



Home Office

User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics



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1 Introduction

This 'User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics' is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes on the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics releases.

Statistics covered

The Immigration Statistics release provides information on the following broad topics based on the Home Office's operation of immigration control and related processes, including the work of UK Border Force and UK Visas and Immigration. Most of the statistics therefore relate to people who are subject to immigration control (i.e. from outside the European Economic Area).

- Visas: entry clearance visas granted
- Admissions: passengers allowed entry and passengers initially refused entry
- Extensions: people given permission to extend their stay
- Settlement: people given permission to stay permanently
- Citizenship: people granted British citizenship
- Asylum: people applying for asylum
- Detention: people detained under Immigration Act powers
- Removals and voluntary departures: people who leave the country either voluntarily or forcibly, whom, in the main, the Home Office has sought to remove
- European Economic Area: information on nationals from the EEA
- Work: immigration for work
- Study: immigration for study
- Family: immigration for family reasons

Purpose

Immigration Statistics provides figures on the levels and trends in numbers of people who are covered by the UK's immigration control and related processes, based on a range of administrative and other data sources used. The purpose of the statistics is: to give an overview of the work of the Home Office, including that of UK Border Force and UK Visas and Immigration, and other government departments and agencies dealing with immigration; to help inform users including the government, Parliament, the media and the wider public; and to support the development and monitoring of policy. Currently, these statistics are published four times a year, in February, May, August and November; with detailed annual tables updated once a year, generally in August.

The UK Statistics Authority assessed the release in autumn 2011 and published the assessment report on 2 February 2012, continuing the designation of the release as National Statistics.

In general, the commentary on each topic is intended to provide an overview of trends over several years, subject to data availability, and does not necessarily focus on the latest quarterly data (e.g. if substantive trends indicated are unchanged).

The current system of immigration control is based on the Immigration Act 1971, which came into force on 1 January 1973, and subsequent amendments to the law. Policy and operational changes, as well as overall factors which influence the levels of immigration, such as the economic climate, can affect the figures. The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can affect the number of decisions made. Further information on the work of the Home Office can be found in its annual report and in publications referred to in the **Other sources of information on immigration and migration** section of this User Guide.



The Immigration Statistics release does not give details on the numbers leaving the UK, as the Home Office does not count everyone out of the country, or on the numbers of foreign nationals living in the UK. Alongside the information provided by the Home Office concerning immigration control, official figures on international migration (immigration, emigration and net migration) and on the number of foreign-born nationals in the UK are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Further information on related data is available in the **Other sources of information on immigration and migration** section of this User Guide.

Where are the latest published statistics?

The latest Immigration Statistics release, including data tables and commentary, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

The dates of future editions of Immigration Statistics are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>.

Information on how the Home Office complies with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics#official-statistics>.

The Immigration Statistics release is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit under the direct line management of a Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics.

Feedback and enquiries

We welcome feedback on Immigration Statistics, which can be provided by email or in writing, or via the Migration Statistics User Forum <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=MIGRATION-STATS>. A short survey on the immigration Statistics release is also included here: <http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/ImmigrationStatisticsSurvey>.

If you have any questions about Immigration Statistics, please send an email to:
MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

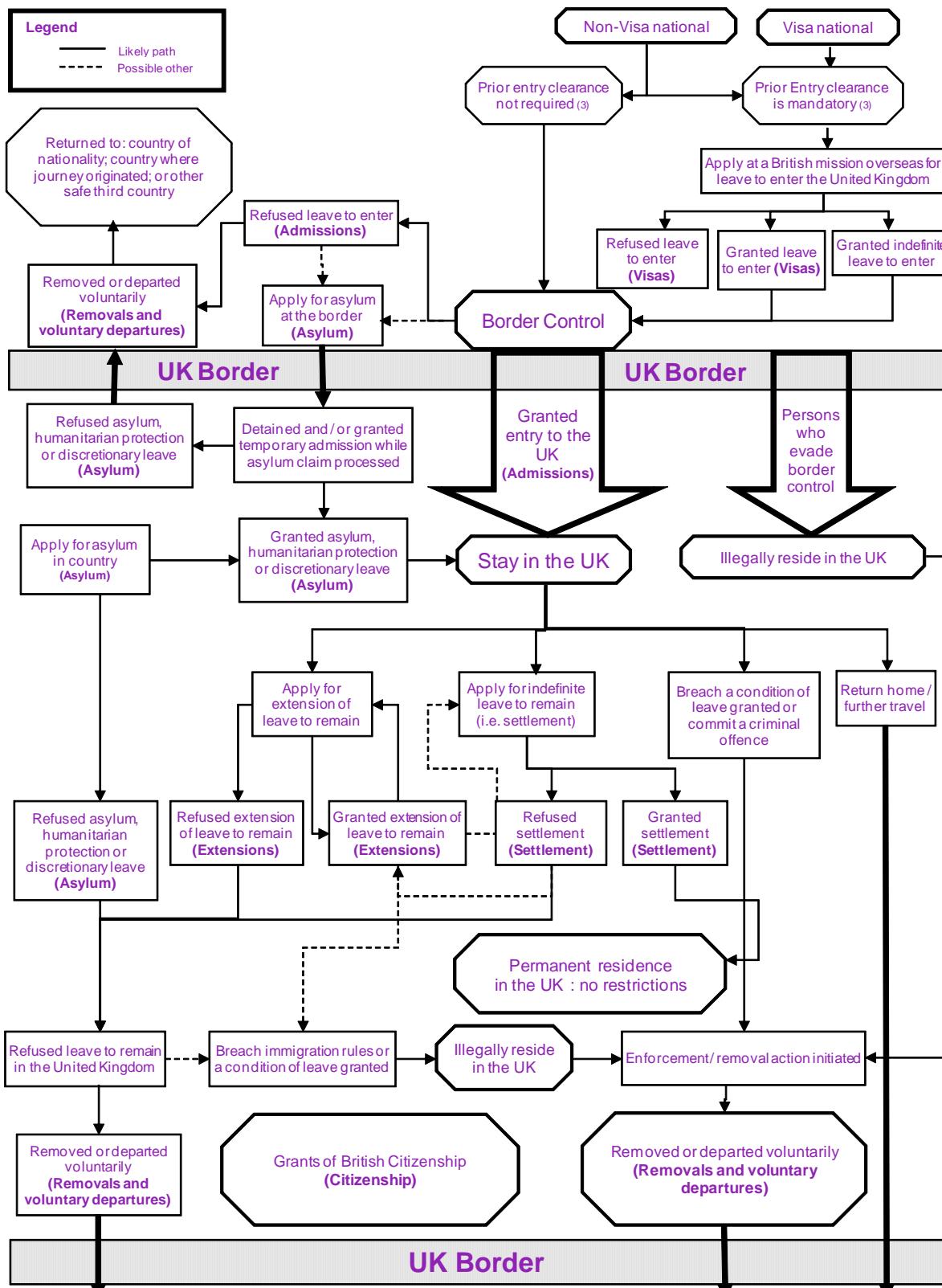
Alternatively, write to:

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Summary flowchart - Control of Immigration (1)(2)



(1) This flowchart provides a summary of immigration control and does not include a reference to all aspects of immigration; including people detained under Immigration Rules (information on which can be found in the 'Detention' topic). The chart also excludes references to resettled refugees and persons that 'switch' their immigration status.

(2) For definitions, please refer to the glossary of terms section of this user guide.

(3) Non-visa nationals seeking to enter the United Kingdom in a visa category or for longer than 6 months require a visa, whereas those seeking to enter the United Kingdom for 6 months or less do not.



2 Glossary of terms

This glossary accompanies the Immigration Statistics releases. It is intended to give an overview of the terms, rather than a full technical description.

If there are terms in the Immigration Statistics releases that you would like to be explained in this glossary, please contact: MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Acronyms

HSMP	Highly Skilled Migrant Programme	SAWS	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme
ILR	Indefinite Leave to Remain	SBS	Sector Based Scheme
NS	National Statistic	UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child
PBS	Points-based system	WRS	Worker Registration Scheme

Terms

Within an explanation of a term, words in bold are explained elsewhere in the glossary.

Accession is the event of becoming a Member State of the **European Union**.

Accession Registration Certificates are documents issued to Croatian nationals conferring permission to work, where they are subject to the requirement to obtain such permission before commencing employment in the UK and to highly skilled individuals who are exempt from this requirement to confirm their right to work.

Accession Worker Cards were documents issued to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals from 2007 to 2013 conferring permission to work, where they were subject to the requirement to obtain such permission before commencing employment in the UK and to highly skilled individuals who were exempt from this requirement to confirm their right to work.

After-entry application to vary leave to remain is an application from a person wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK. An individual is required to apply for an extension or change in status before their existing permission to enter or stay has expired. Within the Immigration Rules, an individual may make more than one application in any given year.

An **age-disputed application** is when an asylum applicant claim that they are under 18 years of age is doubted and they have little or no evidence to support their claimed age. The Home Office policy is to treat an applicant whose physical appearance/demeanour **very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age** as adults until there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed. All other applicants will be afforded the benefit of doubt and treated as children until a careful, case law compliant, assessment of their age has been completed by a local authority.

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) refers to a range of programmes that are available to individuals who are in the asylum system or who are irregular migrants and who wish to return home permanently to either their (non-EEA) country of origin or to a third country where they are permanently admissible. The Home Office has been funding AVR programmes since 1999. They are delivered by Choices, a subsidiary of the independent charity Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, by the International Organization for Migration).



An **asylum applicant** is a person who either: (a) makes a request to be recognised as a **refugee** under the Refugee Convention on the basis that it would be contrary to the UK's obligations under the Convention for him to be removed from or required to leave the UK, or (b) otherwise makes a request for international protection.

Border Force Officers (previously known as Immigration or UK Border Agency Officers) working at the primary control point are responsible for checking the right of entry to the UK of all individuals arriving at seaports, airports and via the Channel Tunnel. As well as examining documentation and goods, they may gather intelligence.

British citizens are people with citizenship usually through a connection with the UK: birth, adoption, descent, registration, or naturalisation. British citizens have the **right of abode** in the UK.

British overseas citizens are people connected with the former British colonies who, for the most part, did not acquire citizenship of the new country when it attained independence. Hong Kong British dependent territories citizens became British overseas citizens on 1 July 1997 if they would otherwise have been stateless.

British overseas territories citizens (BOTCs) are people with citizenship through a connection with a British overseas territory such as Gibraltar, St Helena, etc. Known as 'British dependent territories citizens' before February 2002. Hong Kong British dependent territories citizens lost that citizenship automatically on 1 July 1997 but may still hold another form of British nationality. However, from 21 May 2002, BOTCs became British citizens.

Citizenship is the term used in the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to define the country for which a migrant is a passport holder. This refers specifically to the passport being used to enter/leave the UK at the time of interview. It does not refer to any other passport(s) which migrants with multiple citizenships may hold.

A **Certificate of Sponsorship** is required for skilled workers (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5). It is required as part of the application process for entry clearance and leave to remain.

The **Common Travel Area** consists of the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

A **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies** is required for students (Tier 4). It is required as part of the application process for entry clearance and leave to remain. Any organisation who wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the Home Office's 'Register of Sponsors'.

Commonwealth: Fifty-three countries are members of The Commonwealth. More information is available from <http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries>.

Discretionary leave (DL) may be considered for an individual who is not accepted as being in need of international protection (i.e. asylum or **Humanitarian Protection (HP)**) but who is able to demonstrate particularly compelling reasons why removal would not be appropriate. Until 9 July 2012, Discretionary Leave was usually granted for a period of 3 years. From 9 July 2012, the period of leave granted has been determined by a consideration of the individual facts of the case but would not normally be for more than 30 months (two and a half years) at a time. Further leave may be granted, subject to a review of the individual's circumstances. A short period of DL may be granted to individuals who have been refused asylum and Humanitarian Protection because they have committed a particularly serious crime but who cannot currently be removed from the UK for legal reasons. Until 6 April 2013, DL was granted to **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)** who were not considered to be in need of international protection but who could not be removed because the Secretary of State was not satisfied that safe and adequate reception arrangements were in place in the country to which they were to be removed. Until 9 July 2012, UASC DL was usually granted for a period of 3 years or up until they are aged 17½, whichever came first. From 9 July 2012, UASC DL was granted for a period



of 30 months (two and a half years) or up until they are aged 17½, whichever comes first. On 6 April 2013, UASC DL was replaced by UASC leave when the policy on granting discretionary leave to UASC was incorporated into the Immigration Rules, under Paragraphs 352ZC – 352ZF. However, the database used to record information on UASCs, the Case Information Database (CID), was not amended to include this new outcome until July 2013. During the period April to July 2013 the outcome UASC DL was used to record information on CID.

A **document certifying permanent residence** (table ee_02 included in ‘Documents certifying permanent residence’) is issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the UK. EEA nationals acquire this right after living in the UK for a continuous period of five years in accordance with EU laws relating to free movement rights. They are not obliged to apply for a document certifying permanent residence.

Employment and Support Allowance is an allowance aimed at helping people with an illness or disability to move into work.

In an **enforced removal**, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. They have declined to leave voluntarily and the Home Office enforces their departure from the UK.

Entry clearance takes the form of a sticker, also called a vignette, which is placed in a person’s travel document. Entry Clearance can be called a **visa** (for visa nationals), an entry certificate (for non-visa nationals), or a family permit for family members of EEA nationals. These documents are to be taken as evidence of the holder’s eligibility to travel to the UK, and accordingly accepted as “entry clearances” within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971. The term “visa” may be used as a generic term for all types of Entry Clearance but in Immigration Statistics it does not refer to an entry certificate.

An **entry clearance visa** is a document permitting the bearer to travel to the UK and leave to enter from the grant date. It is activated upon passing through UK immigration control. There are three categories of visa: temporary, leading to settlement and settlement. Visas are required by nationals or citizens of the countries and territorial entities listed in Appendix 1 on the Immigration Rules known as ‘visa nationals’. Nationals of countries not on this list are known as ‘non-visa nationals’. A non-visa national does not need a visa to come to the UK for less than six months, unless it is a requirement of the immigration category under which they are entering. A non-visa national coming to the UK for more than six months will need a visa.

The **European Economic Area (EEA)** consists of the 28 countries of the **European Union**, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Nationals of the EEA and Switzerland have rights of free movement within the UK.

The **European Union (EU)** consists of 28 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. Croatia joined the EU28 on 1st July 2013.

EU2 are the two countries that joined the **European Union** on 1 January 2007: Bulgaria and Romania.

EU8 are the eight Central and Eastern European countries that joined the **European Union** on 1 May 2004: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The EU8 does not include the other two countries that joined on this date: Cyprus and Malta.

EU12 are the 12 countries that joined the **European Union** in either 2004 or 2007; ten joined in 2004 (the **EU8**, plus Cyprus and Malta), and two joined in 2007 (the **EU2**).



A **failed asylum seeker** is an individual whose application for asylum and other forms of protection has been refused and who has exhausted their appeal rights.

Family formation and reunion is a summary category used in descriptions of settlement statistics reflecting people granted **settlement** on grounds of their relationship to another person already settled or a **British citizen**. It includes husbands, wives, children, parents, grandparents and other and unspecified dependants.

Family Life (10 year) route: Partners and parents who apply in the UK and are granted **leave to remain** on a 10 year route to **settlement** on the basis of their family life where the relevant provisions in Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules (including EX.1) apply.

First-tier Tribunal Judges hear and decide appeals against decisions made by the Home Secretary on immigration and asylum matters in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

Foreign, for the purposes of the Immigration Statistics release, means 'non-Commonwealth' to 1998 and 'non-Commonwealth' and 'non-EEA' from 1999.

A **foreign national offender (FNO)** (previously referred to as a 'foreign national prisoner') is someone who:

- is not a British citizen; and
- is/has been remanded in custody, and convicted and given a custodial sentence in the UK for any offence.

An FNO can be convicted and have served their sentence while on remand, so would not necessarily have been sent to prison.

The **Habitual Residence Test** is a test for all individuals, including returning British nationals, who have recently arrived in the country and who make a claim for income-related social security benefits. The individual must satisfy the decision-making authorities that, firstly, they have a right to reside and, secondly, that they are habitually resident in the **Common Travel Area** and can be treated as such.

Harm Matrix: The harm matrix is a tool to assess the level of harm associated with a particular individual. In order to provide clarity, consistency and measurement, levels of harm have been divided into four broad categories: A, B, C and D, with A being the highest harm.

The **Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP)** began on 28 January 2002. It differed from the work permit system in that it did not require an employer to obtain a permit for the individual. Applicants were assessed on a points system, based on their qualifications, earning ability and experience. The programme has now been replaced by **PBS Tier 1**.

The **Home Office** is responsible for immigration, security, law and order in the UK.

Humanitarian Protection (HP) is leave granted to a person who is not a refugee as defined by the Refugee Convention but who would, if removed, face in the country of return a real risk to life or person arising from the death penalty; unlawful killing; torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or serious and individual threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict. HP is normally granted for a period of five years, after which the person can apply for **indefinite leave to remain**. A person who is granted HP is allowed to work and has access to public funds.

Immigration Enforcement – Arrest Trained Immigration Officers: Immigration Officers undertake a range of activities which support the detection, apprehension and removal of immigration offenders. This includes tracking down illegal migrants and targeting companies that flout the rules by employing workers illegally. Specific duties include: carrying out enforcement operations, including driving official



vehicles, transporting of offenders, searching property or persons, collecting, preserving and recording evidence.

Indefinite leave to remain is a grant of **settlement** (after entry) to a non-EEA national.

Initial decision is a decision by the **Home Office** on an application regarding immigration control, subject to right of appeal.

The **International Passenger Survey (IPS)** is a survey of a random sample of passengers entering and leaving the UK by air, sea or the Channel Tunnel. Between 700,000 and 800,000 people are interviewed on the IPS each year. Of those interviewed, approximately 4,000-5,000 people each year are identified as long-term international migrants.

Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based) is the main benefit for people between 18 and state pension age who are out of work or work less than 16 hours a week on average, based on income and savings criteria.

A **juxtaposed control** is a UK Border Zone set up, by international treaty, in another country to enforce UK immigration, detection or police powers before the passenger physically arrives on UK sovereign territory.

A **landing card** is a form completed by all passengers subject to immigration control, which is given to the **Border Force Officer** on arrival. A landing card is completed for each journey; a person who makes more than one journey is counted on each occasion. A controlled landing card is one where the passenger has been granted leave to enter and is intending to stay for at least six months; a non-controlled landing card is one where the passenger is intending to stay for less than six months and does not intend to work.

Leave to remain is permission to stay in the UK either temporarily (limited leave to remain) or permanently (**indefinite leave to remain**). In this release, an extension of leave to remain is known as 'extension of stay'.

Migrant switchers are people who stated the intention in the **IPS** to stay in the destination country for at least a year, and are therefore counted as migrants, but who actually left sooner.

Nationality is often used interchangeably with citizenship, and some datasets, including all those sourced from Home Office administrative systems, refer to 'nationals' of a country rather than 'citizens'. Different datasets have different ways of establishing someone's nationality. The Annual Population Survey, which underlies the population estimates by nationality, simply asks people 'what is your nationality?' However, the **WRS** and National Insurance numbers (NINos) (from Department for Work and Pensions data) are based on people's passports. For asylum statistics the nationality is as stated on the 'Case Information Database'. This will usually be based on documentary evidence, but sometimes asylum seekers arrive in the UK without any such documentation.

Non-compliance grounds signify a failure to cooperate with the process to examine and decide the asylum claim within a reasonable period. This includes refusals for failure to respond to invitations to interview to establish identity.

A **non-suspensive appeal** is a right of appeal where **UK Visas and Immigration** has concluded that there are insufficient grounds shown that would qualify for a grant of asylum, **Humanitarian Protection** or **Discretionary Leave** to remain (known as a 'clearly unfounded claim') and the applicant will not have the right to appeal against the decision while still in the UK. Applications from nationals of a 'designated' State who have had their application refused are bound by legislation to have their claims certified as clearly unfounded unless the Secretary of State is not satisfied that the claim is clearly unfounded. In cases where certification is applied, the applicant retains a right of appeal, which can only be submitted out-of country, termed as the 'Non-Suspensive Appeals' process. Claims from nationals of all other States may be considered for certification on a case-by-case basis.



In a **notified voluntary departure**, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set to administratively remove or deport the person from the country; however, the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate/monitor the departure as necessary.

Official Statistics are data which are collected for the purpose of supporting government business. In the Immigration Statistics release, any data described as 'Official Statistics' are drawn from the Home Office's administrative systems and have not necessarily been subject to the same detailed verification processes as those badged as National Statistics (NS). For example such figures may include:

- (a) data produced internally for operational management purposes in the first instance, rather than produced solely for the published statistics;
- (b) data added to the Home Office's migration statistics publications after these were last designated as National Statistics and prior to re-designation as NS by the UK Statistics Authority.

Under the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 framework, the designation of new statistics as 'National Statistics' is undertaken by the UK Statistics Authority. Hence (b) are therefore described as Official Statistics rather than National Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority has designated the statistics within Immigration Statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. In previous versions of this User Guide, Official Statistics have also been referred to as 'management information'.

Other confirmed voluntary departures: persons who it has been established have left or have been identified leaving the UK without formally informing the immigration authorities of their departure. These persons can be identified either at embarkation controls or by a variety of data-matching initiatives.

Ordinary visitors are non-EEA nationals admitted to the UK for a period not exceeding six months on condition that they do not work, reside in the UK for long periods or access public funds.

Passengers returning includes both: people who are settled in the UK, who have been absent for less than two years; and those subject to a limited leave to enter who have returned within the time limit of that leave. The initial admissions of such passengers will have been counted in a specific category in the relevant time period.

A **permanent residence card** is issued to non-EEA family members of EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the UK as a family member of an EEA national. They must have been living in accordance with EU laws relating to free movement rights for a continuous period of five years. The permanent residence card is valid for ten years. Non-EEA family members are not obliged to apply for a permanent residence card.

The **Points-based system (PBS)** is the main route for non-EEA nationals working and studying in the UK. It consists of five 'tiers'. See the definitions for the individual tiers, **Tier 1**, **Tier 2**, **Tier 3**, **Tier 4** and **Tier 5** for further information.

Port of entry is an airport, seaport or rail terminal through which people from outside the UK enter the country.

Post-decision reviews are sometimes carried out on asylum **initial decisions** for a number of reasons. An asylum decision by the Secretary of State can be later reviewed as a result of additional information and/or significant changes in the applicant's current circumstances and the relevant country of origin information.



Principal applicant is the main applicant named. There is one per application. A principal applicant can have no, one or more dependants.

Private Life: grant of **leave to remain** in the UK because the person has established a private life in the UK. In order to be eligible to apply for leave to remain on the basis of private life in the UK, the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least 20 years or be able to demonstrate that there are very significant obstacles to their integration in the country to which they would return. For young people aged between 18 and 24 the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least half of their life, and for children aged under 18 the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least 7 years and show that it would not be reasonable to expect them to leave the UK. Applicants can only apply for this route from within the UK.

Refugee is defined, by the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol (the 'Refugee Convention'), as being a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality (or habitual residence, where stateless and who is unable or, owing to such a fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. Recognition of refugee status by the UK is a pre-requisite to the grant of asylum in the country.

Registration certificates (table ee_02 included in 'Initial recognition of right to reside') are issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of residence in the UK on the basis that they are exercising a Treaty Right or they are the family member of an EEA national who is exercising Treaty Rights in the UK. EEA nationals are not obliged to apply for a registration certificate unless they are applying on the basis of being an extended family member of another EEA national.

Registration certificates (tables ee_01 and ee_01_q) are documents issued to Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals as evidence they were exempt from the requirement to obtain permission before commencing employment in the UK. Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1st January 2014.

Removal of time limit is administrative action resulting in a non-EEA national being granted **indefinite leave to remain**.

Residence cards (table ee_02 included in 'Initial recognition of right to reside') are issued to non-EEA national family members of an EEA national who is exercising Treaty Rights in the UK. It confirms their right of residence as a family member of an EEA national and is normally issued for a period of five years. Non-EEA national family members of an EEA national do not need to apply for a residence card unless they are applying on the basis of being an extended family member of an EEA national.

Restricted Leave (RL) From 2 September 2011, all individuals refused asylum or Humanitarian Protection on the grounds of their war crimes or other international crimes committed prior to their arrival in the UK, but who cannot be immediately removed due to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), may be granted Restricted Leave to remain for a maximum of six months at a time.

Right of abode is the legal description of a person's right to enter and live in the UK without any immigration restrictions. All **British citizens** have the right of abode along with some Commonwealth citizens. This can be evidenced by a British citizen passport or a certificate of entitlement in a foreign passport.

The **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS)** was a scheme under which Bulgarian and Romanian nationals aged 18 or over could be admitted to the UK to undertake seasonal work on farms. SAWS dated from the immediate post-war years, as a way of bringing in short-term labour to gather harvests, and its general principles remain to provide short-term seasonal labour for the agricultural industry. The scheme operated under an annual quota system. Before restriction to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals in 2007, the majority of participants were from Eastern Europe and the states of the former USSR. The Scheme has been discontinued following the removal of labour market restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals at the end of 2013.



