



Home Office



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

24 May 2012

Immigration Statistics, January – March 2012

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics January – March 2012* release, published today, provides the latest provisional figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to the end of March 2012. The release contains both National Statistics and official statistics.

Key points from the latest release

All nationalities

The total number of passenger arrivals rose 4% to 106.2 million in the year ending March 2012 compared with the previous 12 months (102.2 million). This increase was comprised of 3.5 million more journeys (+4%) by British, other EEA and Swiss nationals, and 0.5 million more journeys (+4%) by non-EEA nationals who are subject to immigration control.

There were 10% fewer non-asylum passengers initially refused entry at ports in the year ending March 2012 (16,382) compared with the previous 12 months (18,120), continuing the year on year falls from 38,391 in 2004.

People subject to immigration control

Excluding visitor and transit visas, 13% fewer visas were issued in the year ending March 2012 (529,000) than the previous 12 months (609,000). This fall includes decreases in the study (-21%, excluding dependants and student visitors), work (-8%) and family (-16%) categories, with the latter two categories all at their lowest levels recorded using comparable data. The number of visitor visas issued continued to rise, to a record 1.7 million, 9% higher than the previous 12 months (1.6 million).

The number of people granted settlement in the year ending March 2012 fell by a third (-35%) to 148,144, compared with the previous 12 months (226,478). Most of the fall was due to 68,144 fewer grants on a discretionary or other basis which in recent years were mainly granted following a review of asylum applications made before March 2007. The large fall is associated with the completion of the review of these cases.

There were 175,298 grants of British citizenship in the year ending March 2012, 10% fewer than in the previous year (195,369), mainly due to 10,979 fewer grants based on marriage and to children related to British citizens.

There were 4,818 applications for asylum during the first quarter of 2012, 1% lower than the first quarter of 2011 (4,844). The number of asylum applications continues to remain low relative to the levels seen in the early 2000s. Initial decisions in the first quarter of 2012 numbered 4,496, 8% fewer than in the first quarter of 2011 (4,894).

During the first quarter of 2012, 7,516 people entered immigration detention, 7% more than in the first quarter of 2011 (7,015).

Of those people entering detention in the year ending March 2012, 53 were recorded as being under 18 (children), which compares with 10 in the first quarter of 2011. The majority of the 53 children entered new pre-departure accommodation, which has been specifically designed for children and their families.

The number of people removed or departing voluntarily (including port removals) during the first quarter of 2012 was 13,386, a 6% decrease on the first quarter 2011 (14,224). This fall was mostly accounted for by fewer non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed (3,095 in Q1 2012 compared with 3,822 in Q1 2011).

Further and more detailed analysis, including information on grants of extensions of stay, can be found in the *Immigration Statistics, January – March 2012*.

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, January – March 2012* is available via the UK National Statistics publication hub website and the Home Office science, research and statistics webpages <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/> .

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 and nationality from the Annual Population Survey*
- *Internal migration within the UK*
- *Local area migration indicators*
- *New Method to Distribute Short term Migrants to Local Authority Level: A summary of User Feedback*

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

- *National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals*

National Records of Scotland (NRS)

- *Population by country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey (for Scottish council areas)*

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=International+Migration>

3. Also today, UK Border Agency are publishing management information on the key input and impact indicators within the Home Office business plan. These are available from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>
4. In autumn 2011, the UK Statistics Authority assessed Immigration Statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, as part of its routine programme of assessments. The assessment report <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html> was published on 2 February 2012. The UK Statistics Authority's assessment report included some requirements for Home Office Statistics to improve and clarify information about data sources, data quality and revisions to data, improve the interpretability of data and to clarify the status of data that were previously labelled as management information. Some of these requirements have been met within this the latest Immigration Statistics release. Home Office plan to address further of these recommendations in the next publication of the release in August 2012.
5. 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.

Press enquiries regarding ONS, DWP or NRS publications should be directed to the appropriate department's Press Office.