

## **Visits to the UK from the enlarged EU**

With the enlargement of the European Union on 1 May 2004, ONS is making available further analyses of visits to the UK. These show the number of visits made by overseas residents who are nationals of the 15 countries who were members of the EU prior to this date, and the 10 countries that joined the EU at this time. Cyprus and Malta are shown separately from the other accession countries; as members of the Commonwealth their nationals had less restrictive rights of entry to the UK before joining the EU.

In the three months to December 2006 there were 611 thousand visits to the UK by nationals of the A8 countries (the countries that joined the EU on the 1 May 2004 except Malta and Cyprus). This compared with 932 thousand visits in the previous three months and 492 thousand visits in the equivalent three months of 2005.

During the three months ending December 2006, 99% of the visits by EU15 nationals to the United Kingdom were for intended length of stay of less than three months. During the same period, the comparable figure for visits by nationals from the A8 countries to the UK was 91%.

Over the same period, 64% of the visits to the UK by EU15 nationals were for leisure purposes (this includes, among other reasons, holidays and visiting friends or relatives) compared with 48% of visits by nationals of the A8 countries. Non-leisure purposes include, again among others, business and study.

The question on intended length of stay has identified visits less than three months only since the beginning of 2004. There is therefore no historical data to compare this with. The purpose of visit data has changed little during the corresponding period of recent years for either EU nationals or the A8 countries.

### **Notes:**

The numbers of visits are estimated from data collected by the ONS International Passenger Survey (IPS). This year-round survey interviews approximately 1 in 500 passengers at all major UK airports, sea ports, and tunnel routes, as they arrive in or depart from the UK.

The data in these tables should be interpreted with extreme care, particularly those that relate to individual countries. This is because the number of people from any one country interviewed on the IPS in any one month can be small, and can be variable because of the sample design of the IPS.

The sample is designed to be representative over a quarter but not for any individual month. This means that it is necessary to build up the sample over a whole three-month period to represent reliably the volume and types of visitors to the UK. For any single month, some data collection points, days of the week and times of the day will be over- or under-represented. Similarly, the monthly estimates will over- or under-represent the number of visitors from particular countries and groups of countries. Moreover, where the estimates for particular types

of visitor are based on small numbers, the fluctuations in those estimates from one month to the next which derive solely from the sample design and not from real changes may be considerable.

To overcome these problems data are usually reported quarterly or the data on a number of related countries are grouped together to provide a larger base of interviews. However, the numbers of interviews are sometimes still too small to provide reliable estimates even after grouping related months or countries together. The results based on small numbers of interviews are therefore still susceptible to considerable variation.

The tables cover visits for all purposes including leisure, such as holidays and visits to friends or relatives; work or business; study; shopping; and medical treatment. They also include visits by 'migrants' who intend to stay in the UK for a year or more.

The data presented here concern non-UK residents arriving in the country, either as returning residents or as visitors or new migrants. The IPS does not normally report on these groups.

The First Release of estimates of Total International Migration for 2005 was published on 2 November 2006 and is available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdudir/intmigrat1106.pdf>

More detailed results for 2004 were published in an annual reference volume Series MN No.31, published on 20 April 2006. This is available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=507>

This is the final publication of Visits to the UK from the enlarged EU:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=12222&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272>

\* EU15 denotes the existing member countries of the European Union as at 30 April 2004 and EU25 denotes the enlarged EU as of 1 May 2004. The A10 countries include all ten accession countries but the A8 countries exclude Cyprus and Malta. Data shown in the tables are rounded to thousands and, as a result, figures may not sum exactly to grouped totals.

**Table 1: Number of visits to the UK by nationals of the European Union and the Accession Countries by country and quarter, 2003-2006 \***