Section 4 support: An individual may be eligible for **support** under Section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if their asylum application has been determined as refused and appeals rights are exhausted, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK.

Section 95 support: **Support** may be provided under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to destitute asylum seekers until their asylum claim is finally determined. Section 95 support can be provided as both accommodation and subsistence, or accommodation or subsistence only.

Section 98 support: While a claim for **Section 95 support** is being considered, Section 98 permits the Secretary of State to provide or arrange for the provision of **support** for asylum seekers or dependants of asylum seekers who appear to be destitute. Section 98 support is temporary accommodation and is intended for short-term use.

The **Sector Based Scheme (SBS)** was a quota-based scheme for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals aged between 18 and 30, which only covered the food-manufacturing sector. SBS for other nationalities was closed in December 2006; prior to this, SBS was a quota-based scheme for overseas nationals to work in the hospitality and food-processing sectors. The Scheme has been discontinued following the removal of labour market restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals at the end of 2013.

Settlement is a grant of indefinite leave to enter (on arrival) or **indefinite leave to remain** (after entry) to a non-EEA national.

Students are non-EEA nationals travelling to the UK primarily or solely for the purpose of study.

The **student visitor** category provides for those people who wish to come to the UK as a visitor and undertake a short period of study which will be completed within the period of their leave (maximum six months unless applying under the concession for English language courses – 11 months). Short-term students (i.e. those studying on courses of six months' duration or less) who do not intend to work part-time or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course can also apply within this category.

Support is the provision of accommodation and/or subsistence to those seeking asylum. See **Section 4 support**, **Section 95 support** and **Section 98 support**.

Third Country, or safe third country, is a country of which the applicant is not a national or citizen and in which a person's life or liberty is not threatened by reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. It is also one from which a person would not be sent to another State in contravention of his rights under the 1951 Convention. Most Third Country cases are those which come under the arrangements provided by the Dublin Convention or the Dublin II Regulation (the "Dublin arrangements"). Asylum claims may be refused without substantive consideration of the application if the applicant can be returned to a safe third country.

Tier 1 of the points-based system: For high value individuals who will contribute to growth and productivity.

Tier 2 of the points-based system: For skilled workers from outside the **EEA** with a skilled job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force.

Tier 3 of the points-based system: For limited numbers of low-skilled workers needed to fill specific temporary labour shortages (this has never been implemented).

Tier 4 of the points-based system: Students.

Tier 5 of the points-based system: Youth mobility and temporary workers: people allowed to work in the UK for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives.



UK ancestry is a possible route of entry to work and/or settle in the UK for Commonwealth citizens without **right of abode** if they can show that they have a grandparent who was born in the UK. For these purposes Commonwealth Countries are defined in Schedule 3, British Nationality Act 1981.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is a part of the Home Office and is responsible for providing decisions regarding entry for people travelling to the UK, with emphasis on customer satisfaction for business people and tourists alike.

An **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC)** is defined in the Immigration Rules as a person who:

- is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted.
- is applying for asylum in their own right; and
- is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

A child may move between the unaccompanied and accompanied categories while their applications are under consideration, e.g. where a child arrives alone but is later united with other family members in the UK, or a child arrives with their parents or close relatives but is later abandoned, or a trafficked child, or one brought in on false papers with an adult claiming to be a relative.

Unsubstantiated cases are where the applicant has failed to substantiate their claim for asylum through non-attendance at the substantive interview and who is found to have absconded from their registered address. Also called non-substantiated claims.

Upper Tribunal Judges hear and decide appeals against decisions made by the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

Visa: see **Entry clearance**.

A **visa national** is: a national of a country listed as requiring a visa for any type of entry to the UK; a stateless person; a holder of a non-national travel document unless issued by the UK; or a holder of a passport issued by an authority that is not recognised in the UK. Visa nationals must obtain entry clearance before travelling to the UK, except in certain circumstances, unless they are returning residents or those with permission to stay who are returning after a temporary absence.

Visitor switchers are people who stated the intention in the **IPS** to stay in the destination country for less than a year, but who actually stay for a year or longer.

Voluntary departures comprise notified voluntary departures, **assisted voluntary returns** and **other confirmed voluntary departures**.

Withdrawn is an application that can be withdrawn explicitly by the applicant by signing the relevant form or implicitly through failing to attend the substantive interview (see **unsubstantiated cases**). An appeal can be withdrawn by either the appellant or the Home Office.

Worker Registration Scheme (WRS): Under this scheme, which ended on 30 April 2011, **EU8** nationals who took up employment in the UK were required to apply to register that employment under the WRS within one month of commencing work. The requirement to register employment no longer applied if the individual completed 12 months continuous registered employment in the UK. The requirement to register did not apply to work in a self-employed capacity.

Work permit holder is a migrant who is granted leave for work permit employment (paragraphs 128 to 133 of the Immigration Rules).



3 Conventions used in Immigration Statistics

Rounding

Data are mainly provided unrounded in the data tables of the Immigration Statistics release. This is to promote transparency and allow users to exploit the data further.

However, caution should be taken when comparing small differences between time periods; while care is taken in collecting and collating all the information obtained, the figures are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large recording system and are not necessarily accurate to the last digit. There are a range of different types of errors possible, such as those resulting from recording errors or misclassifications.

The data provided rounded are:

- passenger arrivals; sampling methods are used to provide counts of completed landing cards and therefore these data are rounded – see the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for details on the sampling and rounding methods used;
- grants of settlement to Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals in [Table se_06](#) between 1960 and 1996 which are rounded to the nearest ten; and between 1997 and 2002 which are rounded to the nearest five due to unrounded data not currently being available; and
- asylum applications received by other countries in [Table as_07_q](#) which are rounded to the nearest 100.
- asylum applications: Table as_01 for 1989 to 1993 and as_02 for 1989 to 2001 are rounded to the nearest 5, Table as_02 for 1991 to 2001 are rounded to the nearest 100 due to dependants applications being estimated.

In the topic briefs, data have occasionally been rounded for ease of reading, where appropriate based on the size of numbers that are being reported. Each topic brief reports any rounding used. In all cases, except passenger arrivals data, the round-half-away-from-zero method is used (see below).

Percentages are rounded to the nearest per cent using the round-half-away-from-zero method.

The round-half-away-from-zero method has been used, so that in the borderline case where the fraction of the percentage is exactly 0.5, the rounded figure is equal to $y + 0.5$ if y is positive, and $y - 0.5$ if y is negative. For example, 23.5 per cent is rounded to 24 per cent, and -23.5 per cent is rounded to -24 per cent. When rounding whole numbers the result is similar; for example, when rounding to the nearest 100, 1,250 would be reported as 1,300.

Where data are rounded, they may not sum to the totals shown, or, in the case of percentages, to 100 per cent, because they have been rounded independently.

Use of symbols

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

- .. Not available.
- : Not applicable.
- * Number is too small to be shown (used in tables where figures have been rounded).



Using the data: filtering of tables

Several of the tables accompanying the Immigration Statistics releases include filters (buttons in the cells at the top of columns) to allow users to select which part of the data they wish to view. Many tables, especially those with the column heading 'Country of nationality', will be already filtered when the file is first downloaded.

To use the filters click on the button and select the item you want to see from the list presented. The icon within the button changes colour and/or shape to indicate a filter has been selected for that column.

To undo or change the selection click on the button again and select another item from the list presented. More than one column can be filtered at the same time.

The colour and form of the icon shown in the filter button may differ according to the package being used to view the table. Filtering may not be possible when viewed on some mobile devices.

Classification of countries and nationalities

In the Immigration Statistics release, some data are available by country of nationality. The country of nationality recorded is based on the documentation, generally passports, provided by the individual at the point of recording the details. For asylum statistics, the country of nationality is usually based on documentary evidence, although sometimes the asylum seeker would arrive in the UK without any such documentation.

As far as is sensible, a full country of nationality list has been provided.

The heading 'British overseas citizens' includes British protected persons and British subjects under the British Nationality Act 1981 and covers those people classified in the pre-1983 issues of this publication as 'United Kingdom Passport Holders', as well as British overseas citizens. Those recorded as British overseas territories citizens (BOTCs) from Hong Kong, stateless persons from Hong Kong, British nationals (overseas) and holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports are recorded under 'Hong Kong', and other people recorded as BOTCs are included under the relevant geographical region.

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro came to an end after Montenegro's formal declaration of independence on 3 June 2006 and Serbia's formal declaration of independence on 5 June 2006. Serbia and Montenegro may be counted together due to the use of a single (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) passport until 31 December 2010 when the Yugoslav passport became invalid. After this date, only passports issued by the separate jurisdictions have been accepted.

Prior to July 2011, Sudan includes all individuals presenting travel documents or passports relating to that country. Since July 2011, nationals of South Sudan who presented Sudanese travel documents may continue to be recorded under Sudan; those presenting travel documents from South Sudan are recorded as nationals of Sudan (South).

Following requests from UNHCR and Asylum Aid in 2011/12, those recognised as either 'Stateless' or a 'Refugee' are available as separate 'Country of nationalities' within the nationality tables. 'Stateless' refers individuals recorded as: Kuwaiti Bidoun; recognised as Stateless by UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) under Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons; or stateless on the relevant record held by the Home Office. 'Refugee' refers to those: recognised as a refugee by UNHCR under Article 1 of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees; or recorded as a refugee on the relevant record held by the Home Office.



Revisions to data

We anticipate that data for the latest full calendar year and, where applicable, quarters from the current calendar year will be revised in due course. On occasion, earlier data will be revised. The data will generally only be revised once in a year and considered final after a further 12 months, unless significant errors are discovered or the data are Official Statistics.

Provisional citizenship data, and from 2013, extensions data, are expected to be revised in May of each year; all other provisional data are expected to be revised in August of each year. In addition, removals and voluntary departures data are checked each quarter to see whether provisional quarterly data needs to be revised.

It is not possible to evaluate whether any future revisions will be upward or downward; but the reasons for revisions are likely to include:

- late reporting of cases – a small proportion of cases are not included when the statistics are produced;
- the results of data-cleansing exercises, such as data identified that cannot be included when the statistics are calculated because of missing or invalid values, the identification of duplicates in the data; and
- reconciliations with alternative data sources which identify cases not yet included in the statistics.

Despite all our best efforts, there may occasionally be a need to amend publications to correct errors (these may occur if, for example, data supplied to us are subsequently found to be incorrect).

Significant errors in published statistics will be corrected as soon as possible (i.e. by amending electronic versions of the release and including a prominent alert on our website to notify users of the change), and we will “correct errors discovered in statistical reports and alert stakeholders, promptly” in line with the Code of Practice, Principle 2, Practice 7. We will use appropriate methods to communicate with users. An error is considered to be significant if the resultant change would qualify or contradict the conclusions that would previously have been drawn from the data.

If the error is minor or textual, or insignificant in the sense that any correction would be reasonably deemed inconsequential, we will not issue a correction immediately, but will do so when a new release is due for publication.

If we discover an error which is insubstantial but which, in our professional judgement, warrants immediate correction we will amend electronic copies of the published release and ensure that the revision is clearly identified in the amended publication.

In order to make clear our revisions, rather than marking revised data in tables directly, our approach is to highlight revisions in the ‘About this release’ page, the ‘Notes’ worksheet, topic briefing text and in the User Guide, depending on how important the revisions are.

Further details on the Revisions Policy for the Home Office can be found on the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages within the Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/home-office-science/ho-compliance-state-11>.

Revisions analysis

The table below shows that revisions to the annual 2013 figures first published in February 2014 have been small. Two exceptions to this are the ‘Voluntary departures’ and the ‘Detention (children entering)’ series.



Series	Published Feb-14	Revision May-14	Revision Aug-14
Asylum applications (main applicants)	23,507	n/a	+0.33%
Asylum applications (inc. dependants)	29,395	n/a	+1.63%
Asylum initial decisions (main applicants)	17,647	n/a	-0.59%
Enforced removals	13,051	n/a	+2.01%
Refused entry at port and subsequently departed	14,124	n/a	+1.52%
Voluntary departures	32,661	+15.40%	+20.27%
Detention (total entering)	30,423	n/a	-0.02%
Detention (children entering)	203	n/a	12.32%
Detention (total leaving)	30,036	n/a	-0.02%
Detention (children leaving)	206	n/a	11.17%
Grants of an extension of stay (inc. dependants)	306,060	+0.16%	n/a
Grants of settlement (inc. dependants)	152,949	n/a	+1.00%
Entry clearance visas granted (inc. dependants)	2,497,165	n/a	-0.03%
Citizenship grants (all)	207,989	0%	n/a
Admissions (total passenger arrivals, millions)	111.1	+0.08%	+0.26%
Admissions (Non-EEA national arrivals, millions)	13.8	+0.7%	+1.62%

Explanation of revisions for voluntary departures

Figures for voluntary departures are particularly vulnerable to upward revision. These occur when data matching for the “other confirmed voluntary departures” subset is undertaken retrospectively to check departures. “Other confirmed voluntary departures” are cases where a person has been identified as having left the UK when they no longer had the right to remain in the UK, either as a result of embarkation controls or by subsequent data matching on Home Office systems. These figures are reviewed regularly to determine whether revision is required.

Explanation of revisions for children in detention data

Data revisions on the number of children entering and leaving detention occur when a more recent data extract is used to produce the figures. Later extracts will reflect changes made to date of birth information about individuals (after reviews, new evidence or ‘Merton’ assessments). These changes do not alter the total number of people entering or leaving detention (which changed -0.02% for the 2013 totals published in August 2014), but may increase or decrease the number of children reported as entering or leaving detention.

Factors affecting the statistics

Immigration Rules, which are laid before Parliament by the Home Secretary, govern the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK, the variation of such conditions following entry, settlement and the deportation or removal of individuals.

Current Immigration Rules are stated in ‘Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules’ HC 395, which took effect from 1 October 1994. This consolidated previous rule changes, although there have been changes to the rules since 1994. Some of these changes have affected the statistics and the most important changes are given in the ‘Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline’ published alongside this User Guide.



4 Information affecting all topics

Potential uses of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release

The following list of uses of Official Statistics was produced by the UK Statistics Authority (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reviews/monitoring-brief-6-2010---the-use-made-of-official-statistics.pdf>).

We have indicated a range of the expected uses of the data within Immigration Statistics in **bold** with some examples.

- i. Informing the general public's choices:
 - a. about investment decisions
 - b. about service providers
 - c. about lifestyle choices
 - d. about the state of the economy, society and the environment e.g. via Parliament and the media
 - e. about the performance of government and public bodies e.g. via Parliament and the media
- ii. Government decision-making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects:
 - a. policy making
 - b. policy monitoring
- iii. Resource allocation – typically by central and local government
- iv. Informing private sector commercial choices:
 - a. targeting local markets
 - b. targeting households and individuals
 - c. designing market research surveys
- v. Informing public marketing campaigns
- vi. Supporting third sector activity:
 - a. lobbying
 - b. funding applications
- vii. Facilitating academic research

Users of the Home Office immigration statistics

The responses to the February–May 2011 statistical consultation included evidence of the use made of the immigration statistics published by the Home Office by a range of users. These included:

Greater London Authority (GLA)

"Staff in both the Intelligence Unit and the Health and Communities Unit at the GLA makes significant use of the Home Office statistics on immigration for a number of analyses and policy development, including supporting the London Strategic Migration Partnership."

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)

"The Migration Advisory Committee is a regular user of the Home Office's statistical outputs and these data are vital in supporting its advice to the Government. In particular, the MAC draws extensively on entry clearance visas granted, by immigration category; passengers given leave to enter, by immigration category; managed migration statistics on grants of further leave to remain; settlement (indefinite leave to remain) and citizenship statistics; and A8 and A2 accession statistics."

Refugee Council

The Refugee Council reported that they value publication of immigration statistics and regard them as an essential part of the transparency and openness of management of the Home Office. The Refugee Council use data on detained fast-track process for monitoring.



Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)

ASAP use asylum and asylum support data to monitor the impact and effectiveness of Home Office policies and procedures; inform service provision and resource allocation (e.g. future demand for legal advice/representation); and compare/corroborate with frontline evidence.

Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

Wales Strategic Migration Partnership use data for planning of services within local areas.

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)

ILPA use data within information dissemination to members; for evidence-based research and opinion.

Other identified users (individuals' names omitted):

Asylum Aid

Asylum, Refugee and Migration Services, Directorate for Adults, Manchester City Council

Bail for Immigration Detainees

Bank of England

Centre for Migration Policy Research, Swansea University

Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford

Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Work and Pensions

Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford

European Migration Network

Eurostat

HM Treasury

IGC Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees

Institute for Public Policy Research

Institute of Employment Studies at Sussex

London School of Economics

Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford

Migration Research Unit, University College London

Migration Watch UK

National Institute of Economic & Social Research

National Records of Scotland

North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Support Team

Nuffield College, University of Oxford

OECD International Migration Division

Office for National Statistics

School of Geography, University of Leeds

Trades Union Congress (TUC)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD): Kings College, University of Cambridge

Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

Warwick Institute of Employment Research at Warwick

Welsh Refugee Council/Cyngor Ffodduriad Cymru

Within the Home Office the statistics are used by a range of policy advisers, social researchers and economists in order to inform policy and operational decisions by Ministers.

Examples of uses of the statistics:

(Note: the examples given below identify some uses of the statistics; however, their inclusion does not indicate that they are endorsed by Home Office Statistics or that they represent any official view of the Home Office).



Policy monitoring, lobbying

Refugee Council

-briefing on the asylum statistics

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2012/asylumstatsMay2012>

-press statements

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2011/november/241111_press_statement_home_office_stats_libyan_syrian_asylum_numbers_increase

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/774_new_asylum_statistics_show_increase_in_libyan_and_syrian_nationals_seeking_safety_here

Asylum Aid

-policy briefs

<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/womenbriefing.pdf>

Migration Observatory

- briefings

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings>

- data resources

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/data-and-resources/charts/create/international-comparisons>

-policy primers

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/policy-primers>

ICAR

-statistics briefings

Key Statistics about Asylum Seeker Applications in the UK

<http://www.icar.org.uk/ICAR%20Statistics%20Paper%201%20-%20December%202009%20update.pdf>

Asylum Decision Making and Appeals Process

<http://www.icar.org.uk/ICAR%20Statistics%20Paper%202%20-%20March%2009%20Update.pdf>

Informing the general public's choices: about the performance of government and public bodies

UNHCR statistics reports

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html>

-news release

http://www.unhcr.org/4f7063116.html_and_statistics_trends

<http://www.unhcr.org/4e9beaa19.html>

Eurostat statistical reports

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

Migrants in Europe 2011 edition A statistical portrait of the first and second generation

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-31-10-539/EN/KS-31-10-539-EN.PDF

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-BP-02-006/EN/KS-BP-02-006-EN.PDF

OECD International Migration Outlook

<http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/internationalmigrationoutlook2011.htm>

UK country notes, free download

<http://www.oecd.org/migration/48364632.pdf>

The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/may/24/net-migration-uk-250000-a-year?INTCMP=SRCH>



BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18189797>

Government decision making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects: policy making and policy monitoring

Migration Advisory Committee reports and publications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>

Home Office consultations on changes to policy

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=uk-visas-and-immigration&publication_filter_option=consultations

House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (2009): Management of asylum applications report <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmpubacc/325/325.pdf>

Home Affairs Committee Report: Immigration Cap

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/101028-immigration-cap-report/>

House of Commons library briefing papers

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05881>

Impact assessment [change to family rules]

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257357/fam-impact-state.pdf Underpinning announcement of change to policy
<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06353>

Prime Minister's speech

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13083781>

“But by far the biggest route for non-EU entrants into this country has been the student visa route. Immigration by students has almost trebled in the past decade.

Last year, some 303,000 visas were issued overseas for study in the UK. But the most significant route to permanent settlement is the economic migration route.

Last year, 84,000 people who initially came on a work visa got the right to settle here.”

PQ answers

PQ 160197

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/text/130619w0001.htm#1306206002631>

PQ 167731

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130911/text/130911w0001.htm#13091164001079>

(ONS) Migration Statistics Quarterly Report

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/february-2013/msqr-feb13.html>

(DWP) National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

Strengths, limitations and data quality

Below are some general strengths and limitations of the Immigration Statistics release.



Strengths of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release:

- Very detailed information based on administrative sources providing exact counts by detailed nationality.
- Very timely (published within two months of the reference period e.g. data for calendar year 2012 published before the end of February 2013).
- Low revision levels. Details of the extent of revisions following annual totals published in February 2012 are given in the 'Revisions Analysis' section of the User Guide in 'Conventions used in Immigration Statistics'.
- Possible to see how changes to the UK's immigration control system have direct impacts on the numbers, which are used to directly monitor that system.

Limitations of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release:

- Home Office data are not as suitable as ONS data for understanding overall trends in all UK immigration, emigration and net migration.
- Home Office generally relates to those subject to immigration control, rather than all immigration including by UK and other EU nationals; therefore for analysis of total immigration ONS data are more appropriate (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>).
- Home Office data do not provide information on emigration.

Specific examples

Home Office data on their own do not provide a measure of net migration and the contribution of net migration to population growth so cannot be used to directly measure progress against the current government target to reduce net migration to the 'tens of thousands'.

Equally, visas granted data are more timely than ONS immigration data, and as shown in the work, study and family briefing sections, they are likely to be a useful leading indicator for the non-EU component of the ONS immigration figures.

Data quality of administrative data

During the first half of 2002, an integrated database CID (Case Information Database) was introduced to record case information. This database took over from many other databases, was built for administrative purposes, and information is collated from it for statistical purposes subject to data quality.

Age/Sex Unknown

Some tables on settlement, citizenship, asylum and removals and voluntary departures provide a split by age and / or sex. Within these tables, there are categories for 'Sex unknown' and 'Age unknown' or 'Age/sex unknown', which reflect:

- Individuals where the date of birth and / or sex is not recorded in the appropriate field of the CID. In some cases the age and sex may be recorded elsewhere, but it is not possible to use this information in the published tables;
- Individuals where the date of birth has been identified as being incorrectly entered, for example, providing a negative age or where the date of birth is entered as 01/01/1901.

The first of the two types of data issues are the most common.

For asylum dependants, the age at application is based on their age at the date the main application was made. Therefore, in cases where the child is born after the original asylum application, the



recorded age at application will be negative. These are not considered to be data quality issues, but will appear in 'Age unknown' as the age is not known at the time of the application.

Specific data quality issues are detailed in each relevant topic.

Overall assessments of data quality

More generally, data quality has a range of aspects including accessibility, methods, relevance and the extent to which they comply with the best practices and requirements outlined in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. In autumn 2011, the UK Statistics Authority assessed Immigration Statistics against the Code, as part of its routine programme of assessments. This report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority's website at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-assessment-reports/index.html>.

The assessment report published on 2 February 2012 was written on an exceptions basis and hence focussed on the five requirements to be met in order for the release to be re-designated as National Statistics. The report also commented briefly on existing strengths, noting that: the figures "are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest"; and "help inform users such as the government, Parliament, the media and the wider public about immigration control activities, and support the development and monitoring of immigration policy"; and that "Many users commented that they found the new format in which the statistics are presented easier to use".

Following improvements made in the May 2012 and August 2012 editions, the UK Statistics Authority have written to Home Office's Chief Statistician confirming the designation of Immigration Statistics as National Statistics.

Previous reviews of the statistics, which also addressed aspects of data quality, are listed below.

Asylum and migration – a review of Home Office Statistics by the National Audit Office May 2004
<http://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2004/05/0304625.pdf>

Review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics August 2006
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/im mig_review_06.pdf

Other documents with respect to this review are:

Projection Initiation Document <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/immigpid.pdf>

Early Findings Paper <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/earlyfindings.pdf>

Abstract <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/closed-stats-consults.html##>

Implementation Plan August 2006 <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/cpreview07.pdf>

Review of Border and Immigration Agency Statistics on "Control of Immigration" – consultation February 2008



<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bia-immig-stat-review-07.pdf>

Official Statistics and National Statistics

Official Statistics are data which are collected for the purpose of supporting government business.

In the Immigration Statistics release, any data described as 'Official Statistics' are drawn from the Home Office's administrative systems and have not necessarily been subject to the same detailed verification processes as those badged as National Statistics (NS). For example such figures may include:

- (a) data produced internally for operational management purposes in the first instance, rather than produced solely for the published statistics; or
- (b) data added to the Home Office's migration statistics publications after these were last designated as National Statistics and prior to re-designation as NS by the UK Statistics Authority.

Under the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 framework, the designation of new statistics as 'National Statistics' is undertaken by the UK Statistics Authority. Hence (b) are therefore described as Official Statistics rather than National Statistics.

The UK Statistics Authority last designated the Immigration Statistics release as National Statistics in November 2012, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

In previous versions of this User Guide, Official Statistics have also been referred to as 'management information'.

Information about the policy context

A summary of the UK government's immigration and asylum policy, plans and measures introduced has been published by the House of Commons library.

Migration Statistics - Commons Library Standard Note Published 05 June 2013 | Standard notes SN06077; Authors: Oliver Hawkins
<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05829>

Further information about UK government policy, including links to the Home Office website, is given in the 'Other sources of information' section.

