

**Standardised statistics on immigrant inflows  
results, sources and methods**

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## **1. Introduction**

The 2008 edition of the *International Migration Outlook* includes, for the third time, statistics on long-term immigration flows that have been standardised across countries, to the extent possible. In so doing, the OECD Secretariat has had to deviate for many countries from the usual statistics on international migration that are used nationally and/or published by the OECD and other organisations. There are two main reasons for this. The first is that it is currently

Since policy interest tends to be focused largely on long-term migration, this is the focus of the work undertaken here, which is an attempt at standardisation on the basis of a common definition and will require refinement as well as extension later to shorter term movements. The definition of long-term migration used is not that specified in the UN recommendations, however. The latter defines a long-term international migrant as a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year. This definition has not been used for the reason, among others, that it is currently difficult to harmonise national migration statistics to satisfy this criterion, particularly for some large OECD countries, such as Germany and Japan. In addition, it is of interest to be able to compile separately flows that are generally considered different in nature, both by the receiving country and indeed, from the perspective of migrants themselves. For example, under the UN definition

Such status changes will include, for example, situations in which a person claims asylum and is recognised as a refugee according to the Geneva Convention or as a person in need of protection. The statistics for all countries shown thus do not include asylum seekers among permanent migrants, but only persons whose request for asylum has been accepted in some way and who have been granted the right of long-term residence. For obvious reasons, the statistics also do not include unauthorised movements.

On the other hand, large-scale regularisations of persons who entered illegally or who have entered and stayed beyond the duration of their visa are not covered either. The latter in theory could be included in the



short-term workers, etc., in short persons whose stay in the host country is generally intended to be temporary. Inflows of free movements consist of the sum of workers and family.

#### **4. A comparison of levels and change between the usually published and the standardised statistics**

Table 1 shows the differ (which are generally based on standard national sources) and the standardised series based essentially on residence permits.

For all other countries except Canada, Finland, the United States and

that is not counted in the standardised series on permanent-type inflows.

Table 1. **Inflows of foreign nationals in selected OECD countries, 2006**

Standardised and official statistics

	Standardised flows 2006	Usually published statistics 2006	Difference	Percent difference relative to usually published statistics
Japan	86 700	325 600	-238 900	-73
Germany	216 000	558 500	-342 500	-61
Belgium	36 100	83 400	-47 300	-57
Austria	46 400	85 400	-39 000	-46
Portugal	25 100	42 200	-17 100	-41
Norway	28 000	37 400	-9 400	-25
United Kingdom	343 200	451 700	-108 500	-24
Switzerland	86 300	102 700	-16 400	-16
Netherlands	59 400	67 700	-8 300	-12
Sweden	74 000	80 400	-6 400	-8
Canada	251 600	251 600	-	-
Finland	13 900	13 900	-	-
United States	1 266 300	1 266 300	-	-
Ireland	88 900	88 900	-	-
Australia	191 900	179 800	12 100	7
New Zealand	54 800	49 800	5 000	10
Italy	204 300	181 500	22 800	13
France	169 000	135 100	33 900	25
Denmark	21 700	na	na	na
<b>Total less Denmark</b>	<b>3 241 900</b>	<b>4 001 900</b>	<b>-760 000</b>	<b>-19</b>

Notes: "na" means not available.

Usually





## References

Copenhagen, 2005.

Development, Paris.

Problems and  
-operation and

OECD (2006). *International Migration Outlook*. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris.

United Nations (1998). *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration Revision 1*. United Nations Publication ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1, New York.



Demographisches Jahrbuch 2008, Statistics Austria

[http://www.statistik.at/web\\_en/static/population\\_statistical\\_yearbook\\_028733.pdf](http://www.statistik.at/web_en/static/population_statistical_yearbook_028733.pdf)

Statistics on immigration of new foreign students in the summer and winter semester of the respective year; data provided by statistics Austria (special request)

Work migration :

Newly issued permanent residence permits (p. 28-31 in first reference) for the following worker categories:

key worker in the quota system self-employed

key worker in the quota system employed

outside the quota system self-employed

media workers with permanent residence permit outside the quota system

artists with permanent residence permit outside the quota system



Positive decisions on other residence permits at.

