

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

Permanent immigrant inflows are presented by category of entry which is a key determinant of immigrant outcomes. 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.

Overview

Overall, in 2010, permanent immigrant inflows continued to decline for the third consecutive year. However, the decline was modest (minus 3%) and levels are still higher than their pre-crisis level. Furthermore, the trend in the absolute figures was largely attributable to the large decline in inflows for the United States (minus 8%).

In Ireland which has been hard hit by the crisis, the decline was particularly severe and inflow levels dropped to below a fifth of their pre-crisis level. Declines also continued to be significant in the Czech Republic, Japan, in Southern Europe as well as in the Russian Federation. In all other countries, it would appear that the decline has come to an end.

There is considerable variation in the composition of immigrant inflows. In countries such as Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland and, to a lesser extent, the Netherlands and Germany, the bulk of the inflows consist of free movements from other countries of the enlarged European Union. On the other hand, regulated labour migration predominates in Korea, Mexico and Italy. The composition is mixed in some EU countries (such as Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Portugal) where labour migration is above the OECD average and where free movements represents at least 40% of the total inflows. In the United States, and to a lesser extent in France, Japan and Sweden, inflows of family members constitute the main component of permanent inflows.

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.

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.

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.

Sources

- OECD (2012), *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

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Statistical publications

- OECD (2012), *Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas*, OECD Publishing.
- 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

- *OECD International Migration Statistics*.

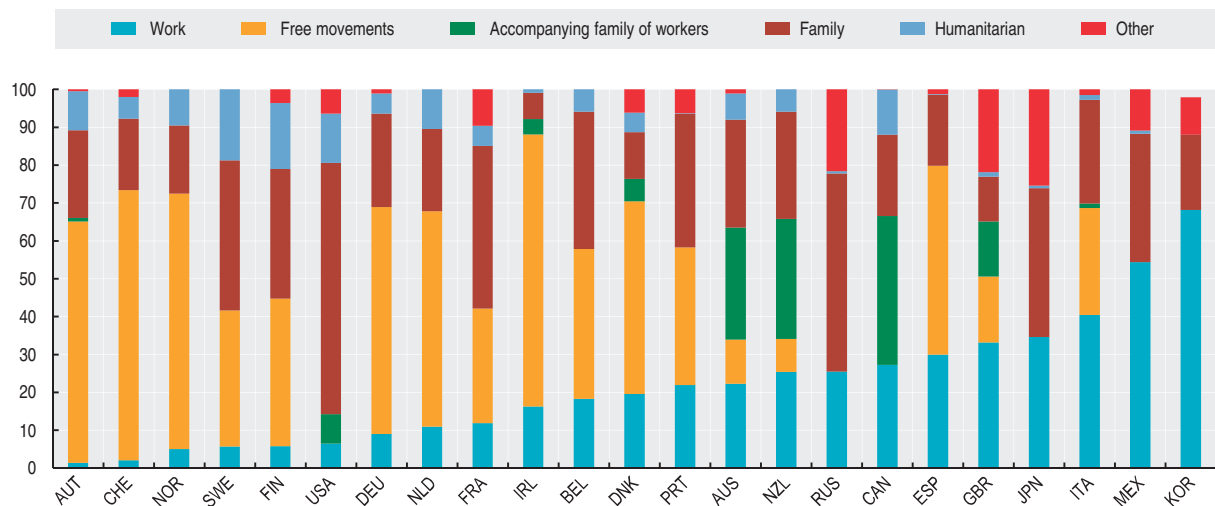

Permanent inflows by category of entry

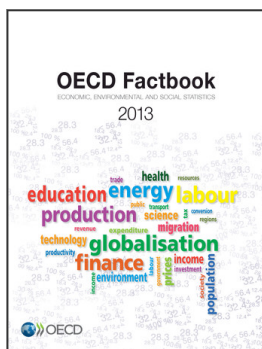
Percentage of total permanent inflows, 2010

	Work	Free movements	Accompanying family of workers	Family	Humanitarian	Other
Australia	22.3	11.7	29.6	28.4	7.0	1.0
Austria	1.4	63.7	0.9	23.2	10.3	0.5
Belgium	18.3	39.6	-	36.2	5.9	..
Canada	27.3	..	39.3	21.5	11.9	0.0
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark	19.6	50.9	5.9	12.3	5.1	6.2
Estonia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Finland	5.8	39.0	-	34.3	17.4	3.6
France	11.9	30.3	-	42.9	5.4	9.6
Germany	9.0	59.9	-	24.7	5.3	1.1
Greece	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	16.3	71.8	4.0	7.0	0.9	..
Israel	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	40.5	28.2	1.2	27.4	1.3	1.5
Japan	34.6	..	-	39.3	0.7	25.4
Korea	68.1	..	-	19.9	0.0	9.9
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	54.4	..	-	33.9	0.8	10.9
Netherlands	10.9	56.9	-	21.7	10.5	..
New Zealand	25.4	8.7	31.7	28.3	5.9	..
Norway	5.1	67.4	-	18.0	9.5	..
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portugal	21.9	36.3	-	35.3	0.1	6.3
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain	29.9	49.9	-	18.7	0.2	1.2
Sweden	5.7	35.9	-	39.6	18.7	..
Switzerland	2.1	71.4	-	18.8	5.8	2.0
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	33.1	17.4	14.6	11.8	1.2	21.9
United States	6.4	..	7.8	66.3	13.1	6.4
EU 27	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	25.5	..	-	52.3	0.6	21.6
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932706223>
Permanent inflows by category of entry

Percentage of total permanent inflows, 2010


 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932706242>



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