



Home Office

The Migrant Journey

Third Report

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Home Office (nor do they represent Government policy).

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Keywords

Migrant
Immigration
Settlement
Indefinite leave to remain
Entry Clearance
Visa
Leave to remain

1. Context

Evidence on the behaviour of migrants helps to inform decisions about the future of the immigration system. Understanding the processes that migrants go through when they decide to stay in the UK will help to inform the Government's proposals for changes to the rules for settlement, and permanent and temporary migration routes.

In September 2010 the Home Office published new research called 'The Migrant Journey'¹ (Achato, Eaton and Jones, 2010), which presented data on the cohort of migrants who came to the UK in 2004. The findings reported the immigration status of these migrants over the following five years and looked at where migrants changed their category of leave, and how migrants in temporary and permanent immigration routes achieved settlement in the UK. In August 2011, a second report² (Achato, Eaton and Jones, 2011) extended that analysis by reporting on specific migrant nationalities granted visas in 2004.

This report updates that earlier analysis by providing updates for two later cohorts of migrants, namely 2005 and 2006 for the forward-view analysis and 2010 and 2011 for the backward-view analysis. In addition, the report provides updated estimates for the previously published cohorts based on improvements in the methodology used in the first 'Migrant Journey' analysis. In addition, for the first time, migrants granted visit visas have been included.

1 Home Office. Research Report 43, The Migrant Journey (September 2010).
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr43/

2 Home Office. Research Report 57, The Migrant Journey Second Report (August 2011).
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr57/

2. Methods

The findings presented in this report are based on administrative data for migrants granted visas in the main five entry clearance routes to the UK:

- family;
- skilled work (leading to settlement);
- temporary work (not leading to settlement);
- study; and
- visit.

The details were extracted from two different immigration databases – those relating to grants of entry clearance (visas issued) and further leave to remain (LTR) extensions within the UK. Data were combined to produce a record of migrants' activity in the UK immigration system from the initial point of entry until they were granted settlement or their last record of LTR expired.

The methods for this report have been updated to improve the consistency with published statistical data, through changes to the mapping of the large number of individual case types to the high-level groupings reported on here. This mapping has also improved the identification of dependants of precursor points-based system (PBS) cases, which were previously classified as family dependants. Furthermore, the integrity of the migrant journey data has been improved by combining those records for a single migrant who had previously been recorded with different unique identifiers.

The results report two types of analyses:

- a forward-view analysis; and
- a backward-view analysis, consistent with the earlier reports.

The forward-view analysis looks at the cohort of migrants granted entry clearance in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The dataset comprised over 5.8 million cases representing 95 per cent of all migrants granted visas (visit and non-visit) in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The analysis maps migrants' immigration statuses at the end of each year to identify whether a migrant has valid permission to remain in the UK or whether they have changed their category of leave. It should be noted that a valid visa does not confirm that a migrant is still in the UK at that point, as it is possible that they may have left prior to the visa expiring. Where a migrant has an expired visa there are three possible outcomes:

- the migrant has left the UK;
- the migrant is still in the UK (as an overstayer); or
- the migrant has made an application for further LTR that has not yet been processed, although for the period covered here the number in this final category will be small.

The backward-view analysis reports on migrants granted settlement in each of the three years 2009, 2010 and 2011, tracing their records back through the immigration system to identify their initial entry clearance route and year of entry.

3. Results

Forward-view analysis

The forward-view analysis examines migrants granted visas to the UK in 2004 based upon the original method described in Achato, Eaton and Jones (2010) and compares the equivalent results produced by the latest improved methodology for the same cohort. In addition, potential changes in migrant behaviour over time are explored by comparing the revised results for the 2004 cohort with the later cohorts of 2005 and 2006. The latest method includes data for those migrants from outside the EU who are required to obtain visit visas.

This analysis explores the routes taken by migrants from outside the EU through the immigration system for five main routes of entry to the UK:

- family;
- skilled work (potentially leading to settlement³);
- temporary work (not leading to settlement);
- study; and
- visit (for those from non-European Economic Area (EEA) countries who are required to hold a visit visa).

