



Last updated: 23 August 2018

Contents

Section	Page
1	Introduction 3
2	Glossary of terms 7
3	Conventions used in Immigration Statistics..... 19
4	Information on uses and users of Immigration Statistics 23
5	Strength, limitations and data quality..... 25
6	Visas and Sponsorship 27
7	Admissions..... 38
8	Extensions 46
9	Settlement..... 49
10	Citizenship..... 53
11	Asylum 62
12	Detention 82
13	Returns 90
14	European Economic Area 98
15	Work 106
16	Study 111
17	Family..... 114
18	Other sources of information on immigration and migration 119
19	Geographical regions for tables..... 124

1 Introduction

This 'User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics' is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes on the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics releases.

Statistics covered

The Immigration Statistics release provides information on the Home Office's operation of immigration control and related processes, including the work of UK Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and UK Visas and Immigration:

- Visas: entry clearance visas granted
- Admissions: passengers allowed entry and passengers initially refused entry
- Extensions: people given permission to extend their stay
- Settlement: people given permission to stay permanently
- Citizenship: people granted British citizenship
- Asylum: people applying for asylum
- Detention: people detained under Immigration Act powers
- Returns: people who leave the country either voluntarily or forcibly, whom, in the main, the Home Office has sought to return
- European Economic Area: information on nationals from the EEA
- Work: immigration for work
- Study: immigration for study
- Family: immigration for family reasons

Most of the statistics relate to people who are subject to immigration control (i.e. from outside the European Economic Area).

Purpose

Immigration Statistics provides figures on the levels and trends in numbers of people who are covered by the UK's immigration control and related processes, based on a range of administrative and other data sources used. The purpose of the statistics is: to give an overview of the work of the Home Office, including that of UK Border Force and UK Visas and Immigration, and other government departments and agencies dealing with immigration; to help inform users including the government, Parliament, the media and the wider public; and to support the development and monitoring of policy. Currently, these statistics are published four times a year, in February, May, August and November; with detailed annual tables and commentary updated once a year, generally in August.

The UK Statistics Authority assessed the release in autumn 2011 and published the assessment report on 2 February 2012, continuing the designation of the release as National Statistics.

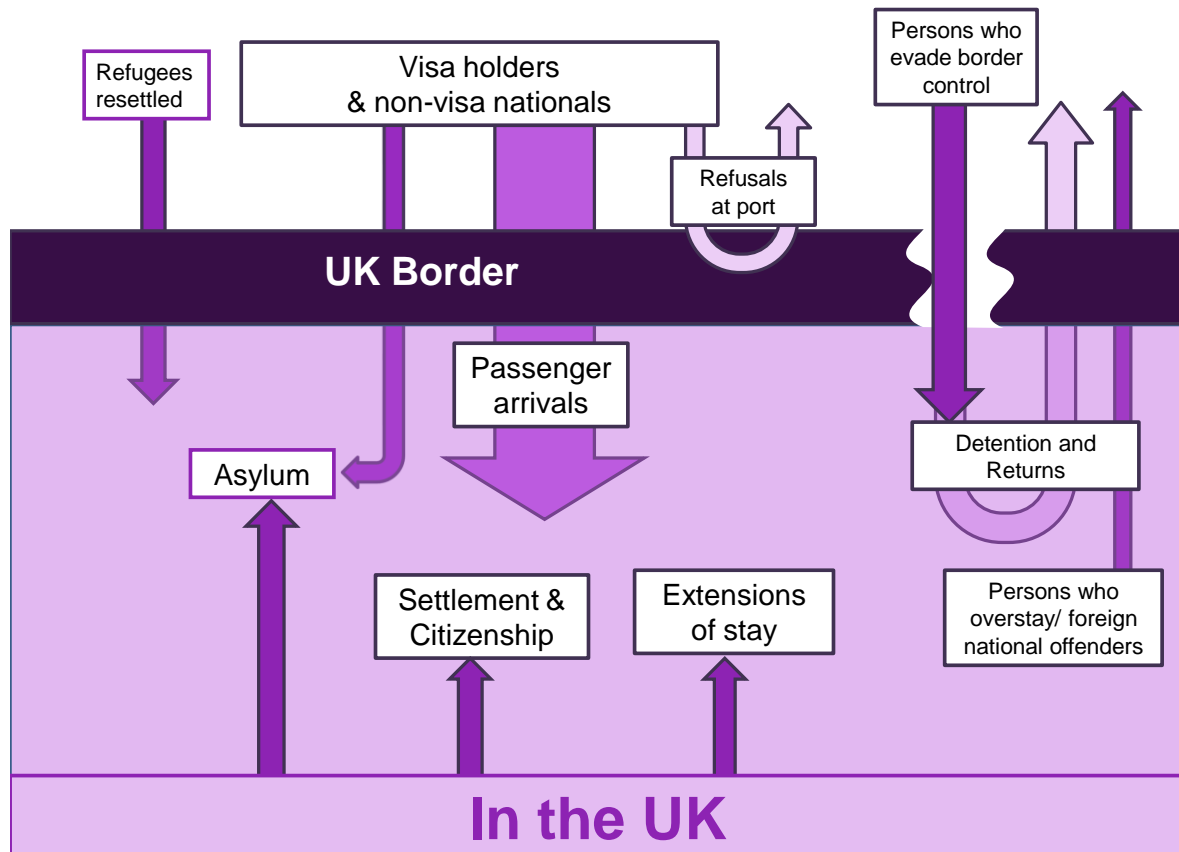
In general, the commentary on each topic is intended to provide an overview of trends over several years, subject to data availability.

The current system of immigration control is based on the Immigration Act 1971, which came into force on 1 January 1973, and subsequent amendments to the law. Policy and operational changes, as well as overall factors which influence the levels of immigration, such as the economic climate, can affect the figures. The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can affect the number of decisions made. Further information on the work of the Home Office can be found in its

annual report and in publications referred to in the **Other sources of information on immigration and migration** section of this User Guide.

Alongside the information provided by the Home Office concerning immigration control, official figures on international migration (immigration, emigration and net migration) and on the number of foreign-born nationals in the UK are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Further information on related data is available in the **Other sources of information on immigration and migration** section of this User Guide.

The UK Immigration System



- 1) This flowchart provides a summary of immigration control for non-EEA nationals and does not include a reference to all aspects of immigration; the chart also excludes references to resettled refugees and appeals.
- 2) Non-visa nationals seeking to enter the United Kingdom in a visa category or for longer than 6 months require a visa, whereas those seeking to enter the United Kingdom for 6 months or less do not.

Information about the policy context

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the [Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline](#) which is published each quarter alongside this User Guide.

A summary of the UK government's immigration and asylum policy, plans and measures introduced was published by the House of Commons library in 2013 and is available at the following link: <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05829>

People covered by the Immigration Statistics release

The statistics in the Immigration Statistics release generally relate to people who do not have an automatic right to enter or live in the UK and who come into contact with the Home Office during a particular time period.

There are therefore fewer data available on:

- British citizens;
- those Commonwealth citizens who have the right of abode;
- citizens of the Republic of Ireland and other parts of the Common Travel Area; and
- nationals of the European Economic Area and Swiss nationals (see below).

Together with passengers in direct transit, people in the categories listed above account for around 85% of the total passenger arrivals from outside the Common Travel Area (UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland).

However, some data on nationals of the Republic of Ireland, other parts of the Common Travel Area, Commonwealth, European Economic Area and Swiss nationals are included in:

- Entry clearance visas where applications have been made;
- Total passenger arrivals;
- Grants of settlement (where applicable and available);
- Grants of British citizenship;
- Asylum where applications have been made;
- Detention;
- Returns;
- Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals who require work authorisation documentation or are exercising a Treaty right; and
- Issue and refusal of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members.

Total passenger arrivals figures also include British citizens. Additionally, long-term migration data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) include all nationalities.

Where are the latest published statistics?

The latest Immigration Statistics release, including data tables and commentary, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

The dates of future editions of Immigration Statistics are pre-announced and can be found on the Statistics release calendar on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Information on how the Home Office complies with the Code of Practice for Statistics is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics#official-statistics>.

The 'Immigration Statistics' release is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Migration & Border Analysis Unit in accordance with the Home Office's 'Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics' which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is Bex Newell.

Feedback and enquiries

We welcome feedback on Immigration Statistics, which can be provided [by email](#) or in writing, or via the [Migration Statistics User Forum](#).

If you have any questions about Immigration Statistics, please send an email to:
MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

Alternatively, write to:

The Editor, Immigration Statistics
Migration Statistics
14th Floor, Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
Croydon, CR9 2BY.

Press enquiries should be made to:
Home Office Press Office
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF
Tel: 020 7035 3535.

2 Glossary of terms

This glossary accompanies the Immigration Statistics releases. It is intended to give an overview of the terms, rather than a full technical description.

If there are terms in the Immigration Statistics releases that you would like to be explained in this glossary, please contact: MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Within an explanation of a term, words in bold are explained elsewhere in the glossary.

Accession is the event of becoming a Member State of the **European Union**.

Accession Residence Card: A document issued to third country national family members of Croatian authorised workers. The accession residence card is valid for 12 months and confirms the holder's right to live and work in the UK

Accession Worker Cards were documents issued to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals from 2007 to 2013 conferring permission to work, where they were subject to the requirement to obtain such permission before commencing employment in the UK and to highly skilled individuals who were exempt from this requirement to confirm their right to work.

ACRO is the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Criminal Records Office. The ACPO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) was founded in 2006 following a decision by the Association of Chief Police Officers to establish an operationally focussed unit that would organise the management of criminal record information and improve the links between criminal records and biometric information.

After-entry application to vary leave to remain is an application from a person wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK. An individual is required to apply for an extension or change in status before their existing permission to enter or stay has expired. Within the Immigration Rules, an individual may make more than one application in any given year.

An **age-disputed application** is when an asylum applicants' claim that they are under 18 years of age is doubted and they have little or no evidence to support their claimed age. Home Office policy is to treat an applicant whose physical appearance/demeanour **very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age** as adults until there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed. All other applicants will be given the benefit of doubt and treated as children until a careful, case law compliant, assessment of their age has been completed by a local authority.

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) - includes support available to individuals who are in the asylum system or who are irregular migrants and who wish to return home permanently to either their (non-EEA) country of origin or to a third country where they are permanently admissible. The Home Office has been funding externally provided AVR programmes from 1999 to December 2015. The AVR programmes were previously delivered by Choices, a subsidiary of the independent charity Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, by the International Organization for Migration).

Since January 2016, the support formerly described as AVR, has been provided by the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service (VRS). These will be referred to in the tables as 'Assisted returns'. The term 'Assisted returns' relates to the support provided under AVR up to Q4 2015 and support provided under VRS from Q1 2016.

An **asylum applicant** is a person who either: (a) makes a request to be recognised as a **refugee** under the Refugee Convention on the basis that it would be contrary to the UK's obligations under the

Convention for him to be removed from or required to leave the UK, or (b) otherwise makes a request for international protection.

Asylum decision is a decision by the **Home Office** on a claim for asylum.

Border Force Officers (previously known as Immigration or UK Border Agency Officers) working at the primary control point are responsible for checking the right of entry to the UK of all individuals arriving at seaports, airports and via the Channel Tunnel. As well as examining documentation and goods, they may gather intelligence.

British citizens are people with citizenship usually through a connection with the UK: birth, adoption, descent, registration, or naturalisation. British citizens have the **right of abode** in the UK.

British overseas citizens are people connected with the former British colonies who, for the most part, did not acquire citizenship of the new country when it attained independence. Hong Kong British dependent territories citizens became British overseas citizens on 1 July 1997 if they would otherwise have been stateless.

British overseas territories citizens (BOTCs) are people with citizenship through a connection with a British overseas territory such as Gibraltar, St Helena, etc. known as 'British dependent territories citizens' before February 2002. Hong Kong British dependent territories citizens lost that citizenship automatically on 1 July 1997 but may still hold another form of British nationality. However, from 21 May 2002, BOTCs became British citizens. People granted BOT citizenship after 21 May 2002 may be able to register as a British citizen if they meet certain conditions.

Citizenship is the term used in the International Passenger Survey (IPS) to define the country for which a migrant is a passport holder. This refers specifically to the passport being used to enter/leave the UK at the time of interview. It does not refer to any other passport(s) which migrants with multiple citizenships may hold. More generally a British citizen as described in IPS statistics includes those with UK nationality usually through a connection with the UK: birth, adoption, descent, registration, or naturalisation. British nationals have the right of abode in the UK.

A **Certificate of Sponsorship** is a virtual document issued by a sponsor to an individual required for skilled workers (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5). It is required as part of the application process for entry clearance and leave to remain.

The **Common Travel Area** consists of the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

Confidence Interval - This is the range within which the true value of a population parameter lies with known probability. For example the 95% confidence interval represents the range in which there are 19 chances out of 20 that the true figure would fall (had all migrants been surveyed). The uppermost and lowermost values of the confidence interval are termed 'confidence limits'.

A **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies** is a virtual document issued by a sponsor to an individual to allow them to apply for entry clearance or leave to remain as a student under Tier 4.

Commonwealth: Fifty-three countries are members of The Commonwealth. More information is available from <http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries>.

Controlled returns relate to those returns occurring more than 2 days after leaving detention or where there was no period of detention prior to the return AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return.

Deportations are a specific subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked.

Derivative Residence Card: A document issued to third country nationals who derive a right of residence in the UK from EU law rather than the Free Movement Directive. The Derivative residence card is issued with a validity of 5 years. Applicants are not obliged to obtain such a document, but it does confirm their residence in the UK.

Discretionary leave (DL) may be considered for an individual who is not in need of international protection (i.e. asylum or **Humanitarian Protection (HP)**) but who is able to demonstrate particularly compelling reasons why removal would not be appropriate. Until 9 July 2012, Discretionary Leave was usually granted for a period of 3 years. From 9 July 2012, the period of leave granted has been determined by a consideration of the individual facts of the case but would not normally be for more than 30 months (two and a half years) at a time. Further leave may be granted, subject to a review of the individual's circumstances. A short period of DL may be granted to individuals who have been refused asylum and Humanitarian Protection because they have committed a particularly serious crime but who cannot currently be removed from the UK for legal reasons. Until 6 April 2013, DL was granted to **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)** who were not in need of international protection but who could not be removed because the Secretary of State was not satisfied that safe and adequate reception arrangements were in place in the country to which they were to be removed. Until 9 July 2012, UASC DL was usually granted for a period of 3 years or until the applicant reached the age of 17½, whichever period was the shortest. From 9 July 2012, UASC DL was granted for a period of 30 months or up until age 17½. On 6 April 2013, UASC DL was replaced by UASC leave when the policy on granting discretionary leave to UASC was incorporated into the Immigration Rules, under Paragraphs 352ZC – 352ZF. However, the database used to record information on UASCs, the Case Information Database (CID), was not amended to include this new outcome until July 2013. During the period April to July 2013 the outcome UASC DL was used to record information on CID.

A **document certifying permanent residence** (tables ee_02 and ee_02_q) is issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the UK. EEA nationals acquire this right after living in the UK for a continuous period of five years in accordance with EU laws relating to free movement rights. They are not obliged to apply for a document certifying permanent residence.

The **Dublin regulation** (EU) No.604/2013 ('Dublin III') is EU legislation that establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining which single State is responsible for examining an application for international protection (an asylum claim). The Dublin III Regulation applies to all 28 EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Further details can be found in the Dublin regulation section.

A **Dublin state** is a state in which the Dublin III Regulation applies. It includes all 28 EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

EEA Family Permits are documents that facilitate the movement of nationals of countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who are family members of EEA nationals.

Employment and Support Allowance is an allowance aimed at helping people with an illness or disability to move into work.

In an **enforced removal**, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. They have declined to leave voluntarily and the Home Office enforces their return from the UK. It includes enforced removals from detention and non-detained enforced removals.

Enforced removals from detention include all those who were subject to enforced removal either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention. There may be delays with flight arrangements

or recording on the case-working system and a 2 day lag period allows us to ensure we have included all returns occurring following a period in detention.

Enforced returns cover **enforced removals from detention, non-detained enforced removals and other returns from detention** where the Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return. This new grouping has been created to reflect the likely level of enforcement activity that led to these returns. The detained figures relate to those detained in immigration removal centres (IRCs), short term holding facilities (STHF) and pre departure accommodation (PDA).

Entry clearance takes the form of a sticker, also called a vignette, which is placed in a person's travel document. Entry Clearance can be called a **visa** (for visa nationals), an entry certificate (for non-visa nationals), or a family permit for family members of EEA nationals. These documents are to be taken as evidence of the holder's eligibility to travel to the UK, and accordingly accepted as "entry clearances" within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971. The term "visa" may be used as a generic term for all types of Entry Clearance but in Immigration Statistics it does not refer to an entry certificate.

An **entry clearance visa** is a document permitting the bearer to travel to the UK and leave to enter from the grant date. It is activated upon passing through UK immigration control. There are three categories of visa: temporary, leading to settlement and settlement. Visas are required by nationals or citizens of the countries and territorial entities listed in Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules known as 'visa nationals'. Nationals of countries not on this list are known as 'non-visa nationals'. A non-visa national does not need a visa to come to the UK for less than six months, unless it is a requirement of the immigration category under which they are entering. A non-visa national coming to the UK for more than six months will need a visa.

The **European Economic Area (EEA)** consists of the 28 countries of the **European Union**, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Nationals of the EEA and Switzerland have rights of free movement within the UK.

The **European Union (EU)** consists of 28 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. Croatia joined the EU28 on 1st July 2013.

EU2 are the two countries that joined the **European Union** on 1 January 2007: Bulgaria and Romania.

EU8 are the eight Central and Eastern European countries that joined the **European Union** on 1 May 2004: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The EU8 does not include the other two countries that joined on this date: Cyprus and Malta.

A **failed asylum seeker** is an individual whose application for asylum and other forms of protection has been refused and who has exhausted their appeal rights.

Family formation and reunion is a summary category used in descriptions of settlement statistics reflecting people granted **settlement** on grounds of their relationship to another person already settled or a **British citizen**. It includes husbands, wives, children, parents, grandparents and other and unspecified dependants.

The **Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) Exercise**, announced on 24 October 2003, allowed certain asylum-seeking families who had been in the UK for four or more years to obtain settlement.

Family Life (10 year) route: Partners and parents who apply in the UK and are granted **leave to remain** on a 10 year route to **settlement** on the basis of their family life where the relevant provisions in Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules (including EX.1) apply.

A **family reunion visa** allows a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18 of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK to reunite with them in the UK.

First-tier Tribunal Judges hear and decide appeals against decisions made by the Home Secretary on immigration and asylum matters in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

A **foreign national offender (FNO)** (previously referred to as a 'foreign national prisoner') is someone who:

- is not a British citizen; and
- is/was convicted in the UK of any criminal offence, or abroad for a serious criminal offence

An FNO can be convicted and have served their sentence while on remand, so would not necessarily have been sent to prison.

In 2001, asylum seekers **granted asylum** were granted refugee status and Indefinite Leave to Remain. In July 2005, however this policy changed so that asylum seekers granted asylum are granted refugee status and five years limited leave to remain.

The **Habitual Residence Test** is a test for all individuals, including returning British nationals, who have recently arrived in the country and who make a claim for income-related social security benefits. The individual must satisfy the decision-making authorities that, firstly, they have a right to reside and, secondly, that they are habitually resident in the **Common Travel Area** and can be treated as such.

Harm Matrix: The harm matrix is a tool to assess the level of harm associated with a particular individual. In order to provide clarity, consistency and measurement, levels of harm have been divided into four broad categories: A, B, C and D, with A being the highest harm.

The **Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP)** began on 28 January 2002. It differed from the work permit system in that it did not require an employer to obtain a permit for the individual. Applicants were assessed on a points system, based on their qualifications, earning ability and experience. The programme has now been replaced by **PBS Tier 1**.

The **Home Office** is responsible for immigration, security, law and order in the UK.

Humanitarian Protection (HP) is leave granted to a person who is not a refugee as defined by the Refugee Convention but who would, if removed, face in the country of return a real risk to life or person arising from the death penalty; unlawful killing; torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or serious and individual threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict. HP is normally granted for a period of five years, after which the person can apply for **indefinite leave to remain**. A person who is granted HP is allowed to work and has access to public funds.

Immigration Enforcement – Arrest Trained Immigration Officers: Immigration Officers undertake a range of activities which support the detection, apprehension and return of immigration offenders. This includes tracking down illegal migrants and targeting companies that flout the rules by employing workers illegally. Specific duties include: carrying out enforcement operations, including driving official vehicles, transporting of offenders, searching property or persons, collecting, preserving and recording evidence.

Indefinite leave to remain is a grant of **settlement** (after entry) (generally) to a non-EEA national.

The **International Passenger Survey (IPS)** is a survey of a random sample of passengers entering and leaving the UK by air, sea or the Channel Tunnel. Between 700,000 and 800,000 people are interviewed on the IPS each year. Of those interviewed, approximately 4,000-5,000 people each year are identified as long-term international migrants.

Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based) is the main benefit for people between 18 and state pension age who are out of work or work less than 16 hours a week on average, based on income and savings criteria.

A **juxtaposed control** is a UK Border Zone set up, by international treaty, in another country to enforce UK immigration, detection or police powers before the passenger physically arrives on UK sovereign territory.

A **landing card** is a form completed by all non-EEA national passengers subject to immigration control, which is given to the **Border Force Officer** on arrival. A landing card is completed for each journey; a person who makes more than one journey is counted on each occasion. A controlled landing card is one where the passenger has been granted leave to enter and is intending to stay for at least six months; a non-controlled landing card is one where the passenger is intending to stay for less than six months and does not intend to work.

Leave to remain is permission to stay in the UK either temporarily (limited leave to remain) or permanently (**indefinite leave to remain**). In this release, an extension of leave to remain is known as 'extension of stay'

Long Residence is a route within the Immigration Rules for those applying to settle in the UK on the basis of having been in the UK legally for 10 continuous years.

Migrant switchers are people who stated the intention in the **IPS** to stay in the destination country for at least a year, and are therefore counted as migrants, but who actually left sooner.

Nationality is often used interchangeably with citizenship, and some datasets, refer to 'nationals' of a country rather than 'citizens'. Different datasets have different ways of establishing someone's nationality. The Annual Population Survey, which underlies the population estimates by nationality, simply asks people 'what is your nationality?' However, the IPS, National Insurance numbers (NINOs) (from Department for Work and Pensions data) and entry clearance visa data are based on people's passports. For asylum statistics the nationality is as stated on the 'Case Information Database'. This will usually be based on documentary evidence, but sometimes asylum seekers arrive in the UK without any such documentation.

Non-compliance grounds signify a failure to cooperate with the process to examine and decide the asylum claim within a reasonable period. This includes refusals for failure to respond to invitations to interview to establish identity.

Non-detained enforced removals include all enforced removals taking place more than 2 days after leaving detention, or where there was no period of detention prior to the enforced removal.

A **non-suspensive appeal** is a right of appeal where **UK Visas and Immigration** has concluded that there are insufficient grounds shown that would qualify for a grant of asylum, **Humanitarian Protection** or **Discretionary Leave** to remain (known as a 'clearly unfounded claim') and the applicant will not have the right to appeal against the decision while still in the UK. Applications from nationals of a 'designated' State who have had their application refused are bound by legislation to have their claims certified as clearly unfounded unless the Secretary of State is not satisfied that the claim is clearly unfounded. In cases where certification is applied, the applicant retains a right of appeal, which can only be submitted out-of country, termed as the 'Non-Suspensive Appeals' process. Claims from nationals of all other States may be considered for certification on a case-by-case basis.

In a **notified return**, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set to administratively remove or deport the person from the country; however, the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate/monitor the return.

Official Statistics are defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 as all those statistical outputs produced by central Government departments and agencies, by the Office for National Statistics, by the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, or by other Crown bodies. Official statistics include several categories of statistics produced by public bodies:

- 'National Statistics' - these are certified as compliant with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).
- statistics produced by the GSS that are not 'National Statistics'
- statistics produced by Crown Bodies but not under the professional management of the GSS
- statistics produced by non-Crown Bodies included in secondary legislation

In the Immigration Statistics release, any data described as 'Official Statistics' are drawn from the Home Office's administrative systems and have not necessarily been subject to the same detailed verification processes as those badged as 'National Statistics' (NS). For example such figures may include:

- (a) data produced internally for operational management purposes in the first instance, rather than produced solely for the published statistics;
- (b) data added to the Home Office's migration statistics publications after these were last designated as National Statistics and prior to re-designation as NS by the UK Statistics Authority.

Under the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 framework, the designation of new statistics as 'National Statistics' is undertaken by the UK Statistics Authority. Hence (b) are therefore described as Official Statistics rather than National Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority has designated the statistics within Immigration Statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). In previous versions of this User Guide, Official Statistics have also been referred to as 'management information'.

Other returns from detention relate to those returns occurring either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or have no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return.

Other verified returns (previously Other confirmed voluntary departures) relate to persons who it has been established have left or have been identified leaving the UK without formally informing the immigration authorities of their departure. These persons can be identified either at embarkation controls or by a variety of data-matching initiatives.

Ordinary visitors are non-EEA nationals admitted to the UK for a period not exceeding six months on condition that they do not work, reside in the UK for long periods or access public funds.

Passengers returning includes both: people who are settled in the UK, who have been absent for less than two years; and those subject to a limited leave to enter who have returned within the time limit of that leave. The initial admissions of such passengers will have been counted in a specific category in the relevant time period.

A **permanent residence card** (tables ee_02 and ee_02_q) is issued to non-EEA family members of EEA nationals to confirm their right of permanent residence in the UK as a family member of an EEA national. They must have been living in accordance with EU laws relating to free movement rights for a continuous period of five years. The permanent residence card is valid for ten years. Non-EEA family members are not obliged to apply for a permanent residence card.

The **Points-based system (PBS)** is the main route for non-EEA nationals working and studying in the UK. It consists of five 'tiers'. See the definitions for the individual tiers, **Tier 1**, **Tier 2**, **Tier 3**, **Tier 4** and **Tier 5** for further information.

Port of entry is an airport, seaport or rail terminal through which people from outside the UK enter the country.

Post-decision reviews are sometimes carried out on asylum **initial decisions** for a number of reasons. An asylum decision by the Secretary of State can be later reviewed as a result of additional information and/or significant changes in the applicant's current circumstances and the relevant country of origin information.

Principal applicant is the main applicant named. There is one per application. A principal applicant can have no, one or more dependants.

Private Life: grant of **leave to remain** in the UK because the person has established a private life in the UK. In order to be eligible to apply for leave to remain on the basis of private life in the UK, the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least 20 years or be able to demonstrate that there are very significant obstacles to their integration in the country to which they would return. For young people aged between 18 and 24 the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least half of their life, and for children aged under 18 the applicant must have resided continuously in the UK for at least 7 years and show that it would not be reasonable to expect them to leave the UK. Applicants can only apply for this route from within the UK.

Refugee is defined, by the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol (the 'Refugee Convention'), as being a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality (or habitual residence, where stateless) and who is unable or, owing to such a fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. Recognition of refugee status is a pre-requisite to the grant of **refugee leave** in the UK.

Refugee Status is the recognition by the UK, following consideration of a claim for asylum, that a person meets the criteria in paragraph 334 of the Immigration Rules.

Refugee Leave means limited leave granted to a person with **Refugee Status**.

Protection Claim is a claim that removal of a person from the UK would breach the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention or the UK's obligations in relation to a person's eligibility for a grant of **Humanitarian Protection**.

An **Inadmissible EU asylum application** is an application for asylum from an EU national that does not meet the requirements of paragraph 326F of the Immigration Rules.

Registration certificates (tables ee_02 and ee_02_q) are issued to EEA nationals to confirm their right of residence in the UK on the basis that they are exercising a Treaty Right or they are the family member of an EEA national who is exercising Treaty Rights in the UK. EEA nationals are not obliged to apply for a registration certificate unless they are applying on the basis of being an extended family member of another EEA national.

Registration certificates (tables ee_01 and ee_01_q) are documents issued to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals as evidence they were exempt from the requirement to obtain permission before commencing employment in the UK. Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1st January 2014.

Registration certificates (Croatian nationals) are documents issued to Croatian nationals as evidence of their right to work in the UK. Purple registration certificates are issued to employees of a registered employer, Blue registration certificates to highly skilled people and Yellow certificates are issued to self-employed people and students. See <https://www.gov.uk/croatian-national> for more detailed information.

Removal of time limit is something that happens when a person becomes settled in the UK and there is no longer any time limit on their stay in the UK.

Residence cards (tables ee_02 and ee_02_q) are issued to non-EEA national family members of an EEA national who is exercising Treaty Rights in the UK. It confirms their right of residence as a family member of an EEA national and is normally issued for a period of five years. Non-EEA national family members of an EEA national do not need to apply for a residence card unless they are applying on the basis of being an extended family member of an EEA national.

Restricted Leave (RL) From 2 September 2011, all individuals refused refugee status or Humanitarian Protection on the grounds of their war crimes or other international crimes committed prior to their admission to the UK as a **refugee**, but who cannot be immediately removed due to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), may be granted Restricted Leave to remain for a maximum of six months at a time.

Returns relate to people, including dependants, leaving the UK either voluntarily when they no longer had a right to stay in the UK or where the Home Office has sought to return them to their own country, an EU Member State, or a third country where they are permanently admissible. While individuals refused entry at port and subsequently departing have not necessarily entered the country, their return requires action by the UK Border Force and Home Office, such as being placed on a flight, and is therefore included.

Right of abode is the legal description of a person's right to enter and live in the UK without any immigration restrictions. All **British citizens** have the right of abode along with some Commonwealth citizens. This can be evidenced by a British citizen passport or a certificate of entitlement in a foreign passport.

The **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS)** was a scheme under which Bulgarian and Romanian nationals aged 18 or over could be admitted to the UK to undertake seasonal work on farms. SAWS dated from the immediate post-war years, as a way of bringing in short-term labour to gather harvests, and its general principles remain to provide short-term seasonal labour for the agricultural industry. The scheme operated under an annual quota system. Before restriction to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals in 2007, the majority of participants were from Eastern Europe and the states of the former USSR. The Scheme has been discontinued following the removal of labour market restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals at the end of 2013.

Section 4 support: An individual may be eligible for **support** under Section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if their asylum application has been determined as refused and appeals rights are exhausted, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK.

Section 95 support: **Support** may be provided under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to destitute asylum seekers until their asylum claim is finally determined. Section 95 support can be provided as both accommodation and subsistence, or accommodation or subsistence only.

