

The migrant population represents a growing share of the total population. The share of foreign-born within the population increased in all OECD countries between 2001-11, with the exception of Estonia, Israel and Poland (Figure 3.5, Panel A).

On average in the OECD, 12.6% of the population was foreign-born in 2011. The share of foreign-born within the population was highest in Australia, Canada, Israel, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Switzerland, where at least one in five people were foreign-born (Figure 3.5, Panel A). Nearly two-thirds of the OECD countries had an immigrant population exceeding one in ten of the population. There is, however, a large variation across the OECD countries in the share of immigrants. In Japan, Korea, Mexico and Poland less than 2% of the population was foreign-born.

Increased unemployment after the crisis in 2008 has had an impact on trends in net migration in the last part of the decade (Figure 3.5, panel B). Notably, high positive net migrant rates in Iceland and Ireland in the period 2005-07 were turned into substantial negative rates in the period 2008-10. Also Spain experienced a sharp decline in net migration over the same period. The rates were highest in Australia, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland. For these countries, an increase in the net migration rates was observed between the periods 2005-07 and 2008-10. Overall within the OECD, net migration declined slightly during the same period.

The OECD countries most affected by the economic crisis (notably Greece and Spain) experienced the largest relative **increase in outflow of nationals to other OECD countries (Figure 3.6).**

The economic crisis has also affected the composition of the inflows of foreigners, although family migration and free mobility (i.e. migration within a free-movement zone) still represent the bulk of permanent-based migration (Figure 3.7). Over the period 2007-11, the free movement category has shown the sharpest decline. A substantial share of free movements can be assumed to be work-related. **Although work-related migration had increased from 2010 to 2011, it is still at much lower levels than prior to the crisis.**

Definition and measurement

Net migration rate refers to the difference of inflows and outflows of an area in a period of time per thousand people in the population. A positive value represents more people registered as entering the country than leaving it, while a negative value means more people leaving than entering. Both nationals and foreigners are included.

Immigrants are, in the first instance, defined as those who are foreign-born. In general, the foreign-born population is substantially larger than the share of foreign nationals.

Definition and measurement (cont.)

Five categories of permanent-type international migration can be identified:

- *Work-related:* Persons admitted for employment on a permanent-type basis, including with a temporary permit that can in principle be renewed indefinitely.
- *Free movement:* Nationals moving within a free-mobility zone (e.g. EU/EFTA; Trans-tasman agreement), except students and temporary mobility (e.g. seasonal labour mobility); in general it refers to nationals from other countries in the free-mobility zone (other than students) who stayed for more than a year.
- *Accompanying family of workers:* Persons accompanying a principle migrant admitted for work-related reasons (see above).
- *Family migration:* Persons admitted for family reunification and family formation purposes to both foreigners and nationals.
- *Humanitarian:* Persons admitted for international protection and other humanitarian means, including their accompanying family.
- *Other:* Includes ancestry-based migration, retirees, persons of independent means, etc.

All of these categories can include status changes of people already residing in the country under a different, but temporary category (e.g. international students changing status after their studies to take on employment in the host country or because they married a national).

Further reading

OECD (2013), *International Migration Outlook 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2013-en.

OECD (2007), "OECD Standardised Statistics on Immigrant Inflows: Results, Sources and Methods", by Georges Lemaitre, Thomas Liebig, Cécile Thoreau and Pauline Fron, available at www.oecd.org/els/mig/38832099.pdf.

Figure notes

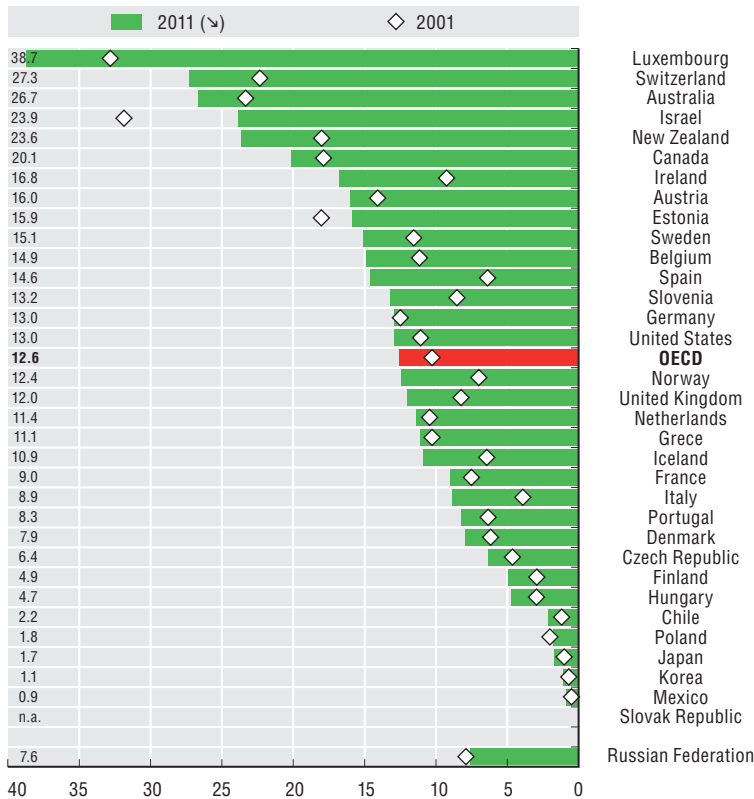
Figure 3.5, Panel A: Data for France exclude persons born abroad who were French at birth. Data on the foreign-born are not available for the Slovak Republic. Data are from the *OECD International Migration Database* except Japan and Korea in 2011 (UN Population Division) and Greece in 2011 (Eurostat).