(thousands)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003				2004				2005				2006**			
					Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Austria	193	250	272	269	40	52	65	36	54	67	87	42	63	79	85	46	63	60	94	51
Belgium	855	769	832	893	152	240	193	270	159	246	201	162	211	183	253	185	191	214	272	214
Denmark	352	424	422	416	68	80	88	116	87	101	111	126	81	107	118	116	95	98	120	102
Finland	133	160	118	162	23	27	35	48	24	50	51	35	21	31	29	37	33	53	39	38
France	2,845	3,149	3,208	3,131	668	719	786	671	771	939	701	738	638	1,114	654	803	695	925	767	744
Germany	2,490	2,573	2,657	2,660	430	628	867	565	450	709	846	569	612	738	801	507	562	664	825	609
Greece	188	180	159	168	40	34	52	61	52	34	46	48	38	42	38	40	38	32	51	47
Irish Republic	2,206	2,147	2,358	2,483	574	511	586	535	569	529	574	476	594	540	650	575	616	561	708	598
Italy	1,058	1,270	1,172	1,338	218	229	319	292	266	272	403	329	249	288	356	278	277	277	415	369
Luxembourg	19	29	19	31	3	7	4	4	8	9	6	6	6	3	5	6	1	7	8	15
Netherlands	1,432	1,679	1,650	1,591	259	395	394	384	363	425	419	472	331	439	449	431	355	381	467	389
Portugal	226	265	255	253	43	54	56	72	56	66	78	65	58	48	86	63	54	43	92	65
Spain	855	1,047	1,174	1,227	197	161	272	225	230	222	272	323	287	241	313	333	279	254	365	329
Sweden	495	581	651	600	105	116	124	151	134	158	159	130	151	202	129	170	124	171	159	145
<b>EU 15 countries</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>14,945</b>	<b>15,221</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>3,519</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>4,054</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>3,382</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>4,383</b>	<b>3,716</b>
Czech Republic	185	212	253	352	36	56	61	32	41	34	79	58	44	59	94	55	41	80	164	68
Estonia	17	30	43	54	3	5	6	3	8	5	12	5	9	11	10	13	15	6	20	13
Hungary	87	169	216	241	17	22	25	23	38	35	52	44	53	67	54	43	56	41	75	69
Latvia	14	53	73	63	3	2	3	7	5	12	20	15	17	15	22	18	15	16	11	21
Lithuania	34	70	134	162	2	5	11	15	10	13	22	26	28	29	39	39	45	37	43	37
Poland	278	646	1,153	1,606	61	70	86	62	67	111	274	194	270	267	335	281	323	419	520	344
Slovakia	34	106	188	251	4	11	11	8	12	24	45	25	43	49	60	36	56	68	77	50
Slovenia	27	47	44	68	6	3	10	8	8	17	12	10	13	12	10	9	21	15	23	9
<b>A8 Accession countries</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>611</b>
Cyprus	50	47	50	53	10	11	18	11	8	10	16	12	11	13	15	11	15	16	13	8
Malta	40	50	59	51	9	4	15	12	8	17	16	9	9	16	19	15	11	9	16	15
<b>A10 Accession countries</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>634</b>
<b>EU 25 countries</b>	<b>14,113</b>	<b>15,953</b>	<b>17,159</b>	<b>18,121</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>4,090</b>	<b>3,609</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>3,917</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,593</b>	<b>4,623</b>	<b>4,106</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>4,447</b>	<b>5,344</b>	<b>4,350</b>

\* This table covers visits for all purposes including holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, study, and migration

\*\* Provisional estimates

**Table 2: Number of visits to the UK by nationals of the European Union and the Accession Countries by month, 2003-2006 \***

	(thousands)											
	EU 15 countries				A8 Accession countries				A10 Accession countries			
	2003	2004	2005	2006**	2003	2004	2005	2006**	2003	2004	2005	2006**
January	807	827	777	947	28	64	177	198	38	69	184	208
February	1,003	1,012	1,088	1,066	40	59	132	166	45	66	138	176
March	1,012	1,383	1,474	1,369	64	65	168	208	68	70	175	214
April	1,062	1,424	1,324	1,262	39	75	126	199	41	82	139	206
May	1,126	1,338	1,393	1,252	79	103	180	196	86	114	186	201
June	1,064	1,065	1,338	1,226	56	74	204	287	63	83	215	299
July	1,395	1,441	1,517	1,626	61	204	261	375	73	218	272	386
August	1,389	1,408	1,312	1,367	86	132	192	243	98	138	206	246
September	1,059	1,106	1,136	1,390	66	181	172	313	76	193	182	329
October	1,165	1,253	1,100	1,249	57	140	168	223	63	146	176	232
November	1,157	1,127	1,139	1,185	66	137	192	224	76	144	197	229
December	1,106	1,139	1,348	1,282	34	101	132	164	41	108	145	173
<b>Annual total</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>14,945</b>	<b>15,221</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,900</b>

\* This table covers visits for all purposes including holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, study, and migration

\*\* Provisional estimates