law, in January 2010, several amendments were

implemented tightening asylum legislation. In addition, in July 2011 a one-week mobility restriction outside the asylum reception centre was introduced for newly arrived asylum seekers. From October 2011, asylum seekers who have had their claim rejected by the asylum court are automatically provided with legal counselling and support by one of the NGOs designated to provide those services. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can now request a permanent residence permit after five years of residence.

In July 2011, Austria reformed its system for the management of skilled migration. Under the so-called “Red-White-Red-Card” scheme (RWR card), two new permits were introduced that combine residence and work titles. The RWR card grants one year of residence and work with a specific employer. After this initial period, if the applicant has been continuously employed for ten months, free labour market access can be obtained through acquisition of a RWR card-*plus*. The reform also introduces a criteria-based system for the selection of candidates for the RWR card. In a points-based system, candidates are selected based on their score in categories such as qualification, work experience, age or language skills. The system is three-tiered. A supply-driven tier grants a 6-month job-search visa to very highly qualified workers who can subsequently obtain the RWR-card. Two demand driven-tiers target so-called “key workers”, who have to pass a wage threshold and a labour market test; and workers in shortage occupations. Family members of those with RWR cards or EU Blue Cards are granted unlimited labour market access through the RWR card-*plus* if they can prove basic German language skills (family members of the “very highly qualified” are exempt from this requirement). Finally, graduates of Austrian universities receive a six-month job-search visa, with which they may obtain an RWR card without the points assessment if they find an adequate job above a wage threshold. By the end of November 2011, about 500 RWR Cards had been issued, 11% of which went to former international students. The scheme for skilled workers in shortage occupations will, however, not be introduced before May 2012.

### **For further information:**

[www.bmi.gv.at](http://www.bmi.gv.at)

[www.bmask.gv.at](http://www.bmask.gv.at)

[www.migration.gv.at/en/](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/)

[www.statistik.at/web\\_en/statistics/population/index.html](http://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/population/index.html)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## AUSTRIA

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
					2001-05	2006-10	2010			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	8.1	11.9	11.0	11.7	11.2	11.0	98.3			
Outflows	5.5	6.1	7.9	7.9	6.0	7.1	66.4			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>					
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2009	2010	2009	2010						
Work	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.4						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	10.0	11.1	22.0	24.1						
Humanitarian	5.0	4.7	10.9	10.3						
Free movements	29.9	29.3	65.4	63.7						
Others	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5						
Total	45.7	45.9	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average				<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>		
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.0						
Trainees	0.4	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	11.4	11.7	10.5	11.3						
Intra-company transfers	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1						
Other temporary workers	6.3	2.4	2.6	2.9						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	2.3	2.7	1.9	1.3	3.7	1.6	11 012			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	2.5	6.4	2.4	3.5	5.7	3.6	29			
Natural increase	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	2			
Net migration	2.2	5.4	2.5	3.3	4.9	3.4	28			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	10.4	14.5	15.5	15.7	14.1	15.2	1 316			
Foreign population	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.1	9.4	10.4	928			
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	3.5	4.5	0.9	0.7	5.0	1.5	6 135			
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average					
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	76.2	76.2	77.7	77.9	75.3	78.3				
Foreign-born men	76.1	71.1	72.5	73.5	73.4	73.7				
Native-born women	59.9	63.5	68.4	67.9	61.5	67.1				
Foreign-born women	58.3	54.2	57.5	59.8	56.8	57.0				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.4				
Foreign-born men	8.7	10.8	10.7	8.8	9.8	9.0				
Native-born women	4.2	4.6	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.9				
Foreign-born women	7.2	10.5	8.2	7.6	8.5	8.6				
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.7	2.4	-3.8	2.3	1.7	1.5				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.4	1.7	-4.1	2.0	1.1	1.1	40 017			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.6	2.2	-0.3	0.5	0.6	1.4	4 096			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	3.5	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.4				

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616011>