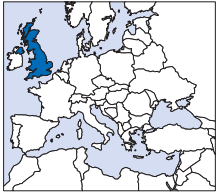


## United Kingdom



The United Kingdom remains an important destination country for international migration flows as well as experiencing high levels of emigration by its own citizens. In 2006, the estimated number of people arriving to live in the UK for at least a year was 591 000, with an estimated 400 000 people leaving the UK giving a net gain of 191 000. There was a net gain of 71 000 citizens from the Eastern Europe states which joined the EU on 1 May 2004 (A8). The inflows of workers from the A8 countries, which were granted access to the UK labour market, have remained fairly steady since accession. 218 000 citizens of these countries registered under the Worker Registration Scheme between June 2006 and June 2007, in keeping with the annual average for the previous two years. More than two-thirds of these were Poles, with Lithuanians and Slovaks the next largest groups. Indeed, Poles are now the largest group of foreign citizens, with 406 000 (292 000 working) in 2007. The total number of A8 citizens was 587 000, of whom 409 000 were working, a much higher proportion than among the native-born.

The significant inflows of A8 citizens led the United Kingdom to impose a transitional period on citizens of Romania and Bulgaria following their entry into the EU on 1 January 2007.

Work permit approvals for non-EEA citizens totalled 141 000 in 2006, with computer services (about 22%) and health and medical services (about 18%) the main beneficiaries. Indians were the largest national group receiving work permits, accounting for 37% of the total approved. Indians also accounted for more than 40% of the about 22 000 entries under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme.

The number of asylum applications declined 8% to 28 000 in 2006. 85% were made by people who had already entered the United Kingdom rather than at a port of entry.

In the policy domain, the main structural changes were the creation within the Home Office of the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and of two new advisory committees, the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF). The BIA replaces the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and is intended to grant

greater operation freedom while increasing accountability and clarifying responsibility.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), composed of independent experts, is to identify labour market shortage areas where immigration might ease skill gaps. It will produce a biannual shortage occupation list starting in August 2008. The Migration Impacts Forum (MIF), active since the summer of 2007, assesses the wider, more qualitative, social implications of immigration.

The main reform in the UK is the ongoing introduction of a Points Based System (PBS) for labour migration. The five tiers into which the system is divided are being gradually implemented. Tier 1 (highly qualified) was implemented in the first quarter of 2008, to replace the former Highly Skilled Migrant Programme. At the same time, the register for employers who wish to sponsor labour migrants has been opened in preparation for the implementation of the sponsored tiers (that is, tiers 2 and 5) later in the year.

Tier 2 (for skilled workers with a job offer, religious workers, athletes and intra-company transferees) and Tier 5 (youth mobility and certain temporary workers) will become operational in the third quarter of 2008. Finally, Tier 4 (students) will commence in the first quarter of 2009. Some of the prior channels for migration will be integrated into the system (*e.g.* entrepreneurs and investors) while others, such as domestic workers, will be closed. Tier 3, intended for lower-skilled migrants, will not be activated. Existing seasonal and lower-skilled work programmes are open exclusively to Romanians and Bulgarians.

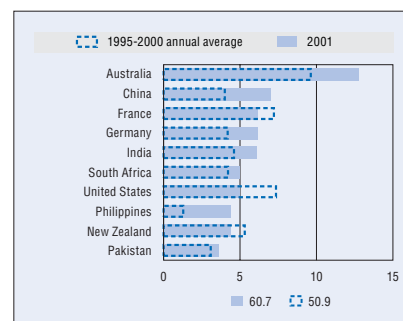
In February 2008, the Government published a proposal for a three stage route to citizenship, including a new probationary period between temporary and permanent residence or citizenship. Full access to benefits will be delayed until completion of the probationary period. To finance transitional impacts of migration on the provision of public services, fees increases for certain immigration applications are envisaged. Migrants who tend to consume more in public services – such as children and elderly relatives – are expected to pay more than others.

### For further information...

[www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/)

## Flow data on foreigners


Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	3.9	6.4	7.9	8.4	4.8	7.5	509.8
Outflows	1.7	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.2	2.8	193.7
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type Permit based statistics (standardised)	Thousands		% distribution				
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Work	89.8	99.3	24.7	28.9			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	98.1	109.2	27.0	31.8			
Humanitarian	67.8	30.6	18.7	8.9			
Free movements	88.2	83.5	24.3	24.3			
Others	19.2	20.7	5.3	6.0			
Total	363.1	343.2					
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average			
				2000-2006			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	76.0	117.0	137.0	106.4			
Trainees	..	..	..	..			
Working holiday makers	38.4	56.6	43.7	46.4			
Seasonal workers	10.1	15.7	16.1	16.0			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	58.0	202.6	206.1	114.9			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.9	1.7	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.0	28.3

Inflows of top 10 nationalities  
as a % of total inflows of foreigners

## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	2.9	3.8	1.8	2.8	3.2	2.6	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	2.7	3.4	1.2	2.3	2.9	2.1	28 887
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.9	29 017
Unemployment (% of labour force)	8.6	5.5	4.8	5.5	6.9	5.1	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	2.6	3.7	..	..	3.0	..	
Natural increase	1.6	1.2	..	..	1.5	..	
Net migration	1.0	2.5	..	..	1.6	..	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	0.1	–	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	54 471
Foreign-born	2.3	4.0	5.2	4.7	3.0	4.7	6 116
National	0.4	0.1	0.3	–	0.2	0.2	57 195
Foreign	–4.1	6.1	6.2	11.8	3.8	5.6	3 392
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>							
	2.0	3.7	5.7	5.1	2.5	4.9	154 095
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
					1995-2000	2001-2006	
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	75.4	78.3	77.9	77.1	76.9	77.9	
Foreign-born men	67.3	71.1	72.4	76.2	69.8	73.1	
Native-born women	62.3	65.7	67.0	67.0	64.1	66.7	
Foreign-born women	51.3	53.1	56.1	56.5	53.0	55.2	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	9.9	5.9	4.7	5.5	7.8	5.1	
Foreign-born men	14.2	9.6	7.5	7.4	11.3	7.7	
Native-born women	6.7	4.6	3.7	4.5	5.5	4.0	
Foreign-born women	11.0	7.8	7.1	7.9	8.8	7.1	

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434145882658>