



Contents

Section		Page
1	Introduction	3
2	Glossary of terms	6
3	Conventions used in Immigration Statistics.....	15
4	Information affecting all topics	20
5	Before entry	28
6	Admissions.....	40
7	Extensions.....	48
8	Settlement.....	52
9	Citizenship.....	58
10	Asylum	65
11	Detention	77
12	Removals and voluntary departures.....	81
13	European Economic Area	88
14	Work	94
15	Study	100
16	Family.....	101
17	Other sources of information on immigration and migration	106
18	List of tables	111

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 UK Border Agency's operation of immigration control and related processes. Most of the statistics therefore relate to people who are subject to immigration control (i.e. from outside the European Economic Area).

- Before entry: entry clearance visas and passengers initially refused entry
- Admissions: passengers allowed 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 UK Border Agency 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 UK Border Agency, Border Force 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 provided for 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 UK Border Agency can affect the number of decisions made. Further information on the work of the UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom, as the UK Border Agency does not count everyone out of the country, or on the numbers of foreign nationals living in the United Kingdom. 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 United Kingdom 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: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>.

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: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/about-home-office-science/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 e-mail or in writing, or via the Migration Statistics User Forum.

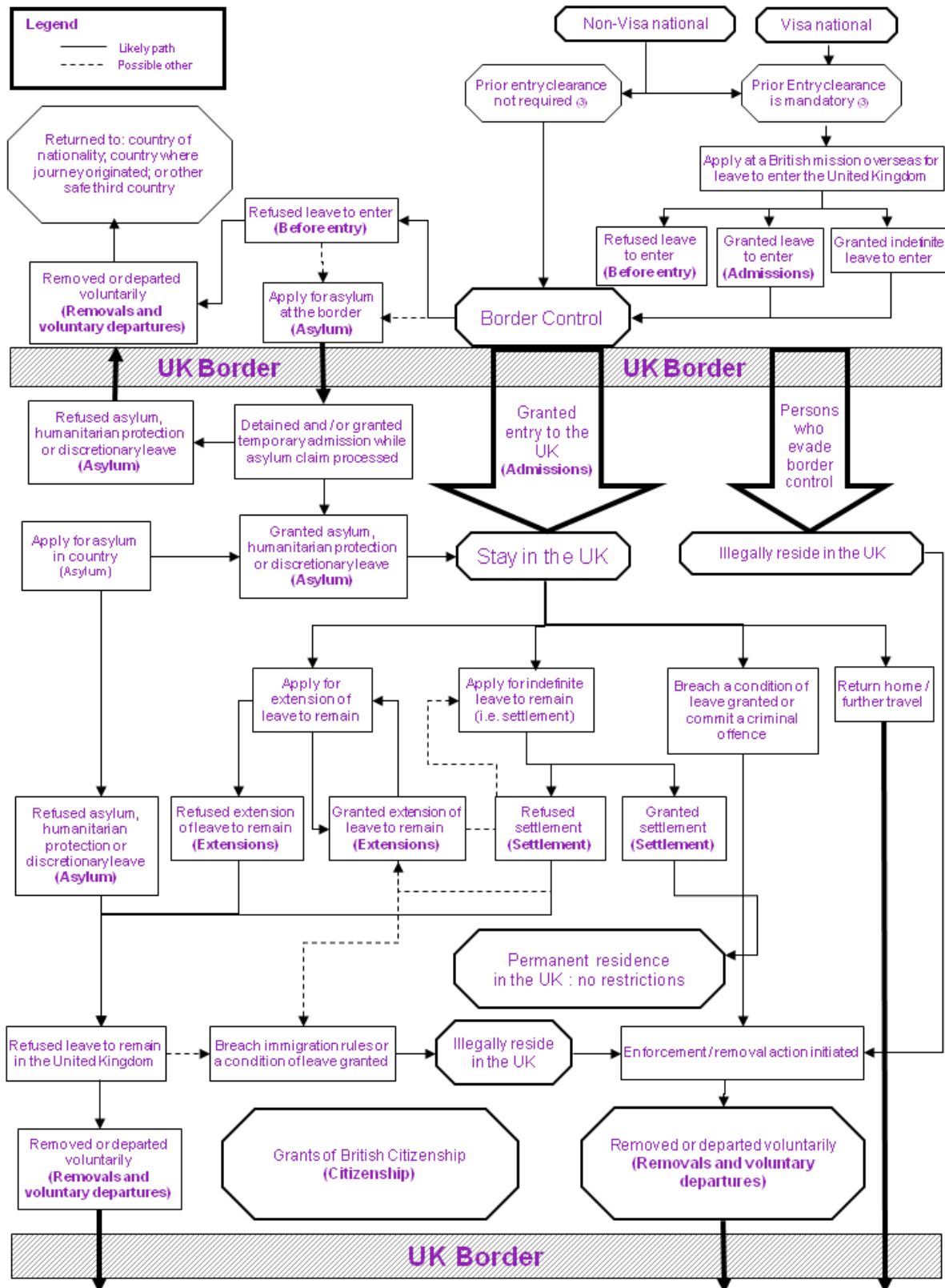
If you have any questions about *Immigration Statistics*, please send an e-mail to: MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Alternatively, write to:

The Editor, Immigration Statistics
Migration Statistics
Home Office Statistics
17th Floor, Lunar House,
40 Wellesley Road
Croydon
CR9 2BY.

Press enquiries should be made to:
Home Office Press Office
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF.
Tel: 020 7035 3535

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), applications under the Worker Registration Scheme (information on which can be found in the EEA topic), etc. 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 Scheme	SAWS	Seasonal Agricultural Workers
ILR	Indefinite Leave to Remain	SBS	Sector Based Scheme
NS	National Statistic Child	UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking
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 acceptance of a country as a new member of the **European Union**.

Accession Worker Cards are required by Bulgarian and Romanian nationals if they wish to work in the United Kingdom.

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 United Kingdom. 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's claim that they are aged under 18 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 aged over 18 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.

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 UKBA has been funding AVR programmes since 1999. They are delivered by Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, by the International Organization for Migration).

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

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 United Kingdom 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 individuals (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5). It is required as part of the application process for visas and for extensions for skilled individuals. Any organisation who wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the UK Border Agency's 'Register of Sponsors'.

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

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. Discretionary Leave is normally granted for a period of three years. Further leave may be granted, subject to a review of the individual's circumstances.

Discretionary leave may also be granted if, for example, the applicant is an **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC)** who is not considered to be in need of international protection but who cannot be removed because adequate reception arrangements in their country are not available. For UASCs, DL can be granted for three years or up until they are aged 17½, whichever comes first.

In a small number of instances, a short period of DL may be granted to individuals who have been refused international protection because they are considered undeserving of it, but who cannot currently be removed from the United Kingdom for legal reasons.

A **document certifying permanent residence** is issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the United Kingdom. EEA nationals acquire this right after living in the United Kingdom 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.

An **enforced removal** is where: it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom. The UKBA enforces their departure to ensure they leave the UK.

Entry clearance takes the form of an **entry clearance visa** (for visa nationals) or an entry certificate (for non visa nationals). These documents are to be taken as evidence of the holder's eligibility for entry into the United Kingdom, and accordingly accepted as "entry clearances" within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971.

An **entry clearance visa** is a visa permitting the bearer to travel to the United Kingdom and leave to enter from the date of issue. It is activated upon passing through UK immigration

control. There are three categories of visa: temporary, leading to settlement and settlement. Not all nationalities require a visa.

The **European Economic Area (EEA)** consists of the 27 countries of the **European Union**, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Nationals of the EEA and Switzerland have rights of free movement within the United Kingdom.

The **European Union (EU)** consists of 27 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, 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 United Kingdom.

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 are those 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**).

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**. Includes husbands, wives, children, parents, grandparents and other and unspecified dependants.

First-tier Tribunal Immigration 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 United Kingdom 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 (except those from certain exempt categories), including returning British nationals, who have recently arrived in the country and who make a claim for income-related social security benefits or seek housing assistance from a local authority. 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. Habitual residence is not defined in law. The exempt categories include: worker for the purposes of EC law; those granted **refugee** status, **humanitarian protection**, or **discretionary leave** to remain; those granted exceptional leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain granted exceptionally outside the Immigration Rules. Those individuals in the exempt categories are required to provide evidence of a right to reside but will satisfy the habitual residence condition.

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**.

Humanitarian protection (HP) is leave granted to a person who is not a refugee under 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. If a person has been refused asylum they may still be considered for this status. Humanitarian protection is normally granted for a period of three years, after which the person can apply for **indefinite leave to remain**. A person who is granted humanitarian protection is allowed to work and has access to public funds.

Income Support is a benefit for people unavailable for full-time work and who do not have enough money to live on.

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

Initial decision is a decision by the **UK Border Agency** 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 United Kingdom by air, sea or the Channel Tunnel. Over a quarter of a million face-to-face interviews are carried out each year.

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 **UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom 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 travellers who stated the intention in the **IPS** to stay in the destination country for more than 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 United Kingdom 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 the **UK Border Agency** 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 United Kingdom. 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.

A **notified voluntary departure** is where it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom; the UKBA may or may not have enforced their departure, removal directions may or may not have been set to administratively remove or deport the person from the country; however, the person had notified the UKBA that they wished to make their own arrangements to leave the country and provided evidence to this effect. The UKBA would 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, the data described as 'Official Statistics' are drawn from Home Office's administrative systems and have not necessarily been subject to the same detailed verification processes as those previously 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 Home Office's migration statistics publications after these were originally badged 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 UK Statistics Authority. Hence (b) are therefore described as Official Statistics rather than National 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 United Kingdom for a period not exceeding six months on condition that they do not work.

Passengers returning includes both: people who are settled in the United Kingdom, 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.

Pension Credit is extra money paid to those aged 60 and over to top up their weekly income to a guaranteed minimum amount or to those aged 65 and over to contribute toward their retirement savings.

A **permanent residence card** is issued to non-EEA family members of EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the United Kingdom 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)** rationalises 80 existing immigration control processes for people working and studying in the United Kingdom into five 'tiers'. Phased implementation began in February 2008. 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 air, sea or rail terminal through which people from outside the United Kingdom enter the country.

Post-decision reviews are sometimes carried out on **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.

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. The individual is unable or, owing to such a fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of their former habitual residence, is unable, or owing to such fear is unwilling to return to it. Recognition of refugee status by the United Kingdom is a pre-requisite to the grant of asylum in the country.

Registration certificates are issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of residence in the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom. 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.

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

Residence cards are issued to non-EEA national family members of an EEA national who is exercising Treaty Rights in the United Kingdom. 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.

Right of abode is the legal description of a person's right to enter and live in the United Kingdom 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 ID card, or a certificate of entitlement in a foreign passport.

Right to reside; an individual has the right to reside in the United Kingdom if they are:

- a UK national or from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland;
- from the **European Economic Area (EEA)** or Switzerland and working for an employer or are self-employed in the United Kingdom;
- from the **European Economic Area** or Switzerland and actively looking for work and registered with Jobcentre Plus; or
- from outside the **European Economic Area** but have permission to remain in the United Kingdom.

Nationals of the **EEA** or Switzerland, who are not working or actively looking for work, may not have a right to reside in the United Kingdom, unless they have the resources to support themselves. There is no statutory definition of the term “right to reside”.

The **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS)** is a scheme under which Bulgarian and Romanian nationals may be admitted to the United Kingdom to undertake seasonal work on farms. SAWS dates 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 operates under a quota system. The season is defined from 1 May - 30 November. Participants are students (often agricultural students) in their home countries, aged 18-25. Before restriction to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals in 2007, the majority of participants were from Eastern Europe and the states of the former USSR.

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 United Kingdom.

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)** is a quota-based scheme for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, which only covers 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.

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 United Kingdom primarily or solely for the purpose of study.

The **student visitor** category provides for those people who wish to come to the United Kingdom 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 highly skilled individuals who can contribute to growth and productivity.

Tier 2 of the Points-based system: For skilled workers from outside the **EEA** with a 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 (currently suspended).

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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom for Commonwealth citizens without **right of abode** if they can show that they have a grandparent who was born in the United Kingdom. For these purposes citizens of Zimbabwe can also qualify if they meet these conditions.

The **UK Border Agency** is responsible for securing the UK borders and controlling migration in the United Kingdom.

UK Border Agency Officers (previously known as Immigration Officers) working in passport control are responsible for checking the right of entry to the United Kingdom of all individuals arriving at seaports, airports and via the Channel Tunnel. As well as examining documentation, they may gather intelligence and do case work. Where necessary, they will use legal powers to detain or remove illegal entrants to the United Kingdom.

An **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC)** is a child under 18 who is:

- applying for asylum in their own right; and
- is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law 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 United Kingdom, 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 are found to have absconded from their registered address. Also called non-substantiated claims.

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

Entry clearance takes the form of a **visa** (for **visa nationals**) or an entry certificate (for non visa nationals). These documents are to be taken as evidence of the holder's eligibility for entry into the United Kingdom, and accordingly accepted as "entry clearances" within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971.

A **visa national** is a national of a country listed as requiring a visa for any type of entry to the United Kingdom; a stateless person; a holder of a non-national travel document unless issued by the United Kingdom; or a holder of a passport issued by an authority that is not recognised in the United Kingdom. Visa nationals must obtain entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom, 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 visitors who enter or leave the United Kingdom intending to stay in the destination country for less than a year, but who actually stay for longer.

