

20 October 2005

Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Population and Migration

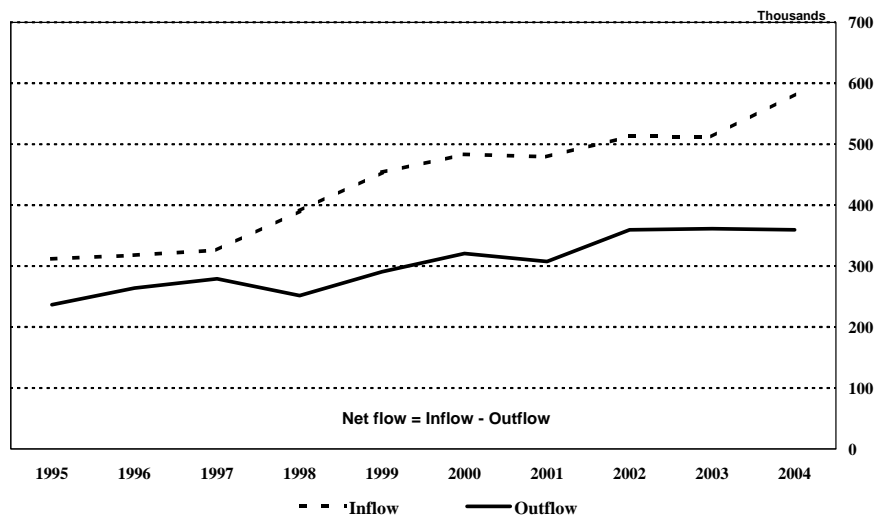
Migration to the UK rises

Overall, 223,000 more people migrated to the United Kingdom than left in 2004 according to new Total International Migration (TIM) estimates published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This estimated net inflow is 72,000 higher than the previous year and is the highest since the present method of estimation began in 1991.

The estimated number of people arriving to live in the UK for at least a year increased from 513,000 in 2003 to a record 582,000 in 2004. The estimate of people leaving the UK to live elsewhere was 360,000. This is similar to those levels seen in the last two years.

The total inflows and outflows for the last 10 years are shown in the graph below. Further details for 1995 to 2004 by broad groupings of citizenship are shown in **Table 1**.

Total International Migration to/from the UK, 1995-2004



TIM estimates for 2004 are only directly comparable with estimates for the period starting in 1991. It follows that all comparative statements about the levels of migration are made solely with reference to this period.

Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Public Enquiries 0845 601 3034

Statistician
Nick O'Rourke 01329 813885
Email nick.o'rourke@ons.gov.uk

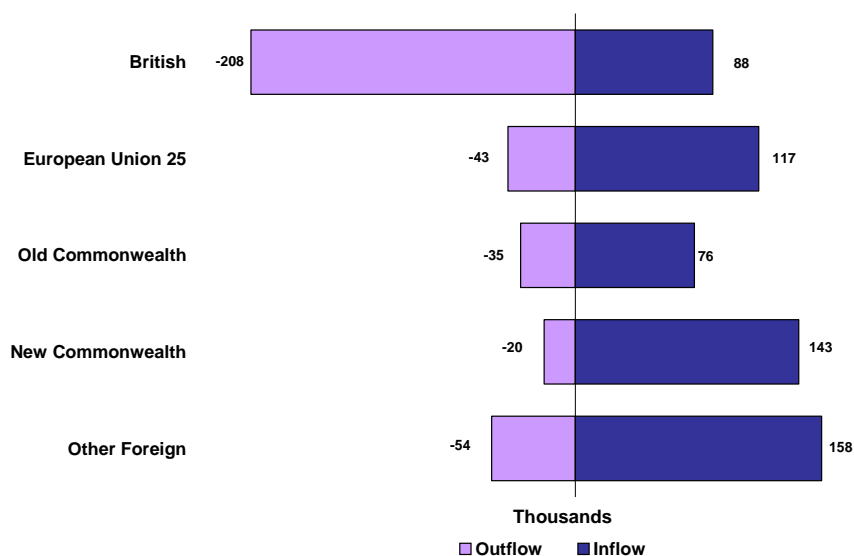
Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

Next publication date
Spring 2006



Estimates by citizenship show distinct differences between the groups in 2004, and since 1991.

- There was a record estimate for the net *outflow* of British citizens. There were 120,000 more British citizens migrating abroad than were migrating to the UK.
- The number of British citizens leaving the UK to live elsewhere increased to 208,000 in 2004. This is the highest estimated annual outflow of British citizens.
- There was a record net *inflow* of non-British citizens. There were 342,000 more non-British citizens migrating to the UK than migrating abroad.
- The number of non-British citizens arriving to live in the UK for at least a year increased to 494,000 in 2004. This is a record inflow for non-British citizens.
- In 2004 an estimated 74,000 more EU 25 citizens migrated to the UK than left. Of this net inflow, an estimated 48,000 were citizens of the 10 countries that joined the EU in 2004 (see background note 12).
- In 2004 the estimated net inflows of Old Commonwealth and New Commonwealth citizens both reached record levels. There were 41,000 more Old Commonwealth citizens migrating to the UK than leaving compared with 21,000 in 2003. There were 123,000 more New Commonwealth citizens (excluding Cyprus and Malta) migrating to the UK than were leaving in 2004. This net inflow compares with 87,000 in 2003.

