

National Insurance Numbers Allocated to Adult Overseas Nationals

Registrations to December 2016

Quarterly

Published 23rd February 2017

United Kingdom

Official Statistics

What do these statistics show? A National Insurance Number (NINo) is generally required by any adult overseas national looking to work or claim benefits / tax credits in the UK. As such they show quarterly counts – by individual nationality - of the number of NINOs registered to adult non-UK nationals each quarter, irrespective of the length of stay in the UK. The NINo statistics are not a count of the number of adult non-UK nationals currently residing in the UK

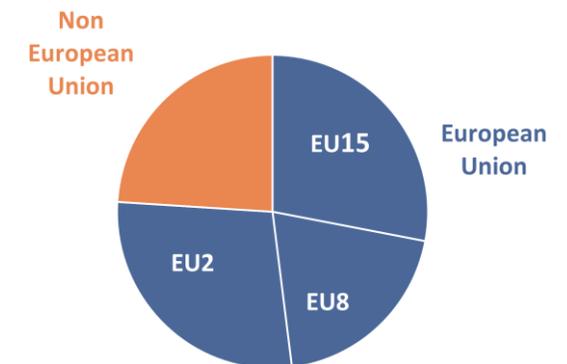
Main stories

825 thousand NINo's registered in the year to December 2016:

Over the last year, the total of EU and Non EU registrations have remained level

...of these, 76% are from within the EU

Registrations in thousands



At a glance

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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What you need to know

These statistics are designated as official statistics – see [Status: Official statistics](#)

This summary contains statistics on National Insurance Numbers (NINo) allocated to adult overseas nationals, covering the period from January 2002 to December 2016.

The NINo statistics show the number of people registering for a NINo in order to work or to claim benefits / tax credits and are one of a number of supplementary measures produced by Government of in-migration to the UK.

The statistics are published as part of the scheduled timetable for the release of cross-Government migration statistics. The [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report \(MSQR\)](#) is a summary of the quarterly releases of official international migration statistics by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

NINo statistics are not a direct measure of long term migration and therefore are not directly comparable with ONS long-term estimates of immigration. On 7 March 2016, the ONS published an [information note](#) explaining the reasons why long-term international immigration figures from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) could differ from the number of NINo registrations.

On 12 May 2016, ONS published a follow up [analytical paper](#) presenting analysis that has been undertaken across government to help understand why the 2 series are showing different trends, with focus on EU migration.

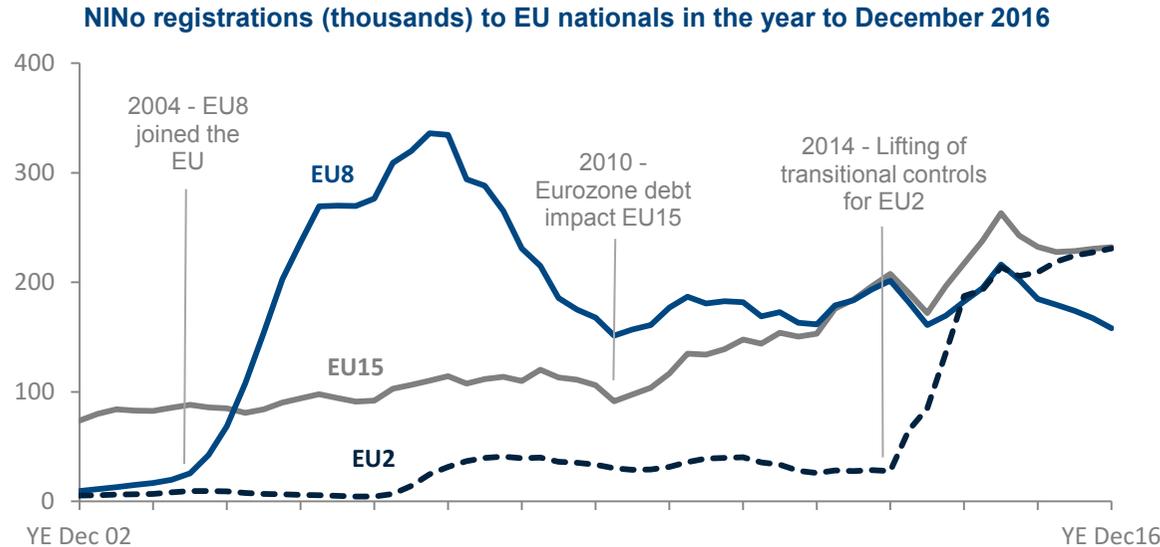
World Areas

For reporting purposes, countries have been grouped into ‘world areas’ based primarily on geographical location. Countries are grouped according to current world area status for the entire back series.

World Area	Sub Group
European Union (EU)	European Union EU15 (original EU members), European Union EU8 (joined EU in 2004), European Union EU2 (Romania & Bulgaria), European Union Other
Non-European Union (Other Europe)	Other Europe
Asia	Middle East and Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, South East Asia
Rest of the World	Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Central and South America, Oceania

Where in the world are people registering from?