Voluntary departures are comprised of notified voluntary departures, assisted voluntary returns and other confirmed voluntary departures.

Withdrawn is an application that can be withdrawn by the applicant by either signing the relevant form or 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 ceased to apply on 1 May 2011, **EU8** nationals who took up employment in the United Kingdom were required to apply to register that employment under the Scheme 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 United Kingdom. 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** topic 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.

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.

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 United Kingdom 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).

Stateless and refugee nationality breakdown

Following requests from UNHCR and Asylum Aid from a previous consultation about the statistics (May 2011), we have split the current 'Stateless' category in some tables into 'Stateless' and 'Refugee'. This affects very small numbers in our tables.

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 are expected to be revised in May of each year; all other provisional data are expected to be revised in August of each year.

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 2011 figures published in February 2012 have been small. Two exceptions to this are the ‘Total returns enforced or voluntary returns’ and the ‘Detention – children entering’ series.

Series	Published Feb	Revision Mar-12	Revision Aug-12
Asylum applications main applicants	19,804	n/a	0.3%
Initial decisions main applicants	17,496	n/a	-0.7%
Total returns enforced or voluntary returns ¹	52,526	n/a	8.9%
Detention - total entering	27,072	n/a	0.06%
Detention - children entering	99	n/a	28.3%
Grants of an extensions of stay including dependants	300,093	n/a	-0.2%
Grants of settlement - including dependants	163,477	n/a	2.1%
Entry clearance visas issued - including dependants	2,272,371	n/a	0.02%
Citizenship grants - total (all individuals applying for citizenship are treated as main applicants in their own right)	177,878	-0.05%	0.0%
Admissions - total passenger arrivals (millions)	105.9	n/a	0.0%
Admissions -Non EEA national arrivals (millions)	13.2	n/a	0.8%

Explanation of revisions for totals returns including voluntary departures¹

This total was mainly revised for 2011 due to revised figures for voluntary departures. 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. This means that the most recent figures for voluntary departures, and in particular confirmed departures, understate the finalised figures. For example, the 2011 figures for other confirmed voluntary departures have been revised upwards since the February 2012 quarterly release from 13,361 to 15,712, an 18% increase. In the light of the greater use of retrospective data matching to check departures we are reviewing the frequency at which these figures are subsequently updated.

Explanation of revisions for children in detention data

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 (which changed - 0.06% for the 2011 totals published in February 2012 and in August 2012), but may increase or decrease the number of children reported as entering 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 United Kingdom, the conditions of stay in the United Kingdom, 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 each relevant topic in a section called 'Changes in the immigration legislation affecting the statistics'.

¹ From August 2012 the total of enforced removals, refused entry at port and who subsequently departed and voluntary departures is no longer aggregated in the Immigration Statistics release and is summed here for comparison with the previous equivalent total only for the purpose of revisions analysis; this total of the new three categories provided from August 2012 is not recommended for other purposes



Data quality

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. Data quality issues are detailed in each relevant topic.

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 recently (October 2010) by the UK Statistics Authority (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/monitoring-brief-6-2010--the-use-made-of-official-statistics.pdf>).

We have indicated a range of the expected uses of the statistics below 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 & the media**
 - e. about the performance of government and public bodies e.g. via Parliament & 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 consultation included evidence of the use made of the immigration statistics published by Home Office by a range of users. These included:

Greater London Authority

“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

“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 issued, 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

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 UKBA. Refugee Council use data on detained fast-track process for monitoring

Asylum Support Appeals Project

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 front line evidence.

Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

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

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

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 Ffoduriaid Cymru

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

Examples of uses of the statistics:-

(NB 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

-facts page

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/basics/facts>

-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/news/archive/press/2012/february/230212_press_statement_asylum_statistics_show_increase_syrian_libyan_applications

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>

UNHCR

Bela Hovy [April 2001] Statistically correct asylum data: prospects and limitations , Working Paper No. 37. Geneva: UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/3b03e293d.pdf>

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/document/9/0,3746,en_2649_37415_50649481_1_1_1_37415,00.htm

UK country notes, free download

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/28/62/50651712.pdf>

http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3746,en_2649_37415_50657227_1_1_1_37415,00.html

The Guardian

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

BBC

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

The Daily Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9165090/Ministers-plan-major-immigration-crackdown.html>

The Sun

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3774176/Migrate-Britain.html>

Internet blogs about risks & uncertainty

Professor David Spieglerhalter 11/08/2011

<http://understandinguncertainty.org/blogs/david>

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

Migration Advisory Committee reports and publications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indebodies/mac/reports-publications/>

Home Office consultations on changes to policy

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/consultations/closed/>

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

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/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 102133

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120416/text/120416w0001.htm>

PQ 317155

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100222/text/100222w0078.htm>

(ONS) Migration Statistics Quarterly Report

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/may-2012/msqr.html>

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

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/nino_allocations_aug11.pdf

Data quality

Below are some general strengths and limitations of the *Immigration Statistics* release. Data quality issues are also detailed in each relevant topic section of this User Guide.

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 2 months of the reference period e.g. data for calendar year 2011 published before the end of February 2012).
- Low revision levels. Details of the extent of revisions following annual totals published in February is given in the 'Revisions Analysis' section of the user guide in 'Conventions used in Immigration Statistics'.
- Possible to see how changes to 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 (HO) data is not as suitable as ONS data for understanding overall trends in all UK immigration, emigration and net migration.
- HO data on before entry, admissions, extensions, settlement, citizenship, asylum, detention, removals and voluntary departures, European economic area, work, study and family 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 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration> is more appropriate.
- HO data does not provide information on emigration.

Specific examples

Home Office data on its own does 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 govt target to reduce net migration to the 'tens of thousands'.

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

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

The assessment report was published on 2 February 2012, and, subject to meeting the report's five requirements, this release will be re-designated by the Authority as National Statistics. More information on National Statistics and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.

The assessment report was written on an exceptions basis and hence focussed on a range of requirements to be met in order for the release to be re-designated as National Statistics. The report also comments 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.

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

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

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###>

Review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics - Implementation Plan August 2006
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/cp_review07.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>

Asylum and migration – a review of Home Office Statistics by the National Audit Office May 2004
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0304/asylum_and_migration_review.aspx?alreadysearchfor=yes

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.

Melanie Gower 24 July 2012 | Standard notes SN05829 Immigration and asylum policy: Government plans and progress made - Commons Library Standard Note
<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05829>

Further information about UK government policy including links to the UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom and who come into contact with the UK Border Agency 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 (United Kingdom, 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 and Romanian 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.

Official Statistics and National Statistics

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

In the *Immigration Statistics* release, the data described as 'Official Statistics' are drawn from Home Office's administrative systems and have not necessarily been subject to the same detailed verification processes as those previously 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 Home Office's migration statistics publications after these were originally badged 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 UK Statistics Authority. Hence (b) are therefore described as Official Statistics rather than National Statistics.

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

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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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. Unlike other EEA nationals, the nationals from these countries do not currently have an automatic right to work in the United Kingdom; under the *Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006*, they must obtain appropriate authorisation to work, unless they are exempt from the requirements.

5 Before entry

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visa applications, outcomes and appeals, broken down by category and country of nationality – as Official Statistics ([Tables be.01 – be.07](#)); and
- Passengers initially refused entry, split by UK ports and juxtaposed controls, and country of nationality – as National Statistics ([Tables be.08 and be.08.g](#)).

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Data source

The statistics on entry clearance visas are Official Statistics sourced from the UK Border Agency Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa casework system maintained by UK Border Agency International Group and processed by ‘posts’. The information is gathered for the purpose of processing entry clearance visa applications.

Entry clearance visa data are updated with the most recent quarter of data available for each publication of the *Immigration Statistics* release. Revisions to the visa data mainly arise from late-entered data and data cleansing exercises (for further information on revisions to the data see Section 3).

Background on the statistics

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

- European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals do not require a visa to come to the United Kingdom;
- for over 100 other nationalities, covering three-quarters of the world population, a visa is required for entry to the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom for over six months, or for most types of work.

Before travelling to the United Kingdom, 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 United Kingdom, from the date of issue 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 issued 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 issued 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 issued 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 issued 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 issued 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 United Kingdom and are available on a more timely 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 issued 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 also ‘Related statistics published elsewhere’.

Figures published in *Immigration Statistics* releases are shown by quarter 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. From the second quarter of 2011 following a change of rules, they include the new family member who comes to the United Kingdom to join a person granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection but who has yet to apply for or be granted settlement.

The **Family route** covers only visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the United Kingdom 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. It also includes 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.

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

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993* came into force on 26 July 1993. The Act restricted the appeal rights of people seeking to enter the country as a visitor or a short-term or prospective student.

From 18 December 2002, nationals from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania became eligible to enter the United Kingdom as au pairs.

Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 1224) took effect on 13 November 2003, requiring all non-EEA nationals to obtain entry clearance issued overseas for stays in the United Kingdom of over six months.

In March 2006 the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006* gained Royal Assent. The Act, which was fully implemented by 2008, restricts appeals for those refused entry to the United Kingdom to work or study.

The *2000 European Economic Area Regulations* were replaced on the 30 April 2006 by the *Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006* – the ‘EEA Regulations’. These Regulations apply and interpret the United Kingdom’s obligations under the Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC. Under the *EEA Regulations*, EEA nationals (and their family members) have the right to live in the United Kingdom for three months without conditions. All EEA nationals have a right of residence beyond three months if they are exercising their Treaty Rights in the United Kingdom.

In September 2007, the visitor rules were expanded to include the category of “student visitors”. This category is for short term students who wish to study in the United Kingdom for six months or less (or from 10 January 2011, eleven months if studying on an English language course) but who do not wish to work part-time or extend their student visitor leave. It can also be used by visitors who want to study on a short course in the United Kingdom which will be completed during their period of leave. Student visitors are not permitted to bring dependants.

At the same time, from September 2007, all students and prospective students intending to work or wishing to extend their stay beyond their initial grant of leave were required to apply for entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom.

Tier 1 (which provides a route for highly skilled migrants) of the PBS was phased in between February and June 2008. Tier 2 (which provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer) and Tier 5 (which is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the United Kingdom for primarily non-economic reasons) were implemented in November 2008, and at the same time new rules for business visitors were introduced.

From 27 November 2008, the minimum age at which a person could be granted entry clearance as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was increased from 18 to 21. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also increased from 18 to 21.

Amended rules affecting the visa requirements of Overseas Taiwan Citizens without household registration, individuals with a passport issued by Taiwan and Venezuela, and nationals or citizens of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland came into effect on 3 March 2009, 18 May 2009 and 1 July 2009.

From 31 March 2009, Tier 4 (which provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider) of the PBS was implemented, replacing previous entry routes for study. Among other measures, Tier 4 requires all child and adult students from outside the European Economic Area to be sponsored by an education provider licensed by the UK Border Agency, and specifies the level of education to be undertaken by those aged over 16. Initially, students had to be issued with a visa letter from an education provider accredited as a licensed sponsor before applying for a Tier 4 visa. These have been superseded by Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), which were introduced on 1 October 2009 and became mandatory from 22 February 2010.

An interim limit on entry clearance visas issued was placed on Tier 1 (General) applications made on or after 19 July 2010. In addition, an interim limit on the number of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) assigned to sponsors of Tier 2 (General) applicants for entry clearance visas and extensions of stay was introduced from 19 July 2010; an applicant has to have a CoS before they can apply for a visa.

From 23 December 2010, Tier 1 (General) of the PBS was closed to new applicants for entry clearance.

A limit of 20,700 Certificates of Sponsorship for out-of-country applicants to Tier 2 (General) was set for 6 April 2011 to 5 April 2012, excluding any applicants whose job would have a salary of over a specific threshold. Changes were also made to the minimum skill, salary and English language thresholds.

A new provision for Post-flight spouses and civil partners (and minor children) of refugees or persons granted humanitarian protection (HP) (i.e. where the relationship began after the grant of refugee/HP status) was added to Part 8 of the Immigration Rules with effect from 6/4/11. They are covered by the same Rules as partners of settled people. Previously there was only a route for these members if the sponsor was "present and settled".

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted permission to work for students applying for entry clearance or leave to remain. The length of time a student is allowed to work is dependent on the degree level and category of institution being studied at.

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted the entitlement to bring dependants. New students sponsored by a higher education institution on a course at level NQF 7 (or equivalent) or above lasting 12 months or longer, and students sponsored to study by the UK government / other national government on a course lasting longer than six months are allowed to bring dependants.

From 4 July 2011, new provisions were added to Part 8 of the Immigration Rules to allow other family members (who do not form part of the 'nuclear family') of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection to join their sponsor without the sponsor needing to have indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route became operational on 9 August 2011; between this date and 5 April 2012, the number of visas issued will be limited to 1,000.

Following the Supreme Court judgment in *Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 45 which ruled that the minimum age requirement of 21 in the Immigration Rules for spouse and partners of British citizens and those with settled status was unlawful, from 28 November 2011, the minimum age at which a person could be granted entry clearance as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was reduced from 21 to 18. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also reduced from 21 to 18.

