

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2012 COUNTRY NOTE: PORTUGAL

### How Portugal compares

The persistent debt crisis in Portugal and a consequently sluggish labour market translated into a relatively low immigration inflow in 2010. Migration inflows represented 0.4% of the total population, similar to the OECD average of 0.5%. This represents a decrease by 25% compared to 2008 but only by 3% compared to 2009. Permanent migration represented 29% of all new entries into the working-age population, very similar to the OECD average (28%).

Figure 1. Permanent inflows as a percentage of the total population

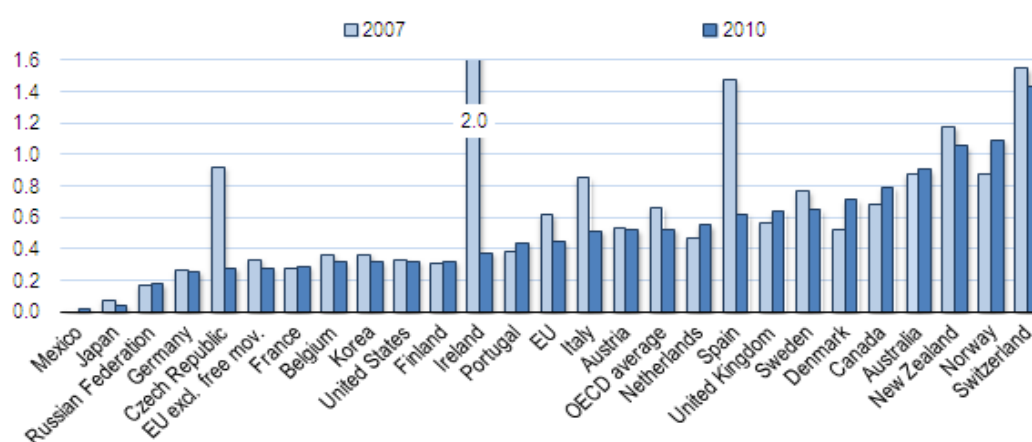
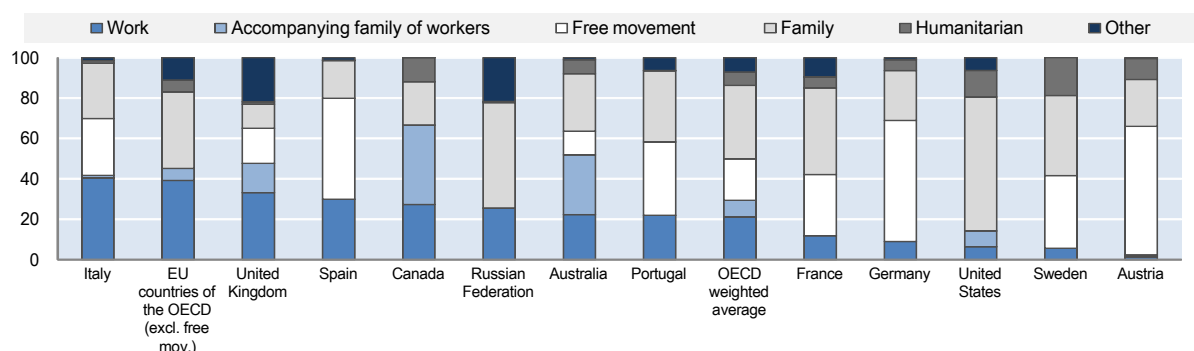


