



THE SCALE AND SCOPE OF FREE MOBILITY

Evidence from OECD work

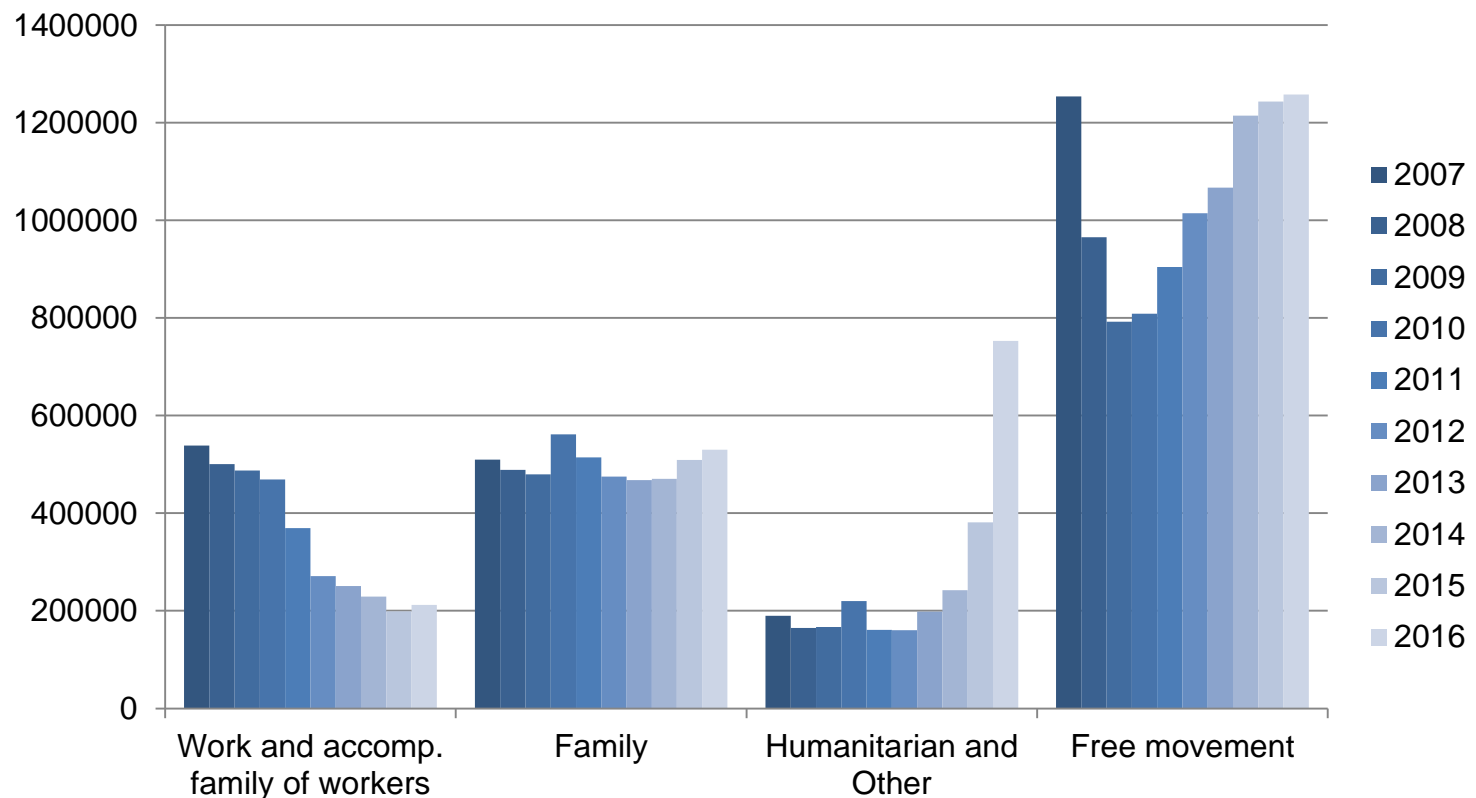
Thomas Liebig
International Migration Division

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Free mobility has been a key driver for changes in migration flows in Europe

