

Poland



Migration flows in Poland are still largely outward and have increased steadily during the last decade and especially since the country's accession to the EU in May 2004. Precise figures on emigration are difficult to obtain, as most

people do not declare emigration. The national Labour Force Survey provides a lower-bound estimate of about 537 000 Poles who had been abroad for more than two months in the second quarter of 2007, up 38% from the same quarter of 2006. About half of these Poles were abroad for more than 12 months. Post-accession labour emigration has been disproportionately female, younger and better educated. The main destinations are the UK and Ireland, although migration to Germany, Norway and Sweden has also been high. With the ongoing expansion of Poland's economy, an improving exchange rate and rising wages, there are some signs of a slowdown of emigration in the second half of 2007.

Immigration to Poland remains low. According to the population register, approximately 55 000 foreigners were permanent residents of Poland at the end of 2006, 0.14% of the total population of Poland. The three main national groups were Germans (21%), Ukrainians (9%), and Russians (6%). About 11 000 longer-term work permits were issued, about the same as in 2005. The main nationalities were Ukrainians (3 300) and Vietnamese (1 000).

Asylum applications were affected by Poland's entrance into the Schengen area on 21 December 2007. Concern over stricter entry procedures led to a temporary rush to file asylum applications prior to entry (3 420 in the last two months of 2007, which brought the total to 10 000 and represented most of the increase over the previous year's total of 7 100). As in previous years, most were nationals of the Russian Federation (particularly Chechens). The entry into the Schengen area made it more difficult to obtain some types of visas, and was also linked with a significant increase in visa fees.

Three important migration policy changes were implemented in 2007. The most relevant change was a greater opening to temporary and seasonal workers from Ukraine, Belarus, and the Russian Federation. Employer fees for hiring workers were significantly reduced. Workers may now be hired without a visa

not only in agriculture but in other sectors. Workers already present were granted portability among authorised employers. The same limit of three months in any given period of six months applies, although in 2008, the limit was changed to 6 months out of every 12. About 24 500 workers, mainly from Ukraine, took up short-term and seasonal work in Poland in the second half of 2007.

Facilitation of labour migration from these countries was partly due to demand from employers and partly to reduce undeclared work by undocumented foreigners (about one-third of undeclared workers found during inspections were foreigners). The labour inspection system was changed in July 2007 to grant labour inspectors authority to examine migration status.

The second event was a regularisation for two groups: residents for at least ten years who have housing and economic means or employment; and those who were eligible for the 2003 regularisation but failed to apply. Both receive one year renewable permits. There were 1 240 applicants. As in the 2003 regularisation, Armenians and Vietnamese were the main nationalities concerned.

The third policy change was the creation of a residence permit for the descendants of Poles living in the former Soviet Union (up to the third generation). Some knowledge of the language and culture is required. Beneficiaries receive a residence permit, with full access to employment or economic activity.

These changes were associated with a comprehensive revision of the Aliens' Act and several related acts, which were in part motivated by transforming a number of EU directives into national law. Along with this, a range of institutional changes took place, which strengthened the role of the Ministry of Interior and Administration with respect to migration.

The Polish government has created a Migration Policy Committee to review all aspects of migration policy from labour migration to return. A significant migration reform package is expected to emerge from the Committee.

For further information...

www.uric.gov.pl

www.stat.gov.pl

www.mpips.gov.pl

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	..	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.8	34.2			
Outflows			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	2005	2006	2005	2006						
Work						
Family (incl. accompanying family)						
Humanitarian						
Free movements						
Others						
Total						
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average						
	Thousands							2000-2006		
International students						
Trainees						
Working holiday makers						
Seasonal workers						
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>										
	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	4.4			

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	7.0	4.3	3.6	6.1	5.4	4.1	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	6.9	4.3	3.7	6.2	5.4	4.1	13 082
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	0.9	-1.5	2.3	3.4	-0.4	0.5	14 594
Unemployment (% of labour force)	13.3	16.1	17.7	13.8	12.9	18.0	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	0.8	-0.3	-0.4	-0.8	0.3	-0.6	
Natural increase	1.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.7	-0.1	
Net migration	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	-0.9	-0.4	-0.5	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National	..	..	..	..	..	..	38 077
Foreign	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	989
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	58.3	60.9	..	58.7	
Foreign-born men	..	..	31.1	42.5	..	36.2	
Native-born women	..	..	46.6	48.3	..	47.1	
Foreign-born women	..	..	24.4	29.1	..	23.7	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	17.4	13.2	..	16.5	
Foreign-born men	..	..	-	-	..	-
Native-born women	..	..	19.4	15.1	..	18.2	
Foreign-born women	..	..	19.2	-	..	17.3	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434514374888>