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Session I – Supporting paper

**A short note on the annual migration figures in the light of the 2001 Luxembourg
Census results**

Submitted by STATEC, Luxembourg

In Luxembourg, international migration plays an important part in demographic change. Net Immigration is two or three times higher than natural increase. So, it's easy to understand that the reliability of the annual population estimates relies very strongly on good migration figures. Comparing estimated figures on 1st of January 2001 to those of the Census, which took place on 15th of February, should provide interesting indications on possible distortions as a result of the incorrect registration of migration flows.

Total population by citizenship

	Estimate 01/01/2001	15/01/2001 (Census)	Census/ Estimate (in %)
Total.....	441 300	439 539	-0.40
Nationals.....	276 600	277 254	0.24
Foreigners.....	164 700	162 285	-1.47
France.....	20 140	19 979	-0.80
Belgium.....	15 080	14 800	-1.86
German.....	10 600	10 052	-5.17
Netherlands.....	3 850	3 692	-4.10
Italy.....	20 250	18 996	-6.19
Portugal.....	58 450	58 657	0.35
Spain.....	3 030	2 799	-7.62
UK.....	4 850	4 331	-10.70
Ireland.....	1 140	894	-21.58
Greece.....	1 350	1 147	-15.04
Denmark.....	2 190	1 903	-13.11
Austria.....	570	548	-3.86
Sweden.....	1 150	1 130	-1.74
Finland.....	700	763	9.00
Other.....	21 350	22 594	5.83

Concerning *total population*, the figures provided by the two sources are very close. This seems rather unexpected, considering that due to under registration of departures between two consecutive censuses the 2001 estimate should be much higher than the Census figures.

There exist two major explanations:

- Number of communes just doctored the figures in order to have higher population generating positive financial spin-offs.
- The Census figures include all the asylum seekers, although according to the directive of the Ministry of Interior (Home Office) transmitted by the NSI to the communes, only refugees (Geneva Convention) or asylum seekers with well-defined permits to stay should have been considered as residents. But most of the communes classified all the asylum seekers as residents irrespective of the type of their permit of stay. Because it turned out that it would be practically impossible to check the individual legal situations, the Government finally decided that all the asylum seekers belong to the 'population de résidence habituelle'. Though most communes registered the asylum seekers arriving in Luxembourg during the nineties as arrivals in their population registers and transmitted them to the Central Population Register from which STATEC gets the annual migration statistics, this might have not been the case for all of them.

The breakdown by *citizenship* shows a contrasted picture. A priori, one could think that the differences between the two sources would be all the more significant as is the place taken by migratory flows in the intercensal evolution. The small gap observed for the nationals (-0,4%) where these flows are relatively unimportant seems to confirm it. On the other hand, in small communities like the British, the Irishmen, the Greeks or the Dane, whose annual variations come almost exclusively from migration very strong divergence appear. It could also be because some of them are mainly made up of households of international civil servants that these important divergence do appear. It is indeed known that the recording of these households in the population registers which is made most of the time by the intermediary of the offices of personnel of the institutions where they work is often defective.

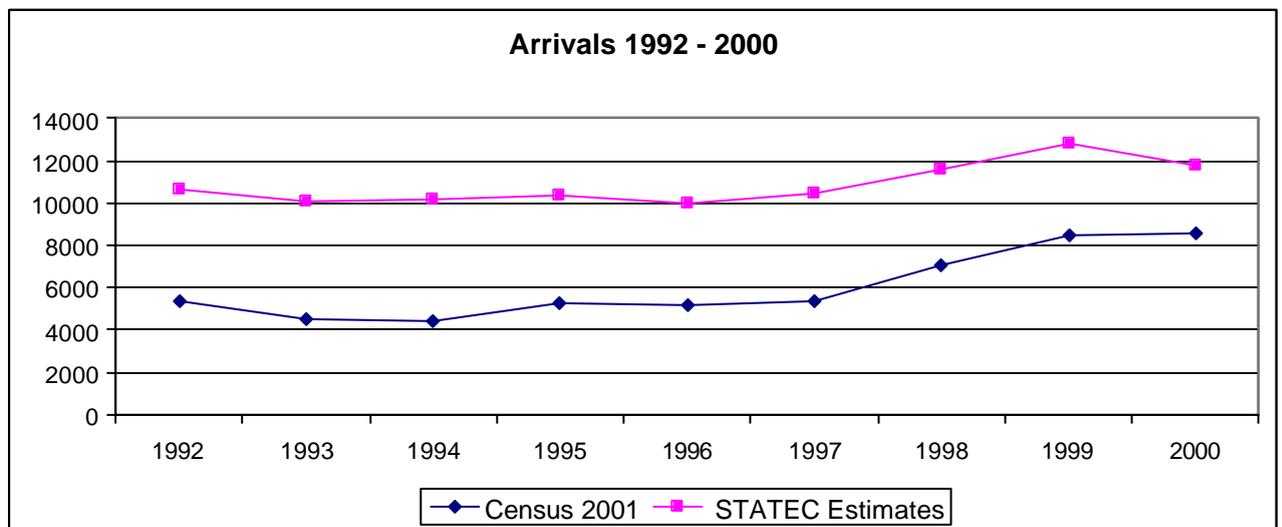
The case of the Portuguese who represent a little more than one third of the total foreign population is very interesting. If the arrivals and the departures always remain significant, annual natural increase ended up supplanting annual net immigration. This evolution has perhaps something to do with the small difference between the two figures.

