

Poland

Registered migration inflows in Poland increased slightly in 2011, by 2%, to around 15 500. Unemployment has risen, reaching more than 10% by the end of 2012 (youth unemployment approached 30%), causing emigration to increase again. Contrary to the previous four years, Poland saw an increase in 2011 of 14% for officially registered emigrants, to almost 20 000. While net outflow rose for the first time since 2008, increasing immigration meant that net outflows were much smaller than in the early post-enlargement period.

According to estimates by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), around 2.06 million Polish citizens (5.2% of the total population) were staying abroad in 2011, an increase of 3% compared with 2010. Around 1.5 million Polish citizens were staying abroad for 12 months or longer. CSO data suggest that almost three-fourths of recent emigrants can be described as labour migrants.

The Population Census identified a stock of 56 300 temporary immigrants in 2011, of which 29 000 were in Poland for at least one year. 78% were foreign citizens, mainly from Ukraine, Belarus, Germany, the Russian Federation, China, Bulgaria and Viet Nam. In general, foreign citizens stay in Poland mostly for labour reasons, while Polish citizens from abroad are in Poland for family reasons. Labour force survey estimations put the stock of foreigners aged 14 and over at 41 000 in the 2nd quarter of 2011.

34 100 permits were issued to non-EU nationals and 8 400 EU citizens and their family members registered their residence in 2011; in total, 2% fewer than in 2010. As of 31st December 2011, 100 380 foreign citizens held valid residence cards for all kinds of stay in Poland. The main countries of origin were Ukraine (29%), the Russian Federation (11.6%), Viet Nam and Belarus (each 9.2%).

40 800 work permits, 11% more than in 2010, were issued in 2011. About 89% were work permits for foreigners working for employers based in Poland. The main sectors of foreign employment were construction, retail and wholesale trade, households and manufacturing.

Since 2006, a simplified procedure for employment without issuance of a work permit has led to increased inflow of foreign labour. Citizens of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation now only need a declaration of a Polish employer in order to work up to six months during twelve consecutive months. 2011 saw a 44% increase of such declarations, to almost 260 000. 92% of the declarations registered by Polish employers were for Ukrainians. Agriculture and construction were the main sectors of

employment; however, the simplified procedure is increasingly used for other sectors such as transportation or highly skilled services.

Poland saw a slight increase in the number of applications for asylum from 6 500 in 2010 to 6 900 in 2011. The Russian Federation remained the main country of origin for applicants (63%).

Poland has signed Local Border Traffic Agreements (LBTA) with non-EU neighboring countries. Since 2009, an agreement with Ukraine grants Ukrainian and Polish citizens a non-visa stay up to 90 days. Since July 2012, an agreement with the Russian Federation concerning the inhabitants of the Kaliningrad region allows reciprocal visa-free entry for up to 30 days. A 2010 agreement with Belarus has not yet been ratified.

Poland's third and largest regularisation scheme was held in the first half of 2012; 9 500 people applied for the legalisation of their stay.

In July 2012, the Council of Ministers adopted a document "Migration Policy of Poland – the current state of play and further actions". The document, the result of several years of consultation, provides indications for a framework migration policy and specific proposals for administration, procedural and legislative changes.

In April 2012, the Foreigners Act and the Act on Promotion of Employment and Labour Market Institutions were amended, transposing the EU Return and Highly Qualified Directives; the latter created an EU Blue Card permit. The EU Directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals was also implemented separately.

A first draft of a new Act on Aliens was presented in October 2012 with the goal of entering into force in the first half of 2013. The law does not propose fundamental changes in the status of foreigners, although a rigid legislative approach would require subsequent changes to be made through amendments.

In May 2012, the Polish and Ukrainian governments signed an agreement on social security, which co-ordinates the social security systems of both countries in order to eliminate negative consequences for Ukrainians working in Poland and vice versa.

For further information

www.udsc.gov.pl/
www.stat.gov.pl
www.mpips.gov.pl

Recent trends in migrant flows and stocks

POLAND

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2011
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	0.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	41.3
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners Poland 2001-10 annual average (dashed blue line), 2011 (solid grey bar) 		
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2010	2011	Average 2006-10			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	5 086
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-0.2	-0.4	0.9	0.2	-0.5	0.2	9
Natural increase	0.3	-0.1	0.9	0.3	-0.1	0.6	13
Net migration	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-4
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	1.8	..	..	675
Foreign population	..	..	..	0.1	..	..	55
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	5.9	4.4	..	..	2 325
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	59.0	65.6	59.7	..	64.6	
Foreign-born men	..	35.9	59.3	55.3	..	50.9	
Native-born women	..	47.0	53.1	59.7	..	51.5	
Foreign-born women	..	24.0	43.7	55.3	..	35.0	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	16.9	9.4	9.1	..	9.2	
Foreign-born men	..	10.2	12.1	9.9	..	8.8	
Native-born women	..	19.4	10.1	10.5	..	10.5	
Foreign-born women	..	15.3	11.1	14.5	..	9.2	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.3	3.6	3.9	4.3	3.1	4.7	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.3	3.7	2.9	4.3	3.1	4.5	21 070
Employment (level in thousands)	-1.5	2.3	0.9	1.4	-0.6	2.6	16 237
<i>Percentage of the total labour force</i>							
Unemployment	16.1	17.9	9.7	9.7	19.0	9.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932824289>