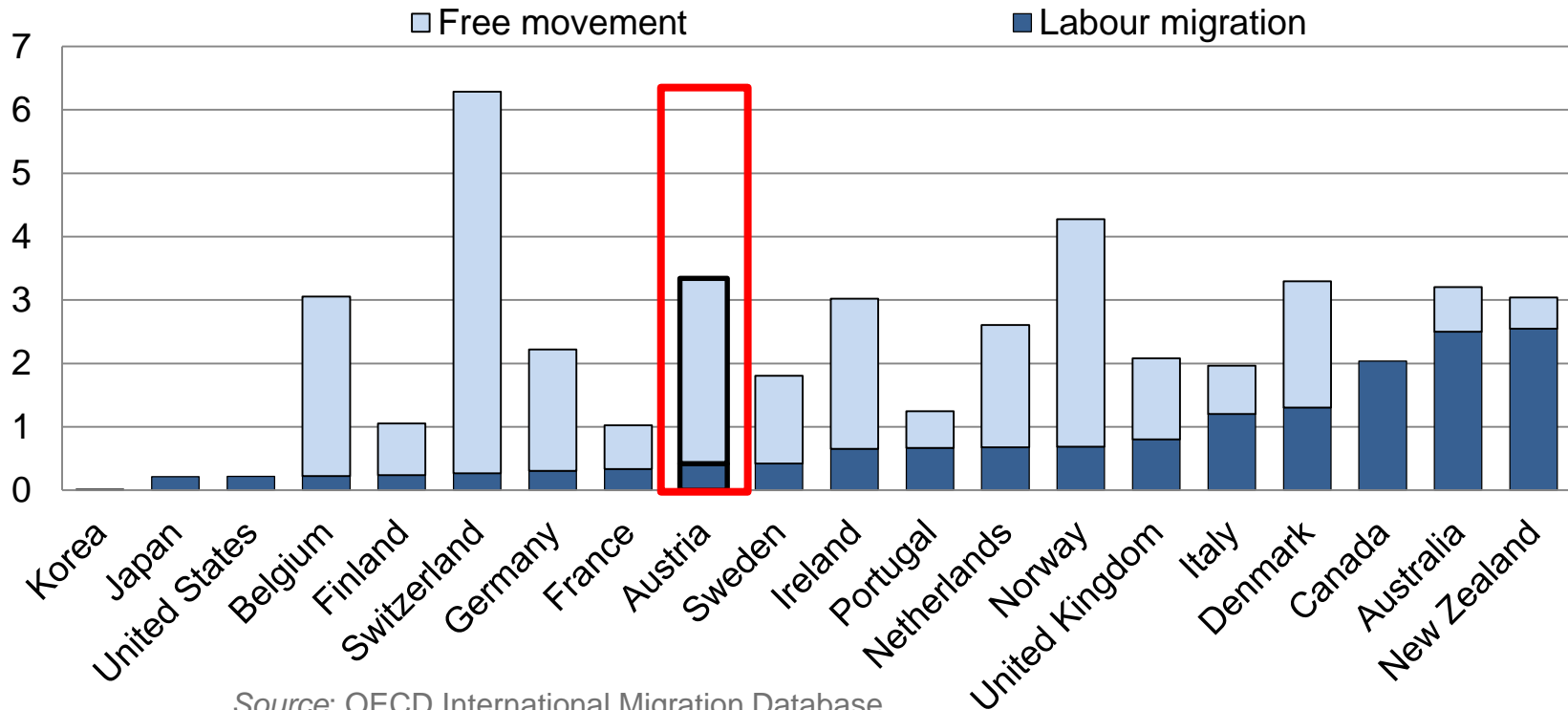
Permanent migration flows to EU countries by category of entry, 2007-2016





In most EU countries, free mobility is more important than managed labour migration

Permanent labour migration per 1 000 inhabitants, 2010-2015



Source: OECD International Migration Database.

