OECD data show that the labour force of the United Kingdom grew by 10% between 2005 and 2015, with young entrants contributing 19.4 percentage points, recent migrants 8.8 percentage points (including recent EU migrants, which contributed 4.8 percentage points) and retirees -12.2 percentage points.

The highly-educated labour force increased by 51.3%, with young entrants contributing 31.1 percentage points and recent migrants 14.9 percentage points. The share of highly-educated people among recent immigrants was 49.9%, higher than among young entrants where it was 47.6%.

**Contribution of demographic groups to labour force growth by education level in the United Kingdom, 2005-2015 (thousands)**

![Graph showing contribution of demographic groups to labour force growth](image)


*Source:* OECD estimates.

According to OECD projections, if net migration rates and labour force participation rates remain the same as between 2010-2015 and recent trends in educational attainment continue, the total labour force of the United Kingdom will increase by 7.8% between 2015 and 2030. The number of highly-educated people in the labour force will increase by 30.8%.

Over this period, the share of highly-educated people in the foreign-born labour force will increase from 50.2% to 57% (from 43.9% to 51.5% among EU-born immigrants, and from 54.5% to 63.1% among non-EU-born immigrants).

**Age and sex distribution of the labour force of the United Kingdom by education level, in 2015 and 2030 (projection)**

![Age and sex distribution graph](image)


*Source:* OECD estimates.

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