

United Kingdom

According to ONS estimates published in November 2011, total inflows to the United Kingdom in 2010 were 591 000, an increase of 4% compared with 2009. Over the same period, outflows decreased by 8%, to 339 000. Total net migration rose by 27%, to 252 000, the highest figure ever recorded. A net outflow of 43 000 UK nationals was compensated by a net inflow of 294 000 non-UK nationals. Net migration increased for all foreign groups except for EU15 citizens.

The number of persons granted settlement in the United Kingdom in 2010, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, reached the record level of 241 000, a 24% increase compared with the previous year. This was due to large numbers of grants on a discretionary basis (82 300), mainly under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of unresolved cases, especially for asylum. The largest group (84 300) was granted settlement for work-related reasons (including dependants). This record number reflects the high numbers admitted in work-related categories five years earlier who became eligible for settlement. The number of family-related grants was slightly lower (-4%) than the record level of 2009, and stood at 69 200. Around 195 000 immigrants were granted citizenship in 2010, a slight decrease compared with 2009. Half of the citizenship grants were on the grounds of residence.

The number of asylum applications received in 2010 from main applicants decreased by over 25% compared with 2009, to under 18 000. The figure rose somewhat in 2011, to 19 800. The leading nationality of asylum seekers in 2010 was Iran (10%), followed by Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In Tier 1 of the Points-Based System (PBS), for highly skilled migrants, 33 000 visas were issued in 2010 (of which 49% to main applicants), 3% fewer than in 2009. Of those visas issued in 2010, 20% were issued to those of Indian nationality. 40 000 visas were issued to main applicants in PBS Tier 2, the employer-driven skilled migration stream, in 2010, up from 36 000 in 2009. Provisional figures for 2011 show a decrease in PBS Tier 2 visas issued compared with 2010. Intra-corporate transferees comprise a growing share of Tier 2 visas, comprising 73% of main applicant out-of-country visas in 2010 and 78% in 2011.

The main policy developments stem from the May 2010 election of a new coalition government intent on sharply reducing net migration. New caps implemented from April 2011 limited the number of those admitted under Tiers 1 and 2 to 21 700. Tier 1 is limited to “exceptional talent”, endorsed by an

appropriate designated body. The quota has been set at 1 000 annual entries through 2012. Investors and entrepreneurs are quota-exempt. Tier 2 is limited to 20 700 permits and requires graduate level education and a job offer from an employer with a certificate of sponsorship. The monthly quotas available have not been fully used. Intra-corporate transfers are exempt from the quota, but salary thresholds were raised for this category. Following review by the Migration Advisory Committee, in November 2011 the Shortage Occupation List for Tier 2 was reduced, with 29 occupations removed and several added. The new list represents less than 1% of employment in the United Kingdom, about $\frac{1}{5}$ of the coverage of the first list published in 2008. In March 2012, further changes to the system were announced. Tier 2 is now limited to six years stay, and salary criteria for settlement have also been raised.

In July 2011, restrictions were imposed on work entitlements and on rights to bring dependants for students (Tier 4). Course requirements were imposed on sponsoring institutions, although a streamlined application process was created for “low risk” nationals sponsored by highly trusted sponsors. The Post-Study Work route in Tier 1 ended in April 2012, and students who graduate from a university must qualify for Tier 2 to remain. Their sponsors are exempt from the labour market test, but all other conditions must be met. However, a new Graduate Entrepreneurs route in Tier 1 – with a quota of 1 000 visas annually – has been created for graduating students with innovative ideas but who do not qualify for the Tier 1 Entrepreneurship route. The Graduate Entrepreneur route grants them two years to meet the regular requirements.

In April 2012, restrictions were also placed on duration of stay for certain temporary workers (Tier 5) and overseas domestic workers. An English language requirement for migrants seeking to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as the spouse of a UK citizen or permanent resident was introduced in 2010.

For further information:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

UNITED KINGDOM

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	6.4	7.9	7.7	8.1	7.3	8.2	498.0
Outflows	2.7	2.9	3.7	3.3	2.8	3.7	203.0
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2009	2010	2009	2010			
Work	142.4	137.3	37.9	33.1			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	107.4	109.3	28.6	26.4			
Humanitarian	3.1	4.9	0.8	1.2			
Free movements	75.7	72.2	20.1	17.4			
Others	47.3	90.6	12.6	21.9			
Total	375.9	414.3	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
	2006-10						
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	124.0	209.0	234.0	179.4			
Trainees			
Working holiday makers	56.6	5.1	0.6	24.6			
Seasonal workers	15.7	21.0	6.0	15.3			
Intra-company transfers			
Other temporary workers	202.6	88.0	81.6	137.7			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	22 645
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level ('000)	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	3.6	6.2	7.0	6.6	4.7	6.6	409
Natural increase	1.2	2.3	3.7	3.9	1.6	3.4	246
Net migration	2.4	3.8	3.3	2.6	3.1	3.1	163
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level ('000)	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	7.9	9.4	11.3	11.5	8.7	10.7	7 056
Foreign population	4.0	5.1	7.1	7.4	4.6	6.7	4 524
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	3.7	5.7	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.2	195 046
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	78.3	77.9	74.8	74.5	78.1	76.2	
Foreign-born men	71.1	72.4	75.1	74.8	72.3	76.3	
Native-born women	65.7	67.0	66.3	65.7	66.6	66.6	
Foreign-born women	53.1	56.0	57.4	58.0	54.8	57.2	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	5.9	4.7	8.7	8.7	5.0	6.9	
Foreign-born men	9.6	7.4	8.9	8.8	7.7	7.7	
Native-born women	4.6	3.7	6.1	6.6	3.9	5.3	
Foreign-born women	7.8	7.1	8.9	9.0	6.8	8.3	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average	Level	
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.5	2.1	-4.4	2.1	2.9	0.5	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.1	1.4	-5.0	1.5	2.4	-0.1	35 715
Employment (level in thousands)	1.2	1.0	-1.6	0.3	0.9	0.2	29 035
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	5.5	4.9	7.6	7.9	5.0	6.4	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932616657>