



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

28 November 2013

Immigration Statistics, July - September 2013

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics July - September 2013* release, published today, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to the end of September 2013. All data below relate to the year ending September 2013 and all comparisons are with the year ending September 2012, unless indicated otherwise.

Key points from the latest release

Visas issued (Before Entry)

There was a 4% increase (to 526,736) in the number of visas issued (excluding visitors and transit visas).

There was a 15% increase in visitor visas issued (1.9 million), mostly accounted for by Chinese (+80,755 or +40%), Russian (+37,405 or +23%), Kuwaiti (+23,507 or +40%), Indian (+20,749 or +7%) and Saudi Arabian (+18,030 or +24%) nationals.

Work

There was a 5% rise for visas issued for work to 152,139. The increase was largely accounted for by higher numbers of visas issued for skilled workers (Tier 2, up 9,271, of which Intra-Company Transfers increased by 6,192) and for Youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5, up 2,771), partly offset by fewer visas issued to high value workers (Tier 1, down 7,179, largely reflecting the closure of the Tier 1 General and Tier 1 Post-Study categories to new applicants).

Study

There were 3% more study visas issued (up to 216,895), mainly explained by larger numbers of Chinese (+8%) and Malaysians (+27%), although there were notable falls for Pakistanis (-60%) and Indians (-24%). University sponsored applications rose 7% (main applicants) while there were falls for other education sectors.

There was also a 15% increase in student visitor visas issued, to 76,672. Student visitors are normally only allowed to stay for up to 6 months (11 months for English Language schools) and cannot extend their stay.

Family

There was a fall of 20% for family-related visas issued (down to 33,747), while grants of permission to stay permanently increased by 26% (to 59,098). A rise of 138% in family-related extensions of stay (to 36,752) was in large part due to 14,150 extra extensions recorded under the new Family life (10 year) route that would previously have been recorded as discretionary leave.

EEA

For Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, approvals under the Sector Based Scheme fell by 10% (to 465) and approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme fell by 5% (to 19,451). Figures for these schemes do not provide a full picture in that they exclude those who are self-employed.

In the first 3 months since the accession of Croatia on 1 July 2013, 117 applications were received from Croatians for certificates as evidence of their right to work in the UK.

Asylum

There were 23,765 asylum applications, a rise of 14%, with increases in applications from a number of nationalities, including Syria, Albania, Eritrea, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This remains low relative to the peak of 84,132 in 2002. Correspondingly, the number of applications received since April 2006 pending a decision continued to rise; by 19% to 15,438 main applicants at the end of September 2013.

Other points to note

Admissions

There were 109.9 million journeys to the UK, a 3% increase.

Extensions

There were 4% more grants of extension, to 284,902, with increases in study (+7%) and family-related grants (+138%) partly offset by a fall in work-related grants (-9%). The increase in family-related grants (+21,293) included 14,150 grants in the new Family Life (10-year) category that would previously have been recorded as discretionary leave.

Citizenship

There was an 8% increase in people granted British citizenship (to 198,952). The increase in grants was largely accounted for by higher numbers of people granted citizenship on the basis of residence.

Settlement

There were 13% more people granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), rising to 152,185. The increase was accounted for by increases for family (+26%), asylum-related (+74%) and discretionary or other (+11%) grants, partly offset by a fall in work-related grants (-7%).

Detention

In the third quarter of 2013, 65 children entered detention, up from 52 in the third quarter of 2012. The number of children entering detention has fluctuated in recent quarters, following a period of consecutive increases from a low point of 19 at the start of 2011 up to 66 for the second quarter of 2012.

6% more people entered detention (to 30,387) and 6% more left detention (to 30,116). Of those leaving detention, 57% were removed from the UK. As at the end of September 2013, there were 3,115 people in detention, 1% higher than the number recorded at the end of September 2012.

Removals and Voluntary Departures

There was a 1% increase in total voluntary departures (to 30,184), and a 2% increase in the number of passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed (to 14,122). Enforced removals from the UK decreased by 10%, to 13,533.

Further and more detailed analysis can be found in the Immigration Statistics, July - September 2013.

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, July - September 2013* is available via the UK National Statistics publication hub website and the Home Office statistics web pages <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.
2. This release is published as part of a coordinated release of migration and population products. Today sees the release of the following publications:

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- *Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (Jointly with Home Office, DWP and National Records of Scotland)*
- *Provisional Long-term International Migration (latest quarterly)*

The *Migration Statistics Quarterly Report* summarises the regular quarterly migration and related data published by the Home Office, DWP, ONS and NRS and is available at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>

Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

- *National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals to September 2013*

3. The UK Statistics Authority has assessed Immigration Statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and confirmed designation as National Statistics. More information on National Statistics and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.
4. For **all press enquiries regarding the Home Office Immigration Statistics release**, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with the Home Office Statistics team.

Newsdesk: **020 7035 3535**

Please note that the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone Public Enquiries 020 7035 4848, or email to MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries regarding ONS publications should be directed to the ONS Press Office.

5. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics.