



Country of Birth statistics

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This Note details data from the 2001 Census relating to the country of birth of the population of England by region and county, and the more recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of the foreign-born and foreign-national population in the UK

In 2001, Compared with other counties of England, Durham and Derbyshire had the highest proportion of their population born in England (95.78% and 95.46% respectively).

Unsurprisingly, Cumbria and Northumberland had relatively high proportions of their population born in Scotland (3.41% and 3.72% respectively), although Northamptonshire also has a high Scottish population (3.42%).

Similarly, Shropshire (6.40%), Gloucestershire (3.42%) and Cheshire (2.83%) had higher proportions of people who were born in Wales compared with other English counties.

In 2010, the London region had by far the highest number and proportion of residents born outside both the UK, and the European Union. The 12 local authorities with the greatest proportion of foreign born residents were all London Boroughs.

India was the most common overseas birthplace for 2010 UK residents, followed by Poland, Pakistan and the Republic of Ireland. The most common Nationality for non-Britons was Polish, with more than 500,000 Polish nationals resident in the UK in 2010.

Table 1 – Population by country of birth - 2001

Population by country of birth, England, 2001 Census

Region	County	Population <i>Number</i>	Percentage of population born in:						
			England	Scotland	Wales	N I	Eire	Other EU countries	Elsewhere
East Midlands	Derbyshire	734,585	95.46	1.16	0.74	0.25	0.37	0.60	1.41
East Midlands	Leicestershire	609,578	91.83	1.47	1.08	0.33	0.49	0.87	3.93
East Midlands	Lincolnshire	646,645	92.86	1.92	1.01	0.45	0.48	1.21	2.07
East Midlands	Northamptonshire	629,676	88.51	3.42	1.20	0.57	1.00	1.13	4.16
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire	748,510	93.73	1.52	0.88	0.33	0.46	0.82	2.27
East of England	Bedfordshire	381,572	88.25	1.94	1.26	0.51	1.04	1.79	5.22
East of England	Cambridgeshire	552,658	87.37	2.07	1.23	0.53	0.64	2.14	6.01
East of England	Essex	1,310,835	92.46	1.34	0.88	0.33	0.72	1.14	3.12
East of England	Hertfordshire	1,033,977	87.78	1.78	1.22	0.44	1.30	1.68	5.81
East of England	Norfolk	796,728	93.07	1.51	0.88	0.32	0.40	1.08	2.74
East of England	Suffolk	668,553	91.13	1.53	0.92	0.34	0.47	1.15	4.46
London	Inner London	2,766,114	62.75	1.83	1.09	0.63	2.38	4.50	26.83
London	Outer London	4,405,977	74.34	1.32	0.95	0.46	2.08	2.16	18.69
North East	Durham	493,470	95.78	1.48	0.46	0.25	0.16	0.64	1.24
North East	Northumberland	307,190	93.29	3.72	0.52	0.30	0.20	0.62	1.35
North East	Tyne and Wear	1,075,938	94.04	1.69	0.42	0.31	0.23	0.72	2.58
North West	Cheshire	673,788	91.25	1.75	2.83	0.49	0.63	0.96	2.10
North West	Cumbria	487,607	93.14	3.41	0.71	0.47	0.28	0.61	1.39
North West	Greater Manchester	2,482,328	90.12	1.29	0.80	0.54	1.26	0.82	5.17
North West	Lancashire	1,134,974	91.98	1.94	0.84	0.60	0.60	0.78	3.27
North West	Merseyside	1,362,026	94.13	0.96	1.17	0.44	0.68	0.61	2.01
South East	Buckinghamshire	479,026	85.83	2.12	1.64	0.50	0.93	1.83	7.15
South East	East Sussex	492,324	90.76	1.50	1.17	0.38	0.71	1.55	3.94
South East	Hampshire	1,240,103	89.75	2.23	1.67	0.50	0.56	1.55	3.74
South East	Kent	1,329,718	91.33	1.44	1.04	0.41	0.64	1.37	3.76
South East	Oxfordshire	605,488	85.33	2.27	2.02	0.59	0.91	2.34	6.53
South East	Surrey	1,059,015	85.34	2.02	1.52	0.49	1.03	2.41	7.20
South East	West Sussex	753,614	89.89	1.70	1.23	0.38	0.72	1.52	4.56
South West	Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	501,267	93.37	1.30	1.57	0.32	0.34	0.91	2.19
South West	Devon	704,493	92.33	1.35	1.85	0.31	0.40	1.12	2.64
South West	Dorset	390,980	91.24	1.68	1.82	0.41	0.48	1.45	2.92
South West	Gloucestershire	564,559	89.27	1.57	3.42	0.45	0.61	1.21	3.47
South West	Somerset	498,093	92.04	1.42	2.22	0.37	0.41	1.06	2.47
South West	Wiltshire	432,973	88.78	2.09	2.42	0.67	0.52	2.10	3.43
West Midlands	Shropshire	283,173	88.63	1.36	6.40	0.39	0.39	0.93	1.90
West Midlands	Staffordshire	806,744	94.32	1.22	1.22	0.33	0.45	0.65	1.82
West Midlands	Warwickshire	505,860	90.26	1.93	1.69	0.47	0.94	1.11	3.61
West Midlands	West Midlands	2,555,592	86.07	0.90	1.05	0.46	1.55	0.69	9.27
West Midlands	Worcestershire	542,107	92.44	1.17	2.12	0.35	0.61	0.90	2.41
Yorkshire & Humber	North Yorkshire	569,660	91.87	2.65	0.97	0.47	0.33	1.24	2.46
Yorkshire & Humber	South Yorkshire	1,266,338	93.89	1.19	0.64	0.24	0.35	0.63	3.06
Yorkshire & Humber	West Yorkshire	2,079,211	90.35	1.37	0.58	0.38	0.64	0.80	5.88