People covered by the Immigration Statistics release

The statistics in the Immigration Statistics release generally relate to people who do not have an automatic right to enter or live in the UK and who come into contact with the Home Office during a particular time period.



There are therefore fewer data available on:

- British citizens;
- those Commonwealth citizens who have the right of abode;
- citizens of the Republic of Ireland and other parts of the Common Travel Area; and
- nationals of the European Economic Area and Swiss nationals (see below).

Together with passengers in direct transit, people in the categories listed above account for almost 90% of the total passenger arrivals from outside the Common Travel Area (UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland).

However, some data on nationals of the Republic of Ireland, other parts of the Common Travel Area, Commonwealth, European Economic Area and Swiss nationals are included in:

- Entry clearance visas where applications have been made;
- Total passenger arrivals;
- Grants of settlement (where applicable and available);
- Grants of British citizenship;
- Asylum where applications have been made;
- Detention;
- Removals and voluntary departures;
- Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals who require work authorisation documentation or are exercising a Treaty right; and
- Issue and refusal of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members.

Total passenger arrivals figures also include British citizens. Additionally, long-term migration data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) include all nationalities.

Enlargement of the EU/EEA since 1994

European Union (EU) nationals, previously European Community (EC) nationals, have had the right to enter and live in the UK without immigration control since 1973.

On 1 January 1994, the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement came into force, meaning that this right was extended to all EEA nationals. At the time, the EEA countries were the 12 Member States of the European Union, together with Austria, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Norway.

Austria, Finland and Sweden subsequently became Member States of the European Union on 1 January 1995 and Liechtenstein became part of the European Economic Area on 1 May 1995.

An agreement, giving the same rights to Swiss nationals, came into force on 1 June 2002.

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia ('EU8 countries') together with Cyprus and Malta became part of the European Union on 1 May 2004. From this date, nationals of Cyprus and Malta have had full free movement rights and rights to work, and restrictions on nationals from EU8 countries working in the UK via the Worker Registration Scheme were put in place; these restrictions ended on 1 May 2011.

Bulgaria and Romania (the 'EU2 countries') became part of the European Union on 1 January 2007. Nationals from these countries did not have an automatic right to work in the UK; under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006, under which they were required to obtain appropriate authorisation to work, unless they are exempt from the requirements. Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1 January 2014.



Croatia joined the European Union (EU) on 1 July 2013. Transitional arrangements (<https://www.gov.uk/croatian-national>) were introduced to restrict Croatian nationals' access to the UK labour market.



5 Visas and Sponsorship

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics on:

- Sponsoring employers and education institutions on the Home Office ‘Register of Sponsors’ ([Tables cs_01_q; cs_02_q; cs_07_q and cs_08_q](#));
- Applicants for both visas and extensions of stay for work who use a Certificate of Sponsorship, by Industry type and nationality ([Tables cs_03 - cs_06](#));
- Applicants for both visas and extensions of stay for study who use a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies, by education provider and nationality ([Tables cs_09 - cs_14](#)).
- Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes, broken down by category and country of nationality ([Tables vi_01_q – vi_06_q_o](#)) and appeals ([Table vi_07](#)) broken down by issuing post.

All of the tables listed above are published in the “Sponsorship” and “Visas” volumes. As a brief guide,

- Sponsorship contains tables cs 01 q to cs 14 q,
- Volume 1 of Visas contains tables vi 01 q to vi 05 q,
- Volume 2 of Visas contains tables vi 06 q and vi 06 q w,
- Volume 3 of Visas contains tables vi 06 q s to vi 06 q o.

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP (CoS) AND CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES (CAS)

Within the topic briefs for work and study, the use of CoS and CAS are referred to as ‘sponsored visa applications’.

Data source

The statistics on CoS and CAS used are extracted from the Home Office’s Sponsorship Management system (SMS). The data derived from SMS are administrative information used by sponsors to allocate certificates.

Background on the statistics

[Certificate of Sponsorship \(CoS\) for skilled individuals \(Tier 2\) and youth mobility and temporary workers \(Tier 5\)](#)

As part of the application process for visas and for extensions, skilled individuals must obtain a certificate of sponsorship from a registered employer.

Any organisation that wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the Home Office’s Register of Sponsors’.

For the CoS process, the following steps occur after an employer (sponsor) has been accepted onto the Tier 2/5 organisations register:

1. A sponsor is able to apply to the Home Office for an annual allocation of CoS.
2. The Home Office then allocates a number of CoS to the sponsor.



3. The sponsor then assigns a CoS to an individual (who may be applying for a visa from outside the UK or for an extension of stay if already in the UK).
4. The individual then uses the CoS as part of a visa application (or application for an extension of stay).

Tier 2 (General) is currently subject to a limit on the number of CoS that can be allocated to new hires earning less than £150,000 per year or for dependants of Tier 4 students who wish to switch into Tier 2 (General). The sponsor must apply for an allocation for these 'restricted' CoS on a case-by-case basis to be considered at a monthly allocation meeting, held by the Home Office.

Once assigned, a CoS must be used to apply for leave within three months. If not used, the CoS status changes to 'Expired'. The CoS may also be withdrawn by the sponsor or cancelled by the Home Office.

Sponsors can apply for an additional allocation of CoS if required, although certain limits apply depending on the tier in which the sponsor is licensed.

Sponsors are given an A or B rating when they join the register. The B rating is a transitional rating and means that the sponsor is working with the Home Office to improve their systems. The A rating is granted where the Home Office are satisfied that the sponsor has the systems in place to carry out their sponsor duties. Sponsors may apply for, and be granted, a premium level of customer service from the Home Office and as such have an A (Premium) rating.

A sponsor may be licensed under more than one tier, and may have different ratings for each tier.

Industry sector has been classified using the 21 sections of Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) listed on the Office for National Statistics website

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/standard-industrial-classification/index.html>.

Further information about CoS is given at <https://www.gov.uk/uk-visa-sponsorship-employers>.

Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)

To apply for a student visa or for an extension as a student (Tier 4), individuals must use a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) from a sponsoring educational institution using the four step process similar to CoS.

All Tier 4 sponsors are expected to be education providers who can meet the standards the Home Office have set for highly trusted sponsors (HTS). When a sponsor successfully applies for a Tier 4 sponsor licence, the Home Office will give them an A-rating. This is a transitional rating for 12 months. The sponsor must apply for HTS status no later than 12 months from the date they were granted their licence.

Prior to 5 September 2011, it was possible for some CAS sponsors to be B-rated. This was either because the Home Office had concerns about their ability to meet all of their sponsor duties or because they had interim accreditation from one of the previously approved accreditation bodies.

Legacy sponsors cannot sponsor any new students. They can continue to sponsor existing students who are already studying with them until they finish their course or until their licence expires, whichever happens first

A sponsor may be licensed under more than one category within Tier 4.

Further information about CAS is given at <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>.



Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Key terms

In order to distinguish from data on applications for (out of country) entry clearance visas, and to avoid the use of technical jargon, the text about certificates of sponsorship used in applications for visas instead employs the more succinct term 'sponsored work visa applications'; similarly the use of certificates of sponsorship in applications for (in country) extensions is described as 'sponsored applications for extensions for work'.

In order to distinguish from data on applications for (out of country) entry clearance visas, and to avoid the use of technical jargon, the text about confirmations of acceptance for studies used in applications for visas instead employs the more succinct term 'sponsored study visa applications'; similarly the use of confirmations of acceptance for studies in applications for (in country) extensions is described as 'sponsored applications for extensions to study'.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the numbers of 'sponsors on the register' and 'CoS used' and 'CAS used' is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- include register totals produced directly from the Home Office's published list (register) of sponsors which is subject to scrutiny by the sponsors themselves, providing external scrutiny checking of the sponsor status, for example.
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a reconciliation process (total numbers of sponsors matches published totals produced independently by the Home Office).

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues:

- information on sponsors' industry category is self-completed, and may be subject to classification errors (particularly at more detailed levels).

Compilation method

Information about numbers of sponsors and their status has been produced by Migration Statistics based on copies of the published Register of Sponsors. CoS used and CAS used statistics are produced by the Sponsorship Analysis Team within the Home Office. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source live database, prepare the tables for publication.



Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake cross-checking of tables, to ensure consistent totals, as part of the production process. For example CoS used totals can be compared against data relating to visas and to extensions for Tiers 2 and 5. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with the Home Office operational and policy teams.

The prepared text is checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Data source

The statistics on entry clearance visas are sourced from the Home Office Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa casework system maintained by the Home Office International Group and processed by 'posts'. The information is gathered for the purpose of processing entry clearance visa applications.

Background on the statistics

Different nationalities have different visa requirements for entering and staying in the UK:

- European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals do not require a visa to come to the UK;
- for over 100 other nationalities, covering three-quarters of the world population, a visa is required for entry to the UK for any purpose or for any length of stay (i.e. "visa nationals"); and
- for all remaining nationalities (i.e. "non-visa nationals") a visa is required for those wanting to come to the UK for over six months, or for most types of work.

Before travelling to the UK, visa nationals are required to obtain entry clearance from a British diplomatic post (visa-issuing section) abroad. Since October 2000, under the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000, entry clearance serves a dual purpose. It allows the visa holder to travel to, and also enter the UK, from the grant date and is activated on passing through UK immigration control.

Entry clearance visa statistics cover a range of permitted lengths of stay, including those for less than a year. Visas granted for study and some work-related visas, together with other visa types such as EEA family permits and some dependants wishing to join or accompany other immigrants, allow temporary entry clearance and require the individual to renew the visa before it expires should they wish to stay longer. Some work and family visas allow a person to apply to stay indefinitely after a certain period. A number of other entry clearance visas, including some family visas, permit a person to stay indefinitely. However, the administrative database does not allow the resulting numbers of visas granted to be accurately split into the three classifications of 'temporary', 'leading to settlement' and 'settlement', as some visas are used for more than one of these classifications.

Entry clearance visas can be applied for and granted to a main applicant and their dependants.

Dependants are allocated an entry clearance category according to the circumstances of their application. Within the Points-based system (PBS), a child or partner will be recorded as a dependant under the tier of the main applicant, unless he/she has applied for and been granted with a PBS visa in their own right, when they will be included as a main applicant. Outside of the PBS, many visas for dependants are specific to the visa for the main applicant. However, there are a number of visas which



act as a catch-all for dependants – these are included within ‘Dependants joining/accompanying’. There are also some visas which can be used for both main applicant and dependants and therefore it is not possible to provide an accurate split of total main applicants and total dependants.

Using the data

The figures of entry clearance visas granted show intentions to visit rather than actual arrivals and individuals can arrive at any time during the period that the visa is valid.

Entry clearance visa data therefore provide an indication of the number of people who have an intention to enter the UK and are available on a timelier basis than admissions of passengers given leave to enter and estimates from the Office for National Statistics on long-term international migration. The number of entry clearance visas granted is an indicator of the level of immigration of non-EEA nationals; in recent years the trends for work and study visas, arrivals and inflow of long-term migrants from the International Passenger Survey have tended to follow similar patterns. See ‘**Related statistics published elsewhere**’.

Figures published in Immigration Statistics releases are shown by quarter and calendar year within the tables and on a rolling-year basis in the topic commentary, due to the seasonality of much of the data.

Key terms

Dependants joining/accompanying are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant, who is not a settled person or British citizen. Following changes to the rules, from the second quarter of 2011 until the second quarter of 2012, this category included new family members who came to the UK to join a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but who had yet to apply for or be granted settlement.

The **Family route** primarily covers visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the UK or a British citizen. Published entry clearance statistics do not separately identify dependent relatives of British Citizens and persons settled in the UK, including under Appendix FM or under paragraph 317 of the Immigration Rules. The following is a brief summary of the individuals included in each Family category.

- **Family route: Child**
 - Children travelling to the UK for adoption;
 - *From July 2012:* 'post-flight' children joining those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Child**).

*This category does not include children of a parent given limited leave to enter or remain in the UK for a probationary period. They are included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Child** using the same visa endorsement as children joining/accompanying migrants in other routes.*

- **Family route: Child (for immediate settlement)**
 - Adopted children;
 - Children accompanying or joining parent(s) who are settled or being admitted for settlement in the UK.
- **Family route: Partner** includes:
 - Fiancé(e)s and proposed civil partners;
 - Partners granted visas for a probationary period;
 - *From July 2012:* 'post-flight' partners joining those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Partner**).
- **Family route: Partner (for immediate settlement)** - route closed to new entrants, except:



- Partners who are able to rely on transitional arrangements;
- Partners of HM forces who qualify for immediate settlement.
- **Family route: Other**
 - Family reunion: pre-existing family members (partners, minor children) of a person with refugee leave or humanitarian protection, who has not yet obtained British citizenship;
 - *From July 2012:* dependants who are not partners or children of those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Other**);
 - *From July 2012:* parents with access rights to a child (previously included in **Visitors**).
- **Family route: Other (for immediate settlement)**
 - Dependants who are not partners or children of British Citizens or settled persons.

The Home Office does not record the statistics for adult dependent relatives based on which category of the rules the application was made under. The entry clearance endorsements used for adult dependent relative applications are also used to record applications under other routes, for example children applying for indefinite leave under part 8 of the Immigration Rules. It is therefore not possible to identify adult dependent relatives without the inspection of individual case records. The Home Office is reviewing the collection of data relating to adult dependent relative visas.

Other key terms for entry clearance visas can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Data on entry clearance visas have been released in a variety of publications; between 1979 and 2002 entry clearance statistics were published in the 'Control of Immigration: United Kingdom' and in 'Entry Clearance Statistics', a financial year publication, between 2001 and 2008/09; and since the second quarter of 2008 within the Immigration Statistics release and its predecessor.

Visa statistics dating back to 2001/02, originally published by the UK Border Agency of the Home Office, are available from the National Archives website at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/aboutus/statistics/visastatsarchive>.

Caution should be exercised about making longer time series comparisons based on archived visa statistics because of important changes over time to the method by which visa statistics have been compiled and reported. Between the second quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2011, improvements were made to the presentation of the statistics. The latest release provides comparable data for all time periods back to the first quarter of 2005.

Due to a change of database in 2004, comparable data are not available for years prior to 2004.

For the release of entry clearance visa statistics in Immigration Statistics October – December 2012, the published tables were revised to include quarterly rather than annual data where appropriate.

Data on appeals are only available from 2008 following a change to the procedures for the recording of events on the Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa case working system in 2007.



Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of entry clearance visas is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a reconciliation process.

The main types of errors and other potential quality issues are thought to relate to recording and classification issues. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- While EEA nationals are not required to hold visas, the data contain some applications and grants of visas recorded as relating to EEA nationals. Grants are in the region of 400–1,400 per year. Approximately 95% of these are those recorded as Cypriots, but most likely these people are from the area not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus. Further internal investigation of the data has suggested that there has been some misclassification of the data categories relating to Northern Cyprus nationals. This affects tables published prior to August 2014. The data has been corrected in the August 2014 edition, including for historical data.
- Prior to the August 2014 edition, data for visas relating to Ghurkhas discharged before 1997 and to widow(er)s of Ghurkhas discharged before 1997 were included under the Family route. In the August 2014 edition these data have been re-classified under the 'Other settlement (indefinite leave)' category, including for historical data.
- Prior to the August 2014 edition the visa figures concerning Refugees also included some visa applications and grants relating to Stateless individuals. In the August 2014 edition data relating to these visas have been reclassified under 'Stateless', including for historical data.
- Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visas, which became available out-of-country in April 2013, were not included in the visa tables prior to the August 2014 edition, due to delays in the updates to data processing systems.
- Where visa endorsements have been replaced, or are no longer used, data for the new endorsement codes are aggregated as far as possible to be comparable with existing data. The data for the new endorsements are presented alongside data for existing endorsements, accompanied by a note to explain the change.

Compilation method

Entry clearance visa data come from the Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa case working system. Data are extracted to produce statistics on visa applications, grants, and appeals worldwide. The visa case working database (CRS) is live so reports produced by the management information teams will continually update.



Entry clearance statistics are produced by International Group within the Home Office. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source database, prepare the tables for publication.

Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake cross-checking of tables, to ensure consistent totals, as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere, and making comparisons between difference sources

- Admissions (passenger arrivals), see the **Admissions** topic and below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Extensions of stay, see the **Extensions** topic and below;
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study and Family cross-cutting** topics (these cross-cutting topics pull together subsets data from different sources e.g. the Work topic includes and compares data on admissions, visas and the International Passenger Survey (IPS) relating to those coming to the UK to work);
- IPS estimates of immigration, see below;
- 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies', see below;
- 'Certificate of Sponsorship', see below; and
- Appeals of visa decisions, see below.
- Data on migration applications decided within published standards and the cost per decision for all permanent and temporary migration applications are published as Official Statistics by Home Office as part of their key input and impact indicators. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

Making comparisons between different sources

Admissions (Passenger arrivals)

Similarly to entry clearance visas, admissions (passenger arrivals) of non-EEA nationals are available by category. However, data on admissions and on entry clearance cannot be directly compared as they use different counts of the same group of people. Entry clearance counts number of visas, and arrivals counts number of passengers, both of which may count an individual twice in the same period, but for different reasons. In addition, the latest data released relate to different time periods.

There are a range of other reasons for the differences between these figures, which include:

- visas can be granted in one period and the individual arrives in a later period;
- the individual may not arrive;
- the individual may make more than one journey into the UK in the period the visa is valid;
- not all individuals arriving require a visa for entry; and



- arrivals are based on estimates of landing cards, while visas granted are sourced from the database used to process the visas.

There are further differences when data are considered at a category level. The 'short-term student' visa, which became obsolete on 1 September 2007 when the 'student visitor' visa was introduced, is included within 'student visitors' for entry clearance visa data and 'students' for passenger arrivals data; the rules that applied for short-term students provide a reasonable equivalence to student visitors for entry clearance visas, but not for passengers arriving.

Extensions of stay

Entry clearance visas granted and grants of an extension of stay should not be summed as they are indicators of different aspects of migration. Also, individuals could be counted in both if the two grants occur within the same year.

Extensions of stay in a particular category can be granted to those who entered on the same or a different category. The latter group of people are sometimes known as 'switchers'.

In some circumstances, extensions of stay may be applied for by someone who originally did not require an entry clearance visa due to their nationality and original intended length of stay.

Long-Term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration, are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM);
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

These data are published by ONS in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report. ONS's overall data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visas granted and passenger arrivals data, because the ONS totals include UK and other EU nationals, and because visas granted and passenger arrivals data include visitors and short-term migrants.

Entry clearance visas are only required for some nationals (see above), whereas all nationals are included in the IPS.

ONS uses the United Nations (UN) definition of 'migrants' which is those moving to a country for a year or more. Therefore, for non-EEA nationals, entry clearance visas are granted to those counted as long-term migrants and others besides. Some visas are only valid for less than a year, but for those granted with visas that could be for longer than a year, there is no actual information as to the intended length of stay.

In summary, the differences between visas granted and long-term migrants are:

- visas can be granted in one period and the individual arrives in a later period;
- the individual may not arrive;
- visa issuances include those intending to enter for less than 12 months and therefore not in the same group as long-term migrants;
- the visa granted may be different from the main reason of stay stated in response to the IPS, including those who switch visas while in the UK; and
- not all long-term migrants require a visa for entry, in particular EEA and Swiss nationals.



The LTIM and IPS estimates are based on a survey which is subject to sampling error. Details of the standard errors and variability are available from the links below to the ONS website.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

However, the Work, Study and Family cross-cutting topics do provide comparisons between HO data (admissions and visa) and more detailed ONS data for non-EU nationals (sourced and reproduced from the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report tables).

Appeals of visa decisions

Appeals of visa decisions are undertaken by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). HMCTS take a decision and then inform individual visa-issuing 'posts' of the outcome for onward processing of the visa in the case of allowed appeals. In the Immigration Statistics release, visa appeal outcomes are based on the date that the appropriate 'post' received the notification from the Tribunal, which may be four to eight weeks after the appeal when there is no delay. This is different to data published by the HMCTS, which refer to appeal decision date. Differences can also arise due to administrative procedures at individual 'posts' or due to a delay in the reporting and recording process (e.g. due to geographical location). In addition, appeals recorded by the Tribunal are counts of main appellants, while data released within Immigration Statistics include dependants. Data published by the HMCTS are available in Quarterly Statistics for the Tribunals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>

Since May 2010 all appeals have been reviewed by an Entry Clearance Managers (ECM). Cases conceded on appeal by an ECM appear within the figures in the published tables but do not proceed to tribunal and do not appear in figures relating to tribunal outcomes. 2011 was the first full year when these reviews took place.

6 Admissions

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Passenger arrivals, broken down by purpose of journey for non-EEA nationals ([Tables ad_01 – ad_03](#)) and
- Passengers initially refused entry, split by UK ports and juxtaposed controls, and country of nationality ([Tables ad_04](#) and [ad_04_q](#)).

Data source

The total number of passengers entering the UK is derived from monthly returns made by Border Force staff based at 40 border control points (ports). Data from smaller ports are included in the returns made by these ports. Where data are not provided by a port (three ports in the current period), data are sourced from other organisations (i.e. Civil Aviation Authority; Department for Transport; and Eurotunnel). The total is shown broken down into three broad nationality groupings: ‘British nationals’; ‘Other EEA nationals’; and ‘Non-EEA nationals’. There is no single source of data that allows for this split.

Non-EEA nationals are sourced from landing cards completed by passengers arriving at UK ports and published in [Table ad_02](#).

Other EEA nationals (excluding British) are sourced from quarterly data from the International Passenger Survey produced by the Office for National Statistics.

British nationals are based on a calculation using the previous sources of data (see compilation method below).

Background on the statistics

Statistical information on non-EEA nationals is collated from landing cards after a passenger has been allowed entry to the country and does not form part of the border control or security process.

The cards are separated into two main arrival types, non-controlled or controlled, determined by the conditions a passenger is granted leave to enter under. Non-controlled relates to those passengers entered on standard conditions of entry (e.g. visitors; passengers in transit; and passengers returning after a temporary absence abroad). Non-controlled arrivals accounted for 91% of all non-EEA passenger journeys made. All other cards are considered to be controlled cards.

Non-controlled cards

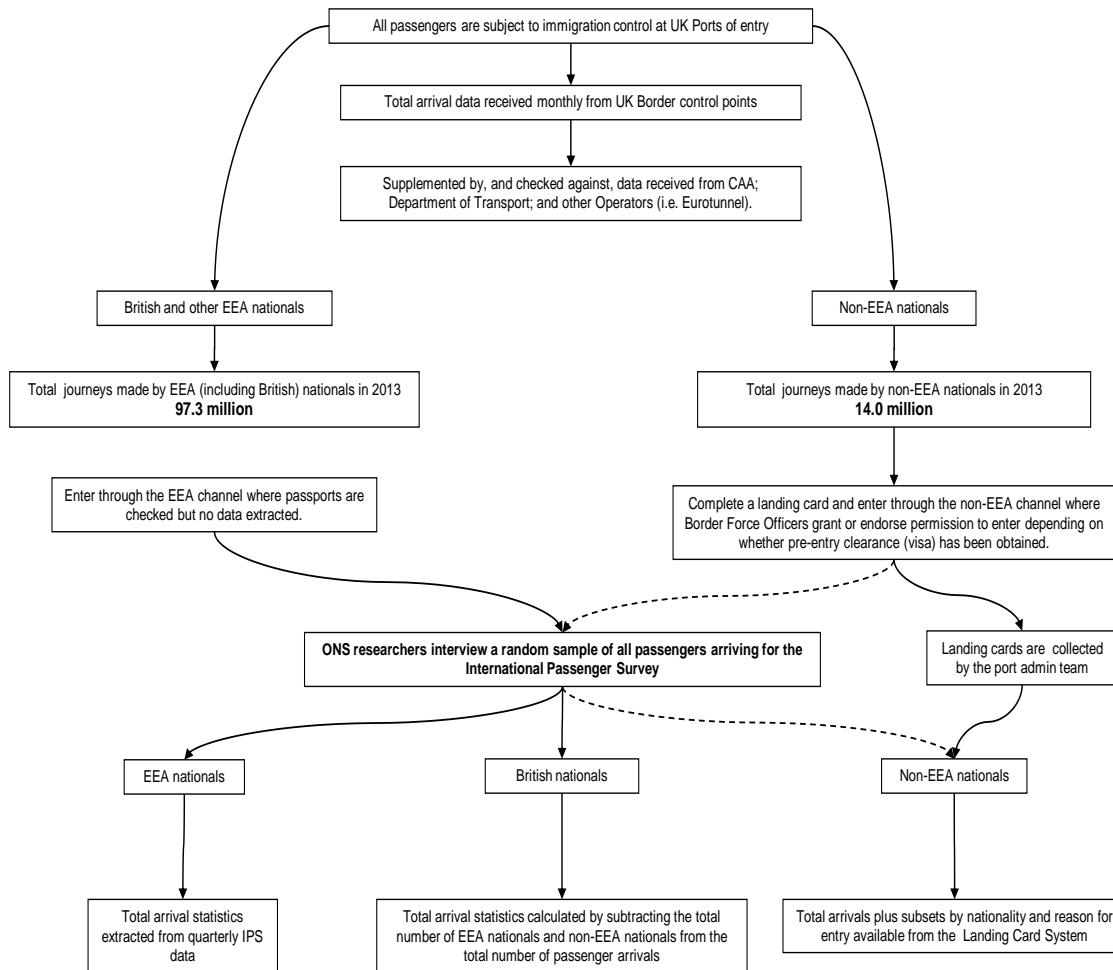
Each month, non-controlled cards relating to arrivals at Heathrow and Gatwick terminals are sampled due to the large volume of arrivals at these ports (see compilation method for details). All other ports collate non-controlled data by counting all cards and providing a monthly return that shows the nationality and category of those arrivals.