The analysis tracks migrants who were granted visas in each of these routes through the immigration system in order to identify their immigration status at the end of their fifth year after their initial year of entry. The forward-view analysis of migrants granted visas in 2004, 2005 and 2006 identifies the point at which an individual's leave to enter (LTE) or leave to remain (LTR) expired. This is not necessarily confirmation that the migrant has left the UK and returned to their home country. In fact, there are three possible outcomes for such migrants:

1. the migrant has left the UK;
2. the migrant is still in the UK (as an overstayer); or
3. the migrant has made an application for further LTR that has not been identified/recorded.

As the UK does not at present have exit controls, it is not possible to estimate the proportion of the 'expired LTR' group who have left the UK.

Family

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 1) are summarised below.

- For people entering the UK on a family visa in 2004, more than one-half (53%) had gained settlement five years later, and a further 6 per cent still had valid LTR.
- These revised estimates are similar to, but slightly lower than, those reported previously for the 2004 cohort under the old method.

³ Described in previous publications as 'leading to citizenship'.

- Although at a similar level for the 2005 cohort, for family route migrants arriving in 2006, the proportion who had settled within 5 years was higher, at 61 per cent, with a further 5 per cent still having valid LTR.

Table 1 – Comparison of migrant cohorts for the family route, by end-of-year immigration status, 2004, 2005 and 2006

Cohort	Migrants in cohort	Immigration status five years later		
		% with expired LTR	% with valid LTR	% with settlement
2004 (original)	63,400	37	8	55
2004	56,900	41	6	53
2005	61,963	40	6	54
2006	62,732	34	5	61

The difference in the number of migrants in the 2004 cohort is explained by the revised mapping that includes ‘Family Reunion’ cases and excludes ‘Returning Residents’ and ‘UK Ancestry’ cases. In addition, the revised mapping excludes a proportion of dependants who are now classified as dependants within the work routes.

For the 2004 cohort, the revised method gives similar results to those previously published. The revised method indicates a slightly lower proportion reaching settlement, reflecting the behaviour of the UK Ancestry migrants who are not included and who are eligible for settlement after five years under the Immigration Rules.

The proportion of family route migrants gaining settlement after five years is higher for the 2006 arrivals compared with those who arrived in 2005. This difference is due to more migrants on this route taking up settlement when they become eligible after two years rather than extending their leave.

Skilled work (leading to settlement)

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 2) are summarised below.

- For people entering the UK on a skilled work visa in 2004, 30 per cent had gained settlement 5 years later, and a further 17 per cent still had valid LTR.
- The revised estimate for people gaining settlement after five years is similar to that reported previously for the 2004 cohort under the old method. In contrast the revised estimate for people with valid leave after five years is six per cent higher than the previously reported estimate.
- Comparison of the 2004 cohort to the two subsequent cohorts indicates that there has been rise in the proportion of people whose leave has expired after 5 years, from 53 per cent to 60 per cent. This is reflected in the fall in the proportion of people who have valid leave after 5 years, from 17 per cent to 11 per cent. The proportion of people who have gained settlement after 5 years is similar, with a small rise for the 2005 cohort, followed by a fall in 2006 to 29 per cent.

Table 2 – Comparison of migrant cohorts for the work route (leading to citizenship), by end-of-year immigration status

Cohort	Migrants in cohort	Immigration status five years later		
		% with expired LTR	% with valid LTR	% with settlement
2004 (original)	105,880	60	11	29
2004	95,897	53	17	30
2005	108,295	55	13	32
2006	120,331	60	11	29

The difference in the number of migrants for the initial and revised 2004 cohorts is explained by the revised mapping, which includes ‘UK Ancestry’, ‘Domestic Worker (Other)’ and the ‘Domestic Work (Diplomatic)’ cases and excludes ‘For Employment With’⁴ and ‘Work Permit (Training and Work Experience Scheme (TWES))’ cases. In addition, the revised mapping allows a proportion of dependants who had previously been classified within the family route to this work route.

For the 2004 cohort, the revised method gives similar results to those previously published for the proportion reaching settlement after five years, with the small difference reflecting the behaviour of the additional cases, listed above, that have been included within the cohort. However, there is a strong upward shift in the proportion recorded as ‘leave expired’ and an equivalent downward shift in the proportion with valid LTR.

Temporary work (not leading to settlement)

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 3) are summarised below.