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 2 - Population by country of birth, and region 2010

Countries of the UK and Regions of England		Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by country of birth ^{3,4,5} January 2010 to December 2010														Countries of the United Kingdom and Regions of England thousands			
		United Kingdom		Non-United Kingdom		Republic of Ireland		European Union 13 ⁶		European Union A8 ⁷		European Union 26 ⁸		Non-European Union					
		estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-				
United Kingdom		54,215	317	7,139	115	405	27	864	40	805	39	2,283	65	4,856	95				
<i>Regions of England</i>																			
North East		2,423	55	130	13	5	2	18	5	16	4	43	7	87	10				
North West		6,297	101	523	29	44	8	55	9	65	10	173	17	350	24				
Yorkshire & The Humber		4,796	96	415	28	14	5	37	8	72	12	129	16	286	24				
East Midlands		3,982	104	433	34	21	8	53	12	78	14	163	21	271	27				
West Midlands		4,838	99	547	33	40	9	44	9	56	11	151	17	396	28				
East		5,164	118	558	39	34	10	83	15	70	14	205	24	353	31				
London		5,136	120	2,684	87	115	18	290	28	193	23	701	44	1,983	74				
South East		7,442	136	919	48	53	12	135	18	78	14	289	27	630	40				
South West		4,811	101	356	27	21	7	71	12	61	11	166	19	190	20				
England		44,889	311	6,565	119	348	27	787	41	688	38	2,020	66	4,545	99				
Wales		2,825	48	150	11	9	3	25	4	19	4	56	7	94	9				
Scotland		4,824	72	326	19	22	5	45	7	69	9	143	12	183	14				
Northern Ireland		1,677	66	99	16	26	8	8	4	29	9	64	13	35	10				

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS
Totals may not sum due to rounding

Statistical Robustness¹

0 ?	CV <	5	Estimates are considered precise
5 ?	CV <	10	Estimates are reasonably precise
10 ?	CV <	20	Estimates are considered acceptable
	CV ?	20	Estimates are not considered reliable for practical purposes

See footnotes in Appendix

Overall, 11.6% of the UK resident population in 2010 was born overseas. A third of the population of London was born overseas, compared to only 1 in 20 of the population of the North East and Wales. 12.8% of the population of England was born outside the UK, compared to between 5% and 6.3% for the other countries of the UK.

Birth countries of UK Residents

The most common foreign country of birth for UK residents in 2010 was India, followed by Poland, Pakistan and the Republic of Ireland. The most common non-EU or Commonwealth countries of birth were the USA, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines.

The top 60 (non-UK) countries of birth of UK residents are shown in table 3 below. Countries not listed have fewer than 21,000 UK residents born in the country.

Table 3 should be read in conjunction with the footnotes in the Appendix.