A number of changes to the Immigration rules were implemented with effect from 6 April 2012 including the following:

- A new Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category was introduced for graduates who have been identified by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as having developed world class innovative ideas or entrepreneurial skills, to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to develop their business. Previously such graduates may have used Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) for this purpose.
- The amount of temporary leave is limited to 6 years as a Tier 2 (General) Migrant, Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) Migrant or Tier 2 (Sportsperson) Migrant.
- Tier 2 migrants will need to wait for 12 months from the expiry of their previous Tier 2 visa or leave to remain before they may apply for a further Tier 2 visa or leave to remain.

-
- All Tier 4 sponsors must have acquired Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status.
 - Courses offering work placements now have to have a study:work ratio of at least 66:33 except at higher education institutions.
 - A new visitor route for 'permitted paid engagements' was introduced to allow a specified group of professionals to undertake short-term fee paid engagements for up to one month, provided they have a formal invitation from a UK based organisation.

A list of all the "Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules" since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

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.

Access to visa statistics dating back to 2001/02, originally published by the UK Border Agency, 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.

The 'Stateless' category for tables which give figures by nationality has been disaggregated into 'Stateless' and 'Refugee' for publications from August 2012 onwards. This means that all data from Q1 2005 to Q2 2012 has been revised to accommodate this change.

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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 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 which affect a small number of cases:

- From May 2011 in Muscat (Oman), August 2011 in Madrid (Spain), December 2011 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and February 2012 in Rabat (Morocco), UKBA visa application centres processed a small number of entry clearance visas using a new database application. Figures for these visas do not appear in these statistics, but will be included in subsequent publications.
- While EEA nationals are not required to hold visas, the data contain some applications and issues of visas to EEA nationals. Issues are in the region of 600 – 1,000 per year. Approximately 85 per cent of these are those recorded as Cypriots, but most likely are people from the area not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus.
- 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, issues, and appeals worldwide and are currently updated for all quarters at each publication. These revisions mainly arise from late-entered data and data cleansing exercises. 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 UKBA. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source database, prepare the tables for publication. Data on entry clearance visas are Official Statistics based on internal management information not included in Home Office's migration statistics publications when these were originally badged as National Statistics.

Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake a 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 UKBA 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 IPS relating to those coming to the UK to work*);
- International Passenger Survey estimates of immigration, see below;
- 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies', see below;

-
- ‘Certificates of Sponsorship’, see below; and
 - Appeals of visa decisions, see below.

Making comparisons between difference 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 can not 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 issued 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 United Kingdom 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 issued 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 issued 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 issue and grant occurs 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 United Kingdom, 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 – the IPS estimates form the largest component of the more complete LTIM series, and for the country of citizenship and reason for immigration breakdowns, are currently published on a more timely basis.

These data are published by ONS in the quarterly Migration Statistics Quarterly report. ONS’ overall data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visas issued and passenger

arrivals data, because the ONS totals include UK and other EU nationals, and because visas issued 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 issued to those counted as long-term migrants and others besides. Some visas are only valid for less than a year, but for those issued 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 issued and long-term migrants are:

- visas can be issued 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 issued may be different from the main reason of stay stated in response to the IPS, including those who switch visas while in the United Kingdom; 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.

- Long-Term International Migration:
(<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>);
- International Passenger Survey:
(<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+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 MSQR report tables).

'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' and 'Certificates of Sponsorship'

Educational establishments are allocated 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS); places of work are allocated 'Certificates of Sponsorship' (CoS). In order for an individual to apply for a PBS visa in Tiers 2, 4 and 5, they first have to be assigned a CoS and CAS respectively.

Data are not published regularly; some data have been published as Official Statistics <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/>.

For more information on CoS please see the section below.

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 HM Courts and Tribunals Service (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* <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/quarterly.htm>.

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP

Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) – skilled individuals (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5)

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

Any organisation who wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the UK Border Agency '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 UK Border Agency for an annual allocation of CoS.
2. UK Border Agency 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 UKBA.

Once assigned, a CoS must be used to apply for leave within 3 months. If not used, the CoS status changes to 'Expired'. The CoS may also be withdrawn by the sponsor or cancelled by UKBA.

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 UK Border Agency to improve their systems. The A rating is granted where UKBA 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 UKBA 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>.

Data quality

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

-
- are administrative counts of UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
 - are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
 - register totals are produced directly from UKBA'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 UKBA).

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 statistics are produced by the Sponsorship Analysis Team within UKBA. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source live database, prepare the tables for publication. Data on CoS are Official Statistics as these are based on internal management information not included in Home Office's migration statistics publications when these were originally badged as National Statistics.

Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake a 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 UKBA 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.

PASSENGERS INITIALLY REFUSED ENTRY

Data source

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

Background on statistics

Individuals seeking to enter the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom. 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 UKBA's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- 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.

- Prior to 2005, the total number of these 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 UKBA and Border Force.

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 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 UKBA, by comparing a unique identifier from each refusal in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by UKBA. 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. UKBA 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-checking 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 are 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** topic - all people removed from the United Kingdom, including non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed.

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](#)).

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 of 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 per cent of all non EEA passenger journeys made. All other cards are considered to be controlled cards.

Non-controlled cards

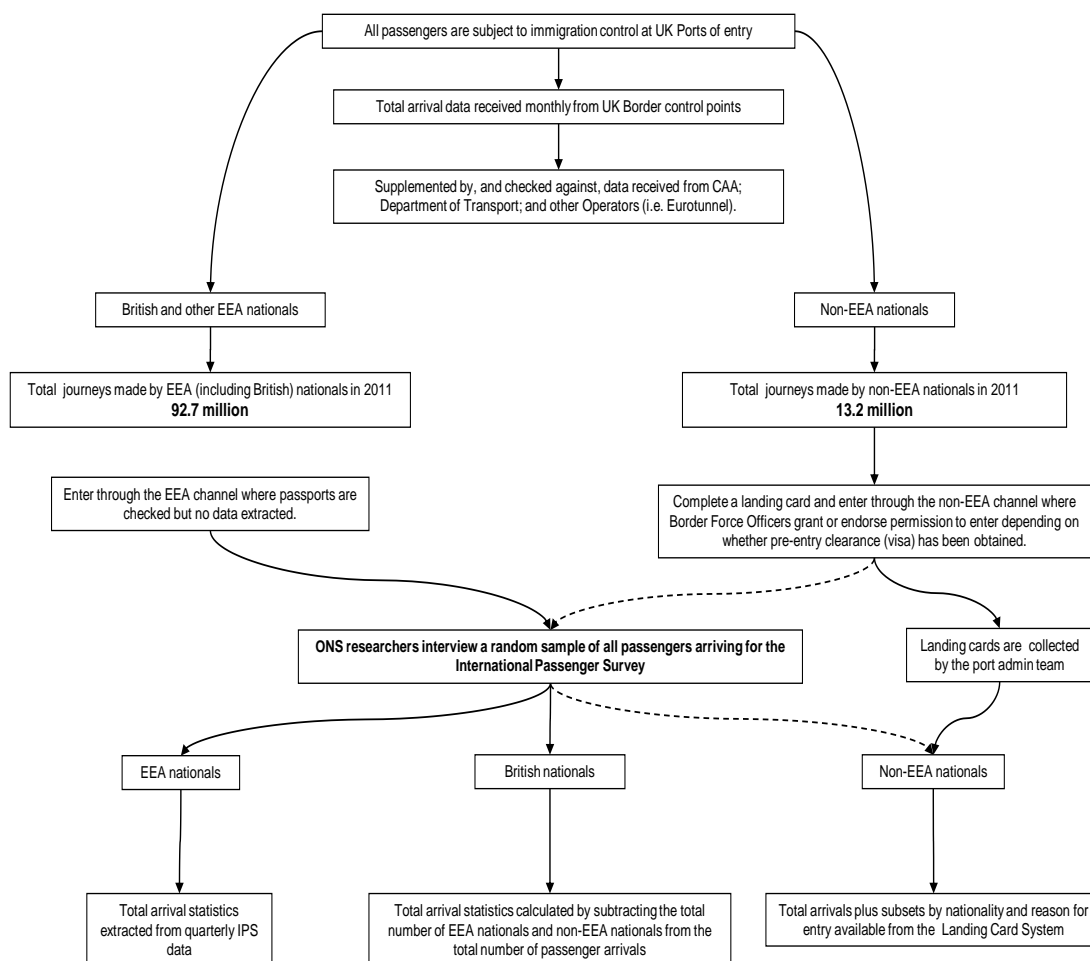
Each month, non-controlled cards relating to arrivals at Heathrow and Gatwick terminals are sampled due to the large volume of arrivals at these ports (see compilation method for details). All other ports collate non-controlled data by counting all cards and providing a monthly return that shows the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

Controlled cards

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

Data are then provided to the analysis team 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 United Kingdom 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 in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993* came into force on 26 July 1993. The Act restricted the appeal rights of people seeking to enter the country as a visitor or a short-term or prospective student.

From 18 December 2002, nationals from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania became eligible to enter the United Kingdom as au pairs.

There are certain breaks in some of the admission series. Swiss nationals are excluded from the figures from 1 June 2002 (when an agreement giving them the same rights as EEA nationals came into force); as well as nationals of the EU10 accession countries from 1 May 2004 and EU2 accession countries from 1 January 2007 (when they joined the European Union).

From 1 April 2003, the following changes were made in the Immigration Rules relating to spouses, fiancé(e)s and unmarried partners of sponsors who were settled in the United Kingdom:

- a person seeking leave to enter or remain in these categories had to be 16 years or over and the sponsor had to be 18 years or over on the date on which leave was granted. (With effect from 21 December 2004 the minimum age for the person seeking leave was increased to 18 years); and
- the “probationary period” (initial grant of leave) to spouses and unmarried partners of settled sponsors was increased from one year to two years.

Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 1224) from 13 November 2003 required all non-EEA nationals to obtain entry clearance issued overseas for stays in the United Kingdom of over six months. HC 1224 further prevented Border Force Officers from granting in excess of six months entry at the UK border.

In March 2006 the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006* gained Royal Assent. The Act, which was fully implemented by 2008, restricts appeals for those refused entry to the United Kingdom to work or study.

The *2000 European Economic Area Regulations* were replaced on the 30 April 2006 by the *Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006* – the ‘EEA Regulations’. These Regulations apply and interpret the United Kingdom’s obligations under the Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC. Under the *EEA Regulations*, EEA nationals (and their family members) have the right to live in the United Kingdom for three months without conditions. All EEA nationals have a right of residence beyond three months if they are exercising their Treaty Rights in the United Kingdom.

In September 2007, the visitor rules were expanded to include the category of “student visitors”. This category is for short term students who wish to study in the United Kingdom for up to six months (or from 10 January 2011, eleven months if studying on an English language course) but who do not wish to work part-time or extend their student visitor leave. It can also be used by visitors who want to study on a short course in the United Kingdom which will be completed during their period of leave. Student visitors are not permitted to bring dependants. Student visitors are grouped with ‘Student’ admissions rather than ‘Visitors’.

Tier 1 (which provides a route for highly skilled migrants) of the PBS was phased in between February and June 2008. Tier 2 (which provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer) and Tier 5 (which is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the United Kingdom for primarily non-economic reasons) were implemented in November 2008, and at the same time new rules for business visitors were introduced.

From 22 July 2008, the initial length of time for which the spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom is admitted was increased to no more than 27 months.

From 27 November 2008, the minimum age at which a person could be granted leave to enter as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was increased from 18 to 21. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also increased from 18 to 21.

From 31 March 2009, Tier 4 (which provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider) of the PBS replaced previous entry routes for study. Among other measures, Tier 4 requires all child and adult students from outside the EEA to be sponsored by an education provider licensed by the UK Border Agency, and specifies the level of education to be undertaken by those aged over 16.

From 23 December 2010, Tier 1 (General) of the PBS was closed to new applicants for entry clearance.

A limit of 20,700 Certificates of Sponsorships (CoS) for out-of-country applicants to Tier 2 (General) was set for 6 April 2011 to 5 April 2012, excluding any applicants whose job would have a salary of over a specific threshold. Changes were also made to the minimum skill, salary and English language thresholds.

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted permission to work for students applying for entry clearance or leave to remain. The length of time a student is allowed to work is dependent on the degree level and category of institution being studied at.

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted the entitlement to bring dependants. New students sponsored by a higher education institution on a course at level NQF 7 (or equivalent) or above lasting 12 months or longer, and students sponsored to study by the UK government / other national government on a course lasting longer than six months are allowed to bring dependants.

From 4 July 2011, new provisions were added to Part 8 of the Immigration Rules to allow other family members (who do not form part of the 'nuclear family') of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection to join their sponsor without the sponsor needing to have indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route became operational on 9 August 2011; between this date and 5 April 2012, the number of visas issued will be limited to 1,000.

Following the Supreme Court judgment in *Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 45 which ruled that the minimum age requirement of 21 in the Immigration Rules for spouse and partners of British citizens and those with settled status was unlawful, from 28 November 2011, the minimum age at which a person could be granted leave to enter as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was reduced from 21 to 18. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also reduced from 21 to 18.

A new Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category was introduced from 6 April 2012 for graduates who have been identified by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as having developed world class innovative ideas or entrepreneurial skills, to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to develop their business. Previously such graduates may have used Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) for this purpose.

