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Population and migration statistics released

A range of statistics relating to population and migration are released today by the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office. The full list of statistics is given at Annex A.

Population Estimates for 2007

The 2007 mid-year population estimates, released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), show that the population of the United Kingdom increased between 2006 and 2007 by 388,000 (0.6 per cent) to almost 61 million.

Immigration and emigration continued to rise, both being at their highest levels since ONS introduced the current approach to calculating international migration in 1991. The rise in immigration, to 605,000, follows the long-term trend that started in the mid-1990s. This includes the effect of EU enlargement since May 2004. However there was a decrease in the relative importance of net migration to population growth during the year to mid-2007. This was mainly attributable to a growth in the number of births.

More detail on the population estimates can be found here with relevant charts and tables:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/popest0808.pdf>

Migration-related administrative data for 2007/08

Figures released today by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Home Office provide early indications that the trend of increasing immigration may be slowing.

The DWP and Home Office figures are based on administrative data. They are not direct measures of immigration and do not conform to the UN definition of an international migrant. However they provide an insight into migration trends and are available more quickly than the official ONS estimates.

Figures released by the DWP show that in the financial year 2007/08, 733,000 **National Insurance numbers (NINo)** were allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, an increase of 27,000 (4 per cent) on a year earlier. This is the lowest rate of increase since figures first became available in 2002/03.

NINo registrations to nationals from the A8 EU Accession countries in 2007/08 were 294,000, a decrease of 15,000 (5 per cent) on a year earlier. Registrations to A8 nationals represent 40 per cent of all NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals, with Polish nationals accounting for 72 per cent of all A8 nationals.

While nearly 10,000 fewer Polish nationals registered for a NINo in 2007/08 compared with 2006/07, they remain the top nationality in 2007/08 for NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK (211,000). India (50,000), Slovak Republic (30,000), Pakistan (25,000), and Australia (24,000) complete the top five nations.

For more detail on the statistics released today by DWP go to:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp>

Home Office statistics from the **Workers Registration Scheme (WRS)** are released today. These only cover A8 nationals and show a fall in the number of initial applications to the WRS. In total there were 40,000 initial applications to the WRS in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2008, compared to 54,000 in Q2 2007 and 56,000 in Q2 2006. (Figures from the WRS are based on management information and are not classified as National Statistics)

Home Office also release today National Statistics on **control of immigration** including applications for asylum, which give detailed analysis for 2007 and a summary for April to June 2008. They show that:

- The number of asylum applications, excluding dependants, was 15 per cent higher in Q2 2008 (5,720) compared with Q2 2007 (4,960)
- In the 12 months to the end of June 2008 there were 25,070 applications for asylum, excluding dependants. This was a 12 per cent increase from 22,335 in the same period for 2006-07,

although lower than the levels seen in the period 1997-98 to 2004-05

- In Q2 2008, 15,470 persons were removed from the UK, including voluntary departures, similar to Q2 2007 (15,390). This includes a fall of 20 per cent to 2,930 for asylum removals and voluntary departures (including dependants) and an increase of 7 per cent to 12,540 for non asylum removals and voluntary departures

These figures relate only to those people who are subject to immigration control and they do not cover, for example, moves by European citizens.

For more detail on Home Office statistics released today go to:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/stats-release.html
www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Other related information released by ONS today include:

1. The Office for National Statistics is releasing today employment estimates by country of birth from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS), and population numbers by country of birth and nationality from the APS.

The APS shows that the number of people living in the UK who were born abroad grew to 6.3 million in 2007, around 10 per cent of the resident population. This is an increase of 1.1 million on 2004 when it was 5.2 million. The increase in the number of people living in the UK who were born in Poland accounted for 311,000 of the total rise. Altogether, over one-third of the increase is accounted for by the A8 countries that joined the EU in May 2004.

2. An article introducing quality measures for estimates from the APS which can be used to demonstrate the robustness of migrant population and migrant employment estimates. The tables show that the most statistically robust estimates at local authority level are for UK and Non-UK born, and that estimates for other country groupings and individual countries provide less robust estimates.