Controlled cards

Controlled cards are sent by all ports to a central point within the Home Office. Information from each card (including that required for statistical analysis) is extracted and held on a central database.

Data are then provided to Migration Statistics to collate the data for publication.

Total Passenger Arrivals (from outside the Common Travel Area)



Key terms

Many of the key terms are covered in the glossary of terms.

Passengers returning includes both people who are settled in the UK and who have been absent for less than two years, and those subject to a limited leave to enter who have returned within the time limit of that leave. The initial admissions of such passengers will have been counted in one of the specific categories of Table ad_02 in the relevant time period.

Refugees, exceptional leave cases and their dependants covers people who have applied for asylum at ports (and their accompanying dependants) and who have been granted asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or who have been allowed to stay under the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) Exercise (see below), and are hence given leave to enter. Port asylum applicants are usually given temporary admission initially while their claim is being considered, and the grant of leave to enter may therefore occur some time after the initial entry to the country. These figures are not directly comparable with those in Table as_01 since they exclude grants to in-country asylum applicants, and include dependants.



Others given leave to enter includes people of independent means and their dependants, non-EEA family members of EEA nationals, members of international organisations treated as exempt and serving forces and their dependants.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

The data on visitors, students, passengers in transit and passengers returning (previously settled) are based, mainly or partly depending on the category, on a sample of such people. Improvements to the sampling methodology were introduced from July 2003 and therefore caution should be exercised when making statistical comparisons with earlier periods at a detailed level.

Between February 2006 and May 2008, estimates were used to count non-controlled, non-EEA nationals arriving at Stansted Airport rather than processing individual landing cards. Data relating to controlled arrivals (e.g. work permit holders and their dependants, working holiday-makers, UK ancestry, domestic workers, au pairs, spouses, fiancé(e)s, etc.) were processed in the normal way.

For 2006 data it was possible to estimate Stansted non-controlled arrivals by category and nationality using 2005 actual figures, but this method could not be used to estimate 2007 and 2008 data. Instead, a very broad estimate has been produced for non-controlled non-EEA arrivals at Stansted that shows total arrivals and the category a passenger was granted leave to enter in. This does not, however, allow an estimation of the greater detail needed for some of the tables, for example nationality by reason of entry.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the passenger arrivals at UK ports of entry is considered to be high. These data:

- are largely based on administrative counts of the Home Office arrivals processes for non-EEA nationals at UK ports (including sampling for Heathrow and Gatwick), as well as port totals validated by comparison with an alternative source (Civil Aviation Authority);
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final; and
- undergo a detailed checking process, including comparison with alternative sources of data at the port level (Civil Aviation Authority), checking by line managers of coding carried out by Border Force Officers, comparison with data for previous periods, and validation checks (see below for further details).

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is as a proportion relatively low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used to take account of such issues.

There are data quality issues concerning a very small fraction (<1%) of the admissions totals, for example:

- Out of the total 12.9 million arrivals in 2012 in the 'Other category' (Table ad_03_o), a very small proportion (59,700) were arrivals where the category of arrival was not known. It has not been possible to revisit these data. This issue has occurred in previous years when 74,900 arrivals in 2011 and 70,800 arrivals in 2010 were recorded as category unknown.
- A few admissions were shown as being in PBS categories before the start of the PBS. It is not possible to determine the correct category of entry so these eight admissions have been included within the category 'Others given leave to enter'.

Compilation method

Passenger arrival data are sourced from returns made by individual ports and landing cards completed by non-EEA nationals crossing the UK border. Landing cards are either collated at Port or sent to the Landing Card Unit, Home Office (see 'background on the statistics'). Data are then input onto a database from which the data are collated and published as National Statistics quarterly (total passenger arrivals) or half-yearly (non-EEA nationals).

Combined with data from the International Passenger Survey, summary and detailed tables can be compiled using the derivation indicated below. A summary of the compilation process is given overleaf.

The derivation of the British nationals figure is as follows:

- a) Total passenger arrivals from monthly returns made by ports
- b) Non-EEA nationals from landing cards
- c) EEA nationals (except British nationals)

'British nationals' is calculated as (a) minus (b) minus (c).

Sampling method for Heathrow and Gatwick

Non-controlled cards are separated into two groups, 'American nationals' and 'other nationals'. They are then weighed to estimate the total number in each group. A random 1 in 50 sample is taken of all 'American national' arrivals and used to estimate the total for each category of arrival. Similarly, a complete count of the 'other nationals' group (all non-American non-EEA nationals) is made for a defined seven-day period in each month (the same weekly period is used for consistency; however, different weeks are used for each port). Final monthly totals for both individual nationalities and category of arrival are estimated based on these counts (for American nationals and for non-American non-EEA nationals) and the estimated total for non-EEA nationals. The combined total for Heathrow/Gatwick for American non-controlled cards represented 74% of the national total for 2010; for non-American non-EEA nationals, the corresponding figure was 72%.

Rounding method

For data on passenger arrivals, data of 1,000 or fewer are rounded to the nearest five. Numbers greater than 1,000 are rounded to three significant figures.

The technicalities of the rounding method are as follows: Expressing the unrounded figure using (normalised) scientific notation $Y \times 10^X$, Y is rounded to two decimal places, using the round-half-to-even method. The round-half-to-even method has been used so that, in the borderline case where the thousandth fraction of Y is exactly 0.005, Y is rounded (to two decimal places) up or down to the nearest even hundredth. The mid-way point is rounded up half of the time and down the other half under this method, so the method is unbiased. For example, rounding:

- $2,034,999 = 2.034999 \times 10^6$ results in 2,030,000;
- $2,035,000 = 2.035 \times 10^6$ results in 2,040,000, as 0.04 is the nearest even hundredth;

- $2,045,000 = 2.045 \times 10^6$ results in 2,040,000, as 0.04 is the nearest even hundredth; and
- $2,045,001 = 2.045001 \times 10^6$ results in 2,050,000.

Quality and process checks carried out

Data are quality assured at different stages.

- As part of the Border Force quality assurance process a percentage of landing cards are checked by line managers to ensure that Border Force Officers have coded the 'nationality' and 'category of entry' information legibly and accurately.
- Within the Landing Card Unit processes and equipment are regularly checked, reviewed and calibrated to ensure the accuracy of the sampling process.
- Each month data are checked to ensure ports have made a return and that the data received are in line with the same month in previous years. Ports are contacted where there are significant differences, or a return has not been made, and asked to confirm the data or explain the differences.
- Total passenger arrival data for airports are checked against monthly data provided by the Civil Aviation Authority. <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagedtype=88&pageid=3&sqlid=3>
- Total passenger arrivals data for the port of Dover are provided by the Department for Transport and subject to their internal quality assurance processes. Maritime Statistics publications are available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/ports-statistics>
- Total passenger arrival data for passengers travelling on Eurostar are provided by Eurostar International Ltd and are subject to their internal quality assurance processes.
- Quarterly checks are made to identify errors on controlled cards. These relate to either incorrect codes or categories of entry in which only certain nationalities can gain entry. When identified the scanned image of the card is checked and the record amended.

Related statistics published elsewhere, and making comparisons between different sources

- Entry clearance visas, see the “**Visas**” topic for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Extensions of stay, see the **Extensions** topic;
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study and Family** topics;
- International Passenger Survey estimates of immigration, see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Home Office business plan impact and input indicators showing various management data, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration> .
- The Civil Aviation Authority publishes statistics relating to UK airports, available from <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagedtype=88&pageid=3&sqlid=3>; and
- Maritime Statistics are published by the Department for Transport and are available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/ports-statistics>

Historical data on travel trends from 1980 to 2013 were published in ONS's bulletin 'Travel trends 2013' <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ott/travel-trends/2013/rpt-travel-trends--2013.html>

Data on the clearance of passengers at the border within published standards and the cost of passengers cleared at the border are published as official statistics by the Home Office as part of their key input and impact indicators. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>



Long-term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM); and
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

These data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visa grants and passenger arrivals data, due to changes in immigration legislation and lack of information on the intentions of those not subject to immigration control; in particular, trends of student immigration are better tracked due to the introduction of the 'student visitor' category on 1 September 2007.

In summary, the differences between passenger arrivals and long-term migrants are:

- passenger arrivals are based on estimates of landing cards, while long-term migrants are based on the International Passenger Survey which uses different sampling methods;
- passenger arrivals include those intending to stay for less than 12 months and therefore not in the same group as long-term migrants;
- the entry code on the landing card may be different from the stated main reason of stay when answering the IPS, including those who switch visas while in the UK; and
- passenger arrivals by category exclude EEA and Swiss nationals, while data from the IPS relate to EU and non-EU nationals.

PASSENGERS INITIALLY REFUSED ENTRY

Data source

The statistics on passengers initially refused entry are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID).

Background on statistics

Individuals seeking to enter the UK are required to satisfy a Border Force Officer that they meet the relevant criteria for entry, as defined under the Immigration Rules.

In order to comply with this, passengers must present themselves, on arrival at a port of entry, to a Border Force Officer. Under Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 the officers have the power to conduct further examinations in cases where they are not immediately satisfied that the passenger meets the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Officers who exercise these powers are utilising the powers provided under Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

A Border Force Officer may examine a person who has arrived in the UK in order to determine the following: whether or not they are a British citizen; whether or not they may enter without leave; and whether:

- they have been given leave to enter which is still in force;
- they should be given leave to enter and for what period and on what conditions (if any); or
- they should be refused leave to enter.

'Refused leave to enter' relates to non-asylum cases dealt with at ports of entry. A person who is initially refused entry may then, where the Border Force Officer deems it to be appropriate, be granted 'temporary admission'. Officers will only grant 'temporary admission' where the individual circumstances of the passenger are considered acceptable to warrant reporting restrictions and following successful completion of the appropriate risk assessment. This will be done as an alternative to immigration detention in line with guidance in the Government White Paper (1998). These grounds may be related to: an outstanding asylum claim; an appeal against a refusal of entry; or to allow travel arrangements to be made or removal directions to be set. A grant of 'temporary admission' results in the passenger being exceptionally admitted to the UK in accordance with the legal direction of a Border Force Officer and the passenger must comply with the related conditions in accordance with the Immigration Act 1971 for the duration of the 'temporary admission'.

The UK has several agreements with France, allowing the UK authorities to carry out immigration and other controls on French territory (called juxtaposed controls), and for French authorities to do the same in the UK. Juxtaposed controls have existed at the Channel Tunnel sites in Coquelles, France and Cheriton, Kent since the opening of the tunnel in 1994. An agreement with the French and Belgian authorities signed at the end of October 2004 allows juxtaposed controls at Brussels Gare du Midi. These juxtaposed controls allow immigration controls to be carried out before a person physically enters the country.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Data on passengers initially refused entry have been available since 2004, and a split of those refused entry by port location (UK/juxtaposed controls) available from 2005 onwards.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of passengers initially refused entry at port is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of Border Force's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors;
- undergo a detailed reconciliation process; and
- are subject to internal data quality checks.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- In some cases, there is insufficient evidence on the database to confirm that a refusal took place, in which case it is not counted. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to Border Force. If the record is amended and the relevant additional information added, these refusals are counted in the revised figures; and
- Prior to 2005, the total number of those refused at juxtaposed controls was not recorded.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. The figures supplied to Eurostat are not quality assured to the same level as the data published in Immigration Statistics, as it is not possible to reconcile the data under the definitions used by Eurostat with the Home Office.



Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of passengers initially refused at entry data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the passengers initially refused at entry dataset with operational management teams within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each refusal in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. Where a refusal is found in only one of the extracts, a number of data quality checks are carried out, including that each refusal is correctly linked to a refusal screen on CID. The Home Office is also asked to investigate the discrepancies using detailed sources on individual cases. A case is only included in the published tables if: it appears in both extracts; or it appears in one of the extracts and Migration Statistics have checked that it is correctly recorded as a refusal.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- **Removals and voluntary departures** – all people removed from the UK, including non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed.



7 Extensions

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Grants and refusals of extensions of (in-country) stay ([Tables ex_01 - ex_02](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of extensions of stay are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the processing of applications for extension of stay.

Background on statistics

Statistics on extensions of stay (also known as “after-entry applications to vary leave to remain”) relate to people wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK. An individual is required to apply for an extension or change in status before their existing permission to enter or stay expires. An individual may make more than one application in any given year.

Information on applications for extensions of stay is not published within the Immigration Statistics releases.

Using the data

Entry clearance visas granted and grants of an extension of stay should not be summed as they are indicators of different aspects of migration. Also, individuals could be counted twice if the two grants occur within the same year.

Key terms

Key terms for extensions can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

Changing resource priorities within the Home Office as well as policy changes and other factors need to be considered when comparing the number of decisions on extensions of stay.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted an extension of stay is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;

- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following May and have not, in recent years, been revised at all when the provisional status of the data is altered to final 12 months later; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex, category and nationality is low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no statistical grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. For a very small proportion of the data (less than 0.5%) further information is used for validation and classification purposes, further reducing missing data (e.g. where the sex of the applicant was not recorded, three cases in 2013 were classified based on the applicant's title).

Compilation method

Each quarter, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, an extract of extensions data is taken from the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Quality and process checks carried out

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Entry clearance visas, see the **Visas** topic;
- Passenger arrivals, see the **Admissions** topic; and
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study and Family** topics.

Information on the changes to the student and high value work routes from April 2011 and to the family route from July 2012 are provided in the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline. Further details are available from <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05829.pdf>.



8 Settlement

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Grants of settlement, by category of grant, and refusals ([Tables se_01 - se_06](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of settlement are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID) and data from landing cards. The data derived from CID are administrative information used for the processing of applications for settlement. Before 2002, data were extracted from legacy systems.

Background on statistics

The settlement figures comprise people granted settlement on arrival (also known as 'indefinite leave to enter'), and people who have applied for settlement having lived in the UK for a certain length of time – for example, currently five years for workers in certain routes (also known as 'on removal of time limit' or 'indefinite leave to remain'). Following changes in immigration legislation in the 1980s, the majority of grants (around 98%) are to people already in the country.

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. people subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely – provide a measure of the longer-term immigration of people subject to immigration control. Settlement generally occurs after a period of two or more years of residency in the UK.

Most applicants also have to demonstrate knowledge of the English language. Those granted settlement are able to, without restriction: work or study; travel into and out of the UK; access state benefits, including access to the National Health Service (NHS); sponsor an immigration application, for example to be joined by a spouse or an elderly relative; and register their UK-born child as a British citizen. It does not entitle the person to a British passport (which requires British citizenship) or to vote in general elections, which requires Commonwealth or Irish Republic citizenship.

Dependants are eligible to apply for settlement at the same time as the main migrant, as long as they have lived with him or her in the UK for a probationary period. Dependents who entered the UK after 9 July 2012 are required to complete a five year probationary period before they can apply for settlement (previously there was a two year probationary period).

Grants are counted once in the year in which they occur; subsequent journeys are counted in [Table ad_02](#) as described in the **Admissions** topic notes. If a settled person is absent from the UK for more than two years he/she will be treated as a new arrival unless there are special circumstances; immediate settlement may be granted again, in which case the person would be counted in more than one year's figures of settlement, or the person might be re-admitted with limited leave.

Numbers of applications for settlement are not published within the Immigration Statistics releases.

Using the data

When comparing some aspects of settlement data, significant changes in the Immigration Rules, enlargement of the European Union, and various Home Office programmes need to be considered, including:

- family formation and reunion grants in 2003 to 2005 are likely to have been affected by the increase in the qualifying period for settlement in April 2003, delaying grants that may otherwise have occurred earlier;
- work-related grants in 2006 to 2008 are likely to have been affected by the increase in the qualifying period in April 2006, delaying grants that may otherwise have occurred earlier; and
- asylum-related grants of settlement were at high levels between 2004 and 2007 due to the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain exercise and due to grants to people given exceptional leave four years previously.

Table se_05 provides data on grants of settlement following a stay in the UK (on removal of time limit) to non-EEA nationals by age. The age profile is not representative of the age profile of everyone granted settlement, as a relatively high proportion of under 16s are granted settlement on arrival.

In **Table se_06**, Pakistan, which rejoined the Commonwealth on 1 October 1989, has been regarded as 'Commonwealth' for the whole period since 1960; South Africa, which rejoined the Commonwealth on 1 June 1994 has only been regarded as 'Commonwealth' for the period it has been a member; Mozambique joined the Commonwealth in 1995 and has been regarded as 'Commonwealth' from 1996; Zimbabwe has been included in 'Foreign' from 2004; Rwanda has been included in 'Commonwealth' from 2010, having joined the Commonwealth on 29 November 2009; Fiji, which is currently suspended, is currently included within the 'Commonwealth' statistics. For the purposes of this table, the term 'Foreign' means 'non-Commonwealth' up to 1998 and 'non-Commonwealth and non-EEA' from 1999 onwards.

Key terms

Many of the key terms are covered in the glossary of terms.

Granted settlement in own right means that the individual was eligible to apply for settlement under one of the provisions of the Immigration Rules and this was not dependent on their relationship to another person (for example, a spouse or parent) already settled or settling at the same time.

Other grants on a discretionary basis include grants after a long period of continuous residence in the UK. It also includes those people granted settlement after applying under the regularisation scheme for overstayers (people who had permission to enter or remain in the UK for a limited time only and who had remained beyond the time allowed) and people granted indefinite leave outside the Immigration Rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases from before March 2007 involving unsuccessful asylum applicants.

Claim to right of abode upheld and other grants includes grants to those previously settled but then absent from the UK for some time and who, on return, were initially re-admitted with limited leave.

Grants of settlement to refugees and exceptional leave, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave cases are of those granted settlement after a period of residence in the UK. Between July 1998 and 30 August 2005, it also includes grants of settlement at the time of the grant of asylum.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted settlement is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative databases;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, been revised at all when provisional status of the data is altered to final 12 months later; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex, category and nationality is low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no statistical grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. For a very small proportion of the data (less than 0.5%) further information is used for validation and classification purposes, further reducing missing data (e.g. where the sex of the applicant was not recorded, 1 case in 2012 was classified based on the applicant's title).

Compilation method

Each quarter, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, an extract of in-country settlement data is taken from the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Data on persons admitted to the UK with an indefinite leave to enter visa are extracted from the Landing Card System (LCS) database. In 2012, settlement grants of this type made up only 2% of total grants.

Quality and process checks carried out

The data are checked for completeness and any data issues investigated.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Statistics specific to work and family routes, see the **Work** and **Family** topics;
- Asylum grants, see the **Asylum** topic;
- IPS estimates of long-term international migration, see below for an explanation of the differences between the data; and
- Data on the number of Life in the UK Tests taken and the pass rate, for settlement applications, are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.



Long-Term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

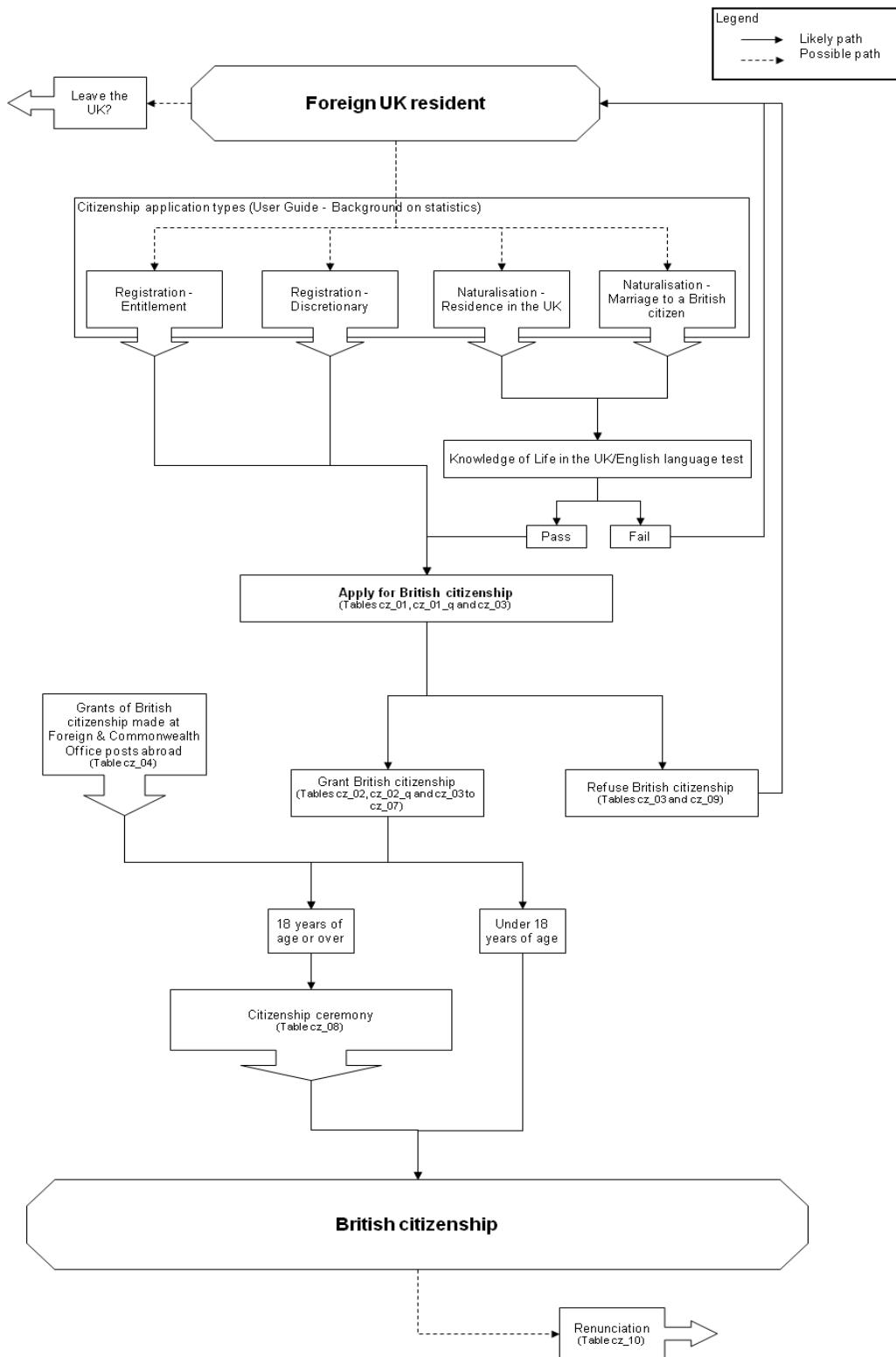
- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM): and
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. people subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely – provide a measure of the longer-term immigration of people subject to immigration control. Settlement generally occurs after a period of two or more years of residency in the UK.

By comparison, international migration as measured by the ONS International Passenger Survey is based on change of usual residence for a period of at least a year, using the UN definition of an international migrant: ‘An international long-term migrant is defined as a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.’

9 Citizenship

Summary flowchart - British citizenship





Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Applications received for British citizenship ([Tables cz_01, cz_01_q and cz_03](#));
- Grants of British citizenship, including basis of grant, previous country of nationality, age and sex ([Tables cz_02, cz_02_q and cz_03 – cz_07](#));
- Renunciations of British citizenship ([Table cz_10](#));
- Refusals of British citizenship, including reason for refusal ([Tables cz_03 and cz_09](#)); and
- Attendances at British citizenship ceremonies ([Table cz_08](#)).

Data source

Data for late 2001 to date are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID), after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications, decisions and ceremonies attended. Data for 1990 to mid/late 2001 are derived from the legacy administrative database of citizenship grants used before the introduction of CID. Figures for 1962 to 1989 are drawn from the relevant published statistical bulletins or Command Papers for those years.

Background on the statistics

All applications for citizenship are dealt with as main applicants.

There are currently six forms of British nationality.

- **British citizens** are the majority. They have that citizenship usually through: birth, adoption, descent, registration, or naturalisation; and have the right of abode in the UK.
- **British overseas territories citizens** (BOTCs) – known as British dependent territories citizens (BDTCs) before February 2002 – have that citizenship through a connection with a British overseas territory such as Gibraltar, St Helena, etc. Hong Kong BDTCs lost that citizenship automatically on 1 July 1997 but may still hold another form of British nationality (see below). However, from 21 May 2002, BOTCs became British citizens.
- **British overseas citizens** (BOCs) are a smaller group connected with the former British colonies who, for the most part, did not acquire citizenship of the new country when it attained independence. Hong Kong BDTCs became BOCs on 1 July 1997 if they would otherwise have been stateless.
- **British nationals (overseas)** (BN(O)s) are a separate sub-group of former Hong Kong BDTCs. The vast majority of British Nationals (Overseas) are ethnically Chinese who became Chinese on 1 July 1997. Although their BDTC status was lost on that date they are, as BN(O)s, entitled to hold a British passport.
- **British subjects** (BSs) are a reducing group of people who normally hold that status either:
 - (a) by virtue of their birth in Eire (now the Irish Republic) before 1 January 1949;
 - (b) because they were BSs before 1 January 1949 through a connection with a place which became a Commonwealth country on that date and, although they were potentially citizens of that country, did not acquire citizenship of that or any other country before 1 January 1983. Known as British subjects without citizenship before 1983, they would lose that status if they acquired another nationality.