A new visitor route for 'permitted paid engagements' was introduced from 6 April 2012 to allow a specified group of professionals to undertake short-term fee paid engagements for up to one month, provided they have a formal invitation from a UK based organisation.

A list of all the "Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules" since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

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.

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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) 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 UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 11.8million arrivals in 2010 in the 'Other category' (table ad.03.o), a very small proportion (70,800) 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: 65,000 in 2009; 39,400 in 2008 records were recorded as category unknown.
- A few admissions were shown as being in categories before the start of the PBS. It is not possible to determine the correct category of entry so these 8 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, UKBA (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 = 2.045×10^6 results in 2,040,000, as 0.04 is the nearest even hundredth; and
- 2,045,001 = 2.045001×10^6 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/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=46info>)
- Total passenger arrivals data for the port of Dover are provided by the Department of Transport and subject to their internal quality assurance processes. Maritime Statistics publications are available at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/ports/>
- 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

- Entry clearance visas, see the **Before Entry** 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; and
- Home Office business plan impact and input indicators showing various management data, available from www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.
- The Civil Aviation Authority publish statistics relating to UK airports, available from <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=46info>)
- Maritime Statistics are published by the Department of Transport and are available at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/ports/>

Long-term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the United Kingdom, 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): (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>);
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration – the IPS estimates form the largest component of the more complete LTIM series, and with regard to the country of citizenship and reason for immigration breakdowns, are currently published on a more timely basis: (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>).

These data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visas issued 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 use 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 United Kingdom; and
- passenger arrivals by category exclude EEA and Swiss nationals, while data from the IPS relates to EU and non-EU nationals.

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 to ex.02](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of extensions of stay are extracted from the UK Border Agency'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 United Kingdom. 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 issued 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 issue and grant of extension occur within the same year.

Key terms

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

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993* came into force on 26 July 1993. The Act restricted the appeal rights of people seeking to extend their stay beyond the maximum period permitted.

Charges were introduced for making leave to remain (including indefinite leave to remain) applications on 1 August 2003.

From September 2007, all students and prospective students intending to work or wishing to extend their stay beyond their initial grant of leave were required to apply for entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom. At the same time, the ability of those already in the United Kingdom in another capacity to switch into the student category was restricted.

Tier 1 (which provides a route for highly skilled migrants) of the PBS was phased in between February and June 2008. Tier 2 (which provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer) and Tier 5 (which is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the United Kingdom for primarily non-economic reasons) were implemented in November 2008, and at the same time new rules for business visitors were introduced.



From 22 July 2008, the initial length of time for which the spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom is admitted was increased to no more than 27 months.

From 27 November 2008, the minimum age at which a person could be granted leave to remain or variation of leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was increased from 18 to 21. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also increased from 18 to 21.

From 31 March 2009, Tier 4 (which provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider) of the PBS replaced previous entry routes for study. Among other measures, Tier 4 specifies the level of education that can be undertaken by those aged over 16. Initially, students had to be issued with a visa letter from an education provider accredited as a licensed sponsor before applying for a Tier 4 visa. These have been superseded by Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS), which were introduced on 1 October 2009 and became mandatory from 22 February 2010.

From 31 March 2009, switching between particular Tiers in specific circumstances was allowed, affecting extensions in Tiers 2, 4 and 5.

The leave allowed for extensions of Tier 1 (General) of the PBS for those applying for entry clearance visas after 6 April 2010 were increased from two to three years. At the same time, doctors and dentists in training could apply for Tier 1 (Post-Study Work).

An interim limit on the number of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) assigned to sponsors of Tier 2 (General) applicants for entry clearance visas and extensions of stay was introduced from 19 July 2010. An applicant has to have a CoS before they can apply for an extension of stay.

From 23 December 2010, Tier 1 (General) of the PBS was closed to new applicants for entry clearance. This will have an effect on extensions of stay in later years. From 6 April 2011, Tier 1 (General) was closed to those applying to switch their stay from a different visa category, except those pre-PBS visas that are equivalent to Tier 1 (General).

From 6 April 2011, the Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer) category was split into two sub-categories for short-term and long-term staff. Short-term staff are not able to extend their stay; they have to leave the country. Long-term staff can be granted a maximum of three years and one month entry clearance visa, which can be extended up to five years. After this, the person can only return in this sub-category after a minimum of twelve months outside the country. Switching between these sub-categories while in the country is not allowed.

Visitors coming in as prospective entrepreneurs, introduced on 6 April 2011, are allowed to extend their stay by switching into the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) category.

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted permission to work for students applying for entry clearance or leave to remain. The length of time a student is allowed to work is dependent on the degree level and category of institution being studied at.

From 4 July 2011, amendments were made to the Tier 4 (General) category of the PBS which restricted the entitlement to bring dependants. New students sponsored by a higher education institution on a course at level NQF 7 (or equivalent) or above lasting 12 months or longer, and students sponsored to study by the UK government / other national government on a course lasting longer than six months are allowed to bring dependants.

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route became operational on 9 August 2011; between this date and 5 April 2012, the number of visas issued will be limited to 1,000.

Following the Supreme Court judgment in *Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 45 which ruled that the minimum age requirement of 21 in the Immigration Rules for spouse and partners of British citizens and those with settled status was unlawful, from 28 November 2011, the minimum age at which a person could be granted leave to remain as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was reduced from 21 to 18. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also reduced from 21 to 18.

A number of changes to the Immigration rules were implemented with effect from 6 April 2012 including the following:

- A new Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category was introduced for graduates who have been identified by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as having developed world class innovative ideas or entrepreneurial skills, to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to develop their business. Previously such graduates may have used Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) for this purpose.
- The amount of temporary leave is limited to 6 years as a Tier 2 (General) Migrant, Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) Migrant or Tier 2 (Sportsperson) Migrant
- Tier 2 migrants will need to wait for 12 months from the expiry of their previous Tier 2 visa or leave to remain before they may apply for a further Tier 2 visa or leave to remain.
- All Tier 4 sponsors must have acquired Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status
- Courses offering work placements now have to have a study:work ratio of at least 66:33 except at higher education institutions.
- Private servants in diplomatic households applying under Tier 5 (International Agreement) will be allowed to stay for the duration of the stay of the diplomat for whom they are working, up to a maximum of 5 years whichever is shorter. They may not switch employer or settle in the UK from this route, but may sponsor dependants.
- Overseas Domestic Workers coming to work in the private household of their employer are only allowed to accompany that an employer (or their spouse, civil partner or child) who is visiting the UK and must leave the UK with the visitor after a maximum of 6 months, and may not extend their stay, switch employer, sponsor dependants or settle in the UK from this route.
- A new visitor route for 'permitted paid engagements' was introduced to allow a specified group of professionals to undertake short-term fee paid engagements for up to one month, provided they have a formal invitation from a UK based organisation.

A list of all the "Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules" since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

Other factors affecting the statistics

Changing resource priorities within the UK Border Agency 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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 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, 9 cases in 2011 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 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-checking 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 UKBA 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 **Before entry** topic;
- Passenger arrivals, see the **Admissions** topic; and
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study** and **Family** topics.

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 to se.06](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of settlement are extracted from the UK Border Agency'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 United Kingdom 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 97 per cent) 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

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 United Kingdom; 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 United Kingdom for a minimum of two years.

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 United Kingdom for more than two years he/she will be treated as a new arrival unless there are special circumstances; indefinite leave to enter for settlement may be granted again, so 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 UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom (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

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 includes grants, on a discretionary basis, after a long period of continuous residence in the United Kingdom. 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 United Kingdom 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.

Claim to right of abode upheld and other grants includes grants to those previously settled but then absent from the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom. Between July 1998 and 30 August 2005, it also includes grants of settlement at the time of the grant of asylum.

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Immigration Act 1988* made a number of changes to immigration law; some of its provisions came into force on 10 July 1988, and most of the remainder on 1 August 1988. It repealed *Section 1(5) of the Immigration Act 1971*, which provided that Commonwealth citizens settled in the United Kingdom (and their spouses and children) should not, as a result of the Act, be less free to come into or go from the United Kingdom than if the Act had not been passed. The effect of the repeal of Section 1(5) was a reduction in the number of people, particularly wives, accepted for settlement on arrival, and an increase in the numbers of such people accepted after serving a probationary year.

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 relating to 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.

From 1 April 2003, the following changes were made in the Immigration Rules relating to spouses, fiancé(e)s and unmarried partners of sponsors who were settled in the United Kingdom:

- a passenger seeking entry as a spouse could now be granted indefinite leave to enter by an Entry Clearance Office (ECO), rather than completing the probationary period, if the passenger had married his or her sponsor (who had settled status in the United Kingdom) at least four years ago, and they had been living together outside the United Kingdom since then; and
- a passenger seeking entry as an unmarried partner could now be granted indefinite leave to enter, by an ECO, rather than completing the probationary period if the sponsor had settled status in the United Kingdom and they had been living together outside the United Kingdom in a relationship akin to marriage for four years or more.

Charges for making leave to remain (including indefinite leave to remain) applications were introduced on 1 August 2003.

The Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) Exercise, announced by the Home Secretary on 24 October 2003, allowed certain asylum-seeking families who had been in the United Kingdom for more than three years to obtain settlement. To qualify, the main applicant of the family unit had to have applied for asylum before 2 October 2000 and have at least one dependant aged under 18 (other than a spouse) in the United Kingdom on 2 October 2000 and / or 24 October 2003. The exercise did not apply to a family where the main applicant or any of the dependants:

- had a criminal conviction; or
- had been the subject of an anti-social behaviour order or sex offender order; or
- had made (or attempted to make) an application for asylum in the United Kingdom in more than one identity; or
- should have his / her asylum claim considered by another country (i.e. he / she was the subject of a possible third country removal); or
- presented a risk to security; or
- fell within the scope of Article 1F of the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, or whose presence in the United Kingdom was otherwise not conducive to the public good.

Until 30 August 2005, people granted asylum were given indefinite leave to remain (settlement). Those granted humanitarian protection between 1 April 2003 and 30 August 2005 were eligible to apply for settlement after three years and those granted discretionary leave were normally eligible to apply for settlement after six years.

Since 30 August 2005, all refugees, other than those arriving in the United Kingdom under managed migration resettlement schemes such as Gateway, have been granted five years' limited leave rather than indefinite leave to remain. At the end of this period they are entitled to apply for settlement. Humanitarian protection has been brought in line with refugee leave, so those granted humanitarian protection may also apply for settlement after five years. There is no change to the time limits for discretionary leave.

From 3 April 2006, people wishing to gain settlement in a work category had to have spent a minimum of five years in the United Kingdom in this category, an increase from four years, and were required to demonstrate knowledge of the English language. Following a judicial review, the rules were amended

from 20 April 2009 so that those coming in under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme prior to the 2006 change would not be subject to the change in rules.

The *2000 European Economic Area Regulations* were replaced on the 30 April 2006 by the *Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006* – the ‘EEA Regulations’. These Regulations apply and interpret the United Kingdom’s obligations under the Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC. Under the *EEA Regulations*, EEA nationals (and their family members) have the right to live in the United Kingdom for three months without conditions. To have a right to reside in the country for longer than this, they must be exercising a Treaty Right, described in domestic regulations as being a qualified person (i.e. a jobseeker, worker, self-employed person, self-sufficient or a student). After living in the United Kingdom for five years in accordance with the *EEA Regulations*, an EEA national and any family member will acquire the right of permanent residence in the United Kingdom.

In July 2006, the Home Secretary announced to Parliament that the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applicants who were still living in the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

From 2 April 2007, adults aged 18 or over but under the age of 65 who apply for settlement (whether at the border or in-country) need to provide evidence that they have passed either the ‘Life in the UK test’ or an ‘English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)’ course which includes citizenship materials, unless they are applying under one of the categories which does not contain this requirement. Further information can be found at:
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/settlement/knowledge-language-life/>.

From 27 November 2008, the minimum age at which a person could be granted leave to remain as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was increased from 18 to 21. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also increased from 18 to 21.

The rules were changed from 6 April 2010, meaning that the Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer) category no longer leads to settlement.

A number of changes to the Immigration rules were implemented with effect from 6 April 2012 including the following:

- A new Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category was introduced for graduates who have been identified by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as having developed world class innovative ideas or entrepreneurial skills, to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to develop their business. Previously such graduates may have used Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) for this purpose.
- Private servants in diplomatic households applying under Tier 5 (International Agreement) will be allowed to stay for the duration of the stay of the diplomat for whom they are working, up to a maximum of 5 years whichever is shorter. They may not switch employer or settle in the UK from this route, but may sponsor dependants.
- Overseas Domestic Workers coming to work in the private household of their employer are only allowed to accompany that an employer (or their spouse, civil partner or child) who is

visiting the UK and must leave the UK with the visitor after a maximum of 6 months, and may not extend their stay, switch employer, sponsor dependants or settle in the UK from this route.

A list of all the “Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules” since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

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 UK Border Agency’s (UKBA’s) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA’s administrative databases;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA’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, 50 cases in 2011 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 in-country settlement data is taken from 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 United Kingdom with an indefinite leave to enter visa are extracted from the Landing Card System (LCS) database. In 2011, settlement grants of this type made up only 1% of total grants.

