



Sources of social statistics: Immigration, Asylum and Migration

Standard Note: SN/SG/3845
Last updated: 30 June 2011
Author: Oliver Hawkins
Section: Social and General Statistics

This note is intended as a guide to the key sources in immigration, asylum and migration statistics. It represents a self-help guide, providing a starting point for those interested in obtaining statistics for themselves.

Contact details of Library staff dealing with different areas of social statistics are available online at: http://hcl1.hclibrary.parliament.uk/general_pdf/usingthelibrary.pdf.

For immigration, asylum and migration statistics, contact Oliver Hawkins (x2324) or Richard Cracknell (x4632).

Increasingly, key data sources are available online. Links to relevant websites and publications are contained within the text of this Note, with footnotes detailing the web addresses for hard copy readers. As far as possible, links lead to parent web pages, from which the user can choose the specific report they require. In some instances, however, the link leads directly to the document in question.

While at the time of printing all hyperlinks are current, the changing nature of online data means that some of these links may, from time to time, become out-of-date. If you experience any problems connecting to a document, please inform the Statistics Resource Unit via hclsru@parliament.uk

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1 Library publications

The Social and General Statistics Section regularly produces a Standard Note covering trends in asylum applications and decisions. [Asylum Statistics](#)¹ is updated twice yearly following the publication of Home Office asylum data. Other relevant Standard Notes include the regularly updated Social Indicators pages on [Asylum Seekers](#)², [Asylum Decisions](#)³ and [International Migration](#)⁴.

2 Immigration and asylum statistics

The principal source for statistics on managed migration is the Home Office Control of Immigration series, published annually as a [Statistical Bulletin](#)⁵ and updated in quarterly [statistical summaries](#)⁶. Both the annual and quarterly releases provide data on:

- entry clearance visas granted
- passengers given leave to enter the UK
- removals and voluntary departures from the UK
- persons entering and held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers
- grants of settlement by category of grant and refusals
- applications for British citizenship received and decided in the UK

The Control of Immigration series also contains data on asylum seekers that was previously published separately in a bulletin called Asylum Statistics. It includes data on:

- asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals
- asylum seekers supported in accommodation or receiving subsistence only support
- asylum seekers entering or held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers
- asylum removals and voluntary departures from the UK
- unaccompanied asylum seeking children and age-disputed asylum applications
- estimates of the current backlog of asylum applications

The Home Office publishes headline figures for asylum applications, cases awaiting an initial decision, and cases pending further review in their [monthly asylum application tables](#)⁷.

3 Nationality statistics

[British Citizenship Statistics](#)⁸ (previously called Persons Granted British Citizenship) is an annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin that provides summary statistics on applications for British citizenship and their outcomes over the last ten years. It contains data on the basis of grants, previous nationality, grants by age, and other grants of citizenship.

¹ SN/SG/1403 Asylum Statistics: <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01403>

² SN/SG/2653 Asylum Seekers: <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02653>

³ SN/SG/2654 Asylum Decisions: <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02654>

⁴ SN/SG/2652 International Migration: <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02652>

⁵ Home Office Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/hosb1510/?view=Standard&pubID=864717>

⁶ Home Office Control of Immigration: quarterly statistical summary Q1 2011: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/control-immigration-q1-2011-t/?view=Standard&pubID=891312>

⁷ Home Office Monthly asylum application tables: April 2011: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-app-apr-2011?view=Standard&pubID=905259>

⁸ British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/hosb0910/>

4 Migration statistics

The most comprehensive estimate of international migration to and from the UK is provided by the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) series on [Long Term International Migration](#)⁹ (LTIM).

For this series, the ONS uses the UN recommended definition of a long-term international migrant. That is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

The LTIM estimate is based on three sources of data: the [International Passenger Survey](#)¹⁰ (IPS), data from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on international migration to and from Northern Ireland, and Home Office data on asylum seekers and "switchers" – people who remain in the UK for a longer or shorter period than they originally anticipated, thus falling into or out of the definition of a migrant.

The ONS produces a wide range of additional data on migration which is available on the [population and migration](#)¹¹ section of its website. It includes the [Migration Statistics Quarterly Reports](#)¹², which summarise the most recent provisional estimates of LTIM, and the [Local Area Migration Indicators](#)¹³, which provide estimates of international and internal migration into and out of local authority areas, as well as estimates of the foreign-born and foreign national populations of local authorities.

5 International statistics

The Statistical Office of the European Commission, Eurostat, has an online [database](#)¹⁴ that includes statistics on population, migration and asylum in European Union countries, including demographic data on migrants and asylum seekers.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees produces international statistics on refugees and asylum seekers, which are available on the [UNHCR website](#)¹⁵. Data can be downloaded directly from the [population database](#)¹⁶, but is also available more accessibly in several annual publications. These include the [UNHCR Statistical Yearbook](#)¹⁷, [Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries](#)¹⁸ and [Global Trends](#)¹⁹ – for which data is available in Excel format in the [statistical annex](#)²⁰.

⁹ ONS Long-Term International Migration Series: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=272>

¹⁰ ONS International Passenger Survey: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international_passenger_survey.asp

¹¹ ONS Population and Migration: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nscl.asp?ID=7545>

¹² ONS Migration Statistics Quarterly Reports: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15230>

¹³ ONS Local Area Migration Indicators: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15239>

¹⁴ Eurostat database: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database

¹⁵ UNHCR Statistics: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html>

¹⁶ UNHCR Online Population Database: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a013eb06.html>

¹⁷ UNHCR Statistical Yearbooks: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a02afce6.html>

¹⁸ UNHCR Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries 2010: <http://www.unhcr.org/4d8c5b109.html>

¹⁹ UNHCR Global Trends 2010: <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfa11499.html>

²⁰ UNHCR Global Trends 2010 annex: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends/2010-GlobalTrends-annex-tables.zip>

6 Recent research

Published in September 2010, [The Migrant Journey](#)²¹ is a Home Office Research Report that provides statistical data on the behaviour of migrants entering the UK immigration system and the most common pathways through the system that result in settlement.

²¹ Home Office Research Report 43: The Migrant Journey: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/>