[http://www.nyidanmark.dk/resources.ashx/Resources/Statistik/statistik/uk/seneste\\_tal\\_udlaendinge\\_omraadet\\_en.xls#Work\\_Study\(WS\)!A1](http://www.nyidanmark.dk/resources.ashx/Resources/Statistik/statistik/uk/seneste_tal_udlaendinge_omraadet_en.xls#Work_Study(WS)!A1)

## **Finland**

Finland is the only country for which the national population register figures are used for the standardised statistics. The reason is that the criteria for registration correspond closely to the concept of permanent-type migration. The population register in Finland covers permanent residents.

Work migration: Permanent wage-and-salary workers and non-wage workers in the labour force, both EEA and third countries.

Family migration:

Family reunification (third countries)

Family members of French nationals (third countries)

Personal and family links (third countries)

All corresponding categories for EEA nationals repeated from 2003.

Accompanying family of humanitarian : Family members of refugees and stateless persons, including holders of a VPF card.

Humanitarian :

Statutory refugees

Beneficiaries of territorial asylum and of subsidiary protection

Other :

From EEA countries (repeated from 2003)

○ retirees and pensioners

○ other visitors

○ other holders of a residence card delivered by right

FBT/F1 11.04 Tf1 0 FBT/29( )JTJET-/3BT/F2 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 358.51 473.47 T5( )JTJET EMC /P ÅMCID 13>>

Statistics on immigration of nationals of EU-15 (excluding German nationals) and EFTA nationals, Federal Statistical Office (data available via <http://www.ec.destatis.de/csp/shop/sfg/bpm.html.cms.cBroker.cls>)

Till 2004 work migration consists of:

work permits on the basis of the Ordinance on Exceptions of the Recruitment Stop (*ASAV*)



Generally, the data for Italy need to be examined more closely. As noted above, because the data are based on visa statistics, there is no information on long-term permits that may have been granted to persons already in the country on another status. Ideally one would like to have long-term permits awarded during the year to persons not already in possession of one, disaggregated by category of entry. The Family migration categorie is underestimated as children who entered together with a parent on the same passport are not included in visas.

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## Japan

Data and information are from the following sources:

The Guide to Visas, [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/04.html#a](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/04.html#a)

SOPEMI Report 2007, Table 9 for flows, Table 17 for stocks, Table 21 for humanitarian, Table 38 for the number of permissions for students to change into the status of residence which enable them to work, Table 26 for special permissions to stay.

Data for Japan are disaggregated by category of migration for both stocks and flows. It is not obvious what is long-duration. The approach taken in estimating long-term immigrants is an empirical one which takes advantage of the fact that the category of migration is identified in both the flows and the stocks. Under conditions of stationarity (that is, the inflows equal the outflows), the stock divided by the annual outflow gives the average duration of stay in the country (in years). This was calculated for each migration category by taking the average from 2000 to 2006 and a cut-off of five years used as the criterion for long-term was just under this value.

By this criterion, long-term work migration included the categories of investors/business managers, engineers, specialists in humanities/international services, skilled labour. Although its calculated average duration of stay was about eight included, because the estimated high duration figure for this category largely reflects an increase in the stocks due, not to past entries, but to persons having changed from trainee to employee status.Changes from student to work status have been included as work migrants.