Figure 3.7: Excludes the Czech Republic and the countries for which standardised data by category of entry are not available.

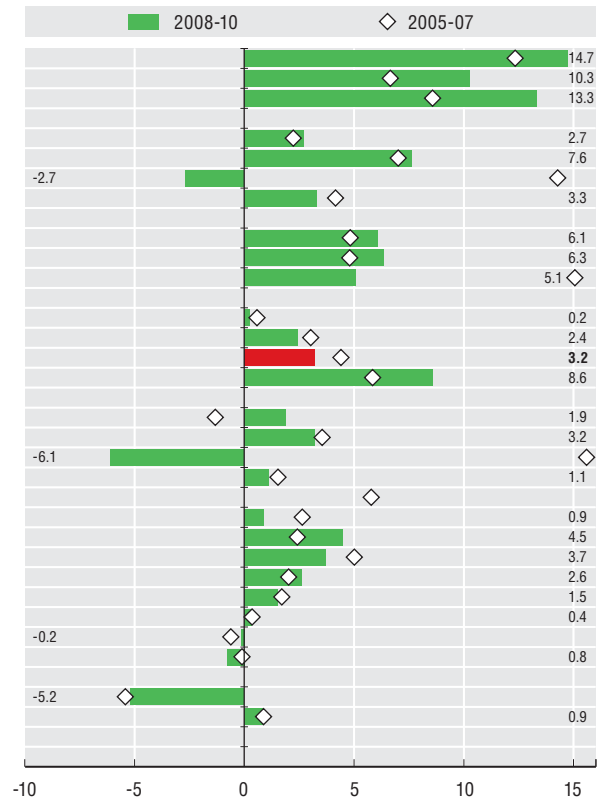
Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

3.5. Net migration rates declined slightly after the crisis

Panel A. Foreign-born population, percentages of the total population, 2001 and 2011

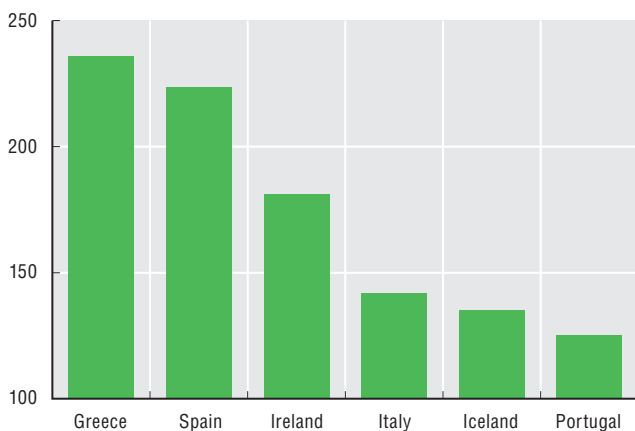


Panel B. Average annual net migration rates, per thousand population, 2005-07 and 2008-10



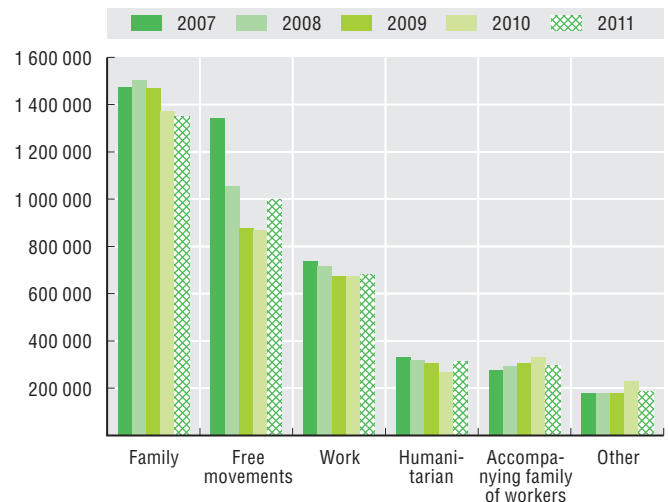
3.6. The OECD countries most affected by the economic crisis experienced the largest relative increase in outflow of nationals

Outflows of nationals from selected OECD countries to other OECD destination countries, 2011
Index 100 in 2007



3.7. The economic crisis has also affected the composition of the inflows of foreigners

Permanent immigration in OECD countries by category of entry or change of status, standardised statistics, 2007-11



Source: International Migration Outlook 2013 (www.oecd.org/migration).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932966314>



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