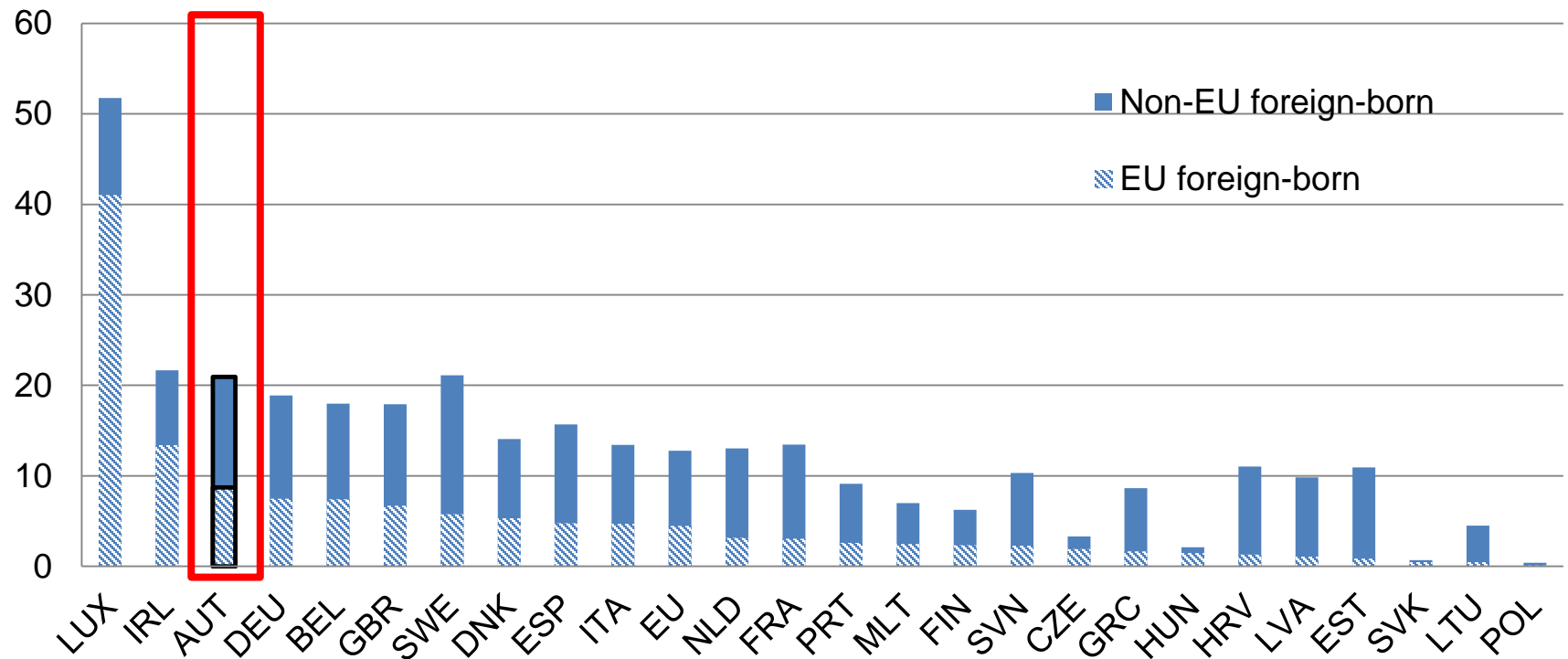
Note: Estimates of free movement are based on the assumption that about 50% of permanent migration is labour-related.

In terms of permanent migration flows, in Austria and Germany in 2015/16, free mobility has been more important in quantitative terms than refugee



One in twelve persons living in Austria has come from another EU country

Share and composition of foreign-born population (in %), persons aged 15 to 64, 2015/2016