Quality and process checks carried out

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

A cross-checking 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 UKBA 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; and
- IPS estimates of long-term international migration, see below for an explanation of the differences between the data.

Long-term International Migration estimates of immigration

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

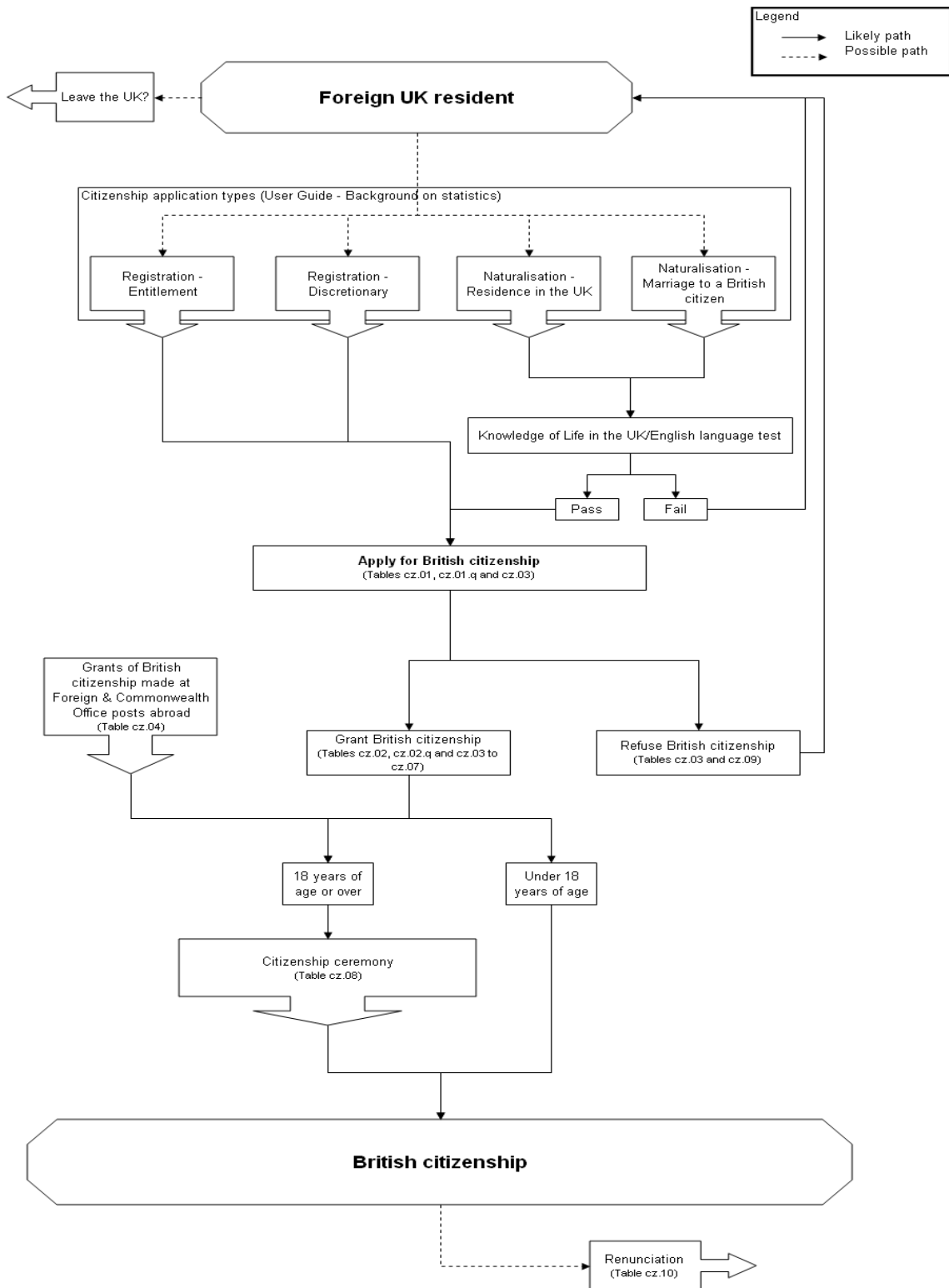
- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM):
(<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>);
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration – the IPS estimates form the largest component of the more complete LTIM series, and with regard to the country of citizenship and reason for immigration breakdowns, are currently published on a more timely basis:
(<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>).

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. people subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

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 UK Border Agency's Case Information Database (CID), after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions. 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 United Kingdom.
- **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.

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:

- s.1(3) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the United Kingdom after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a British citizen or becomes settled in the United Kingdom.
- s.1(3A) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the United Kingdom after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a member of the armed forces.
- s.1(4) – entitlement to registration of a person in the United Kingdom after 1 January 1983 who spent the first ten years of his/her life in the United Kingdom.
- s.3(1) – discretionary registration of a minor as a British citizen.
- s.3(2) – entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old born outside the United Kingdom after 1 January 1983 (or outside the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom after 1 January 1983 (or outside the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom or a qualifying territory.
- s.4A – discretionary registration for adults and minors who are British overseas territories citizens by connection with a qualifying territory.
- 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 United Kingdom and Colonies at the time of their birth.
- s.4D – entitlement to registration for children born outside the United Kingdom after 13 January 2010 to a parent serving in the armed forces.
- 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 United Kingdom.
- 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.
- s.5 – entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen from Gibraltar.
- s.6(1) – naturalisation of an adult by virtue of five years' residence in the United Kingdom or UK Crown service.
- s.6(2) – naturalisation of an adult who is married to a British citizen by virtue of three years' residence in the United Kingdom.
- s.7 – transitional entitlements to registration of a Commonwealth citizen who was resident in the United Kingdom.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- s.10(1) – entitlement to acquire British citizenship by a person who had renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies before 1983.
- s.10(2) – discretionary registration of a person connected with the United Kingdom who renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies before 1983.
- s.13(1) – entitlement to resume British citizenship by a person who has previously renounced it.
- s.13(3) – discretionary registration of a person who has previously renounced British citizenship.
- Schedule 2 – entitlement to registration of a stateless person.

- 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 UK Border Agency website: <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship/givingupcitizenship/>.

Key terms

Grants: 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. These 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 United Kingdom. Since 1 January 2004 this has been the final stage in the process of attaining British citizenship.

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *British Nationality Act 1981* came into force on 1 January 1983 and replaced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies with three separate citizenships:

- **British citizenship**, for people closely connected with the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man;
- **British overseas territories citizenship**, for people connected with the British overseas territories;
- **British overseas citizenship**, for those citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies without connections to either the United Kingdom or the British overseas territories.

Certain entitlements to citizenship, which had existed before 1 January 1983, were extended for a transitional period which, in most cases, ended on 31 December 1987.

The *Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002* amended the *British Nationality Act 1981* and requires all successful applicants for British citizenship who are aged 18 or over to take an oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony, unless exempted by the Home Secretary. The ceremony is organised by County Councils and Local Authorities within the United Kingdom and Gibraltar. Ceremonies for grants of applications made abroad are held at the local consulate.

From 2002, *paragraph 8 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002* amended *paragraph 3(1)(b) of Schedule 2 to the British Nationality Act 1981* (application by person born in United Kingdom



or overseas territory for registration as citizen: age requirement) changing the age requirement from between 10 and 22 years to under 22 years.

Further information explaining the position from 1 January 1983 under the *1981 Act*, and explaining some changes made by the *British Overseas Territories Act 2002* is at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/nationalityinstructions/>.

In March 2006 the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006* gained Royal Assent. The Act, fully implemented by 2008, improved the ability to strip citizenship from and deport those who pose a serious risk to the United Kingdom's interests.

On 5 December 2007 the Home Secretary announced changes to the way that an applicant's good character would be assessed for the purposes of naturalisation and registration as a British citizen. The changes came in from 1 January 2008. Applications made on and after that date will normally be refused if the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence and the conviction has not yet become 'spent' in accordance with the provisions of the *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974*.

The *Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009* introduced certain changes to the *British Nationality Act 1981*. These extended the registration provisions at section 3(2) (minors born to British citizens by descent), section 4B (British nationals with no other citizenship or nationality) and section 4C (children of British mothers). New provisions were introduced for children born to parents serving in the armed forces.

Details of amendments to the *British Nationality Act 1981* and the *Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002* can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Reported figures of applications have previously included both British citizenship and right of abode in the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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.

Other factors affecting the statistics

The variations in totals of applications recorded, and decisions made, reflect changing resource priorities within the UK Border Agency, 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.

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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 appears 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 UKBA for investigation and correction;
- Initial quarterly data for applications (e.g. applications made in Q1 2012) are estimated based on a combination of records in the UK Border Agency administrative IT system and manual counts of applications which have not yet been recorded on the IT system. These estimates are rounded to the nearest 100. These estimates of application figures are planned to be revised to show the actual numbers, in subsequent editions of this release. For example estimates for Q4 2011 of 47,400 published in February 2012 were replaced with actual derived from the IT system of 47,432 in May 2012.
- 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 is subject to revisions as a result of the outcomes of the administrative reconsideration of a small (0.01%) proportion of cases.

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 3 weeks after the end of the period to mitigate a degree of late recording on CID, due to resource issues within UKBA. 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 is 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) is supplied annually by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

UKBA 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 applicants 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 data set, 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 UK Border Agency, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2 per cent the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2 per cent may occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of UKBA operational management information or due to slight differences in the date on which data was 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.

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 appeals ([Table as.14](#));
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) ([Tables as.07 – as.9](#));
- Age disputed cases ([Table as.10](#));
- The Fast track process ([Tables as.11 and as.12](#));
- 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 UK Border Agency'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 UK Border Agency, specifically maintained 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 United Kingdom if the Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- they are in the United Kingdom or have arrived at a port of entry in the United Kingdom;
- 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 United Kingdom;
- they do not, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitute danger to the community of the United Kingdom; 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* or discretionary leave (DL) for a limited period.

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 United Kingdom 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 and DL 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, not withstanding 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.

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.

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. Figures exclude cases that were age disputed at the time of extract.

Age disputed applications

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 UK Border Agency 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.

Fast track process

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).

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 UK Border Agency. 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 United Kingdom 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:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/index.htm>.

Asylum support

Asylum support was set up to provide for asylum seekers while they await a decision on their asylum application. Asylum seekers who applied 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 United Kingdom. These reasons are that:

- the applicant is in the process of taking reasonable steps to leave the United Kingdom or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the United Kingdom; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the United Kingdom because of a physical impediment to travel or some other medical reason; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the United Kingdom 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 provide 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 or DL, 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 United Kingdom. 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 United Kingdom 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 Department for Work and Pensions) or local authorities.

NASS was disbanded in 2006. Asylum support is now managed through regional asylum teams and the provision of support is an integral part of asylum casework for new cases. 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.

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

Resettlement schemes

The main resettlement scheme available for refugees, the Gateway Protection Programme, was set up under the *Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002*. The Gateway Protection Programme is part of an immigration strategy to tackle abuse of the asylum system by people not in need of protection whilst opening managed migration routes and offering protection for those fleeing persecution without forcing them into the hands of people traffickers. The first refugees arrived in the United Kingdom under the programme in March 2004. The programme offers a legal route for refugees and aims to ensure that the United Kingdom is offering protection to those who need it.

In addition, there is also the Mandate resettlement scheme, a UK programme specifically for those refugees with a resettlement need who already have close ties to the United Kingdom, usually through a close relative.

The refugees resettled under the Gateway Protection Programme have been identified and referred to the Home Office by the UNHCR. They are assessed individually by Home Office staff to determine whether they are refugees and have no possibility of returning safely to their home country. The Home Office also assesses whether the person's human rights are at risk, whether they are unable to sustain long-term security and have a lack of local integration in the country where they have initially sought refuge. The UK Border Agency at present meets the full costs of resettlement in the first year,

providing an integration support package including housing, healthcare, education and casework support services. Many of the post-arrival services are provided by partner non-government organisations, who work in conjunction with the participating local authorities.

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 United Kingdom may over- or under- record depending on data available and recent trends. The notes page within the Asylum excel tables lists the countries where asylum applications have been estimated.

Key terms

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

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993* came into force on 26 July 1993 and provided for: new rights of appeal for asylum applicants refused asylum; strict time limits on all stages of processing asylum cases; and a swifter procedure for dealing with manifestly unfounded cases.

On 5 February 1996, the Department of Social Security (now part of the Department for Work and Pensions) withdrew a range of non-contributory benefits from after-entry asylum seekers and from asylum seekers whose application had been refused and who were appealing against that refusal. These regulations were confirmed by the *Asylum and Immigration Act 1996*.

The *Asylum and Immigration Act 1996* introduced the following:

- an extension of the accelerated appeals procedure to a wider range of refused asylum applications;
- the designation by the Secretary of State, with the approval of Parliament, of selected countries of destination where there is generally no serious risk of persecution – refusals of such cases being liable to the accelerated appeals procedure; and
- restricting appeals against return to a safe third country within the European Union and other countries so designated.

On 2 October 2000, *Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999* superseded all previous legislation on asylum appeals. It introduced a comprehensive 'one-stop' appeals process replacing the previous system of multiple appeals. Applicants are required to state all the reasons, outside the scope of the original application, why they wish to enter or remain in the United Kingdom. An applicant can make only one application. Anything he/she says to add to it or change it, prior to a decision being made, is a variation of that application that will attract only one decision and one appeal.