Section 98 support: While a claim for **Section 95 support** is being considered, Section 98 permits the Secretary of State to provide or arrange for the provision of **support** for asylum seekers or dependants of asylum seekers who appear to be destitute. Section 98 support is temporary accommodation and is intended for short-term use.

The **Sector Based Scheme (SBS)** was a quota-based scheme for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals aged between 18 and 30, which only covered the food-manufacturing sector. SBS for other nationalities was closed in December 2006; prior to this, SBS was a quota-based scheme for overseas nationals to work in the hospitality and food-processing sectors. The Scheme has been discontinued following the removal of labour market restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals at the end of 2013.

Settlement is a grant of indefinite leave to enter (on arrival) or **indefinite leave to remain** (after entry) (generally) to a non-EEA national.

Statistical significance - The International Passenger Survey interviews a sample of passengers passing through ports within the UK. As with all sample surveys, the estimates produced from them are based upon one of a number of different samples that could have been drawn at that point in time. This means that there is a degree of variability around the estimates produced. This variability sometimes may present misleading changes in figures as a result of the random selection of those included in the sample. If a change or a difference between estimates is described as 'statistically significant', it means that statistical tests have been carried out to reject the possibility that the change has occurred by chance. Therefore statistically significant changes are very likely to reflect real changes in migration patterns.

The **short-term study** category replaced the student visitor category on 24 April 2015 and provides for those people who wish to come to the UK in order to undertake a short course of study, or short period of research as part of a degree course, which will be completed within the period of their leave (maximum six months unless applying under the concession for English language courses – 11 months). Short-term students cannot work, including undertaking a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course.

Support is the provision of accommodation and/or subsistence to those seeking asylum. See **Section 4 support**, **Section 95 support** and **Section 98 support**.

Third Country, or safe third country, is a country of which the applicant is not a national or citizen and in which a person's life or liberty is not threatened by reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. It is also one from which a person would not be sent to another State in contravention of his rights under the 1951 Convention. Most Third Country cases are those which come under the arrangements provided by the Dublin Convention or the Dublin II Regulation (the "Dublin arrangements"). Asylum claims may be refused without substantive consideration of the application if the applicant can be returned to a safe third country.

Tier 1 of the points-based system: For high value individuals who will contribute to growth and productivity.

Tier 2 of the points-based system: For skilled workers from outside the **EEA** with a skilled job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force.

Tier 3 of the points-based system: For limited numbers of low-skilled workers needed to fill specific temporary labour shortages (this has never been implemented).

Tier 4 of the points-based system: Students.

Tier 5 of the points-based system: Youth mobility and temporary workers: people allowed to work in the UK for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives.

UK ancestry is a possible route of entry to work and/or settle in the UK for Commonwealth citizens without **right of abode** if they can show that they have a grandparent who was born in the UK. For these purposes Commonwealth Countries are defined in Schedule 3, British Nationality Act 1981.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is a part of the Home Office and is responsible for providing decisions regarding entry visas for people travelling to the UK, with emphasis on customer satisfaction for business people and tourists alike.

An **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC)** is defined in the Immigration Rules as a person who:

- is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted.
- is applying for asylum in their own right; and
- is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

A child may move between the unaccompanied and accompanied categories while their applications are under consideration, e.g. where a child arrives alone but is later united with other family members in the UK, or a child arrives with their parents or close relatives but is later abandoned, or a trafficked child, or one brought in on false papers with an adult claiming to be a relative.

Unsubstantiated cases are where the applicant has failed to substantiate their claim for asylum through non-attendance at the substantive interview and who is found to have absconded from their registered address. Also called non-substantiated claims.

Upper Tribunal Judges hear and decide appeals against decisions made by the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and judicial review claims against certain decisions of the Home Office.

Visa: see **Entry clearance**.

A **visa national** is: a national of a country listed as requiring a visa for any type of entry to the UK; a stateless person; a holder of a non-national travel document unless issued by the UK; or a holder of a passport issued by an authority that is not recognised in the UK. Visa nationals must obtain entry clearance before travelling to the UK, except in certain circumstances, unless they are returning residents or those with permission to stay who are returning after a temporary absence.

Visitor switchers are people who stated the intention in the **IPS** to stay in the destination country for less than a year, but who actually stay for a year or longer.

Voluntary returns comprise **assisted returns**, **notified or controlled returns**, and **other verified returns**.

Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) – Since January 2016, the support formerly provided under the Assisted Voluntary Returns scheme (AVR), has been provided by the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service (VRS). These will be referred to in the tables as 'Assisted returns'. The term 'Assisted returns' relates to the support provided under AVR up to Q4 2015 and support provided under VRS from Q1 2016. See also Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR).

Withdrawn asylum claim is a claim for asylum that can be withdrawn explicitly by the applicant by signing the relevant form or implicitly through failing to attend the substantive interview (see **unsubstantiated cases**), leaving the UK without prior authorisation prior to the conclusion of the asylum claim or failing to complete an asylum questionnaire as requested. An appeal can be withdrawn by either the appellant or the Home Office.

Worker authorisation registration certificates are documents issued to Croatian nationals conferring permission to work, where they are subject to the requirement to obtain such permission before commencing employment in the UK and to highly skilled individuals who are exempt from this requirement to confirm their right to work.

Worker Registration Scheme (WRS): Under this scheme, which ended on 30 April 2011, **EU8** nationals who took up employment in the UK were required to apply to register that employment under the WRS within one month of commencing work. The requirement to register employment no longer

applied if the individual completed 12 months continuous registered employment in the UK. The requirement to register did not apply to work in a self-employed capacity.

Work permit holder is a migrant who is granted leave for work permit employment (the relevant paragraphs 128 to 133 of the Immigration Rules were deleted on 6 April 2012 by Statement of Changes HC 1888 except those relevant to paragraphs 134 to 135). The requirements for applications for work permit employment set out in paragraphs 128 to 133 of these Rules were deleted on 6 April 2012 by Statement of Changes HC 1888 except insofar as relevant to paragraphs 134 to 135.

3 Conventions used in Immigration Statistics

Rounding

Data are mainly provided unrounded in the data tables of the Immigration Statistics release. This is to promote transparency and allow users to exploit the data further.

However, caution should be taken when comparing small differences between time periods; while care is taken in collecting and collating all the information obtained, the figures are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large recording system and are not necessarily accurate to the last digit. There are a range of different types of errors possible, such as those resulting from recording errors or misclassifications.

The data provided rounded are:

- passenger arrivals; sampling methods are used to provide counts of completed landing cards and therefore these data are rounded – see the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for details on the sampling and rounding methods used;
- grants of settlement to Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals in Table se_06 between 1960 and 1996 which are rounded to the nearest ten; and between 1997 and 2002 which are rounded to the nearest five due to unrounded data not currently being available; and
- asylum applications received by other countries in Table as_07_g which are rounded to the nearest 100.
- asylum applications: Table as_01 for 1989 to 1993 and as_02 for 1989 to 2001 are rounded to the nearest 5, Table as_02 for 1991 to 2001 are rounded to the nearest 100 due to dependants applications being estimated.

In the commentary accompanying the data tables, data have occasionally been rounded for ease of reading, where appropriate based on the size of numbers that are being reported. In all cases, except passenger arrivals data, data are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Where data are rounded, they may not sum to the totals shown, or, in the case of percentages, to 100 per cent, because they have been rounded independently.

Use of symbols

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

- : Not available.
- z Not applicable.
- * Number is too small to be shown (used in tables where figures have been rounded).

Using the data: filtering of tables

Several of the tables accompanying the Immigration Statistics releases include filters (buttons in the cells at the top of columns) to allow users to select which part of the data they wish to view. Many tables, especially those with the column heading 'Country of nationality', will be already filtered when the file is first downloaded.

To use the filters click on the button and select the item you want to see from the list presented. The icon within the button changes colour and/or shape to indicate a filter has been selected for that column.

To undo or change the selection click on the button again and select another item from the list presented. More than one column can be filtered at the same time.

The colour and form of the icon shown in the filter button may differ according to the package being used to view the table. Filtering may not be possible when viewed on some mobile devices.

Classification of countries and nationalities

In the Immigration Statistics release, some data are available by country of nationality. The country of nationality recorded is based on the documentation, generally passports, provided by the individual at the point of recording the details. For asylum statistics, the country of nationality is usually based on documentary evidence, although sometimes the asylum seeker would arrive in the UK without any such documentation.

As far as is sensible, a full country of nationality list has been provided.

The heading 'British overseas citizens' includes British protected persons and British subjects under the British Nationality Act 1981 and covers those people classified in the pre-1983 issues of this publication as 'United Kingdom Passport Holders', as well as British overseas citizens. Those recorded as British overseas territories citizens (BOTCs) from Hong Kong, stateless persons from Hong Kong, British nationals (overseas) and holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports are recorded under 'Hong Kong', and other people recorded as BOTCs are included under the relevant geographical region.

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro came to an end after Montenegro's formal declaration of independence on 3 June 2006 and Serbia's formal declaration of independence on 5 June 2006. Serbia and Montenegro may be counted together due to the use of a single (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) passport until 31 December 2010 when the Yugoslav passport became invalid. After this date, only passports issued by the separate jurisdictions have been accepted.

Prior to July 2011, Sudan includes all individuals presenting travel documents or passports relating to that country. Since July 2011, nationals of South Sudan who presented Sudanese travel documents may continue to be recorded under Sudan; those presenting travel documents from South Sudan are recorded as nationals of Sudan (South).

Following requests from UNHCR and Asylum Aid in 2011/12, those recognised as either 'Stateless' or a 'Refugee' are available as separate 'Country of nationalities' within the nationality tables. 'Stateless' refers individuals recorded as: Kuwaiti Bidoun; recognised as Stateless by UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) under Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons; or stateless on the relevant record held by the Home Office. 'Refugee' refers to those: recognised as a refugee by UNHCR under Article 1 of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees; or recorded as a refugee on the relevant record held by the Home Office.

Revisions to data

We anticipate that data for the latest full calendar year and, where applicable, quarters from the current calendar year will be revised in due course. On occasion, earlier data will be revised. The data will generally only be revised once in a year and considered final after a further 12 months, unless significant errors are discovered or the data are Official Statistics.

Provisional citizenship data and extensions data are expected to be revised in May of each year; all other provisional data are expected to be revised in August of each year. In addition, returns data are checked each quarter to see whether provisional quarterly data needs to be revised.

It is not possible to evaluate whether any future revisions will be upward or downward; but the reasons for revisions are likely to include:

- late reporting of cases – a small proportion of cases are not included when the statistics are produced;
- the results of data-cleansing exercises, such as data identified that cannot be included when the statistics are calculated because of missing or invalid values, the identification of duplicates in the data; and
- reconciliations with alternative data sources which identify cases not yet included in the statistics.

Despite all our best efforts, there may occasionally be a need to amend publications to correct errors (these may occur if, for example, data supplied to us are subsequently found to be incorrect).

Significant errors in published statistics will be corrected as soon as possible (i.e. by amending electronic versions of the release and including a prominent alert on our website to notify users of the change), and we will “correct errors discovered in statistical reports and alert stakeholders, promptly” in line with the Code of Practice, Principle 2, Practice 7. We will use appropriate methods to communicate with users. An error is considered to be significant if the resultant change would qualify or contradict the conclusions that would previously have been drawn from the data.

If the error is minor or textual, or insignificant in the sense that any correction would be reasonably deemed inconsequential, we will not issue a correction immediately, but will do so when a new release is due for publication.

If we discover an error which is insubstantial but which, in our professional judgement, warrants immediate correction we will amend electronic copies of the published release and ensure that the revision is clearly identified in the amended publication.

In order to make clear our revisions, rather than marking revised data in tables directly, our approach is to highlight revisions in the ‘About this release’ page, the ‘Notes’ worksheet, topic briefing text and in the User Guide, depending on how important the revisions are.

Further details on the Revisions Policy for the Home Office can be found on the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages within the Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/home-office-science/ho-compliance-state-11>.

Revisions analysis

The table below shows that revisions to the annual 2017 figures first published in February 2018 have been small. Two exceptions to this are the ‘Voluntary returns’ and the ‘Detention (children entering and children leaving)’ series. Details are given below the table:

Series	Published Feb 18	Revision May 18 - percentage change with Feb 18	Revision Aug 18 – percentage change with Feb 18
Asylum applications (main applicants)	26,350	n/a	+0.7%
Asylum applications (inc. dependants)	33,512	n/a	+2.8%
Asylum initial decisions (main applicants)	21,290	n/a	-0.1%
Enforced returns	12,321	-0.7%	-2.2%
Refused entry at port and subsequently departed	17,977	+0.6%	+1.1%
Voluntary returns (excluding returns from detention)	18,928	+5.1%	+8.3%
Detention (total entering)	27,331	n/a	+0.1%
Detention (children entering)	42	n/a	+50.0%
Detention (total leaving)	28,244	n/a	+0.0%
Detention (children leaving)	44	n/a	+52.3%
Grants of an extension of stay (inc. dependants)	214,140	-0.3%	n/a
Grants of settlement (inc. dependants)	63,941	n/a	
Entry clearance visas granted (inc. dependants)	2,710,350	n/a	-0.1%
Citizenship grants (all)	123,229	-0.1%	n/a
Admissions (total passenger arrivals, millions)	135.2	1.4%	1.4%
Admissions (Non-EEA national arrivals, millions)	16.2	+0.0%	+4.0%

Explanation of revisions for children in detention data

Data revisions on the number of children entering and leaving detention occur when a more recent data extract is used to produce the figures. Later extracts will reflect changes made to date of birth information about individuals (after reviews, new evidence or 'Merton' assessments). These changes do not alter the total number of people entering or leaving detention (which changed by -0.1% for the 2017 totals published in August 2018), but may increase or decrease the number of children reported as entering or leaving detention.

Explanation of revisions for returns

Data revisions on the number of returns take place when more recent data extracts are used to produce the figures. In particular, figures for voluntary returns are vulnerable to upward revision. These occur when data matching for the "other verified returns" subset (formerly known as 'other confirmed voluntary departures') is undertaken retrospectively to check departures. "Other verified returns" are cases where a person has been identified as having left the UK when they no longer had the right to remain in the UK, either as a result of embarkation controls or by subsequent data matching on Home Office systems. These figures are revised for two consecutive quarters.

Factors affecting the statistics

Immigration Rules, which are laid before Parliament by the Home Secretary, govern the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK, the variation of such conditions following entry, settlement and the deportation or return of individuals.

Current Immigration Rules are stated in 'Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules' HC 395, which took effect from 1 October 1994. This consolidated previous rule changes, although there have been changes to the rules since 1994. Some of these changes have affected the statistics and the most important changes are given in the 'Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline' published alongside this User Guide.

4 Information on uses and users of Immigration Statistics

Potential uses of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release

In October 2010, The UK Statistics Authority published a paper on [the use made of Official Statistics](#).

We have indicated a range of the expected uses of the data within Immigration Statistics in **bold** with some examples.

- i. Informing the general public's choices:
 - a. about investment decisions
 - b. about service providers
 - c. about lifestyle choices
 - d. about the state of the economy, society and the environment e.g. via Parliament and the media
 - e. about the performance of government and public bodies e.g. via Parliament and the media
- ii. Government decision-making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects:
 - a. policy making
 - b. policy monitoring
- iii. Resource allocation – typically by central and local government
- iv. Informing private sector commercial choices:
 - a. targeting local markets
 - b. targeting households and individuals
 - c. designing market research surveys
- v. Informing public marketing campaigns
- vi. Supporting third sector activity:
 - a. lobbying
 - b. funding applications
- vii. Facilitating academic research

Users of the Home Office immigration statistics

The responses to the February–May 2011 statistical consultation included evidence of the use made of the immigration statistics published by the Home Office by a range of users. These included:

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)
Bank of England
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford
European Migration Network
Eurostat
Greater London Authority (GLA)
HM Treasury
IGC Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)
Institute for Public Policy Research
Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)
Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford
Migration Watch UK
National Institute of Economic & Social Research
National Records of Scotland
North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Support Team

OECD International Migration Division
Office for National Statistics
Refugee Council
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Wales Strategic Migration Partnership
Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

Within the Home Office the statistics are used by a range of policy advisers, social researchers and economists in order to inform policy and operational decisions by Ministers.

Examples of uses of the statistics:

Policy monitoring, lobbying

Informing the general public's choices: about the performance of government and public bodies

Government decision making about policies, and associated decisions about related programmes and projects

5 Strengths, limitations and data quality

Below are some general strengths and limitations of the Immigration Statistics release.

Strengths of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release:

- Very detailed information based on administrative sources providing exact counts by detailed nationality.
- Very timely (published within two months of the reference period e.g. data for calendar year 2012 published before the end of February 2013).
- Low revision levels. Details of the extent of revisions following annual totals published in February 2018 are given in the 'Revisions Analysis' section of the User Guide in 'Conventions used in Immigration Statistics'.
- Possible to see how changes to the UK's immigration control system have direct impacts on the numbers, which are used to directly monitor that system.

Limitations of the data provided in the Immigration Statistics release:

- Home Office data are not as suitable as ONS data for understanding overall trends in all UK immigration, emigration and net migration.
- Home Office data generally relates to those subject to immigration control, rather than all immigration including by UK and other EU nationals; therefore, for analysis of total immigration, ONS data are more appropriate (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>).
- Home Office data do not provide information on emigration. However, the Home Office have started to publish data on those known to have left the UK in their [statistics being collected under the exit checks programme](#) series.

Specific examples

Home Office data on their own do not provide a measure of net migration and the contribution of net migration to population growth. However, visas granted data are more timely than ONS immigration data and, as shown in the work, study and family briefing sections, they are likely to be a useful leading indicator for the non-EU component of the ONS immigration figures.

Data quality of administrative data

During the first half of 2002, an integrated database CID (Case Information Database) was introduced to record case information. This database took over from many other databases, was built for administrative purposes, and information is collated from it for statistical purposes subject to data quality.

Age/Sex Unknown

Some tables on settlement, citizenship, asylum and returns provide a split by age and / or sex. Within these tables, there are categories for 'Sex unknown' and 'Age unknown' or 'Age/sex unknown', which reflect:

- Individuals where the date of birth and / or sex is not recorded in the appropriate field of the CID. In some cases the age and sex may be recorded elsewhere, but it is not possible to use this information in the published tables;
- Individuals where the date of birth has been identified as being incorrectly entered, for example, providing a negative age or where the date of birth is entered as 01/01/1901.

The first of the two types of data issues are the most common.

For asylum dependants, the age at application is based on their age at the date the main application was made. Therefore, in cases where the child is born after the original asylum application, the recorded age at application will be negative. These are not considered to be data quality issues, but will appear in 'Age unknown' as the age is not known at the time of the application.

Specific data quality issues are detailed in each relevant topic.

Overall assessments of data quality

More generally, data quality has a range of aspects including accessibility, methods, relevance and the extent to which they comply with the best practices and requirements outlined in the Code of Practice for Statistics. In autumn 2011, the UK Statistics Authority assessed Immigration Statistics against the Code, as part of its routine programme of assessments. This report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority's website at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>.

The assessment report published on 2 February 2012 was written on an exceptions basis and hence focussed on the five requirements to be met in order for the release to be re-designated as National Statistics. The report also commented briefly on existing strengths, noting that: the figures "are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest"; and "help inform users such as the government, Parliament, the media and the wider public about immigration control activities, and support the development and monitoring of immigration policy"; and that "Many users commented that they found the new format in which the statistics are presented easier to use".

Following improvements made in the May 2012 and August 2012 editions, the UK Statistics Authority confirmed the designation of Immigration Statistics as National Statistics. Designation as National Statistics can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

6 Visas and Sponsorship

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics on:

- Sponsoring employers and education institutions on the Home Office ‘Register of Sponsors’ (Tables cs_01_q; cs_02_q; cs_07_q and cs_08_q);
- Applicants for both visas and extensions of stay for work who use a Certificate of Sponsorship, by Industry type and nationality (Tables cs_03 - cs_06);
- Applicants for both visas and extensions of stay for study who use a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies, by education provider and nationality (Tables cs_09 - cs_14).
- Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes, broken down by category and country of nationality (Tables vi_01_q – vi_06 q o).

All of the tables listed above are published in the “Sponsorship” and “Visas” volumes. As a brief guide,

- Sponsorship contains tables cs 01 q to cs 14 q,
- Volume 1 of Visas contains tables vi 01 q to vi 05 q,
- Volume 2 of Visas contains tables vi 06 q and vi 06 q w,
- Volume 3 of Visas contains tables vi 06 q s to vi 06 q o.

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP (CoS) AND CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES (CAS)

Within the topic briefs for work and study, the use of CoS and CAS are referred to as ‘sponsored visa applications’.

Data source

The statistics on CoS and CAS used are extracted from the Home Office’s Sponsorship Management system (SMS). The data derived from SMS are administrative information used by sponsors to allocate certificates.

Background on the statistics

Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) for skilled individuals (Tier 2) and youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5)

As part of the application process for visas and for extensions, skilled individuals must obtain a certificate of sponsorship from a registered employer.

Any organisation that wishes to sponsor a worker must be registered on the Home Office’s Register of Sponsors’.

For the CoS process, the following steps occur after an employer (sponsor) has been accepted onto the Tier 2/5 organisations register:

1. A sponsor is able to apply to the Home Office for an annual allocation of CoS.
2. The Home Office then allocates a number of CoS to the sponsor.
3. The sponsor then assigns a CoS to an individual (who may be applying for a visa from outside the UK or for an extension of stay if already in the UK).

4. The individual then uses the CoS as part of a visa application (or application for an extension of stay).

Tier 2 (General) is currently subject to a limit on the number of CoS that can be allocated to new hires earning less than £159,600 per year or for dependants of Tier 4 students who wish to switch into Tier 2 (General). The sponsor must apply for an allocation for these 'restricted' CoS on a case-by-case basis to be considered at a monthly allocation meeting, held by the Home Office. Details of the outcome of the monthly allocation process are published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-sponsorship-restricted-certificate-allocations/allocations-of-restricted-certificates-of-sponsorship>.

Once assigned, a CoS must be used to apply for leave within three months. If not used, the CoS status changes to 'Expired'. The CoS may also be withdrawn by the sponsor or cancelled by the Home Office.

Sponsors can apply for an additional allocation of CoS if required, although certain limits apply depending on the tier in which the sponsor is licensed.

Sponsors are given an A-rating when they join the register. An A-rating may be downgraded to a B rating at a later stage if the sponsor doesn't continue to meet their sponsor duties. If this happens the sponsor won't be able to issue new certificates of sponsorship until they have made improvements and upgraded back to an A-rating. A B-rated sponsor is still able to issue certificates to workers they employ who wish to extend their stay. Sponsors may apply for, and be granted, a premium level of customer service from the Home Office and as such have an A (Premium) rating.

A sponsor may be licensed under more than one tier, and may have different ratings for each tier.

Industry sector has been classified using the 21 sections of Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) listed on the Office for National Statistics website <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/standard-industrial-classification/index.html>.

Further information about CoS is given at <https://www.gov.uk/uk-visa-sponsorship-employers>.

Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)

To apply for a student visa or for an extension as a student (Tier 4), individuals must use a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) from a sponsoring educational institution using the four step process similar to CoS.

All Tier 4 sponsors are expected to be education providers who can meet the standards the Home Office have set. A sponsor is given Probationary Sponsor status when it is first granted a licence. A Probationary Sponsor must demonstrate that it can fulfil its sponsorship duties, will continue to do so, and can be trusted to hold Tier 4 Sponsor status. When a Probationary Sponsor applies for, and passes, its first annual Basic Compliance Assessment, it will be given Tier 4 Sponsor status.

Prior to 5 September 2011, it was possible for some CAS sponsors to be B-rated. This was either because the Home Office had concerns about their ability to meet all of their sponsor duties or because they had interim accreditation from one of the previously approved accreditation bodies.

Legacy sponsors cannot sponsor any new students. They can continue to sponsor existing students who are already studying with them until they finish their course or until their licence expires, whichever happens first

A sponsor may be licensed under more than one category within Tier 4.

In 2015, changes were made to the terminology used for the different types of education provider in Tier 4. The updated terminology better reflects the type of institution and the improved categorisation will lead to greater accuracy and clarity in reporting in the long-term. The changes were made as part of an overhaul to the policy affecting sites and teaching partnerships permitted under Tier 4. The changes were also introduced to ensure that policies that were introduced last year that only affect certain types of sponsors (for instance, only apply to independent schools) deliver the intended policy impact.

In August 2017 data in tables cs_09; cs_09_q; cs_10; and cs_10_q were updated to show a time series for students applying for visas or extensions of stay to study at Russell Group Universities. The Russell Group describe themselves as representing 24 leading UK universities. Their website (<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/>) list those universities as:

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics and Political Science
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University College London
University of Warwick
University of York

Further information about CAS is given at <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Key terms

In order to distinguish from data on applications for (out of country) entry clearance visas, and to avoid the use of technical jargon, the text about certificates of sponsorship used in applications for visas instead employs the more succinct term 'sponsored work visa applications'; similarly the use of

certificates of sponsorship in applications for (in country) extensions is described as 'sponsored applications for extensions for work'.

In order to distinguish from data on applications for (out of country) entry clearance visas, and to avoid the use of technical jargon, the text about confirmations of acceptance for studies used in applications for visas instead employs the more succinct term 'sponsored study visa applications'; similarly the use of confirmations of acceptance for studies in applications for (in country) extensions is described as 'sponsored applications for extensions to study'.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the numbers of 'sponsors on the register' and 'CoS used' and 'CAS used' is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- include register totals produced directly from the Home Office's published list (register) of sponsors which is subject to scrutiny by the sponsors themselves, providing external scrutiny checking of the sponsor status, for example.
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a reconciliation process (total numbers of sponsors matches published totals produced independently by the Home Office).

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues:

- information on sponsors' industry category is self-completed, and may be subject to classification errors (particularly at more detailed levels).

Compilation method

Information about numbers of sponsors and their status has been produced by Migration Statistics based on copies of the published Register of Sponsors. CoS used and CAS used statistics are produced by the Sponsorship Analysis Team within the Home Office. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source live database, prepare the tables for publication.

Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake cross-checking of tables, to ensure consistent totals, as part of the production process. For example CoS used totals can be compared against data relating to visas and to extensions for Tiers 2 and 5. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with the Home Office operational and policy teams.

The prepared text is checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Data source

The statistics on entry clearance visas are sourced from the Home Office Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa casework system maintained by the Home Office International Group and processed by 'posts'. The information is gathered for the purpose of processing entry clearance visa applications.

Background on the statistics

Different nationalities have different visa requirements for entering and staying in the UK:

- European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals do not require a visa to come to the UK;
- for over 100 other nationalities, covering three-quarters of the world population, a visa is required for entry to the UK for any purpose or for any length of stay (i.e. "visa nationals"); and
- for all remaining nationalities (i.e. "non-visa nationals") a visa is required for those wanting to come to the UK for over six months, or for most types of work.

Before travelling to the UK, a person may be required to apply for and be granted an entry clearance visa, depending on their nationality, purpose of visit and intended length of stay. Visa nationals are required to obtain entry clearance from a British diplomatic post (visa-issuing section) abroad. Since October 2000, under the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000, entry clearance serves a dual purpose. It allows the visa holder to travel to, and also enter the UK, from the grant date and is activated on passing through UK immigration control. All individuals have to satisfy a Border Force officer that they have the right to enter the country before being admitted to the UK.

Entry clearance visa statistics cover a range of permitted lengths of stay, including those for less than a year. Visas granted for study and some work-related visas, together with other visa types such as EEA family permits and some dependants wishing to join or accompany other immigrants, allow temporary entry clearance and require the individual to renew the visa before it expires should they wish to stay longer. Some work and family visas allow a person to apply to stay indefinitely after a certain period. A number of other entry clearance visas, including some family visas, permit a person to stay indefinitely. However, the administrative database does not allow the resulting numbers of visas granted to be accurately split into the three classifications of 'temporary', 'leading to settlement' and 'settlement', as some visas are used for more than one of these classifications.

Entry clearance visas can be applied for and granted to a main applicant and their dependants.

Dependants are allocated an entry clearance category according to the circumstances of their application. Within the Points-based system (PBS), a child or partner will be recorded as a dependant under the tier of the main applicant, unless he/she has applied for and been granted a PBS visa in their own right, when they will be included as a main applicant. Outside of the PBS, many visas for dependants are specific to the visa for the main applicant. However, there are a number of visas which act as a catch-all for dependants – these are included within 'Dependants joining/accompanying'. There are also some visas which can be used for both main applicants and dependants and therefore it is not possible to provide an accurate split of total main applicants and total dependants.

Using the data

The figures of entry clearance visas granted show intentions to visit rather than actual arrivals and individuals can arrive at any time during the period that the visa is valid.

Entry clearance visa data therefore provide an indication of the number of people who have an intention to enter the UK and are available on a timelier basis than admissions of passengers given

leave to enter and estimates from the Office for National Statistics on long-term international migration. The number of entry clearance visas granted is an indicator of the level of immigration of non-EEA nationals; in recent years the trends for work and study visas, arrivals and inflow of long-term migrants from the International Passenger Survey have tended to follow similar patterns. See '**Related statistics published elsewhere**'.

Figures published in Immigration Statistics releases are shown by quarter and calendar year within the tables and on a rolling-year basis in the topic commentary, due to the seasonality of much of the data.

Key terms

Dependants joining/accompanying are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant, who is not a settled person or British citizen. Following changes to the rules, from the second quarter of 2011 until the second quarter of 2012, this category included new family members who came to the UK to join a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but who had yet to apply for or be granted settlement.

The **Family route** primarily covers visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the UK or a British citizen. Published entry clearance statistics do not separately identify adult dependent relatives of British Citizens and persons settled in the UK, including under Appendix FM or under paragraph 317 of the Immigration Rules. The following is a brief summary of the individuals included in each Family category.

- **Family route: Child**
 - *From December 2017:* children of a parent given limited leave to enter or remain in the UK for a probationary period. Prior to December 2017, they were included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Child** using the same visa endorsement as children joining/accompanying migrants in other routes.
 - Children travelling to the UK for adoption;
 - *From July 2012:* 'post-flight' children joining those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Child**).
- **Family route: Child (for immediate settlement)**
 - Adopted children;
 - Children accompanying or joining parent(s) who are settled or being admitted for settlement in the UK.
- **Family route: Partner** includes:
 - Fiancé(e)s and proposed civil partners;
 - Partners granted visas for a probationary period;
 - *From July 2012:* 'post-flight' partners joining those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Partner**).
- **Family route: Partner (for immediate settlement) - route closed to new entrants, except:**
 - Partners who are able to rely on transitional arrangements;
 - Partners of HM forces who qualify for immediate settlement.
- **Family route: Other**
 - Family reunion: pre-existing family members (partners, minor children) of a person with refugee leave or humanitarian protection, who has not yet obtained British citizenship;
 - *From July 2012 to December 2017:* dependants who are not partners or children of those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection (previously included in **Dependants joining/accompanying: Other**);
 - *From July 2012:* parents with access rights to a child (previously included in **Visitors**).

