

United Kingdom

Total inflows to the United Kingdom in 2009 were 528 000, a slight decrease with respect to 2008. As outflows from the United Kingdom decreased substantially (from 409 000 to 337 000), total net migration rose by almost 50%, to 191 000, which is nevertheless still lower than pre-crisis levels. Most of the change in net migration is explained by the increase in inflows and decrease in outflows of British citizens.

Net migration fell for all major origin countries, except the EU and the New Commonwealth countries (mainly India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria). There was a higher net gain from EU-15 nationals than from the Central and Eastern European countries which joined the European Union in 2004 (EU-8), in particular due to the increase in inflows from EU-15 and the decrease in inflows from EU-8.

The number of persons granted settlement in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, reached almost 195 000, an increase of 31% with respect to the previous year. This was mainly due to increases in labour and family migration. Around 200 000 immigrants were granted citizenship in 2009, an increase of almost 60% with respect to 2008, half of them on the grounds of residence.

The number of asylum applications received in 2009 decreased to 24 240. Provisional figures for the first three quarters of 2010 show further reductions in the number of asylum applications.

In Tier 1 (supply-driven non-EU skilled migration) of the Points-Based System (PBS), 118 000 visas were issued (of which two-thirds were main applicants and one-third dependants), almost one-third were of Indian nationality. The number of principal applicants in Tier 2 in 2009 was 53 000, well down from the number of pre-PBS work permits issued for 2008 (77 660). More

than half of all primary applicants permits issued in Tier 2 were intra-corporate transferees.

The main policy developments stem from the change in government, following the general election in May 2010. Following a temporary cap put in place in June 2010, in November 2010, new rules were established which from April 2011 will limit to 21 700 the number of those coming into the United Kingdom under the skilled and highly-skilled routes. In essence, Tier 1 is basically closed (except for a numerical limit of 1 000 under the new “exceptional talent” route). Tier 2 will be limited to 20 700 permits and it will require graduate level education. In addition, only those applicants with the most points will qualify for one of the certificates of sponsorship available each month if the monthly limit of permits is oversubscribed. While intra-corporate transfers are exempt from the quota on non-EU applicants, the application thresholds on earnings were raised.

In addition, the government is setting out a proposal for a major reform of the student visa system, in order to reduce the number of students from outside the EEA who come to the United Kingdom, in particular those who have below university degree level. It is planned to tighten entrance criteria and to limit the possibility of migrants to work during their studies. In addition, those students finishing their degrees will not be allowed to extend their visa in order to look for a job in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the Post-Study Work route in Tier 1, which allowed international graduates from universities in the United Kingdom to stay and look for work, is planned for closure.

For further information:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

UNITED KINGDOM

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	4.4	6.8	7.4	7.1	5.3	7.3	430.0
Outflows	2.3	2.6	4.0	3.5	2.2	3.1	211.0
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009			
Work	101.1	142.4	29.1	35.8			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	107.9	120.2	31.0	33.6			
Humanitarian	2.8	3.1	0.8	0.8			
Free movements	99.0	75.7	28.5	19.0			
Others	36.7	42.9	10.6	10.8			
Total	347.6	397.9	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	117.0	175.0	211.0	154.0			
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	56.6	34.5	5.1	35.9			
Seasonal workers	15.7	16.6	21.0	17.3			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	202.6	142.9	88.0	161.9			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level 2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	30 675
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level ('000) 2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Natural increase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net migration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level ('000) 2009
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	7.9	9.4	10.8	11.3	8.4	10.3	6 899
Foreign population	4.0	5.1	6.8	7.1	4.4	6.2	4 348
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level 2009
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	3.5	5.3	3.1	4.7	4.3	4.4	203 705
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level 2009
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	78.3	77.9	77.1	74.5	78.1	76.8	
Foreign-born men	71.1	72.4	78.0	75.8	72.0	75.9	
Native-born women	65.7	67.0	66.9	66.1	66.3	66.7	
Foreign-born women	53.1	56.0	58.6	57.8	54.3	57.0	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	5.9	4.7	6.1	8.8	5.2	6.1	
Foreign-born men	9.6	7.4	6.8	8.3	8.2	7.4	
Native-born women	4.6	3.7	4.9	6.2	4.1	4.8	
Foreign-born women	7.8	7.1	6.6	8.5	7.0	7.7	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average 2000-04	2005-09	Level 2009
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	3.9	2.2	-0.1	-4.9	2.8	0.5	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.6	1.5	-0.7	-5.5	2.4	-0.1	28 201
Employment (level in thousands)	1.2	1.0	0.7	-1.6	1.0	0.3	28 978
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	5.5	4.8	5.7	7.6	5.1	5.8	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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