

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report

No 3: November 2009

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report is produced in partnership with the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

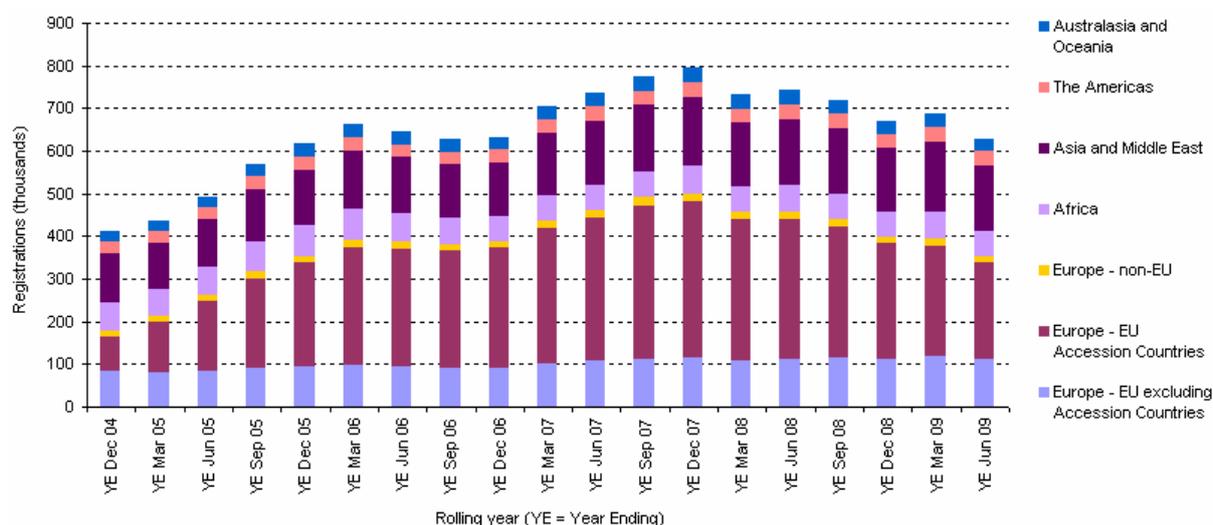
Next publication: 25 February 2010

Issued by: Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport NP10 8XG

Migrant applications to work in the UK

Data on National Insurance numbers (NINOs) allocated to adult overseas nationals show that 628,000 NINOs were allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the UK in the year to June 2009. This is 15 per cent lower than in the year to June 2008. NINO allocations have increased by 52 per cent since 2004 with Accession nationals (ie those of all 12 Accession countries – see Glossary) comprising 36 per cent of allocations in the year to June 2009, compared with 19 per cent in 2004 (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals by world area of origin, UK, 2004–2009



Source: DWP, National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals

Note: EU Accession countries here includes the A8, the A2, and Cyprus and Malta (see Glossary)

NINOs are compulsory for people wishing to work in the UK, whether short term or long term. NINO allocation statistics give an approximation of the uptake of work by non-UK nationals. They cannot provide an indication of the number of non-UK nationals working in the UK, as people who have been given NINOs may subsequently leave the UK, or remain in the UK but cease to be in employment. Additionally, people with NINOs can leave the UK and then return and take up employment without re-registering.

Summary statistics

- Provisional International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates offer an early indication of changes in patterns of long-term international migration to and from the UK. However, they differ from total long-term international migration figures as they have not been adjusted to account for asylum seekers and people whose length of stay changes from their original intentions. The latest IPS estimates suggest:
 - There was little change in immigration to the UK compared with a year earlier: 534,000 people in the year to March 2009 compared with 525,000 in the year to March 2008. Immigration of non-British citizens was 456,000, also little changed from the previous year
 - Immigration of citizens of the A8 Accession countries (those countries of central and eastern Europe that joined the European Union in 2004) declined by 23 per cent from 101,000 to 78,000 over the same period, but this decline is not statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level
 - 388,000 people emigrated from the UK in the year to March 2009, a rise of 15 per cent on 336,000 in the year to March 2008. The number of non-British citizens emigrating rose by 33 per cent from 173,000 to 230,000 over the same period, and emigration of A8 citizens doubled from 32,000 to 64,000
 - Net migration to the UK (the surplus of people immigrating over people emigrating) in the year to March 2009 was 147,000
 - 686,000 National Insurance numbers (NINos) were allocated to non-UK nationals in the year to March 2009, a decline of 6 per cent on the previous year. The latest figures show that 628,000 NINos were allocated to non-UK nationals in the year to June 2009, 15 per cent fewer than in the year to June 2008
 - 215,000 NINos were allocated to A8 nationals in the year to March 2009, 27 per cent fewer than in the previous year. This decline continued in the latest figures, which show that 186,000 NINos were allocated to A8 nationals in the year to June 2009, a fall of 36 per cent on the year to June 2008
 - In the year to March 2009 the number of workers from A8 countries successfully applying to work as an employee in the UK via the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) statistical Bulletin | Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: November 2009 4 was 136,000. This compared with 207,000 in the year to March 2008, a fall of 34 per cent. The latest figures show this fall has continued: in the year to September 2009 the number of A8 nationals successfully applying via the WRS was 106,000, a fall of 41 per cent on the year to September 2008