- 'Family reunion' visas are a subset of the 'other' category. Data on the number of family reunion visas granted were published for the first time in February 2017. Further details can be found in the 'Family reunion' section of the 'asylum' section.
- **Family route: Other (for immediate settlement)**
 - Dependants who are not partners or children of British Citizens or settled persons.

From December 2017, this category may include a small number of dependants of those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection, who are not partners or children, given limited leave to enter.

Historically the Home Office did not record statistics for adult dependent relatives based on which category of the rules the application was made under. The entry clearance endorsements used for adult dependent relative applications are also used to record applications under other routes, for example children applying for indefinite leave under part 8 of the Immigration Rules. It is therefore not possible to identify adult dependent relatives without the inspection of individual case records. The Home Office is reviewing the collection of data relating to adult dependent relative settlement visas.

Other key terms for entry clearance visas can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Data on entry clearance visas have been released in a variety of publications; between 1979 and 2002 entry clearance statistics were published in the 'Control of Immigration: United Kingdom' and in 'Entry Clearance Statistics', a financial year publication, between 2001 and 2008/09; and since the second quarter of 2008 within the Immigration Statistics release and its predecessor.

Visa statistics dating back to 2001/02, originally published by the UK Border Agency of the Home Office, are available from the National Archives website at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/aboutus/statistics/visastatsarchive>.

Caution should be exercised about making longer time series comparisons based on archived visa statistics because of important changes over time to the method by which visa statistics have been compiled and reported. Between the second quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2011, improvements were made to the presentation of the statistics. The latest release provides comparable data for all time periods back to the first quarter of 2005.

Due to a change of database in 2004, comparable data are not available for years prior to 2004.

For the release of entry clearance visa statistics in Immigration Statistics October – December 2012, the published tables were revised to include quarterly rather than annual data where appropriate.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of entry clearance visas is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;

- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August when the status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a reconciliation process.

The main types of errors and other potential quality issues are thought to relate to recording and classification issues. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- While EEA nationals are not required to hold visas, the data contain some applications and grants of visas recorded as relating to EEA nationals. Grants are in the region of 400–1,400 per year. Approximately 95% of these are those recorded as Cypriots, but most likely these people are from the area not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus. Further internal investigation of the data has suggested that there has been some misclassification of the data categories relating to Northern Cyprus nationals. This affects tables published prior to August 2014. The data has been corrected in the August 2014 edition, including for historical data.
- Prior to the August 2014 edition, data for visas relating to Ghurkhas discharged before 1997 and to widow(er)s of Ghurkhas discharged before 1997 were included under the Family route. In the August 2014 edition these data have been re-classified under the 'Other settlement (indefinite leave)' category, including for historical data.
- Prior to the August 2014 edition the visa figures concerning Refugees also included some visa applications and grants relating to Stateless individuals. In the August 2014 edition data relating to these visas have been reclassified under 'Stateless', including for historical data.
- Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visas, which became available out-of-country in April 2013, were not included in the visa tables prior to the August 2014 edition, due to delays in the updates to data processing systems.
- Where visa endorsements have been replaced, or are no longer used, data for the new endorsement codes are aggregated as far as possible to be comparable with existing data. The data for the new endorsements are presented alongside data for existing endorsements, accompanied by a note to explain the change.

Compilation method

Entry clearance visa data come from the Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS) visa case working system. Data are extracted to produce statistics on visa applications, grants, and appeals worldwide. The visa case working database (CRS) is live so reports produced by the management information teams will continually update.

Entry clearance statistics are produced by International Group within the Home Office. The Migration Statistics team within the Home Office, who do not have access to the source database, prepare the tables for publication.

Quality and process checks carried out

The Migration Statistics team at the Home Office undertake cross-checking of tables, to ensure consistent totals, as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked

against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere, and making comparisons between difference sources

- Admissions (passenger arrivals), see the '**How many people come to the UK each year?**' topic and below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Extensions of stay, see the '**How many people continue their stay in the UK?**' topic and below;
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the '**Why do people come to the UK?**': '**To work**', '**To study**' and '**For family reasons**' topics (these cross-cutting topics pull together subsets data from different sources);
- IPS estimates of immigration, see below;
- 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies', see below;
- 'Certificate of Sponsorship', see below; and
- Appeals of visa decisions, see below.
- Data on migration applications decided within published standards and the cost per decision for all permanent and temporary migration applications are published as Official Statistics by Home Office as part of their key input and impact indicators. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

Making comparisons between different sources

Admissions (Passenger arrivals)

Similarly to entry clearance visas, admissions (passenger arrivals) of non-EEA nationals are available by category. However, data on admissions and on entry clearance cannot be directly compared as they use different counts of the same group of people. Entry clearance counts number of visas, and arrivals counts number of passengers, both of which may count an individual twice in the same period, but for different reasons. In addition, the latest data released relate to different time periods.

There are a range of other reasons for the differences between these figures, which include:

- visas can be granted in one period and the individual arrives in a later period;
- the individual may not arrive;
- the individual may make more than one journey into the UK in the period the visa is valid;
- not all individuals arriving require a visa for entry; and
- arrivals are based on estimates of landing cards, while visas granted are sourced from the database used to process the visas.

Extensions of stay

Entry clearance visas granted and grants of an extension of stay should not be summed as they are indicators of different aspects of migration. Also, individuals could be counted in both if the two grants occur within the same year.

Extensions of stay in a particular category can be granted to those who entered on the same or a different category. The latter group of people are sometimes known as 'switchers'.

In some circumstances, extensions of stay may be applied for by someone who originally did not require an entry clearance visa due to their nationality and original intended length of stay.

Long-Term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration, are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM);
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

These data are published by ONS in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report. ONS's overall data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visas granted and passenger arrivals data, because the ONS totals include UK and other EU nationals, and because visas granted and passenger arrivals data include visitors and short-term migrants.

Entry clearance visas are only required for some nationals (see above), whereas all nationals are included in the IPS.

ONS uses the United Nations (UN) definition of 'migrants' which is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. Therefore, for non-EEA nationals, entry clearance visas are granted to those counted as long-term migrants and others besides. Some visas are only valid for less than a year, but for those granted with visas that could be for longer than a year, there is no actual information as to the intended length of stay.

In summary, the differences between visas granted and long-term migrants are:

- visas can be granted in one period and the individual arrives in a later period;
- the individual may not arrive;
- visa issuances include those intending to enter for less than 12 months and therefore not in the same group as long-term migrants;
- the visa granted may be different from the main reason of stay stated in response to the IPS, including those who switch visas while in the UK; and
- not all long-term migrants require a visa for entry, in particular EEA and Swiss nationals.

The LTIM and IPS estimates are based on a survey which is subject to sampling error. Details of the standard errors and variability are available from the link to the ONS website below.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration>

Appeals of visa decisions

Appeals of visa decisions are undertaken by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). HMCTS take a decision and then inform individual visa-issuing 'posts' of the outcome for onward processing of the visa in the case of allowed appeals. Data on appeals are published by the HMCTS and are available in Quarterly Statistics for the Tribunals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>

The Home Office have previously published data on appeals of visa decisions in Table vi_07 of the publication (visa appeals by country of issuing post). Results from the recent consultation with users of Immigration Statistics showed that respondents were content with the proposal to cease publication of Table vi_07, given that the Ministry of Justice already separately publishes statistics on entry

clearance visa appeal outcomes in the regular Tribunal Statistics. Hence Table vi_07 will no longer be published.

The Home Office response to the 2015 consultation with users of Immigration Statistics can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445291/response-immigration-consultation-2015.pdf

7 Admissions

On 5 August 2017 the Home Office launched a consultation on a proposal to end the requirement for non-EEA passengers to present a paper landing card on arrival into the UK from 1st October 2017. The consultation set out the statistical implications of the change and how to respond to the consultation, which closed on 2 September. The Home Office is currently reviewing the large number of responses it received. Details about the consultation can be found at <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2017/08/09/response-to-media-reporting-on-landing-cards/>

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Passenger arrivals, broken down by purpose of journey for non-EEA nationals (Tables ad_01 – ad_03) and
- Passengers initially refused entry, split by UK ports and juxtaposed controls, and country of nationality (Tables ad_04 and ad_04_q).

Data source

The total number of passengers entering the UK is derived from monthly returns made by Border Force staff based at 40 border control points (ports). Data from smaller ports are included in the returns made by these ports. Where data are not provided by a port (three ports in the current period), data are sourced from other organisations (i.e. Civil Aviation Authority; Department for Transport; and Eurotunnel). The total is shown broken down into three broad nationality groupings: 'British nationals'; 'Other EEA nationals'; and 'Non-EEA nationals'. There is no single source of data that allows for this split.

Non-EEA nationals are sourced from landing cards completed by passengers arriving at UK ports and published in Table ad_02.

Other EEA nationals (excluding British) are sourced from quarterly data from the International Passenger Survey produced by the Office for National Statistics.

British nationals are based on a calculation using the previous sources of data (see compilation method below).

Background on the statistics

All people admitted are subject to immigration control except British, other European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals.

Some major components of the total (visitors, passengers returning and passengers in transit) reflect, to a large extent, trends in international tourism. The number of other admissions (for example, for work, study or family reasons) are likely to reflect trends in international migration and related policy and legislative changes affecting those subject to immigration control, for example changes in immigration legislation, enlargement of the European Union, and the introduction of the points-based system for work and study in 2008 and 2009 respectively

Statistical information on non-EEA nationals is collated from landing cards after a passenger has been allowed entry to the country and does not form part of the border control or security process.

The cards are separated into two main arrival types, non-controlled or controlled, determined by the conditions a passenger is granted leave to enter under. Non-controlled relates to those passengers

entered on standard conditions of entry (e.g. visitors; passengers in transit; and passengers returning after a temporary absence abroad). Non-controlled arrivals accounted for 96% of all non-EEA passenger journeys made in 2017. All other cards are considered to be controlled cards.

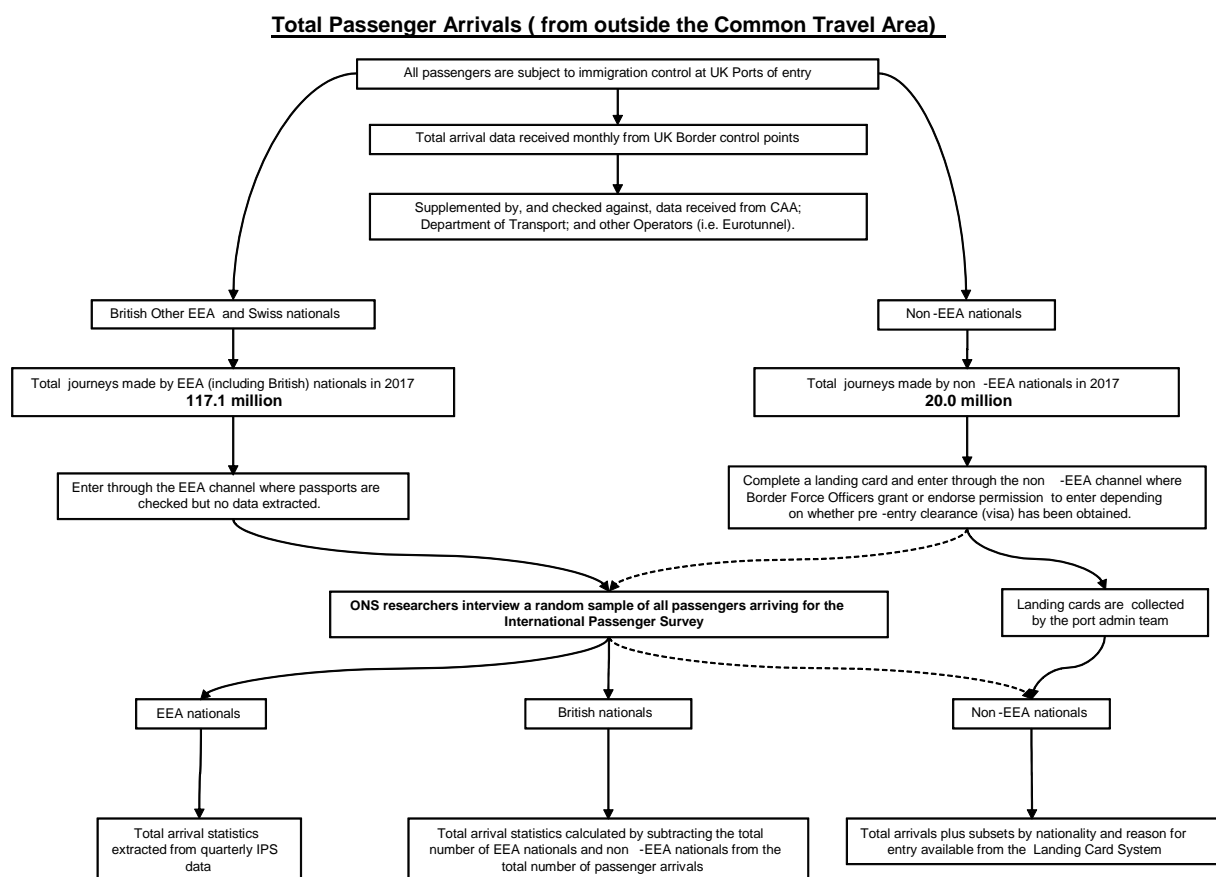
Non-controlled cards

Each month, non-controlled cards relating to arrivals at Heathrow and Gatwick terminals are sampled due to the large volume of arrivals at these ports (see compilation method for details). All other ports collate non-controlled data by counting all cards and providing a monthly return that shows the nationality and category of those arrivals.

Controlled cards

Controlled cards are sent by all ports to a central point within the Home Office. Information from each card (including that required for statistical analysis) is extracted and held on a central database.

Data are then provided to Migration Statistics to collate the data for publication.



Key terms

Many of the key terms are covered in the glossary of terms.

Passengers returning includes both people who are settled in the UK and who have been absent for less than two years, and those subject to a limited leave to enter who have returned within the time limit of that leave. The initial admissions of such passengers will have been counted in one of the specific categories of [Table ad_02](#) in the relevant time period.

Refugees, exceptional leave cases and their dependants covers people who have applied for asylum at ports (and their accompanying dependants) and who have been granted asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or who have been allowed to stay under the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) Exercise (see below), and are hence given leave to enter. Port asylum applicants are usually given temporary admission initially while their claim is being considered, and the grant of leave to enter may therefore occur some time after the initial entry to the country. These figures are not directly comparable with those in [Table as_01](#) since they exclude grants to in-country asylum applicants, and include dependants.

Others given leave to enter includes people of independent means and their dependants, non-EEA family members of EEA nationals, members of international organisations treated as exempt and serving forces and their dependants.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

The data on visitors, students, passengers in transit and passengers returning (previously settled) are based, mainly or partly depending on the category, on a sample of such people. Improvements to the sampling methodology were introduced from July 2003 and therefore caution should be exercised when making statistical comparisons with earlier periods at a detailed level.

Between February 2006 and May 2008, estimates were used to count non-controlled, non-EEA nationals arriving at Stansted Airport rather than processing individual landing cards. Data relating to controlled arrivals (e.g. work permit holders and their dependants, working holiday-makers, UK ancestry, domestic workers, au pairs, spouses, fiancé(e)s, etc.) were processed in the normal way.

For 2006 data it was possible to estimate Stansted non-controlled arrivals by category and nationality using 2005 actual figures, but this method could not be used to estimate 2007 and 2008 data. Instead, a very broad estimate has been produced for non-controlled non-EEA arrivals at Stansted that shows total arrivals and the category a passenger was granted leave to enter in. This does not, however, allow an estimation of the greater detail needed for some of the tables, for example nationality by reason of entry.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the passenger arrivals at UK ports of entry is considered to be high. These data:

- are largely based on administrative counts of the Home Office arrivals processes for non-EEA nationals at UK ports (including sampling for Heathrow and Gatwick), as well as port totals validated by comparison with an alternative source (Civil Aviation Authority);
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final; and
- undergo a detailed checking process, including comparison with alternative sources of data at the port level (Civil Aviation Authority), checking by line managers of coding carried out by

Border Force Officers, comparison with data for previous periods, and validation checks (see below for further details).

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as nationality is as a proportion relatively low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used to take account of such issues.

There are data quality issues concerning a very small fraction (<1%) of the admissions totals, for example:

- Out of the total 20.0 million arrivals in 2017 in the 'Other category' (Table ad_03_o), a very small proportion (50,145) were arrivals where the category of arrival was not known. It has not been possible to revisit these data. This issue has occurred in previous years when: 65,050 arrivals in 2016; 30,800 arrivals in 2015; 19,800 arrivals in 2014; 30,000 arrivals in 2013; and 59,700 arrivals in 2012 were recorded as category unknown.
- A few admissions were shown as being in PBS categories before the start of the PBS. It is not possible to determine the correct category of entry so these eight admissions have been included within the category 'Others given leave to enter'.

Compilation method

Passenger arrival data are sourced from returns made by individual ports and landing cards completed by non-EEA nationals crossing the UK border. Landing cards are either collated at Port or sent to the Landing Card Unit, Home Office (see 'background on the statistics'). Data are then input onto a database from which the data are collated and published as National Statistics quarterly (total passenger arrivals) or half-yearly (non-EEA nationals).

Combined with data from the International Passenger Survey, summary and detailed tables can be compiled using the derivation indicated below. A summary of the compilation process is given overleaf.

The derivation of the British nationals figure is as follows:

- a) Total passenger arrivals from monthly returns made by ports
- b) Non-EEA nationals from landing cards
- c) EEA nationals (except British nationals)

'British nationals' is calculated as (a) minus (b) minus (c).

Sampling method for Heathrow and Gatwick

Non-controlled cards are separated into two groups, 'American nationals' and 'other nationals'. They are then weighed to estimate the total number in each group. A random 1 in 50 sample is taken of all 'American national' arrivals and used to estimate the total for each category of arrival. Similarly, a complete count of the 'other nationals' group (all non-American non-EEA nationals) is made for a defined seven-day period in each month (the same weekly period is used for consistency; however, different weeks are used for each port). Final monthly totals for both individual nationalities and category of arrival are estimated based on these counts (for American nationals and for non-American non-EEA nationals) and the estimated total for non-EEA nationals. The combined total for Heathrow/Gatwick for American non-controlled cards represented 65% of the national total for 2016; for non-American non-EEA nationals, the corresponding figure was 62%.

Rounding method

For data on passenger arrivals, data of 1,000 or fewer are rounded to the nearest five. Numbers greater than 1,000 are rounded to three significant figures.

The technicalities of the rounding method are as follows: Expressing the unrounded figure using (normalised) scientific notation $Y \times 10^X$, Y is rounded to two decimal places, using the round-half-to-even method. The round-half-to-even method has been used so that, in the borderline case where the thousandth fraction of Y is exactly 0.005, Y is rounded (to two decimal places) up or down to the nearest even hundredth. The mid-way point is rounded up half of the time and down the other half under this method, so the method is unbiased. For example, rounding:

- $2,034,999 = 2.034999 \times 10^6$ results in 2,030,000;
- $2,035,000 = 2.035 \times 10^6$ results in 2,040,000, as 0.04 is the nearest even hundredth;
- $2,045,000 = 2.045 \times 10^6$ results in 2,040,000, as 0.04 is the nearest even hundredth; and
- $2,045,001 = 2.045001 \times 10^6$ results in 2,050,000.

Quality and process checks carried out

Data are quality assured at different stages.

- As part of the Border Force quality assurance process a percentage of landing cards are checked by line managers to ensure that Border Force Officers have coded the 'nationality' and 'category of entry' information legibly and accurately.
- Within the Landing Card Unit processes and equipment are regularly checked, reviewed and calibrated to ensure the accuracy of the sampling process.
- Each month data are checked to ensure ports have made a return and that the data received are in line with the same month in previous years. Ports are contacted where there are significant differences, or a return has not been made, and asked to confirm the data or explain the differences.
- Total passenger arrival data for airports are checked against monthly data provided by the Civil Aviation Authority. <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagetype=88&pageid=3&sglid=3>
- Total passenger arrivals data for the port of Dover are provided by the Department for Transport and subject to their internal quality assurance processes. Maritime Statistics publications are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics>
- Total passenger arrival data for passengers travelling on Eurostar are provided by Eurostar International Ltd and are subject to their internal quality assurance processes.
- Quarterly checks are made to identify errors on controlled cards. These relate to either incorrect codes or categories of entry in which only certain nationalities can gain entry. When identified the scanned image of the card is checked and the record amended.

Related statistics published elsewhere, and making comparisons between different sources

- Entry clearance visas, see the **Passenger arrivals, visitors and visas** topic for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Extensions of stay, see the **Extensions** topic;
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study and Family** topics;
- International Passenger Survey estimates of immigration, see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Home Office business plan impact and input indicators showing various management data, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration> .

- The Civil Aviation Authority publishes statistics relating to UK airports, available from <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagetype=88&pageid=3&sqlid=3>); and
- Maritime Statistics are published by the Department for Transport and are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics#publications-2017>

Historical data on travel trends from 1980 to 2017 were published in ONS's bulletin 'Travel trends 2017' <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/traveltrends2017>

Data on the clearance of passengers at the border within published standards and the cost of passengers cleared at the border are published as official statistics by the Home Office as part of their key input and impact indicators. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

Long-term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM): and
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

These data provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visa grants and passenger arrivals data, due to changes in immigration legislation and lack of information on the intentions of those not subject to immigration control; in particular, trends of student immigration are better tracked due to the introduction of the 'student visitor' category on 1 September 2007.

In summary, the differences between passenger arrivals and long-term migrants are:

- passenger arrivals are based on estimates of landing cards, while long-term migrants are based on the International Passenger Survey which uses different sampling methods;
- passenger arrivals include those intending to stay for less than 12 months and therefore not in the same group as long-term migrants;
- the entry code on the landing card may be different from the stated main reason of stay when answering the IPS, including those who switch visas while in the UK; and
- passenger arrivals by category exclude EEA and Swiss nationals, while data from the IPS relate to EU and non-EU nationals.

PASSENGERS INITIALLY REFUSED ENTRY

Data source

The statistics on passengers initially refused entry are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID).

Background on statistics

Individuals seeking to enter the UK are required to satisfy a Border Force Officer that they meet the relevant criteria for entry or admission, as defined under the Immigration Rules or the European Economic Area Regulations 2016 (EEA Regulations 2016).

In order to comply with this, passengers must present themselves, on arrival at a port of entry, to a Border Force Officer. Under Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 the officers have the power to conduct further examinations in cases where they are not immediately satisfied that the passenger meets the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Officers who exercise these powers are utilising the powers provided under Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

A Border Force Officer may examine a person who has arrived in the UK in order to determine the following: whether or not they are a British citizen; whether or not they may enter without leave; and whether:

- they have been given leave to enter which is still in force;
- they should be given leave to enter and for what period and on what conditions (if any); or
- they should be refused leave to enter.

EEA nationals and their non-EEA national family members are examined under the EEA Regulations 2016. In certain circumstances Border Force Officers may examine EEA nationals under the Immigration Act 1971. Under regulation 29, if there are doubts about an individual's claim to EEA nationality and therefore claim to free movement rights, or if there are grounds to believe an individual may be denied admission under regulation 23 on the grounds of public policy, public security, or public health or the misuse of rights provisions, the powers in certain paragraphs of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act may be invoked.

'Refused leave to enter' relates to non-asylum cases dealt with at ports of entry. A person who is initially refused entry may then, where the Border Force Officer deems it to be appropriate, be granted 'temporary admission'. Officers will only grant 'temporary admission' where the individual circumstances of the passenger are considered acceptable to warrant reporting restrictions and following successful completion of the appropriate risk assessment. This will be done as an alternative to immigration detention in line with guidance in the Government White Paper (1998). These grounds may be related to: an outstanding asylum claim; an administrative review against a refusal of entry in certain cases where a valid entry clearance or biometric residence permit is held or an appeal against a refusal of admission in certain EEA cases; or to allow travel arrangements to be made or removal directions to be set. A grant of 'temporary admission' results in the passenger being exceptionally admitted to the UK in accordance with the legal direction of a Border Force Officer and the passenger must comply with the related conditions in accordance with the Immigration Act 1971 for the duration of the 'temporary admission'.

The UK has several agreements with France, allowing the UK authorities to carry out immigration and other controls on French territory (called juxtaposed controls), and for French authorities to do the same in the UK. Juxtaposed controls have existed at the Channel Tunnel sites in Coquelles, France since the opening of the tunnel in 1994. An agreement with the French and Belgian authorities signed at the end of October 2004 allows juxtaposed controls at Brussels Gare du Midi. Juxtaposed controls are also in place in Paris, Calais, Calais Frethun, Lille and Dunkirk. These juxtaposed controls allow immigration controls to be carried out before a person physically enters the country.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Data on passengers initially refused entry have been available since 2004, and a split of those refused entry by port location (UK/juxtaposed controls) available from 2005 onwards.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of passengers initially refused entry at port is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of Border Force's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors;
- undergo a detailed reconciliation process; and
- are subject to internal data quality checks.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- In some cases, there is insufficient evidence on the database to confirm that a refusal took place, in which case it is not counted. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to Border Force. If the record is amended and the relevant additional information added, these refusals are counted in the revised figures; and
- Prior to 2005, the total number of those refused at juxtaposed controls was not recorded.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. The figures supplied to Eurostat are not quality assured to the same level as the data published in Immigration Statistics, as it is not possible to reconcile the data under the definitions used by Eurostat with the Home Office.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of passengers initially refused at entry data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the passengers initially refused at entry dataset with operational management teams within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each refusal in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. Where a refusal is found in only one of the extracts, a number of data quality checks are carried out, including that each refusal is correctly linked to a refusal screen on CID. The Home Office is also asked to investigate the discrepancies using detailed sources on individual cases. A case is only included in the published tables if: it appears in both extracts; or it appears in one of the extracts and Migration Statistics have checked that it is correctly recorded as a refusal.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- **Returns** – all people removed from the UK, including non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently departed.

8 Extensions

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Grants and refusals of extensions of (in-country) stay ([Tables ex_01 - expc_01_o](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of extensions of stay are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the processing of applications for extension of stay.

Background on statistics

Statistics on extensions of stay (also known as “after-entry applications to vary leave to remain”) relate to people wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK. An individual is required to apply for an extension or change in status before their existing permission to enter or stay expires. An individual may make more than one application in any given year.

Information on applications for extensions of stay is not published within the Immigration Statistics releases.

Using the data

EEA nationals are not subject to immigration control so are not included in the figures. When a country joins the EU its nationals are no longer included in the figures e.g. Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are not included from 2007 onwards.

The data in the briefing include dependants, except where stated otherwise, and take account of the outcomes of reconsiderations and appeals. All figures for 2017 and 2018 are provisional.

The numbers of applications and decisions made reflect changes over time in levels of immigration, as well as policy and legislative changes, including changes to immigration legislation and changes to the length of leave granted (either for initial entry clearance or for subsequent extensions). The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can also affect the number of decisions.

Entry clearance visas granted and grants of an extension of stay should not be summed as they are indicators of different aspects of migration. Also, individuals could be counted twice if the two grants occur within the same year.

Key terms

Key terms for extensions can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

Changing resource priorities within the Home Office as well as policy changes and other factors need to be considered when comparing the number of decisions on extensions of stay.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted an extension of stay is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following May; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex, category and nationality is low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no statistical grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. For a very small proportion of the data (less than 0.5%) further information is used for validation and classification purposes, further reducing missing data (e.g. where the sex of the applicant was not recorded, three cases in 2017 was classified based on the applicant's title).

Compilation method

Each quarter, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, an extract of extensions data is taken from the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

The previous immigration category of students granted an extension has been estimated for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The data are provisional and subject to revision.

Quality and process checks carried out

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Entry clearance visas, see the **Passenger arrivals, visitors and visas** topic;
- Passenger arrivals, see the **Passenger arrivals, visitors and visas** topic; and
- Statistics specific to work, study and family routes, see the **Work, Study and Family** topics.

A short statistical article on 'Extensions of stay by previous category', <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/extensions-of-stay-by-previous-category>, was published alongside the Immigration Statistics April to June 2013 release which was further updated by information in the Immigration Statistics January to March 2018 release How many people continue their stay in the UK topic <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018>.

Information on the changes to the student and high value work routes from April 2011 and to the family route from July 2012 are provided in the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline. Further details are available from <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05829.pdf>.

Data on migration applications decided within published standards, and the cost per decision for all permanent and temporary migration applications are published as Official Statistics by the Home Office as part of their performance data. Details are given on the GOV.UK website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

9 Settlement

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Grants of settlement, by category of grant, and refusals ([Tables se_01 - se_06](#)).

Data source

The statistics on grants and refusals of settlement are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID) and data from landing cards. The data derived from CID are administrative information used for the processing of applications for settlement. Before 2002, data were extracted from legacy systems.

Background on statistics

The settlement figures comprise people granted settlement on arrival (also known as 'indefinite leave to enter'), and people who have applied for settlement having lived in the UK for a certain length of time – for example, currently five years for workers in certain routes (also known as 'on removal of time limit' or 'indefinite leave to remain'). Following changes in immigration legislation in the 1980s, the majority of grants (around 98%) are to people already in the country.

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. people subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely – provide a measure of the longer-term immigration of people subject to immigration control. Settlement generally occurs after a period of two or more years of residency in the UK.

Most applicants also have to demonstrate knowledge of the English language. Those granted settlement are able to, without restriction: work or study; travel into and out of the UK; access state benefits, including access to the National Health Service (NHS); sponsor an immigration application, for example to be joined by a spouse or an elderly relative; and register their UK-born child as a British citizen. It does not entitle the person to a British passport (which requires British citizenship) or to vote in general elections, which requires Commonwealth or Irish Republic citizenship.

Dependants are eligible to apply for settlement at the same time as the main migrant, as long as they have lived with him or her in the UK for a probationary period. Dependants who entered the UK after 9 July 2012 are required to complete a five year probationary period before they can apply for settlement (previously there was a two year probationary period).

Grants are counted once in the year in which they occur; subsequent journeys are counted in [Table ad_02](#) as described in the **Admissions** topic notes. If a settled person is absent from the UK for more than two years he/she will be treated as a new arrival unless there are special circumstances; immediate settlement may be granted again, in which case the person would be counted in more than one year's figures of settlement, or the person might be re-admitted with limited leave.

