

## TRENDS IN MIGRATION

Migration movements include not only entries of persons of foreign nationality, on which public attention tends to be focused, but also include movements of nationals and of emigrants. Net migration summarises the overall effect of these movements. Migration currently represents, in almost all OECD countries, the main source of increases in population.

### Definition

Net migration is defined as the total number of immigrant nationals and foreigners minus the total of emigrant foreigners and nationals. Arrivals and departures for purposes such as tourism and business travel are not included in the statistics.

The net migration rate is expressed per 1 000 inhabitants. The three-year averages referred to concern the years 2007 to 2009 (end of period); and 1997 to 1999 (beginning of period).

### Comparability

The main sources of information on migration vary across countries. This may pose problems for the comparability of available data on inflows and outflows of migrants. However, since comparability problems generally relate to the extent to which short-term movements are covered, taking the difference between arrivals and departures tends to eliminate the movements that are the main source of non-comparability.

### Overview

Mexico, Estonia, Japan and Poland are the only countries among those shown here that recorded negative or zero net migration in the three years to 2009. Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg and Spain top the league showing net migration rates above 10 per thousand in recent years. Some of the former emigration countries that figure prominently among those experiencing high net migration in the past decade have shown lower or even negative net migration rates in the last two years.

For the second consecutive year, net migration rates have decreased, to reach the levels of the late 1990s, with the decrease being especially evident in the country's most hit by the economic crisis (e.g. Iceland). With the retirement of baby-boomers in the near future and the entry of smaller youth cohorts in the labour market, labour supply needs may well require a further rise in net migration in the future.

There are nonetheless a number of countries where net migration rates remain higher than was the case five to ten years ago. These include Switzerland, Australia, Norway and Spain.

Despite this feature, net migration data should be interpreted with care, because unauthorised movements are not taken into account in the inflows and these unauthorised movements are significant in some OECD countries. In addition, the data on outflows are of uneven quality, with departures being only partially recorded in many countries or having to be estimated in others.

The net migration rate is used to describe the contribution of international migration to population change, the other component being natural increase, defined as the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths in a given year.

### Sources

- OECD (2011), *Labour Force Statistics*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2011), *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2008), *A Profile of Immigrant Populations in the 21st Century: Data from OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2006), *From Immigration to Integration: Local Solutions to a Global Challenge*, OECD Publishing.
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- OECD (2001), *Migration Policies and EU Enlargement: The Case of Central and Eastern Europe*, OECD Publishing.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2011), *OECD Employment Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

#### Methodological publications

- Dumont, J. and G. Lemaître (2005), "Counting Immigrants and Expatriates in OECD Countries: A New Perspective", *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers*, No. 25.

#### Online databases

- *OECD International Migration Statistics*.

