

	New regulations for employees from the Central and Eastern European new member states since 1 May 2006	Restrictions
Austria	The restrictions of the first period (2004-2006) remain valid.	Citizens of the eight new member states still require approval according to the foreign labour laws in order to take up employment in Austria. Because of the restrictive stipulations of this law, work permits are only granted after a strict labour-market examination for key labourers within the framework of an annually determined migration quota.
Belgium	The restrictions of the first period (2004-2006) remain valid.	Employees from the EU-8 countries need a work permit. This is only granted if proof of a job is offered. The application for the permit is made by the employer. The permit is only granted after a labour-market examination, i.e. it is only granted if there is no suitable applicant from an EU-15 country.
Denmark	The previous regulations remain valid.	The application procedure has been simplified. The labour market is generally open for employees from the eight countries. These may stay in Denmark for up to six months for the purpose of job hunting but do not receive any governmental assistance/social services in this time. Work permits are issued for up to one year (extension possible) and are only valid in connection with a contract of employment. Participation in strikes and other labour conflicts is forbidden.
Finland	As of 1 May 2006 all restrictions were lifted regarding workers from the eight new member states. The complete free movement of labour in the EU now applies.	
France	Since May 2006 partial opening of the labour market for workers from the new member states.	The sectors for foreign workers have been opened where great need prevails, for example social and health services, hotels, transport, construction. All other areas are excluded from the free movement of labour. The government plans to proceed step-by-step.
Germany	The restrictions of the first period (2004-2006) remain valid.	Employees from EU-8 countries must apply for a work permit. Only after a labour-market examination, in which citizens of the EU-8 are treated with less priority than citizens from the EU-15 (but preferentially vis-à-vis applications from third-party countries) can a permit be granted.
Greece	As of 1 May 2006 all restrictions were lifted regarding workers from the eight new member states. The complete free movement of labour in the EU now applies.	
Ireland	No special limitations on workers from the new member states. (since 2004).	

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Italy	On 21 June 2006, the government revoked the quota for workers from the EU-8, which had amounted to 170,000 per annum, and opened the labour market. With this step there are no special limitations of workers from the new member states.	
Luxembourg	The restrictions of the first period remain valid.	Workers from the EU-8 countries require a work permit just as citizens of non-EU countries. The permit application is made by the employer. It is only granted if the employer can demonstrate that he has tried to find an EU-15 citizen for the position.
Netherlands	Since 1 May 2007: No special limitations on workers from the EU-8. Restrictions for workers from Bulgaria and Romania.	For workers from these two countries a work permit will be issued whenever there are no workers available in the Netherlands or other EU Member States and the employer concerned can offer proper working conditions and accommodation. Temporary exemptions may be granted for sectors in which there is a labour shortage.
Portugal	As of 1 May 2006 all restrictions were lifted regarding workers from the eight new member states. The complete free movement of labour in the EU now applies.	
Spain	As of 1 May 2006 all restrictions were lifted regarding workers from the eight new member states. The complete free movement of labour in the EU now applies.	
Sweden	No special limitations on workers from the new member states. (since 2004).	
United Kingdom	No special limitations on workers from the new member states. (since 2004).	
<p>Most countries of the EU-15 have bilateral agreements with the individual new member states that allow specific labour migration (seasonal work, contingents for specific industries, etc.) or temporarily limit this migration.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>EU-15: Nations, that were member states of the European Union before 1 May 2004 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom).</p> <p>EU-8: The eight Central and Eastern European Countries that became members of the European Union on 1 May 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia).</p>		

Source: Compilation of the Ifo Institute of Economic Research.