- For people entering the UK on a temporary work visa in 2004, three per cent had gained settlement five years later, and a further ten per cent still had valid LTR.
- The revised estimate for people gaining settlement after five years is the same as that reported previously for the 2004 cohort under the old method. The revised estimate for people with valid leave after five years is slightly higher than the previously reported estimate.
- The 2005 and 2006 cohorts indicate a slightly lower proportion (2%) of people having gained settlement after five years. In addition the estimate for the proportion of people arriving on a temporary work visa who still have valid leave after five years also fell, to seven per cent for the 2006 cohort.

Table 3 – Comparison of migrant cohorts for the temporary work route (not leading to citizenship), by end-of-year immigration status

Cohort	Migrants in cohort	Immigration status five years later		
		% with expired LTR	% with valid LTR	% with settlement
2004 (original)	94,540	89	8	3
2004	109,897	87	10	3
2005	104,179	90	8	2
2006	91,390	91	7	2

⁴ The visa used for non-EEA nationals working for Swiss employers in the UK.

The difference in the number of migrants for the original and revised 2004 cohorts is explained by the revised mapping that includes 'For Employment With'⁵ and 'Work Permit (TWES)' and excludes 'Domestic Worker (Other)' and 'Domestic Worker (Diplomatic)' cases.

For temporary work visas, the revised method gives similar results to those previously published for all three years. The proportion of migrants who still had valid LTR after five years appears to be falling. This is balanced by a similar rise on the proportion of migrants whose leave has expired after five years. Given the temporary nature of this route, it should also be noted that nearly 90 per cent (88%) of migrants' leave expired after 2 years.

Study

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 4) are summarised below.

- For people entering the UK on a study visa in 2004, only 3 per cent had gained settlement 5 years later, and a further 22 per cent still had valid LTR. Those people arriving on a student visa will have switched into a permanent route (such as skilled work or marriage) in order to have obtained settlement.
- These revised estimates are similar to those reported previously for the 2004 cohort under the old method, although the new method has produced a slightly higher estimate of those from the 2004 cohort who remained in the UK with valid leave five years after their initial arrival as a student.
- Comparison of the 3 cohort years suggests that there has been a sizable fall in the proportion of student migrants who still have valid LTR 5 years after their arrival, or had achieved permanent settlement in the UK, from 25 per cent for the 2004 cohort to 18 per cent for the 2006 cohort.

Table 4 – Comparison of migrant cohorts for the study route, by end-of-year immigration status

Cohort	Migrants in cohort	Immigration status five years later		
		% with expired LTR	% with valid LTR	% with settlement
2004 (original)	185,600	79	18	3
2004	180,900	75	22	3
2005	186,500	79	19	2
2006	209,700	82	17	1

The difference in the results for the original and revised 2004 cohorts is explained by the inclusion of visit visas within the Migrant Journey Analysis and to a much lesser extent, the revised mapping, which excludes 'Course F'⁶ cases. Of the students who started their journey with a visit visa, 88 per cent were 'general' visit, 9 per cent 'family' visit and 3 per cent 'other' visit. The revised method includes these migrants within the visit route. Some of the difference can also be attributed to the improved data quality of the data extract taken from the Central Reference System (CRS) database.

For the 2004 cohort, the revised method gives similar results to those previously published, albeit with a higher estimate of those 2004 student arrivals who still had valid LTR five years later. The higher LTR estimate reflects the inclusion of later data, which included applications made in late 2009 or early 2010 that were subsequently granted in 2010. The revised method indicates no

5 The visa used for non-EEA nationals working for Swiss employers in the UK.

6 Visas used for members of non-NATO forces attending courses at British military establishments or with private companies.

change in the proportion of students reaching settlement after five years. However, it should be noted that students will tend to gain settlement by switching into an eligible route, such as marriage (family) or skilled work, and this would tend to happen after six years from their initial entry as a student.

Comparison of latest results for the three cohorts indicates a two percentage point reduction of students gaining settlement after five years and a five percentage point reduction of students with valid leave after the same time. This trend equates to an increase of seven percentage points for students whose leave has expired after five years, across the three cohorts.

Visit

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 5) are summarised below.

- For people entering the UK on a visit visa in 2004, two per cent had valid LTR after five years and a further one per cent had gained settlement after the same period. The same results were observed for the 2005 and 2006 cohorts.
- The vast majority of applications are for visit visas that do not allow 'in-country' extension of leave. Any people who have gained settlement after five years will have subsequently applied for a visa that provides a path to settlement.