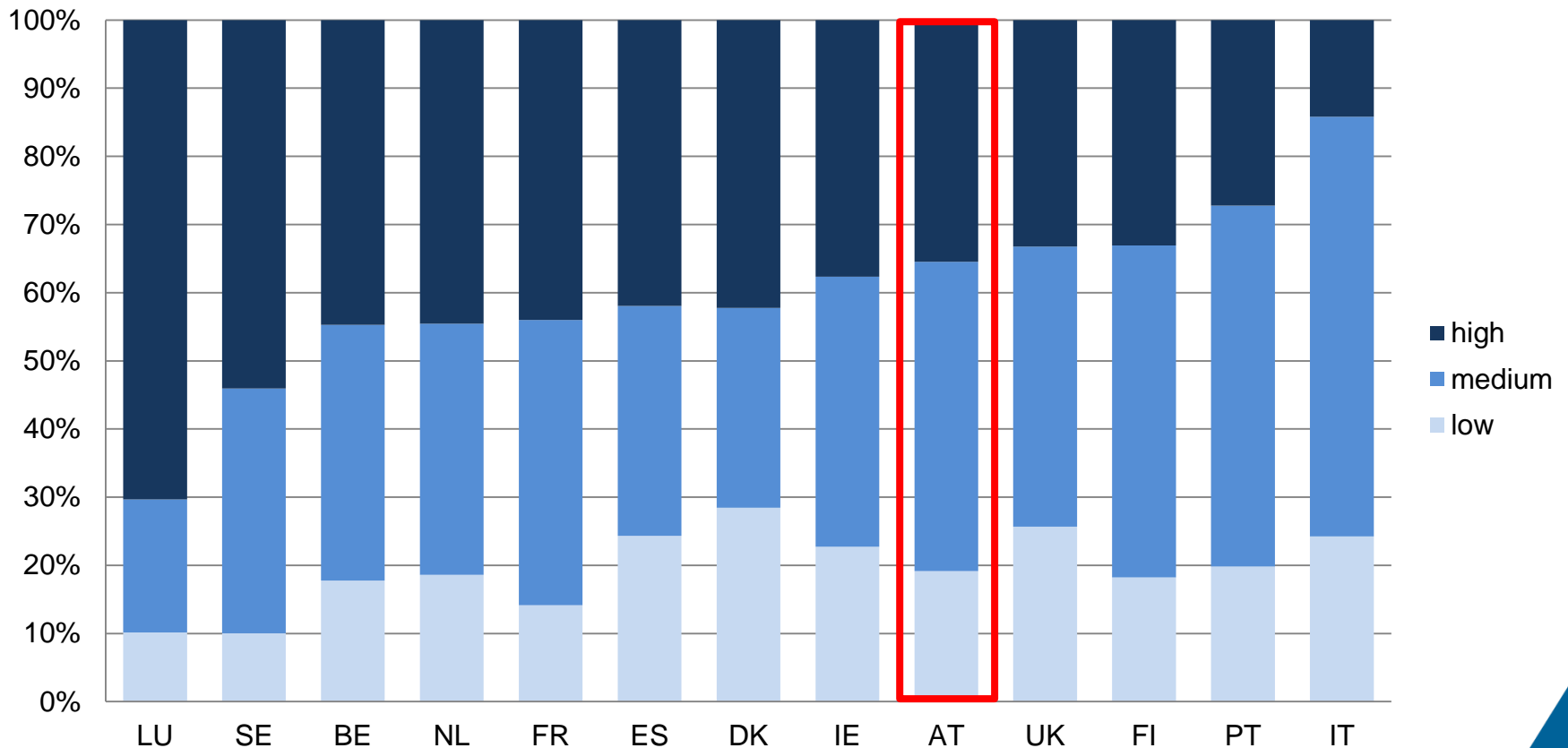


Source: OECD Secretariat calculations on the basis of labour force survey data.



Intra-EU migrants are predominantly working in low- and medium-skilled jobs

Occupation level of employed intra-EU migrants, arrived less than 5 years ago, 2015/2016