Population by age-group and citizenship

Age group	Nationals			Foreigners		
	2001 Census	STATEC Estimate	Census/Estimate (in %)	2001 Census	STATEC Estimate	Census/Estimate (in %)
0-4	15 804	15 711	0.59	12 516	12 980	-3.57
5-9	16 871	16 815	0.33	11 448	12 009	-4.67
10-14	16 662	16 554	0.65	9 896	9 971	-0.75
15-19	15 419	15 293	0.82	9 314	8 636	7.85
20-24	14 726	14 604	0.84	11 152	10 712	4.11
25-29	15 125	15 233	-0.71	15 989	15 784	1.30
30-34	19 397	19 452	-0.28	18 347	17 266	6.26
35-39	21 525	21 587	-0.29	17 390	16 596	4.78
40-44	21 701	21 755	-0.25	13 743	13 184	4.24
45-49	19 717	19 725	-0.04	11 205	11 675	-4.03
50-54	17 384	17 362	0.13	10 263	10 976	-6.50
55-59	15 681	15 599	0.53	6 753	7 372	-8.40
60-64	15 504	15 534	-0.19	4 937	5 775	-14.51
65-69	14 881	14 965	-0.56	3 667	4 196	-12.61
70-74	14 751	14 628	0.84	2 751	3 227	-14.75
75-79	10 274	10 120	1.52	1 720	2 124	-19.02
80+	11 832	11 663	1.45	1 194	2 217	-46.14
	277 254	276 600	0.24	162 285	164 700	-1.47

Source : STATEC

Another comparison relates to the *age structure*. In the foreign population, one can notice that below 15 years and that above 44 years, the figures of the Census are lower than those of the estimates. The difference is particularly significant for the 80 years and more. It seems that a certain number of people gone back to their country of origin after retirement remained in the files. Concerning young people, various explanations can be advanced. Most probably some of them live, actually, with other members of the family in their country of origin. One can also think that a small number acquired Luxembourg nationality at the same time as one their parents. In our statistical system, changes of nationality of the minors are registered imperfectly. On the contrary, between 15 and 44 years, where migration flows are most significant, census figures are higher. That could mean that part of the arrivals was not registered or that this registration had not been reported to the NSI. Again, this could have been the case for asylum seekers.



Each individual not born in Luxembourg was to indicate the *year of entry* in Luxembourg. The item not response for this variable slightly exceeded 8%. While comparing, over the period 1992-2000, the census figures concerning the number of persons who arrived a given year with the arrivals of the annual migration statistic for the same year, one can notice several things. In the census, arrivals are lower than the corresponding number of the annual statistics. This can be understood easily, all the newcomers registered by the annual migration statistic did not reside any more in Luxembourg at the time of the census. Moreover, this variation grows smaller as one approaches the census year. It also appears that if the levels are not the same, the profiles of the two curves are close.

The indications on the year of arrival made it possible to highlight important changes in the socio-economic structure of immigrants who came to Luxembourg between 1990 and 2000. By considering the educational attainment level, one will notice that if at the beginning of period, a little more than one third of them had not exceeded the primary education level, this share fell to less than 15% at the end of the period. On the other hand, the proportion of those having a university diploma went up from some 20% to more than 40%.

Employment by year of entry and educational attainment level

Year of Entry	Primary Level	1st level Secondary	Upper secondary level	Third level	Other	Non-responses	Total
	%						
1990	36.6	27.1	9.5	17.9	2.8	6.1	100.0
1991	34.1	26.8	9.6	20.0	3.2	6.4	100.0
1992	28.9	30.8	10.8	19.1	3.5	6.9	100.0
1993	29.1	27.3	11.0	23.1	3.3	6.1	100.0
1994	24.0	27.7	11.4	27.7	2.9	6.4	100.0
1995	22.5	26.2	11.8	29.8	3.5	6.3	100.0
1996	19.7	25.2	10.6	35.7	3.1	5.6	100.0
1997	14.7	22.6	13.6	39.9	2.9	6.2	100.0
1998	15.9	21.0	12.2	39.2	3.7	8.0	100.0
1999	13.4	19.8	12.9	42.3	3.6	8.0	100.0
2000	13.9	19.1	12.4	42.5	3.7	8.4	100.0
1990 - 2000	22.1	24.3	11.5	31.9	3.3	6.9	100.0

Source : STATEC - RP2001