For more detail about these statistics and the report go to:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15137>

For Population by country of birth and nationality go to:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15147>

3. Live Births: Parents Country of Birth, England and Wales, 2001 to 2007. The proportion of live births to mothers born outside the UK rose to 23 per cent during the 2007 calendar year, compared with 13 per cent in 1997 and 22 per cent in 2006. In 2007, the estimated Total Fertility Rate for mothers born outside the UK was 2.54 compared with 1.79 for mothers born within the UK. Tables include data on live births by country of birth of mother and father as well as live births to mothers born outside the UK by area of usual residence.

For more detail about these statistics go to:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

Annex A

Statistics released today

Office for National Statistics

1. Mid-2007 Population Estimates for England & Wales down to local authority (LA) level, UK totals
2. Annual Internal Migration Estimates, mid-2006 to mid-2007, England and Wales down to LA level
3. Quarterly Internal Migration Estimates, inter-regional moves within the UK, Q4 2007
4. Live Births: Parents Country of Birth, England and Wales down to LA level, 2001-2007
5. Employment of Foreign Workers in the UK articles: Quarterly LFS time series Jan/Mar 1997 - Apr/Jun 2008 and Male and Female Labour Market Participation
6. Annual Population Survey (APS): Quality Measures for Migrant Employment Estimates, UK to LA level
7. Population by country of birth and nationality from the APS, UK down to LA level, annual Jan-Dec 2004-2007
8. Mid-2006 small area population estimates (England and Wales) for Parliamentary Constituencies, National Parks, wards

9. Mid-2006 Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, England down to LA level
10. Population turnover rates for MSOAs in England and Wales, mid-2005 to mid-2006

Home Office

11. Control of Immigration, quarterly statistical summary, Q2 2008
12. Control of Immigration; Statistics UK 2007
13. Asylum Statistics UK 2007
14. Accession Monitoring Report to Jun 2008 (A8) UK
15. Bulgarian & Romanian (A2) Accession Statistics, Q2 2008, UK

Department for Work and Pensions

16. National Insurance Number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, 2007/08.

Additional material

ONS Commentary

17. Short update from the improving migration statistics work and a summary of responses to the public consultation in February on the coherent reporting of migration and population statistics
18. FAQs and nuggets on population change, fertility, mortality, ageing
19. Subnational population projections: Accuracy report

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 ONS. 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 fourth joint publication of a range of

demographic data by ONS, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office.

3. The eight EU Accession countries (A8) are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The twelve EU Accession countries are the A8 countries plus Malta and Cyprus and the two new member states, Bulgaria and Romania admitted to the EU in January 2007.
4. The source of DWP statistics on adult overseas nationals entering the UK allocated a National Insurance Numbers (NINo) is the HM Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS). The figures are based on recorded registration dates on NIRS, i.e. after the NINo application and allocation process has been completed. This may be a number of weeks or months after arriving in the UK.

The figures encompass adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo for whatever reason, that is, benefit/tax credit recipients as well as workers (including self-employed). Reporting periods refer to the financial year. All adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo are included regardless of their length of stay in the UK.

The definition of migrants – adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo – differs from other published statistics in the area, such as ONS International Migration statistics derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and statistics on foreign workers derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The various definitions of migrants mean the data sources may have different numbers of migrants for the same time period.

5. The Home Office statistics relate to the persons who are subject to immigration control under Immigration Acts (that is, to persons who do not have the right of abode in the UK) and are produced mainly as a by-product of the process of immigration control. British citizens, those Commonwealth citizens who also have the right of abode, together with other European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are not subject to immigration control and may freely enter and leave the UK. The UK Border Agency, which is responsible for immigration control, regulates the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK, the variation of such conditions following entry, settlement and the deportation or removal of persons.

It is not possible for the UK Borders Agency to provide information on how many persons have left the country as they do not count everyone into and out of the UK.

6. Home Office publish statistics about nationals of the A8 countries who wish to take up employment in the UK for a period of at least one month and register with the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS). The data are based on Management Information (not National Statistics) collected via the WRS and monitoring claims for benefits, applications for tax credits, housing and homelessness assistance.

The number of applicants to the WRS does not represent a measurement of net migration to the UK - it is a gross figure for the number of workers applying to the WRS.

7. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that a group of women would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates for a particular year throughout their child-bearing life. 'Replacement level' fertility represents the approximate number of children per woman needed for the population to replace itself in the long-term in the absence of migration. Replacement level is commonly given as 2.1.