- **British protected persons** (BPPs) are a small group of people who hold that status through a connection (normally birth) with a place which was either a UK protectorate, protected state, mandated or trust territory. In most cases, BPP status was lost if the place was part of a country which attained independence or if they acquired another nationality.

Further information on the types of British nationality can be found on the Home Office web site:
<https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/citizenship>.

Categories of grants relate to the section of the British Nationality Act 1981 under which citizenship was acquired. The following is a brief summary of the provisions of the relevant sections of the Act, grouped as they appear in table cz_07.

Naturalisation based on residence

- s.6(1) – naturalisation of an adult by virtue of five years' residence in the UK or UK Crown service.

Naturalisation based on marriage

- s.6(2) – naturalisation of an adult who is married to a British citizen by virtue of three years' residence in the UK.

Entitlement to registration as an adult

- s.7 – transitional entitlements to registration of a Commonwealth citizen who was resident in the UK.
- s.10(1) – entitlement to acquire British citizenship by a person who had renounced citizenship of the UK and Colonies before 1983.
- s.13(1) – entitlement to resume British citizenship by a person who has previously renounced it.
- s.8(1) – transitional entitlement to registration of a woman still married since before 1983 to a man who became a British citizen on 1 January 1983.

Entitlement to registration as a child

- s.1(3) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the UK after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a British citizen or becomes settled in the UK.
- s.1(3A) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the UK after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a member of the armed forces.
- s.3(2) – entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old born outside the UK after 1 January 1983 (or outside the UK and the qualifying territories since 21 May 2002) to a parent who was a British citizen by descent.
- s.3(5) – entitlement to registration of a minor born outside the UK after 1 January 1983 (or outside the UK and the qualifying territories after 21 May 2002) to a parent who was a British citizen by descent where the minor and parents are resident in the UK or a qualifying territory.
- s.4D – entitlement to registration for children born outside the UK after 13 January 2010 to a parent serving in the armed forces.
- s.9 – transitional entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old born abroad on or after 1 January 1983 who, if they had been born before 1 January 1983 and had been registered by a consul, would have become a British citizen on 1 January 1983.

Entitlement to registration on other grounds

- s.1(4) – entitlement to registration of a person in the UK after 1 January 1983 who spent the first ten years of his/her life in the UK.
- s.4B – entitlement to registration for British overseas citizens, British subjects, British protected persons and British nationals (overseas) who have no other citizenship or nationality.

- s.4C – entitlement to registration for certain people born after 7 February 1961 and before 1 January 1983 to mothers who were citizens of the UK and Colonies at the time of their birth.
- s.4(2) – entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen, a British overseas citizen, a British national (overseas), a British subject or a British protected person resident in the UK.
- Schedule 2 – entitlement to registration of a stateless person.

Entitlement to registration under section 5

- s.5 – entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen from Gibraltar.

Discretionary registration as an adult

- s.10(2) – discretionary registration of a person connected with the UK who renounced citizenship of the UK and Colonies before 1983.
- s.13(3) – discretionary registration of a person who has previously renounced British citizenship.
- s.8(2) and 8(3) – transitional discretionary registration of a woman married before 1983 to a man who either (a) became or would have become a British citizen but for his death (and they were no longer married) or renounced citizenship (and they were still married).

Discretionary registration as a child

- s.3(1) – discretionary registration of a minor as a British citizen.

Discretionary registration on other grounds

- s.4A – discretionary registration for adults and minors who are British overseas territories citizens by connection with a qualifying territory.
- s.4(5) – discretionary registration on the grounds of Crown service in a British overseas territory of a British overseas territories citizen, a British overseas citizen, a British national (overseas), a British subject or a British protected person.

Transitional arrangement, small numbers of which were granted mainly under sections 6(1) and 6(2) between 1990 and 1999

- Schedule 8 – relates to applications made before the commencement of the 1981 Act and provides that: (a) applications will continue to be decided in accordance with the provisions of the previous nationality Acts and (b) applicants, if successful, acquire the citizenship they would have acquired on 1 January 1983 if the application had been decided before 1983.

Under the British Nationality Act 1981 it is possible for British citizens who are over 18 years of age and of full capacity to apply to renounce their nationality, although renunciation will only be granted where that applicant already has or is about to acquire citizenship of another country. Further information on renunciation of British citizenship is available on the Home Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/renounce-british-nationality>.

Key terms

Grant: A positive outcome of an application for British citizenship before attending a citizenship ceremony by applicants over 18 years of age. Children under 18 do not have to take the Oath/Affirmation or Pledge.

Rejection: In 2005 and 2006, new processes for rejecting applications, before any substantive consideration of the case, were introduced. Those with situations where the applicant is found to be British already or whose application is not at the outset supported by the requisite evidence of entitlement to or qualification for British citizenship.

Entitlement: The applicant satisfied the conditions specified by the 1981 Act.

Discretionary: The success of the application depends, either in whole or in part, on the Secretary of State being satisfied on the basis of all the information at their disposal that it would be appropriate to grant it.

Ceremony attended: A ceremony organised by County or Local Authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age for British citizenship. At the ceremony the applicant takes the Oath or Affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and the Pledge of loyalty to the UK. Since 1 January 2004 this has been the final stage in the process of attaining British citizenship.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Reported figures of applications have previously included both British citizenship and right of abode in the UK as a Commonwealth national, although right of abode decisions are not included in the tables on decisions. From 2002, it has been possible to separately identify right of abode and British citizenship applications allowing the figures to be presented separately.

The figures relating to grants of British citizenship to residents of Hong Kong in the UK from 2006 onwards are drawn from a new source of more complete data. It is understood that figures for 2005 and earlier years significantly undercount grants of this type. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series between 2005 and 2006.

Figures relating to grants of renunciation of British citizenship between 2002 and 2004 were subject to minor revision in Immigration Statistics October – December 2011. They were revised to include cases found to have been previously excluded due to their being recorded using an unexpected value within the administrative database. The increases were from 1,141 to 1,194 in 2002 (up 5%), from 684 to 755 in 2003 (up 10%) and from 675 to 680 in 2004 (up 1%). Data for 2005 onward were unaffected by this issue.

The reported number of British citizenship ceremonies attended in 2012 was subject to a minor revision in Immigration Statistics January to March 2014. A further 1,087 persons attending ceremonies were added due to late reporting by some authorities, increasing the total by 1% from 140,286 to 141,373.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

The variations in totals of applications recorded, and decisions made, reflect changing resource priorities within the Home Office, as well as policy changes and other factors.

The number of decisions made in 2008 was comparatively low when staff resources were temporarily transferred from decision-making to deal with the administration of new applications.

Grant levels reduced in the second quarter of 2014 as UKVI resources were used to assist HM Passport Office.

Data quality

The data reflect the outcome of reconsidered decisions. These may result in outcomes recorded in later periods i.e. a refusal which is followed by a reconsidered decision may be shown as a grant in a later period. Such reconsiderations appear to make little difference to the overall trends in the data, based on the size of revisions made.

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted and refused British citizenship is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following May and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a thorough reconciliation process including some data cleansing.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases (under 0.1%).

- In a small number of cases (under 0.01% annually) data appear inconsistent, for example where the recorded case type and section of the British Nationality Act 1981 do not represent a valid combination under the published Immigration Rules. These records are excluded from the published data and, where resources allow, are passed back to Home Office for investigation and correction.
- In Table cz_05 data for 2002 includes a significant proportion of records (27%) for which the sex of the applicant was not recorded. This was due to the introduction of a new administrative database (the Case Information Database – CID) in late 2001. Processes for the capture of this information were introduced during 2002, reducing missing values to 2% or less of the total in 2003 and subsequent years.

Additionally, data relating to decisions are subject to revisions as a result of the outcomes of the administrative reconsideration of a small (0.01%) proportion of cases.

Applications made in the first quarter of 2012 were originally estimated based on a combination of records in the Home Office administrative IT system and manual counts of applications which had not yet been recorded on the IT system. These estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. The estimates of application figures were revised to show the actual numbers in May 2013. The estimate for the first quarter of 2012 of 53,600 first published in May 2012 was replaced with actual figures derived from the IT system of 54,972 in May 2013.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are slight differences between the presentations of nationality breakdowns in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat, relating to the regional geographic groupings.

Compilation method

On a quarterly basis, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, extracts of British citizenship applications and decisions data are taken from a weekly refreshed 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

A further extract of applications data is taken three weeks after the end of the period to mitigate a

degree of late recording on CID, due to resource issues within the Home Office. This is, where necessary, combined with manual counts of applications awaiting entry on the database to arrive at estimates of applications received. These data are revised subsequently following input of applications data.

Annual data on persons attending citizenship ceremonies are extracted from CID as part of an annual process. Data for grants of British Overseas Territory Citizenship granted in the British Overseas Territories (see Table cz_05) are supplied annually by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Home Office processes require persons granted British citizenship who go on to sponsor another person applying for a change in their immigration status to be recorded as a British citizen in CID; hence a small number of records (under 0.5% of the data) in the original CID extract are found to have a recorded nationality of British Citizen, rather than the applicant's original nationality. A data-cleansing exercise is undertaken annually by staff in Migration Statistics to recode the recorded nationalities in these cases within the statistical dataset, by referring to the audit logs for the nationality field in CID.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the summary figures for applications along with grants and refusals of citizenship with teams within the Home Office, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2% the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2% may occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of the Home Office operational management information or due to slight differences in the date on which data were extracted from CID.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Eurostat comparisons of grants of citizenship across different European countries: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-SF-11-024; and
- Data on the number of Life in the UK Tests taken and the pass rate, for citizenship applications, are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>
- 'Who are the UK's new citizens?': Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) Breakfast Briefing Summary, July 2011 http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/People/staff_publications/Gidley/5671%20Compas%20Briefing%20Doc%207.5%20final.pdf
- Eurostat comparisons of grants of citizenship across different European countries: 'EU Member states granted citizenship to more than 800,000 persons in 2010' (EUROSTAT Statistics in Focus 45/2012). http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-SF-12-045

The regular data on grants (acquisition) and renunciation (loss) of citizenship collected by Eurostat for all Member States is published at:

Acquisition of citizenship data for European member states, 2002 to 2011.

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_acq&lang=en

Loss of citizenship data for European member states, 2007 to 2011.

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_lct&lang=en

10 Asylum

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Applications for asylum (including fresh claims) ([Tables as_01 – as_04, as_06](#));
- Initial decisions on asylum applications (grants and refusals of asylum, discretionary leave and humanitarian protection) ([Tables as_01, as_02, as_05, as_06](#));
- Asylum applications received in Europe and elsewhere (Table [as_07](#));
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs) ([Tables as_08 – as_09](#));
- Age-disputed cases ([Table as_10](#));
- The fast-track process ([Tables as_11 and as_12](#));
- Non-suspensive appeals (Table [as_13_q](#));
- Asylum appeals ([Table as_14](#));
- Applications for asylum support and those in receipt of support ([Tables as_15 – as_18](#));
- Resettlement schemes ([Table as_19](#)).

Data source

The data relating to the processing of asylum applications and appeals are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID).

Data relating to asylum support are extracted from a database specifically for the processing and provision of asylum support (ASYS).

Data specific to the resettlement scheme are extracted from another database maintained by the Home Office, specifically for this process.

Background on statistics

Asylum is protection given by a country to someone who is fleeing persecution in their own country. It is given under the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention defines a refugee as a person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

The criteria for recognition as a refugee, and hence the granting of asylum, are set out in the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, extended in its application by the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. The 1951 Convention is given effect in British law by references in the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993, the Refugee and Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006, and the Immigration Rules.

Under paragraph 334 of the Immigration Rules, an asylum applicant will be granted asylum in the UK if the Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- they are in the UK or have arrived at a port of entry in the UK;

- they are a refugee, as defined in regulation 2 of the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006;
- there are no reasonable grounds for regarding them as a danger to the security of the UK;
- they do not, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitute danger to the community of the UK; and
- refusing their application would result in them being required to go (whether immediately or after the time limited by any existing leave to enter or remain), in breach of the Geneva Convention, to a country in which their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group.

An application which does not meet these criteria will be refused. In certain circumstances an applicant may be granted humanitarian protection (HP) in accordance with paragraph 339C of the Immigration Rules, discretionary leave (DL) for a limited period, or a grant of leave to remain (LTR) under family or private life rules.

Under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the Immigration Rules, there is no obligation to consider an asylum application made overseas. An individual seeking international protection would be expected to approach the authorities or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in the first country of refuge and has no entitlement to travel to the UK in order to submit an asylum claim or further submissions. No overseas applications by the individual should be recorded as having been lodged since 1992.

The figures for applications only relate to the initial application for asylum. They exclude applications to upgrade HP or DL to refugee status and for further extensions of stay. Grants of HP, DL or LTR under family or private life rules are only recorded in the statistics on the first occasion that it is granted, not again when it is extended.

Fresh claims

When a human rights or asylum claim has been refused, withdrawn or treated as withdrawn under paragraph 333C of Immigration Rule 353 and any appeal relating to that claim is no longer pending, the decision-maker will consider any further submissions and, if rejected, will then determine whether they amount to a fresh claim. The submissions will amount to a fresh claim if they are significantly different from the material that has previously been considered. The submissions will only be significantly different if the content:

- had not already been considered; and
- taken together with the previously considered material, created a realistic prospect of success, notwithstanding its rejection.

Asylum cases pending

This series counts the number of asylum cases lodged since April 2006 that are pending. These pending cases include those awaiting an initial decision, together with those that have had an initial decision and are still pending further review, such as those in the appeals process, but exclude those that are pending a judicial review. They do not include failed asylum seekers.

Further work is needed to assure the quality of the earlier records before information on applications from earlier years can be published.

An individual's asylum application may be pending a decision for a number of reasons, including reasons within and outside the control of the Home Office. These reasons may include, but are not exclusively, the complexity of the case, the paperwork provided by the individual, the resources



available to process the application and the decision by an individual as to whether to appeal against an initial decision.

Outcomes of applications

The analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications are the recorded outcomes of the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, as at a particular time. A proportion of applications made in each of the years provided will be awaiting the outcome of an initial decision or an appeal. Applications from earlier years will inherently have had longer for the case to be processed than those from more recent years. This dataset is updated, in full, annually.

There are a large variety of routes that an asylum application can take to a final asylum outcome. As a consequence, analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications in any one year requires interpretation for a small percentage of cases. This interpretation is undertaken consistently by established computer code. The proportions and underlying figures for final outcomes of the analysis of applications for the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, are therefore estimated.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

An Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC) is a person under 18, applying for asylum on his or her own right, who is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law has responsibility to do so.

The method for counting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children was changed in August 2013.

The counting definition for applications from a UASC now used is: An asylum application received from a main applicant who is treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day from the date of their application, up until, where applicable, the initial decision.

The counting definition for an initial decision or withdrawal is: An initial decision on or application withdrawal from someone treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day between the dates of their asylum application and the initial decision, though excluding anyone whose recorded date of birth indicates they were over 18 at the date of the application.

The age groups provided relate to the age at application, initial decision or withdrawal (as appropriate), based on the date of birth recorded when the data were extracted.

Age-disputed cases

When an asylum applicant's claim to be a child is doubted and they have little or no evidence to support their claimed age, the Home Office will conduct an initial age assessment. Applicants whose physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age will be treated as adults until there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed. All other applicants will be afforded the benefit of doubt and treated as children until an assessment of their age has been completed.

The method for counting age disputed applications was changed in August 2013. The counting definition for age disputes raised now used is: An age assessment request raised for a main asylum applicant. 'Age disputes raised' relates to the number of age assessment requests made in a quarter where the asylum application was made in the same or an earlier quarter, together with asylum applications raised where there is an age assessment outstanding from a previous quarter. Within the quarterly table, the data are split based on whether the asylum application was existing (i.e made in a previous period).

The number of 'age disputes resolved' are also provided and relate to the number of age assessments marked as completed during a quarter. The age groups provided relate to the age the individual was considered to be when the age assessment request were raised, based on the date of birth recorded

when the data were extracted. It is expected that the date of birth would have been updated to reflect the outcome of the age assessment. Therefore these data are provided to give an indication of proportions of individuals who have been subject to an age assessment that are considered to be a child or adult as result of the assessment. Not all age disputes are fully recorded as closed following an age assessment, so data quality is not considered as high for resolved age disputes as other asylum data sets.

Fast-track process

Asylum cases are considered for the fast-track process by NAIU (National Asylum (and Third Country) Intake Unit) only if there is a power in immigration law to detain and it appears that a quick decision is possible. Children; pregnant women; families (except in some instances of a family split); and people with a physical or mental condition (which cannot be treated in a detained situation) are not considered for the process. A decision on the asylum case, including appeal, should be concluded within 14 days.

Cases may be taken out of the fast-track system before the initial decision and processed in the usual way. Reasons for removal from the fast-track process include: pre-decision appointments made by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture or the Helen Bamber Foundation; applicants granted bail by the courts; and cases reclassified by the courts.

The Immigration and Asylum Appeals (Fast-Track Procedure) Rules set out the procedure for appealing if asylum and leave to enter is refused for those designated as fast-track cases. The Fast Track Procedure Rules have shorter time limits for the appellant and the respondent throughout the appeals process. People on the fast-track scheme are detained during the course of their appeal. The rules also set out the times within which the Tribunal will deal with the appeals. The rules include safeguards, which enable appellants who may not be suitable for the fast-track process to be transferred from the scheme to the main appellate system.

The non-suspensive appeals process

Applicants who are refused asylum, HP and DL may have the application for asylum termed clearly unfounded, whether due to their country of nationality being a 'designated' state or on a case-by-case basis. Where an application is clearly unfounded, any subsequent appeal has to be made through the non-suspensive appeals process (see glossary of terms).

The table for Non-Suspensive Appeals been redesigned to provide more detailed information and clarity of definitions. 'Total eligible for the non-suspensive appeals process' includes main applicants who have been refused asylum, HP or DL where the refusal was certified as clearly unfounded. Previously this category included a broader definition; main applicants refused asylum, HP or DL.

Since 22 May 2007 the designated countries have been: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Ecuador, Gambia (males only), Ghana (males only), India, Jamaica, Kenya (males only), Liberia (males only), Macedonia, Malawi (males only), Mali (males only), Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nigeria (males only), Peru, Serbia, Sierra Leone (males only), South Africa and Ukraine. Kosovo was designated until 17 February 2008, but returned to the list on 3 March 2010. South Korea has been designated since 3 March 2010.

Asylum appeals

The HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) (formerly Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum and the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT)), an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, hears and decides appeals against decisions made by the Home Office. It consists of the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber and Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC). The First-tier Tribunal Judge will decide whether the appeal against the decision is successful or not (this is known as the decision being 'allowed' or 'dismissed').

Before April 2005, there was a two-tier system for asylum and immigration appeals. Appeals were made initially to Immigration Adjudicators in the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) at the first tier, with an onward right to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT). If the application to the IAT was refused there was the right to seek a statutory review of that decision by a High Court judge (on the papers). If the application was allowed by the Tribunal, or by a judge following statutory review, and the appeal was then given a fresh decision by the IAT, parties could appeal to the Court of Appeal on the ground that the IAT made an error of law when reaching its decision.

The creation of the AIT, under the provisions of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004, intended to improve the speed and finality of the appeals and removals system. The provisions of the Act aim to tackle abuse of the asylum system and illegal immigration; encourage properly managed legal migration that benefits the UK economically and socially; and help to integrate legal migrants, genuine refugees and new citizens.

Between April 2005 and 1 February 2010 there was a single-tier system for asylum and immigration appeals, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). Appeals before the AIT were decided by Immigration Judges.

In the event that a party (either the appellant or the Secretary of State) thinks that the First-tier Tribunal made an error of law when reaching its decision, they can apply to the First-tier Tribunal for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. If the application is refused, an application for permission to appeal can be made directly to the Upper Tribunal. Cases heard at the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber are a subset of data published in Quarterly statistics for the Tribunals Service. Following consideration a party may request a High Court Judge and, subsequently, the Court of Appeal to consider the case. Data on appellate cases heard by a High Court Judge or the Court of Appeal are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/courts-and-sentencing-statistics>.

Asylum appeals data published by Home Office Migration Statistics are sourced from the Case Information Database (CID) and relate to main asylum applicants at the First-Tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. Records on the database are updated from record-level data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who produce similar statistics for main appellants. This procedure provides consistent data across all datasets relating to asylum published in the release Immigration Statistics, but different from those published by The Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

MOJ published statistics provide counts of principal appellants sourced from the HMCTS database. Within these statistics there tend to be higher numbers of principal appellants than main asylum applicant appeals because:

- 1) HMCTS has a wider definition of asylum appeals, including some human rights cases and appeals on extensions of asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave; and
- 2) principal appellants include some individuals classed as dependants by the Home Office.

The MOJ statistics on immigration and asylum appeals at First-Tier Tribunal and subsequent stages are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>

Asylum support

Asylum support was set up to provide for asylum seekers while they await a decision on their asylum application. Asylum seekers who apply for asylum support under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 can receive: accommodation only (where they are allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and must otherwise support themselves); or subsistence only (where they receive cash to support themselves but must find their own accommodation); or accommodation and subsistence (where they are allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and cash to support themselves).

Individuals are generally eligible for support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if their asylum application has been finally determined as refused but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK. These reasons are that:

- the applicant is in the process of taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the UK because of a physical impediment to travel or some other medical reason; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the UK because there is no current viable route of return to the country of origin; or
- permission has been obtained to proceed with a judicial review against a decision relating to the person's asylum claim; or
- the provision of support is otherwise necessary to avoid a breach of a person's human rights.

Support under Section 4 is provided in the form of accommodation and vouchers to cover the cost of food and other basic essential items.

The provision of initial accommodation is a temporary arrangement for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and who are:

- supported under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and are awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State on whether they may receive asylum support under Section 95 of that Act; or
- supported under Section 95 and are awaiting transfer to their dispersal accommodation.

Asylum applicants who are receiving asylum support can have their support terminated for various reasons. If an asylum seeker receives refugee status, HP, DL, or another form of grant, they cease to be eligible for asylum support, and become entitled to apply for mainstream benefits. If an asylum seeker receives a final negative decision, and is a single applicant or a family with no children under 18, they also have their support terminated, although asylum support policy incorporates safeguards for a number of categories of vulnerable failed asylum seekers including families with dependent children under the age of 18 years who continue receiving support until they leave the UK. Support can also be terminated or suspended if asylum seekers do not abide by the regulations set out when the support is provided to them, for example, if the asylum seeker does not move into the allocated accommodation.

The Home Office assumed responsibility for supporting asylum seekers from April 2000 when the National Asylum Support Service (NASS), a directorate of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), was created. NASS was set up to provide accommodation and/or subsistence payments to asylum seekers so that they could support themselves while they were awaiting a decision on their asylum application. Any person applying for asylum in the UK after 3 April 2000 would only be eligible to apply for support through NASS (apart from some in-country cases that were part of the roll-out). Before 3 April 2000, asylum seekers, depending on the location of their application for asylum, could apply for support from the Department of Social Security (now part of the Department for Work and Pensions) or local authorities.

NASS was disbanded in 2006. This service is now delivered by Asylum Support teams (part of International and Immigration Asylum Group) based in various regional locations, but managed centrally. The legislation in respect of eligibility for asylum support, and the categories of support available, has not changed.

Where an applicant has made more than one application for support during a year, only one application is recorded in the tables. The data in the tables therefore reflect the total number of main

applicants applying for support. It should be noted, however, that where an applicant has made an application for support in two separate years this will be recorded as an application in each year.

The figures relating to asylum seekers in receipt of support include dependants, unless otherwise stated.

Asylum seekers are accommodated in Northern Ireland only if they apply for asylum there.

Resettlement schemes

The UK Gateway Protection Resettlement Programme is operated in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Gateway demonstrates the UK's proud tradition of providing protection to refugees; and of the UK's commitment to supporting UNHCR's global effort to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees and sharing the refugee burden. On resettlement the refugees are provided with a twelve month package of housing and integration support provided by partnerships involving local authorities and NGOs.

The Home Office also operates the smaller Mandate scheme which is designed to resettle individual refugees from anywhere in the world who have been recognised as refugees by UNHCR, and judged by them to be in need of resettlement; and who have a close family member in the UK who is willing to accommodate them.

Those arriving in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme are granted Humanitarian Protection (not refugee status).

