



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

29 August 2013

Immigration Statistics, April - June 2013

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

Key points from the latest release

Visas issued (Before Entry): The number of work, study and family-related visas issued to non-EEA nationals continued to fall compared with the previous 12 months, although work and study fell less quickly than previously. Total visas issued fell 4% to 501,840 (excluding visitor and transit visas), although this was slightly higher than the year ending March 2013 (499,641)

Work: There was a 2% fall for work visas issued to 144,554, accounted for by lower numbers for (Tier 1) high value individuals following the closure of the Tier 1 General and Tier 1 Post Study categories to new applicants, partially offset by an increase for skilled workers (Tier 2). However, work visas issued were slightly (2%) higher than in the year ending March 2013 (141,772), due to increases for skilled workers and for youth mobility and temporary workers.

By contrast there was a 9% increase in work-related extensions to 145,855, largely explained by higher numbers of grants for skilled workers (Tier 2), offset partly by lower numbers in the high value workers' route (Tier 1).

Study: There were 5% fewer study visas issued (to 204,469 including dependants), mainly explained by smaller numbers of Pakistani and Indian students, although there were increases for other nationals, including Chinese and Libyans. Over the same period there were 2% fewer sponsored study visa applications (206,871, main applicants), of which there was a 4% increase for the university sector, compared with falls for the further education sector (-25%), English language schools (-16%), and independent schools (-3%).

Family: There was a fall of 24% for family-related visas issued (to 34,201), while grants of permission to stay permanently (60,079) increased by 24%. A rise of 89% in family-related extensions of stay (to 30,899) was mainly due to 10,256 extensions recorded under the new Family life (10 year) route that would previously have been recorded as discretionary leave under the "other" published category so figures are not directly comparable.

EEA: For Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, approvals under the Sector Based Scheme fell by 22% (to 496) and approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme fell by 5% (to 19,392). In 2012 there were falls in approvals for these nationals of 32% for accession worker cards (to 1,803) and 7% for registration certificates (to 22,353), compared with 2011. However figures for these schemes do not provide a full picture; in particular they exclude the self-employed.

Asylum: There were 23,499 asylum applications, a rise of 18%, with increases in applications from a range of nationalities, including Syria, Pakistan and Albania. This remains low relative to the peak in 2002 (84,132), and similar to levels seen since 2006. Correspondingly, the number of applications received since April 2006 pending a decision continues to rise, by 23% to 14,589 main applicants at the end of June 2013.

Citizenship: There was a 14% increase in people granted British citizenship (to 204,541), which may reflect greater resource used for decision-making.

Detention: In the second quarter of 2013, 38 children entered detention, a decrease from 66 in the second quarter of 2012.

Other points to note

Admissions: There were 108.2 million journeys to the UK, a 2% increase.

Student visitors: There was a 5% increase in student visitor visas issued to 72,496 (student visitors are normally only allowed to stay for up to 6 months, or 11 months for English language schools, and cannot extend their stay). The nationalities accounting for the increase for student visitor visas were different from those contributing to the fall in study visas over the same period.

Including non-visa nationals, there were a total of 299,000 student visitor admissions to the UK in 2012, compared with 262,000 in 2011. Of these 299,000 arrivals, nearly half (49%) were from the United States (145,000) with Brazil the next largest nationality (19,400).

Extensions: There were 8% more grants of extensions, to 291,953, with increases of 9% in work, 8% in study and 89% in family-related grants (mainly due to the introduction of the new Family Life (10 year) route), partly offset by a 46% fall in grants for other reasons (mainly discretionary). The overall increase followed annual falls over the previous three years.

Settlement: There were 9% more people granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), rising to 153,058. The increase was accounted for by increases for family and asylum-related grants partly offset by a fall in those for which were work related.

Detention: 5% more people entered detention (to 29,710) and 5% more people left detention (to 29,348). Of those leaving detention, 59% were removed from the UK. As of the end of June 2013, 3,142 people were in detention, 5% higher than the number recorded at the end of June 2012.

Removals and Voluntary Departures: There were 7% fewer enforced removals (to 14,062), and 1% fewer passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed (to 14,134). There was little change in voluntary departures (29,265).

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

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, April - June 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)*
- *Population by country of birth / nationality (2012)*
- *Parents' Country of Birth (2012)*

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 March 2013*

National Records of Scotland (NRS)

- *Population by country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey (for Scottish council areas): January to December 2011*

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.