The *Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act (NIA) 2002* came fully into force on 1 April 2003. It built upon the 'one-stop' system of the 1999 Act with a single right of appeal which could be brought on one or more well-known grounds restated in Section 84 of the Act. As previously, an appellant could raise further grounds of appeal in a 'one-stop' statement that the adjudicator would consider.

Under *Section 55 of the NIA Act 2002*, asylum seekers are required to apply for asylum as soon as reasonably practicable after arriving in the United Kingdom in order to be eligible for support under *Sections 4, 95 or 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*. There are exceptions where applicants will get support even if they have delayed making their asylum claim. Most significantly, Section 55 does not prevent support being provided to those with dependent children or with particular care needs and it does not prevent the provision of support if it would be a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights to not provide it.

Section 94 of the NIA Act 2002 established a certification process under which, in certain circumstances, there is no in-country appeal right for an applicant making an asylum or human rights claim. This is known as the non-suspensive appeals (NSA) process. Since November 2002, the Secretary of State has, under the *NIA Act 2002*, designated various countries as generally safe. Asylum applications from nationals of these countries must be certified as "clearly unfounded" unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that they are not clearly unfounded.

The provisions in *Part 5 of the 2002 Act*, which came into effect in April 2003, clarified the 'one-stop' appeal process introduced in the *1999 Act*. Under the one-stop process there is a single immigration decision. A list of all the possible immigration decisions is contained in *Section 82 of the 2002 Act*. The applicant is required to disclose all of the reasons why he is seeking to remain in the United Kingdom. He can appeal against the immigration decision on any of the grounds of appeal that are listed in Section 84. Once an application has been through the one-stop process, a further appeal could not be brought if the Secretary of State certified (under Section 96) that the further immigration decision related to a matter that should have been previously raised in the earlier claim or appeal and there was not a good reason for the new information not being raised.

On 1 April 2003, exceptional leave to remain (ELR) was replaced by humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL). These new policies were introduced to ensure that only those who are in genuine need of protection, or where there are other compelling reasons why they should be allowed to stay in the United Kingdom, are granted leave to remain outside of the Immigration Rules.

The provisions of the *Dublin II Regulation EC No 343/2003* came into force on 1 September 2003 and replaced those provided by the *Dublin Convention* since 1 September 1997. The Dublin arrangements provide an agreed framework: (a) to determine which state is responsible for examining applications for asylum lodged in one of the participating states; and (b) to transfer the applicant to the responsible state. The *Dublin II Regulation* applies in all EU member states (including Denmark since 1 April 2006), as well as in Iceland and Norway (by means of an Agreement between those two countries and the European Community concluded in 2001). Before the introduction of the *Dublin Convention* in 1997 an applicant was normally returned to the safe third country where he/she embarked to the United Kingdom. However, under both the Convention and the replacement Regulation the responsible state in most cases is not the state of embarkation as the basic premise of the Dublin arrangements is that the member state most responsible for the presence of an asylum seeker on EU territory will also be responsible for assessing the asylum claim.

One of the key aims of the *Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004* was to deter and prevent behaviour designed to frustrate the UK asylum process. The Act provided for the restructuring of the appeals system. Previously appeals were heard first by an Adjudicator, with scope for appealing to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT). From April 2005, these stages were effectively combined, with appeals heard by an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) Judge (or by a panel of Judges in more complex or important cases). An onward right of review against a determination of the AIT is to the High Court for an order that the Tribunal reconsiders its decision on the grounds that it has made an error of law. The Act introduced two new offences from September

2004, one of being undocumented without reasonable explanation, and another of failing to comply with the re-documentation process.

The *UK / Swiss Bilateral Re-admissions* agreement was ratified on 16 October 2006. Its provisions apply to the two countries and mirror the arrangements provided by the Dublin convention at EU level.

The *UK Borders Act 2007* received Royal Assent on 30 October 2007. The majority of provisions came into force on 31 January 2008; with the exception of a few which are not yet in force (and not discussed here), the remainder of the Act was in force by 25 November 2008. The Act included providing that asylum seekers are to remain eligible for support while an in-country appeal is pending, or can be brought, against an asylum decision.

Asylum seekers whose application has been awaiting an initial decision for more than a year are able to apply for permission to work. Those applying for permission to work from 8 September 2010 were restricted to working in a shortage occupation. In addition, from 8 September 2010, failed asylum seekers who made further submissions on their asylum claim more than a year before were also able to apply for permission to work.

A list of all the "Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules" since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

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 United Kingdom. This change affects a small number of cases.

The 'Stateless' category for tables which give figures by nationality has been disaggregated into 'Stateless' and 'Refugee' from 2011 onwards. The exception to this are as.06 and as.11 where the breakdown is given for the entire time series. Figures for refugees prior to 2011 is indicated as not available (..).

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 United Kingdom. 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

Data quality

All asylum data relating to the United Kingdom:

- are administrative counts of casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA'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.
- provisional status of the data is altered to final; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

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 UKBA; and
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA's Quality Assurance Framework.

Data on non-suspensive appeals, fresh claims and the fast-track process are considered to be medium to high. The non-suspensive appeals, UASC and age dispute data are subsets of the asylum applications and initial decisions data and undergo a separate reconciliation process.

Data on asylum cases pending are considered to be high. These data undergo a reconciliation process.

Data on asylum appeals are considered to be high.

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

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

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.

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.

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 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 3 months where data was provided for the series, 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 source and countries currently requiring estimation are detailed in the asylum excel 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.

Each day, a list of the records added or amended on the Asylum Support System (ASYS) is produced. On a weekly basis, the daily lists are added together and then to the information from the previous week to produce a 'snapshot' of ASYS for Migration Statistics. This '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 fast-track process and resettlement of refugees are provided directly by UKBA.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the asylum applications, initial decisions, withdrawals, fresh claims and asylum cases pending data for principal applicants with teams within UKBA, by ensuring that the total number of records produced separately by UKBA 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 non-suspensive appeals with a team within UKBA, by comparing

a unique identifier from each case in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by UK Border Agency. 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.

Migration Statistics reconcile data on UASCs and age disputes with a team within UKBA, by comparing a unique identifier from each case in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by UK Border Agency. 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 UKBA, 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.

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

Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with UKBA operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the tables ready for release and the text 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.

The pending figures are based on an extract from the CID database. As a cross check each month, we compare our figures with a live extract taken from the database by another team in UKBA and ensure that our figures are within tolerance levels for publishing (within +/- 2%), else a more detailed interrogation of the figures must be performed to ensure the quality of the published statistics.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Figures on asylum cases 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 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>;
- Home Office Business Plan impact indicators showing the percentage of asylum applications concluded in one year are available from www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk;
- Asylum performance framework measures and data on the controlled asylum archive are published as Official Statistics and are available from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>; and
- 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.

Asylum appeals

Asylum appeals data are sourced from the UK Border Agency (UKBA) database and relate to main asylum applicants at the First-Tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. The UKBA database

records are updated from record-level data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who produce similar statistics for main appellants. 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 UK Border Agency.

The Ministry of Justice publishes data on immigration and asylum appeals at First-Tier Tribunal and subsequent stages. These data are available from: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/index.htm>.

Eurostat data

Under European legislation the United Kingdom is also 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 and expands the data to be supplied to the Commission by Member States.

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.

11 Detention

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on three main series of data:

- People entering detention (including occurrences of people entering detention) – these are published as Official Statistics ([Tables dt.01 – dt.03.q](#));
- People leaving detention – these are mainly published as Official Statistics, with the exception of those who are removed from the United Kingdom upon leaving detention, which are published as National Statistics ([Tables dt.04 – dt.08.q](#)); and
- People in detention as at the last day of each quarter (i.e. on a snapshot basis) – these are mainly published as National Statistics, with the exception of adults broken down by length of detention and families detained, which are published as Official Statistics ([Tables dt.09.q – dt.12.q](#)).

Data source

The statistics on detention are extracted from the UK Border Agency'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 UK Border Agency estate.

Background on the statistics

Immigration legislation provides powers of detention. People are detained under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres, short term holding facilities, pre-departure accommodation; but excluding short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), police cells and Prison Service establishments. 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 United Kingdom.

A new process for managing the removal of families with no right to be in the United Kingdom began on 1 March 2011. This follows plans outlined by the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2010 to end child detention for immigration purposes. Pre-departure accommodation is a last resort for those families that refuse to comply with this three-stage process. Families can only be referred to pre-departure accommodation on the advice of the Family Returns Panel, an independent body of child welfare experts. Stays within pre-departure accommodation are limited to a maximum of 72 hours prior to a family's planned removal date from the United Kingdom, although there is provision for a family to remain for up to seven days in exceptional circumstances and subject to ministerial approval. The pre-departure accommodation located near Gatwick Airport, in West Sussex, Cedars, opened in August 2011 and has been designed to provide a secure facility for children and their families. It can accommodate up to 9 families at a time in self-contained apartments, with a range of activities provided by Barnardo's.

Tinsley House remains in use for families intercepted at the border and, in rare cases, for criminal and other high-risk families who cannot be safely accommodated in pre-departure accommodation.



Further information on immigration removal centres and short term holding facilities can be found on the UK Border Agency 'Immigration Removal Centre' webpages <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/immigrationremovalcentres/>, while further information on pre-departure accommodation can be found on <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/pre-departure-accommodation/>.

Published detention figures relate only to those detained solely under Immigration Act powers, and exclude those detained for criminal purposes and those who are detained under both criminal and immigration powers. Published detention statistics currently 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 United Kingdom, granted leave to enter / remain, granted temporary admission / release or bailed. Currently, published National Statistics are only available on people who are removed from the United Kingdom on leaving detention. Figures on all people leaving detention are based on Official Statistics and are not directly comparable with previous figures due to a revised methodology being used.

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 as National Statistics. Figures for all people detained by length of detention resumed publication in February 2009 as Official Statistics;
- Publication of National Statistics on people removed from the United Kingdom 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 as Official Statistics. 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, also as Official Statistics; and
- From May 2012 all detention statistics, with the exception of occurrences of people entering detention have been designated as National Statistics.

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.

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 (which changed 0.06% for the 2011 totals published in February 2012 and in August 2012), 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 the 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; and
- Harwich – 30 November 2010.
- 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;
- Larne House – 5 July 2011.

Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation designed for children and their families opened on 17 August 2011.

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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) detention bed occupancy allocation on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- 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 UKBA. 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 does 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 UKBA. On a quarterly basis, extracts of the detention data are taken from this 'snapshot' and provided directly by UKBA. 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 teams within UKBA, by comparing a unique identifier for each detention in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by UKBA. 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: incorrect place of detention and individual case by case reconciliation with UKBA.

A cross-checking 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 UKBA 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 United Kingdom, see the **Removals and voluntary departures** topic;
- Asylum cases in the detained fast track process, see the **Asylum** topic. These cases are not counted in this 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: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>; and
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>.

12 Removals and voluntary departures

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on enforced removals, refused entry at port and subsequently removed and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom – 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.g](#));
- 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 to rv.05](#));
- Country of destination ([Tables rv.06 and rv.06.g](#)); and
- Age and sex ([Tables rv.02 and rv.04](#)).

Summary figures on: Foreign national offenders removed from the United Kingdom; and 'enforced removals and voluntary departures' broken down by harm assessment are also published – as Official Statistics ([Tables rv.07.g, rv.08 and rv.08.g](#)).

Data source

The statistics on departures are extracted from the UK Border Agency'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 United Kingdom 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 UKBA 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 United Kingdom 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 UKBA also seeks to remove people who do not have any legal right to stay in the United Kingdom. This includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the United Kingdom illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on-entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the United Kingdom;
- 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:

- refused entry at port and subsequently removed;
- removed as a result of enforcement action (by deportation, administrative or illegal entry powers); or
- removed under third country provisions without substantive consideration of their asylum claim.

Data on dependants of principal asylum cases have only been available since April 2001. Since 2004 these data have been available by type of departure from the United Kingdom and by country of nationality.

Data on non-asylum cases by country of nationality have only been available since 2004 and a split of those refused entry at port and subsequently removed by port location (UK / juxtaposed controls) available from 2007 onwards.

Data by country of destination have only been collated since 2004.

It is not possible within the figures split by principal 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.

Key terms

An **enforced removal** is where it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom. The UKBA enforces their departure to ensure they leave the UK.

Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) is a separate 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.

Voluntary departures are comprised of notified voluntary departures, assisted voluntary returns and other confirmed voluntary departures.

A **notified voluntary departure** is where it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom; the UKBA may or may not have enforced their departure, removal directions may or may not have been set to administratively remove or deport the person from the country; however, the person had notified the UKBA that they wished to make their own arrangements to leave the country and provided evidence to this effect. The UKBA would have been required to facilitate / monitor the departure as necessary.

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 UKBA has been funding AVR programmes since 1999. They are delivered by 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 of 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 United Kingdom 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 & confirm the persons 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 is 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 United Kingdom is conducive to the public good; the deportation order prohibits the person returning to the United Kingdom until such time as it may be revoked. Most illegal immigrants are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the United Kingdom and not deported. Published information on those deported from the United Kingdom is not separately available.