Post-decision review

There are a number of reasons why an initial decision may be subject to a post-decision review; an asylum decision by the Secretary of State can be later reviewed as a result of additional information and/or significant changes in the applicant's current circumstances and the relevant country of origin information. Following consultation in 2011, data on post-decision reviews are no longer published in the Immigration Statistics releases. See the Summary of responses to the consultation published alongside Immigration Statistics: April – June 2011.

Comparison to asylum applications in other countries

Data on asylum applications made in selected other countries are sourced from a number of international organisations, including Eurostat, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and IGC (Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees). The data have been provided to these organisations by the named countries. In some cases, the countries listed have not released asylum applications for the full time period and figures have been estimated through extrapolation from earlier data. In consequence, figures for countries other than the UK may over- or under-record depending on data available and recent trends. The notes page within the Asylum tables list the countries where asylum applications have been estimated.

Key terms

Other grants: grants under family and private life rules from 9 July 2012; Leave Outside the Rules, which was introduced for those refused asylum from 1 April 2013; and UASC leave, which was introduced for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children refused asylum but eligible for temporary leave from 1 April 2013.

Other key terms for asylum can be found in the glossary of terms.



Changes to data affecting the statistics

Asylum applications and decisions

Data after April 2000 for asylum applications and May 2000 for asylum decisions have been taken from the Asylum Case Information Database. Prior to this date, manual counts were taken. Most of the historical manual count figures relate to main applicants excluding dependants.

Since 2007, third country cases are no longer automatically defined as asylum cases unless the person has claimed asylum in the UK. This change affects a small number of cases.

Following the introduction of a new approach to family and private life involving considering applications against a new set of immigration rules from July 2012, asylum tables have been updated to include outcomes related to these types of applications. For more information please see the glossary for definitions of Private Life and Family Life (10-year) route and the Policy and Legislative Timeline.

From April 2013, grants of DL to UASCs was replaced by UASC leave when the policy on granting discretionary leave to UASC was incorporated into the Immigration Rules, under Paragraphs 352ZC – 352ZF. The asylum tables were updated to include the new outcome related to these types of UASC applications. For more information please see the glossary for a definition of UASC leave.

From 2 September 2011, all individuals refused asylum or Humanitarian Protection on the grounds of their war crimes or other international crimes committed prior to their arrival in the UK, but who cannot be immediately removed due to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), may be granted Restricted Leave to Remain for a maximum of six months at a time. The asylum tables were updated to include the new outcome under the Discretionary Leave category for these types of applications. For more information please see the glossary for a definition of Restricted Leave and the Policy and Legislative Timeline.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and age disputed cases

An internal review of the UASC and age dispute data highlighted issues with the definitions used for these data up to May 2013, in particular that the definition for UASCs was broader than it should be as it included all asylum applicants who had ever been recorded as an unaccompanied minor and not just those who were unaccompanied during their asylum application.

From Immigration Statistics April - June 2013, the definitions were refined.

UASC application

An asylum applicant previously counted in the UASC application data is no longer included if:

- (a) They were considered an unaccompanied minor only in the period before the asylum application;
- (b) They were considered a UASC for less than 1 day;
- (c) The applicant is listed as over 18 at application, but remain recorded as an unaccompanied minor on the administrative database; or
- (d) They were only considered a UASC after the initial decision was made.

UASC initial decisions and withdrawals

The definitional change made for initial decisions and withdrawals are the same as for a UASC application, above, except the addition that the recorded date of birth must now show that they are under 18 when they applied.

For applications, initial decisions and withdrawals only the last time they are considered a UASC is counted.

Raised age dispute

An age dispute previously included in the data will no longer be included if it was resolved before the date of the asylum application. In addition, each separate age dispute on the same person are now counted.

The numbers now relate to the quarter when the individual becomes an asylum applicant with an age dispute rather than the quarter the asylum application is made.

Overall, the changes reduced the number of asylum applicants counted in the published figures as UASCs, while it made little overall difference to the number of age disputes counted in the published figures. The actual impact as a result of these counting definition changes for 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 were reported in the 'About this release' section of Immigration Statistics April - June 2013.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

In July 1998 the White Paper entitled 'Fairer, Faster and Firmer – A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum' was published. It made a number of proposals on asylum, several of which were implemented immediately (27 July 1998) as there was no need for primary legislation. These had the effect of abolishing the four-year qualifying period for grants of settlement to those recognised as refugees and given asylum and reducing it from seven to four years for those granted exceptional leave. In early 1999 the Home Office established units to implement further measures outlined in the White Paper.

In February 2005 the Government announced a five-year strategy for asylum and immigration: 'Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain'. This was built upon by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) Review (Fair, Effective, Transparent and Trusted) in July 2006. Both outlined how asylum claims would be managed more closely under the New Asylum Model and introduced a single case owner managing both the case and the claimant throughout; changes in the process for managing detained fast-track and non-detained cases; and a change from obtaining settlement when asylum is granted to settlement after five years, during which time cases are reviewed for any changes to the situation of the country of nationality and any circumstances that would make the refugee ineligible for refugee status. The first complete case management teams became operational in June 2005 and since March 2007 the majority of new asylum claims cases have been managed end-to-end by one of the regional asylum teams. The aim is to recognise readily those with well-founded claims, to maximise deterrents against unfounded applications, and to ensure that a higher percentage of asylum seekers whose claims fail are quickly removed from the UK. Changes in non-detained cases included the use of managed accommodation, requirements to report regularly, the serving of appeal outcomes in person and linking an applicant's access to support to their compliance with the process. The Home Affairs Select Committee was informed in December 2006 that the programme of work on the older unresolved (legacy) asylum cases had begun. A Case Resolution Directorate was formed to carry through this work. The review of legacy asylum cases was completed in March 2011.

In July 2006, the Home Secretary announced to Parliament that the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applicants who were still living in the UK would be resolved on a case-by-case basis within the next five years in accordance with the legal framework and with the following priorities:

- those who may pose a risk to the public;
- those who can be removed more easily;
- those receiving support; and

-
- those who may be allowed to stay in the UK.

Data quality

All asylum data relating to the UK:

- are administrative counts of casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative databases;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases:

- incomplete date of birth;
- incorrect outcome selected, for example, exceptional leave to remain (after 1 April 2003), humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) (before 1 April 2003); and
- case created on CID before the date of application.

Asylum applications and initial decisions

The data quality for the total numbers of asylum applications and initial decisions is considered to be high. In addition to the above, these data:

- undergo a reconciliation process;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office; and
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework.

The number of asylum applications and decisions relating to dependants are subject to a slightly larger percentage increase than those relating to main applicants between the data published each quarter and the revised data published in August. This increase is expected, and is not considered to be a data quality issue, as the count of dependants includes those who are born or join the main applicant after the asylum application is made, with the dependant being counted in the same quarter that the original asylum claim was recorded. This also affects the number of dependants counted as 'Age unknown' in Table as_04. For asylum dependants, the age at application is based on their age at the date the main application was made. Therefore, in cases where the child is born after the original asylum application, the recorded age at application will be negative. These are not considered to be data quality issues, but will appear in 'Age unknown' as the age is not known at the time of the application.

Non-suspensive appeals process and asylum cases pending

Data is considered to be high. The non-suspensive appeals data are subsets of the asylum applications and initial decisions data and undergo a separate reconciliation process. Both datasets undergo a detailed reconciliation process.

Asylum appeals, asylum support and resettlement

Data on asylum appeals are considered to be high and are tracked against similar data from Ministry of Justice.

Data on resettlement are considered to be high; these data are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework.

Data of asylum support are considered to be high; the totals are quality assured by the Home Office.

Outcome analysis

The outcome analysis of asylum applications table provides data relating to asylum applications, appeals, fresh claims and removals and voluntary departures. The quality of these data is considered to generally be high. The table also provides estimated outcomes of applications; these data are considered to be of medium data quality as they report on the outcomes of a complex system and in a small proportion of cases, the outcome has to be interpreted. This interpretation is undertaken consistently through established computer code.

Fresh claims, the fast-track process, UASCs and age disputes

Data are considered to be medium to high.

All data on the fast-track process have undergone a reconciliation process with Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood. For data relating to 2012 onwards an improved reconciliation exercise has been undertaken. For 2012, a total of 270 cases (slightly more than 10%) were removed from the original data following this detailed exercise as they were determined to have never been accepted on the Fast-Track process. This suggests that data for earlier years may over-count.

The method for recording an individual as being an UASC or being subject to an age assessment on the CID database means that while new cases are considered to be well-recorded, instances where the individual is no longer a UASC or has had an age assessment made may not be recorded in a quantifiable way. For example, theoretically (1) the CID database allows those who turn 18 to remain recorded as an unaccompanied minor; and (2) the caseworker may record the outcome of an age assessment as a note, but not officially close the age dispute. The computer code employed has been written and tested to mitigate these possible scenarios as far as possible, although the counts may include some applicants as UASCs and age disputes in error.

Data supplied to Eurostat

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are differences between definitions of the asylum figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat. These are detailed under 'Related statistics published elsewhere'.

Data on asylum applications in other countries

Data on the number of asylum applications received in other countries are based on data supplied by the individual countries to international organisations. Not all countries provide data to the end of the period in time for each release of Immigration Statistics. Where a figure is unavailable for a given month, we estimate it using the average of the last three months available, provided that the time series has not shown large increases or decreases. Where a series is erratic, we estimate the figure using the average of the last 12 months.

The sources and countries currently requiring estimation are detailed in the asylum table notes.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a monthly and quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of asylum data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within



the data, to produce the data due to be released.

The only exceptions to this are the data on supported asylum seekers, the fast-track process and resettlement of refugees.

The process for compiling data on asylum support for years up to and including 2012 used a different method to data for 2013 onwards, although the data source is the same. For data up to 2012, each day, a list of the records added or amended on the Asylum Support System (ASYS) was produced. On a weekly basis, the daily lists were added together and then to the information from the previous week to produce a 'snapshot' of ASYS for Migration Statistics. For data from 2013, each week a 'snapshot' of the Asylum Support System (ASYS) is taken. During the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of support data are taken from the appropriate 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. In both cases, the 'snapshot' is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, adds Region, Local Authority, Parliamentary Constituency and Ward to each record using the postcode information.

Data on the resettlement of refugees are provided directly by the Home Office.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the asylum applications, initial decisions, withdrawals, fresh claims and asylum cases pending data for main applicants with teams within the Home Office, by ensuring that the total number of records produced separately by the Home Office is within 2% of the data extracted by Migration Statistics. If the total is not within 2%, then analysis of the individual records are made.

Migration Statistics reconcile data on the non-suspensive appeals process with a team within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each case in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. When an individual is found within only one of the extracts detailed data quality checks are carried out to ascertain whether the case should be counted.

Data on asylum support are quality assured with a team within the Home Office, by comparing the figures against their own records.

Data on the fast-track process are quality assured by teams at Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood against their own records. See the data quality section above for further details.

Trends of asylum appeals are compared against figures published by the HM Courts and Tribunal Service.

All data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the tables ready for release are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Figures on asylum applicants who are removed or depart voluntarily are included in the **Removals and voluntary departures** topic;
- Figures on asylum-related grants of settlement are included in the **Settlement** topic;
- The Ministry of Justice publishes data on immigration and asylum appeals at First-tier Tribunal and subsequent stages; see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;



- Data on asylum applications, withdrawals and cases pending are released on a monthly basis and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-asylum-application-tables>;
- Home Office Business Plan impact indicators showing the percentage of asylum applications concluded in one year are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>;
- Asylum performance framework measures and data on the controlled asylum archive are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>;
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) publishes an annual report entitled 'Asylum Trends in Industrialised Countries' <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4b8.html> which includes an international comparison of the number of applications for asylum;
- Eurostat comparisons of various data relating to asylum applications and decisions are available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database; see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data; and
- International comparisons for asylum applications and decisions can be found in their quarterly and annual publication 'Eurostat Data in focus: Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications', available from: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/publications/collections/sif_dif/dif

Asylum appeals

Asylum appeals data are sourced from the Home Office database and relate to main asylum applicants at the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. The Home Office database records are updated from record-level data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). This provides consistent data across all datasets relating to asylum published in Immigration Statistics, but is different from the HMCTS published statistics which provide counts of principal appellants sourced from the HMCTS database. There tend to be higher numbers of principal appellants than main asylum applicant appeals as:

- HMCTS has a wider definition of asylum appeals, including some human rights cases and appeals on extensions of asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave; and
- principal appellants include some individuals classed as dependants by the Home Office.

The Ministry of Justice publishes data on immigration and asylum appeals at First-tier Tribunal and subsequent stages. These data are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>.

Eurostat data

Under European legislation the UK is required to comply with parts of Article 4: (Asylum Statistics) of regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:0029:EN:PDF>.

This regulation aims to achieve greater comparability in migration and asylum statistics across Europe through the adoption of harmonised definitions.

There are differences between definitions of the asylum figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat. For asylum applications these are as follows:



- the Immigration Statistics figures on fresh applications include those who have made a fresh claim in the same reference month, while figures provided to Eurostat exclude these applicants;
- the figures on withdrawn applications published in Immigration Statistics only show withdrawn first applications and will continue to do so. The figures provided to Eurostat include withdrawn re-applications as well;
- figures in the Immigration Statistics are National Statistics, whereas the monthly information on the most recent months provided to Eurostat is based on provisional Official Statistics, which is subject to change;
- from November 2012, the data have been provided to Eurostat monthly and revised annually, usually in August; the data are not revised quarterly in line with the Immigration Statistics release.



11 Detention

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on three main series of data as National Statistics:

- People entering detention (including occurrences of people entering detention) – ([Tables dt_01 – dt_04_q](#));
- People leaving detention – ([Tables dt_05 – dt_10](#));
- People in detention as at the last day of each quarter (i.e. on a snapshot basis) – ([Tables dt_11_q – dt_13_q](#)); and
- Defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales – ([Tables pr_01](#)).

DETENTION

Data source

The statistics on detention are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the allocating of bed occupancy. Those relating to people in detention (on a snapshot basis) on the last day of each quarter are reconciled with all immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation in the Home Office immigration detention estate.

Background on the statistics

Immigration legislation provides powers of detention. Every person detained, including special cases, is issued with an IS91 Authority to Detain form. Detention may be used whilst identity and basis of claim are established, where there is a risk of absconding, as part of fast-track asylum procedures (in the case of straightforward asylum claims that can be decided quickly) and in support of the removal of failed asylum seekers and others who have no legal right to be in the UK. Special cases include: sensitive cases; spouses of British Citizens or EEA nationals; unaccompanied young persons under 18; unaccompanied children who are to be returned to an EU Member State; an FNO under the age of 18 who has completed a custodial sentence; families with minor children; and detention in police cells for longer than two nights.

An individual may be held and remain in immigration detention for a variety of reasons, including reasons within and outside the control of the Home Office. Those outside the control of the Home Office may include but are not exclusively: individual compliance with immigration procedures, including providing appropriate paperwork; and barriers to removal relating to the individual's personal circumstances or circumstances related to the intended country of return. Reasons within the control of the Home Office include: where the Home Office has assessed it is not in the public interest to release the individual pending removal. The Home Office has a statutory duty to review detention at least every 28 days to ensure that the detained person continues to meet the published detention criteria and that detention is still the most appropriate course.

Published detention figures relate only to those detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in immigration removal centres, short term holding facilities and pre departure accommodation, and exclude those detained for criminal purposes and those who are detained under both criminal and immigration powers. Published detention statistics exclude detainees in short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), police cells and Prison Service establishments; reliable data have not been available for these individuals since March 2006.



Published data on people entering detention (including occurrences of people entering detention) have only been available since 2009.

On leaving detention, people can be removed from the UK, granted leave to enter/remain, granted temporary admission/release or bailed. Figures on people leaving detention from 2010 are not directly comparable with previous figures due to a revised methodology being used.

Background on the statistics relating to families and children

In 2010, the Coalition Programme for Government made a commitment to end the detention of children (i.e. persons aged under 18) for immigration purposes.

A Home Office review began in June 2010 to consider how this could be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. For the purpose of the review, Home Office defined "detention" as the holding of children with families in immigration removal centres such as Yarl's Wood. As a result of this review, in December 2010, the Government published details of its new approach to returning families without permission to be in the UK. The new process for managing the removal of families with no right to be in the UK (The Family Returns Process) began on 1 March 2011.

The final stage of the process includes the possibility of requiring families to stay in 'pre-departure accommodation' as a last resort if they fail to co-operate with other options to leave the UK, such as the offer of assisted voluntary return. Families can only be referred to pre-departure accommodation after advice has been sought from the Independent Family Returns Panel, an independent body of child welfare experts.

The pre-departure accommodation located near Gatwick Airport, in West Sussex, Cedars, opened in August 2011. It provides freedom of movement within a secure perimeter for up to nine families at a time who are accommodated in self-contained apartments.

The 2010 Home Office review stated that families with children may be held on arrival while checks are made to determine whether they should be admitted to the country and, if not, until a return flight can be arranged for them and the December 2010 report of the review stated that 'We will hold families only in very limited circumstances for border and other high risk cases'. The family unit at Tinsley House remains in use for these families. In rare cases, it may be used for families with criminal and other high-risk members who cannot be safely accommodated in pre-departure accommodation. This includes where a foreign national mother and baby from a prison mother and baby unit are being returned during the Early Removal Scheme (ERS) period but it is not practicable or desirable, owing to time or distant constraints, to transfer them direct from prison to the airport for removal. The family unit may be used for adults deemed more at risk, if there are no families detained.

Stays within pre-departure accommodation and the family unit at Tinsley House are limited to a maximum of 72 hours prior to a family's planned removal date from the UK, although there is provision for a family to remain for up to seven days with ministerial approval.

The other circumstances in which children are detained at immigration removal centres and are:

- where an individual considered an adult on entry to the immigration detention estate has their age disputed. Once identified as an 'age dispute case' it is Home Office policy to release the individual into the care of a local authority as soon as appropriate arrangements can be made because of the possibility that he/she is under 18 years of age and while awaiting a Merton compliant age assessment, which will be conducted in the community. While awaiting an age assessment and if an age assessment shows the individual is under 18, the individual will be counted as aged under 18; and
- in criminal cases, detention of a foreign national offender under 18 may be authorised in exceptional circumstances where it can be shown that they pose a serious risk to the public



and a decision to deport or remove has been taken. This detention is subject to Ministerial authorisation and advice is also sought from the Independent Family Returns Panel.

Further information are available from:

- Coalition Programme for Government:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/78977/coalition_programme_for_government.pdf
- December 2010 report into the 'Review into Ending the Detention of Children For Immigration Purposes'
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257654/child-detention-conclusions.pdf
- The independent family returns panel annual report:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-family-returns-panel-annual-report-2011-to-2012>.

Further information on immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities can be found on the UK Border Agency (now Home Office) 'Immigration Removal Centre' web pages at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/immigration-removal-centre>.

Further information on pre-departure accommodation can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-cedars-pre-departure-accommodation>.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Following the closure of the Detainee Location and Management Information System (DELMIS) in October 2006, figures on all people in detention (on a snapshot basis) by length of detention and all people leaving detention ceased to be published as no sufficiently robust quality assurance could be performed on the data. However:

- Figures on children detained by length of detention continued to be published. Figures for all people detained by length of detention resumed publication in February 2009.
- Figures on people removed from the UK on leaving detention resumed in August 2007 and, following the publication of figures on people entering detention in February 2009, it became possible to publish overall figures on all people leaving detention. Figures on all people leaving detention resumed publication (broken down by reason for leaving, place of last detention, age and sex) in November 2010, with a breakdown by country of nationality following in February 2011 and length of detention in May 2011.

Before 2009, data on people in detention (on a snapshot basis) were published as at the last Saturday of each quarter; from 2009 onwards the data have been published as at the last day of each quarter.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Revisions

Revisions to the data on the number of children entering detention occur when a more recent data extract is used to produce the figures. Later extracts will reflect changes made to date of birth information about individuals (after reviews, new evidence or 'Merton' assessments). These changes do not change the total number of people entering detention, but may increase or decrease the number of children entering detention.



For more information see 'Revisions Analysis' in the 'Conventions used in Immigration Statistics' section of this User Guide.

Other changes affecting the statistics

Since the beginning of 2004, the following immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities have closed:

- Dover Harbour – 31 July 2010;
- Oakington Reception Centre – 12 November 2010;
- Harwich – 30 November 2010; and
- Lindholme – 23 December 2011.

Additionally, Yarl's Wood closed to families with children on 16 December 2010.

Since the beginning of 2004, the following immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities have opened:

- Brook House – 18 March 2009;
- Morton Hall – 16 May 2011; and
- Larne House – 5 July 2011.

In March 2011 Tinsley House (Family Unit) IRC was reopened, after refurbishment, predominately for families detained at the Border, whilst awaiting a decision to allow entry to the UK. Tables for detention of children now identify numbers held in Tinsley House (Family Unit) IRC from 2013 onwards.

Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation designed for children and their families opened on 17 August 2011. Cedars was specifically designed to provide a secure facility for children and their families. Whilst children are detained in Cedars PDA under Immigration Act powers, they are not held in the same conditions as previously found in adult detention facilities

From 16 July 2012, following a change in operational policy, Colnbrook immigration removal centre now accepts detainees directly on entering detention, rather than initially entering detention at Colnbrook short term holding facility before being transferred to Colnbrook immigration removal centre.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for people detained (snapshot figures) and children entering and leaving detention is considered to be high; data quality for people entering and leaving detention are considered to be medium to high.

All data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office detention bed occupancy allocation on Home Office administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of Home Office;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling error;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are

-
- subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final; and
 - undergo a detailed reconciliation process.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases:

- overlapping periods of detention;
- incomplete date of birth;
- not detained in a immigration removals centre, short-term holding facility or pre-departure accommodation;
- incorrect detention closure reason; and
- incorrect detention closure date/time.

These issues are mostly captured within specified data quality reports run at the same time as the data are filtered. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to operational colleagues. If the record is amended, the relevant additional information is included.

Length of detention is the number of nights spent in the place of detention, which is calculated using the date that a bed is allocated to an individual and the date that the bed is unallocated. The data extracted do not allow for a calculation of the exact number of hours of detention.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken by Home Office. On a quarterly basis, extracts of the detention data are taken from this 'snapshot' and provided directly by Home Office. These extracts are filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the detention datasets with immigration teams within Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier for each detention in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by Home Office. Where an individual is found within only one of the extracts detailed data quality checks are carried out to ascertain whether the case should be included.

Data on children undergo more detailed checks, including confirmation of the place of detention and individual case-by-case reconciliation with the Family Returns Unit.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with immigration operational teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- All removals from the UK, see the **Removals and voluntary departures** topic;

- Asylum cases in the detained fast-track process, see the **Asylum** topic;
- Following a request in the House of Lords for more detailed statistics on children, since October 2010 a monthly series of children entering detention, broken down by place of initial detention and age, has been published as Official Statistics. These are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/children-entering-detention-under-immigration-act-powers>;
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>; and
- Short statistical article on Foreign National Offenders in detention and leaving detention, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-national-offenders-in-detention-and-leaving-detention>.

PROSECUTIONS FOR IMMIGRATION OFFENCES

Data source

The statistics on prosecutions for immigration offences are supplied by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

Background on the statistics

The figures relate to the principal immigration offence. This is where a defendant is prosecuted for at least one immigration offence but may have also been prosecuted for another non-immigration offence. When a defendant has been prosecuted for two or more immigration offences it is the immigration offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more immigration offences, the immigration offence selected is the immigration offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Where a defendant is prosecuted for one or more non-immigration offences and one or more immigration offences the offence recorded is the principal immigration offence.

More detailed information is available from the MOJ Criminal Statistics Guide <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics> - the guide is available with the latest 'Criminal justice statistics' release.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics perform a number of checks on the data supplied by the MOJ; these are:

- joint working with immigration policy teams and the MOJ statistical team to identify new immigration offences or changes to existing offences to ensure they have been accounted for;
- checking that totals sum; and
- examining the data to identify differences in the trends that may require further investigation.

Revisions

Revisions to the data on prosecutions for immigration offences occur when the sources of administrative systems or methodology changes, receipt of subsequent information, and errors in statistical systems and processes. More detailed information is available from the 'Revisions' section of the MOJ Criminal Statistics Guide <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics>.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Data on all prosecutions are published by the MOJ and are available from



<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics>

12 Removals and voluntary departures

Statistics covered by this topic

Data on removals and voluntary departures are based on individual cases. Multiple removals of the same person within a year are counted as multiple departures.

Figures are published on enforced removals, refused entry at port and subsequently removed and voluntary departures from the UK – as National Statistics – broken down by:

- Type of applicant, split by: main asylum cases, dependants of main asylum cases and non-asylum cases ([Tables rv_01 and rv_01_q](#));
- Type of departure, split by: enforced removals, non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed, Assisted Voluntary Returns, notified voluntary departures and other confirmed voluntary departures ([Tables rv_01, rv_03 and rv_06](#));
- Country of nationality ([Tables rv_03 - rv_05](#));
- Country of destination ([Tables rv_06 and rv_06_q](#));
- Age and sex ([Tables rv_02 and rv_04](#));
- Removals of foreign national offenders ([Table rv_07_q](#)); and
- Harm assessment of enforced removals and voluntary departures ([Table rv_08 and rv_08_q](#)).