Numbers of applications for settlement are not published within the Immigration Statistics releases.

Using the data

EEA nationals are not subject to immigration control so are not included in the figures. When a country joins the EU its nationals are no longer included in the figures e.g. Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are not included from 2007 onwards.

When comparing some aspects of settlement data, changes over time in levels of those entering the country, significant changes in the Immigration Rules, enlargement of the European Union, and various Home Office programmes need to be considered, including:

- family formation and reunion grants in 2003 to 2005 and from 2015 are likely to have been affected by the increase in the qualifying period for settlement, delaying grants that may otherwise have occurred earlier;
- work-related grants in 2006 to 2008 are likely to have been affected by the increase in the qualifying period in April 2006, delaying grants that may otherwise have occurred earlier; and
- asylum-related grants of settlement were at high levels between 2004 and 2007 due to the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain exercise and due to grants to people given exceptional leave four years previously.

The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can also affect the number of decisions.

From 2003 onwards, dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships may be shown separately in figures on issues and refusals of permanent residence documents, rather than in figures about settlement. Figures on issues and refusals of permanent residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members are shown in the EEA table ee 02. Further information can be found in the How many people continue their stay in the UK topic.

Table se_05 provides data on grants of settlement following a stay in the UK (on removal of time limit) to non-EEA nationals by age. The age profile is not representative of the age profile of everyone granted settlement, as a relatively high proportion of under 16s are granted settlement on arrival.

In Table se_06, Pakistan, which rejoined the Commonwealth on 1 October 1989, has been regarded as 'Commonwealth' for the whole period since 1960; South Africa, which rejoined the Commonwealth on 1 June 1994 has only been regarded as 'Commonwealth' for the period it has been a member; Mozambique joined the Commonwealth in 1995 and has been regarded as 'Commonwealth' from 1996; Zimbabwe has been included in 'Foreign' from 2004; Rwanda has been included in 'Commonwealth' from 2010, having joined the Commonwealth on 29 November 2009; The Gambia left the Commonwealth on 3 October 2013 and has been included in 'Foreign' from 2014. The Maldives left the Commonwealth on 13 October 2016. For the purposes of this table, the term 'Foreign' means 'non-Commonwealth' up to 1998 and 'non-Commonwealth and non-EEA' from 1999 onwards.

Key terms

Many of the key terms are covered in the glossary of terms.

Granted settlement in own right means that the individual was eligible to apply for settlement under one of the provisions of the Immigration Rules and this was not dependent on their relationship to another person (for example, a spouse or parent) already settled or settling at the same time.

Other grants on a discretionary basis include grants after a long period of continuous residence in the UK. It also includes those people granted settlement after applying under the regularisation scheme for overstayers (people who had permission to enter or remain in the UK for a limited time only and who had remained beyond the time allowed) and people granted indefinite leave outside the Immigration Rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases from before March 2007 involving unsuccessful asylum applicants.

Claim to right of abode upheld and other grants includes grants to those previously settled but then absent from the UK for some time and who, on return, were initially re-admitted with limited leave.

Grants of settlement to refugees and exceptional leave, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave cases are of those granted settlement after a period of residence in the UK. Between July 1998 and 30 August 2005, it also includes grants of settlement at the time of the grant of asylum.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted settlement is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative databases;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex, category and nationality is low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no statistical grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. For a very small proportion of the data (less than 0.5%) further information is used for validation and classification purposes, further reducing missing data (e.g. where the sex of the applicant was not recorded, 1 case in 2012 was classified based on the applicant's title).

Compilation method

Each quarter, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, an extract of in-country settlement data is taken from the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Data on persons admitted to the UK with an indefinite leave to enter visa are extracted from the Landing Card System (LCS) database. In 2017, settlement grants of this type made up only 4% of total grants.

Quality and process checks carried out

The data are checked for completeness and any data issues investigated.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked

against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Statistics specific to work and family routes, see the **Work** and **Family** topics;
- Asylum grants, see the **Asylum** topic;
- IPS estimates of long-term international migration, see below for an explanation of the differences between the data; and
- Data on the number of Life in the UK Tests taken and the pass rate, for settlement applications, are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

Data on migration applications decided within published standards, and the cost per decision for all permanent and temporary migration applications are published as Official Statistics by the Home Office as part of their immigration performance data. Details are given on the Migration transparency data webpage, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016' analysis (formerly known as the 'Migrant journey') is able to look at those who apply for settlement or indefinite leave to remain (ILR) and which visas they used to arrive at that point. Of those granted settlement in the 2016 cohort, 28% had originally been issued an initial starting visa for study, 26% for work, 12% were granted settlement on arrival. The remaining 34% had originally entered on other routes, including Family and Dependants joining or accompanying visas.

Source: Home Office, Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-changes-in-migrants-visa-and-leave-status-2016>, 22 February 2018.

Long-Term International Migration estimates of immigration

Estimates of people immigrating to the UK, broken down by country of citizenship and reason for immigration are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in two series:

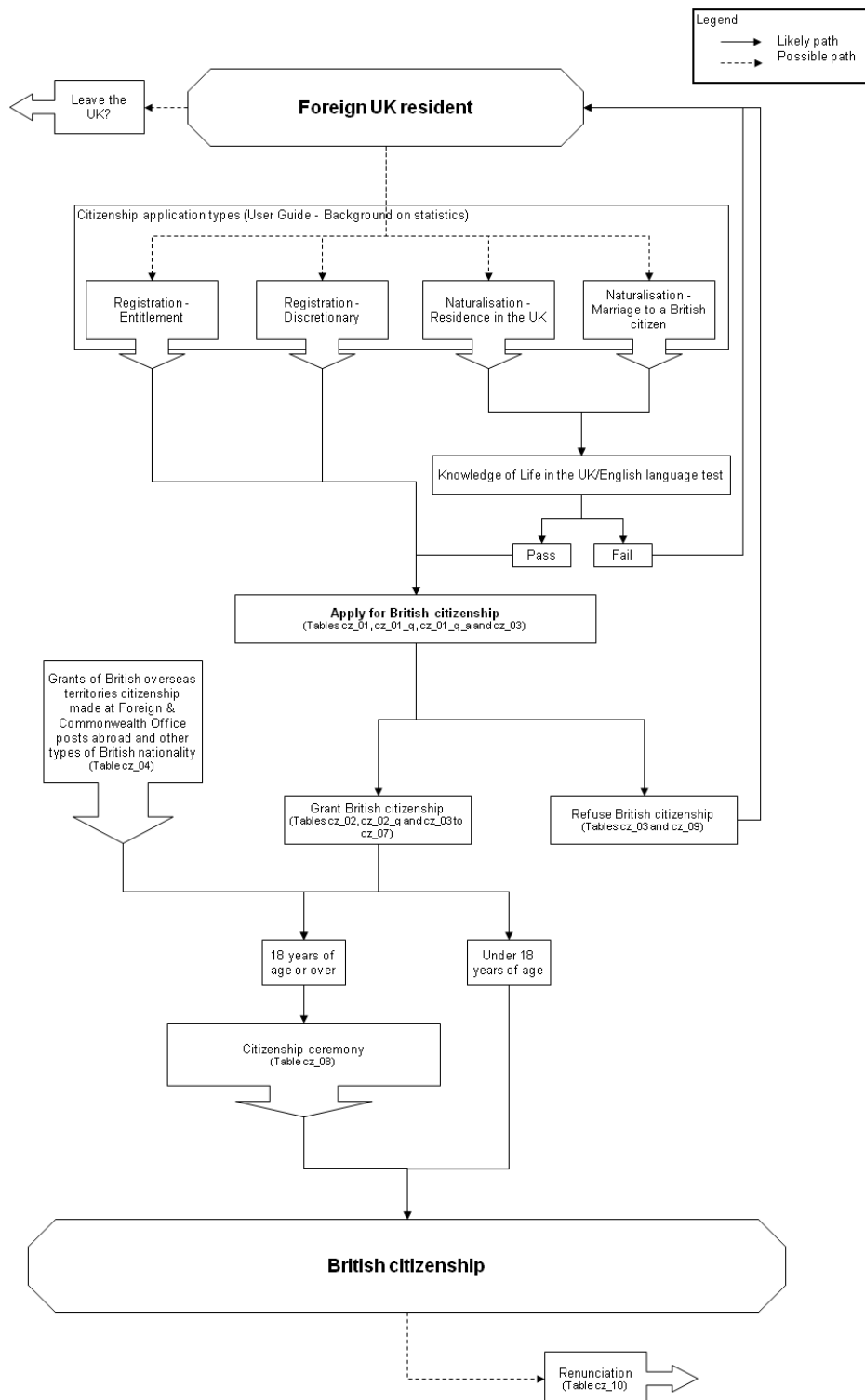
- Long-Term International Migration (LTIM): and
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, providing a series by country of citizenship and reason for immigration.

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. people subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely – provide a measure of the longer-term immigration of people subject to immigration control. Settlement generally occurs after a period of two or more years of residency in the UK.

By comparison, international migration as measured by the ONS International Passenger Survey is based on change of usual residence for a period of at least a year, using the UN definition of an international migrant: 'An international long-term migrant is defined as a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.'

10 Citizenship

Summary flowchart - British citizenship



Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Applications received for British citizenship ([Tables cz_01, cz_01_q, cz_01_q_a and cz_03](#));
- Grants of British citizenship, including basis of grant, previous country of nationality, age and sex ([Tables cz_02, cz_02_q and cz_03 – cz_07](#));
- Renunciations of British nationality ([Table cz_10](#));
- Refusals of British citizenship, including reason for refusal ([Tables cz_03 and cz_09](#)); and
- Attendances at British citizenship ceremonies ([Table cz_08](#)).

Data source

Data for late 2001 to date are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID), after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications, decisions and ceremonies attended. Data for 1990 to mid/late 2001 are derived from the legacy administrative database of citizenship grants used before the introduction of CID. Figures for 1962 to 1989 are drawn from the relevant published statistical bulletins or Command Papers for those years.

Background on the statistics

There are no separate figures for dependants because all applications for citizenship are from individuals treated as applicants in their own right (including those made on the basis of a relationship with an existing British citizen). The data also reflect the outcome of reconsidered decisions. All figures for 2016 and 2017 are provisional.

There are currently six forms of British nationality.

- **British citizens** are the majority. They have that citizenship usually through: birth, adoption, descent, registration, or naturalisation; and have the right of abode in the UK.
- **British overseas territories citizens** (BOTCs) – known as British dependent territories citizens (BDTCs) before February 2002 – have that citizenship through a connection with a British overseas territory such as Gibraltar, St Helena, etc. Hong Kong BDTCs lost that citizenship automatically on 1 July 1997 but may still hold another form of British nationality (see below). On 21 May 2002, BOTCs became British citizens. People granted BOT citizenship after 21 May 2002 may be able to register as a British citizen if they meet certain conditions.
- **British overseas citizens** (BOCs) are a smaller group connected with the former British colonies who, for the most part, did not acquire citizenship of the new country when it attained independence. Hong Kong BDTCs became BOCs on 1 July 1997 if they would otherwise have been stateless.
- **British nationals (overseas)** (BN(O)s) are a separate sub-group of former Hong Kong BDTCs. The vast majority of British Nationals (Overseas) are ethnically Chinese who became Chinese on 1 July 1997. Although their BDTC status was lost on that date they are, as BN(O)s, entitled to hold a British passport.
- **British subjects** (BSs) are a reducing group of people who normally hold that status either:
 - (a) by virtue of their birth in Eire (now the Irish Republic) before 1 January 1949;
 - (b) because they were BSs before 1 January 1949 through a connection with a place which became a Commonwealth country on that date and, although they were potentially citizens of that country, did not acquire citizenship of that or any other country before 1 January 1983. Known as British subjects without citizenship before 1983, they would lose that status if they acquired another nationality.

- **British protected persons (BPPs)** are a small group of people who hold that status through a connection (normally birth) with a place which was either a UK protectorate, protected state, mandated or trust territory. In most cases, BPP status was lost if the place was part of a country which attained independence or if they acquired another nationality.

Further information on the types of British nationality can be found on the Home Office web site:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/citizenship>.

Citizenship is granted under the British Nationality Act 1981 which came into force on 1 January 1983, subsequently amended by the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. Categories of grants relate to the section of the British Nationality Act 1981 under which citizenship was acquired. The following is a brief summary of the provisions of the relevant sections of the Act, grouped as they appear in table cz_07.

Naturalisation based on residence

- s.6(1) – naturalisation of an adult by virtue of five years' residence in the UK or UK Crown service.

Naturalisation based on marriage

- s.6(2) – naturalisation of an adult who is married to a British citizen by virtue of three years' residence in the UK.

Entitlement to registration as an adult

- s.7 – transitional entitlements to registration of a Commonwealth citizen who was resident in the UK.
- s.10(1) – entitlement to acquire British citizenship by a person who had renounced citizenship of the UK and Colonies before 1983.
- s.13(1) – entitlement to resume British citizenship by a person who has previously renounced it.
- s.8(1) – transitional entitlement to registration of a woman still married since before 1983 to a man who became a British citizen on 1 January 1983.

Entitlement to registration as a child

- s.1(3) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the UK after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a British citizen or becomes settled in the UK.
- s.1(3A) – entitlement to registration of a minor born in the UK after 1 January 1983 when one of his/her parents later becomes a member of the armed forces.
- s.3(2) – entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old born outside the UK after 1 January 1983 (or outside the UK and the qualifying territories since 21 May 2002) to a parent who was a British citizen by descent.
- s.3(5) – entitlement to registration of a minor born outside the UK after 1 January 1983 (or outside the UK and the qualifying territories after 21 May 2002) to a parent who was a British citizen by descent where the minor and parents are resident in the UK or a qualifying territory.
- s.4D – entitlement to registration for children born outside the UK after 13 January 2010 to a parent serving in the armed forces.
- s.9 – transitional entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old born abroad on or after 1 January 1983 who, if they had been born before 1 January 1983 and had been registered by a consul, would have become a British citizen on 1 January 1983.

Entitlement to registration on other grounds

- s.1(4) – entitlement to registration of a person in the UK after 1 January 1983 who spent the first ten years of his/her life in the UK.
- s.4B – entitlement to registration for British overseas citizens, British subjects, British protected persons and British nationals (overseas) who have no other citizenship or nationality.
- s.4C – entitlement to registration for certain people born after 7 February 1961 and before 1 January 1983 to mothers who were citizens of the UK and Colonies at the time of their birth.

- s.4F - entitlement to registration if the person meets the general conditions in 4E and would be entitled to be registered as a British citizen under the specified registration provisions of the 1981 Act had the person's mother been married to the person's natural father at the time of his or her birth.
- s.4G - entitlement to registration if the person meets the general conditions in 4E and if, at any time after commencement of the 1981 Act, the person would automatically have become a British citizen at birth under the 1981 Act or the British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act 1983, had the person's mother been married to the person's natural father at the time of the person's birth.
- s.4H - entitlement to registration if the person meets the general conditions in 4E, was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies immediately before commencement of the 1981 Act and would automatically have become a British citizen under the 1981 Act had the person's mother been married to the person's natural father at the time of the person's birth.
- s.4I - entitlement to registration if the person meets the general conditions in 4E, is an eligible former British national or non-British national and would have automatically become a British citizen under the 1981 Act had the person's mother been married to the person's natural father at the time of the person's birth.
- s.4(2) – entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen, a British overseas citizen, a British national (overseas), a British subject or a British protected person resident in the UK.
- Schedule 2 – entitlement to registration of a stateless person.

Entitlement to registration under section 5

- s.5 – entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen from Gibraltar.

Discretionary registration as an adult

- s.10(2) – discretionary registration of a person connected with the UK who renounced citizenship of the UK and Colonies before 1983.
- s.13(3) – discretionary registration of a person who has previously renounced British citizenship.
- s.8(2) and 8(3) – transitional discretionary registration of a woman married before 1983 to a man who either (a) became or would have become a British citizen but for his death (and they were no longer married) or renounced citizenship (and they were still married).

Discretionary registration as a child

- s.3(1) – discretionary registration of a minor as a British citizen.

Discretionary registration on other grounds

- s.4A – discretionary registration for adults and minors who are British overseas territories citizens by connection with a qualifying territory.
- s.4(5) – discretionary registration on the grounds of Crown service in a British overseas territory of a British overseas territories citizen, a British overseas citizen, a British national (overseas), a British subject or a British protected person.

Transitional arrangement, small numbers of which were granted mainly under sections 6(1) and 6(2) between 1990 and 1999

- Schedule 8 – relates to applications made before the commencement of the 1981 Act and provides that: (a) applications will continue to be decided in accordance with the provisions of the previous nationality Acts and (b) applicants, if successful, acquire the citizenship they would have acquired on 1 January 1983 if the application had been decided before 1983.

Under the British Nationality Act 1981 it is possible for British citizens who are over 18 years of age and of full capacity to apply to renounce their nationality, although renunciation will only be granted where that applicant already has or is about to acquire citizenship of another country. Further information on renunciation of British nationality is available on the Home Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/renounce-british-nationality>.

Key terms

Grant: A positive outcome of an application for British citizenship before attending a citizenship ceremony by applicants over 18 years of age. Children under 18 do not have to take the Oath/Affirmation or Pledge.

Rejection: In 2005 and 2006, new processes for rejecting applications, before any substantive consideration of the case, were introduced. Those with situations where the applicant is found to be British already or whose application is not at the outset supported by the requisite evidence of entitlement to or qualification for British citizenship.

Entitlement: The applicant satisfied the conditions specified by the 1981 Act.

Discretionary: The success of the application depends, either in whole or in part, on the Secretary of State being satisfied on the basis of all the information at their disposal that it would be appropriate to grant.

Ceremony attended: A ceremony organised by County or Local Authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age for British citizenship. At the ceremony the applicant takes the Oath or Affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and the Pledge of loyalty to the UK. Since 1 January 2004 this has been the final stage in the process of attaining British citizenship.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Reported figures of applications have previously included both British citizenship and right of abode in the UK as a Commonwealth national, although right of abode decisions are not included in the tables on decisions. From 2002, it has been possible to separately identify right of abode and British citizenship applications allowing the figures to be presented separately.

The figures relating to grants of British citizenship to residents of Hong Kong in the UK from 2006 onwards are drawn from a new source of more complete data. It is understood that figures for 2005 and earlier years significantly undercount grants of this type. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series between 2005 and 2006.

Figures relating to grants of renunciation of British nationality between 2002 and 2004 were subject to minor revision in Immigration Statistics October – December 2011. They were revised to include cases found to have been previously excluded due to their being recorded using an unexpected value within the administrative database. The increases were from 1,141 to 1,194 in 2002 (up 5%), from 684 to 755 in 2003 (up 10%) and from 675 to 680 in 2004 (up 1%). Data for 2005 onward were unaffected by this issue.

The reported number of British citizenship ceremonies attended, 2004 to 2015, were subject to minor revisions in Immigration Statistics January to March 2017. A further 1,761 persons attending ceremonies in 2015 were added due to late reporting by some authorities, increasing the total by 2.1% from 82,960 to 84,721. Previously small revisions were made for the same reason in Immigration Statistics January to March 2013, Immigration Statistics January to March 2014, Immigration Statistics January to March 2015 and Immigration Statistics January to March 2016; details of which are available on request. Revisions in the latest May 2017 release are shown in the table below.

Citizenship ceremony attended data revisions, May 2017

Year ceremony attended	Published May 2016	Published May 2017	Revision	% revision
	Ceremonies attended	Ceremonies attended		

2004	43,724	43,977	253	0.6%
2005	119,758	119,986	228	0.2%
2006	111,249	111,533	284	0.3%
2007	124,840	125,055	215	0.2%
2008	95,987	96,205	218	0.2%
2009	155,649	156,122	473	0.3%
2010	146,867	147,175	308	0.2%
2011	136,405	136,668	263	0.2%
2012	145,888	146,267	379	0.3%
2013	157,142	157,430	288	0.2%
2014	104,151	104,655	504	0.5%
2015	82,960	84,721	1,761	2.1%
2016	z	111,596	z	z

Figures for citizenship applications and decisions in 2015 and 2016 were revised in May 2017, correcting a issue found in the data extraction process that had lead to incorrect biographic details (date of birth, sex and nationality) being included in the reported data in some cases. The headline totals for these periods change very little due to this revision (grants in 2015 increase by 56 from 118,053 to 118,109 and for 2016 fall by 36 from 149,457 to 149,421). The revisions main impact is in the calculated ages of persons granted British citizenship shown in table cz_05.

When originally published in May 2016 table cz_05 showed 8,472 male children under 16 and 8,154 female children under 16 granted British citizenship in 2015. After revision these figures rose to 13,936 and 13,281 respectively; increases of 64.5% and 62.9%. The adult age bands consequently reduced in the revised data.

Citizenship grants for 2010 to 2014 were revised in the May 2017 release to include small numbers of decisions under section 4D of the British Nationality Act 1981 previously excluded because of an oversight in the computer code used to categorise records for publication purposes.

Section 4D relates to an entitlement to registration for children born outside the UK after 13 January 2010 to a parent serving in the armed forces. The revision has most notably affected the figures for grants to former nationals of Fiji and Nepal; countries with historic ties to the UK armed services. Revisions in the May 2017 release are shown in the table below:

Citizenship grants by selected nationality 2010 to 2014 data revisions, May 2017

Year of grant	Country of previous nationality	Published May 2016	Published May 2017	Revision	% revision
		Grants	Grants		
2010	Total	195,046	195,094	48	0.0%
	Fiji	96	100	4	4.2%
	Nepal	2,118	2,150	32	1.5%
2011	Total	177,785	177,934	149	0.1%
	Fiji	105	123	18	17.1%
	Nepal	3,468	3,563	95	2.7%

2012	Total	194,209	194,370	161	0.1%
	Fiji	215	243	28	13.0%
	Nepal	4,282	4,368	86	2.0%
2013	Total	207,989	208,095	106	0.1%
	Fiji	443	468	25	5.6%
	Nepal	7,447	7,491	44	0.6%
2014	Total	125,653	125,754	101	0.1%
	Fiji	222	247	25	11.3%
	Nepal	2,667	2,707	40	1.5%

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

The number of applications and decisions made reflect changes over time in levels of those entering the country, as well as policy and legislative changes, which, for example, may affect the number of people potentially eligible to apply. The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can also affect the number of decisions.

The number of decisions made in 2008 was comparatively low when staff resources were temporarily transferred from decision-making to deal with the administration of new applications.

Grant levels reduced in the second and third quarters of 2014 as UKVI resources were used to assist HM Passport Office.

Grant rates fell in 2015 following the introduction of enhanced checks on cases requiring higher levels of assurance in April 2015.

Data quality

The data include the outcome of reconsidered decisions. These may result in outcomes recorded in later periods i.e. a refusal which is followed by a reconsidered decision may be shown as a grant in a later period. Such reconsiderations appear to make little difference to the overall trends in the data, based on the size of revisions made.

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted and refused British citizenship is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following May and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and

- undergo a thorough reconciliation process including some data cleansing.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases (under 0.1%).

- In a small number of cases (under 0.01% annually) data appear inconsistent, for example where the recorded case type and section of the British Nationality Act 1981 do not represent a valid combination under the published Immigration Rules. These records are excluded from the published data and, where resources allow, are passed back to UK Visas and Immigration for investigation and correction.
- In Table cz_05 data for 2002 includes a significant proportion of records (27%) for which the sex of the applicant was not recorded. This was due to the introduction of a new administrative database (the Case Information Database – CID) in late 2001. Processes for the capture of this information were introduced during 2002, reducing missing values to 2% or less of the total in 2003 and subsequent years.

Additionally, data relating to decisions are subject to revisions as a result of the outcomes of the administrative reconsideration of a small (0.01%) proportion of cases.

Applications made in the first quarter of 2012 were originally estimated based on a combination of records in the Home Office administrative IT system and manual counts of applications which had not yet been recorded on the IT system. These estimates were rounded to the nearest 100. The estimates of application figures were revised to show the actual numbers in May 2013. The estimate for the first quarter of 2012 of 53,600 first published in May 2012 was replaced with actual figures derived from the IT system of 54,972 in May 2013.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are slight differences between the presentations of nationality breakdowns in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat, relating to the regional geographic groupings.

Compilation method

On a quarterly basis, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, extracts of British citizenship applications and decisions data are taken from a weekly refreshed 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

A further extract of applications data is taken three weeks after the end of the period to mitigate a degree of late recording on CID, due to resource issues within the Home Office. This is, where necessary, combined with manual counts of applications awaiting entry on the database to arrive at estimates of applications received. These data are revised subsequently following input of applications data.

Annual data on persons attending citizenship ceremonies are extracted from CID as part of an annual process. Data for grants of British Overseas Territory Citizenship granted in the British Overseas Territories (see Table cz_05) are supplied annually by Foreign and Commonwealth Office personnel in the British Overseas Territories.

Home Office processes require persons granted British citizenship who go on to sponsor another person applying for a change in their immigration status to be recorded as a British citizen in CID; hence a small number of records (under 0.5% of the data) in the original CID extract are found to have a recorded nationality of British Citizen, rather than the applicant's original nationality. A data-cleansing exercise is undertaken quarterly by staff in Migration Statistics to recode the recorded

nationalities in these cases within the statistical dataset, by referring to the audit logs for the nationality field in CID.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the summary figures for applications along with grants and refusals of citizenship with teams within the Home Office, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2% the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2% may occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of the Home Office operational management information or due to slight differences in the date on which data were extracted from CID.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

Eurostat comparisons of grants of citizenship across different European countries: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistics-in-focus/-/KS-SF-11-024>; and

- Data on the number of Life in the UK Tests taken and the pass rate, for citizenship applications, are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>
- Eurostat comparisons of grants of citizenship across different European countries: 'EU Member states granted citizenship to more than 800,000 persons in 2010' (EUROSTAT Statistics in Focus 45/2012). <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistics-in-focus/-/KS-SF-12-045>
- Eurostat news release: 'EU Member States granted citizenship to fewer persons in 2015' (66/2017 - 21 April 2017) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7991019/3-21042017-AP-EN.pdf/4aa9aa53-e1f4-491c-99e9-a832a4569ecf>
- Eurostat news release: 'EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 1 million persons in 2016' (59/2018 - 9 April 2018) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8791096/3-09042018-AP-EN.pdf/658455fa-c5b1-4583-9f98-ec3f0f3ec5f9>

The regular data on grants (acquisition) and renunciation (loss) of citizenship collected by Eurostat for all Member States is published at:

Acquisition of citizenship data for European member states, 2002 to 2016.
http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_acq&lang=en

Loss of citizenship data for European member states, 2007 to 2015.
http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_lct&lang=en

11 Asylum

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published – as National Statistics – on:

- Applications for asylum (including fresh claims) ([Tables as_01 – as_04, as_06](#));
- Initial decisions on asylum applications (grants and refusals of asylum, discretionary leave and humanitarian protection) ([Tables as_01, as_02, as_05, as_06](#));
- Asylum applications received in Europe and elsewhere ([Table as_07](#));
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs) ([Tables as_08 – as_09](#));
- Age-disputed cases ([Table as_10](#));
- The fast-track process ([Tables as_11 and as_12](#));
- Non-suspensive appeals ([Table as_13_q](#));
- Asylum appeals ([Table as_14](#));
- Applications for asylum support and those in receipt of support ([Tables as_15 – as_18](#));
- Resettlement schemes ([Table as_19_q – as_20_q](#)).
- Family reunion visas granted ([Table as_21_q](#))
- Transfers under the Dublin regulation ([Table as_22 – as_23](#))

Data source

The data relating to the processing of asylum applications and appeals are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID).

From March 2018, asylum support data are extracted from the asylum support database ATLAS. Prior to this period, data were extracted from the ASYS system.

Resettlement scheme data up until the end of September 2015 were extracted from a separate database maintained by the Home Office, specifically for this process. From September 2015 onwards, resettlement scheme data have been recorded on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID).

Data on family reunion visas are extracted from the Trojan system which is used to collect data on entry clearance visas.

Background on statistics

Asylum is protection given by a country to someone who is fleeing persecution in their own country. It is given under the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention defines a refugee as a person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

The criteria for recognition as a refugee, and hence the granting of asylum, are set out in the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, extended in its application by the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. The 1951 Convention is given effect in British law by references in the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, the Asylum and Immigration Appeals

Act 1993, the Refugee and Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006, and the Immigration Rules.

Under paragraph 334 of the Immigration Rules, an asylum applicant will be granted asylum in the UK if the Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- they are in the UK or have arrived at a port of entry in the UK;
- they are a refugee, as defined in regulation 2 of the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006;
- there are no reasonable grounds for regarding them as a danger to the security of the UK;
- they do not, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitute danger to the community of the UK; and
- refusing their application would result in them being required to go (whether immediately or after the time limited by any existing leave to enter or remain), in breach of the Geneva Convention, to a country in which their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group.

An application which does not meet these criteria will be refused. In certain circumstances an applicant may be granted humanitarian protection (HP) in accordance with paragraph 339C of the Immigration Rules, discretionary leave (DL) for a limited period, or a grant of leave to remain (LTR) under family or private life rules.

Under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the Immigration Rules, there is no obligation to consider an asylum application made overseas. An individual seeking international protection would be expected to approach the authorities or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in the first country of refuge and has no entitlement to travel to the UK in order to submit an asylum claim or further submissions. No overseas applications by the individual should be recorded as having been lodged since 1992.

The figures for applications only relate to the initial application for asylum. They exclude applications to upgrade HP or DL to refugee status and for further extensions of stay. Grants of HP, DL or LTR under family or private life rules are only recorded in the statistics on the first occasion that it is granted, not again when it is extended.

Fresh claims

When a human rights or asylum claim has been refused, withdrawn or treated as withdrawn under paragraph 333C of Immigration Rule 353 and any appeal relating to that claim is no longer pending, the decision-maker will consider any further submissions and, if rejected, will then determine whether they amount to a fresh claim. The submissions will amount to a fresh claim if they are significantly different from the material that has previously been considered. The submissions will only be significantly different if the content:

- had not already been considered; and
- taken together with the previously considered material, created a realistic prospect of success, notwithstanding its rejection.

Asylum cases pending

This series counts the number of asylum cases lodged since April 2006 that are pending. These pending cases include those awaiting an initial decision, together with those that have had an initial decision and are still pending further review, such as those in the appeals process, but exclude those that are pending a judicial review. They do not include failed asylum seekers.

Further work is needed to assure the quality of the earlier records before information on applications from earlier years can be published.

An individual's asylum application may be pending a decision for a number of reasons, including reasons within and outside the control of the Home Office. These reasons may include, but are not exclusively, the complexity of the case, the paperwork provided by the individual, the resources available to process the application and the decision by an individual as to whether to appeal against an initial decision.