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 United Kingdom 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.

Harm Matrix: The harm matrix is a tool to assess the level of harm in a particular case and/or individual. In order to provide clarity, consistency and measurement, levels of harm have been divided into 4 broad categories: A, B, C and D with A being the highest harm.

- **Category A (highest harm)** – including serious criminal offences such as terrorist activity, murder, rape, people and drug trafficking, violent crime and child abuse;
- **Category B (high harm)** – other criminal offences including illegal working, dishonest claim for asylum support and identity fraud; and
- **Category C (medium harm)** – other offences, not linked to any of the above more serious criminality, including minor immigration offences, a drain on public funds and anti-social behaviour.
- **Category D (low harm)** – other low level offences, including shoplifting. Harm Category "D (low harm)" was introduced in Q1 2012. Prior to 2012, Harm Category D was a subset 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 United Kingdom 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 in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Immigration Act 1988* made a number of changes to immigration law; some of its provisions came into force on 10 July 1988, and most of the remainder on 1 August 1988. It allows the Home Office to pay the fares of all people removed under supervised departure procedures and restricts the right of those resident in the United Kingdom for less than seven years to argue against a decision to make an administrative deportation order against them to the existence of the power in law to make the order.

Section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (which came into force on 2 October 2000) introduced new arrangements for overstayers, people who fail to observe the conditions attached to their leave, and people who, having entered lawfully in the first instance, subsequently obtain further leave by deception, all of whom would previously have been liable to deportation.

From 2 October 2000 all overstayers required to leave the United Kingdom could no longer appeal against this, except on asylum, human rights or discrimination grounds. The regularisation scheme offered overstayers who applied to regularise their stay, before 2 October 2000, the opportunity to retain the right of appeal if their application was subsequently refused. No special consideration was given to those who applied under the scheme. The benefit of the scheme to applicants who were refused permission to stay is that they kept the right of appeal before removal from the United Kingdom.

In July 2006, the Home Secretary announced to Parliament that the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applicants who were still living in the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

The 'Automatic Deportation' provisions in the UK Borders Act 2007 came into effect on 1 August 2008. They created an automatic link between criminality and deportation. They are used when a non-EEA foreign national offender is sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment or more. There are limited exceptions relating to asylum and human rights, age at conviction, mental health disposals, extradition and human trafficking. Unless the foreign national offender makes an arguable asylum or human rights claim, any appeal against deportation is heard after he has left the United Kingdom.

A list of all the "Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules" since May 2003 can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/>.

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 United Kingdom. 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. This means that the most recent figures for voluntary departures, and in particular confirmed departures, understate the finalised figures. For example, the 2011 figures for other confirmed voluntary departures have been revised upwards since the February 2012 quarterly release from 13,361 to 15,712, an 18% increase. In the light of the greater use of retrospective data matching to check departures we are reviewing the frequency at which these figures are subsequently updated.

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 UKBA's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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;
- 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 UKBA. If the record is amended and the relevant additional information added, these removals are counted in the 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.
- Prior to 2005, the total number of removals and voluntary departures excludes people who it has been established left without informing the relevant authorities.

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 UKBA and Border Force.

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 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 UKBA.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the removals and voluntary departures dataset with teams within UKBA and Border Force, by comparing a unique identifier from each removal in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by UKBA. 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 UKBA data. The team in UKBA 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 are 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-checking 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 UKBA 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 are 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 United Kingdom on leaving detention, see the **Detention** topic;
- Passengers initially refused entry at port, see the **Before entry** topic;
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>; 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 United Kingdom 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 and expands the data to be supplied to the Commission by Member States.

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 covered by this topic

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](#));
- Issues and refusals of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members ([Table ee.02](#)).

Background on the statistics

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

APPLICATIONS FROM BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN NATIONALS

Data source

Data are extracted from the UK Border Agency administrative database, after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions.

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 accession worker card to gain authorisation to work in the United Kingdom, 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 United Kingdom, EU2 national workers obtain full free movement rights.

Those who are: exempt from worker authorisation requirements; 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 United Kingdom.

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 <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/-restrictions-worker1/>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the United Kingdom 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. <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/44-labour-restrictions>

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 affects figures for Q1 and Q2 2011, which have been 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 have also been revised, but have changed by only one or two per cent.

Approvals for registration certificates and accession worker cards in the first and second quarters 2012 are lower than figures for the same period in previous years due to the number of applications received that are yet to be dealt with. It is expected that these figures will be revised upward in future publications.

Data quality

Data regarding applications and decisions in Accession worker card and Registration certificate requests from EU2 (Bulgarian and Romanian) nationals along with approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers (SAWS) and Sector Based Scheme (SBS) are based on Official Statistics and are not subject to the detailed checks of record-level data used for other (National Statistics) 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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 underestimate the final position:

- Decisions data relate to the corresponding cohort of applications, e.g. for applications made in the latest quarter, additional decisions will be made in the following 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).

-
- As decisions are made, and data is 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 UKBA staff responsible for the administration of the schemes relating to EU2 workers in the UK for updated figures, supplying template tables and instructions for their completion. UKBA 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 UKBA to scheme operators, sometimes up to 3 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 to 2011 were:

2007	16,250
2008	16,250
2009	21,250
2010	21,250
2011	21,250

Quality and process checks carried out

Before the refreshed template is returned to Migration Statistics the data it contains is checked by at least one other member of the UKBA 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 UKBA, 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-checking 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 UKBA 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 topic 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. The prepared topic 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

Figures on allocations of National Insurance numbers (NINOs) – compulsory for people wishing to work in the United Kingdom, 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: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation.

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

Data source

Data are extracted from the UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom.

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 United Kingdom in accordance with the EEA Regulations.

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

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

The *Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006* – the 'EEA Regulations' – apply and interpret the UK's obligations under the Free Movement of Persons Directive 2004/38/EC. Under the *EEA Regulations*, EEA nationals (and their family members) have the right to live in the United Kingdom for three months without conditions. All EEA nationals have a right of residence beyond three months if they are exercising their Treaty Rights in the United Kingdom.

New rights of residence were created in the *2006 Regulations* including the ability of EEA nationals and their family members to acquire permanent residence under European law for the first time. It also allowed family members of an EEA national exercising Treaty Rights in the United Kingdom to retain a right of residence in certain circumstances (e.g. divorce) on a personal basis (i.e. without the need to continue to be reliant on the rights of the EEA national).

Changes in the data affecting the statistics

The number of decisions made in 2009 and 2010 has risen compared to 2008 following various operational and procedural measures introduced during 2009 to improve performance in the UK Border Agency.

In 2011 a pre-consideration sift of applications was introduced to identify those without key information or documentation. These applications are now rejected as invalid and returned to the applicant. Applicants whose request for documentation is rejected as invalid in the sift 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.

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 UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on UKBA's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of UKBA;
- are regularly assessed as part of UKBA'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 UKBA 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 UK Border Agency, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2 per cent the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2 per cent can occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of UKBA management information for operational reasons or due to slight differences in the date on which data was 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 are 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>.

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' international migration statistics can be found at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/november-2010/long-term-international-migration-1-series--methodology-.zip>

Long Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 which 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 issued for work;
- Admissions for work;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for work;
- Work-related grants of settlement; and
- IPS 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 United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom, as well as policy and legislative changes. The availability and allocation of resources within the UK Border Agency 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 United Kingdom 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 highly skilled workers;
- Tier 2 provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer;
- Tier 3 relates to unskilled workers;
- 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. The Tier 1 – General route was closed to new “out of country” entry clearance visa applicants from 23 December 2010. From 9 August 2011 a new Tier 1 route (Exceptional Talent) was introduced. Continuing routes for Tier 1 are: Entrepreneurs; Investors; and Post-study workers.

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 issued 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 <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/skilled-shortage-sensible/>

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 United Kingdom. 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 United Kingdom and what the economic effects of restricting or removing Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlement rights would be. The report is available from: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/inbodies/mac/reports-publications/>

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 <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/-restrictions-worker1/>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the United Kingdom 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. <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/44-labour-restrictions>
More information on the restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania are described in the EEA section.

Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) – skilled individuals (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5)

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

Any organisation who wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the UK Border Agency '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 UK Border Agency for an annual allocation of CoS.
2. UK Border Agency 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 UKBA.

Once assigned, a CoS must be used to apply for leave within 3 months. If not used, the CoS status changes to 'Expired'. The CoS may also be withdrawn by the sponsor or cancelled by UKBA.

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 UK Border Agency to improve their systems. The A rating is granted where UKBA 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 UKBA 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>.

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

In March 2006 the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006* gained Royal Assent. The Act, which was fully implemented by 2008, restricts appeals for those refused entry to the United Kingdom to work or study.

Tier 1 (which provides a route for highly skilled migrants) of the PBS was phased in between February and June 2008. Tier 2 (which provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer) and Tier 5 (which is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the United Kingdom for primarily non-economic reasons) were implemented in November 2008, and at the same time new rules for business visitors were introduced.

Tiers 1, 2 and 5 of the PBS were amended from 31 March 2009. This included changes to the points awarded for particular qualifications and previous earnings for those applying for entry under Tier 1. Private servants in diplomatic households in the country under Tier 5 (International agreement) were allowed to apply for settlement after five years' continuous stay.

From 1 October 2009, points for Tier 1 (Post-study work) took into account study undertaken while in the United Kingdom under visas other than Tier 4. At the same time, minor amendments were made to rules relating to Sole Representatives of Overseas Businesses, Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 5.

From 6 April 2010, the leave allowed for new entry clearance visa applicants under Tier 1 (General) of the PBS was reduced from three years to two years, while the leave allowed for extensions was increased from two years to three years. Changes were also made to allow doctors and dentists in training to apply for Tier 1 (Post-study work) and to the criteria for earning points for Tier 2 (General) and Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer), and minor amendments were made to Tier 5.

Also from 6 April 2010, the Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer) category no longer leads to settlement.

An interim limit on entry clearance visas issued was placed on Tier 1 (General) applications made on or after 19 July 2010. From the same date, an interim limit on the number of Certificates of Sponsorship assigned to sponsors of Tier 2 (General) applicants for entry clearance visas and



extensions of stay was introduced; an applicant has to have a Certificate of Sponsorship before they can apply for a visa.

From 23 December 2010, Tier 1 (General) of the PBS was closed to new applicants for entry clearance. This will have an effect on extensions of stay in this category in later years. From 6 April 2011, Tier 1 (General) was closed to those applying to switch their stay from a different visa category, except those pre-PBS visas that are equivalent to Tier 1 (General).

From 6 April 2011, the Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer) category was split into two sub-categories for short-term and long-term staff. Short-term staff can be granted a maximum of 12 months leave and can only return in this sub-category after a minimum of 12 months outside the country. Long-term staff can be granted a maximum of three years and one month entry clearance visa, which can be extended up to five years. After this, the person can only return in this sub-category after a minimum of 12 months outside the country. Minimum salaries were also amended. Switching between these sub-categories while in the country is not allowed.

A limit of 20,700 Certificates of Sponsorship for out-of-country applicants to Tier 2 (General) was set for 6 April 2011 to 5 April 2012, excluding any applicants whose job would have a salary of over a specific threshold. Changes were also made to the minimum skill, salary and English language thresholds.

From 6 April 2011, those in the country under the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) and Tier 1 (Investor) categories whose business or investment meets certain requirements can apply for settlement after three years, instead of five.

A new entry clearance visa visitor category for prospective entrepreneurs was introduced from 6 April 2011, for those coming to the United Kingdom to seek funding or to create a team for a new business idea. The rules allow people to extend their stay into the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) category.

A new entry clearance visa category of Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) was introduced on 9 August 2011 for those who have won international recognition in scientific and cultural fields, or who show exceptional promise, as recognised by a designated competent body. This route was limited to 1,000 entry clearance visas in the first year. The maximum visa length was three years and four months, and although it was not opened to those already in the country under other visas, those with entry clearances in this category can apply for a further extension of two years and settlement after five years.

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 'Other: Other permit free employment not allocated'.

Please refer to the **Before entry** topic 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** topic 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** topic of this user guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** topic 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=International+Migration>.

In addition, information on the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Before entry** and **Admissions** topics 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' international migration statistics can be found at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/november-2010/long-term-international-migration-1-series--methodology-.zip>

Long Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 which 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=International+Migration>
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Labour+Market>
- National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation 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'
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/nat_nino_regs.pdf
- Reports of the Migration Advisory Committee can be found at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/reports-publications/>
- Salt, J., 2011, International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPEMI Correspondent to the OECD, 2011, London: Migration Research Unit. <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/mobility-identity-and-security/migration-research-unit/pdfs/Sop11.pdf>
- *Migrant Journey*, a research report on migrants' journeys through the immigration system, see below.

Migrant Journey

In 2010, the UK Border Agency published the results of research to measure migrants' journeys through the immigration system using its existing administrative data. This research seeks to identify the behaviour of migrants who enter the United Kingdom by following a cohort of migrants who were granted a non-visit visa (through these administrative databases). The current methodology enabled 78 per cent of migrants who arrived in the United Kingdom in 2004 to be tracked, and provides a good indication of the degree to which migrants in different categories remain in the United Kingdom, change their status, or leave.

For more information see Achato, Eaton and Jones (2010): <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/>.