Registrations to EU8 are half of their peak in 2007 while EU15 and EU2 now make up 56% of all registrations.

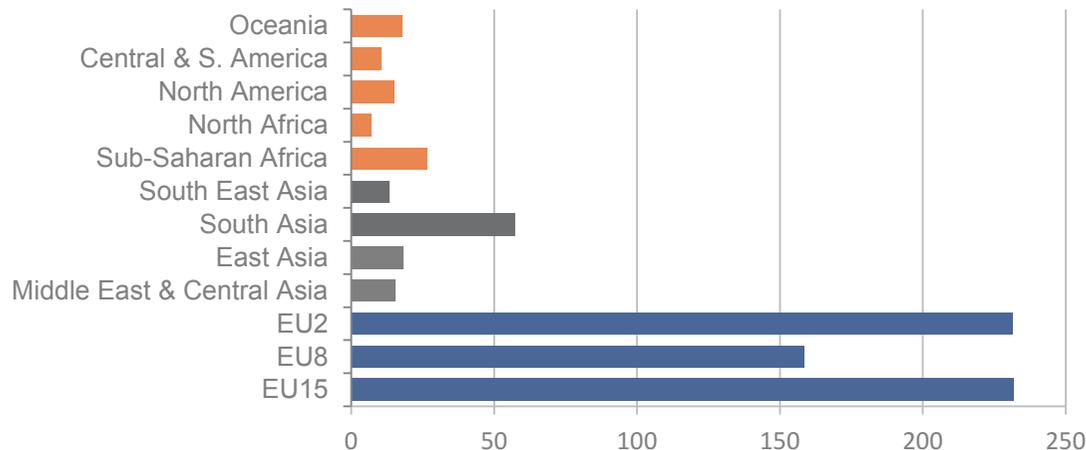


- Following a generally increasing trend since 2010, registrations to EU nationals over recent quarters have remained level, though differences can be seen within the EU.
- There were 158 thousand registrations to EU8 nationals, a 14% decrease on the previous year: half of what they were in 2007.
- The number of NINo registrations from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) was 227 thousand, an increase of 22 thousand (11%) on the previous year.

There was a sharp rise in NINo registrations in 2014 following the removal of restrictions on work for EU2 citizens. Some reflecting people coming to the UK to work and apply for a NINo after the employment restrictions have been lifted. However, some individuals were residing in the UK prior 2014 and would only have been able to register for a NINo after that date (see [arrival to registration analysis on EU2 nationals](#)).

Outside of the EU, South Asia has the most registrations

Registrations (thousands) in the year to December 2016 by world area



Top 5 individual nationalities, registrations in year to December 2016 (thousands) and the % change from previous year.

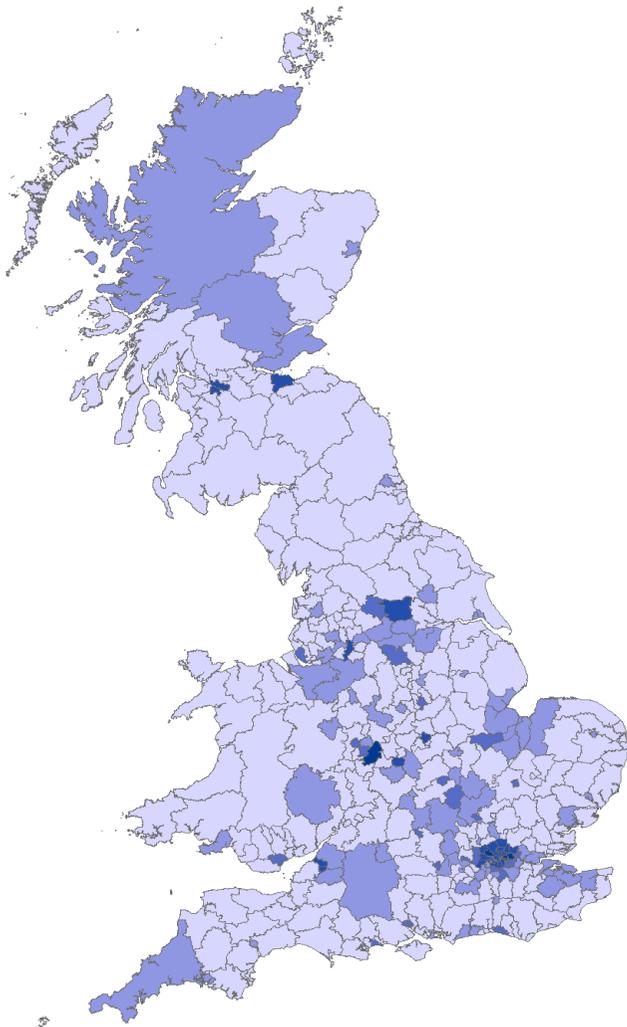
EU		Non EU	
Romania	189 (+11%)	India	35 (1%)
Poland	93 (-16%)	Australia	13 (-4%)
Italy	63 (+7%)	China	13 (-3%)
Spain	48 (-5%)	Pakistan	12 (-4%)
Bulgaria	42 (8%)	United States	10 (7%)

Nationalities with the largest increases in registrations in the year to December 2016 are: Romania, Italy, Bulgaria (see above). Greece up 22% to 15,000 and Syria up 55% to 5,000.