Outcomes of applications

The analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications are the recorded outcomes of the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, as at a particular time. A proportion of applications made in each of the years provided will be awaiting the outcome of an initial decision or an appeal. Applications from earlier years will inherently have had longer for the case to be processed than those from more recent years and will therefore have a smaller proportion of cases awaiting an outcome. This dataset is updated, in full, annually.

There are a large variety of routes that an asylum application can take to a final asylum outcome. As a consequence, analysis of the outcomes of asylum applications in any one year requires interpretation for a small percentage of cases. This interpretation is undertaken consistently by established computer code. The proportions and underlying figures for final outcomes of the analysis of applications for the group (or cohort) of applicants in any one year, are therefore estimated.

Children granted asylum or protection

Breakdowns of the number of children (under the age of 18) granted asylum or an alternative form of protection, are published for the first time in February 2018 in table as_02_q_c. This includes all children granted protection as part of an asylum application, either as a main applicant, or as a dependant. For applications, age is as at time of application. For initial decisions, age is as at time of decision.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

An Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC) is a person under 18, applying for asylum on his or her own right, who is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law has responsibility to do so.

The method for counting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children was changed in August 2013.

The counting definition for applications from a UASC now used is: An asylum application received from a main applicant who is treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day from the date of their application, up until, where applicable, the initial decision.

The counting definition for an initial decision or withdrawal is: An initial decision on or application withdrawal from someone treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day between the dates of their asylum application and the initial decision, though excluding anyone whose recorded date of birth indicates they were over 18 at the date of the application.

The age groups provided relate to the age at application, initial decision or withdrawal (as appropriate), based on the date of birth recorded when the data were extracted.

Age-disputed cases

When an asylum applicant's claim to be a child is doubted and they have little or no evidence to support their claimed age, the Home Office will conduct an initial age assessment. Applicants whose physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of

age will be treated as adults until there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed. All other applicants will be afforded the benefit of doubt and treated as children until an assessment of their age has been completed.

The method for counting age disputed applications was changed in August 2013. The counting definition for age disputes raised now used is: An age assessment request raised for a main asylum applicant. 'Age disputes raised' relates to the number of age assessment requests made in a quarter where the asylum application was made in the same or an earlier quarter, together with asylum applications raised where there is an age assessment outstanding from a previous quarter. Within the quarterly table, the data are split based on whether the asylum application was existing (i.e. made in a previous period).

The number of 'age disputes resolved' are also provided and relate to the number of age assessments marked as completed during a quarter. The age groups provided relate to the age the individual was considered to be when the age assessment request were raised, based on the date of birth recorded when the data were extracted. It is expected that the date of birth would have been updated to reflect the outcome of the age assessment. Therefore these data are provided to give an indication of proportions of individuals who have been subject to an age assessment that are considered to be a child or adult as result of the assessment. Not all age disputes are fully recorded as closed following an age assessment, so data quality is not considered as high for resolved age disputes as other asylum data sets.

Fast-track process

The Detained Fast-Track process (DFT) was an expedited process for considering the asylum claims of those claimants who were held in detention. Asylum cases were considered for the fast-track process by the NAAU (National Asylum Allocations Unit) only if there was a power in immigration law to detain and it appeared that a quick decision was possible. Children; pregnant women; families (except in some instances of a family split); and people with a physical or mental condition (which could not be treated in a detained situation) were not considered for the process. A decision on the asylum case, including appeal, was normally concluded within 14 days under the former process.

Cases were taken out of the fast-track system before the initial decision and processed by Regional Asylum Teams under the non-detained system. Reasons for removal from the fast-track process included: pre-decision appointments made by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture or the Helen Bamber Foundation; applicants granted bail by the courts; and cases reclassified by the courts.

The Immigration and Asylum Appeals (Fast-Track Procedure) Rules set out the procedure for appealing if asylum and leave to enter was refused for those designated as fast-track cases. The Fast Track Procedure Rules had shorter time limits for the appellant and the respondent throughout the appeals process. Those claimants on the fast-track scheme were detained during the course of their appeal. The rules also set out the times within which the Tribunal dealt with the appeals. The rules included safeguards, which enabled appellants who were not suitable for the fast-track process to be transferred from the scheme to the main appellate system.

On 26 June 2015, the Court of Appeal declared the Fast Track Rules (FTR) unlawful. A separate legal challenge highlighted risks surrounding the protections within the system for particularly vulnerable applicants. In light of these issues, on 2 July 2015, the government suspended the operation of the detained fast track (DFT) policy until it is satisfied that the right structures are in place to minimise any unfairness.

The decision to suspend the detained fast track policy means that until such notice is given, no applicant for asylum may be detained in the DFT process. It does not mean that asylum seekers cannot be detained – it simply means they cannot be detained under the DFT policy. All asylum cases in detention must be held in accordance with the usual detention criteria.

The non-suspensive appeals process

Applicants who are refused asylum, HP and DL may have the application for asylum termed clearly unfounded, whether due to their country of nationality being a 'designated' state or on a case-by-case basis. Where an application is clearly unfounded, any subsequent appeal has to be made through the non-suspensive appeals process (see glossary of terms).

The table for Non-Suspensive Appeals been redesigned to provide more detailed information and clarity of definitions. 'Total eligible for the non-suspensive appeals process' includes main applicants who have been refused asylum, HP or DL where the refusal was certified as clearly unfounded. Previously this category included a broader definition; main applicants refused asylum, HP or DL.

Since 22 May 2007 the designated countries have been: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Ecuador, Gambia (males only), Ghana (males only), India, Kenya (males only), Liberia (males only), Macedonia, Malawi (males only), Mali (males only), Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nigeria (males only), Peru, Serbia, Sierra Leone (males only), South Africa and Ukraine. Kosovo was designated until 17 February 2008, but returned to the list on 3 March 2010. South Korea has been designated since 3 March 2010. Jamaica was designated until 3 March 2015, when designation was ruled unlawful by a Supreme Court judgment.

Asylum appeals

The HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) (formerly Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum and the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT)), an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, hears and decides appeals against decisions made by the Home Office. It consists of the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber and Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC). The First-tier Tribunal Judge will decide whether the appeal against the decision is successful or not (this is known as the decision being 'allowed' or 'dismissed').

Before April 2005, there was a two-tier system for asylum and immigration appeals. Appeals were made initially to Immigration Adjudicators in the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) at the first tier, with an onward right to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT). If the application to the IAT was refused there was the right to seek a statutory review of that decision by a High Court judge (on the papers). If the application was allowed by the Tribunal, or by a judge following statutory review, and the appeal was then given a fresh decision by the IAT, parties could appeal to the Court of Appeal on the ground that the IAT made an error of law when reaching its decision.

The creation of the AIT, under the provisions of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004, intended to improve the speed and finality of the appeals and returns system. The provisions of the Act aim to tackle abuse of the asylum system and illegal immigration; encourage properly managed legal migration that benefits the UK economically and socially; and help to integrate legal migrants, genuine refugees and new citizens.

Between April 2005 and 1 February 2010 there was a single-tier system for asylum and immigration appeals, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). Appeals before the AIT were decided by Immigration Judges.

In the event that a party (either the appellant or the Secretary of State) thinks that the First-tier Tribunal made an error of law when reaching its decision, they can apply to the First-tier Tribunal for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. If the application is refused, an application for permission to appeal can be made directly to the Upper Tribunal. Cases heard at the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber are a subset of data published in Quarterly statistics for the Tribunals Service. Following consideration a party may request a High Court Judge and, subsequently, the Court of Appeal to consider the case. Data on appellate cases heard by a High Court Judge or the Court of Appeal are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/courts-and-sentencing-statistics>.

Asylum appeals data published by Home Office Migration Statistics are sourced from the Case Information Database (CID) and relate to main asylum applicants at the First-Tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. Records on the database are updated from record-level data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who produce similar statistics for main appellants. This procedure provides consistent data across all datasets relating to asylum published in the release Immigration Statistics, but different from those published by The Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

MOJ published statistics provide counts of principal appellants sourced from the HMCTS database. Within these statistics there tend to be higher numbers of principal appellants than main asylum applicant appeals because:

1) HMCTS has a wider definition of asylum appeals, including some human rights cases and appeals on extensions of asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave; and

2) principal appellants include some individuals classed as dependants by the Home Office.

The MOJ statistics on immigration and asylum appeals at First-Tier Tribunal and subsequent stages are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>

Asylum support

Section 95 and 98 asylum support

Section 95 asylum support was set up to provide for asylum seekers while they await a decision on their asylum application. Asylum seekers who apply for asylum support under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 can receive:

- accommodation only (where they are allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and must otherwise support themselves); or
- subsistence only (where they receive cash to support themselves but must find their own accommodation); or
- accommodation and subsistence (where they are allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and cash to support themselves).

The provision of initial accommodation is a temporary arrangement for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and who are:

- supported under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and are awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State on whether they may receive asylum support under Section 95 of that Act; or
- supported under Section 95 and are awaiting transfer to their dispersal accommodation.

Section 4 asylum support

Individuals are generally eligible for support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if their asylum application has been finally determined as refused but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK. These reasons are that:

- the applicant is in the process of taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the UK because of a physical impediment to travel or some other medical reason; or
- the applicant is unable to leave the UK because there is no current viable route of return to the country of origin; or

- permission has been obtained to proceed with a judicial review against a decision relating to the person's asylum claim; or
- the provision of support is otherwise necessary to avoid a breach of a person's human rights.

Support under Section 4 is provided in the form of accommodation and vouchers to cover the cost of food and other basic essential items.

Section 4(1)(a) (b) and (c) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 had provided the Secretary of State with the power to provide accommodation and support for persons temporarily admitted to the United Kingdom, released from detention, or released on bail from detention. These provisions were repealed with effect from 15 January 2018, to coincide with the commencement of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 provides a replacement means of providing support to individuals granted immigration bail, if they meet published criteria.

Under the previous policy an administrative 'provisional offer' of accommodation was made and the power was generally exercised if a detainee (usually an FNO) intended to apply to an Immigration Judge for bail, but did not have an address they could propose as the place where they would live if granted bail. The detainee could only take up such an offer if their application for bail was successful. Under the new policy, detainees do not have to provide an address in advance of making a bail application. If the judge deems it necessary to require the person to live at a particular address, the judge can grant conditional bail subject to accommodation being provided. This means that the Secretary of State only needs to offer bail accommodation to those who meet published criteria and have been granted conditional immigration bail. Any support provided under Schedule 10 would be a Schedule 10, as opposed to section 4, grant.

The number of grants of s4 support fell in 2018 Q1 as a result of the repeal of section 4(1) on 15 January. Under transitional arrangements, any application for section 4(1) support received prior to 15 January 2018 continues under the old provisions. The number of grants of s4 support is expected to continue to fall as transitional cases are concluded.

Other information about asylum support

Asylum applicants who are receiving asylum support can have their support terminated for various reasons. If an asylum seeker receives refugee status, humanitarian protection (HP), discretionary leave (DL), or another form of grant, they cease to be eligible for asylum support, and become entitled to apply for mainstream benefits. If an asylum seeker receives a final negative decision, and is a single applicant or a family with no children under 18, they also have their support terminated, although asylum support policy incorporates safeguards for a number of categories of vulnerable failed asylum seekers including families with dependent children under the age of 18 years who continue receiving support until they leave the UK. Support can also be terminated or suspended if asylum seekers do not abide by the regulations set out when the support is provided to them, for example, if the asylum seeker does not move into the allocated accommodation.

The Home Office assumed responsibility for supporting asylum seekers from April 2000 when the National Asylum Support Service (NASS), a directorate of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), was created. NASS was set up to provide accommodation and/or subsistence payments to asylum seekers so that they could support themselves while they were awaiting a decision on their asylum application. Any person applying for asylum in the UK after 3 April 2000 would only be eligible to apply for support through NASS (apart from some in-country cases that were part of the roll-out). Before 3 April 2000, asylum seekers, depending on the location of their application for asylum, could apply for support from the Department of Social Security (now part of the Department for Work and Pensions) or local authorities.

NASS was disbanded in 2006. This service is now delivered by Asylum Support teams (part of International and Immigration Asylum Group) based in various regional locations, but managed centrally. The legislation in respect of eligibility for asylum support, and the categories of support available, has not changed.

Where an applicant has made more than one application for support during a year, only one application is recorded in the tables. The data in the tables therefore reflect the total number of main applicants applying for support. It should be noted, however, that where an applicant has made an application for support in two separate years this will be recorded as an application in each year.

The figures relating to asylum seekers in receipt of support include dependants, unless otherwise stated.

Asylum seekers are accommodated in Northern Ireland only if they apply for asylum there.

Section 95 support data are published by local authority. The local authority list has been updated to reflect the following structural changes to Local Government.

Old local authority boundaries	New local authority boundaries	Date of change
Alnwick Berwick-upon-Tweed Blyth Valley Castle Morpeth Tynedale Wansbeck	Northumberland	1 April 2009
Bridgnorth North Shropshire Oswestry Shrewsbury and Atcham South Shropshire	Shropshire	
Caradon Carrick Kerrier North Cornwall Penwith Restormel	Cornwall	
Chester Ellesmere Port and Neston Vale Royal	Chester West and Chester	
Chester-le-Street Derwentside Durham Easington Sedgefield Teesdale Wear Valley	County Durham	
Congleton Crewe and Nantwich Macclesfield	Cheshire East	
Kennet North Wiltshire Salisbury West Wiltshire	Wiltshire	
Mid Bedfordshire South Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire	
Antrim Newtownabbey	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1 April 2015
Armagh Banbridge Craigavon	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	

Ballymoney Coleraine Limavady Moyle	Causeway Coast and Glens	
Derry City Strabane	Derry and Strabane	
Fermanagh Omagh	Fermanagh and Omagh	
Lisburn Castlereagh	Lisburn and Castlereagh	
Ballymena Larne Carrickfergus	Mid and East Antrim	
Cookstown Dungannon Magherafelt	Mid Ulster	
Down Newry and Mourne	Newry, Mourne and Down	
Ards North Down	North Down and Ards	

Resettlement schemes

This release includes data on the number of people brought to the UK under various resettlement schemes. For the first time in February 2017, data on the number of children (under the age of 18) granted resettlement has been included in the 'How many people do we grant protection to?' topic. These data are provisional, and subject to revision following further quality assessment.

Gateway Protection Resettlement Programme

The UK Gateway Protection Resettlement Programme is operated in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Gateway demonstrates the UK's proud tradition of providing protection to refugees; and of the UK's commitment to supporting UNHCR's global effort to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees. On resettlement the refugees are provided with a twelve month package of housing and integration support provided by partnerships involving local authorities and NGOs.

Mandate scheme

The Home Office also operates the smaller Mandate scheme which is designed to resettle individual refugees from anywhere in the world who have been recognised as refugees by UNHCR, and judged by them to be in need of resettlement; and who have a close family member in the UK who is willing to accommodate them.

Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Those arriving in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme are granted Humanitarian Protection (not refugee status). The scheme was launched in January 2014 with the first arrivals coming in March 2014. On 7 September 2015, the Prime Minister announced an expansion to the existing Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Through this expansion, it is expected that 20,000 people in need of protection will be resettled in the UK by 2020.

Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS)

On 21 April 2016, the government announced they will work with UNHCR to resettle children from the Middle East and North Africa region. The new Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme aims to support vulnerable and refugee children at risk and their families, with a view of resettling up to 3,000 individuals over the course of this parliament. Figures on the number of people resettled in the UK, by nationality, under this scheme were published for the first time in August 2017 (see Asylum Table as_19_q).

The figures do not include those relocated to the UK under the ex gratia scheme for Afghan locally engaged civilians.

The figures presented in table as_20q relate to the local authority people are allocated to under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), as recorded on Home Office databases at the time the data were extracted. This breakdown is available from Q4 2015 onwards, when resettlement scheme data, including local authority information, began to be recorded on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). Prior to this, resettlement scheme data were recorded in a separate database maintained by the Home Office specifically for this purpose, and local authority information was not captured. To aid the operation of the VPRS, people are allocated to a lead local authority in advance of resettlement and will be recorded on the database as such. However, on arrival in the UK, some may actually be resettled in a different local authority to that originally recorded (generally one that neighbours the lead authority) and the database will be updated to reflect this. These revisions will be incorporated into the data series on a quarterly basis to coincide with the regular publication of Immigration Statistics.

Post-decision review

There are a number of reasons why an initial decision may be subject to a post-decision review; an asylum decision by the Secretary of State can be later reviewed as a result of additional information and/or significant changes in the applicant's current circumstances and the relevant country of origin information. Following consultation in 2011, data on post-decision reviews are no longer published in the Immigration Statistics releases. See the Summary of responses to the consultation published alongside Immigration Statistics: April – June 2011.

Family reunion visas

Data on the number of family reunion visas granted, broken down by age group and sex, were published in February 2018 for the first time, and are backdated to 2010. Data on family reunion visas, broken down by adult and child, are available on a quarterly basis. More detailed age and sex breakdowns are available on an annual basis.

A family reunion visa allows a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18 of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK to reunite with them here, providing they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country of origin or habitual residence.

The sponsor is the individual who has refugee status or humanitarian protection, including those resettled under the Gateway Protection Programme, Mandate Refugee Programme or the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme. Family reunion applications can be made from abroad by making an entry clearance application or from within the UK. Those granted under family reunion provisions are granted leave in line with their sponsor and are entitled to the same rights and benefits.

Further information on family reunion can be found in the [family reunion guidance](#) on gov.uk.

Family reunion visas are a subset of the 'family: other' visa category. The vast majority of 'family: other' visa grants, as published in the visa tables, relate to family reunion visas. However, data on family reunion visas come from a different system to the broader visa data so are not directly comparable. Data on the number of applications and their outcome for 'family: other' visas are found in table vi_01_q.

Dublin regulation

The Dublin Regulation (EU) No.604/2013 ('Dublin III') is EU legislation that establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining which single State is responsible for examining an application for international protection (an asylum claim). The Dublin III Regulation applies to all 28 EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

In order to identify a single State that is responsible for examining the asylum claim, the Dublin III Regulation uses a number of specific criteria listed in descending order of importance to identify the responsible State, enabling the transfer of an asylum applicant once responsibility has been agreed. Where no responsible Dublin state can be designated on the basis of the criteria in the Dublin III Regulation the first State in which the asylum claim is lodged shall be responsible.

The operation of the Dublin III Regulation is supported by the Eurodac fingerprint system that allows fingerprints to be transmitted, stored and cross-checked. The Eurodac system provides results on a 'hit' (match) or 'no hit' (no match) basis to see whether someone has already lodged an asylum claim in a Dublin state or if they have first entered into territory, covered by the Dublin and Eurodac Regulations, illegally in a Dublin state and then moved on to another Dublin state to claim asylum.

Overview of Dublin articles (criteria for determining the responsible state)

The Dublin process includes transfers into and out of the UK. Other Dublin states can request the UK takes responsibility for asylum claimants in the same way as we can make requests to them with reference to the Dublin III Regulation. In terms of formal requests to acknowledge (accept) responsibility there are 2 types of request:

'Take charge' requests relate to the premise that a first application (claim) has been lodged, so the responsible Dublin state is to be determined in accordance with the criteria in the Dublin III Regulation.

'Take back' requests involve cases where the applicant has lodged an application (claim) in one Dublin state and has moved on to another Dublin state where he or she has lodged a further application or is present illegally, without making a further application. The notion of 'take back' implies that an applicant has previously been known as an asylum applicant in another Dublin state and so his or her application can be **'taken back'** into the asylum system there.

Articles 8 to 15 set out the criteria for determining the Dublin State responsible for examining the asylum claim.

Article 8(1) – Minors (Children)

If the applicant is an unaccompanied child the responsible Dublin State shall be that where a qualifying family member is legally present, provided that is in the best interests of the child.

Article 8(2)

Where another relative is legally present and **where it can be established that the relative can take care of the child** and best interests are protected then the Dublin State where the relative is present shall be responsible.

Article 9 – Family members who are beneficiaries of international protection

If the applicant has family members who are beneficiaries of international protection in a particular Dublin State (regardless of whether they are post-flight family members), then that Dublin State is responsible for examining the asylum claim, provided that the persons concerned consent in writing.

Article 10 – Family members who are applicants for international protection

If the applicant has (pre-flight) family members who are also applicants for international protection whose asylum claims have not been subject to a first decision then the Dublin State responsible for examining those claims will be responsible, provided that the persons concerned consent in writing.

Article 11 – Family procedure

Where several family members submit asylum claims and strict application of the criteria would lead to different Dublin States being responsible for different family members, resulting in the splitting of a group, the responsible State shall be that otherwise responsible for the largest number of family members or failing that the one responsible for the oldest applicant.

Article 12 – Issue of residence document or visa

The responsible State shall be that which issued a residence document (such as leave to enter or remain under the UK's immigration law) or a visa. There are additional rules in the Article concerning the situations where the applicant is in possession of more than one valid residence document or visa and those where residence documents or visas have recently expired.

Article 13 – Entry and/or stay

Article 13(1) sets out the responsible State shall be that where the applicant made his or her first illegal entry into the territory of a Dublin State across an external border, provided the asylum claim is made within 12 months of the date of that illegal entry.

Article 13(2) sets out that where a State cannot or can no longer be held responsible on the basis of Article 13(1), the responsible State is that where the individual has entered the territories of the Dublin States irregularly (or the circumstances of entry cannot be established) and it can be shown that the applicant has been living in the State for at least 5 consecutive months ('tolerated illegal presence'). Or if the applicant has been living for a period of 5 months in several States, the State where they have been living most recently shall be responsible.

Article 14 – Visa waived entry

If a person enters a Dublin State where there is no need for him or her to hold a visa ('visa waived entry') then that State is responsible for examining the claim for protection.

Article 15 – Application in an international transit area of an airport

If a person makes a claim in the international transit area of an airport of a Dublin State, that State shall be responsible for examining the claim for protection.

Article 16 and 17 sets out the provisions for dependent persons and discretionary clauses.**Article 16 – Dependent persons**

Where an applicant is dependent on the assistance of his or her child, sibling or parent legally resident in one of the Dublin States or vice versa, States shall normally keep or bring together the parties. This must be for at least one of the following reasons:

- on account of pregnancy
- a new-born child
- serious illness
- severe disability
- old age

Article 17 – Discretionary clauses

Article 17(1) is known as the 'sovereignty clause'. It permits a Dublin State to decide to examine a claim for international protection lodged with it even if it is not responsible in the event of exceptional compassionate circumstances.

Article 17(2) makes specific reference to the situation where either a Dublin State carrying out the procedure to determine responsibility or the responsible Dublin State itself may, at any time before a first decision on the substance of the protection claim is made, request another Dublin State to bring together any family relations on humanitarian grounds based in particular on family or cultural considerations.

Article 18 (1) and Article 20 (5)

The basis for take back requests is reflected in Article 20.5, Article. 18.1.b, Article. 18.1.c and Article. 18.1.d which correspond to different legal basis in the Dublin Regulation.

If a Dublin state fails to adhere to the time limits for taking action as set out in Articles 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 29, then, by default the applicant becomes the responsibility of that Dublin state.

Definitions

Family members refer to, insofar as the family already existed in the country of origin, the following members of the applicant's family who are present on the territory of the Dublin States (although in cases where a family member is a beneficiary of international protection, Article 9 of the Dublin Regulation negates the requirement that the family was previously formed in the country of origin):

- the spouse of the applicant or his or her unmarried partner in a stable relationship, where the law or practice of the Dublin State concerned treats unmarried couples in a way comparable to married couples under its law relating to third-country nationals
- the children of couples referred to in the first indent, or of the applicant, on condition that they are unmarried and regardless of whether they were born in or out of wedlock or adopted as defined under national law
- when the applicant is a child and unmarried, the father, mother or another adult responsible for the applicant, whether by law or by the practice of the Dublin State where the adult is present
- when the beneficiary of international protection is a child and unmarried, the father, mother or another adult responsible for him or her whether by law or by the practice of the Dublin State where the beneficiary is present

Relative refers to the applicant's adult aunt or uncle or grandparent who is present in the territory of a Dublin State, regardless of whether the applicant was born in or out of wedlock or adopted as defined under national law

Minor (child) refers to a third-country national or a stateless person below the age of 18 years

Unaccompanied minor refers to a child who arrives on the territory of the Dublin States, unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her, whether by law or by the practice of the Dublin State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such an adult; it includes a child who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of Dublin States

Legally present is the term contained within Article 8 is not defined in the Dublin III Regulation. 'Legally present' in the UK refers to all persons holding a residence document, and any other person allowed to stay in the UK as an applicant for asylum (including a person under a Dublin procedure to determine responsibility for examining his or her claim), a person holding a valid visa, leave to enter or remain or a person awaiting a decision to vary existing leave to enter or remain.

Comparison to asylum applications in other countries

Data on asylum applications made in selected other countries are sourced from a number of international organisations, including Eurostat, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and IGC (Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees). The data have been provided to these organisations by the named countries. In some cases, the countries listed have not released asylum applications for the full time period and figures have been estimated through extrapolation from earlier data. In consequence, figures for countries other than the UK may over- or under-record depending on data available and recent trends.

Figures for Belgium and United States are adjusted to include an estimated number of dependants. Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013, and is included in the EU 28 total, and also in the Total Europe (Selected countries) and Total (Total selected countries) from 2013 Q3 onwards. The 400 asylum applications to Croatia in 2013 Q3 and Q4 have been included in the annual 2013 figure for the EU 28 total, Total Europe (Selected countries) and Total (Total selected countries).

In Quarter 3 (July to September) 2017, figures for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, and the United States of America are estimated.

Key terms

Other grants: grants under family and private life rules from 9 July 2012; Leave Outside the Rules, which was introduced for those refused asylum from 1 April 2013; and UASC leave, which was introduced for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children refused asylum but eligible for temporary leave from 1 April 2013.

Other key terms for asylum can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Asylum applications and decisions

Data after April 2000 for asylum applications and May 2000 for asylum decisions have been taken from the Asylum Case Information Database. Prior to this date, manual counts were taken. Most of the historical manual count figures relate to main applicants excluding dependants.

Since 2007, third country cases are no longer automatically defined as asylum cases unless the person has claimed asylum in the UK. This change affects a small number of cases.

Following the introduction of a new approach to family and private life involving considering applications against a new set of immigration rules from July 2012, asylum tables have been updated to include outcomes related to these types of applications. For more information please see the glossary for definitions of Private Life and Family Life (10-year) route and the Policy and Legislative Timeline.

From April 2013, grants of DL to UASCs was replaced by UASC leave when the policy on granting discretionary leave to UASC was incorporated into the Immigration Rules, under Paragraphs 352ZC – 352ZF. The asylum tables were updated to include the new outcome related to these types of UASC applications. For more information please see the glossary for a definition of UASC leave.

From 2 September 2011, all individuals refused asylum or Humanitarian Protection on the grounds of their war crimes or other international crimes committed prior to their arrival in the UK, but who cannot be immediately removed due to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), may be granted Restricted Leave to Remain for a maximum of six months at a time. The asylum tables were updated to include the new outcome under the Discretionary Leave category for these types of applications. For more information please see the glossary for a definition of Restricted Leave and the Policy and Legislative Timeline.

The Home Office has continued to review and update its country guidance for Eritrea, following the judgment given in the country guidance case of MST and Others (national service - risk categories) Eritrea CG [2016] UKUT 443 (IAC) - <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKUT/IAC/2016/443.html>. The latest country guidance information for Eritrea is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eritrea-country-information-and-guidance>.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and age disputed cases

An internal review of the UASC and age dispute data highlighted issues with the definitions used for these data up to May 2013, in particular that the definition for UASCs was broader than it should be as it included all asylum applicants who had ever been recorded as an unaccompanied minor and not just those who were unaccompanied during their asylum application.

From Immigration Statistics April - June 2013, the definitions were refined.

UASC application

An asylum applicant previously counted in the UASC application data is no longer included if:

- (a) They were considered an unaccompanied minor only in the period before the asylum application;
- (b) They were considered a UASC for less than 1 day;
- (c) The applicant is listed as over 18 at application, but remain recorded as an unaccompanied minor on the administrative database; or
- (d) They were only considered a UASC after the initial decision was made.

UASC initial decisions and withdrawals

The definitional change made for initial decisions and withdrawals are the same as for a UASC application, above, except the addition that the recorded date of birth must now show that they are under 18 when they applied.

For applications, initial decisions and withdrawals only the last time they are considered a UASC is counted.

Raised age dispute

An age dispute previously included in the data will no longer be included if it was resolved before the date of the asylum application. In addition, each separate age dispute on the same person are now counted.

The numbers now relate to the quarter when the individual becomes an asylum applicant with an age dispute rather than the quarter the asylum application is made.

Overall, the changes reduced the number of asylum applicants counted in the published figures as UASCs, while it made little overall difference to the number of age disputes counted in the published figures. The actual impact as a result of these counting definition changes for 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 were reported in the 'About this release' section of Immigration Statistics April - June 2013.

Asylum support

A new Asylum Support casework system, ATLAS, was introduced from March 2018. Historic data from the previous ASYS system has been migrated from ASYS to ATLAS and all new support applications have been recorded directly to ATLAS from this date. Therefore data from 2018 Q2 are not directly comparable with previous periods.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Other factors affecting the statistics

In July 1998 the White Paper entitled 'Fairer, Faster and Firmer – A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum' was published. It made a number of proposals on asylum, several of which were implemented immediately (27 July 1998) as there was no need for primary legislation. These had the effect of abolishing the four-year qualifying period for grants of settlement to those recognised as refugees and given asylum and reducing it from seven to four years for those granted exceptional leave. In early 1999 the Home Office established units to implement further measures outlined in the White Paper.

In February 2005 the Government announced a five-year strategy for asylum and immigration: 'Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain'. This was built upon by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) Review (Fair, Effective, Transparent and Trusted) in July 2006. Both outlined how asylum claims would be managed more closely under the New Asylum Model and

introduced a single case owner managing both the case and the claimant throughout; changes in the process for managing detained fast-track and non-detained cases; and a change from obtaining settlement when asylum is granted to settlement after five years, during which time cases are reviewed for any changes to the situation of the country of nationality and any circumstances that would make the refugee ineligible for refugee status. The first complete case management teams became operational in June 2005 and since March 2007 the majority of new asylum claims cases have been managed end-to-end by one of the regional asylum teams. The aim is to recognise readily those with well-founded claims, to maximise deterrents against unfounded applications, and to ensure that a higher percentage of asylum seekers whose claims fail are quickly removed from the UK. Changes in non-detained cases included the use of managed accommodation, requirements to report regularly, the serving of appeal outcomes in person and linking an applicant's access to support to their compliance with the process. The Home Affairs Select Committee was informed in December 2006 that the programme of work on the older unresolved (legacy) asylum cases had begun. A Case Resolution Directorate was formed to carry through this work. The review of legacy asylum cases was completed in March 2011.