The revised method is able to include some visitors within the analysis. Some nationalities, referred to as non-visa nationals, can enter the UK without a visa providing the purpose of the stay is visit-related. All other non-EU nationals require a visit visa, which provides LTR in the UK for up to six months. Different types of visit visas are available to suit the purpose of the visit (for example, tourism, business, family and study). This section provides details of the migrants who start their journey with a visit visa granted in the cohort year.⁷

As the purpose of travel for most visitors is short term and temporary it is not expected that very many visitors are present five years after their initial arrival. Table 5 shows that the vast majority of visit journeys are 'visit visa only' (that is there is no subsequent application for a non-visit visa or case recorded on the 'in-country' administrative database).

The second group includes journeys that do not have a non-visit visa following the initial visit visa. The most frequent journeys for this group relate to migrants who are asylum seekers, migrants associated with the armed forces, and dependants (including parents and grandparents).

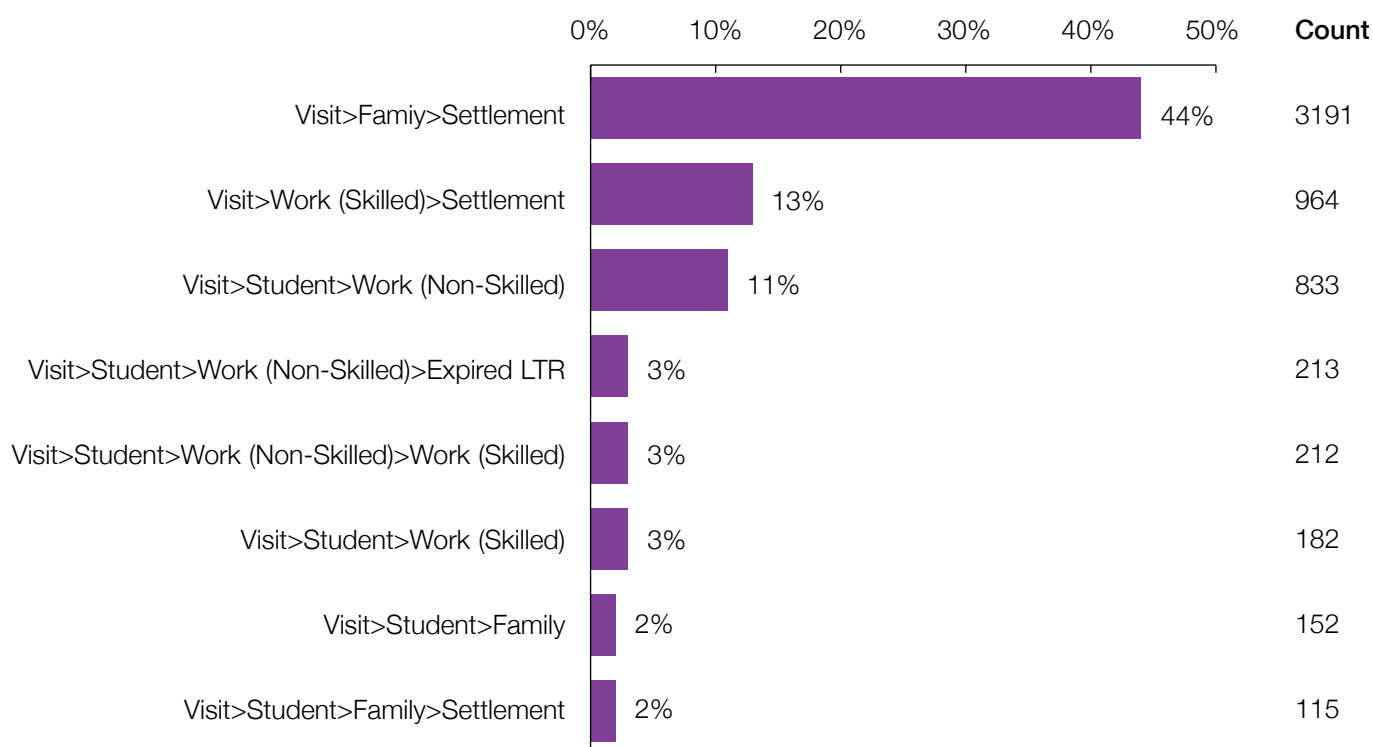
Table 5 – Comparison of migrant cohorts for the visit route

Cohort	Migrants in cohort	Immigration status five years later		
		% with expired LTR	% with valid LTR	% with settlement
2004	1,305,918	97	2	1
2005	1,351,208	97	2	1
2006	1,479,418	97	2	1

⁷ The journey for a migrant is included within the year cohort only if the initial visa is granted during that year. If the journey starts with a visit visa and is followed by a non-visit visa that was granted in a later year, then a migrant journey starting with non-visit visa will also be included in the later year cohort.

