

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

Permanent immigrant inflows are presented by category of entry which is a key determinant of immigrant results on the labour market. They cover regulated movements of foreigners as well as free movement migration.

Definition

Permanent immigrant inflows cover regulated movements of foreigners considered to be settling in the country from the perspective of the destination country. In countries such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, this consists of immigrants who receive the right of “permanent” residence. In other countries, it generally refers to immigrants who are granted a residence permit which is indefinitely renewable, although the renewability is sometimes subject to conditions, such as the holding of a job. Excluded are international students, trainees, persons on exchange programmes, seasonal or contract workers, service providers, installers, artists entering the country to perform or persons engaging in sporting events, etc. Permits for persons in this latter group may be renewable as well, but not indefinitely.

Migrants are defined as “free movement” when they have some kind of basic rights, usually accorded through international agreements, to enter and leave a country that result in few restrictions being placed on their movements or durations of stay, such as citizens of EU states within the EU. Their movements are not always formally recorded and have sometimes had to be estimated.

Overview

Total permanent immigration increased by about 2% overall in OECD countries in 2011 relative to 2010, with the migration picture being a mixed one at the country level. About half of OECD countries showed increases, with Austria and Germany being among the countries which progressed the most but also Ireland, the country which had shown the strongest decline in immigration as a result of the Great Recession.

Migration to European countries continues to be characterised by free circulation within the European Economic Area (EEA). In Switzerland, Germany and Norway, it represents 78%, 68% and 64%, respectively, of permanent international migration.

Family and humanitarian migration within the EEA constitute 45% and 8%, respectively, of total immigration (excluding free circulation) to this area. In the rest of the OECD, the corresponding figures are 65% and 13%. By contrast, labour migration accounts for almost 40% of non-free movement migration to EEA countries covered here, but only 13% of migration to the rest of the OECD. The latter reflects the weight of the United States, Japan and Mexico, for all of which permanent labour migration is limited.

Comparability

This standardisation according to the concept of “permanent immigrant inflows” represents a considerable improvement compared with compilations of national statistics, whose coverage can vary by a factor of one to three. However, the extent to which changes in status are identified and the coverage of “permanent” free movement may vary somewhat across countries. Overall, the standardisation is applied to 23 OECD countries as well as to the Russian Federation.

The year of reference for these statistics is often the year when the permit was granted rather than the year of entry. Some persons admitted on a temporary basis are sometimes allowed to change to a permanent status. In the statistics presented here, they are counted in the year the change of status occurred.

Sources

- OECD (2013), *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

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- OECD (2012), *Settling In: OECD Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2012*, OECD Publishing.

Methodological publications

- Dumont, J.C. and Lemaître G. (2005), “Counting Immigrants and Expatriates in OECD Countries: A New Perspective”, *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers*, No. 25.
- Lemaître G. (2005), “The Comparability of International Migration Statistics: Problems and Prospects”, *OECD Statistic Brief*, No. 9.

Online databases

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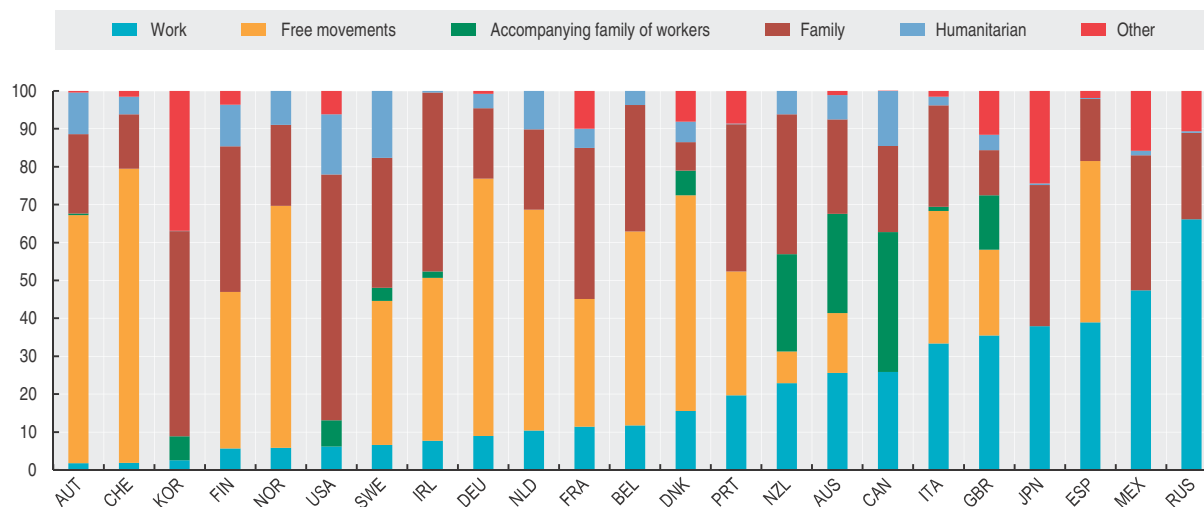

Permanent inflows by category of entry

Thousands, 2011

	Work	Free movements	Accompanying family of workers	Family	Humanitarian	Other	Total
Australia	56.2	34.6	57.5	54.7	14.0	2.5	219.5
Austria	1.0	38.2	0.2	12.2	6.4	0.2	58.4
Belgium	9.0	39.1	-	25.5	2.9	..	76.5
Canada	64.4	-	91.8	56.4	36.1	0.1	248.7
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.6
Denmark	6.4	23.5	2.7	3.1	2.2	3.3	41.3
Estonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Finland	1.2	8.4	-	7.8	2.2	0.8	20.4
France	24.1	71.1	-	84.2	10.7	21.1	211.3
Germany	26.1	197.5	-	54.0	11.0	2.1	290.8
Greece	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	2.6	14.5	0.6	15.9	0.1	..	33.7
Israel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	104.1	109.1	3.6	83.4	7.2	4.8	312.2
Japan	22.4	..	-	22.0	0.3	14.4	59.1
Korea	1.4	..	3.6	30.8	0.0	21.0	56.9
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	10.3	..	-	7.7	0.3	3.4	21.7
Netherlands	11.0	61.5	-	22.4	10.7	..	105.6
New Zealand	10.2	3.7	11.4	16.4	2.7	..	44.5
Norway	3.5	38.5	-	12.9	5.4	..	60.3
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portugal	7.3	12.1	-	14.3	0.1	3.2	36.9
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain	135.9	148.9	-	57.1	1.0	6.5	349.3
Sweden	4.8	27.3	2.5	24.6	12.7	..	71.7
Switzerland	2.3	96.5	-	17.8	5.8	1.9	124.3
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	114.0	72.7	45.9	38.3	13.0	37.2	321.2
United States	65.3	..	74.1	688.1	168.5	65.5	1 061.4
EU 28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	273.0	-	..	93.9	1.8	44.0	412.6
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933027304>
Permanent inflows by category of entry

Percentage of total permanent inflows, 2011


 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933024701>



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