In July 2006, the Home Secretary announced to Parliament that the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applicants who were still living in the UK would be resolved on a case-by-case basis within the next five years in accordance with the legal framework and with the following priorities:

- those who may pose a risk to the public;
- those who can be removed more easily;
- those receiving support; and
- those who may be allowed to stay in the UK.

Data quality

All asylum data relating to the UK:

- are administrative counts of casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative databases;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August; and
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases:

- incomplete date of birth;
- incorrect outcome selected, for example, exceptional leave to remain (after 1 April 2003), humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) (before 1 April 2003); and
- case created on CID before the date of application.

Asylum applications and initial decisions

The data quality for the total numbers of asylum applications and initial decisions is considered to be high. In addition to the above, these data:

- undergo a reconciliation process;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office; and
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework.

The number of asylum applications and decisions relating to dependants are subject to a slightly larger percentage increase than those relating to main applicants between the data published each quarter and the revised data published in August. This increase is expected, and is not considered to be a data quality issue, as the count of dependants includes those who are born or join the main applicant after the asylum application is made, with the dependant being counted in the same quarter that the original asylum claim was recorded. This also affects the number of dependants counted as 'Age unknown' in Table as_04. For asylum dependants, the age at application is based on their age at the date the main application was made. Therefore, in cases where the child is born after the original asylum application, the recorded age at application will be negative. These are not considered to be data quality issues, but will appear in 'Age unknown' as the age is not known at the time of the application.

Non-suspensive appeals process and asylum cases pending

Data are considered to be of high quality. The non-suspensive appeals data are subsets of the asylum applications and initial decisions data and undergo a separate reconciliation process. Both datasets undergo a detailed reconciliation process.

Asylum appeals, asylum support and resettlement

Data on asylum appeals are considered to be high and are tracked against similar data from Ministry of Justice.

Data on resettlement are considered to be high; these data are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework.

Data of asylum support are considered to be high; the totals are quality assured by the Home Office.

Outcome analysis

The outcome analysis of asylum applications table provides data relating to asylum applications, appeals, fresh claims and returns. The quality of these data is considered to generally be high. The table also provides estimated outcomes of applications; these data are considered to be of medium data quality as they report on the outcomes of a complex system and in a small proportion of cases, the outcome has to be interpreted. This interpretation is undertaken consistently through established computer code.

Fresh claims, the fast-track process, UASCs and age disputes

Data are considered to be medium to high quality.

All data on the fast-track process have undergone a reconciliation process with Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood. For data relating to 2012 an improved reconciliation exercise was undertaken. A total of 270 cases (slightly more than 10%) were removed from the original data following this detailed exercise as they were determined to have never been accepted on the Fast-Track process. This suggests that data for earlier years may over-count.

In 2013, the data on asylum applicants accepted onto the fast-track process, and outcomes of these applications, were consolidated to show totals rather than being broken down by detention facility. This is to reflect changes to operational procedures which mean that it is not possible to allocate fast-track cases to specific sites.

In 2014, the data went through a detailed reconciliation process with Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood and a few data quality issues were identified. A number of improvements were made to the extraction process. Data for earlier years do not get revised.

Data covering the period 1 January 2015 to 2 July 2015 went through a detailed reconciliation process with Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood. A number of data quality issues were identified and affected cases excluded (6% of Harmondsworth cases were excluded). On 2 July 2015, the operation of the detained fast track policy was suspended.

The method for recording an individual as being an UASC or being subject to an age assessment on the CID database means that while new cases are considered to be well-recorded, instances where the individual is no longer a UASC or has had an age assessment made may not be recorded in a quantifiable way. For example, theoretically (1) the CID database allows those who turn 18 to remain recorded as an unaccompanied minor; and (2) the caseworker may record the outcome of an age assessment as a note, but not officially close the age dispute. The computer code employed has been written and tested to mitigate these possible scenarios as far as possible, although the counts may include some applicants as UASCs and age disputes in error.

Data supplied to Eurostat

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are differences between definitions of the asylum figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat. These are detailed under 'Related statistics published elsewhere'.

Data on asylum applications in other countries

Data on the number of asylum applications received in other countries are based on data supplied by the individual countries to international organisations. Not all countries provide data to the end of the period in time for each release of Immigration Statistics. Where a figure is unavailable for a given month, we estimate it using the average of the last three months available, provided that the time series has not shown large increases or decreases. Where a series is erratic, we estimate the figure using the average of the last 12 months.

The sources and countries currently requiring estimation are detailed in the asylum table notes.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a monthly and quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of asylum data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be released.

The only exceptions to this are the data on supported asylum seekers, the fast-track process and resettlement of refugees.

The process for compiling data on asylum support for years up to and including 2012 used a different method to data for 2013 onwards, although the data source is the same. For data up to 2012, each day, a list of the records added or amended on the Asylum Support System (ASYS) was produced. On a weekly basis, the daily lists were added together and then to the information from the previous week to produce a 'snapshot' of ASYS for Migration Statistics. For data from 2013, each week a 'snapshot' of the Asylum Support System (ASYS) is taken. During the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of support data are taken from the appropriate 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. In both cases, the 'snapshot' is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, adds Region, Local Authority, Parliamentary Constituency and Ward to each record using the postcode information.

Data on the resettlement of refugees are provided directly by the Home Office.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the asylum applications, initial decisions, withdrawals, fresh claims and asylum cases pending data for main applicants with teams within the Home Office, by ensuring that the total number of records produced separately by the Home Office is within 2% of the data extracted by Migration Statistics. If the total is not within 2%, then analysis of the individual records are made.

Migration Statistics reconcile data on the non-suspensive appeals process with a team within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each case in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. When an individual is found within only one of the extracts detailed data quality checks are carried out to ascertain whether the case should be counted.

Data on asylum support are quality assured with a team within the Home Office, by comparing the figures against their own records.

Data on the fast-track process are quality assured by teams at Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood against their own records. See the data quality section above for further details.

Trends of asylum appeals are compared against figures published by the HM Courts and Tribunal Service.

All data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the tables ready for release are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Figures on asylum applicants who are removed or depart voluntarily are included in the **Returns** tables;
- Figures on asylum-related grants of settlement are included in the **Settlement** tables;
- The Ministry of Justice publishes data on immigration and asylum appeals at First-tier Tribunal and subsequent stages; see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data;
- Data on asylum applications, withdrawals and cases pending are released on a monthly basis and are available from http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_asyappctzm&lang=enHome
- Office Business Plan impact indicators showing the percentage of asylum applications concluded in one year are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>;
- Asylum performance framework measures and data on the controlled asylum archive are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>;
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) publishes an annual report entitled 'Asylum Trends in Industrialised Countries' <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4b8.html> which includes an international comparison of the number of applications for asylum;
- Eurostat comparisons of various data relating to asylum applications and decisions are available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database; see below for an explanation of the relationship and differences between the data; and
- International comparisons for asylum applications and decisions can be found on the Eurostat website, at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/publications>

Asylum appeals

Asylum appeals data are sourced from the Home Office database and relate to main asylum applicants at the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. The Home Office database records are updated from record-level data provided by the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). This provides consistent data across all datasets relating to asylum published in Immigration Statistics, but is different from the HMCTS published statistics which provide counts of principal appellants sourced from the HMCTS database. There tend to be higher numbers of principal appellants than main asylum applicant appeals as:

- HMCTS has a wider definition of asylum appeals, including some human rights cases and appeals on extensions of asylum, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave; and
- principal appellants include some individuals classed as dependants by the Home Office.

The Ministry of Justice publishes data on immigration and asylum appeals at First-tier Tribunal and subsequent stages. These data are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>.

Eurostat data

Under European legislation the UK is required to comply with parts of Article 4: (Asylum Statistics) of regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:0029:EN:PDF>.

This regulation aims to achieve greater comparability in migration and asylum statistics across Europe through the adoption of harmonised definitions.

There are differences between definitions of the asylum figures in Immigration Statistics and those provided to Eurostat. For asylum applications these are as follows:

- the Immigration Statistics figures on fresh applications include those who have made a fresh claim in the same reference month, while figures provided to Eurostat exclude these applicants;
- the figures on withdrawn applications published in Immigration Statistics only show withdrawn first applications and will continue to do so. The figures provided to Eurostat include withdrawn re-applications as well;
- the Immigration Statistics figures on pending applications include withdrawn applications, while figures provided to Eurostat exclude these;
- figures in the Immigration Statistics are National Statistics, whereas the monthly information on the most recent months provided to Eurostat is based on provisional Official Statistics, which is subject to change;
- from November 2012, the data have been provided to Eurostat monthly and revised annually, usually in August; the data are not revised quarterly in line with the Immigration Statistics release.

12 Detention

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on three main series of data as National Statistics:

- People entering detention– ([Tables dt_01 – dt_04_q](#));
- People leaving detention – ([Tables dt_05 – dt_010_q](#));
- People in detention as at the last day of each quarter (i.e. on a snapshot basis) – ([Tables dt_11_q – dt_14_q](#)); and
- Defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales – ([Tables pr_01](#)).

DETENTION

Data source

The statistics on detention are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the allocating of bed occupancy. Those relating to people in detention (on a snapshot basis) on the last day of each quarter are reconciled with all immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities, pre-departure accommodation and H M Prisons in the Home Office immigration detention estate.

The information on detainees held in prison establishments in England and Wales solely under Immigration Act Powers has been supplied by the National Offender Management Service (an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Justice) until Q3 2017. The information is now available from CID following the addition of new location names for each prison. At any given time, the data may include a small number of individuals who have never served a custodial sentence. These individuals are held in prisons as they present specific risk factors that indicate they pose a serious risk of harm to the public or to the good order of an Immigration Removal Centre, including the safety of staff and other detainees, which cannot be managed within the regime applied in Immigration Removal Centres. Further information on the prisons data can be found in the prisons section below.

Background on the statistics

Immigration legislation provides powers of detention. Every person detained, including special cases, is issued with an IS91 Authority to Detain form. Detention may be used whilst identity and basis of claim are established, where there is a risk of absconding, as part of fast-track asylum procedures, until 2nd July 2015 (in the case of straightforward asylum claims that can be decided quickly) and in support of the return of failed asylum seekers and others who have no legal right to be in the UK. Special cases include: sensitive cases; spouses of British Citizens or EEA nationals; unaccompanied young persons under 18; unaccompanied children who are to be returned to an EU Member State; an FNO under the age of 18 who has completed a custodial sentence; families with minor children; and detention in police cells for longer than two nights.

An individual may be held and remain in immigration detention for a variety of reasons, including reasons within and outside the control of the Home Office. Those outside the control of the Home Office may include but are not exclusively: individual compliance with immigration procedures, including providing appropriate paperwork; and barriers to removal relating to the individual's personal circumstances or circumstances related to the intended country of return. Reasons within the control of the Home Office include: where the Home Office has assessed it is not in the public interest to release the individual pending return. The Home Office has a statutory duty to review detention at least every 28 days to ensure that the detained person continues to meet the published detention criteria and that detention is still the most appropriate course.

Published detention figures relate only to those detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in immigration removal centres, short term holding facilities, pre departure accommodation and H M Prisons, and exclude those detained for criminal purposes and those who are detained under both criminal and immigration powers. Published detention statistics exclude detainees in short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours) and police cells; reliable data have not been available for these individuals since March 2006.

The detention estate as at 30 June 2018:

Place	Category of detainee
Brook House IRC	Male only
Campsfield House IRC	Male only
Colnbrook IRC	Male and Female
Dungavel IRC	Male and Female
Harmondsworth IRC	Male only
Morton Hall IRC	Male only
Tinsley House IRC	Male and Female, Families with or without children
Yarl's Wood IRC	Male and Female, Families without children
Manchester STHF	Male and Female
Larne House STHF	Male and Female
Gatwick PDA	Families with children
H M Prisons	Male and Female

Immigration removal centre (IRC), short-term holding facility (STHF) and pre-departure accommodation (PDA). Children are those recorded as being under 18 years of age.

Published data on people entering detention (including occurrences of people entering detention) have only been available since 2009.

Published data on people leaving detention from 2010 are not directly comparable with previous figures due to a revised methodology being used.

Reasons for people leaving detention are published under general detention categories and do not relate to individual case types. The options available for the 'closed reason' field located in the detention management screen of CID were increased from Q4 2017 for operational purposes and to coincide with the introduction of the single power to grant immigration bail (from 15/01/2018). The power to grant immigration bail to a detained person is available to the Secretary of State and the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration Judge), as outlined in Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016.

Data on reasons for leaving detention are based on the 'detention closed reason' entered into CID.

The published categories are:

- Returned from the UK
- Granted leave to enter / remain
- Bailed (Secretary of State) – formerly 'granted temporary admission / release'
- Bailed (Immigration Judge) – formerly 'bailed'
- Other

Granted leave to enter / remain is used when a person has been found eligible for entry to the UK, following further investigation to ascertain if the person is eligible or if a caseworker has granted asylum.

Bailed (Secretary of State) is used when a person who is liable to be detained under paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act is not so detained while awaiting the implementation of removal directions, the resolution of any outstanding appeal or the completion of examination (of usually an asylum claim)).

Bailed (Immigration Judge) has replaced 'bailed' to differentiate from 'Bailed (Secretary of State)'.

The 'other' category includes people who have returned to criminal detention, those released unconditionally, absconders, those sectioned under the Mental Health Act, and deaths in detention.

Detention [for removal] may continue lawfully only for as long as there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable period of time. People may be released from detention for a wide range of reasons: they may be granted bail by the courts, lodge appeals or other legal proceedings, or there may have been a material change in their circumstances. Regular reviews of detention are undertaken to ensure that it remains lawful and proportionate in each case. Individuals can apply for bail and challenge the legality of detention by Judicial Review or habeas corpus applications.

Detention in HM Prisons

In November 2017, data on people entering and leaving immigration detention through prison were published for the first time.

The majority of those recorded as entering immigration detention through prisons will subsequently be transferred to an immigration removal centre (IRC) or short term holding facility (STHF) prior to removal. Previously these individuals would have been recorded as entering immigration detention in an IRC or STHF at the point of their transfer from prison. However, a small number of those entering immigration detention through prisons will not go on to enter the immigration detention estate (for example, because they are removed from the UK directly from prison and are not held at any point in the immigration detention estate). These individuals would not have previously been recorded in the figures.

Where an individual recorded as leaving immigration detention through prison had previously been detained in another part of the immigration detention estate, they would previously have been recorded as leaving that part of the detention estate. Those recorded as leaving immigration detention through prison, who had not been detained in another part of the estate, would not previously have been included in the figures.

Data on the number of individuals held in HM prisons under immigration powers at the end of the period are included in the detention tables from the end of Q3 2017. These data include time served foreign national offenders (FNOs), those formerly on remand, and those unsuitable to be held in the immigration detention estate. Previous releases have cited data for England and Wales only, provided by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). As the NOMS data come from a different system to the Home Office data, the figures are not directly comparable. The data in this section should be considered provisional while the Home Office continue to make improvements to the process that captures the data.

From the third quarter of 2017, the Home Office began capturing data of those held in prisons under immigration detention powers in their system. Previously, data have been provided by NOMS and included in the How many people are detained or returned section of the quarterly bulletin. From November 2017, data included in the bulletin are from Home Office systems and are not directly comparable with the data provided by NOMS for a number of reasons:

- NOMS data cover England and Wales only, Home Office data cover the UK
- The data extracts are run on different days
- Changes in prisoner status, or location that have not been picked up at the same time in both reports

For a case to be recorded on Home Office systems, the Home Office caseworker must be notified that an individual is being transferred into immigration detention. This must then be input into the system. There may be a small number of cases where this fails, or there is a delay in notification. The Home Office are working to improve administrative processes to ensure that this issue is minimised in future.

Background on the statistics relating to families and children

In 2010, the Coalition Programme for Government made a commitment to end the detention of children (i.e. persons aged under 18) for immigration purposes.

A Home Office review began in June 2010 to consider how this could be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. For the purpose of the review, Home Office defined “detention” as the holding of children with families in immigration removal centres such as Yarl’s Wood. As a result of this review, in December 2010, the Government published details of its new approach to returning families without permission to be in the UK. The new process for managing the removal of families with no right to be in the UK (The Family Returns Process) began on 1 March 2011.

The final stage of the process includes the possibility of requiring families to stay in ‘pre-departure accommodation’ as a last resort if they fail to co-operate with other options to leave the UK, such as the offer of assisted voluntary return. Families can only be referred to pre-departure accommodation after advice has been sought from the Independent Family Returns Panel, an independent body of child welfare experts.

The pre-departure accommodation located near Gatwick Airport, in West Sussex, Cedars, opened in August 2011 and closed on 17 October 2016. It provides freedom of movement within a secure perimeter for up to nine families at a time who are accommodated in self-contained apartments. It was replaced by Gatwick PDA on 22 June 2017 with facilities for two families.

The 2010 Home Office review stated that families with children may be held on arrival while checks are made to determine whether they should be admitted to the country and, if not, until a return flight can be arranged for them and the December 2010 report of the review stated that ‘We will hold families only in very limited circumstances for border and other high risk cases’. The family unit at Tinsley House remains in use for these families. In rare cases, it may be used for families with criminal and other high-risk members who cannot be safely accommodated in pre-departure accommodation. This includes where a foreign national mother and baby from a prison mother and baby unit are being returned during the Early Removal Scheme (ERS) period but it is not practicable or desirable, owing to time or distant constraints, to transfer them direct from prison to the airport for removal. The family unit may be used for adults deemed more at risk, if there are no families detained.

Stays within pre-departure accommodation and the family unit at Tinsley House are limited to a maximum of 72 hours prior to a family’s planned removal date from the UK, although there is provision for a family to remain for up to seven days with ministerial approval.

The other circumstances in which children are detained at immigration removal centres and are:

- where an individual considered an adult on entry to the immigration detention estate has their age disputed. Once identified as an ‘age dispute case’ it is Home Office policy to release the individual into the care of a local authority as soon as appropriate arrangements can be made because of the possibility that he/she is under 18 years of age and while awaiting a Merton compliant age assessment, which will be conducted in the community. While awaiting an age assessment and if an age assessment shows the individual is under 18, the individual will be counted as aged under 18; and
- in criminal cases, detention of a foreign national offender under 18 may be authorised in exceptional circumstances where it can be shown that they pose a serious risk to the public and a decision to deport or remove has been taken. This detention is subject to Ministerial authorisation and advice is also sought from the Independent Family Returns Panel.

Further information is available from:

- December 2010 report into the ‘Review into Ending the Detention of Children For Immigration Purposes’:

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257654/child-detention-conclusions.pdf
- The independent family returns panel annual reports:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-family-returns-panel-reports>

Further information on immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities can be found on the UK Border Agency (now Home Office) 'Immigration Removal Centre' web pages at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/immigration-removal-centre>.

Further information on Gatwick pre-departure accommodation can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gatwick-pre-departure-accommodation>.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Following the closure of the Detainee Location and Management Information System (DELMIS) in October 2006, figures on all people in detention (on a snapshot basis) by length of detention and all people leaving detention ceased to be published as no sufficiently robust quality assurance could be performed on the data. However:

- Figures on children detained by length of detention continued to be published. Figures for all people detained by length of detention resumed publication in February 2009.
- Figures on people returned from the UK on leaving detention resumed in August 2007 and, following the publication of figures on people entering detention in February 2009, it became possible to publish overall figures on all people leaving detention. Figures on all people leaving detention resumed publication (broken down by reason for leaving, place of last detention, age and sex) in November 2010, with a breakdown by country of nationality following in February 2011 and length of detention in May 2011.

Before 2009, data on people in detention (on a snapshot basis) were published as at the last Saturday of each quarter; from 2009 onwards the data have been published as at the last day of each quarter.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Revisions

Revisions to the data on the number of children entering detention occur when a more recent data extract is used to produce the figures. Later extracts will reflect changes made to date of birth information about individuals (after reviews, new evidence or 'Merton' assessments). These changes do not change the total number of people entering detention, but may increase or decrease the number of children entering detention.

For more information see 'Revisions Analysis' in the 'Conventions used in Immigration Statistics' section of this User Guide.

Other changes affecting the statistics

Since the beginning of 2004, the following immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities have closed:

- Dover Harbour – 31 July 2010;
- Oakington Reception Centre – 12 November 2010;
- Harwich – 30 November 2010;

- Lindholme – 23 December 2011;
- Haslar IRC – 23 April 2015;
- Dover IRC – 28 October 2015;
- Pennine House STHF – 31 March 2017; and
- The Verne IRC – 31 December 2017.

Additionally, Yarl's Wood closed to families with children on 16 December 2010.

Since the beginning of 2004, the following immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities have opened:

- Brook House – 18 March 2009;
- Morton Hall – 16 May 2011;
- Larne House – 5 July 2011; and
- The Verne – 28 September 2014.
- Manchester STHF – 4 June 2018

In March 2011 Tinsley House (Family Unit) IRC was reopened, after refurbishment, predominately for families detained at the Border, whilst awaiting a decision to allow entry to the UK. Tables for detention of children now identify numbers held in Tinsley House (Family Unit) IRC from 2013 onwards.

Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation designed for children and their families opened on 17 August 2011 and closed on 17 October 2016. Cedars was specifically designed to provide a secure facility for children and their families. Whilst children are detained in Cedars PDA under Immigration Act powers, they are not held in the same conditions as previously found in adult detention facilities. Cedars has been replaced by Gatwick pre-departure accommodation which opened on 22 June 2017.

From 16 July 2012, following a change in operational policy, Colnbrook immigration removal centre now accepts detainees directly on entering detention, rather than initially entering detention at Colnbrook short term holding facility before being transferred to Colnbrook immigration removal centre.

Tinsley House IRC closed on 21 September 2016 for refurbishment and reopened on 22 June 2017.

From July 2017 people who are detained in H M Prisons have been reassigned a different location code on CID, which allows them to be included in the published figures. It is not possible to backdate their duration to the start of their detention.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for people detained (snapshot figures) and children entering and leaving detention is considered to be high; data quality for people entering and leaving detention is considered to be medium to high.

All data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office detention bed occupancy allocation on Home Office administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of Home Office;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling error;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following

August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final; and

- undergo a detailed reconciliation process.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases:

- overlapping periods of detention;
- incomplete date of birth;
- not detained in a immigration removals centre, short-term holding facility or pre-departure accommodation;
- incorrect detention closure reason; and
- incorrect detention closure date/time.

These issues are mostly captured within specified data quality reports run at the same time as the data are filtered. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to operational colleagues. If the record is amended, the relevant additional information is included.

Length of detention is the number of nights spent in the place of detention, which is calculated using the date that a bed is allocated to an individual and the date that the bed is unallocated. The data extracted do not allow for a calculation of the exact number of hours of detention.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken by Home Office. On a quarterly basis, extracts of the detention data are taken from this 'snapshot' and provided directly by Home Office. These extracts are filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the detention datasets with immigration teams within Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier for each detention in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by Home Office. Where an individual is found within only one of the extracts detailed data quality checks are carried out to ascertain whether the case should be included.

Data on children undergo more detailed checks, including confirmation of the place of detention and individual case-by-case reconciliation with the Family Returns Unit.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with immigration operational teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- All returns from the UK, see the **Returns** topic;

- Asylum cases in the detained fast-track process, see the **Asylum** topic;
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> ; and
- Short statistical article on Foreign National Offenders in detention and leaving detention, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/foreign-national-offenders-in-detention-and-leaving-detention>

PROSECUTIONS FOR IMMIGRATION OFFENCES

Data source

The statistics on prosecutions for immigration offences are supplied by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

Background on the statistics

The figures relate to the principal immigration offence. This is where a defendant is prosecuted for at least one immigration offence but may have also been prosecuted for another non-immigration offence. When a defendant has been prosecuted for two or more immigration offences it is the immigration offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more immigration offences, the immigration offence selected is the immigration offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Where a defendant is prosecuted for one or more non-immigration offences and one or more immigration offences the offence recorded is the principal immigration offence. More detailed information is available from the MOJ Criminal Statistics Guide <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics> - the guide is available with the latest 'Criminal justice statistics' release.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics perform a number of checks on the data supplied by the MOJ; these are:

- joint working with immigration policy teams and the MOJ statistical team to identify new immigration offences or changes to existing offences to ensure they have been accounted for;
- checking that totals sum; and
- examining the data to identify differences in the trends that may require further investigation.

Revisions

Revisions to the data on prosecutions for immigration offences occur when the sources of administrative systems or methodology changes, receipt of subsequent information, and errors in statistical systems and processes. More detailed information is available from the 'Revisions' section of the MOJ Criminal Statistics Guide <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics>.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Data on all prosecutions are published by the MOJ and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics>

13 Returns

Statistics covered by this topic

Data on returns are based on individual cases. If a person is returned more than once in the same year, these will be recorded as multiple returns.

Figures are published on returns from detention, enforced removals, refused entry at port and subsequently departed and voluntary returns from the UK – as National Statistics – broken down by:

- Type of applicant, split by: asylum cases and non-asylum cases ([Tables rt_01 and rt_01_q](#));
- Type of return, split by: returns from detention, enforced removals, non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently departed, assisted returns, controlled (notified) returns and other verified returns ([Tables rt_01](#));
- Country of nationality ([Tables rt_02 - rt_04q](#));
- Age and sex ([Tables rt_03](#));
- Country of destination ([Tables rt_05 and rt_05_q](#));
- Returns of foreign national offenders ([Table rt_06_q](#)); and
- Harm assessment of returns ([Table rt_07 and rt_07_q](#)).

Data source

The statistics on returns are extracted from the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). The data are derived from administrative information used for the processing of cases which are subject to removal action.

Background on statistics

Individuals seeking to enter the UK must satisfy a Border Force Officer that they meet the relevant criteria for entry, as defined under the Immigration Rules drafted in accordance with the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended). In order to comply with this requirement, passengers must present themselves, on arrival at a port of entry, to a Border Force Officer. Under Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 officers have the power to conduct further examinations in cases where they are not immediately satisfied that the passenger meets the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Officers who exercise these powers are utilising the powers provided under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

A Border Force Officer may examine a person who has arrived in the UK in order to determine the following: whether or not they are a British citizen; whether or not they may enter without leave; and whether:

- they have been given leave to enter which is still in force;
- they should be given leave to enter and for what period and on what conditions, (if any); or
- they should be refused leave to enter.

A person who is initially refused entry may then be returned to their country of origin, another EU Member State or a third country where they are permanently admissible. The return may be immediate; on the next available flight, which may require temporary admission; or may be after a grant of temporary admission for another reason, such as an appeal against a refusal of entry. The return may therefore be in a different period to the initial refusal.

The Home Office also seeks to return people who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK. This includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;
- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; for example, due to a serious criminal conviction and
- have been refused asylum.

People who have claimed asylum and whose claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, which would suspend the return, can be returned as a result of enforcement action (by deportation, administrative or illegal entry powers); this may include some cases dealt at port/juxtaposed controls. People who have claimed asylum can also be returned under third country provisions without substantive consideration of their asylum claim.

Data on cases refused entry at port and subsequently departed by port location (UK/juxtaposed controls) have only been available from 2007.

Information prior to 2004 is not compatible with latest years.

It is not possible within the figures split by main applicants and dependants to determine what proportion of returns are families, and these figures should not be used for the purpose of considering family returns.

For the financial year 2016/17 (from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017), **other verified returns** include non-visa nationals matched against records with no valid leave in the UK to establish as a proxy those leaving the UK without informing the immigration authorities. These returns have been included as part of a one-off data matching exercise.

The detained figures relate to those detained in immigration removal centres (IRCs), short term holding facilities (STHF), pre departure accommodation (PDA) and H M Prisons (from July 2017 onwards).

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Key terms

Other key terms for returns and foreign national offenders can be found in the glossary of terms.

Enforced removals from detention include all those who were subject to enforced removal either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention. There may be delays with flight arrangements or recording on the case-working system and a 2 day lag period allows us to ensure we have included all returns occurring following a period in detention.

Non-detained enforced removals include all enforced removals taking place more than 2 days after leaving detention, or where there was no period of detention prior to the enforced removal.

Other returns from detention relate to those returns occurring either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or have no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own

arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return.

Controlled returns relate to those returns occurring more than 2 days after leaving detention or where there was no period of detention prior to the return AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return.

Enforced returns cover enforced removals from detention, non-detained enforced removals and other returns from detention where the Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return. This new grouping has been created to reflect the likely level of enforcement activity that led to these returns.

Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) is a scheme designed to help and incentivise non-EEA foreign national offenders' return to their home country. The scheme covers time-expired prisoners and those who wish to benefit from the early return scheme or to serve the remainder of their custodial sentence in a prison in their home country.

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) refers to a range of programmes that were available to individuals who were in the asylum system or who were irregular migrants and who wished to return home permanently to either their (non-EEA) country of origin or to a third country where they are permanently admissible. The Home Office has been funding AVR programmes since 1999. From 1 April 2014, the AVR programme was not available to people held in detention. Until the end of December 2015, they were delivered by Choices, a subsidiary of the independent charity Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, by the International Organization for Migration). From January 2016, the support formerly described as AVR is now provided by the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service (VRS). See explanation of VRS below.

There were three main programmes available under AVR:

- The **Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP)** assists asylum seekers at any stage of the process, or failed asylum seekers. This also includes those who have been granted time-limited exceptional leave to remain or discretionary leave.
- The **Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM)** programme assists irregular migrants. This includes victims of trafficking or smuggling, illegal entrants and those who have overstayed on their visa.
- **Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC)** is for families comprising a maximum of two adult parents or legal guardians and at least one child (under 18) and for unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, assistance at departure and arrival airports and reintegration assistance including a relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The scheme offers flexibility of reintegration for the whole family and increased emphasis is placed on the use of reintegration assistance for educational needs as well as income generation.

Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) – Since January 2016, the support formerly described as AVR is now provided by the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service (VRS). These are referred to in the tables as 'Assisted returns'. The term 'Assisted returns' relates to support provided under AVR, the Choices programme managed by Refugee Action, up to Q4 2015 and support under VRS from Q1 2016.

VRS provides different levels of support for all those who want to return home, from providing access to a passport or emergency travel document, through to complex assisted returns of vulnerable people. The support for all returnees is provided on a case-by-case basis and offers advice and

practical support including, if applicable, reintegration funds and overseas support for vulnerable people.