The third group includes journeys that have been extended by a non-visit visa following the initial visit visa. Figure 1 provides details of the most frequent journeys that include subsequent non-visit visas, for the 2006 cohort only. Over 40 per cent of the migrants extending their visit visas switched to a family visa in order to extend their stay, and subsequently achieved settlement (indefinite LTR). The family visa route encompasses people who may subsequently marry, and is a route that can lead to settlement. In the 2006 cohort, 13 per cent of the extending visitors switched to a work (leading to citizenship) visa and subsequently achieved settlement. The next most frequent journey amongst this group of visitors, at 11 per cent of the total, started with a visitor visa followed by a student visa, after which the traveller switched into a temporary work category (not leading to settlement). Of this group of migrants, 65 per cent were granted leave under the Tier 1 post-study case type.

Figure 1 Most frequent migrant journeys starting in 2006 that switch into a non-visit route



Backward-view analysis

The migrant journey analysis is able to look at not only those cohorts of people who came to the UK in a particular year and what happens to them, but also those who end up applying for settlement – indefinite leave to remain (LTR) – and which visas they used to arrive at that point.

This second half of the report looks at the immigration histories of those migrants who were granted settlement in 2009 (185,908 cases), 2010 (229,633 cases) and 2011 (159,104 cases). The analysis traced migrants back through their immigration records, identifying the grants of leave they received until the earliest recorded grant of leave to enter (LTE) or LTR was reached, that is their initial entry visa. Limitations of data matching, available data and the rules for settlement mean that it was not always possible to trace every case back to their first visa record as some of these individuals' entry will pre-date the electronic records from which this study was drawn. This new data set incorporates the revised groupings for the data adopted for the forward-looking analysis, and hence updates the results previously published for 2009 settlement cases, and provides new statistics for those people granted settlement in 2010 and 2011.

The findings from the analysis using the revised method (see Table 6) are summarised below.

- The difference in the settlement initial route between the original method and the revised method is due to the inclusion of the backlog clearance cases. These cases were granted settlement in the respective years but information relating to their first visa was not available. The significantly higher volumes in 2010 reflect the peak of backlog clearance activity.
- Discounting the backlog clearance cases, the proportion of settlement grants that derive from an original visa category with a normal route to settlement – the family or work (leading to settlement) routes – was 68 per cent for 2009 cases and 63 per cent in 2011.
- The proportion of settlement grants made to people who initially arrived on a temporary visa rose between 2009 and 2011. For example, those originally entering the UK on a student visa comprised 13 per cent of settlement grants in 2009 and 16 per cent in 2011.

Table 6 compares the original estimates for the 2009 settlement grants with those produced under the revised method. In addition, the initial estimates for the 2009, 2010 and 2011 years are compared.⁸

Table 6 – Comparison of initial routes leading to settlement

Initial route	2009 (original)		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	% sett	Count	% sett	Count	% sett	Count	% sett
EU & ECAA*	720	0	275	0	359	0	246	0
Family	60,480	40	48,206	33	45,966	30	36,739	30
Other	3,120	2	943	1	2,071	1	1,662	1
Settlement	25,870	-	39,693	-	78,287	-	32,838	-
Study	23,340	15	19,586	13	24,265	16	21,925	16
Visit	-	-	19,027	13	21,392	14	17,980	14
Work (sett)	55,780	37	51,650	35	49,795	33	40,524	33
Work (non-sett)	7,160	5	6,528	4	7,498	5	7,190	6
Total	176,470	100	185,908	100	229,633	100	159,104	100

*European Common Aviation Area

The higher number of settlement cases recorded in the revised method for the 2009 cohort, when compared with the original method, reflects the inclusion of the additional migrants who were granted settlement as part of the backlog clearance exercise and the remapping of 'Family Union' cases to the family route. The revised method includes the visit route, with nearly 20,000 migrants starting their journey with a visit visa that is followed by a non-visit visa. This explains why the volumes recorded for the various routes in the revised method are consistently lower than equivalent volumes of the original method.