Table 3 – Population by Country of Birth - UK

Estimated overseas-born population resident in the United Kingdom,
by country of birth^{3,4,5}
January 2010 to December 2010

		United Kingdom	
60 most common countries of birth		<i>thousands</i>	
	Country	Estimate	CI +/-
1	India	693	36
2	Poland	532	31
3	Pakistan	431	28
4	Republic of Ireland	405	27
5	Germany	296	23
6	South Africa	236	21
7	Bangladesh	220	20
8	United States of America	200	19
9	Nigeria	151	17
10	Jamaica	150	17
11	Zimbabwe	130	16
12	Kenya	128	15
13	Philippines	123	15
14	China	120	15
15	Italy	118	15
16	Sri Lanka	117	15
17	Australia	112	14
18	France	111	14
19	Somalia	110	14
20	Lithuania	87	13
21	Ghana	84	12
22	Portugal	83	12
23	Canada	81	12
24	Romania	79	12
25	Hong Kong	75	12
26	New Zealand	72	12
27	Turkey	72	12
28	Iran	70	11
29	Iraq	69	11
30	Spain	68	11
31	Malaysia	60	11
32	Cyprus (EU)	56	10
33	Netherlands	55	10
34	Afghanistan	54	10
35	Bulgaria	52	10
36	Uganda	48	9
37	Latvia	48	9
38	Slovakia	48	9
39	Brazil	44	9
40	Mauritius	43	9
41	Singapore	42	9
42	Hungary	41	9
43	Russia	40	9
44	Japan	38	8
45	Nepal	35	8
46	Tanzania	35	8
47	Thailand	35	8
48	Czech Republic	32	8
49	Greece	30	7
50	Zambia	29	7
51	Egypt	28	7
52	Sweden	28	7
53	Libya	25	7
54	Trinidad And Tobago	23	7
55	Malta	23	7
56	Guyana	22	6
57	Morocco	22	6
58	Belgium	22	6
59	South Korea	21	6
60	Algeria	21	6

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

Statistical Robustness ¹	
0? CV <5	Estimates are considered precise
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Nationality

Country of birth is considered a robust indicator, as it is a factual determination, which does not change over a person's lifetime. An alternative measure of national origin is the nationality which a person holds – this will be the same as their country of birth in many cases, but the nationality may change over time. In addition, this measure is considered less robust than country of birth, as different countries will have different citizenship or nationality criteria, and may have different policies regarding joint or multiple citizenships.

Overall, 7.3% of UK residents in 2010 had a nationality other than British. Again, London had by far the highest number of any region, with more than 1 in 5 residents of the capital having a nationality other than British. The lowest proportion of foreign nationals were in the North East (3.3%), Wales (3.3%) and the South West (4.1%). Only 3.4% of those living in Northern Ireland had a nationality other than British or Irish.

Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by nationality^{3,4,5}
January 2010 to December 2010

Countries of the United Kingdom and
Regions of England
thousands

Countries of the UK and Regions of England	British ⁶		Non-British ⁶		European Union 14 ⁷		European Union A8 ⁸		European Union 26 ⁹		Non-European Union	
	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-	estimate	CI +/-
United Kingdom	56,893	325	4,460	91	1,038	44	829	39	2,003	61	2,457	68
<i>Regions of England</i>												
North East	2,468	55	84	10	9	3	16	4	28	6	57	8
North West	6,492	103	329	23	80	11	66	10	152	16	177	17
Yorkshire & The Humber	4,958	98	253	22	29	7	71	12	104	14	149	17
East Midlands	4,152	106	263	27	51	12	80	15	139	19	125	18
West Midlands	5,069	101	316	25	62	11	59	11	128	16	188	20
East	5,360	121	361	31	88	15	75	14	174	22	187	23
London	6,158	131	1,663	68	415	34	197	23	687	44	976	52
South East	7,815	139	546	37	136	18	83	14	232	24	315	28
South West	4,953	102	212	21	58	11	61	11	123	16	89	14
England	47,425	319	4,028	93	928	45	709	39	1,765	62	2,263	70
Wales	2,878	48	97	9	22	4	19	4	43	6	54	7
Scotland	4,901	73	248	16	56	8	71	9	132	12	117	11
Northern Ireland⁶	1,715	67	60	13	5	4	31	9	37	10	23	8

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

Statistical Robustness¹

Totals may not sum due to rounding

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See Footnotes in Appendix

Population of Overseas Nationals by Country

The most prevalent non-British Nationality in 2010 was Polish, with more than half a million Polish nationals resident in the UK. Irish, Indian and Pakistani nationals were

the next most common groups. Of the non-EU or Commonwealth countries, the most common nationalities were American (147,000) and Chinese (100,000)

Table 5 – Population of overseas nationals

Estimated population of overseas nationals resident in the United Kingdom, by nationality^{3,4,5}