For individuals and families that need more support the new VRS programme focuses on the following types of cases:

- Vulnerable individuals - including those with certified severe physical and or mental health needs, the elderly (over 65), pregnant women and the long term sick.
- Families - those with legal responsibility for at least one child under the age of 18 regardless of their asylum status.
- Asylum cases - those with pending or failed asylum claims.

Other verified returns: persons who it has been established have left or have been identified leaving the UK without formally informing the immigration authorities of their departure. These persons can be identified either at embarkation controls or by a variety of data-matching initiatives.

Examples of such initiatives include:

- **Embark Operations:** Immigration Officers interview departing foreign nationals to establish their immigration status and confirm the person's embarkation. Embarkation controls ceased from June 2014.
- **Operation Hedera:** Visa applications are matched against records of foreign nationals with no valid leave in the UK to establish whether the person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
- **Operation Semaphore:** Airline passenger data are matched against records of foreign nationals with no valid leave in the UK to establish whether the person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Deportations refer to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available but the published statistics refer to enforced returns. This includes deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers who have declined to leave voluntarily. Most illegal immigrants are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK and not deported.

EU nationals returned: For EU nationals there are two distinct types of return under the EU law framework – administrative return which specifically applies for those EU nationals not exercising or abusing Treaty rights, and deportation on public policy grounds. Both types of return are included in the published data under "Enforced removal" category.

Harm Matrix: The harm matrix is a tool to assess the level of harm associated with a particular individual. In order to provide clarity, consistency and measurement, levels of harm have been divided into four broad categories: A, B, C and D, with A being the highest harm.

- **Category A (highest harm)** – has committed offences including serious criminal offences such as terrorist activity, murder, rape, people and drug trafficking, violent crime and child abuse;
- **Category B (high harm)** – has committed other criminal offences including illegal working, dishonest claim for asylum support and identity fraud;
- **Category C (medium harm)** – has committed other offences, not linked to any of the above more serious criminality, including minor immigration offences, a drain on public funds and antisocial behaviour;
- **Category D (low harm)** – has committed other low level offences, including shoplifting. Harm Category "D (low harm)" was introduced in the first quarter of 2012. Prior to 2012, Harm Category D would have been classified as part of the previous Harm Category C.

In some cases, people who have returned will not have been assessed and these are reported as 'Cases not assessed'. These mainly relate to people who have already left or are detected leaving the UK of their own accord and were not subject to a pre-departure harm assessment.

The harm matrix was introduced in 2007 for the Public Service Agreement 3 Indicator 4, which is no longer an official measurement of Home Office performance. However, the data continue to be collected and monitored.

A **foreign national offender (FNO)** is someone who:

- is not a British citizen; and
- is/was convicted in the UK or abroad of any criminal offence.

Following the introduction of Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Records Office (ACRO) cases, the FNO returns figure has included cases where foreign nationals, who had a criminal conviction in another country, were picked up by police in the UK, and subsequently returned from the UK. In addition, these people could also have a UK conviction. This case type is now sufficiently well established to warrant separate identification in the statistical series. These figures are a count of an administrative process and, as such, are provisional and will be revised in line with the existing series. Those with an overseas criminal record may also have a UK criminal record.

For the first time in February 2018, data on FNOs returned from the UK, broken down by EU and non-EU nationals have been included. These data have been backdated to 2009. Prior to this, the total number of FNO returns from the UK was published.

Changes to data affecting the statistics

Since 2006, cases that had initially been refused leave to enter at ports but were subsequently dealt with in-country are classified as 'Enforced returns' or 'voluntary returns' and no longer classified as 'Refused entry at port and subsequently removed'.

Since 2007, third country cases are no longer automatically defined as asylum cases unless the person has claimed asylum in the UK. This change affects a small number of cases. This reclassification has no effect on the total returns recorded.

As a result of feedback from users of the Returns statistics, Home Office statisticians have revised the existing terminology and category groupings to better reflect categories used operationally. The aim of these changes are to produce a set of categories and naming that more accurately represent the types of returns taking place in practice. As a result, some categories have been renamed:

- **Enforced removals from detention** include all those who were subject to enforced removal either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention. There may be delays with flight arrangements or recording on the case-working system and a 2 day lag period will ensure most of the returns occurring following a period in detention are now included here.
- **Non-detained enforced removals** include all enforced removals taking place more than 2 days after leaving detention, or where there was no period of detention prior to the enforced removal.
- **Other returns from detention** relate to those returns occurring either from detention or up to 2 days after leaving detention AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or have no valid leave to remain in the UK. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person has notified the Home Office that they wish to make their own arrangements to leave the country and has provided evidence to this effect. The Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return.
- **Enforced returns** cover enforced removals from detention, non-detained enforced removals and other returns from detention where the Home Office will have been required to facilitate or monitor the return. This new grouping has been created to reflect the likely level of enforcement activity that led to these returns.

- **Controlled returns** relate to those returns occurring more than 2 days after leaving detention or where there was no period of detention prior to the return AND where it had been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK and the Home Office has actively facilitated or monitored the return. Removal directions may or may not have been set but the person will have notified the Home Office that they intend to make their own arrangements to leave the country and provide evidence to this effect.
- **Other verified returns** (previously 'Other confirmed voluntary departures') relate to persons who it has been established have left or have been identified leaving the UK without formally informing the immigration authorities of their departure. These persons can be identified either at embarkation controls or by data-matching.
- Since January 2016, the support formerly described as an Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) has been replaced with support provided by the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service (VRS). These are referred to in the tables as '**Assisted returns**'. The term 'Assisted returns' relates to support provided under AVR up to Q4 2015 and support under VRS from Q1 2016.

In addition, the term 'return' has been used extensively in place of removal or departure, where possible, in order to simplify the language used and bring the terminology in line with operational use and international definitions. The underlying statistics collected have not been changed as a result of these clarifications.

Revisions

Data matching for "Other verified returns" is undertaken retrospectively, which means these figures are particularly subject to greater upward revision than for other categories of return. In the light of the high use of retrospective data matching to check returns, figures are also reviewed for the previous two quarters to decide whether they require revision. For consistency purposes, all types of return figures are revised for the previous two quarters.

For more information on revisions please see 'Revisions Analysis' in the 'Conventions used in immigration statistics' section of the User Guide.

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those returned is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised closely as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- enforced removals and cases initially refused entry at port and subsequently departed have not, in recent years, altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in February each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following August and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors;
- undergo a detailed reconciliation process; and
- are subject to internal data quality checks.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number of cases.

- In some cases, there is insufficient evidence on the database to confirm that a return took place, in which case it will not be counted. As part of the quarterly reconciliation process, Migration Statistics investigate these cases and pass the issues back to the relevant unit within the Home Office. If the record is amended and the relevant additional information added, these returns are counted in the same quarter or in revised figures.
- Figures for 'Under 14'/'14-15'/'16-17' may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of departure.

Data are supplied to Eurostat, the European statistical organisation, under definitions in line with EU statistical legislation. There are differences between definitions of the returns figures in *Immigration Statistics* and those provided to Eurostat. These are detailed under 'Related statistics published elsewhere'. The figures supplied to Eurostat are not quality assured to the same level as the data published in *Immigration Statistics*, as it is not possible to reconcile the data under the definitions used by Eurostat with the Home Office.

Compilation method

Each Friday evening, a weekly 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) is taken. On a quarterly basis, generally during the second week after the end of the reference period, an extract of the returns data is taken from this 'snapshot' by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data due to be published.

The only exceptions to this are the data on the harm assessment of those returned, which are provided directly by the relevant unit within the Home Office.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the returns dataset with teams within the Home Office, by comparing a unique identifier from each return in the Migration Statistics extract against record-level data provided by the Home Office. Where a return is found in only one of the extracts, a number of data quality checks are carried out, including: that each asylum return is correctly linked to an asylum case outcome on CID; and that the return categories are consistent with Home Office data. The team in the Home Office are also asked to investigate the discrepancies using detailed sources on individual cases. A case is only included in the published tables if: it appears in both extracts; or it appears in one of the extracts and Migration Statistics team is content that it is correctly recorded as a return. For example, if the removal date indicated was before an application date for the same case, then further investigation would be undertaken.

These checks against record-level data are not undertaken for the statistics on foreign national offenders and harm assessment. However, the harm assessment data are matched to the reconciled enforced removals and returns data to ensure consistency.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trend seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Asylum applications and decisions, see the **Asylum** topic;

- People recorded as being returned from the UK on leaving detention, see the **Detention** topic;
- Passengers initially refused entry at port, see the **Passenger arrivals, visitors and visas** topic;
- Data on the Family returns process are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>; and
- Eurostat comparisons of returns including returns from the UK are available from <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database>; see below for an explanation of the differences between the datasets.

Eurostat data

Under European legislation the UK is also required to comply with parts of Article 7 of regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:0029:EN:PDF>.

This regulation aims to achieve greater comparability in migration and asylum statistics across Europe through the adoption of harmonised definitions.

There are slight differences between definitions of the returns figures in *Immigration Statistics* and those provided to Eurostat, as follows:

- data provided to Eurostat since 2010 have been counts of individuals returned; multiple notices issued to the same person in the same year are not counted, while data published within *Immigration Statistics* count each return;
- the *Immigration Statistics* figures include: Dublin returns; multiple returns by the same person in the same reference month; and returns of European Union nationals, while figures provided to Eurostat exclude these returns; and
- data provided under Article 7.1b also exclude returns to the following destinations: European Union countries, Norway, Switzerland and Northern Cyprus.

14 European Economic Area

Statistics published in Immigration Statistics

The European Economic Area (EEA) consists of countries within the EU as at end of March 2017 together with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. 28 nations of the EEA and Switzerland have rights of free movement within the UK. This means that there is less information on numbers coming to the UK than for nationals of other countries.

Some data on nationals of the European Economic Area and Swiss nationals are included in:

- Entry clearance visas where applications have been made;
- Total passenger arrivals;
- Grants of settlement (where applicable and available);
- Grants of British citizenship;
- Asylum where applications have been made;
- Detention;
- Returns;
- Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals who require work authorisation documentation or are exercising a Treaty right; and
- Issue and refusal of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members.

Specially, figures are published on:

- Applications from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for accession worker cards, registration certificates, the Sector Based Scheme (SBS) and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) ([Table ee_01_q](#));
- Issues and refusals of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members ([Table ee_02](#) and [ee_02_q](#)).

Enlargement of the EU/EEA since 1994

European Union (EU) nationals, previously European Community (EC) nationals, have had the right to enter and live in the UK without immigration control since 1973.

On 1 January 1994, the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement came into force, meaning that this right was extended to all EEA nationals. At the time, the EEA countries were the 12 Member States of the European Union, together with Austria, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Norway.

Austria, Finland and Sweden subsequently became Member States of the European Union on 1 January 1995 and Liechtenstein became part of the European Economic Area on 1 May 1995.

An agreement, giving the same rights to Swiss nationals, came into force on 1 June 2002.

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia ('EU8 countries') together with Cyprus and Malta became part of the European Union on 1 May 2004. From this date, nationals of Cyprus and Malta have had full free movement rights and rights to work, and restrictions on nationals from EU8 countries working in the UK via the Worker Registration Scheme were put in place; these restrictions ended on 1 May 2011.

Bulgaria and Romania (the 'EU2 countries') became part of the European Union on 1 January 2007. Nationals from these countries did not have an automatic right to work in the UK; under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006, under which they were required to obtain appropriate authorisation to work, unless they are exempt from the requirements. Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1 January 2014.

Croatia joined the European Union (EU) on 1 July 2013. Transitional arrangements were introduced to restrict Croatian nationals' access to the UK labour market. Transitional restrictions on Croatian nationals were lifted on 1 July 2018 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restrictions-on-croatian-workers-to-expire-in-june>).

Related statistics published elsewhere

Figures on the transitional measures put in place by the UK Government to regulate EU8 nationals' access to the labour market (through the Workers Registration Scheme) and to restrict access to benefits were previously published in Immigration Statistics. The data tables were dropped from the release after the transitional measures came to an end. The full data sets are available in Immigration Statistics: October – December 2011 available from

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128103514/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q4-2011/>

The Migration Advisory Committee report 'Migrant Seasonal Workers', https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257242/migrant-seasonal-workers.pdf includes detailed analysis of the SBS and SAWS schemes.

Croatia joined the European Union (EU) on 1 July 2013. Transitional arrangements were introduced to restrict Croatian nationals' access to the UK labour market. Transitional restrictions on Croatian nationals were lifted on 1 July 2018 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restrictions-on-croatian-workers-to-expire-in-june>).

APPLICATIONS FROM BULGARIAN, ROMANIAN AND CROATIAN NATIONALS

Data source

Data are extracted from Home Office administrative databases, after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions. Data relating to Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates are derived from a subset of records on the Case Information Database (CID). Figures of Sector Based Scheme applications granted are taken from information recorded in the globe database (originally used for the administration of work permits before the implementation of the Points Based System) while Seasonal Agricultural Workers information is taken from a dedicated database used to administer the scheme by the Home Office.

Background on the statistics

On 1 January 2007, Bulgaria and Romania (the EU2 countries) joined the European Union. Access to the UK labour market was opened gradually to workers from the EU2 countries. The transitional arrangements enforced by the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 required EU2 nationals to apply for an accession worker card to gain authorisation to work in the UK, or a registration certificate if a student (and working whilst they study) or highly skilled person, unless they were exempt from those requirements.

Access for skilled workers at NVQ level 3 and above was managed through the work permit arrangements. Access for lower-skilled workers was restricted to those using existing schemes (the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme and the Sector Based Scheme) for the agricultural and food-processing sectors. These low-skilled schemes were restricted to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals.

Following 12 months' legal employment in the UK, EU2 national workers obtained full free movement rights.

Those who were: exempt from worker authorisation requirements due to their status in the UK prior to accession or certain family links to UK nationals, settled persons or EEA nationals; self-employed; self-sufficient; a student; or a family member of main applicants could apply for a registration certificate to confirm they are entitled to live in the UK.

These restrictions were not affected by the closure of the Worker Registration Scheme, which only applied to the countries which joined the European Union in 2004.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) was asked in May 2011 to consider whether the UK labour market was experiencing, or threatened by, a serious disturbance and to look at the consequences of maintaining or lifting the current employment restrictions on workers from these two countries. A report, 'Review of the transitional restrictions on access of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to the UK labour market', from the MAC looked at the impact on the domestic labour market if the transitional controls were removed. The report, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-restrictions-on-bulgaria-and-romanian-nationals>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the UK to work, particularly in lower-skilled occupations where there is greater risk of displacement of resident workers and a negative impact on wages. The Government announced on 23 November 2011 that these controls would be extended until the end of 2013.

Transitional restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals were lifted on 1 January 2014.

Following the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1st July 2013 similar transitional restrictions to those relating to Bulgarian and Romanians were placed on their working in the UK. Transitional restrictions on Croatian nationals were lifted on 1 July 2018 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restrictions-on-croatian-workers-to-expire-in-june>).

Key terms

Accession worker cards were issued to highly skilled, skilled and temporary workers from Bulgaria and Romania. Highly skilled applicants were exempt from transitional restrictions while skilled and temporary workers employed by companies in the UK were issued a certificate for 12 months, after which they may apply for a registration certificate.

Registration certificates are issued to Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian nationals who are exempt from the transitional controls and employed workers after 12 months living in the UK in accordance with the Regulations.

Definitions of document types can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in the data affecting the statistics

The Immigration Statistics: July–September 2011 release significantly revised the figures for applications received and approvals for registration certificates and accession worker cards from EU2 nationals, to include additional data found to have been incorrectly excluded from previous reports. This mainly affected figures for the first and second quarters of 2011, which were revised upward significantly; the revised total approvals for accession worker cards and for registration certificates for the first six months of 2011 are approximately six times higher than previously indicated. Figures for 2007 to 2010 were also revised, but changed by only 1 or 2%.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

Data quality

Data regarding applications and decisions in accession worker card and registration certificate requests from EU2 (Bulgarian and Romanian) and Croatian nationals along with approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) and Sector Based Scheme (SBS) are based on defined reports supplied by the Home Office and are not subject to the detailed checks of record-level data used for other data included in this release. However, overall the data quality for the numbers published is considered to be high, although initial estimates of quarterly totals for applications and decisions are subject to considerable revisions. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo thorough checks by staff in Migration Statistics prior to publication.

For both accession worker cards and registration certificates there are two reasons why initial quarterly figures have underestimated the final position:

- decisions data relate to the corresponding cohort of applications, such that for applications made in the latest quarter, decisions will be made in the same or later quarters (e.g. not all applications made in Q1 have decisions made in Q1, so the level of decisions made relating to those Q1 applications will increase over time as more decisions are completed); and
- as decisions are made, and data are entered on administrative systems, the initial figures for the number of applications are likely to increase slightly.

Compilation method

On a quarterly basis, during the first week after the end of the reference period Migration Statistics issue a request to Home Office staff responsible for the administration of the schemes relating to EU2 and Croatian workers in the UK for updated figures, supplying template tables and instructions for their completion. Home Office staff use reports tested and validated for accuracy to extract the data from the administrative database and place it in the template, which is then returned to Migration Statistics.

The figures for SAWs approved in Table ee_01 do not exactly match quotas for each calendar year. This is due in part to lags between the issue of cards by the Home Office to scheme operators, sometimes up to three months in advance of the quota year in order to facilitate their recruitment process, and the actual issue of cards. SAWs approved may also include replacement cards not included in the quota figure. SAWs quotas for 2007 and 2008 were 16,250 and for 2009 to 2013 were 21,250.

Quality and process checks carried out

Before the refreshed template is returned to Migration Statistics the data it contains are checked by at least one other member of the Home Office team to ensure local compilation of data has been carried out correctly.

On receipt of the refreshed template Migration Statistics review the figures supplied by the Home

Office, comparing them with data supplied previously and query any changes of more than 1% in those figures published previously. Where error or omissions in the data provided are found they are corrected before publication, wherever possible.

A cross-check of tables, to ensure consistent totals, is undertaken as part of the production process. Data are also checked for consistency against previous totals, and significant changes investigated with Home Office operational and policy teams. Where the reasons for changes in the data can be identified (e.g. operational or policy changes) appropriate commentary is added to the text and table notes.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables and text are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

Figures on allocations of National Insurance numbers (NINos) – compulsory for people wishing to work in the UK, whether short term or long term and which give an approximation of the uptake of work by non-UK nationals – are published by the Department for Work and Pensions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

The Office for National Statistics has published on its web site a guide to the availability of data regarding Bulgarian and Romanian migration in 2014:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/november-2013/sty-bulgaria-and-romania.html>

ISSUES AND REFUSALS OF RESIDENCE DOCUMENTATION TO EEA NATIONALS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

Data source

Data are extracted from the Home Office administrative database, after caseworkers have entered information relating to the applications and decisions.

Background on the statistics

Under the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, (since 1st February 2017, Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2016) EEA nationals (and their family members) have an initial right to reside in the UK for three months without conditions. To have a right to reside in the country longer than this the EEA national must be exercising a Treaty Right, described in domestic regulations as being a qualified person. To be considered a qualified person, they must be a jobseeker, worker, self-employed person, self-sufficient or a student. After living in the UK for a continuous period of five years in accordance with the EEA Regulations, an EEA national and any family member will acquire the right of permanent residence in the UK.

These data include decisions in requests for derivative rights of residence however such cases are not readily identifiable in the available data. More information regarding derivative residence rights can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488448/Derivative_rights_of_residence_v2.0_ext_clean.pdf

Figures for 2004 and 2005, while generally comparable to later years, are based on data relating to cases dealt with under the 2000 European Economic Area Regulations. These data were previously published in table 4.4 of the Control of Immigration Statistics command paper for 2006. The 2000

European Economic Area Regulations were replaced on the 30 April 2006 by the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006.

Key terms

Registration certificates and residence cards are issued as confirmation that an EEA national is a qualified person, or as conformation of a person's right to reside as a family member of an EEA national.

Documents certifying permanent residence and permanent residence cards are issued after five continuous years living in the UK in accordance with the EEA Regulations.

Definitions of document types can be found in the glossary of terms.

Changes in the data affecting the statistics

The number of decisions made in 2009 and 2010 rose compared to 2008 following various operational and procedural measures introduced during 2009 to improve performance in the Home Office.

In 2011 and 2012 a pre-consideration sift of applications was used to identify those without key information or documentation. These applications were rejected as invalid and returned to the applicant. The pre-consideration sift was discontinued in late 2012. Applicants whose request for documentation is rejected as invalid may apply again including the required information and this is likely to account for a proportion of the increase in decisions in 2011. Applications rejected as invalid are now shown separately in Tables ee_02 and ee_02_q.

On 1st July 2013 a fee for the processing of EEA residence documentation was introduced. This led to a increase in the number of applications rejected as invalid in the later half of 2013 due to their not including the fee.

Provisional data for 2016 published in August 2016 showed higher numbers of decisions categorised as 'Other'. A review of these records indicated that the majority were invalid applications. The tables were revised in December 2016 to correctly categorise these cases.

After 12 November 2015, a person applying for citizenship who is claiming to have permanent residence as an EEA national or the family member of an EEA national has been required to provide a permanent residence card or a document certifying permanent residence as evidence that they meet the requirement to be free of immigration time restrictions. These rule changes, along with EEA nationals' response to perceived uncertainty follow the 2016 EU referendum, are likely to have contributed to the steep increase in demand for EEA residence documentation during 2016 and 2017.

The number of decisions made in 2016 and 2017 rose compared to 2015 and previous years following various operational and procedural measures introduced during 2016 to improve performance in the Home Office.

In April 2017 updated guidance regarding rejection of applications for EEA documents as invalid where documentation, other evidence or the application fee are not received with a completed application form were issued in ['Processes and procedures for EEA documentation applications' \(Version 6.0\)](#).

Data quality

Overall, the data quality for the total numbers of those granted and refused EEA residence documents is considered to be high. These data:

- are administrative counts of the Home Office's casework processes, which are defined in UK legislation and are recorded under detailed categories on the Home Office's administrative database;
- are scrutinised regularly as part of the performance monitoring of the Home Office;
- are regularly assessed as part of the Home Office's Quality Assurance Framework;
- have not, in recent years, had to be altered significantly between initial provisional totals released in May each year and subsequent revised totals released in the following May and have not, in recent years, had to be revised at all when the annual data are subsequently checked 12 months later and the provisional status of the data is altered to final;
- do not require sampling processes for the compilation of the figures and hence have no associated sampling errors; and
- undergo a thorough reconciliation process.

The main types of errors are thought to relate to recording and classification errors. The level of missing data on related fields such as sex and nationality is very low, with such missing data reported as unknown and therefore no grossing, imputation or other estimation methods are used. The following are known data quality issues which affect a small number (less than 1%) of cases:

- In a small number of cases the recorded data appears inconsistent, for example where the recorded case type and statistics category do not represent a valid combination under the published Immigration Rules e.g. for a non-EEA national allowed to stay in the UK by virtue of their relationship to a non-British EEA citizen the Statistics Category recorded should indicate a document recognising their right to reside has been issued rather than a grant of leave to remain under the Immigration Rules. These records are included in the category 'Other' within the published data and, where resources allow, are passed back to the Home Office for investigation and correction.

Compilation method

On a quarterly basis, generally during the first week after the end of the reference period, extracts of general immigration casework decisions data are taken from a weekly refreshed 'snapshot' of the Case Information Database (CID) by Migration Statistics. This extract is filtered using established, tested computer code, which selects EEA residence document records into a separate dataset and, for example, ensures there are no duplicates within the data, to produce the data tables that are subsequently published.

Quality and process checks carried out

Migration Statistics reconcile the summary figures for grants and refusals of EEA residence documents with teams within the Home Office, by comparing the figures with similar data compiled for operational management purposes. Where these figures differ by more than 1 or 2% the discrepancy is investigated. Differences of less than 1 or 2% can occur due to differences in definition employed in the generation of Home Office management information for operational reasons or due to slight differences in the date on which data were extracted from CID.

After these reconciliation checks, the publication-ready tables are checked by a second member of the Migration Statistics team against the raw data. The prepared text is also checked against the publication-ready tables. Statisticians are responsible for checking that the commentary appropriately describes the trends seen in the data and is not biased.

Related statistics published elsewhere

Entry clearance visas – EEA Family Permits, see the [Passenger arrivals, visitors and visas](#) topic.

Data on the number of applications received for EEA residence documentation (described as 'EURO'

in table Inc 01a), are published as Official Statistics and are available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

15 Work

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for work;
- Sponsored visa applications (Certificate of Sponsorship used)
- Admissions for work;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for work;
- Work-related grants of settlement; and
- International Passenger Survey estimates of work-related immigration.

Background on the statistics

There are a range of measures used to monitor those subject to immigration control coming to the UK to work. These include those listed above together with numbers allocated National Insurance numbers, which provide an indication of migrants entering the labour market.

The figures reflect changes over time in levels of immigration to the UK, as well as policy and legislative changes. The availability and allocation of resources within the Home Office can affect the number of decisions.

These various statistics and research can appear to give different pictures of immigration for work. Often this is because the latest data for different measures cover different time periods. They also count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, whilst others show actual events.

The Points-based system

The Points-based system (PBS) rationalises the immigration control processes for people coming into the UK for work or study who are not EEA or Swiss nationals; although not all work and study endorsements were superseded by a PBS endorsement.

The PBS has five “Tiers”; four of these (Tiers 1, 2, 3 and 5) relate to permission to work:

- Tier 1 provides a route for high value workers;
- Tier 2 provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer;
- Tier 3 relates to unskilled workers (never implemented);
- Tier 5 is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the UK for primarily non-economic reasons.

Within Tiers 1, 2 and 5 there are sub-categories of endorsements.

Tier 1 was phased in between February and June 2008. Subsequent changes are:

- Tier 1 General route was closed to new “out of country” entry clearance visa applicants from 23 December 2010 and to those applying inside the UK to switch from most categories from 6 April 2011;
- a new Tier 1 route (Exceptional Talent) was introduced from 9 August 2011;

- Tier 1 Post-study route (which allowed successful applicants to be free to seek employment without having a sponsor for the duration of their Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) leave) was closed to new applicants from 6 April 2012;
- a new Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur category was introduced from 6 April 2012;
- continuing routes for Tier 1 are: Entrepreneurs; Investors; Graduate entrepreneurs; and Exceptional Talent.

Tiers 2 and 5 were implemented in November 2008. Tier 3 has never been implemented.

All pre-PBS equivalent entry clearance visas should now be obsolete, but visas continue to be granted in old endorsements. For admissions, extensions of stay and settlement, the phasing out of old categories will take longer.

The government asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in March 2011 to consider the following question: 'In which occupation(s) or job title(s) skilled to National Qualifications Framework level 4 or above is there a shortage of labour that it would be sensible to fill using labour from outside the European Economic Area (EEA)?' The MAC published a report (12 September 2011) on 'Skilled shortage sensible – full review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland' recommending changes to the shortage occupation list under Tier 2 of the points-based system. The MAC's report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-sep-2011>.

In October 2015 the MAC were asked to examine if there was a national shortage of nurses or specific nursing job titles. On 24 March 2016 they published a report recommending that nurses should remain on the Government's shortage occupation list, suggesting that there is a maximum annual cap of 5,000 places for nurses under Tier 2, with the limit reducing gradually over the next three years. The report was published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-partial-review-shortage-occupation-list-and-nursing>

The government response to this review is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-reviews-of-tier-2>

The MAC also published a report, 'Analysis of the points-based system – Settlement rights of migrants in Tier 1 and Tier 2', on 4 November 2011 advising the government on how to determine which skilled migrant workers can settle in the UK. The MAC was commissioned by the government in June 2011 to identify the most suitable economic criteria for determining which Tier 2 migrant workers could settle permanently in the UK and what the economic effects of restricting or removing Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlement rights would be. The report is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/settlement-rights-of-migrants-tier-1-and-2>

The MAC's report on its review of Tier 2: 'Balancing migrant selectivity, investment in skills and impacts on UK productivity and competitiveness' was published in January 2016 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-review-tier-2-migration>

The government response to this review is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-reviews-of-tier-2>

Accession countries

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) was asked in May 2011 to consider whether the UK labour market was experiencing, or threatened by, a serious disturbance and to look at the consequences of maintaining or lifting the current employment restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania. A report, 'Review of the transitional restrictions on access of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to the UK labour market', from the MAC looked at the impact on the domestic labour market if the transitional controls were removed. The report, available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-restrictions-on-bulgaria-and-romanian-nationals>, found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the UK to work, particularly in lower-skilled occupations where there is greater risk of displacement of resident workers and a negative impact on wages. The Government announced on 23 November 2011 that these controls would be extended until the end of 2013. More information on the restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania are described in the EEA section.

CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP (COS)

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Where possible, entry clearance visas that have been superseded by the PBS and are therefore now obsolete have been linked to the tier that they relate to and are referred to as 'pre-PBS equivalents'. This helps to provide a consistent time series. For some work-related endorsements, an obsolete endorsement has been split between one or more of the tiers or could now be equivalent to endorsements both within and outside the PBS. These are grouped into Work (Other): Other permit free employment not allocated'.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison of entry clearance data with admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

ADMISSIONS

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF WORK-RELATED IMMIGRATION

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information on the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** section of this User Guide, respectively.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/methodologies/internationalmigrationmethodology>

Related statistics published elsewhere

- Office for National Statistics international migration statistics on those migrating for work, and labour market statistics (including employment rates and changes by country of birth and by nationality) can be found at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration> and <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Labour+Market>
- Report on international migration data sources: July 2018 can be found at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/reportonthecomplexityandqualityofinternationalmigrationstatistics/july2018>
- National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk> are published by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- On 25 August 2016, DWP published a report on 'Nationality at point of NINo registration of DWP working age benefit recipients: data to Feb 2016' <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/nationality-at-point-of-nino-registration-of-dwp-working-age-benefit-recipients-data-to-feb-2016#history>
- 'Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants: February 2011 working age benefits' https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/196677/nat_nino_regs.pdf
- Note on the difference between National Insurance number registrations and the estimate of long-term international migration: 2016 published at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/noteonthedifferencebetweennationalinsurancenumberregistrationsandtheestimateoflongterminternationalmigration/2016>
- Reports of the Migration Advisory Committee can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee> including [EEA workers in the UK labour market: interim update](#)
- Salt, J., 2017, International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPEMI Correspondent to the OECD <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/research-centres/migration-research-unit/publications/mru-publications> , 2017, London: Migration Research Unit.
- OECD publish an annual volume analysing international migration and presenting international comparisons, entitled International Migration Outlook <http://www.oecd.org/migration/international-migration-outlook-1999124x.htm>
- The 'Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016' (formerly the 'Migrant Journey') research report provides analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/statistics-on-changes-in-migrants-visa-and-leave-status-2016>. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.