## Netherlands

The data sources and documentation for the Netherlands come from the following:

[http://www.ind.nl/nl/Images/Verblijf\\_ENG\\_tcm5-595.pdf](http://www.ind.nl/nl/Images/Verblijf_ENG_tcm5-595.pdf) ;

The asylum procedure in the Netherlands at

[http://www.ind.nl/en/Images/Publiek\\_ENG\\_Algemeen\\_tcm6-16537.pdf](http://www.ind.nl/en/Images/Publiek_ENG_Algemeen_tcm6-16537.pdf);

A glossary of migration terms translated into English in the annex to

[http://www.justitie.nl/Images/begrippenlijst\\_tcm74-36999.pdf](http://www.justitie.nl/Images/begrippenlijst_tcm74-36999.pdf);

A document: Rechtspraak in nederland 2005 at <http://www.cbs.nl/NR/rdonlyres/E61023F3-441A-4947-BC00-84E6AB8729C1/0/2005w37pub.pdf> (Table 3.10 on page 55)

A table on migration by motive by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

<http://statline.cbs.nl/StatWeb/table.asp?TT=5&LA=nl&DM=SLNL&PA=70693ned&D1=a&D5=a&HDR=T,G3&STB=G1,G2&LYR=G4:9>

Tables 2.5, 2.6 and 4.8 from the Dutch Sopemi report 2006, Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (2005-2006).

family formation and other. According to the CBS, the 'other motives' in the table (which exclude asylum and study) cover au pairs, trainees, people who immigrate for a medical treatment and so on, all of whom can be considered temporary. However, according to the CBS except for humanitarian migrants (see below), persons who migrated on a temporary basis and who later switched to long-term status cannot be identified in the data at their disposal.

Since 2005 CBS data (Statistics Netherlands) by motives of entry are not available. The data for 2005 and 2006 are based on figures of granted requests for a first residence permit (for at least one year) presented by the IND and are therefore not fully comparable with the figures of 1995-2004.

The 2005 figure for humanitarian migration is taken from the publication on Table 3.10 p 55 for Verblijfsvergunning asiel (bepaalde tijd) (temporary) and Verblijfsvergunning asiel (onbepaalde tijd) (permanent). According to the document on asylum procedures cited above, in principle an asylum residence permit is always issued for a fixed period. After this period has ended, an application may be submitted for conversion into a permanent residence permit. For the purposes of this document, both temporary and permanent have been counted as long-term migrants. In practice, it is not entirely clear to what extent they are indeed long-term migrants, according to the definition specified above.

The 2006 figure for humanitarian migration is taken from Table 4.8 of the Dutch Sopemi report and refer following the same methodology as 2005.

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## New Zealand

Data for New Zealand are from two sources:

Residence Applications Decided (Table R2)

Arrivals of non-New-Zealand citizens from Australia (assumed to be Australians): Persons with an occupation plus the with-an-

Accompanying family of work migrants:

Secondary applicant from business/skilled (Table R2)

Arrivals of non-New-Zealand citizens from Australia (assumed plus the not-

Family migration:

Family-sponsored migration, principal and secondary applicants (Table R2).

Humanitarian:

Principal and secondary applicants of International / Humanitarian (Table R2)

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## Norway

The data for Norway were obtained from *Facts and Figures 2006* of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, to be found at:

[http://www.udi.no/upload/English/EngPublications/AnnualReport/74298\\_Tall\\_Fakta\\_eng.pdf](http://www.udi.no/upload/English/EngPublications/AnnualReport/74298_Tall_Fakta_eng.pdf)

The number of long-term work-based immigrants consists of the following five categories:

Specialist and other permits ( constitutes ground for settlement permits (Annex Table 1)

Receivers of services, or of periodic benefits.

EEA work-related permits granted for 36 months or more available upon request.

Estimates of Nordic countries workers for 2006 have been estimated based on register data assuming that about 4 000 persons could therefore be added to the labour category, considering age structure of this population and that some in the age-group 20-30 are students..

Family migration consists of the following categories:

Family migration from Annex Table 4 (includes accompanying family of humanitarian migrants, and arrivals of persons reunited with family members granted protection)

Estimates of Nordic countries rdiTable 4



Table 3: , total. -facto refugees, in need of protection and

Other:

Table -year . In the published data, this was mistakenly grouped with family migration. Persons not economically active from Nordic countries were estimated based on register data on immigrants from Nordic countries and assuming that the distribution between workers, family and other is the same as that of residents of EU-countries (from residence permit data).