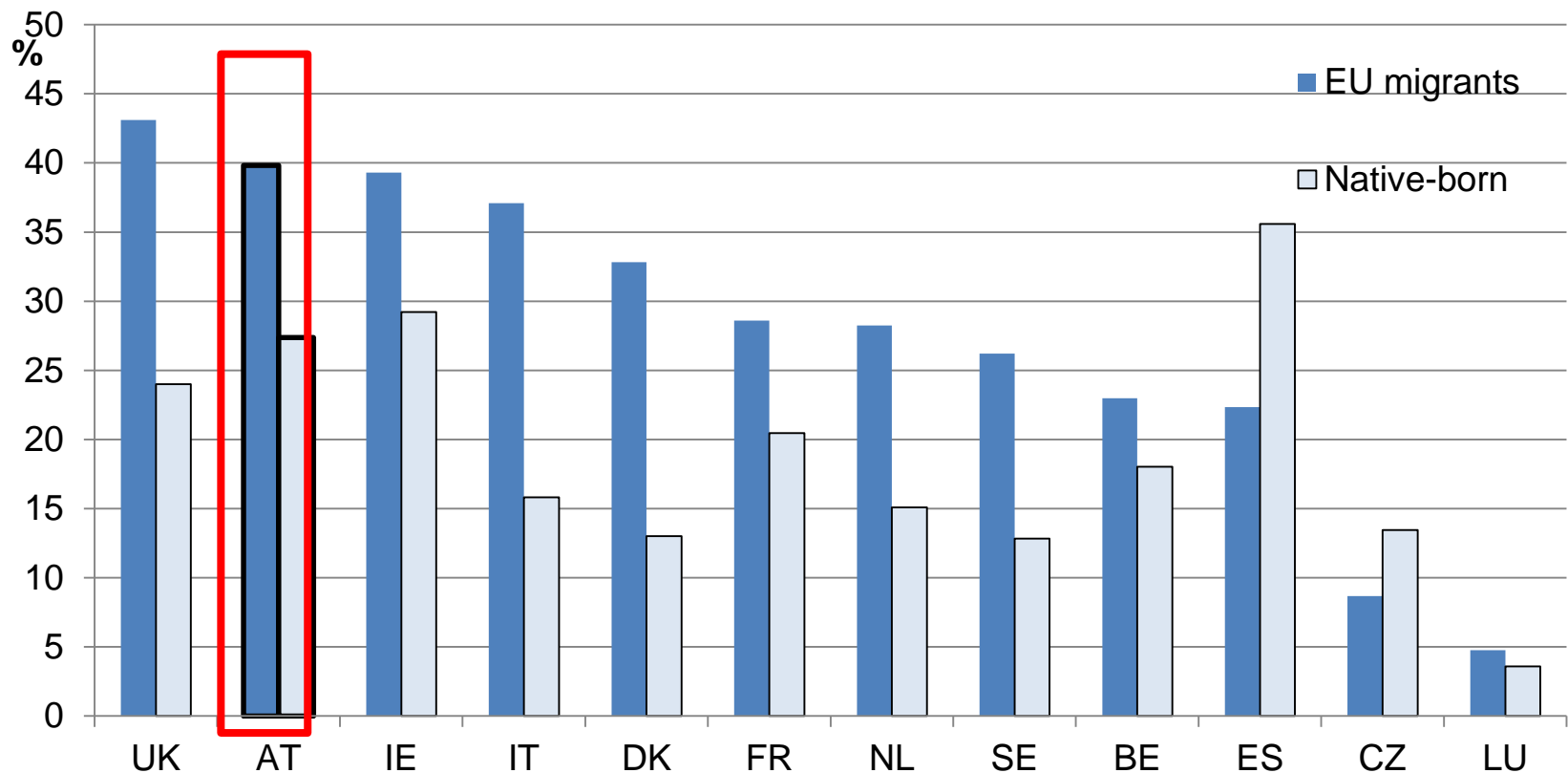


Source: OECD Secretariat calculations on the basis of labour force survey data.



Many recent EU migrants are overqualified for their jobs

Percent of highly-educated workers employed in low and medium skilled occupations, EU migrants arrived less than 5 years ago compared with natives, 2015/2016



Source: OECD Secretariat calculations on the basis of labour force survey data.



Free mobility has alleviated asymmetric shocks in Europe

- Migration in Europe has contributed to lowering regional unemployment disparities in Europe; mobility reaction to the economic crisis was almost identical to that in the US
- If all measured population changes in Europe were due to migration for employment purposes, up to about a quarter of the asymmetric labour market shock would be absorbed by migration within a year (Jauer, Liebig, Martin and Puhani – forthcoming in JOPE)
- However, in Europe and especially in the Eurozone, the reaction has been largely due from migration of recent EU accession country citizens (i.e. outside the Eurozone) as well as of third-country nationals



To conclude...

- Free mobility has played a non-negligible role as shock absorber
- Free mobility is also much more geographically dispersed than non-EU migration (Diaz Ramirez, Liebig, Thoreau and Veneri 2018)
- Globally, intra-EU foreign-born are well-integrated (OECD and EU 2015; forthcoming); and their children even tend to outperform their peers with native-born parents (OECD 2018)
- Free mobility mainly filled gaps in medium- and low-skilled segments of the labour market – i.e. areas where recruitment from third countries tends to be more difficult
- Some uncertainties about the future evolution



For further information on the OECD's work on migration and integration:

www.oecd.org/migration

Thomas.Liebig@oecd.org