- The reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad, Cooper, Campbell, Patel and Simmons, Occasional Paper 110, September 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-reason-for-migration-and-labour-market-characteristics-of-uk-residents-born-abroad>
- The UK Border Agency report 'Points-based system Tier 1: an operational assessment – November 2010' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-tier-1-an-operational-assessment> looked into the jobs being done by migrants who were in the UK under Tier 1 of the points-based system, to inform subsequent decisions about the points-based system, in particular the closure of the Tier 1 General and Tier 1 Post-Study routes.

16 Study

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for study;
- Sponsored visa applications (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies used)
- Admissions for study;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for study; and
- IPS estimates of immigration for study.

Background on the statistics

There are a number of different measures monitoring numbers of people coming to the UK for study, as listed above.

These various statistics and research can appear to give different pictures of student immigration. Often this is because the latest data for different measures cover different time periods. They also count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, while others show actual events.

The Points-based system

The points-based system (PBS) rationalises the immigration control processes for people coming into the UK to work or study who are not EEA or Swiss nationals; although not all work and study endorsements were superseded by a PBS endorsement.

The PBS has five “tiers”, one of which (Tier 4) provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider. Tier 4 was implemented in March 2009.

All pre-PBS equivalent entry clearance visas should now be obsolete, but visas continue to be granted in old endorsements. For admissions and extensions of stay, the phasing out of old categories will take longer.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

For information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES (CAS)

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

In the **Study** section, student entry clearance and passenger arrivals data are quoted excluding the ‘short-term study’ category to make them more consistent with the IPS estimates of immigration for study, as ‘short-term students’ are allowed a maximum six-month stay (or 11 months if they will be studying an English Language course) and would not be counted as long-term migrants.

Individuals applying under the ‘short-term study’ category, which is for those people who wish to come to the UK and undertake a short period of study and those studying on short courses who do not

intend to work part-time or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course, may previously have been classified as 'visitors', 'student visitors' or 'short-term students'.

Where possible, entry clearance visas that have been superseded by the PBS and are therefore now obsolete have been linked to the tier that they relate to and are referred to as 'pre-PBS equivalents'. In addition, 'short-term students' which was closed as a route in September 2007 and 'student visitor' are counted within the 'short-term study' classification for the purpose of the visa data. This helps to provide a consistent time series.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including the comparability of entry clearance visas with passenger arrivals data, extensions and inflow of long-term migrants.

ADMISSIONS

'Short-term students' which was closed as a route in September 2007 are counted within the 'student' classification for the purpose of the admissions data.

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF IMMIGRATION FOR STUDY

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** sections of this User Guide respectively.

Data from ONS on long-term international migration provide a better indication of long-term trends of immigration than visa grants and passenger arrivals data, due to changes in immigration legislation and lack of information on the intentions of those not subject to immigration control; in particular, trends of student immigration are better tracked due to the introduction of the 'student visitor' category on 1 September 2007.

However, ONS records those coming to the UK who state their main reason for migrating is for study; people migrating for other reasons may also choose to study while in the UK.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/qmis/longtermmigrationindicatorssuiteqmi>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.

Related statistics published elsewhere

- The 'Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016' research report provides analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.
- Data published by the Higher Education Statistics Authority on Overseas students in UK Higher Education Institutions provides student flows (e.g. entrants) and stocks (e.g. enrolments) available from <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis>
- ONS summary note – '[What's happening with international student migration?](#)' – explained ONS learnt from recent research and clearly highlighted key messages (aimed at policymakers, Parliament, media and influencers).
- ONS accompanying technical paper – '[International student migration research update: August 2017](#)' – set out the methodology and findings in more detail (aimed at expert users).
- Migration Advisory Committee briefing paper <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

17 Family

Statistics covered by this topic

Figures are published on:

- Entry clearance visas granted for family reasons;
- Admissions for family reasons;
- Grants of (in-country) extensions of stay for family reasons;
- Family formation and reunion grants of settlement;
- Issues of residence documentation to EEA nationals and their family members; and
- IPS estimates of immigration for family reasons.

Key terms

There are a number of ways that allow people to come to the UK for family reasons. The traditional 'family route' is made up of those coming to join or accompany family members who are British citizens or settled people. This includes fiancé(e)s, proposed civil partners, spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same-sex partners, children and adult dependent relatives. Others come as dependants of people who have not been granted the right to stay permanently, for example the family members of those working or studying in the UK (dependants joining / accompanying). There are also those who come for a short time to visit family members (visitors).

The numbers coming for family reasons are monitored using a number of different measures, as listed above.

These various statistics can appear to give different pictures of family immigration. This is because they use different definitions of 'family' and count different aspects of the immigration process, with some showing intentions or permissions, while others show actual events.

Changes in legislation and policy affecting the statistics

The numbers of applications and decisions made reflect changes in levels of immigration over time, as well as policy and legislative changes, including changes to immigration legislation. The availability and allocation of resources within UK Visas and Immigration can also affect the number of decisions on applications.

Following a consultation on family migration, a number of changes to the Immigration Rules came into effect on 9 July 2012. The changes included:

- introduction of a minimum income threshold of £18,600 (with higher levels for also sponsoring non-EEA dependent children);
- extending from 2 years to 5 years the minimum probationary period before non-EEA spouses and partners can apply for settlement in the UK;
- a requirement for individuals to renew their temporary leave after 2.5 years;
- abolishing immediate settlement for the migrant spouse or partner where a couple have been living together overseas for at least 4 years, and requiring them to complete a 5 year probationary period.
- introduction of a genuineness test for relationships; and

- allowing adult dependants to settle in the UK only where they can demonstrate that, as a result of age, illness or disability, they require a level of long-term personal care that can only be provided by a relative in the UK, and requiring them to apply from overseas rather than switch in the UK from another category, for example as a visitor.

The new Immigration Rules also aims to balance the rights of the individual with the public interest in controlling immigration and protecting the public, with requirements defining the basis on which a person can enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their family or private life.

Further information about the rules changes, including consultation proposals and responses, announcements about the changes, impact assessments and the report of the Migration Advisory Committee are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-and-private-life-rule-changes-9-july-2012>. The 2011 Family Consultation concentrated on the 'family route' (non-EEA nationals entering or remaining in the UK on the basis of a relationship with a British citizen or a person settled in the UK) but also looked more widely at all forms of family migration, including Point Based System dependants, refugee family reunion and family visitors.

It is not possible to separately identify applications made or decided under the previous or new rules. Not all of the family route statistics from 9 July 2012 onwards relate to the new Immigration Rules in Appendix FM for the reasons outlined below:

- Applications made in the quarters shown in the data may be resolved in subsequent periods or may be resolved at the end of the period covered by the data. Decisions may relate to applications made in earlier quarters, and may include decisions based on the family Immigration Rules in place before 9 July 2012.
- There was a late surge, prior to 9 July 2012, in applications under the old rules which will be reflected in the data on decisions made on or after that date. The data also include the outcome of appeals: an appeal outcome from a case decided under the rules in force prior to 9 July 2012 may appear as a decision from 9 July 2012.
- The Immigration Rules in force before 9 July 2012 still applied after this date to fiancé(e)s or proposed civil partners granted entry clearance or leave to remain before 9 July 2012 or who applied before this date and were awaiting a decision. They could apply to switch into the partner route on the basis of the previous maintenance requirement and two year probationary period before settlement.
- Some applicants could still apply under old family rules via transitional arrangements. Hence the statistics include both cases under the new and old rules and this will continue particularly in the extensions data (where transitional arrangements will have a longer effect) for future years.
- The new family rules were not applied to partners of members of HM Forces on 9 July 2012: applicants could rely on the pre-9 July 2012 rules until 30 November 2013. New Immigration Rules for partners of members of HM Forces were introduced on 1 December 2013 in Appendix Armed Forces but further transitional arrangements mean that some partners of members of HM Forces still received a decision under the pre-9 July 2012 rules from 1 December 2013.
- Some family rules were unaffected by the 9 July 2012 changes, such as children eligible to apply for immediate settlement under Part 8 of the Immigration Rules.

Adult Dependent Relatives

The published statistics do not separately identify adult dependent relatives (ADRs) or cases decided under the old or new rules. Within the published entry clearance visa tables, data relating to adult dependent relatives of a British Citizen in the UK or a settled person in the UK are included in the

category 'Family: Other (for immediate settlement)' but cannot be identified separately from applicants in other routes covered by this category.

The Home Office is reviewing the collection of data relating to ADR settlement visas. Data are being developed and, subject to resolving any data quality/recording issues, it is planned to publish data in the future specifically relating to those settlement visas.

A manual review of the available management information indicated that 2,782 ADR applications were made in the period from 9 July 2012 (when the new rules came into force) to 31 December 2015. In these cases, 167 visas were granted following initial consideration and a further 439 visas were granted after an entry clearance manager review or on appeal.

These data were taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

Further details can be found in the review of the Immigration Rules for adult dependent relatives published on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-dependent-relatives-review>.

Cases on hold

Spouse or partner and child applications under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules which fell for refusal solely because they did not meet the minimum income threshold were subject to a hold on decision-making following the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in *MM & Others* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/minimum-income-threshold-information-for-family-visa-applicants/minimum-income-threshold-information-for-family-visa-applicants>.

On 11 July 2014 the Court of Appeal upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income threshold for spouses/partners and children applying in the family route. From 28 July 2014, the 4,000 individuals whose applications (visa or extension) were then on hold, pending the Court of Appeal judgment received a decision.

On 22 February 2017 a temporary hold on decision-making in respect of some spouse/partner or child applications (visa or extension) was introduced so that the implications of the Supreme Court judgment handed down that day in *MM (Lebanon) & Others* could be considered. The temporary hold was lifted from 10 August 2017 when Immigration Rules changes addressing the judgment's findings come into effect. From 10 August 2017 the individuals whose applications (visa or extension) were then on hold (around 5,000 as at 30 June 2017), pending the Rules changes, will receive a decision.

For further information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, see the Policy and Legislative Changes Timeline published alongside the User Guide.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISAS

Key terms

Dependants joining/accompanying are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant, who is not a settled person or a British Citizen. Following changes to the rules, from the second quarter of 2011 until the second quarter of 2012, this category included new family members who came to the UK to join a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but who had yet to apply for or be granted settlement.

The **Family route** covers visas where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person settled in the UK or a British citizen. The **Family route: child** includes adult offspring of the settled person or British Citizen. The **Family route: other** encompasses dependants who are not offspring or partners, such as elderly relatives. This category also includes:-

- following changes to the rules from July 2012, 'post-flight' family members and adult dependent relatives joining those who have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection; and
- family members of those granted refugee status and who had gained settlement, or who had yet to gain settlement status if the individual coming to the country applied for a visa prior to the second quarter of 2011.

Family reunion applications from dependants of those with refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK (made under Part 11 of the Immigration Rules) are included in the 'Family: other' category Within the Visa tables.

Whilst this 'Family: other' category includes a small number of other applications, the vast majority relate to family reunion and hence the published figures provide a good indication of trends for family reunion cases.

Please refer to the **Visas and Sponsorship** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison of entry clearance visas data with admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

ADMISSIONS

Please refer to the **Admissions** section of this User Guide for further information, including a comparison between admissions data and IPS estimates of immigration.

EXTENSIONS OF STAY

Please refer to the **Extensions** section of this User Guide for further information.

GRANTS OF SETTLEMENT

Please refer to the **Settlement** section of this User Guide for further information.

IPS ESTIMATES OF DEPENDANTS JOINING/ACCOMPANYING OTHERS

These data are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and further information can be obtained from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>.

In addition, information about the comparison of inflow of long-term migrants with entry clearance visas and admissions can be found in the **Visas and Sponsorship** and **Admissions** sections of this User Guide respectively.

Data quality

The data are mainly based on the International Passenger Survey and therefore subject to sampling error. Information on the sampling errors for ONS's international migration statistics can be found at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/qmis/longtermmigrationindicatorssuiteqmi>

Long-Term International Migration 1 series (methodology) 2010 contains tables showing the components and adjustments for Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) and the standard errors and non response associated with the International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates.

Related statistics published elsewhere

The 'Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016' research report provides analysis on migrants' journeys through the immigration system. For more information see 'Other sources of information on immigration and migration'.

More detailed analysis on family visas and extensions, and additional tables for years ending June were included in the Immigration Statistics July to September 2014 release, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2014>, to assist users in understanding the trends in family data before and after the changes to the Immigration Rules in July 2012. Updates of the additional tables and analysis were included in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2015 release, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2015>).

18 Other sources of information on immigration and migration

The [Statistics release calendar](#) lists a wide range of statistical publications on immigration and migration produced by Home Office, the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Work and Pensions, the devolved administrations and agencies.

Current Home Office statistical and research publications

In 2018 the Home Office published [Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016](#), the eighth report of its kind (formerly called the *Migrant Journey*). This publication provides evidence on the behaviour of migrants entering the UK immigration system for the four main routes of entry to the UK and the common pathways through the immigration system that result in settlement.

[Third report on statistics being collected under the exit checks programme](#) provides data collected on travellers departing and arriving in the UK as part of the Home Office exit checks programme with a particular focus on the requirements for statistical reporting rather than the operational use of the data.

[Research Reports](#) on immigration control are published by Home Office Analysis and Insight as reports and occasional papers

Previous Home Office statistical publications

[Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation](#) was published in November 2017 as experimental statistics. The report includes information on the number of asylum claims where sexual orientation formed all, or part, of the basis for an asylum claim. This included data on claims, initial decisions, and appeals.

Statistical information on grants of British citizenship was published annually in the Home Office [British Citizenship Statistical Bulletin](#) (previously titled 'Persons Granted British Citizenship, United Kingdom'). The last bulletin was published on 27 May 2010 and is available from the archived Home Office website.

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom](#), available from the archived Home Office website; published by the Home Office between 21 August 2008 and 26 May 2011.

[Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom](#) were published in the form of a Command Paper until 2006 and as an online bulletin between 2007 and 2009. Previous editions are available online from [The Stationery Office website](#) and the archived Home Office website.

Before 2008, statistics on asylum applications and decisions were published annually in the [Asylum Statistics United Kingdom](#) bulletin available online.

The amalgamation of the **Control of Immigration**, **British Citizenship Statistics** and the **Asylum Statistics** publications was in line with wider developments in the reporting of migration statistics to reduce the number of separate publications and give a coherent picture within the annual and quarterly publications following the **Review of Border and Immigration Agency** (now Home Office) **Statistics on "Control of Immigration"** and the 2011 **Consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs**. See 'Recent and previous reviews' below.

Until May 2009, the Home Office published quarterly Official Statistics on the Worker Registration Scheme (**Accession Monitoring Report**) and the schemes for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals (**Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics**). Past copies are available from the [archived Home Office website](#). Key findings and summary data for the EU2 countries continue to be included within the **Immigration Statistics** releases; data on the Worker Registration Scheme were published for the final time on 25 August 2011 following its closure at the end of April 2011.

Migration transparency data

Performance data related to areas in the Home Office business plan which lists the key input and impact indicators relating to borders and immigration are available [here](#). This release also includes data which is regularly requested from the Home Office by the Home Affairs Select Committee on borders, immigration and HM Passport Office.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) publications

The [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report](#) summarises the latest migration-related statistics. It is produced jointly by ONS, the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It includes data on long-term international migration to and from the UK and migrant applications for work in the UK, and the control of immigration. It also links to the interactive 'Local Area Migration Indicators' tool.

[Final Long-Term International Migration \(LTIM\) estimates](#) - a compendium of tables containing the latest final estimates of long-term international migration.

[Short-Term International Migration \(STIM\) Annual Report](#) - a report and tables detailing estimates of short-term international migration to and from England and Wales.

[Local Area Migration Indicators Suite](#) - an interactive product bringing together different migration-related data sources to allow you to compare indicators of migration at local authority level.

[International Migration Timeline](#) - an interactive chart exploring the longer-term picture of international migration to and from the UK from 1964 until the most recent published annual data.

ONS also publishes information about international migration alongside other population, the labour market and demographic information in a number of publications, including:

[Population of the UK by Country of Birth and Nationality](#) - a short report focusing on changes in the UK resident population by country of birth and nationality.

[Labour Market Statistics](#) - this includes estimates of the number of people in employment in the UK by country of birth and nationality.

[Internal Migration, England and Wales YE June 2015](#) – looks at migration between local authorities and regions in England and Wales, as well as moves to or from the rest of the UK (Scotland and Northern Ireland).

[Population estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2015](#) – estimates of the usual resident population, which migration statistics feed into.

The ONS have also published a [conceptual framework for UK population and migration statistics](#), which aims to facilitate communication with users of population and migration statistics through the development of a shared understanding of the underlying concepts, the available data and the methods used to produce key outputs. Where relevant, Home Office will adopt the framework in its future development of statistics.

[International Passenger Survey Quality Information in Relation to Migration Flows](#) provides an overview of the quality of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) for estimating international migration flows and has been updated following additional work carried out during 2016.

Other statistical publications

DWP publishes data on non-UK nationals registering for a National Insurance Number (NINo) for the purposes of work, benefits or tax credits. [National Insurance Numbers allocated to Adult Overseas Nationals](#).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) publishes [Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland](#) and the [General Register Office for Scotland](#) (GROS) reports data on **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality** and the **High Level Summary of Statistical Trends** publication includes data on migration.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes [Tribunals Service, Quarterly Statistics and Annual Statistics](#) containing financial year data on applications and decisions of immigration appeals.

The [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR) is mandated, by the United Nations, to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. The UNHCR website includes statistics on refugees.

[The Statistical Office of the European Communities](#) (Eurostat) is the statistical arm of the European Commission, producing data for the European Union (EU) and promoting harmonisation of statistical methods across the member states. Since 2008, all Member States are required to submit data to Eurostat on international protection and migration as part of the Migratory Statistics Regulation EC No. 862/2007. The long-term aim of this regulation is to enable international comparisons across the European Union, focusing on international migration (stocks and flows), prevention of illegal entry and stay (refusals, apprehensions and returns) and international protection (asylum).

The European Commission launched the [European Migration Network](#) (EMN) in 2003. The EMN is a network of national contact points (NCPs) with the purpose of collating, analysing, providing access to and facilitating the exchange of information on migration and asylum to inform policy making across the European Union. As part of this work regular themed research reports are produced, which contain an overview of the latest policy and statistical information, as well as an **Annual Policy Report**. Currently, an **Annual Report on Migration and International Protection Statistics** is produced by all Member States and combined into a synthesis report by the EMN as a source for international comparisons across the European Union. Since 2008, this report has mainly used data supplied to Eurostat as part of the Migratory Statistics Regulation (EC No, 862/2007).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in 1961. Its mission has been to help its member countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and employment and to raise the standard of living in member countries while maintaining financial stability. The OECD collects statistics annually from statistical agencies and other institutions of its member countries needed for the analysis of economic and social developments by its in-house analysts, committees, working parties, and member country governments. [OECD databases and publications of migration statistics](#), including **Databases on Migration in OECD countries** and the annual **International Migration Outlook (SOPMI)**.

Salt, J., 2012, [International Migration and the United Kingdom: Report of the United Kingdom SOPMI Correspondent to the OECD](#), 2012, London: Migration Research Unit.

OECD publish an annual volume analysing international migration and presenting international comparisons, entitled [International Migration Outlook](#).

The [United Nations Statistics Division](#) and the United Nations Population Division also provide data on migration – including stocks, flows, labour migration and asylum.

Other sources of information

The Home Office is the lead government department for immigration and is responsible for securing the UK border and controlling immigration, considering applications to enter and stay in the UK and issuing visas.

The [UK Visas and Immigration section](#) of the Home Office website (provides details of most of the routes available to foreign nationals who want to come to the UK to work, and a reference source on immigration and asylum law. The [Our statistics](#) section provides a growing number of Official Statistics on the immigration work of the Home Office.

Information about [visa applications](#) is available online.

Previously, the Home Office published [Visa Statistics](#), which provided details of all visa applications, grants and refusals worldwide. These are now incorporated within Immigration Statistics releases.

Users of migration statistics are able to join an email-based User Group forum for discussion. The user group can be accessed [here](#).

Recent and previous reviews

[Consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs \(2011\)](#), summary of responses to the consultation and outcomes are available [here](#).

[UK Statistics Authority Migration Statistics: The Way Ahead \(July 2009\)](#)

[Review of Border and Immigration Agency Statistics on Control of Immigration \(February 2008\)](#)

These reviews followed the National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) of “Control of Immigration United Kingdom” publications. The final report and the Home Office’s implementation plan can be found on the Home Office website.

- [Review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics \(August 2006\)](#)
- [Review of Home Office publications of Control of Immigration Statistics – Implementation Plan](#)

Other documents with respect to this review are include:

- [Project Initiation Document](#)
- [Early Findings Paper](#)
- [Abstract](#)
- [Implementation Plan August 2006](#)

[Asylum and migration – a review of Home Office Statistics by the National Audit Office \(May 2004\)](#)

Legislation governing Home Office Science outputs

- Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and the Code of Practice for Statistics.

- Control of Immigration statistics: The first permanent control over the admission and residence of foreigners in peacetime was established by the Aliens Act 1905. Annual reports of HM Inspector under the Act from 1906 to 1913 inclusive, which included statistics on foreign passengers arriving and departing, were published as Command Papers. No foreign passenger traffic figures were published for the period 1 July 1914 to 31 December 1919. Quarterly returns of foreign passenger traffic were published as Command Papers for the period 1 January 1920 to 30 June 1939. Annual returns giving a more detailed analysis were published for the years 1921 to 1938. The series was suspended on the outbreak of war. Following a number of requests for permission to use figures since 1939 a Command Paper volume was published providing information for the years 1939 to 1951. This Command Paper stated the intention to publish figures annually.
- Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation, (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

19 Geographical regions for tables

New geographical regions have been included in the Immigration Statistics tables from 27 November 2014 to broadly reflect the country groupings that ONS [consulted](#) on in early 2014. These will provide a more detailed breakdown of our figures by geographical region and not in any way restrict the information already available at the level of individual country of nationality. The following table shows the old and new geographical region for each country of nationality. For consistency with the ONS groupings, subdivisions of EU nationalities have been used in the breakdown, though the numbers in our statistical series are generally very low, reflecting the fact that EU nationals are not normally subject to most forms of immigration control. Along with other changes the definition of 'Europe Other' no longer includes central Asian former Soviet republics, such as Kazakhstan.

Country of nationality	Old region	New region
Afghanistan	Asia	Asia Central
Albania	Europe	Europe Other
Algeria	Africa	Africa North
American Samoa	Oceania	Oceania
Andorra	Europe	Europe Other
Angola	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Anguilla (British)	Americas	Other
Antigua and Barbuda	Americas	America Central and South
Argentina	Americas	America Central and South
Armenia	Europe	Europe Other
Aruba	Americas	America Central and South
Australia	Oceania	Oceania
Austria	Europe	EU 14
Azerbaijan	Europe	Europe Other
Bahamas, The	Americas	America Central and South
Bahrain	Middle East	Middle East
Bangladesh	Asia	Asia South
Barbados	Americas	America Central and South
Belarus	Europe	Europe Other
Belgium	Europe	EU 14
Belize	Americas	America Central and South
Benin	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Bermuda (British)	Americas	Other
Bhutan	Asia	Asia South
Bolivia	Americas	America Central and South
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	Americas	America Central and South
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Europe	Europe Other
Botswana	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Brazil	Americas	America Central and South
British overseas citizens	Other	Other
Brunei	Asia	Asia South East
Bulgaria	Europe	EU 2
Burkina	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Burma	Asia	Asia South East
Burundi	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Cambodia	Asia	Asia South East
Cameroon	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Canada	Americas	America North
Cape Verde	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan

Cayman Islands (British)	Americas	Other
Central African Republic	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Chad	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Chile	Americas	America Central and South
China	Asia	Asia East
Christmas Island	Oceania	Oceania
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Colombia	Americas	America Central and South
Comoros	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Congo	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Congo (Democratic Republic)	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Cook Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Costa Rica	Americas	America Central and South
Croatia	Europe	EU Other
Cuba	Americas	America Central and South
Curacao	Americas	America Central and South
Cyprus	Europe	EU Other
Cyprus (Northern part of)	Europe	Europe Other
Czech Republic	Europe	EU 8
Denmark	Europe	EU 14
Djibouti	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Dominica	Americas	America Central and South
Dominican Republic	Americas	America Central and South
East Timor	Asia	Asia South East
Ecuador	Americas	America Central and South
Egypt	Africa	Africa North
El Salvador	Americas	America Central and South
Equatorial Guinea	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Eritrea	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Estonia	Europe	EU 8
Ethiopia	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Falkland Islands (British)	Americas	Other
Faroe Islands	Europe	Europe Other
Fiji	Oceania	Oceania
Finland	Europe	EU 14
Former Yugoslavia	Europe	Europe Other
France	Europe	EU 14
French Guiana	Americas	America Central and South
French Polynesia	Oceania	Oceania
Gabon	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Gambia, The	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Georgia	Europe	Europe Other
Germany	Europe	EU 14
Ghana	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Gibraltar (British)	Europe	Other
Greece	Europe	EU 14
Greenland	Europe	Europe Other
Grenada	Americas	America Central and South
Guadeloupe	Americas	America Central and South
Guam	Americas	Oceania
Guatemala	Americas	America Central and South
Guinea	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Guinea-Bissau	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan

Guyana	Americas	America Central and South
Haiti	Americas	America Central and South
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Honduras	Americas	America Central and South
Hong Kong	Asia	Asia East
Hungary	Europe	EU 8
Iceland	Europe	Europe Other
India	Asia	Asia South
Indonesia	Asia	Asia South East
Iran	Middle East	Middle East
Iraq	Middle East	Middle East
Ireland	Europe	EU 14
Israel	Middle East	Middle East
Italy	Europe	EU 14
Ivory Coast	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Jamaica	Americas	America Central and South
Japan	Asia	Asia East
Jordan	Middle East	Middle East
Kazakhstan	Europe	Asia Central
Kenya	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Kiribati	Oceania	Oceania
Korea (North)	Asia	Asia East
Korea (South)	Asia	Asia East
Kosovo	Europe	Europe Other
Kuwait	Middle East	Middle East
Kyrgyzstan	Europe	Asia Central
Laos	Asia	Asia South East
Latvia	Europe	EU 8
Lebanon	Middle East	Middle East
Lesotho	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Liberia	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Libya	Africa	Africa North
Liechtenstein	Europe	Europe Other
Lithuania	Europe	EU 8
Luxembourg	Europe	EU 14
Macau	Asia	Asia East
Macedonia	Europe	Europe Other
Madagascar	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Malawi	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Malaysia	Asia	Asia South East
Maldives	Asia	Asia South
Mali	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Malta	Europe	EU Other
Marshall Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Martinique	Americas	America Central and South
Mauritania	Africa	Africa North
Mauritius	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Mayotte	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Mexico	Americas	America Central and South
Micronesia	Oceania	Oceania
Moldova	Europe	Europe Other
Monaco	Europe	Europe Other
Mongolia	Asia	Asia East

Montenegro	Europe	Europe Other
Montserrat (British)	Americas	Other
Morocco	Africa	Africa North
Mozambique	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Namibia	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Nauru	Oceania	Oceania
Nepal	Asia	Asia South
Netherlands	Europe	EU 14
Netherlands Antilles	Americas	America Central and South
New Caledonia	Oceania	Oceania
New Zealand	Oceania	Oceania
Nicaragua	Americas	America Central and South
Niger	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Nigeria	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Niue	Oceania	Oceania
Norfolk Island	Oceania	Oceania
Northern Mariana Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Norway	Europe	Europe Other
Occupied Palestinian Territories	Middle East	Middle East
Oman	Middle East	Middle East
Other and unknown	Other	Other
Pakistan	Asia	Asia South
Palau	Oceania	Oceania
Panama	Americas	America Central and South
Papua New Guinea	Oceania	Oceania
Paraguay	Americas	America Central and South
Peru	Americas	America Central and South
Philippines	Asia	Asia South East
Pitcairn Islands (British)	Oceania	Other
Poland	Europe	EU 8
Portugal	Europe	EU 14
Puerto Rico	Americas	America North
Qatar	Middle East	Middle East
Refugee	Other	Other
Reunion	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Romania	Europe	EU 2
Russia	Europe	Europe Other
Rwanda	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Samoa	Oceania	Oceania
San Marino	Europe	Europe Other
Sao Tome and Principe	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Saudi Arabia	Middle East	Middle East
Senegal	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Serbia	Europe	Europe Other
Serbia and Montenegro	Europe	Europe Other
Seychelles	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Sierra Leone	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Singapore	Asia	Asia South East
Slovakia	Europe	EU 8
Slovenia	Europe	EU 8
Solomon Islands	Oceania	Oceania
Somalia	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
South Africa	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	Americas	Other
Spain	Europe	EU 14
Sri Lanka	Asia	Asia South
St. Helena (British)	Africa	Other
St. Kitts and Nevis	Americas	America Central and South
St. Lucia	Americas	America Central and South
St. Maarten (Dutch Part)	Americas	America Central and South
St. Martin (French Part)	Americas	America Central and South
St. Pierre and Miquelon	Americas	America Central and South
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Americas	America Central and South
Stateless	Other	Other
Sudan	Africa	Africa North
Sudan (South)	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Surinam	Americas	America Central and South
Svalbard and Jan Mayen	Europe	Europe Other
Swaziland	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Sweden	Europe	EU 14
Switzerland	Europe	Europe Other
Syria	Middle East	Middle East
Taiwan	Asia	Asia East
Tajikistan	Europe	Asia Central
Tanzania	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Thailand	Asia	Asia South East
Togo	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Tokelau	Oceania	Oceania
Tonga	Oceania	Oceania
Trinidad and Tobago	Americas	America Central and South
Tunisia	Africa	Africa North
Turkey	Europe	Europe Other
Turkmenistan	Europe	Asia Central
Turks and Caicos Islands (British)	Americas	Other
Tuvalu	Oceania	Oceania
Uganda	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Ukraine	Europe	Europe Other
United Arab Emirates	Middle East	Middle East
United States	Americas	America North
Uruguay	Americas	America Central and South
Uzbekistan	Europe	Asia Central
Vanuatu	Oceania	Oceania
Vatican City	Europe	Europe Other
Venezuela	Americas	America Central and South
Vietnam	Asia	Asia South East
Virgin Islands (British)	Americas	Other
Virgin Islands (US)	Americas	America North
Wallis and Futuna	Oceania	Oceania
Western Sahara	Africa	Africa North
Yemen	Middle East	Middle East
Zambia	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan
Zimbabwe	Africa	Africa Sub-Saharan