

United Kingdom



Gross inflows into the United Kingdom continued to rise in 2008, to 538 000, 11 000 more than in 2007, although they seem to be stabilising. The total inflow of foreign nationals reached 456 000 in

2008, mostly due to the increased inflow of EU15, A-8 and non-EU, non-Commonwealth citizens. Inflows from Commonwealth countries decreased slightly. The main change in flows was the record high outflow of people leaving the country in 2008 (409 000). Between 2004 and 2007, in fact, outflows had been declining, but have now resumed their upward trend. Most of the rise was due to the outflow of non-British people (243 000), mostly nationals from EU25/27 countries. Total net inflow into the United Kingdom fell to 129 000 in 2008 from 209 000 in 2007.

The total number of foreign citizens in the United Kingdom in 2009 reached 4.4 million (around 7.2% of the population). Almost half of all foreigners were European, of which 827 000 came from the ten most recent Eastern European accession countries. Around a quarter were Asians, mostly from India (293 000) and Pakistan (178 000). The number of African citizens rose to 609 000.

The number of asylum applications received fell from 25 670 in 2008 to 24 250 in 2009, in particular due to a decrease in the number of applications in the second half of the year.

In the policy domain, the United Kingdom continues to tighten its migration policies. The main policy changes introduced were the extension of the Identity Card scheme for foreign nationals, increased restrictions for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 4 of the Points Based System (PBS) and the publication of a full draft Immigration Bill.

The compulsory ID scheme for foreign nationals introduced in 2008 has been extended progressively to cover more categories of foreign nationals in 2009. Since January 2010 it includes skilled workers and their dependents. By 2015 it is

expected that 90% of nationals outside the EEA or Switzerland will require an ID card.

Following the stricter labour market tests for Tier 2 of the PBS approved in September 2009, a new shortage occupation list for Tier 2 was approved in November 2009, following the recommendations from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Tougher requirements for student applications under Tier 4 started to come into place in March 2010. The income threshold for Tier 1 was raised in September 2009. In addition, further changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2 were accepted in March 2010, including new points criteria for both tiers and new rules for inter-corporate transfers by multinational companies, lowering requirements for short-term transfers, but imposing higher requirements for long-term transfers.

A full draft Immigration Bill was published in November 2009. It proposes a simplification of the legal framework: substitution of the five application categories available to migrants to one single category; a time-limited “permission” to be in the United Kingdom; separate procedures for deportation and administrative removal will be united in a single expulsion procedure; and introduction of a simplified immigration appeals system. A new streamlined asylum support system was also proposed, to make the asylum system clearer and ensure the return of those whose applications for asylum are ruled unfounded.

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Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

UNITED KINGDOM

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	2.6	4.4	7.5	7.4	4.1	7.0	456.0			
Outflows	1.3	2.3	2.6	4.0	2.0	2.7	243.0			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	2007	2008	2007	2008						
Work	92.0	101.1	25.3	29.1						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	108.9	103.2	29.9	31.1						
Humanitarian	14.2	3.7	3.9	1.1						
Free movements	119.1	99.0	32.7	28.5						
Others	30.1	35.6	8.3	10.3						
Total	364.4	347.4	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2000	2007	2008	Average 2003-2008						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	76.0	130.0	166.0	132.7						
Trainees	..	..	..	..		
Working holiday makers	38.4	37.8	32.7	46.6						
Seasonal workers	10.1	17.0	16.6	17.0						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	58.0	169.7	134.3	156.6						
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.8	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.6	31 315			
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Natural increase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net migration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	10.2	10.8	..	9.5	6 647	
Foreign population	3.4	4.0	6.3	6.8	4.0	5.7	4 196			
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	2.1	3.5	4.3	3.1	3.1	4.5	129 310			
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average					
					1997-2002	2003-2008				
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	75.4	78.3	77.1	77.1	77.8	77.6				
Foreign-born men	67.3	71.1	76.9	78.0	71.2	74.7				
Native-born women	62.3	65.7	66.5	66.9	65.2	66.8				
Foreign-born women	51.3	53.1	56.3	58.6	53.6	56.2				
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	9.9	5.9	5.3	6.1	6.2	5.3				
Foreign-born men	14.2	9.6	7.0	6.8	9.4	7.4				
Native-born women	6.7	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.2				
Foreign-born women	11.0	7.8	8.4	6.6	7.8	7.3				
Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	3.1	3.9	2.6	0.5	3.1	2.3				
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	2.8	3.6	1.9	-0.1	2.8	1.7	30 029			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.9	29 443			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.6	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.2				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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