15 Study

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas issued for study;
- 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 monitor numbers of people coming to the United Kingdom 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 United Kingdom 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 issued in old endorsements. For admissions and extensions of stay, the phasing out of old categories will take longer.

Changes in immigration legislation affecting the statistics

In March 2006, the *Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006* gained Royal Assent. The Act, which was fully implemented by 2008, restricts appeals for those refused entry to the United Kingdom to work or study.

In September 2007, the visitor rules were expanded to include the category of ‘student visitors’. This category provides for short-term students who wish to study in the United Kingdom for up to six months (or from 10 January 2011, eleven months if studying on an English language course) but who do not wish to work part-time or extend their student visitor leave. It can also be used by visitors who want to study on a short course in the United Kingdom which will be completed during their period of leave. Student visitors are not permitted to bring dependants. At the same time, the category of ‘short-term student’ was closed.

From September 2007, all students and prospective students intending to work or extend their stay beyond their initial grant of leave were required to apply for entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom. At the same time, the ability of those already in the United Kingdom in another capacity to switch into the student category was restricted.

Tier 4 of the PBS (which provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider) was implemented from 31 March 2009, replacing previous entry routes for study. Among other measures, Tier 4 requires all child and adult students from outside the European Economic Area to be sponsored by an education provider licensed by the UK Border Agency, and specifies the level of education to be undertaken by those aged over 16. Initially, students had to be issued with a visa letter from an education provider accredited as a licensed sponsor before applying for a Tier 4 visa. These have been superseded by Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS), which became mandatory from 22 February 2010.

From 6 April 2010 only education providers qualifying as Highly Trusted Sponsors could offer courses at A-level, Higher and equivalent or courses below degree level containing work placements.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

In the **Study** topic, 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 United Kingdom 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' 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 **Before entry** topic 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' are counted within the 'student' classification for the purpose of the admissions data.

Please refer to the **Admissions** topic 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** topic 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=International+Migration>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Before entry** and **Admissions** topics of this user guide respectively.

Data from ONS on long-term international migration provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visas issued 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 United Kingdom who state their main reason for migrating is for study; people migrating for other reasons may also choose to study while in the United Kingdom.

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' international migration statistics can be found at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/november-2010/long-term-international-migration-1-series--methodology-.zip>

Long Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 which 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

- *Migrant Journey*, a research report on migrants' journeys through the immigration system, see below.
- 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/>.

Migrant Journey

In 2010, the UK Border Agency published the results of research to measure migrants' journeys through the immigration system using its existing administrative data. This research seeks to identify the behaviour of migrants who enter the United Kingdom by following a cohort of migrants who were granted a non-visit visa (through these administrative databases). The current methodology enabled 78 per cent of migrants who arrived in the United Kingdom in 2004 to be tracked, and provides a good indication of the degree to which migrants in different categories remain in the United Kingdom, change their status, or leave.

For more information see Achato, Eaton and Jones (2010): <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/>.

16 Family

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas issued 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 United Kingdom 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, including the family members of those working or studying in the United Kingdom and of refugees. There are also those who come for a short time to visit family members.

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 immigration legislation affecting the statistics

From 1 April 2003, the following changes were made in the Immigration Rules relating to spouses, fiancé(e)s and unmarried partners of sponsors who were settled in the United Kingdom:

- a person seeking leave to enter or remain in these categories had to be 16 years or over and the sponsor had to be 18 years or over on the date on which leave was granted. (From 21 December 2004 the minimum age for the person seeking leave was increased to 18 years);
- the "probationary period" (initial grant of leave) for spouses and unmarried partners of settled sponsors was increased from one year to two years;
- a passenger seeking entry as a spouse could now be granted indefinite leave to enter by an Entry Clearance Office (ECO), rather than completing the probationary period, if the passenger had married his or her sponsor (who had settled status in the United Kingdom) at least four years ago, since which time they had been living together outside the United Kingdom; and
- a passenger seeking entry as an unmarried partner could now be granted indefinite leave to enter, by an ECO, rather than completing the probationary period if the sponsor had settled status in the United Kingdom and they had been living together outside the United Kingdom in a relationship akin to marriage for four years or more.

From 22 July 2008, the initial length of time for which the spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom is admitted was increased to not more than 27 months.

From 27 November 2008, the minimum age at which a person could be granted entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was increased from 18 to 21. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also increased from 18 to 21.

From 22 October 2010, family members of those who had become British citizens having been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection were no longer eligible to come to the United Kingdom under the category of Refugee Family Reunion. They have to apply as a family member of a British citizen.

From 29 November 2010, all non-EEA nationals applying to enter or extend their stay as a partner of a British citizen or settled person were required to demonstrate a level of English, except in certain circumstances.

From 6 April 2011, new family members of a refugee or someone granted humanitarian protection with a time limit would need to apply for entry clearance in the same way as the family member of a settled person, meaning that the sponsor has to maintain and accommodate them and the person has to meet English language requirements.

Following the Supreme Court judgment in *Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 45 which ruled that the minimum age requirement of 21 in the Immigration Rules for spouse and partners of British citizens and those with settled status was unlawful, from 28 November 2011, the minimum age at which a person could be granted entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a person settled and living in the United Kingdom was reduced from 21 to 18. The minimum age at which a person could sponsor such an application was also reduced from 21 to 18.

Other factors affecting the statistics

In July 2011, a consultation on family migration was launched. If the proposals become changes to Immigration Rules they may affect the statistics. The proposals include extending the probationary period before spouses, partners and dependants can apply for settlement from two to five years.

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 British citizen. From the second quarter of 2011 following a change of rules, they include the new family member who comes to the United Kingdom to join a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but who has yet to apply for or be granted settlement. Before this date, they would have had a 'Refugee Family Reunion' visa which is included in 'Family route: Other'.

The **Family route** covers only visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the United Kingdom or a British citizen. The **Family route: child** includes adult offspring of the settled person or British citizen. The **Family route: other** covers dependants who are not offspring or partners, such as elderly relatives. It also includes 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 before the second quarter of 2011.

Please refer to the **Before entry** topic 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** topic 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** topic of this user guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** topic of this user guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF IMMIGRATION FOR FAMILY REASONS

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>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Before entry** and **Admissions** topics 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' international migration statistics can be found at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/november-2010/long-term-international-migration-1-series--methodology-.zip>

Long Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 which 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

- *Migrant Journey*, a research report on migrants' journeys through the immigration system, see below.

Migrant Journey

In 2010, the UK Border Agency published the results of research to measure migrants' journeys through the immigration system using its existing administrative data. This research seeks to identify the behaviour of migrants who enter the United Kingdom by following a cohort of migrants who were granted a non-visit visa (through these administrative databases). The current methodology enabled 78 per cent of migrants who arrived in the United Kingdom in 2004 to be tracked, and provides a good indication of the degree to which migrants in different categories remain in the United Kingdom, change their status, or leave.

For more information see Achato, Eaton and Jones (2010): <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/>.

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, Office for National Statistics, 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 Science, Research and Statistics website; first published by the Home Office on 24 June 2010 (<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>).

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 Science, Research and Statistics website; first published by the Home Office on 25 November 2010 (<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>).

The UK Border Agency published the results of research to measure migrants' journeys through the immigration system using its existing administrative data in **The Migrant Journey** on 6 September 2010. This research sought to identify the behaviour of migrants who enter the United Kingdom by following a cohort of migrants who were granted a non-visit visa (through these administrative databases). The current methodology enabled 78 per cent of migrants who arrived in the United Kingdom in 2004 to be tracked, and provides a good indication of the degree to which migrants in different categories remain in the United Kingdom, change their status, or leave. (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/>)

Research Reports on immigration control are published by Home Office Science as reports and occasional papers: (<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/immigration-research/>).

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 Home Office Science, Research and Statistics website; published by the Home Office between 21 August 2008 and 26 May 2011: (<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>).

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 Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages (<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>).

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/immigrati-on-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 UK Border Agency) **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 UK Border Agency 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 was 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 UK Border Agency performance against reform plans are available from: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>. 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>.

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 United Kingdom; migrant applications to work in the United Kingdom; the control of immigration; UK population by country of birth and nationality; and moves within the United Kingdom. It also links to the interactive 'Local Area Migration Indicators' tool.
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration>

The **Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)** publication (MN Series) presents statistics on flows of international migrants to and from the United Kingdom and England & 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=International+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=International+Migration>

National Population Projections by age and sex are produced for the United Kingdom and constituent countries every two years. Details of the latest (2008-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 (<http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tribunals/Publications/publications.htm>).

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.sarenet.es/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). (<http://emn.intrasoft->

intl.com/Downloads/prepareShowFiles.do?entryTitle=2%2E%20Annual%20Reports%20on%20Asylum%20and%20Migration%20Statistics)

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., 2011, **International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPEMI Correspondent to the OECD, 2011**, London: Migration Research Unit. <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/mobility-identity-and-security/migration-research-unit/pdfs/Sop11.pdf>

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 UK Border Agency is responsible for securing the United Kingdom borders and controlling migration in the United Kingdom. The UK Border Agency manages border control for the United Kingdom, enforcing immigration and customs regulations; and considers applications for permission to enter or stay in the United Kingdom, 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 website (www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/) provides details of most of the routes available to foreign nationals who want to come to the United Kingdom 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 work of the UK Border Agency.

International Group, part of the UK Border Agency, runs the UK's visa service through British diplomatic posts abroad, visa application centres and online. Online information is available on visa applications (www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/).

Previously, the UK Border Agency published statistics on entry clearance which provided details of all visas applications, issues and refusals worldwide (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 United Kingdom (<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 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) <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-consultation-2011?view=Standard&pubID=867861> and summary of responses to the consultation <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immig-consult-responses-2011?view=Standard&pubID=937133>.

UK Statistics Authority Migrant 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/bia-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 websites:

- 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/publications/0304/asylum_and_migration_review.aspx?alreadysearchfor=yes.

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
Before entry		
cs.01	Quarterly	Number of Sponsoring Employers on UKBA register, by rating
cs.02	Annual	Number of visa applicants for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs.02.q	Quarterly	Number of visa applicants for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs.03	Annual	Number of applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs.03.q	Quarterly	Number of applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type
cs.04	Annual	Number of visa applicants for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and nationality
cs.04.q	Quarterly	Number of visa applicants for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and nationality
cs.05	Annual	Number of applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and nationality
cs.05.q	Quarterly	Number of applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and nationality
be.01	Annual	Entry clearance visa applications and resolution by category
be.02	Annual	Entry clearance visa applications and resolution by country of nationality
be.03	Annual	Entry clearance visa applications by country of nationality
be.04	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category
be.04.q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas issued by category
be.05	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by country of nationality
be.05.q	Quarterly	Entry clearance visas issued by country of nationality
be.06	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Summary
be.06.w	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Work
be.06.s	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Study
be.06.f	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Family
be.06.d	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Dependant joining / accompanying
be.06.o	Annual	Entry clearance visas issued by category and country of nationality: Other
be.07	Annual	Appeals received and appeal outcomes on entry clearance visas by issuing post
be.08	Annual	Passengers initially refused entry by nationality
be.08.q	Quarterly	Passengers initially refused entry by nationality
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 employment 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
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
Settlement		
se.01	Annual	Grants of settlement by category
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 May 2011
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	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children applications received, excluding dependants, in the United Kingdom, by sex and age at time of application
as.08.q	Quarterly	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children applications received, excluding dependants, in the United Kingdom, by sex and age at time of application
as.09	Annual	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, initial decisions, by age at initial decision
as.09.q	Quarterly	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, initial decisions, by age at initial decision
as.10	Annual	Age disputed asylum applications, by country of nationality
as.10.q	Quarterly	Age disputed asylum applications, 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, 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	Number of occurrences in detention in each year and since January 2009
dt.02.q	Quarterly	Number of occurrences in detention in each quarter and since January 2009
dt.03	Annual	People entering detention by country of nationality, sex, place of initial detention and age
dt.03.q	Quarterly	People entering detention by country of nationality, sex, place of initial detention and age
dt.04	Annual	People leaving detention by reason and age
dt.04.q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason and age
dt.05	Annual	People leaving detention by reason, sex and length of detention
dt.05.q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason, sex and length of detention
dt.06	Annual	People leaving detention by reason and place of last detention
dt.06.q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by reason and place of last detention
dt.07	Annual	People leaving detention by country of nationality, reason, sex and age
dt.07.q	Quarterly	People leaving detention by country of nationality, reason, sex and age
dt.08	Annual	Children leaving detention by location, by reason and length of detention
dt.08.q	Quarterly	Children leaving detention by location, by reason and length of detention
dt.09.q	Quarterly	People in detention by sex and length of detention
dt.10.q	Quarterly	People in detention by place of detention
dt.11	Annual	People in detention by country of nationality, sex, place of detention and age
dt.11.q	Quarterly	People in detention by country of nationality, sex, place of detention and age
dt.12.q	Quarterly	Families with children in detention
Prosecutions		
pr.01	Annual	Defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales
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, United Kingdom, by country of nationality

Study

st.01

Rolling year

Out of country visas issued and in country extensions of stay by study categories

Work

wk.01

Rolling year

Out of country visas to the United Kingdom issued and in country extensions of stay by work categories