Comparison of the 3-year cohorts, with the settlement backlog cases excluded, reveals a decline in the proportion of settlement grants derived from an original visa category with a route to settlement (the family and work routes), from 68 per cent for 2009 cases to 63 per cent in 2011. This contrasts the rise in the proportion of settlement grants to those who arrived initially to study, from 13 per cent in 2009 to 16 per cent in 2011.

⁸ Due to large variation in the settlement over the cohort years, the percentage calculations for the other initial routes have excluded the settlement numbers.

The much higher volume of settlement cases in 2010 reflects the peak activity in the backlog clearance exercise.

Table 7 compares the breakdown of settlement volumes with published volumes Home Office Research and Development (RDS) publications for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The breakdown relates to the immigration route of the migrant immediately before gaining settlement.

Table 7 – Comparison of migrant journey analysis with published statistics

	2009		2010		2011	
	RDS	MJA	RDS	MJA	RDS	MJA
Employment	81,185	81,592	84,347	83,486	69,904	69,287
Asylum	3,110	925	4,931	2,595	12,888	11,641
Family formation and reunion	72,239	65,506	69,228	63,273	50,793	48,862
Other	38,247	37,885	82,686	80,279	29,892	29,314
Total	194,781	185,908	241,192	229,633	163,477	159,104

Overall the published volumes for each year are higher than those generated by the matched data used for this analysis. This difference mainly reflects numbers of ‘settlement on arrival’ (migrants who are granted settlement at the UK border) and the updates to the published statistics that occur after the data extract was taken for the analysis presented in this report.

Appendix A: Details of the analysis method

This report is the third in a series of research reports that explore migrants' journeys through the UK's immigration system. The findings presented here are based on data collected from two UK Border Agency administrative databases. These databases hold records of individuals granted entry clearance visas, and any subsequent grants of extensions or variations of leave to remain (LTR) in the UK. The findings in this report should still be considered 'experimental statistics', in that the method is being refined and is not yet a standard and regular statistical process.

The data provide information on migrants from the point they receive clearance to enter the UK until they leave the immigration system or are granted settlement. Data on grants of entry clearance visas are collected on the Central Reference System (CRS). The CRS was introduced in 2002 and is used to collect details of entry clearance applications in diplomatic missions abroad.

In-country grants of LTR or extensions were extracted from the Case Information Database (CID). The CID was introduced in 2000 as the Asylum Case Information Database (ACID). It was then expanded in 2002 to cover non-asylum extensions of LTR, settlement and British citizenship casework. Finally, systems dealing with port and enforcement casework were added in 2003. No records of migrants issued LTR in the UK before 2000 were transferred to the CID. This means that the database did not contain complete case histories until 2004, and hence this is the earliest point for which the analysis in this report could be undertaken.

Migration to the UK via non-visit visa routes is mainly managed through the points-based system (PBS). The PBS was introduced in 2008 and consists of five 'tiers', three of these (Tiers 1, 2 and 5) relate to permission to work. Tier 1 provides a route for highly skilled workers; its phased implementation took place between February 2008 and June 2008, replacing the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP), which also led to settlement. Tier 2 and Tier 5 were implemented in November 2008. Tier 2 replaced the Work Permit scheme and provides a route for skilled non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals with sponsorship from a UK employer to come to live and work in the UK. The Work Permit scheme granted skilled migrants LTR in the UK in order to work in a skilled occupation. Tier 5 is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the UK for primarily non-economic reasons. The additional tier (Tier 3) relates to unskilled workers and has been suspended since its introduction. Tier 4 was implemented in March 2009 and provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider. Other non-visit visa categories outside of the PBS allow migrants to come to the UK for family reunion (through marriage and migration of dependent children) or to obtain settlement (indefinite LTR).

The asylum route is another way that migrants can enter the UK and achieve settlement. The number of settlement grants issued to migrants granted asylum fell from 67,810 in 2005 to 30,655 in 2006. By the end of 2009, 3,110 migrants in the asylum route had been granted settlement. This decrease is partly due to changes to asylum policy in 2005. Prior to August 2005, those granted asylum were immediately entitled to indefinite LTR. Migrants who are granted asylum after that date are entitled to receive five years' LTR, after which they can apply for settlement. However, a large part of the decrease in asylum cases leading to settlement is due

to the fall in numbers of people seeking and being granted asylum. In 2011 the number of applications for asylum in the UK was under 20,000, compared with a peak of 84,000 in 2002. The migrant-journey analysis excludes asylum seekers without an initial visa record from the cohort in order to focus on regular migrants who are managed through the UK's immigration system.