Data source

The statistics on departures are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the processing of cases which are subject to removal action.

Background on statistics

Individuals seeking to enter the UK must satisfy a Border Force Officer that they meet the relevant criteria for entry, as defined under the Immigration Rules drafted in accordance with the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended). In order to comply with this requirement, passengers must present themselves, on arrival at a port of entry, to a Border Force Officer. Under Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 officers have the power to conduct further examinations in cases where they are not immediately satisfied that the passenger meets the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Officers who exercise these powers are utilising the powers provided under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

A Border Force Officer may examine a person who has arrived in the UK in order to determine the following: whether or not they are a British citizen; whether or not they may enter without leave; and whether:

- they have been given leave to enter which is still in force;
- they should be given leave to enter and for what period and on what conditions, (if any); or
- they should be refused leave to enter.

A person who is initially refused entry may then be removed. Removal may be immediate; on the next available flight, which may require temporary admission; or may be after a grant of temporary

admission for another reason, such as an appeal against a refusal of entry. The removal may therefore be in a different period to the initial refusal.

The Home Office also seeks to remove people who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK. This includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;
- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; and
- have been refused asylum.

People who have claimed asylum and whose claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, which would suspend removal, can be removed as a result of enforcement action (by deportation, administrative or illegal entry powers); this may include some cases dealt at port/juxtaposed controls. People who have claimed asylum can also be removed under third country provisions without substantive consideration of their asylum claim.

Data on cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed by port location (UK/juxtaposed controls) have only been available from 2007.

It is not possible within the figures split by main applicants and dependants to determine what proportion of removals are families, and these figures should not be used for the purpose of considering family removals.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Key terms

Other key terms for enforced removal, voluntary departures and foreign national offender can be found in the glossary of terms

Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) is a scheme designed to help and incentivise non-EEA foreign national offenders' return to their home country. The scheme covers time-expired prisoners and those who wish to benefit from the early removal scheme or to serve the remainder of their custodial sentence in a prison in their home country.

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) refers to a range of programmes that are available to individuals who are in the asylum system or who are irregular migrants and who wish to return home permanently to either their (non-EEA) country of origin or to a third country where they are permanently admissible. The Home Office has been funding AVR programmes since 1999. They are delivered by Choices, a subsidiary of the independent charity Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, by the International Organization for Migration). There are three main programmes available.

- The **Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP)** assists asylum seekers at any stage of the process, or failed asylum seekers. This also includes those who have been granted time-limited exceptional leave to remain or discretionary leave.
- The **Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM)** programme assists irregular migrants. This includes victims of trafficking or smuggling, illegal entrants and those who have overstayed on their visa.

- **Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC)** is for families comprising a maximum of two adult parents or legal guardians and at least one child (under 18) and for unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, assistance at departure and arrival airports and reintegration assistance including a relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The scheme offers flexibility of reintegration for the whole family and increased emphasis is placed on the use of reintegration assistance for educational needs as well as income generation.

Other confirmed voluntary departures: persons who it has been established have left or have been identified leaving the UK without formally informing the immigration authorities of their departure. These persons can be identified either at embarkation controls or by a variety of data-matching initiatives.

Examples of such initiatives include:

- **Embark Operations:** Immigration Officers interview departing foreign nationals to establish their immigration status and confirm the person's embarkation.
- **Operation Hedera:** Visa applications are matched against records of foreign nationals with no valid leave in the UK to establish whether the person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
- **Operation Semaphore:** Airline passenger data are matched against records of foreign nationals with no valid leave in the UK to establish whether the person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Deportations are a specific subset of departures which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good; the deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. Most illegal immigrants are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK and not deported. Published information on those deported from the UK is not separately available.

EU nationals removed or departing voluntarily: For EU nationals there are two distinct types of removal under the EU law framework – administrative removal which specifically applies for those EU nationals not exercising or abusing Treaty rights, and deportation on public policy grounds. Both types of removals are included in the published data under "Enforced removal" category.

Harm Matrix: The harm matrix is a tool to assess the level of harm associated with a particular individual. In order to provide clarity, consistency and measurement, levels of harm have been divided into four broad categories: A, B, C and D, with A being the highest harm.

- **Category A (highest harm)** – has committed offences including serious criminal offences such as terrorist activity, murder, rape, people and drug trafficking, violent crime and child abuse;
- **Category B (high harm)** – has committed other criminal offences including illegal working, dishonest claim for asylum support and identity fraud; and
- **Category C (medium harm)** – has committed other offences, not linked to any of the above more serious criminality, including minor immigration offences, a drain on public funds and antisocial behaviour.
- **Category D (low harm)** – has committed other low level offences, including shoplifting. Harm Category "D (low harm)" was introduced in the first quarter of 2012. Prior to 2012, Harm Category D would have been classified as part of the previous Harm Category C.

In some cases, people who have departed will not have been assessed and these are reported as 'Cases not assessed'. These mainly relate to people who have already left or are detected leaving the UK of their own accord and were not subject to a pre-departure harm assessment.

The harm matrix was introduced in 2007 for the Public Service Agreement 3 Indicator 4, which is no longer an official measurement of Home Office performance. However, the data continue to be collected and monitored.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Since 2006, cases that had initially been refused leave to enter at ports but were subsequently dealt with in-country are classified as 'Enforced removals' or 'voluntary departures' and no longer classified as 'Refused entry at port and subsequently removed'.

Since 2007, third country cases are no longer automatically defined as asylum cases unless the person has claimed asylum in the UK. This change affects a small number of cases. This reclassification has no effect on the total removals and voluntary departures recorded.

Revisions

As the data matching for the other confirmed voluntary departures is undertaken retrospectively this means these figures are particularly subject to greater upward revision than would be the case for other categories of departure. In the light of the high use of retrospective data matching to check departures, figures are reviewed each quarter to decide whether they require revision.

For more information on revisions please see 'Revisions Analysis' in the 'Conventions used in immigration statistics' section of the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those removed and departed voluntarily is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- enforced removals and cases initially refused entry at port and subsequently departed have not, in recent years, altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors;
- undergo a detailed reconciliation process; and
- are subject to internal data quality checks.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- In some cases, there is insufficient evidence on the database to confirm that a removal took

place, in which case it will not be counted. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to the Home Office. If the record is amended and the relevant additional information added, these removals are counted in the same quarter or in revised figures.

- Figures for 'Under 14'/'14-15'/'16-17' may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of departure.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are differences between definitions of the removals and voluntary departure figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat. These are detailed under 'Related statistics published elsewhere'. The figures supplied to Eurostat are not quality assured to the same level as the data published in Immigration Statistics, as it is not possible to reconcile the data under the definitions used by Eurostat with the Home Office.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of removals and voluntary departures data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

The only exceptions to this are the data on foreign national offenders and the harm assessment of those removed, which are provided directly by the Home Office.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the removals and voluntary departures dataset with teams within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each removal in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. Where a removal is found in only one of the extracts, a number of data quality checks are carried out, including: that each asylum removal is correctly linked to an asylum case outcome on CID; and that the removal categories are consistent with Home Office data. The team in the Home Office are also asked to investigate the discrepancies using detailed sources on individual cases. A case is only included in the published tables if: it appears in both extracts; or it appears in one of the extracts and Migration Statistics team is happy that it is correctly recorded as a removal. For example, if the removal date indicated was before an application date for the same case, then further investigation would be undertaken.

These checks against record-level data are not undertaken for the statistics on foreign national offenders and harm assessment. However, the harm assessment data are matched to the reconciled enforced removals and voluntary departures data to ensure consistency.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Asylum applications and decisions, see the **Asylum** topic;
- People recorded as being removed from the UK on leaving detention, see the **Detention** topic;



- Passengers initially refused entry at port, see the Admissions topic;
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>; and
- Eurostat comparisons of removals are available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database; see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data.

Eurostat data

Under European legislation the UK is also required to comply with parts of Article 7 of regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:0029:EN:PDF>.

This regulation aims to achieve greater comparability in migration and asylum statistics across Europe through the adoption of harmonised definitions.

There are slight differences between definitions of the removals and voluntary departure figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat, as follows:

- data provided to Eurostat since 2010 have been counts of individuals removed; multiple notices issued to the same person in the same year are not counted, while data published within Immigration Statistics count each removal;
- the Immigration Statistics figures include: Dublin removals; multiple removals by the same person in the same reference month; and removals of European Union nationals, while figures provided to Eurostat exclude these departures; and
- data provided under Article 7.1b also exclude departures to the following destinations: European Union countries, Norway, Switzerland and Northern Cyprus.



13 European Economic Area

Statistics published in Immigration Statistics

Figures are published on:

- Applications from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for accession worker cards, registration certificates, the Sector Based Scheme (SBS) and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) ([Table ee_01_q](#));
- Applications from Croatian nationals for accession worker cards and registration certificates;
- Issues and refusals of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members ([Table ee_02](#)).

Commentary on applications from Bulgarian, Romania and Croatian nations can be found in the Work topic while commentary on issues and refusals of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family member can be found in the Family topic.

Background on the statistics

The European Economic Area (EEA) consists of countries within the EU as at end of September 2013 together with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. 28 nationals of the EEA and Switzerland have rights of free movement within the UK. This means that there is less information on numbers coming to the UK than for nationals of other countries.

Related statistics published elsewhere

Figures on the transitional measures put in place by the UK Government to regulate EU8 nationals' access to the labour market (through the Workers Registration Scheme) and to restrict access to benefits were previously published in Immigration Statistics. The data tables were dropped from the release after the transitional measures came to an end. The full data sets are available in Immigration Statistics: October – December 2011 available from

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128103514/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q4-2011/>

The Migration Advisory Committee report 'Migrant Seasonal Workers',
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257242/migrant-seasonal-workers.pdf includes detailed analysis of the SBS and SAWS schemes.

Croatia joined the European Union (EU) on 1 July 2013. Transitional arrangements
<https://www.gov.uk/croatian-national> were introduced to restrict Croatian nationals' access to the UK labour market.

APPLICATIONS FROM BULGARIAN, ROMANIAN AND CROATIAN NATIONALS

Data source

Data are extracted from Home Office administrative databases, after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions. Data relating to Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates are derived from a subset of records on the Case Information Database (CID). Figures of Sector Based Scheme applications granted are taken from information recorded in the globe database (originally used for the administration of work permits before the implementation of the Points Based System) while Seasonal Agricultural Workers information is taken from a dedicated database used to administer the scheme by the Home Office.

Background on the statistics

On 1 January 2007, Bulgaria and Romania (the EU2 countries) joined the European Union. Access to the UK labour market was opened gradually to workers from the EU2 countries. The transitional arrangements enforced by the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 require EU2 nationals to apply for an accession worker card to gain authorisation to work in the UK, or a registration certificate if a student (and working whilst they study) or highly skilled person, unless they are exempt from those requirements.

Access for skilled workers at NVQ level 3 and above is managed through the work permit arrangements. Access for lower-skilled workers is restricted to those using existing schemes (the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme and the Sector Based Scheme) for the agricultural and food-processing sectors. These low-skilled schemes are restricted to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals.

Following 12 months' legal employment in the UK, EU2 national workers obtain full free movement rights.

Those who are: exempt from worker authorisation requirements due to their status in the UK prior to accession or certain family links to UK nationals, settled persons or EEA nationals; self-employed; self-sufficient; a student; or a family member of main applicants can apply for a registration certificate to confirm they are entitled to live in the UK.

These restrictions are not affected by the closure of the Worker Registration Scheme, which only applied to the countries which joined the European Union in 2004.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) was asked in May 2011 to consider whether the UK labour market was experiencing, or threatened by, a serious disturbance and to look at the consequences of maintaining or lifting the current employment restrictions on workers from these two countries. A report, 'Review of the transitional restrictions on access of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to the UK labour market', from the MAC looked at the impact on the domestic labour market if the transitional controls were removed. The report, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-restrictions-on-bulgaria-and-romanian-nationals>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the UK to work, particularly in lower-skilled occupations where there is greater risk of displacement of resident workers and a negative impact on wages. The Government announced on 23 November 2011 that these controls would be extended until the end of 2013.

Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1 January 2014.

Following the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1st July 2013 similar transitional restrictions to those relating to Bulgarian and Romanians were placed on their working in the UK. More information can be found on the Home Office web site at <https://www.gov.uk/croatian-national>.

Key terms

Accession worker cards are issued to highly skilled, skilled and temporary workers from Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia. Highly skilled applicants are exempt from transitional restrictions while skilled and temporary workers employed by companies in the UK are issued a certificate for 12 months, after which they may apply for a registration certificate.

Registration certificates are issued to Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals who are exempt from the transitional controls and employed workers after 12 months living in the UK in accordance with the Regulations.

Definitions of document types can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in the data affecting the statistics

The Immigration Statistics: July–September 2011 release significantly revised the figures for applications received and approvals for registration certificates and accession worker cards from EU2 nationals, to include additional data found to have been incorrectly excluded from previous reports. This mainly affected figures for the first and second quarters of 2011, which were revised upward significantly; the revised total approvals for accession worker cards and for registration certificates for the first six months of 2011 are approximately six times higher than previously indicated. Figures for 2007 to 2010 were also revised, but changed by only 1 or 2%.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Data regarding applications and decisions in accession worker card and registration certificate requests from EU2 (Bulgarian and Romanian) and Croatian nationals along with approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) and Sector Based Scheme (SBS) are based on defined reports supplied by the Home Office and are not subject to the detailed checks of record-level data used for other data included in this release. However, overall the data quality for the numbers published is considered to be high, although initial estimates of quarterly totals for applications and decisions are subject to considerable revisions. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo thorough checks by staff in Migration Statistics prior to publication.

For both accession worker cards and registration certificates there are two reasons why initial quarterly figures have underestimated the final position:

- decisions data relate to the corresponding cohort of applications, such that for applications made in the latest quarter, decisions will be made in the same or later quarters (e.g. not all applications made in Q1 have decisions made in Q1, so the level of decisions made relating to those Q1 applications will increase over time as more decisions are completed); and
- as decisions are made, and data are entered on administrative systems, the initial figures for the number of applications are likely to increase slightly.

Compilation method

On a quarterly basis, during the first week after the end of the reference period Migration Statistics issue a request to Home Office staff responsible for the administration of the schemes relating to EU2 and Croatian workers in the UK for updated figures, supplying template tables and instructions for their completion. Home Office staff use reports tested and validated for accuracy to extract the data from the administrative database and place it in the template, which is then returned to Migration Statistics.

The figures for SAWs approved in Table ee_01 do not exactly match quotas for each calendar year. This is due in part to lags between the issue of cards by the Home Office to scheme operators, sometimes up to three months in advance of the quota year in order to facilitate their recruitment process, and the actual issue of cards. SAWs approved may also include replacement cards not

included in the quota figure. SAWs quotas for 2007 and 2008 were 16,250 and for 2009 to 2013 were 21,250.

Quality and process checks carried out

Before the refreshed template is returned to Migration Statistics the data it contains are checked by at least one other member of the Home Office team to ensure local compilation of data has been carried out correctly.

On receipt of the refreshed template Migration Statistics review the figures supplied by the Home Office, comparing them with data supplied previously and query any changes of more than 1% in those figures published previously. Where error or omissions in the data provided are found they are corrected before publication, wherever possible.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams. Where the reasons for changes in the data can be identified (e.g. operational or policy changes) appropriate commentary is added to the text and table notes.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

Figures on allocations of National Insurance numbers (NINos) – compulsory for people wishing to work in the UK, whether short term or long term and which give an approximation of the uptake of work by non-UK nationals – are published by the Department for Work and Pensions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>.

The Office for National Statistics has published on its web site a guide to the availability of data regarding Bulgarian and Romanian migration in 2014:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/november-2013/sty-bulgaria-and-romania.html>

ISSUES AND REFUSALS OF RESIDENCE DOCUMENTATION TO EEA NATIONALS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

Data source

Data are extracted from the Home Office administrative database, after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions.

Background on the statistics

Under the EEA Regulations, EEA nationals (and their family members) have the right to reside in the UK for three months without conditions. To have a right to reside in the country longer than this they must be exercising a Treaty Right, described in domestic regulations as being a qualified person. To be considered a qualified person, they must be a jobseeker, worker, self-employed person, self-sufficient or a student. After living in the UK for a continuous period of five years in accordance with the EEA Regulations, an EEA national and any family member will acquire the right of permanent residence in the UK.

Key terms

Registration certificates and residence cards are issued to confirm a Treaty Right or confirm a person's status as a family member of an EEA national.

Documents certifying permanent residence and permanent residence cards are issued after five continuous years living in the UK in accordance with the EEA Regulations.

Definitions of document types can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in the data affecting the statistics

The number of decisions made in 2009 and 2010 rose compared to 2008 following various operational and procedural measures introduced during 2009 to improve performance in the Home Office.

In 2011 and 2012 a pre-consideration sift of applications was used to identify those without key information or documentation. These applications were rejected as invalid and returned to the applicant. The pre-consideration sift was discontinued in late 2012. Applicants whose request for documentation is rejected as invalid may apply again including the required information and this is likely to account for a proportion of the increase in decisions in 2011. Applications rejected as invalid are now shown separately in Table ee_02.

In July 2013 a fee for the processing of EEA residence documentation was introduced. This led to a increase in the number of applications rejected as invalid in the later half of 2013 due to their not including the fee.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted and refused EEA residence documents is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in August each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a thorough reconciliation process.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number (less than 1%) of cases:

- In a small number of cases the recorded data appears inconsistent, for example where the recorded case type and statistics category do not represent a valid combination under the published Immigration Rules e.g. for a non-EEA national allowed to stay in the UK by virtue of their relationship to a non-British EEA citizen the Statistics Category recorded should indicate a document recognising their right to reside has been issued rather than a grant of leave to remain under the Immigration Rules. These records are included in the category 'Other' within

the published data and, where resources allow, are passed back to the Home Office for investigation and correction.

Compilation method

On an annual basis, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, extracts of general immigration casework decisions data are taken from a weekly refreshed 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which selects EEA residence document records into a separate dataset and, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data tables that are subsequently published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the summary figures for grants and refusals of EEA residence documents with teams within the Home Office, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2% the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2% can occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of Home Office management information for operational reasons or due to slight differences in the date on which data were extracted from CID.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

IPS ESTIMATES OF IMMIGRATION

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at:<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/long-term-international-migration-estimates-methodology.pdf>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.



14 Work

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for work;
- Sponsored visa applications (Certificate of Sponsorship used)
- Admissions for work;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for work;
- Work-related grants of settlement; and
- International Passenger Survey estimates of work-related immigration.

Background on the statistics

There are a range of measures used to monitor those subject to immigration control coming to the UK to work. These include those listed above together with numbers allocated National Insurance numbers, which provide an indication of migrants entering the labour market.

The figures reflect changes over time in levels of immigration to the UK, as well as policy and legislative changes. The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can affect the number of decisions.

These various statistics and research can appear to give different pictures of immigration for work. Often this is because the latest data for different measures cover different time periods. They also count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, whilst others show actual events.

The Points-based system

The Points-based system (PBS) rationalises the immigration control processes for people coming into the UK for work or study who are not EEA or Swiss nationals; although not all work and study endorsements were superseded by a PBS endorsement.

The PBS has five “Tiers”; four of these (Tiers 1, 2, 3 and 5) relate to permission to work:

- Tier 1 provides a route for high value workers;
- Tier 2 provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer;
- Tier 3 relates to unskilled workers (never implemented);
- Tier 5 is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the UK for primarily non-economic reasons.

Within Tiers 1, 2 and 5 there are sub-categories of endorsements.

Tier 1 was phased in between February and June 2008. Subsequent changes are:

- Tier 1 General route was closed to new “out of country” entry clearance visa applicants from 23 December 2010 and to those applying inside the UK to switch from most categories from 6 April 2011;
- a new Tier 1 route (Exceptional Talent) was introduced from 9 August 2011;
- Tier 1 Post-study route was closed to new applicants from 6 April 2012;
- a new Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur category was introduced from 6 April 2012;



- continuing routes for Tier 1 are: Entrepreneurs; Investors; Graduate entrepreneurs; and Exceptional Talent.

Tiers 2 and 5 were implemented in November 2008. Tier 3 has never been implemented.

All pre-PBS equivalent entry clearance visas should now be obsolete, but visas continue to be granted in old endorsements. For admissions, extensions of stay and settlement, the phasing out of old categories will take longer.

The government asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in March 2011 to consider the following question: 'In which occupation(s) or job title(s) skilled to National Qualifications Framework level 4 or above is there a shortage of labour that it would be sensible to fill using labour from outside the European Economic Area (EEA)?' The MAC published a report (12 September 2011) on 'Skilled shortage sensible – full review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland' recommending changes to the shortage occupation list under Tier 2 of the points-based system. The MAC's report can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-sep-2011>.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) also published a report, 'Analysis of the points-based system – Settlement rights of migrants in Tier 1 and Tier 2', on 4 November 2011 advising the government on how to determine which skilled migrant workers can settle in the UK. The MAC was commissioned by the government in June 2011 to identify the most suitable economic criteria for determining which Tier 2 migrant workers could settle permanently in the UK and what the economic effects of restricting or removing Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlement rights would be. The report is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/settlement-rights-of-migrants-tier-1-and-2>

Accession countries

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) was asked in May 2011 to consider whether the UK labour market was experiencing, or threatened by, a serious disturbance and to look at the consequences of maintaining or lifting the current employment restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania. A report, 'Review of the transitional restrictions on access of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to the UK labour market', from the MAC looked at the impact on the domestic labour market if the transitional controls were removed. The report, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-restrictions-on-bulgaria-and-romanian-nationals>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the UK to work, particularly in lower-skilled occupations where there is greater risk of displacement of resident workers and a negative impact on wages. The Government announced on 23 November 2011 that these controls would be extended until the end of 2013.

More information on the restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania are described in the EEA section.

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP (COS)

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Where possible, entry clearance visas that have been superseded by the PBS and are therefore now obsolete have been linked to the tier that they relate to and are referred to as 'pre-PBS equivalents'. This helps to provide a consistent time series. For some work-related endorsements, an obsolete endorsement has been split between one or more of the tiers or could now be equivalent to endorsements both within and outside the PBS. These are grouped into Work (Other): Other permit free employment not allocated'.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison of entry clearance data with admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.



ADMISSIONS

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF WORK-RELATED IMMIGRATION

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information on the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** section of this User Guide, respectively.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/long-term-international-migration-estimates-methodology.pdf>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Office for National Statistics international migration statistics on those migrating for work, and labour market statistics (including employment rates and changes by country of birth and by nationality) can be found at:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Labour+Market>
- National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk> are published by the Department for Work and Pensions. On 20 January 2012, the department published a report on 'Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants: February 2011 working age benefits'
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/196677/nat_nin_o_regs.pdf
- Reports of the Migration Advisory Committee can be found at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>
- Salt, J., 2012, International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPEMI Correspondent to the OECD



<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/transnational-spaces/migration-research-unit/pdfs/sopemi-report-2012>, 2013, London: Migration Research Unit.

- OECD publish an annual volume analysing international migration and presenting international comparisons, entitled International Migration Outlook <http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/imo2013.htm>
- The 'Migrant Journey' research reports provide analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. See Migrant Journey: Fourth Report <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-journey-fourth-report>. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.
- The UK Border Agency report 'Points-based system Tier 1: an operational assessment – November 2010' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-tier-1-an-operational-assessment> looked into the jobs being done by migrants who were in the UK under Tier 1 of the points-based system, to inform subsequent decisions about the points-based system, in particular the closure of the Tier 1 General and Tier 1 Post-Study routes.



15 Study

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for study;
- Sponsored visa applications (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies used)
- Admissions for study;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for study; and
- IPS estimates of immigration for study.

Background on the statistics

There are a number of different measures monitoring numbers of people coming to the UK for study, as listed above.

These various statistics and research can appear to give different pictures of student immigration. Often this is because the latest data for different measures cover different time periods. They also count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, while others show actual events.

The Points-based system

The points-based system (PBS) rationalises the immigration control processes for people coming into the UK to work or study who are not EEA or Swiss nationals; although not all work and study endorsements were superseded by a PBS endorsement.

The PBS has five “tiers”, one of which (Tier 4) provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider. Tier 4 was implemented in March 2009.

All pre-PBS equivalent entry clearance visas should now be obsolete, but visas continue to be granted in old endorsements. For admissions and extensions of stay, the phasing out of old categories will take longer.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES (CAS)

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

In the **Study** section, student entry clearance and passenger arrivals data are quoted excluding the ‘student visitor’ category to make them more consistent with the IPS estimates of immigration for study, as ‘student visitors’ are allowed a maximum six-month stay and would not be counted as long-term migrants.

Individuals applying under the ‘student visitor’ category, which is for those people who wish to come to the UK as a visitor and undertake a short period of study and those studying on short courses who do



not intend to work part-time or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course, may previously have been classified as 'visitors' or 'short-term students' respectively.