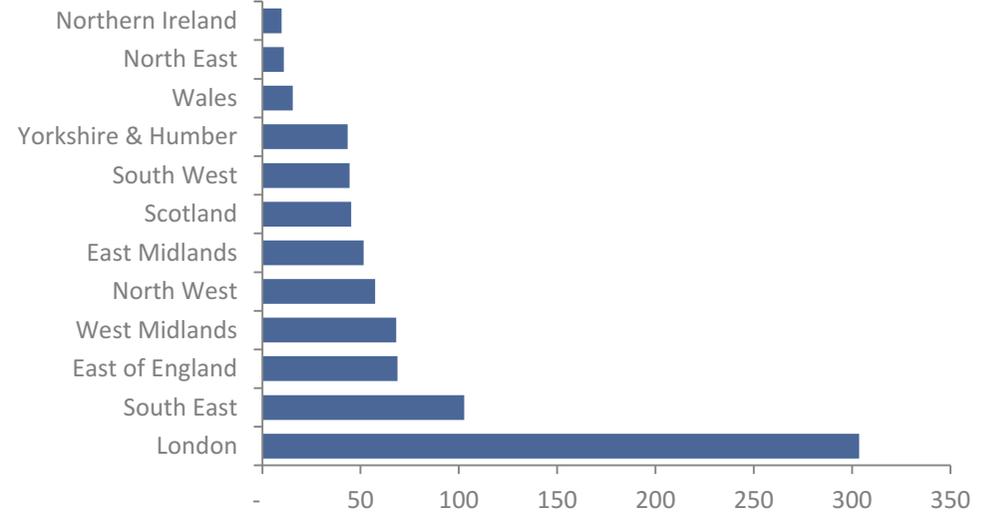
Where in the UK are people registering?

Almost 50% of all registrations are in London (37%) or the South East (12%)

NINo registrations in the year to December 2016, by Local Authority

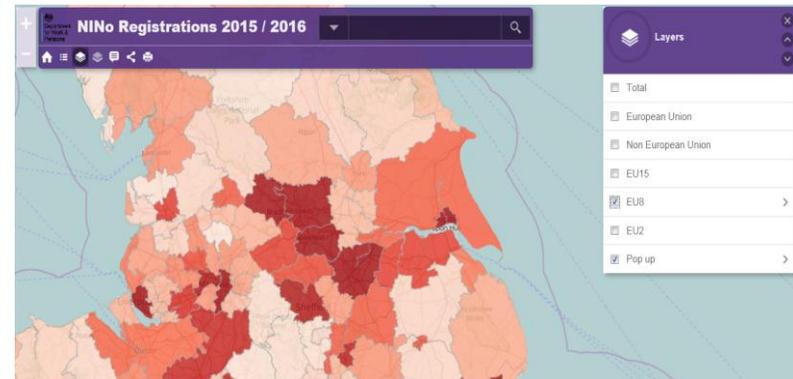


NINo registrations (thousands) in the year to December 2016, by Region



Where you live

Find out more information about your Local Authority in our interactive map. This shows Local Authority information on registrations by world area (NINo registrations for 2015 / 2016)



The darker areas of the map show local authorities with higher levels of registrations

To access the interactive version click [here](#)

About these statistics

Status: Official statistics

On 26 January 2017, the Office for Statistics Regulation published a [report on the reassessment of the NINo statistics](#).

We welcome the report and in particular that it upholds the quality and accuracy of the NINo statistics. These statistics now carry an 'Official Statistics' badge – as the Office for Statistics Regulation have suspended the 'National Statistics' badge and have set out some requirements for the statistics in order to have the National Statistics badge reinstated.

We have already addressed some of these requirements, others will be addressed by 30 April 2017, after which the Office for Statistics Regulation will assess the statistics again.

Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

Further information including detail on data sources, uses and limitations of the series can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/nino-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk-background-information>

Build your own tables using Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

See our interactive map: Click here: <://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=e449d3f2bd5e4e55aebc6154f69de07a>

View our new interactive NINo dashboard: <https://ninodash.herokuapp.com/>

Further detail on the NINo application process is available here : <https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number>

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report provides a comprehensive summary of the various sources of migration statistics including headline NINo statistics: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/previousReleases>

Enquires and feedback.

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements : Email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Press enquiries should be directed to the Department for Work and Pensions Press Office: 0203 267 5144.

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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