

13 November 2003

Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Population and Migration

International migration estimates 2002

An estimated 153,000 more people arrived to live in the United Kingdom for at least a year in 2002 than left to live elsewhere according to migration estimates published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This estimate of net in-migration is lower than the estimate of 172,000 for 2001; it is also slightly lower than the estimates for 1999 and 2000 (163,000 in both years).

The number of immigrants to the UK has increased from 265,000 in 1993 to 513,000 in 2002, with an increase from 480,000 in 2001. The number of emigrants has fluctuated over the decade, but overall there has been an increase from 266,000 in 1993 to 359,000 in 2002. The number of emigrants in 2002 represents a substantial rise from 308,000 in 2001.

Overall, the UK experienced a net inflow of 245,000 non-British citizens and a net outflow of 91,000 British citizens due to international migration in 2002. British citizens returning to the UK accounted for 18 per cent of inward migrants in 2002, compared with 22 per cent in 2001. The corresponding proportion of outward migrants who were British citizens was 52 per cent - the same proportion as in 2001.

Thirty one per cent of inward migrants were citizens of Commonwealth countries, 12 per cent were European Union citizens and 38 per cent were citizens of other foreign countries. Non-British outward migrants were about evenly split between citizens of Commonwealth countries, the European Union and other foreign countries.

Table 1, attached, shows in and out flows and the balance of net international migration to the UK by citizenship, for 1993-2002. Further details on international migration in 2002 will be published in the ONS volume, *International Migration 2002*, Series MN No.29 in Spring 2004.

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Next publication date
Spring 2004

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. A migrant is defined as someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination becomes the country of usual residence.
2. Migration estimates are derived from several sources. The principal source is the International Passenger Survey (IPS) data on international migration. Adjustments are made to account for people who enter or leave the country initially for a short stay but subsequently decide to remain for a year or more ('visitor switchers') and people who intend to be migrants but in reality stay in the UK or abroad for less than one year ('migrant switchers'). Home Office figures on people who entered the UK, either as asylum seekers or their dependants, are incorporated in the estimates. Estimates of migration between the UK and the Irish Republic are also added to the IPS figures.
3. The methodology used to produce these estimates was first used to produce the revised series of international migration estimates for 1992-2001, published in June 2003. More detailed information on the methodology are available on the National Statistics website at the following address:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Methodology%20for_Revised_International_Migration_Estimates.doc
4. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS, which covers the principal air, sea and channel tunnel routes between the UK and the rest of the world. It includes questions on age, sex, marital status, citizenship and country of last/next residence. This enables detailed analysis of characteristics of people entering and leaving the UK to be produced.
5. The Home Office supplies estimates of asylum seekers and their dependants. The international migration estimates make allowances for asylum seekers who leave the country without being counted in the IPS, and for dependants of asylum seekers who are estimated not to have been covered by the IPS.
6. Estimates of migrants between the UK and the Irish Republic are currently produced using information from the Irish Quarterly National Household Survey and the National Health Service Central Register. They are agreed between the Irish Central Statistics Office and the ONS.
7. A National Statistics Quality Review of International Migration Statistics was published in September 2003 and is available on the National Statistics website at the following address:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/quality_review/population.asp. It recommends ways of improving the quality and accuracy of international migration statistics. ONS and the Home Office will publish an implementation plan for taking forward the recommendations of the report by the end of 2003.
8. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.

9. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. Crown copyright 2003.

Table 1 Total international migration*: citizenship 1993 to 2002

United Kingdom
thousands

Year	All citizenships	British	Non-British	European Union †	Commonwealth		Other foreign ***
					Old **	New	
Inflow to UK							
1993	265.1	85.9	179.2	44.2	23.2	47.0	64.7
1994	314.4	108.3	206.2	50.4	21.3	58.7	75.7
1995	311.9	83.9	228.0	61.2	26.7	58.3	81.7
1996	317.8	93.6	224.2	72.5	29.0	49.2	73.5
1997	326.1	88.9	237.2	71.5	31.2	58.7	75.7
1998	390.3	103.1	287.3	81.8	53.9	51.0	100.5
1999	453.8	116.4	337.4	66.6	54.4	66.5	149.9
2000	483.4	104.1	379.3	63.1	57.2	90.9	168.1
2001	479.6	106.3	373.3	60.4	67.4	83.9	161.6
2002	512.8	94.6	418.2	62.8	65.6	92.9	196.8
Outflow from UK							
1993	266.3	148.7	117.7	40.4	17.2	17.1	43.0
1994	237.6	125.1	112.6	41.7	14.2	16.8	39.9
1995	236.5	135.5	101.0	38.0	17.6	11.9	33.5
1996	263.7	155.7	108.0	44.0	17.3	14.3	32.4
1997	279.2	148.7	130.6	53.2	20.1	19.8	37.5
1998	251.5	125.8	125.7	48.9	19.7	13.2	44.0
1999	290.8	139.2	151.6	58.6	28.8	12.3	51.9
2000	320.7	161.1	159.6	57.0	32.2	14.9	55.5
2001	307.7	159.2	148.5	49.1	32.1	18.6	48.6
2002	359.4	185.7	173.7	51.7	42.3	15.8	63.9
Balance							
1993	- 1.2	- 62.7	+ 61.5	+ 3.8	+ 6.0	+ 29.9	+ 21.8
1994	+ 76.8	- 16.8	+ 93.6	+ 8.7	+ 7.1	+ 41.9	+ 35.9
1995	+ 75.4	- 51.6	+ 127.0	+ 23.3	+ 9.2	+ 46.5	+ 48.2
1996	+ 54.1	- 62.1	+ 116.2	+ 28.5	+ 11.7	+ 34.9	+ 41.1
1997	+ 46.8	- 59.8	+ 106.6	+ 18.3	+ 11.2	+ 38.9	+ 38.2
1998	+ 138.8	- 22.7	+ 161.6	+ 33.0	+ 34.2	+ 37.9	+ 56.6
1999	+ 163.0	- 22.8	+ 185.8	+ 8.0	+ 25.6	+ 54.2	+ 98.0
2000	+ 162.8	- 57.0	+ 219.7	+ 6.1	+ 25.0	+ 76.0	+ 112.6
2001	+ 171.8	- 53.0	+ 224.8	+ 11.2	+ 35.2	+ 65.4	+ 113.0
2002	+ 153.4	- 91.1	+ 244.5	+ 11.1	+ 23.4	+ 77.1	+ 132.9

* Based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey. Includes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

† Figures for all years show EU as it was constituted on 1 January 1995.

** Includes estimates of South African citizenship for all years.

*** Figures for all years include Hong Kong.