Where possible, entry clearance visas that have been superseded by the PBS and are therefore now obsolete have been linked to the tier that they relate to and are referred to as 'pre-PBS equivalents'. In addition, 'short-term students' which was closed as a route in September 2007 are counted within the 'student visitor' classification for the purpose of the visa data. This helps to provide a consistent time series.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including the comparability of entry clearance visas with passenger arrivals data, extensions and inflow of long-term migrants.

ADMISSIONS

'Short-term students' which was closed as a route in September 2007 are counted within the 'student' classification for the purpose of the admissions data.

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF IMMIGRATION FOR STUDY

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** sections of this User Guide respectively.

Data from ONS on long-term international migration provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visa grants and passenger arrivals data, due to changes in immigration legislation and lack of information on the intentions of those not subject to immigration control; in particular, trends of student immigration are better tracked due to the introduction of the 'student visitor' category on 1 September 2007.

However, ONS records those coming to the UK who state their main reason for migrating is for study; people migrating for other reasons may also choose to study while in the UK.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/long-term-international-migration-estimates-methodology.pdf>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.



Related statistics published elsewhere

- 'The 'Migrant Journey' research reports provide analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.
- Data published by the Higher Education Statistics Authority on Overseas students in UK Higher Education Institutions provides student flows (e.g. entrants) and stocks (e.g. enrolments) available from <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1897/239/>.

16 Family

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for family reasons;
- Admissions for family reasons;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for family reasons;
- Family formation and reunion grants of settlement; and
- IPS estimates of immigration for family reasons.

Key terms

There are a number of ways that allow people to come to the UK for family reasons. The traditional 'family route' is made up of those coming to join or accompany family members who are British citizens or settled people. This includes fiancé(e)s, proposed civil partners, spouses, civil partners, or unmarried or same-sex partners, children and elderly relatives. Others come as dependants of people who have not been granted the right to stay permanently, for example the family members of those working or studying in the UK (dependants joining / accompanying). There are also those who come for a short time to visit family members (visitors).

The numbers coming for family reasons are monitored using a number of different measures, as listed above.

These various statistics can appear to give different pictures of family immigration. This is because they use different definitions of 'family' and count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, while others show actual events.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

Following a consultation on family migration, a number of changes to the Immigration Rules came into effect on 9 July 2012. The changes included:

- introduction of a maintenance and accommodation threshold of £18,600 (with higher levels for also sponsoring non-EEA dependent children);
- extending from 2 years to 5 years the minimum probationary period before non-EEA spouses and partners can apply for settlement in the UK;
- abolishing immediate settlement for the migrant spouses and partner where a couple have been living together overseas for at least 4 years, and requiring them to complete a 5 year probationary period.
- introduction of a genuineness test for relationships; and
- allowing adult and elderly dependants to settle in the UK only where they can demonstrate that, as a result of age, illness or disability, they require a level of long-term personal care that can only be provided by a relative in the UK, and requiring them to apply from overseas rather than switch in the UK from another category, for example as a visitor.

The new Immigration Rules also balance the rights of the individual with the public interest in controlling immigration and protecting the public, with requirements defining the basis on which a person can enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their family or private life.

It is not possible to separately identify applications made under the previous or new rules.

For further information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Key terms

Dependants joining/accompanying are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant, who is not a settled person or a British citizen. Following changes to the rules, from the second quarter of 2011 until the second quarter of 2012, this category included new family members who came to the UK to join a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but who had yet to apply for or be granted settlement.

The **Family route** covers visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the UK or a British citizen. The **Family route: child** includes adult offspring of the settled person or British citizen. The **Family route: other** encompasses dependants who are not offspring or partners, such as elderly relatives. This category also includes:-

- following changes to the rules from July 2012, 'post-flight' family members and adult dependant relatives joining those who have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection within and without grant of settlement; and
- family members of those granted refugee status and who had gained settlement, or who had yet to gain settlement status if the individual coming to the country applied for a visa prior to the second quarter of 2011.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison of entry clearance visas data with admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

ADMISSIONS

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF DEPENDANTS JOINING/ACCOMPANYING OTHERS

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** sections of this User Guide respectively.



Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/long-term-international-migration-estimates-methodology.pdf>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.

Related statistics published elsewhere

The 'Migrant Journey' research reports provide analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.



17 Other sources of information on immigration and migration

The UK National Statistics publication hub (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/) lists a wide range of statistical publications on immigration and migration that are designated National Statistics and produced by Home Office Science, the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Work and Pensions and the devolved administrations. In addition, there are a number of Official Statistics publications from other government departments and agencies, statistics from international organisations and other sources of information on immigration and migration.

Unless specified otherwise, the (non-research) UK materials referenced below are published as designated National Statistics releases/publications.

Current Home Office statistical and research publications

Monthly Asylum Statistics – Official Statistics – available from the Home Office webpages; first published by the Home Office on 24 June 2010 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-asylum-application-tables>).

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age and place of initial detention – Official Statistics – available on a monthly basis from the Home Office webpages; first published by the Home Office on 25 November 2010 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/children-entering-detention-under-immigration-act-powers>).

Migrant Journey (research reports)

In 2010, the UK Border Agency (now Home Office) published the '**The Migrant Journey**' research report which measures migrants' journeys through the immigration system using administrative data. This report presents the initial results of the analysis based on the behaviour of migrants granted leave to enter the UK in 2004 and those granted settlement in 2009.

For more information see the 'Migrant Journey' report (Achato, Eaton and Jones, 2010):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-migrant-journey-research-report-43>.

In 2011, the UK Border Agency (now Home Office) published findings from a second report which gives further analysis of the cohort of migrants reported in 'The Migrant Journey' to identify the most common nationalities seeking entry and settlement.

For more information see the '**Migrant Journey: Second Report**' (Achato, Eaton and Jones, 2011):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-journey-research-report-57>

In 2013 the Home Office published a third report which continues the series by providing new analysis on two further cohorts of migrants granted entry clearance visas in 2005 and 2006 and migrants granted settlement in 2010 and 2011. The report also provides updated estimates for the previously published 2004 and 2009 cohorts. For the first time migrants granted visit visas have been included.

For more information see the '**Migrant Journey: Third Report**' (Eaton, 2013):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-journey-third-report>

In 2014 the Home Office published a fourth report which continues to explore migrants' journeys through the UK's immigration.

For more information see the '**Migrant Journey: Fourth Report**':
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-journey-fourth-report>



Research Reports on immigration control are published by Home Office Science as reports and occasional papers:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/migration-research-and-analysis>.

Previous Home Office statistical publications

Statistical information on grants of British citizenship was published annually in the Home Office **British Citizenship Statistical Bulletin** (previously titled 'Persons Granted British Citizenship, United Kingdom'). The last bulletin was published on 27 May 2010 and is available from the archived Home Office website:
(<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-publications.html>).

Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, available from the archived Home Office website; published by the Home Office between 21 August 2008 and 26 May 2011:
(<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128103514/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/>).

Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom were published in the form of a Command Paper until 2006 and as an online bulletin between 2007 and 2009. Previous editions are available online from The Stationery Office website (www.official-documents.gov.uk) and the archived Home Office website
(<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128103514/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/>).

Before 2008, statistics on asylum applications and decisions were published annually in the **Asylum Statistics United Kingdom** bulletin available online from:
(<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-publications.html>).

The amalgamation of the **Control of Immigration, British Citizenship Statistics** and the **Asylum Statistics** publications was in line with wider developments in the reporting of migration statistics to reduce the number of separate publications and give a coherent picture within the annual and quarterly publications following the **Review of Border and Immigration Agency** (now Home Office) **Statistics on “Control of Immigration”** and the 2011 **Consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs**. See 'Recent and previous reviews' below.

Until May 2009, the Home Office published quarterly Official Statistics on the Worker Registration Scheme (**Accession Monitoring Report**) and the schemes for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals (**Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics**). Past copies are available from the archived Home Office website:
(http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100503160445/http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/about_us/reports/). Key findings and summary data for the EU2 countries continue to be included within the **Immigration Statistics** releases; data on the Worker Registration Scheme were published for the final time on 25 August 2011 following its closure at the end of April 2011.

Performance indicators

Input and impact indicators showing the Home Office immigration performance against reform plans are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>. These are based on Official Statistics unless otherwise stated.



Office for National Statistics (ONS) publications

The ONS have published a **conceptual framework for UK population and migration statistics** at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/imps/latest-news/conceptual-framework/a-conceptual-framework-for-population-and-migration-statistics---download-file.pdf> which aims to facilitate communication with users of population and migration statistics through the development of a shared understanding of the underlying concepts, the available data and the methods used to produce key outputs. Where relevant, Home Office will adopt the framework in its future development of statistics.

The **Migration Statistics Quarterly Report** summarises the latest migration-related statistics. It is produced jointly by ONS, the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It includes data on long-term international migration to and from the UK and migrant applications for work in the UK, and the control of immigration. It also links to the interactive 'Local Area Migration Indicators' tool. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>

The **Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)** publication (MN Series) presents statistics on flows of international migrants to and from the UK and England and Wales. It breaks down flows by variables including citizenship, country of birth, country of last or next residence, reason for migration, occupation, length of stay, age, sex, marital status and UK area of destination or origin.
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>

Data from the **International Passenger Survey (IPS)** are also available – these are a component of LTIM but do not provide full migration figures. They do, however, allow cross-tabulations of different migrant characteristics. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>

National Population Projections by age and sex are produced for the UK and constituent countries every two years. Details of the latest (2010-based) projections and historical projections are currently available via the National Statistics hub: www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/.

ONS also publishes information about international migration alongside other population and demographic information in a number of publications, including:

Population Trends

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population>

Social Trends

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population>

Regional Trends

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Agriculture+and+Environment>

Other statistical publications

DWP publishes data on non-UK nationals registering for a National Insurance Number (NINO) for the purposes of work, benefits or tax credits. **National Insurance Numbers allocated to Adult Overseas Nationals** is available via the National Statistics hub: (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) publishes **Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland** (<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>) and the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/) reports data on **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality** and the **High Level Summary of Statistical Trends** publication includes data on migration.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes **Tribunals Service, Quarterly Statistics and Annual Statistics** containing financial year data on applications and decisions of immigration appeals (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated, by the United Nations, to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. The UNHCR website (www.unhcr.org/) includes statistics on refugees.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat: (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>)) is the statistical arm of the European Commission, producing data for the European Union (EU) and promoting harmonisation of statistical methods across the member states. Since 2008, all Member States are required to submit data to Eurostat on international protection and migration as part of the Migratory Statistics Regulation EC No. 862/2007. The long-term aim of this regulation is to enable international comparisons across the European Union, focusing on international migration (stocks and flows), prevention of illegal entry and stay (refusals, apprehensions and returns) and international protection (asylum).

The European Commission launched the European Migration Network (EMN) in 2003 (<http://emn.intrasoft-intl.com/html/index.html>). The EMN is a network of national contact points (NCPs) with the purpose of collating, analysing, providing access to and facilitating the exchange of information on migration and asylum to inform policy making across the European Union. As part of this work regular themed research reports are produced, which contain an overview of the latest policy and statistical information, as well as an **Annual Policy Report**. Currently, an **Annual Report on Migration and International Protection Statistics** is produced by all Member States and combined into a synthesis report by the EMN as a source for international comparisons across the European Union. Since 2008, this report has mainly used data supplied to Eurostat as part of the Migratory Statistics Regulation (EC No, 862/2007).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in 1961. Its mission has been to help its member countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and employment and to raise the standard of living in member countries while maintaining financial stability. The OECD collects statistics annually from statistical agencies and other institutions of its member countries needed for the analysis of economic and social developments by its in-house analysts, committees, working parties, and member country governments. OECD databases and publications of migration statistics, including **Databases on Migration in OECD countries** and the annual **International Migration Outlook (SOPEMI)** can be found on the OECD website: (http://www.oecd.org/topic/0_3699.en_2649_37415_1_1_1_1_37415.00.html).

Salt, J., 2012, International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPEMI Correspondent to the OECD (<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/transnational-spaces/migration-research-unit/pdfs/sopemi-report-2012>), 2012, London: Migration Research Unit.

OECD publish an annual volume analysing international migration and presenting international comparisons, entitled International Migration Outlook (<http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/imo2013.htm>)

The United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Population Division also provide data on migration – including stocks, flows, labour migration and asylum: (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/>).

Other sources of information

The Home Office is responsible for securing the UK borders and controlling migration in the UK. The Home Office manages border control for the UK, enforcing immigration and customs regulations; and considers applications for permission to enter or stay in the UK, citizenship and asylum.

The Government wishes to manage legal migration in the interests of the UK economy, and there are eligibility requirements for people who want to work in the UK. The **Working in the UK** section of the UK Border Agency (now Home Office) website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-border-agency>)



[visas-and-immigration](#)) provides details of most of the routes available to foreign nationals who want to come to the UK to work and the **Policy and Law** section provides a reference source on immigration and asylum law. The **About Us** section provides a growing number of Official Statistics on the immigration work of the Home Office.

International Group, part of the Home Office, runs the UK's visa service through British diplomatic posts abroad, visa application centres and online. Online information is available on visa applications (<https://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration>).

Previously, the Home Office published statistics on entry clearance which provided details of all visas applications, grants and refusals worldwide (<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100422120657/http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/aboutus/statistics/>). These are now incorporated within Immigration Statistics releases.

The COI Service is a team of specialist researchers who research and collate information on countries giving rise to asylum claims in the UK (<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/coi/>).

The Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration (THESIM) project brings together data suppliers and users at the national and EU level, and has also created a strong international network of key academic experts on migration statistics in the EU. The project included creating a book, **THESIM: Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration** (fee required), which provides an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of the whole system of statistical data sources on international migration and asylum in the European Union (www.uclouvain.be/en-12321.html).

Users of migration statistics are able to join an email-based User Group forum for discussion. The user group can be accessed at: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=migration-stats>.

Recent and previous reviews

Consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs (2011), summary of responses to the consultation and outcomes are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-changes-to-immigration-related-home-office-statistical-outputs>

UK Statistics Authority Migration Statistics: The Way Ahead (July 2009)
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/authority-report-4--migration-statistics-the-way-ahead.pdf>.

Review of Border and Immigration Agency Statistics on Control of Immigration (February 2008)
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bi-a-immig-stat-review-07.pdf>.

These reviews followed the National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) of “Control of Immigration United Kingdom” publications. The final report and the Home Office’s implementation plan can be found on the Home Office website:

- review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics (August 2006)
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/immig_review_06.pdf.
- review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics – Implementation Plan
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/cpreview07.pdf>.



Asylum and migration – a review of Home Office Statistics by the National Audit Office (May 2004) <http://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2004/05/0304625.pdf>

Legislation governing Home Office Statistics outputs

- Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
- Control of Immigration statistics: The first permanent control over the admission and residence of foreigners in peacetime was established by the Aliens Act 1905. Annual reports of HM Inspector under the Act from 1906 to 1913 inclusive, which included statistics on foreign passengers arriving and departing, were published as Command Papers. No foreign passenger traffic figures were published for the period 1 July 1914 to 31 December 1919. Quarterly returns of foreign passenger traffic were published as Command Papers for the period 1 January 1920 to 30 June 1939. Annual returns giving a more detailed analysis were published for the years 1921 to 1938. The series was suspended on the outbreak of war. Following a number of requests for permission to use figures since 1939 a Command Paper volume was published providing information for the years 1939 to 1951. This Command Paper stated the intention to publish figures annually.
- Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation, (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.



18 List of tables

This section provides a list of the tables published in the Immigration Statistics release.

Table number	Type of data	Title
Sponsorship		
cs_01_q	Quarterly	Organisations on the Register of Sponsors (Tiers 2 & 5) by quarter.
cs_02_q	Quarterly	Organisations on the Register (Tiers 2 & 5) that can sponsor individuals for each immigration category by quarter
cs_03	Annual	Applicants for visas for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs_03_q	Quarterly	Applicants for visas for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs_04	Annual	Applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs_04_q	Quarterly	Applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs_05	Annual	Applicants for visas for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and country of nationality
cs_05_q	Quarterly	Applicants for visas for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and country of nationality
cs_06	Annual	Applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and country of nationality
cs_06_q	Quarterly	Applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and country of nationality
cs_07_q	Quarterly	Organisations on the Register of Sponsors (Tier 4) by quarter
cs_08_q	Quarterly	Organisations on the Register (Tier 4) that can sponsor individuals for each immigration category by quarter
cs_09	Annual	Applicants for visas for study using sponsor acceptances, by education sector
cs_09_q	Quarterly	Applicants for visas for study using sponsor acceptances, by education sector
cs_10	Annual	Applicants for extensions of stay for study using sponsor acceptances, by education sector
cs_10_q	Quarterly	Applicants for extensions of stay for study using sponsor acceptances, by education sector
cs_11	Annual	Applicants for visas for study using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_11_q	Quarterly	Applicants for visas for study using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_12	Annual	Applicants for extensions of stay for study using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_12_q	Quarterly	Applicants for extensions of stay for study using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_13	Annual	Applicants for visas for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_13_q	Quarterly	Applicants for visas for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_14	Annual	Applicants for extensions of stay for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
cs_14_q	Quarterly	Applicants for extensions of stay for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances, by country of nationality
Visas		
vi_01_q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visa applications and resolution by category



vi_02_q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visa applications and resolution by country of nationality
vi_03	Annual	Entry clearance visa applications by country of nationality
vi_04	Annual	Entry clearance visas granted by category
vi_04_q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category
vi_05	Annual	Entry clearance visas granted by country of nationality
vi_05_q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by country of nationality
vi_06_q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Summary
vi_06_q_w	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Work
vi_06_q_s	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Study
vi_06_q_f	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Family
vi_06_q_d	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Dependant joining/accompanying
vi_06_q_o	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Other
vi_07	Annual	Appeals received and appeal outcomes on entry clearance visas by issuing post
Admissions		
ad_01	Annual	Passenger arrivals including EEA and Swiss nationals
ad_01_q	Quarterly	Passenger arrivals including EEA and Swiss nationals
ad_02	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals
ad_02_q	Quarterly	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals
ad_03	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey by main category and country of nationality
ad_03_w	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom in work categories by country of nationality
ad_03_s	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom in study categories by country of nationality
ad_03_f	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom in family categories by country of nationality
ad_03_o	Annual	Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom in other categories by country of nationality
ad_04	Annual	Passengers initially refused entry by nationality
ad_04_q	Quarterly	Passengers initially refused entry by nationality
Extensions		
ex_01	Annual	Decisions on applications for an extension of stay by category
ex_01_q	Quarterly	Decisions on applications for an extension of stay by category
ex_02	Annual	Grants and refusals of an extension of stay by category and country of nationality, excluding dependants: Summary
ex_02_w	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by category and country of nationality, excluding dependants: Work
ex_02_s	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by category and country of nationality, excluding dependants: Study



ex_02_f	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by category and country of nationality, excluding dependants: Family
ex_02_o	Annual	Grants an extension of stay by category and country of nationality, excluding dependants: Other
Expc_01	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by current category and previous category, excluding dependants: Summary
Expc_01_w	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by current category and previous category, excluding dependants: Work
Expc_01_s	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by current category and previous category, excluding dependants: Study
Expc_01_f	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by current category and previous category, excluding dependants: Family
Expc_01_w	Annual	Grants of an extension of stay by current category and previous category, excluding dependants: Other
Settlement		
se_01	Annual	Grants of settlement by category of grant
se_02	Annual	Grants of settlement by category of grant
se_02_q	Quarterly	Grants of settlement by category of grant and refusals
se_03	Annual	Grants of settlement by country of nationality and category and in-country refusals of settlement
se_04	Annual	Grants of settlement to spouses on the basis of marriage
se_05	Annual	Grants of settlement on removal of time limit by geographical region, sex and age
se_06	Annual	Grants of settlement to Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals
Citizenship		
cz_01	Annual	Citizenship applications, grants and refusals
cz_01_q	Quarterly	Citizenship applications, grants and refusals
cz_02	Annual	Citizenship grants by general category
cz_02_q	Quarterly	Citizenship grants by general category
cz_03	Annual	Long-time base citizenship applications, grants by broad type and refusals
cz_04	Annual	Long-time base grants of other British citizenship
cz_05	Annual	Citizenship grants by age, sex and geographic region
cz_06	Annual	Citizenship grants by previous country of nationality
cz_07	Annual	Citizenship grants by previous country of nationality and type of grant
cz_08	Annual	Persons attending British citizenship ceremonies by region and local authority
cz_09	Annual	Refusals of citizenship by reason
cz_10	Annual	Renunciations of citizenship
Asylum		
as_01	Annual	Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants, by country of nationality
as_01_q	Quarterly	Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants, by country of nationality
as_02	Annual	Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants and dependants, by country of nationality
as_02_q	Quarterly	Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants and dependants, by country of nationality
as_03	Annual	Asylum applications from main applicants, by age, sex and country of nationality
as_04	Annual	Asylum applications from main applicants and dependants, by age, sex and country of nationality

as_05	Annual	Asylum initial decisions from main applicants, by sex and country of nationality
as_06	Annual	Outcome analysis of asylum applications, as at July 2014
as_07	Annual	Asylum applications received in Europe and elsewhere for main applicants and dependants
as_07_q	Quarterly	Asylum applications received in Europe and elsewhere for main applicants and dependants
as_08	Annual	Asylum applications received from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, by sex and age at time of application
as_08_q	Quarterly	Asylum applications received from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, by sex and age at time of application
as_09	Annual	Initial decisions on asylum applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, by sex and age at initial decision
as_09_q	Quarterly	Initial decisions on asylum applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, by sex and age at initial decision
as_10	Annual	Age disputes raised and resolved for asylum applicants, by country of nationality
as_10_q	Quarterly	Age disputes raised and resolved for asylum applicants, by country of nationality
as_11	Annual	Asylum main applicants accepted onto the fast-track process, by country of nationality
as_12	Annual	Outcomes of asylum main applicants accepted onto the fast-track process
as_13_q	Quarterly	Main applicants refused asylum and eligible for the non-suspensive appeals process, by country of nationality
as_14	Annual	Asylum appeal applications and determinations, by country of nationality and sex
as_14_q	Quarterly	Asylum appeal applications and determinations, by country of nationality
as_15	Annual	Applications for asylum support, by support type and nationality
as_16_q	Quarterly	Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, by local authority, as at end of quarter
as_17_q	Quarterly	Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, by country of nationality and UK region, as at end of quarter
as_18_q	Quarterly	Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 4 or Section 98 support, and decisions to grant Section 4 support
as_19	Annual	Refugees resettled, including dependants

Removals and voluntary departures

rv_01	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by type and asylum/non-asylum cases
rv_01_q	Quarterly	Removals and voluntary departures by type and asylum/non-asylum cases
rv_02	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by type, asylum/non-asylum cases, age at departure date and sex
rv_03	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality and type
rv_03_q	Quarterly	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality and type
rv_04	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality, age and sex
rv_04_q	Quarterly	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality, age and sex
rv_05	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality and destination
rv_05_q	Quarterly	Removals and voluntary departures by country of nationality and destination
rv_06	Annual	Removals and voluntary departures by country of destination and type
rv_06_q	Quarterly	Removals and voluntary departures by country of destination and type
rv_07_q	Quarterly	Removals of foreign national offenders
rv_08	Annual	Enforced removals and voluntary departures by harm assessment category
rv_08_q	Quarterly	Enforced removals and voluntary departures by harm assessment category

Detention

dt_01	Annual	People entering detention by age, sex and place of initial detention
dt_01_q	Quarterly	People entering detention by age, sex and place of initial detention
dt_02	Annual	Children entering detention by age and place of initial detention
dt_02_q	Quarterly	Children entering detention by age and place of initial detention
dt_03	Annual	Number of occurrences in detention in each year and since January 2009
dt_03_q	Quarterly	Number of occurrences in detention in each quarter and since January 2009
dt_04	Annual	People entering detention by country of nationality, sex, place of initial detention and age
dt_04_q	Quarterly	People entering detention by country of nationality, sex, place of initial detention and age
dt_05	Annual	People leaving detention by reason and age
dt_05_q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason and age
dt_06	Annual	People leaving detention by reason, sex and length of detention
dt_06_q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason, sex and length of detention
dt_07	Annual	People leaving detention by reason and place of last detention
dt_07_q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason and place of last detention
dt_08	Annual	People leaving detention by country of nationality, reason, sex and age
dt_08_q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by country of nationality, reason, sex and age
dt_09	Annual	Children leaving detention by location, by reason and length of detention
dt_09_q	Quarterly	Children leaving detention by location, by reason and length of detention
dt_10	Annual	People leaving detention by cumulative length of detention
dt_11_q	Quarterly	People in detention by sex and length of detention
dt_12_q	Quarterly	People in detention by place of detention
dt_13	Annual	People in detention by country of nationality, sex, place of detention and age
dt_13_q	Quarterly	People in detention by country of nationality, sex, place of detention and age

Prosecutions

pr_01	Annual	Defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales
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European Economic Area

ee_01	Annual	Applications from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for permission to work in the UK by date of application
ee_01_q	Quarterly	Applications from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for permission to work in the UK by date of application
ee_02	Annual	Issue and refusal of residence documentation (excluding Worker Registration Scheme) to EEA nationals and their family members, by country of nationality