Figure 2. Permanent inflows by category of entry



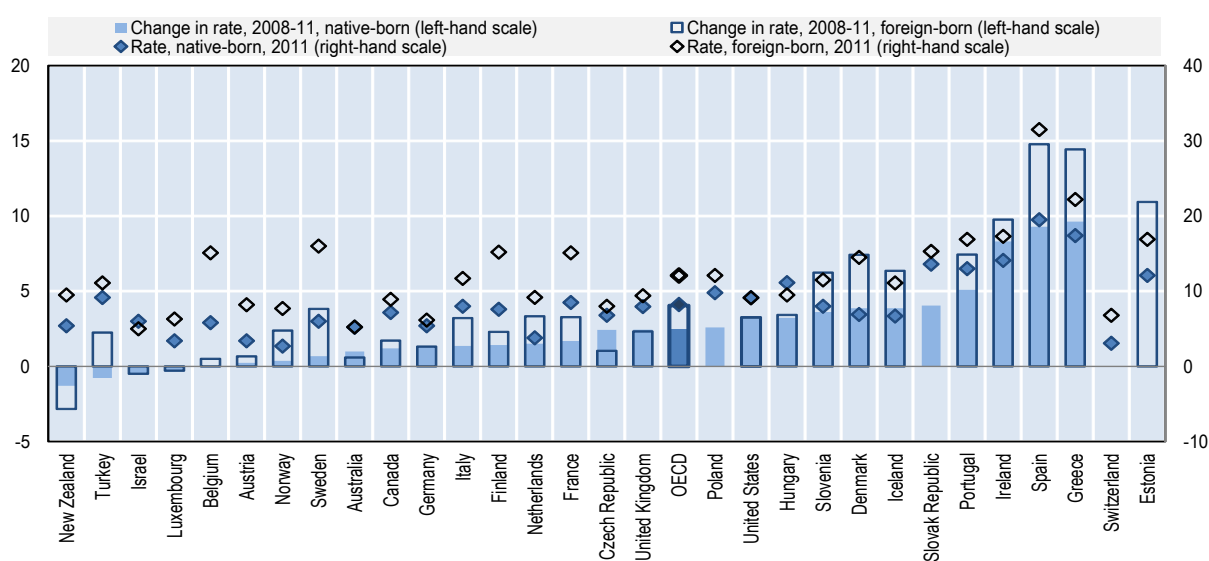
The decrease in migration inflows from 2008 to 2010 was driven by the decrease in inflows of labour migrants. Work-related migration decreased by seven percentage points from 2007 to 2009 compared to two percentage points on average in the OECD countries. This decrease was compensated by the arrival of family members of previous cohorts of labour migrants. Family migration represented 35% of all migration inflows in 2010. In the last years, Portugal also experienced an increase in free-movement migration, mainly from Romania. In 2010, Romanians were the largest group of migrants entering the country.

The economic crisis had a large impact on the Portuguese labour market leading to a twofold increase in unemployment rates between 2008 and 2011. As in most OECD countries the increase in the immigrants' unemployment rate was higher than that of the native-born (by 7.4 and 5 percentage points respectively).

The incidence of long-term unemployment in total unemployment of immigrants was high in Portugal (44%) but only 5 percentage points higher than the OECD average. The contribution of the foreign-born to the increase in long-term unemployment has been of about 16%, lower than in many other OECD countries.

Portugal had one of the highest unemployment rates of immigrants in 2011 (15%) but still significantly lower than the unemployment rate of immigrants in Greece or Spain. The situation of youth, native and immigrant, appears particularly difficult. The unemployment rate of migrant youth is almost twice as high as that of immigrant adults (16% and 29% respectively) but only very slightly higher than that of native youth (28%).

Figure 3. Unemployment rate: levels and change, 2008-2011



Sources: EU Labour Force Survey data (Eurostat); United States: Current Population Surveys; Australia, Canada, Israel and New Zealand: Labour Force surveys.

The number of naturalisations has remained steadily high in Portugal since 2007 as a consequence of the 2006 Naturalisation law. With 5.4 naturalizations per foreigner resident, Portugal was the country with the third highest number of naturalisations in proportion of the foreign population in the OECD.

The focus on the policy side remained over the past years on the integration of immigrants and the Second National Plan for the Integration of Immigrants (2010-2013) was launched. This is the follow-up of the First National Plan (2007-2009) and it stresses new issues such as the protection of impoverished and unemployed immigrants, particularly relevant in the midst of the economic crisis.

For more information on Portugal, see OECD (2008), *Jobs for Immigrants (Vol. 2): Labour Market Integration in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Portugal* and the country note on Portugal in the International Migration Outlook 2012 (p.262).