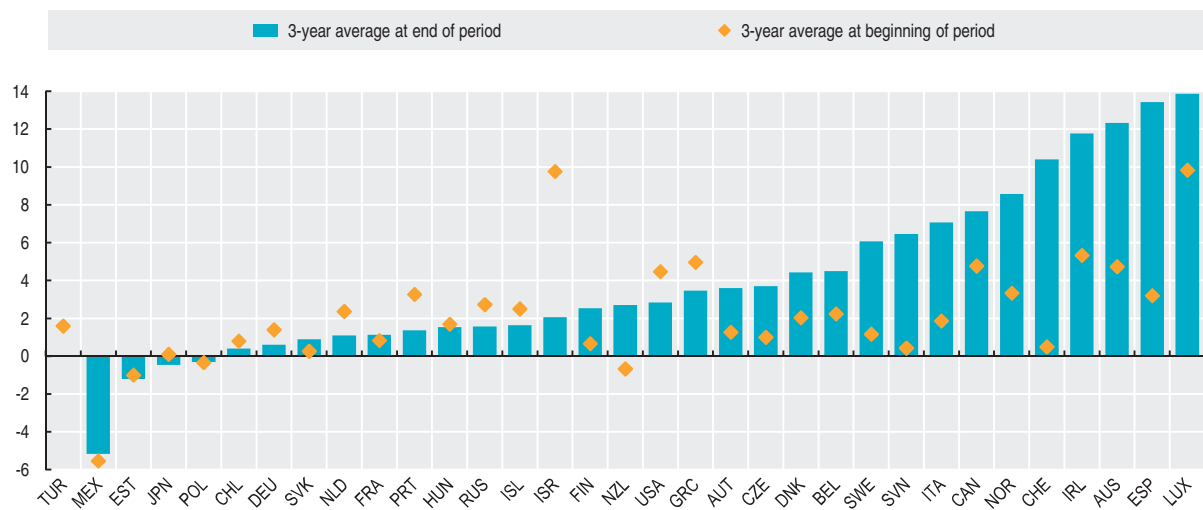

**Net migration rate**

Per 1 000 inhabitants

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Australia	3.9	4.8	5.5	5.8	7.0	5.6	5.5	5.3	6.7	8.8	10.3	14.0	12.7	..
Austria	0.2	1.1	2.5	2.2	4.1	4.1	4.9	6.2	5.4	2.9	4.2	4.1	2.5	..
Belgium	1.9	2.1	2.7	2.5	3.4	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.8	..	..	..	..
Canada	5.2	3.9	5.2	6.5	8.1	7.0	6.7	6.6	7.0	6.9	7.1	8.1	7.7	7.2
Chile	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Czech Republic	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.6	-0.8	1.2	2.5	1.8	3.5	3.4	8.1	6.9	2.7	1.5
Denmark	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.8	4.2	5.3	4.0	4.0
Estonia	-1.8	-0.8	-0.4	-0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-1.6	-1.4	-2.4	-2.5	-0.5	-0.6	..	..
Finland	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4
France	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	..
Germany	1.1	0.6	2.5	2.0	3.3	2.7	1.7	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.5	..	..	..
Greece	5.7	5.1	4.1	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.2	..	..
Hungary	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.4	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.2
Iceland	0.3	3.2	4.0	6.1	3.4	-1.0	-0.5	1.8	13.0	17.3	16.5	3.6	-15.2	..
Ireland	5.1	4.5	6.4	8.4	10.0	8.4	7.8	11.6	15.9	..	..	..	..	..
Israel	9.2	8.2	11.9	9.8	6.2	3.3	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.7	..	..
Italy	2.2	1.6	1.8	3.1	2.2	6.1	10.6	9.6	5.2	6.4	..	..	..	..
Japan	0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.3	-0.4	0.5	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-1.0	..	..
Luxembourg	9.0	9.6	10.9	8.2	2.5	5.8	12.0	9.6	13.1	11.4	12.5	15.8	13.3	..
Mexico	-5.4	-5.5	-5.7	-6.4	-5.6	-5.5	-5.6	-5.6	-5.6	-5.3	-5.3	-5.2	-5.2	-5.1
Netherlands	1.8	2.7	2.6	3.4	3.2	1.5	-	-1.0	-1.7	-1.9	-0.4	1.6	2.1	..
New Zealand	2.0	-1.7	-2.3	-2.9	2.5	9.7	8.7	3.7	1.7	3.6	1.4	0.9	4.9	2.3
Norway	2.5	3.2	4.3	2.0	1.8	3.7	2.4	2.8	3.9	5.1	8.5	9.0	8.1	8.6
Poland	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	..
Portugal	2.9	3.2	3.7	4.6	6.3	6.8	6.1	4.5	3.6	2.5	1.9	0.8	1.4	..
Slovak Republic	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.6
Slovenia	1.2	-1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.0	3.2	3.1	7.1	9.2	..	..
Spain	1.6	3.1	4.9	8.9	10.1	15.7	14.5	14.7	15.0	14.2	16.0	10.1	..	..
Sweden	0.7	1.2	1.6	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.8	3.0	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.8	5.3
Switzerland	-1.0	0.2	2.3	2.8	5.8	6.7	5.9	5.4	4.8	5.2	9.9	12.8	8.5	..
Turkey	1.6	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..	..
United States	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.6	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.8	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-0.2
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-0.3
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-0.2
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-0.6
Russian Federation	3.5	2.9	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.8	1.8	..	..
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.8	..

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932502942>
**Net migration rate**

Per 1 000 inhabitants, annual average


 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932502961>

