

## 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 countries within the EU. Their movements are not always formally recorded and sometimes have 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.

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. They are counted in the year the change of status occurred. For example, asylum seekers are not considered migrants but are candidates for humanitarian migrant status. Only those who are recognised as refugees – or who obtain another permanent-type residence title – will be included in the permanent immigrant inflows statistics, in the year they are granted refugee or another permanent-type status. As a consequence, the unprecedented inflows of asylum seekers observed in the EU in 2015 (1.3 million requests filed) will appear in the permanent immigrant inflows in the subsequent years only, and only a part of these will figure there.

### Sources

- OECD (2015), *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- Arslan C. et al. (2014), “A New Profile of Migrants in the Aftermath of the Recent Economic Crisis”, *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers*, No. 160, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2015), “Is this humanitarian migration crisis different?”, *Migration Policy Debates*, No. 7, Paris.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2015), *Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2015), *OECD Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015*, 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*.

#### Websites

- International migration policies and data, [www.oecd.org/migration/mig](http://www.oecd.org/migration/mig).

### Overview

Total permanent immigration increased by about 1.6% overall in OECD countries in 2013 relative to 2012, with the migration picture being a mixed one at the country level. More than half of OECD countries showed increases, with Germany, Korea and Denmark being among the countries which progressed the most. Permanent migration flows diminished markedly in 2013 in Spain, Italy and the United States.

Migration to European countries continues to be characterised by free circulation within the European Economic Area (EEA). In Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Norway, it represents 78%, 78%, 76% and 63%, respectively, of permanent international migration.

Family reunification accounted for over one third of all permanent migration to OECD countries in 2013 (minus 1% compared to 2012) and free movement for 30% (up 4% compared to 2012).

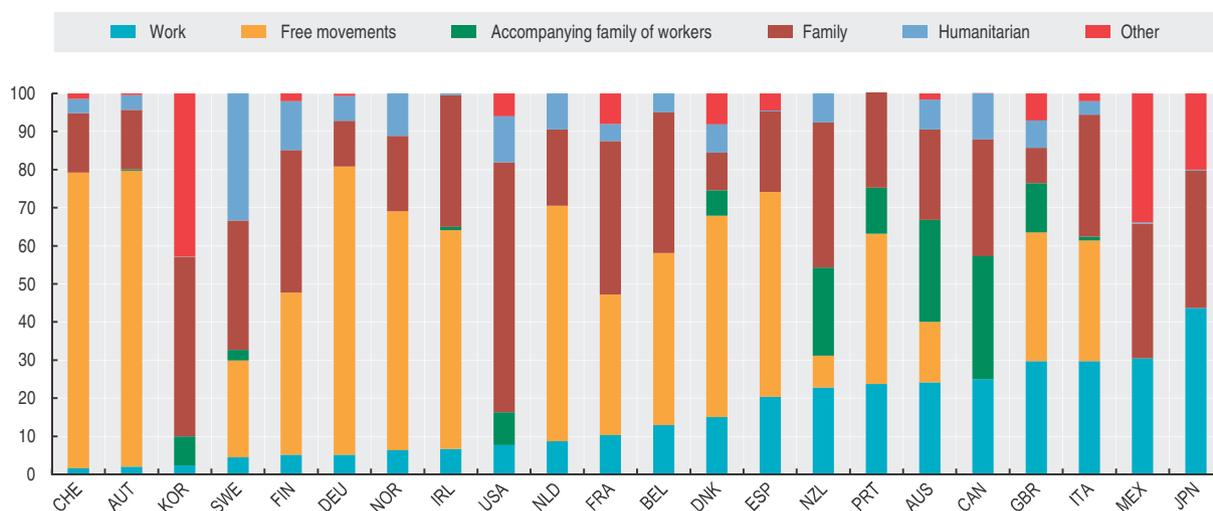

**Permanent inflows by category of entry**

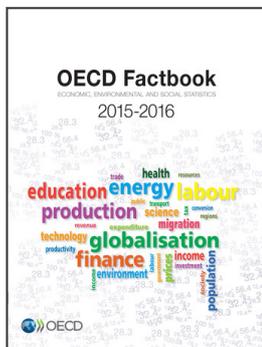
Thousands, 2013

	Work	Free movements	Accompanying family of workers	Family	Humanitarian	Other	Total
Australia	61.3	40.3	67.7	60.2	20.0	4.0	253.5
Austria	1.3	50.5	0.3	10.2	2.5	0.3	65.0
Belgium	7.8	27.3	-	22.3	3.0	..	60.3
Canada	64.7	..	83.3	79.6	31.0	0.0	258.6
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark	7.9	27.7	3.5	5.2	3.9	4.2	52.4
Estonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Finland	1.2	10.2	-	8.9	3.1	0.5	23.9
France	26.8	95.9	-	104.6	11.7	20.9	259.8
Germany	24.3	354.8	-	56.0	30.7	2.4	468.8
Greece	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	2.7	23.1	0.3	13.9	0.2	..	40.2
Israel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Italy	73.1	77.9	2.5	78.6	8.8	4.9	245.8
Japan	25.1	..	-	20.6	0.2	11.5	57.3
Korea	1.6	..	5.1	31.4	0.0	28.6	66.7
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	16.6	..	-	19.2	0.2	18.4	54.4
Netherlands	9.2	65.2	-	21.1	10.0	..	105.5
New Zealand	10.1	3.7	10.3	16.9	3.4	..	44.4
Norway	3.8	37.8	-	11.9	6.7	..	60.3
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portugal	6.4	10.6	3.2	9.6	0.1	3.2	27.0
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain	39.8	105.1	-	41.2	0.5	8.8	195.3
Sweden	3.9	22.0	2.4	29.5	28.9	..	86.7
Switzerland	2.2	105.8	-	21.3	5.1	2.0	136.2
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	86.4	98.3	37.6	27.1	20.7	20.7	291.0
United States	75.9	..	85.2	649.8	119.6	59.4	989.9
EU 28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

 1 2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933336420>
**Permanent inflows by category of entry**

Percentage of total permanent inflows, 2013


 1 2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933335265>



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