

## Portuguese Republic



### About Portugal

**Capital City:**

- Lisbon

**Monetary Unit:**

- Euro (EUR)

**Major Languages:**

- Portuguese

**Main Exports:**

- Agricultural & food products
- Wine
- Oil products
- Chemical products
- Plastics & rubber

### Our Immigration Services in Portugal

**Business Travel** – Guidance & assistance with visa applications filed with the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs via its consulates abroad

**Temporary Work Permits** – For foreign nationals who will work in Portugal and filed with the Portuguese Immigration Office (Serviços de Estanteiras e Fronteiras, SEF)

**Permanent Residency** – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Portugal for extended assignments or permanent relocation

### The Portuguese Economy

Home to over 10.7 million people, Portugal has become a diversified and increasingly service oriented economy. Portugal is a founding member of the EU, the Eurozone, and the Latin Union. It is also a member of the UN and NATO. According to the World Bank, the Portuguese economy is the forty-third largest in the world and one of the OECD economies with the highest GCP growth rate. The country's ties with the African continent and Brazil and its transatlantic link with the U.S. provide a cost-effective internationalization base.

Portugal's main trade partners are mainly located within the EU, including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK. Portuguese-speaking African (PALOP) countries comprise an important partnership for Portugal. Additionally, the Maghreb and MERCOSUL countries have been of rising importance to Portugal in terms of trade. Over the past years, the Portuguese economy has made a significant change in manufacturing moving from high dependence on textiles, footwear and others to new sectors involving larger incorporation of technology, including motor vehicles and components, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and new technologies.

Despite the country's economic success throughout the past two decades, the country has fallen behind compared to the rest of the EU. The Portuguese government is taking measures to control their economy. Strict measures have been implemented, including a public salary reductions and increase in value-added tax to reduce the budget deficit. Additionally, the government is focusing on boosting exports and implementing labor market reforms to try to raise GDP growth and increase Portugal's competitiveness.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/2q36jd>;  
<http://tinyurl.com/6z8c8z6>

For detailed information about Portugal's Economic Outlook, visit the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3zvwxc>

### Business Travel to Portugal

Portugal is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and party to the Schengen Agreements. Based upon the Schengen Agreements, individuals with passports issued by member states are currently permitted to travel without passport and visa controls within Schengen territory (<http://tinyurl.com/3p8ol6e>). Foreign nationals who are not members of the Schengen territory must present a passport and may require a visa for entry to Portugal. Further, there is a strict, cumulative limit of 90 days within a 180-day period that an individual may spend as a visitor within the Schengen Area.

Thus, foreign nationals who are not part of the Schengen area or otherwise exempt from presenting a passport for admission and wish to travel to Portugal for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. U.S. and Canadian citizens generally are not required to obtain a visa in advance of business travel within the 90 day limitation. Individuals who will require a visa to enter Portugal, including Indian and Chinese nationals, should plan to apply well in advance of travel.

Business travelers may enter Portugal to perform a variety of non-remunerative activities while in Portugal, including professional and commercial activities such as consultations, negotiations, business meetings, marketing, and product promotion activities, and conferences. Business activities for compensation are prohibited. The Portuguese

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains a list of foreign entry requirements at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3l6bjm3>

## Living in Portugal

Portugal has a rich and unique cultural heritage. It has the nineteenth highest quality of life in the world, making it attractive to foreign nationals. Economic immigration is a recent phenomenon in Portugal and, in 2009, there were over 450,000 foreign nationals with legal residency status. Immigration now is helping to sustain the population in the labor force, whose rate of growth has not been able to compensate for the ageing population. Portugal's infrastructure makes it an attractive jurisdiction for multinational companies such as Nissan, Cisco and Siemens and their workers. Many expatriates settle in Lisbon or Porto.

## Portuguese Business Culture

Portugal is a traditional and conservative country. In this same regard, business dress is conservative. Women usually wear dresses, suits or pantsuits, whereas men wear a jacket and tie. Portugal has a relationship driven culture, where initial meetings are used to build relationships and trust. Meetings are designed more to express a point of view rather than finding a common ground.

Punctuality to business meetings is very relaxed but it is expected of you to be on time. Expect to wait 15-30 minutes for your counterpart to arrive. Business cards and other materials should be translated into Portuguese.

## Portuguese Work Permit Process

1

If you are a member of the EU, you may live and work in Portugal without special working visas - you must obtain a Residency Card nonetheless

Non-EU member must apply for a work visa at the Portuguese Embassy in their respective countries and obtain a Residency Card from the Portuguese Immigration Office

2

Once the work authorization is approved:

If outside of Portugal and a visa is required, the foreign national must apply for a corresponding visa at a Portuguese Consulate/Embassy – OR –

If within Portugal, the foreign national may be allowed to change their status as a visitor to work permit holder

## How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Portugal

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Portugal. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping

and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Portuguese Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities with an immigration basic file in place may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Portugal. Further, most businesses are obligated to at least employ 90% of Portuguese workers. Thus, if your company's Portuguese office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at [jill.bussey@goellaw.com](mailto:jill.bussey@goellaw.com) or +1 703.796.9881.

\*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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