Total International Migration estimates by citizenship, 2004

Estimates of international migration by other variables such as age, sex and country of last or next residence will be published in an annual reference volume in spring 2006. Previous editions of this volume can be found on the National Statistics website at the following link:

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

This press release should be read in conjunction with the Background Notes.

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. The difference between the inflow and the outflow is the net flow. If there are more people entering the UK to live for at least 12 months than are leaving then there is a net inflow of migrants. Conversely, if there are more people leaving the UK for at least 12 months than there are arriving then there is a net outflow.
3. All data are estimates and are rounded to the nearest 100 in **Table 1** and the nearest 1000 in the commentary. Estimates of Total International Migration (TIM) are derived from several data sources:
 - Migration data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) (see background note 7). This is the principal source that provides data on the number of migrants entering and leaving the country. It is subject to margins of error since the data are derived from a sample, face to face, survey and is based on respondents' **intended** length of stay.
 - Estimates of migration between the UK and the Irish Republic, which use information from the Irish Quarterly National Household Survey and the National Health Service Central Register (see background note 9).
 - Other data sources allow for the estimation of adjustments to the IPS migrant and Irish data. That is, an adjustment for asylum seekers not counted by the IPS (using data from the Home Office – see background note 8) and adjustments for visitor and migrant switchers (people who change their intentions, and, therefore their migratory status).
4. The method used to produce 2004 international migration estimates can be found at the following link:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Methodology_for_Revised_International_Migration_Estimates.doc
5. Estimates to mid-2004 are included in the mid-year population estimates for 2004 published in August 2005.
6. Total International Migration estimates for 2004 are only directly comparable with estimates for 1991 onwards as a consistent methodology has been used for the period 1991 to 2004.
7. The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS that 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 the characteristics of people entering and leaving the UK to be produced.
8. The Home Office supplies data on asylum seekers and their dependants covering applications, refusals, removals, appeals and withdrawals. These data are used to make estimates for asylum seekers and their dependants who enter or leave the country for a year or more and who, it is assumed, are not counted in the IPS migrant or visitor switcher estimates.



9. Estimates of migration 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.
10. A National Statistics Quality Review of International Migration Statistics was published in September 2003. This was followed by an implementation plan giving details of how the recommendations made by the quality review will be addressed, and a progress report. A link to each of these documents can be found at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp>
11. The citizenship groupings in this first release are defined as:
 - Up to and including 2003, European Union estimates are shown for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). For 2004, the estimates are for EU25 (EU15 plus Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).
 - The Old Commonwealth includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.
 - The New Commonwealth includes all other Commonwealth countries. In 2004, for the first time the New Commonwealth excludes Malta and Cyprus.
 - Other Foreign includes all countries not covered by the other groupings. In 2004, for the first time, this excludes citizens of the eight central and eastern European member states that joined the EU.
12. The estimate of net migration for citizens of accession countries in 2004 is set within the context of accession to the EU occurring part way through 2004 on 1 May. Estimated in-migration for citizens of accession countries in 2004 include those who arrived in the UK after 1 May. However, emigrants are people who were resident in the UK for a period of 12 months or more prior to departure. Therefore, by definition, estimated out-migration of citizens from accession countries in 2004 only includes people who were resident in the UK before enlargement of the EU. Any longer term assessment of the impact of EU enlargement on UK migration will need to take into account that any subsequent impact of accession on migration outflows will not feed through until future years. Fuller consideration of accession migration beyond 2004 is given as part of the National Population Projections, released 20 October 2005:
<http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2004/methodology/migrassa8.htm>
13. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
14. **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 2005.

Table 1 Total International Migration¹: citizenship 1995 to 2004

United Kingdom
thousands

Year	All citizenships	British	Non-British	European Union ²	Commonwealth		Other foreign ⁵
					Old ³	New ⁴	
Inflow to UK							
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	196.9
2003	512.6	105.8	406.8	64.0	62.7	103.1	177.0
2004	582.1	88.0	494.1	117.3	76.2	143.0	157.7
Outflow from UK							
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	15.7	64.0
2003	361.5	190.9	170.6	49.9	41.9	16.6	62.2
2004	359.5	207.6	151.9	43.1	35.1	20.0	53.6
Net flow							
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	+ 77.2	+ 132.9
2003	+ 151.0	- 85.2	+ 236.2	+ 14.2	+ 20.8	+ 86.5	+ 114.8
2004	+ 222.6	- 119.6	+ 342.2	+ 74.1	+ 41.1	+ 123.0	+ 104.0

1 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

2 Up to and including 2003, estimates are shown for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). For 2004, the estimates are for the EU25 (EU15 plus the 10 countries of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

3 Includes estimates of South African citizenship for all years.

4 For 2004, the New Commonwealth excludes Malta and Cyprus

5 Figures for all years include Hong Kong. For 2004 onwards, other foreign excludes the eight central and eastern European member states that joined the EU in May 2004.

+ Denotes a net inflow figure

- Denotes a net outflow figure

