

Foreword

This publication constitutes the thirty-fifth report of the OECD's Continuous Reporting System on Migration (known by its French acronym SOPEMI). The report opens with a special chapter for the 50th anniversary of the OECD on international migration and the SOPEMI. The rest of the report is divided into four parts plus a statistical annex.

Part I contains three subsections. The first of these provides a broad overview of recent trends in international migration flows, both temporary and permanent. It appears that labour migration has been strongly affected by the economic downturn as well as, in Europe, migration within the free circulation area. Other categories of migration, namely family and humanitarian migration, less responsive to economic conditions, saw smaller changes compared to 2008. This year's edition pays special attention to migration of service providers and intra-corporate transfers, which are both gaining importance. The movement of international students is also examined. In 2008, there were 2.3 million international students in the OECD and, in most countries, between 20 and 30% of them remained in the destination country after completion of their studies.

The second section of Part I takes a close look at the impact of the economic crisis on the employment situation of immigrants. The disproportionate impact of the crisis on immigrants is examined, looking at factors such as concentration in specific sectors and gender differences. The report also sheds some light on forthcoming challenges to address long-term unemployment of immigrants and the risk of scarring effects, notably for low- and medium-skilled men and young migrants.

The final section of Part I highlights major changes in migration policy. It specifically looks at the impact of the recent economic crisis on the management of labour migration and presents recent policy changes on family and humanitarian migration as well as on border controls, which generally illustrate a tightening of migration legislation.

Parts II and III are devoted to special topics. The first one examines migrant entrepreneurship in OECD countries and its contribution to employment creation. The second special chapter on international migration to Israel, is part of a series which looks at international migration in new OECD member countries and large emerging economies.

Part IV presents succinct country-specific notes and statistics on developments in international migration movements and policies in OECD countries in recent years. Finally the statistical annex includes a broad selection of recent and historical statistics on immigrant flows, foreign and foreign-born populations, naturalisations and migrant workers.



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