

11 October 2007

Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Population and Migration

New EU migrant workers broadly spread across UK

Population Trends 129 - Autumn 2007

Migrant workers from the eight central and east European countries acceding to the EU in May 2004 (the A8 countries) are more broadly spread across the UK than traditional migrant groups, according to data published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The analysis is based on the addresses of the employers with whom A8 workers register under the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS).

The analysis suggests that the distribution of registrations extends to more areas than have traditionally received a relatively large proportion of immigrants. It is based on 508,487 registrations with an accurate employer's address between EU accession in May 2004 and December 2006.

The study, published today in the Autumn issue of *Population Trends**, shows that the local authorities with the highest ratios of A8 migrant worker registrations to population are spread between London, the East and West Midlands, the East of England and Northern Ireland. By comparison, long-term immigration has traditionally been highest in London and other conurbations, the South East and a relatively small number of large towns and cities.

Relatively low ratios of A8 migrant worker registrations to population are seen for local authorities in Wales (especially in the south), around the Thames estuary and in and around the large conurbations (including those in South Yorkshire, the North West and North East).

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Next publication date
December 2007

**Population Trends 129 (Autumn 2007)*

Palgrave Macmillan £30. ISBN 978-0-230-52614-3.

Available free on the National Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303

Population Trends 129 contains new and up-to-date statistics and feature articles on population and demographic topics.

The feature articles cover:

- The accuracy of UK population projections in comparison to those of other European countries.
- The geographical distribution of migrants from central and eastern Europe.

There are also four summary reports and one update in this issue.

Reports on:

- Internal migration estimates for local areas in England and Wales, year to mid-2006.
- Divorces in England and Wales during 2006.
- 2006-based national population projections: underlying long-term assumptions.
- ONS strategy for improving migration and population statistics.

Update on:

- Civil Partnerships during 2005 and 2006: United Kingdom.

Key findings from the article ***Migrants from central and eastern Europe: local geographies*** include:

- In the period May 2004 to December 2006, A8 worker registrations were highest for those registering to work in Westminster (15,021), Northampton (10,279) and Peterborough (7,110). The highest ratios of A8 nationals registering to work in an area, compared with the resident population, were for the City of London (294 per 1,000), Boston (97), Westminster (62) and Northampton (53).
- Polish workers were the largest group registering between May 2004 and December 2006, accounting for 64 per cent of the A8 total. Around 98 per cent of A8 workers registered in Gedling, Nottinghamshire were Polish. Lithuanians (11 per cent) were the second largest group nationally of A8 workers. They accounted for almost nine in ten of A8 workers registered in

Castle Morpeth, Northumberland.

- Among A8 nationals, 37 per cent of workers were registered in administration, business and management services sectors (including those employed indirectly, for example, via employment agencies, into other sectors), 19 per cent in hospitality and catering and 11 per cent in agriculture. Smaller proportions were registered in food processing (5 per cent), health and medical services (5 per cent), and retail and related services (4 per cent).

Key findings from the article ***UK national population projections in perspective: How successful compared to those in other European countries?***

- Over the past 30 years, differences between future fertility rates assumed in UK population projections and those that actually occurred were larger than for most other European countries in the study. For mortality, differences were smaller in the UK than elsewhere.
- The accuracy of migration projections in the UK was close to the European average.
- Differences in accuracy between countries reflect many factors, including the amount of variation in actual trends and the quality of available data. The study indicates how uncertainty in projections might be measured and presented in future.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
2. 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 2007.