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Coverage
England and Wales

Theme
Population and Migration

Increase in number of short-term migrants to England and Wales

The Office for National Statistics today releases a range of experimental statistics on short-term migration.

These include estimates of the number of visits to England and Wales for employment or study purposes lasting between one and twelve months (Table 1). In the year to mid-2006 there were an estimated 430,000 such visits. Of these 208,000 were for employment, an increase of almost 20 per cent on the mid-2005 figures. As these visits last for less than twelve months, these individuals will have already returned to their country of usual residence.

The majority of visits are for much shorter than twelve months. The average length of stay of a visit for employment or study in the year to mid-2006 was 3.7 months.

Table 1: Short-term immigration estimates, England & Wales

Thousands Reason for visit	1 to 12 month length of stay		
	2003-4	2004-5	2005-6
Employment	113	175	208
Study	218	193	222
Employment or Study	331	368	430
Other Reasons	791	878	1,008
All reasons	1,122	1,246	1,437

Table 1 also shows that there has been an increase in the number of visits for reasons other than work or study. These will include visits made for holidays, visits to friends and family and business trips. The average length of stay for visits made for these other reasons was 2.3 months.

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Estimates of short-term migration are based on information gathered by the International Passenger Survey (IPS) when migrants return home. ONS is researching methods for improving the timeliness of these estimates and producing figures at local authority level. The feasibility of this will be reported on later this year.

Also released today:

1. Mid-2002 to mid-2006 revised population estimates and mid-2007 provisional population estimates for the very elderly.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15003>
2. Mid-2006 final population estimates and mid-2007 provisional population estimates for Primary Care Organisations.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106>
3. Mid-2001 to mid-2006 population estimates by Ethnic Group for Primary Care Organisations.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238>
4. Quarterly population estimates for English Government Office Regions and Wales, Q2 2008 and revised estimates Q3 2006 to Q1 2008.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13523>
5. Mid-2007 Private Household population estimates.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=10755>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The mid-2006 short-term migration estimates for England and Wales can be found at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/STM_mid06.pdf

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