

20 May 2008

Coverage
United Kingdom



Persons Granted British Citizenship up by 7 per cent

The number of persons granted British citizenship in 2007 was 164,635 - a rise of 7 per cent compared to the previous year. This is the highest number of applications granted in any year and reflects past migration to the UK.

These statistics are just one of several relating to population and migration being released by the Office for National Statistics and the Home Office today. The full list of releases is given at **Annex A**.

Home Office releases also show that:

- In 2007/08 there were 24,345 applications for asylum, excluding dependants. This was a seven per cent increase from 2006/07. This is the second lowest figure for a financial year since 1993/94, following the lowest year in 2006/07.
- The number of applications for asylum was 16 per cent higher in Q1 2008 (6,595) compared with Q1 2007 (5,680).

ONS releases include its comprehensive reference volume of international migration for 2006. The headline numbers for the United Kingdom were presented in its first release in November 2007, available at: www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/emig1107.pdf

The more detailed data show that:

- The most common non-British country of citizenship for migrants entering the UK in 2005 and 2006 was Poland. In recent years India has been the most common.
- Poland and India between them accounted for 24 per cent of non-British migrants entering the UK.
- Over the same period, for the first time, Poland became the tenth most common country of citizenship for migrants leaving the UK.
- In 2005 and 2006, British citizens were the largest group of migrants (15 per cent) to arrive in the UK and accounted for more than half of those persons leaving.

Issued by

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- Australia was the most popular country of next residence for emigrants.
- The majority (72 per cent) of emigrants intended to leave the UK for more than four years.
- In 2006, just over six per cent of people leaving the UK were of retirement age, whereas only one per cent of people entering the UK were in this age group.

ONS has also published an article giving updated statistics on foreign workers, following the re-weighting of the Labour Force Survey to bring the numbers into line with the latest population estimates. The article compares statistics for both those who are aged “16+” and for those of “working age”, and announces that the former has now been adopted as the ONS's routinely used definition.

The key figures presented, based on the preferred definition, are:

- The number of non UK born workers in January to March 2008 is 3.7 million, 12.5 per cent of total UK employment.
- In January to March 2008, people born in Europe made up the largest number of non UK born workers in the UK. This group comprises:
 - people born in the 14 countries¹ that were members of the European Union prior to its expansion in May 2004 (0.7 million);
 - people born in the eight central and eastern European countries² that joined the EU in May 2004 (0.5 million); and
 - people born in other European countries (0.2 million).
- Since January to March 1997 the increase in UK born workers has been 1.4 million and the increase in non UK born workers has been 1.8 million, 45 per cent and 55 per cent of the total increase respectively.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden

² Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

Finally, ONS has published a research report which compares short and long term migration estimates with counts from administrative sources. As a consequence of this assessment, ONS has been able to improve the “experimental” estimates of short-term migration released last October and the revised experimental estimates of short-term migration for mid-2004 and mid-2005 are published separately:

- Estimates show that in the year to mid-2005 a total of 368,000 visits of between one and 12 months were made by overseas residents to England and Wales for work or study purposes; 175,000 for work and 193,000 for study.

Annex A: List of outputs published on 20 May

The following have been released today:

The Home Office have released:

- Statistical bulletin: Persons Granted British Citizenship UK, 2007
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html
- Asylum Statistics for the first quarter of 2008, available at:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html
- The Accession Monitoring Report for the first quarter of 2008, available at:
www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/
- Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics for the first quarter of 2008, available at:
www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/bulgarianromanian/

ONS have released:

- International Migration Annual Reference Volume, Series MN33
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=507
- Employment of foreign workers in the UK
www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2002
- Up-dated Short-term Migration Estimates, mid-2004 and mid-2005
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/STM_update.pdf
- A Reconciliation Exercise between IPS based estimates of International Immigration and Counts from Administrative Sources
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/Reconciliation_Exercise.pdf
- Quarterly Population Estimates for March 2008 - these experimental statistics are early seasonal estimates of the population of England, Wales and English government office regions
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13523
- Internal migration estimates for countries within the UK and, within England, between the government office regions of England and the rest of the UK for the year ending September 2007
www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=10191

- Lower and Middle Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates for mid-2006
www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14357
- A progress report on the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme is available at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp

The next scheduled joint release of population and migration statistics will take place on 12 June.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. **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.
2. New measures to improve the way in which existing population and migration statistics are reported across government were announced on 26 February 2008. The initiative represents the first step towards a new 'coherent reporting' programme for demographic statistics, one of the key recommendations of the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics. Population and migration statistics are produced by a number of government departments, as well as the ONS, and last year alone saw data released on over 40 separate dates. In contrast the new initiative aims to ensure that related demographic data from different government departments are presented in a coordinated manner on a limited number of dates throughout the year. Today is the second joint publication of a range of demographic data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Home Office.

Eventually, the joint reports will be accompanied by a brief outline of key points from the range of published data and there will also be an annual report on migration statistics, published jointly across government.

3. 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, statistics on which are shown in the bulletin. The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 added to the British Nationality Act 1981 and requires all successful applicants for British citizenship who are aged 18 or above to take an oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony, unless exempted by the Home Secretary. Data on attendance at ceremonies is shown by the authority conducting the ceremony in the Bulletin. British Citizenship data is extracted from the UK Border Agency administrative database, after caseworkers have entered data relating to the Applications and Decisions. The British Citizenship Bulletin, including more information on sources and definitions is available at:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html
4. Experimental statistics are statistics that are in the testing phase and are not yet fully developed as National Statistics. There is a greater emphasis within ONS on consulting users during methodological reviews and the development stage of methodological changes. In particular there is a strong desire to make experimental series available during a development period, to assist in the quality assurance process, and to help familiarise potential users with any changes. © Crown copyright 2008.
5. A public consultation on improved coherence in the way that population and migration statistics are reported was launched on 27 February 2008. This will help to shape the way that these statistics are reported in the future. Further information on this consultation can be accessed on the ONS website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/Migration_and_Population_Consultation.asp
Responses are invited until 27 May 2008.
6. Figures from the Labour Force Survey have been re-weighted in line with the revised population estimates for mid-2002 to mid-2005 published in 2007. In addition to the re-weighting, ONS have changed the definition used for migrant workers to be consistent with other Labour Market publications, namely the First Release.