January 2010 to December 2010

		United Kingdom	
60 most common nationalities		<i>thousands</i>	
	Nationality	Estimate	CI +/-
1	Poland	555	32
2	Republic of Ireland	353	26
3	India	327	25
4	Pakistan	157	17
5	United States of America	147	17
6	Germany	126	15
7	Italy	108	14
8	France	105	14
9	Portugal	102	14
10	China	100	14
11	South Africa	96	13
12	Lithuania	95	13
13	Nigeria	94	13
14	Bangladesh	82	12
15	Australia	75	12
16	Romania	74	12
17	Philippines	72	12
18	Spain	66	11
19	Zimbabwe	64	11
20	Somalia	55	10
21	Canada	53	10
22	Slovakia	50	10
23	Jamaica	49	10
24	Latvia	49	9
25	Sri Lanka	48	9
26	New Zealand	47	9
27	Netherlands	47	9
28	Bulgaria	44	9
29	Ghana	43	9
30	Turkey	40	9
31	Iran	38	8
32	Libya	37	8
33	Hungary	37	8
34	Iraq	36	8
35	Czech Republic	34	8
36	Japan	34	8
37	Nepal	34	8
38	Sweden	33	8
39	Malaysia	33	8
40	Brazil	33	8
41	Afghanistan	32	8
42	British Indian Ocean Territory	31	8
43	Greece	29	7
44	Russia	27	7
45	Thailand	26	7
46	Denmark	22	6
47	Mauritius	21	6
48	Austria	19	6
49	East Timor	19	6
50	Kenya	18	6
51	Belgium	17	6
52	Cyprus (Non-European Union)	16	6
53	South Korea	16	5
54	Colombia	14	5
55	Norway	14	5
56	Albania	14	5
57	Yemen	12	5
58	Hong Kong	12	5
59	French Guiana	12	5
60	Finland	12	5

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

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See Footnotes in appendix

Appendix

Footnotes to Table 2

1. Standard error is an estimate of the margin of error associated with a sample survey. The coefficient of variation (CV) indicates the robustness of each estimate. It is defined as:

$$\% = \frac{\text{standard error}}{\text{estimate}} \times 100$$

2. CI+/- is the upper (+) and lower (-) 95% confidence limits. It is defined as:

$$1.96 \times \text{standard error}$$

3. Estimates are based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts. APS and LFS data has now been grossed to 2010-based population estimates and projections. Tables published from the year ending December 2010 have been weighted using these estimates. Tables published prior to this were weighted using the 2008 and 2006-based estimates and projections and have not been revised. Analysis shows that there is no discernable discontinuity in these tables.

4. It should be noted that the LFS :-

- * excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
- * excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc)
- * is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more. An adjustment is made for those who live in some NHS accommodation and halls of residence whose parents live in the UK. For this reason the sum of those born in the UK and outside the UK may not agree with the published population estimate.

5. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.

6. Estimates are shown for the European Union 13, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.

7. European Union A8 consists of the Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

8. European Union 26 consists of the countries in the EU13, the Republic of Ireland, EU A8, Malta and Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania. The United Kingdom is not included in this group, but is shown separately in this table.

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5. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.

Footnotes to Table 4

1. Standard error is an estimate of the margin of error associated with a sample survey. The coefficient of variation (CV) indicates the robustness of each estimate. It is defined as:

$$\% = \frac{\text{standard error}}{\text{estimate}} \times 100$$

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$$1.96 \times \text{standard error}$$

3. Estimates are based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts. APS and LFS data has now been grossed to 2010-based population estimates and projections. Tables published from the year ending December 2010 have been weighted using these estimates. Tables published prior to this were weighted using the 2008 and 2006-based estimates and projections and have not been revised. Analysis shows that there is no discernable discontinuity in these tables.

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5. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.

6. Estimates are shown for the European Union 13, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.

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8. European Union 26 consists of the countries in the EU13, the Republic of Ireland, EU A8, Malta and Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania. The United Kingdom is not included in this group, but is shown separately in this table.

Footnotes to Table 5

1. Standard error is an estimate of the margin of error associated with a sample survey. The coefficient of variation (CV) indicates the robustness of each estimate. It is defined as:

$$\% = \frac{\text{standard error}}{\text{estimate}} \times 100$$

2. CI+/- is the upper (+) and lower (-) 95% confidence limits. It is defined as:

$$1.96 \times \text{standard error}$$

3. Estimates are based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts. APS and LFS data has now been grossed to 2010-based population estimates and projections. Tables published from the year ending December 2010 have been weighted using these estimates. Tables published prior to this were weighted using the 2008 and 2006-based estimates and projections and have not been revised. Analysis shows that there is no discernable discontinuity in these tables.

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- * excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc)
- * is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.

5. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.