

# Unauthorised migration in OECD countries

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# Immigration in OECD countries

## □ Some history :

- Heavy "guest-worker" migration in Europe until the first oil-shock, when the gates were closed.
- Resumption of movements with fall of the Iron Curtain.
- Existence of (limited) free-movement regimes.

## □ Some features of migration in other countries:

- The granting of the right of permanent residence upon entry (green card) is unusual.
- Worker migration requires a job-offer prior to arrival.

## A quick overview of immigration in selected OECD countries

	Immigrant population	Immigrant long-term entries (2003 or 2004)	Main orientation of migration regime
	<u>Percent of the total population</u>		
Australia	23.0	0.74	Labour
Canada	19.3	0.70	Labour
France	10.0	0.26	Family
Germany	12.5	0.27	Family + "ethnic"
Sweden	12.0	0.46	Humanitarian
Switzerland	20.4	1.09	Labour
United Kingdom	8.3	0.40	Labour
United States	12.3	0.36	Family

## Immigration to other countries translated into US terms

- Legal migration to the United States is high in volume but low in relative terms compared to a lot of other countries:
  - Green cards at Canadian rates => 2.3 million rather than < 1 million
  - Seasonal workers at German rates => 1 million rather than < 100 thousand
  - Foreign students at French rates => 1 million foreign students rather than < 600 thousand
- 30% of immigrant population in the United States is unauthorised.

# Unauthorised migration and unauthorised work

## Unauthorised migration:

- ❑ Clandestine entry
- ❑ Fraudulent entry
- ❑ Legal entry + overstay
- ❑ Administratively-induced «illegality»

## Unauthorised work:

- ❑ Unauthorised migration => unauthorised work
- ❑ Legal entry (e.g. tourism) and illegal work  
Jobs may nonetheless «respect» the labour laws of the receiving country.

# The estimated size of the unauthorised immigrant population

The unauthorised immigrant population, selected OECD countries.

	<u>Estimates / lower bounds</u>		Year	Method of estimation
	Number	% of total population		
Australia	50 000	0.2	2005	Double card system
Japan	210 000	0.2	2005	Double card system
United States	10 300 000	3.6	2004 (18)	Residual method
Netherlands	180 000	1.1	2004	Capture / recapture
Switzerland	90 000	1.2	2005	Delphi method
Spain	690 000	1.6	2005 (4)	Regularisation
Italy	700 000	1.2	2002 (4)	Regularisation
Portugal	185 000	1.8	2001 (6)	Regularisation
Greece	370 000	3.4	2001 (3)	Regularisation

Note: The number in parentheses indicates the number of years since the previous major regularisation.

## Some determinants of unauthorised migration

Proximity +

High income differences +

Unfavourable conditions in sending countries +

Strong labour demand in receiving country +

Segmented labour markets

together with

Limited means of legal entry +

Relative ease of unauthorised entry and stay

# Proximity, GNI disparities and migration movements

Host country / origin country	Relative GNI/capita	Percent of all immigrants from specified country of origin
United States / Mexico	4.1	30
Greece / Albania	4.3	56
Spain / Ecuador	6.8	13
Spain / Morocco	6.1	14
Italy / Morocco	6.8	12
Italy / Albania	5.5	13

## Apprehensions, available work permits and unauthorised immigrants, Italy

	Foreigners arriving unauthorised along Italian Coast	<u>Work permit limits</u>		Regularised persons
		Total	non-seasonal	
1998	38 159	58 000	52 000	193 200
1999	49 999	58 000	52 000	
2000	26 817	83 000	63 000	
2001	20 143	89 400	50 000	
2002	23 719	79 500	19 500	634 728
2003	14 331	79 500	11 500	
2004	13 635	115 500	65 500	
2005	na	159 000	109 000	

# Apprehensions, permits granted and estimated unauthorised flows, United States

	Deportable aliens located by border patrol at southwest border	Green cards granted to Mexicans and Central Americans + all H2s	Estimated unauthorised flow from Mexico (Urban Institute)
1998	1 516 680	221 455	400 000
1999	1 537 000	260 975	
2000	1 643 679	327 116	
2001	1 235 718	384 423	
2002	929 809	392 976	485 000
2003	905 065	289 359	
2004	1 139 282	347 800	

# Unauthorised immigration and labour market patterns

## □ Southern Europe

- Low labour force participation
- Limited means of legal entry for low-skilled
- High unauthorised low-skilled migration
- Unauthorised immigrants in household occupations, construction, agriculture

## □ The United States

- High labour force participation
- Limited means of legal entry for low-skilled
- High unauthorised low-skilled migration
- Unauthorised immigrants (Mexico and Central America) in building cleaning and maintenance, food serving and preparation, construction and production occupations

## Satisfying the demand for (unwanted?) low-skilled workers

### □ Technology

- The example of Japan
- There are limits

### □ «Safe» legal sources of supply

- Working holidaymakers, foreign students and resettled refugees - Australia
- EU expansion - the United Kingdom

### □ Cross-border service provision and/or temporary workers

- Can this address chronic labour shortages?

### □ Letting the labour market adapt => stimulating supply through wage increases

## Limiting unauthorised migration: immigrant-oriented measures in use

- Geographic barriers
  - Australia, Japan vs United Kingdom
- Border control
- Visa requirements (return tickets, minimum funds, verifiable lodging in destination country)
- Identification and registration systems (Nordic countries)
- Within-country identification (denunciations), detainment and expulsion
- Re-admission agreements

## Limiting unauthorised migration: employer-oriented measures in use

- Fines and penalties
- Worksite inspections
- Employee logs
- Computerisation of identification /  
work-related documents

## Labour market problems with potential impacts on (further) unauthorised migration

- Cross-border employer / employee matching for low-skilled workers
- Continuing labour shortages and temporary migration - the guest-worker experience
- Chronic dependence on unauthorised migrants and low pay levels

## Some recent regularisation experiences - Italy and Spain

### □ Requirements:

- Must have been in the country for at least « x » months.
- Must have an employment offer/contract in hand.
- Must pay (with the employer) « y » months of social security contributions.

□ Heavy turnout => obvious preference for legality.

□ \$ 64 000 question => Why do employers come forward?

## Redirecting unauthorised migration into legal channels

Some preconditions:

- ❑ Permit numbers commensurate with labour market demand
- ❑ Identifying / establishing ways for matching supply and demand
- ❑ Ability to process and issue work permit requests efficiently
- ❑ Building in positive incentives (for immigrants) to encourage legality
- ❑ Involvement of communities and employer groups => making illegal work unrespectable

## Dealing with the past

- Eliminating application backlogs
- Upping numerical limits on categories likely to contain unauthorised immigrants

## and the future

- Sharing responsibility for border control (in return for increased possibilities for legal entry ?)

## Unauthorised migration in the United States

- ❑ Current situation represents almost 20 years of accumulated entries / overstays
- ❑ No clear sign that enforcement measures have had a major impact
- ❑ Positive effect of unauthorised migration on economy vs negative effect on respect for law
- ❑ Options : Continuing with the status quo vs alternatives

Addressing the issue involves some significant changes in immigration policies.

"Between the inspector who carries out his duty and the migrant in search of his destiny, the issues are not of the same nature. This is the root of the problem."

Georges Tapinos

*See Trends in International Migration (OECD, 1999), "Clandestine Immigration: Economic and Political Issues"*