Note: Supplementary source (in Swedish)

[http://www.migrationsverket.se/pdf/verket/statistik/statistik\\_3\\_2006.pdf](http://www.migrationsverket.se/pdf/verket/statistik/statistik_3_2006.pdf)

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## Switzerland

Data for Switzerland are based on an unpublished table labeled Table II p72 « Entrées en Suisse de la population résidante permanente étrangère ») of the 2007SOPEMI report, where the individual categories of immigrants are identified by a numeric code. The numbers in parentheses refer to these codes. Note that these codes are uninformative without the table in hand. C included.

A table on inflows in Switzerland has been provided by the Registre central des étrangers, RCE.

Work migration consists of foreigners with paid remunerated activity, subject to numerical limits (2) or not subject to numerical limits (3)

less trainees (2-4), civil servants of foreign administrations working in Switzerland (3-1), working relatives of persons on diplomatic or permanent mission or consular posts (3-2), and flows of L permits >=12 months for third countries which are very rarely transformed to B permits (provided by our Sopemi correspondent)

Family migration consists of persons under the rubric of family reunion (1).

Humanitarian consists of recognised refugees (7) and hardship cases (8).

The «other» category consists of foreigners without a remunerative activity (4), returns to Switzerland (6), other entries into Switzerland (9).

Free movement category refers to EU/EFTA authorisations.

Persons in education or on professional training are excluded from the ranks of long-term immigrants.

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## United Kingdom

The data situation with respect to the United Kingdom is a complex one. The source for national statistics is the International Passenger Survey (IPS), which counts persons entering the country with the intention of

is, persons who entered without stating this intention or unsure about it, but who eventually stayed on for longer. This was a potential source for the standardised data series, because of the possibility of excluding certain categories such as students, working holiday makers, asylum seekers, etc. However, the IPS data are based on the intentions of respondents, without reference to the duration allowed under the residence permit held by the respondent. For example, it counts asylum seekers as long-term immigrants, whereas the standardised series only includes them when they are granted refugees or special protection status.

In addition, the adjusted series from the IPS are not disaggregated by reason for migration. Obtaining such a disaggregation was of course one of the main objectives of the exercise.

The United Kingdom data are taken from *Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 20065* (See <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm71/7197/7197.pdf>, Tables 1.1,2.2, 2.5 ,5.4, 2.6) and from some special tables from the Office of National Statistics taken from the International Passenger Survey (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15054>) and giving estimates of international migration, broken down by citizenship and reason for migration. The estimate is constructed from the ground up, on the basis of passengers given leave to enter by purpose of journey. Some of the entries are not arrivals, but rather changes in status on the part of persons in the country on a short-term basis.

Table 6.2 p 88 on Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (applications approved) was taken from the 2007 Sopemi report (source: Work permits (UK)).

A source of changes in status consist of so-

Table 5.1 p 76 on work permits was taken from the 20076 Sopemi report (source: Overseas Labour Service/ Work permits (UK)).

The work-related migration estimate is obtained by adding the totals for the following:

Table 2.2: Ministers of religion (admissions)

Table 2.5: Employment for 12 months or more (excluding Accession States) (admissions)

Table 5.1: First permissions (approved)

Table 5.4: Grants of settlement to permit-free employment, businessmen, persons of independent means

IPS Table: Inflows of EU25 citizens for work reasons (See

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15054>) for IPS estimates. Data have been estimate(i)6(ons)JTJETBT1 0 0 1ETBTbour



A glossary of terms can be found at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/standards/stdfdef.htm#c>

Worker migration: Total, employment-based preferences, Table 6.

Accompanying family: Spouses and children under employment-based preferences, Table 7.

Family preferences: Family-sponsored immigrants, immediate relatives of US citizens, Table 6.

Humanitarian: asylees (subject to limit), refugees and other asylees not subject to limit, Table 7.

Accompanying family of humanitarian: spouses and children of refugees and asylees, Table 7.

Other: Diversity, IRCA legalization dependents, children born to alien residents abroad, other cancellation of removal (NACARA Section 203), NACARA section 202, HRIFA, Parolees, Soviet and Indochinese, other, Table 7.