Data matching

Data on visas issued are collected on a different database to grants of LTR and visa extensions issued to applicants once they reach the UK. Therefore a data-matching exercise was undertaken to link out-of-country grants of leave to enter (LTE) to in-country grants of LTR and indefinite LTR. As mentioned previously, the nature of immigration system databases prior to 2004, and the length of time it takes before migrants might be eligible for settlement (up to five years for some common categories of entry) means that this analysis has not been feasible until now.

Criteria were defined to ensure that migrants' details were accurately matched, and the results of the data-matching exercise were rigorously checked for coherence and consistency. A data-cleansing exercise excluded migrants whose records contained a visa record without an issue date and/or a last recorded grant of LTR without an expiry date. The criteria used to match data from the two databases were passport number, name, date of birth and nationality. Five matching levels were created – the exercise attempted to match migrants at the highest level possible (level one). Only negative matches at level one led to an attempt to match a case at level two. The first level matched migrants' passport number, nationality and year of birth; 75 per cent of all positive matches were achieved at this level. The second level matched passport number and nationality (1% of all matches); and the third level (name, date of birth and nationality) made up a further 21 per cent of all positive matches. Records of migrants who could not be matched at the five levels were included in the backward-view analysis of migrants granted settlement in 2009, but were excluded from the analysis of the cohort of migrants granted a visa in 2004.

The process worked on the assumption that in-country grants of LTR and indefinite LTR are preceded by an out-of-country grant of LTE. It should be noted, however, that there are legitimate reasons why a migrant may not have a visa record on the out-of-country database. Migrants who came to the UK before the existence of out-of-country databases or children born to parents with temporary LTR may not have a visa record. Individuals who entered the UK as illegal immigrants or asylum seekers would not be identified on out-of-country databases. However, they may be identified on the in-country database if they applied for LTR after they had entered the UK.

Migrants not matched to an initial visa record were included in the analysis of the cohort granted settlement in 2009. This analysis traced migrants back through the immigration system until their earliest record (in some cases this was as early as 2000), and acknowledges that there are several reasons (as described in the previous paragraph) why a migrant may not have an initial visa record. Analysis of the cohort of migrants granted a non-visit visa in 2004 identified migrants' immigration statuses at the end of each year over a five-year period. Therefore this analysis could not include cases without a visa record (non-matched cases) or those granted a visa prior to 2004.

In order to facilitate analysis, the more detailed list of visa categories was grouped to present the major non-visit routes covered by the Immigration Rules. Descriptions of each of the routes in this research are provided in Table A.1.

Table A.1 – Main immigration routes to the UK

Route	Description	Route leading to settlement?
Family	A person entering the UK on the basis of a family member who is a British Citizen or settled in the UK. Family members eligible to apply in this route are: husband; wife; civil partner; fiancé/e; proposed civil partner; or unmarried partner or same-sex partner.	Yes (after two years)
Work (leading to settlement)	Individuals who are highly skilled, wish to find work, are self-employed or who have a job offer (PBS Tiers 1 and 2). Migrants in this category are eligible for settlement after a specified time period. It also includes spouses, children and other dependants of the main applicant.	Yes (after five years)
Work (not leading to settlement)	Individuals who want to work in the UK on temporary basis (PBS Tier 5).	No
Study	Adult (age 16+) and child students (aged between 4 and 15 years) who come to the UK for educational reasons (PBS Tier 4).	No
EU and EEA	Third country nationals having formed a relationship with an EU national.	Yes
Visit	A person coming to the UK for up to six months. Different visas are available to suit the purpose of the visit, which include tourism, family, business, study (short course and prospective student), sportsperson and entertainer.	No
Other	Other more minor categories of entry clearance or LTR that fall outside of the major routes to enter the UK.	No

For the purposes of this research, each migrant's journey through the immigration system was tracked from the original visa category granted to them, through all the grants of entry clearance (LTE) or LTR and indefinite LTR recorded in UK Border Agency databases. The data collected for each migrant consisted of the type of leave granted ('route'), the grant issue date and the expiry date. These details were put in chronological order using the grant issue date, with the type of leave granted (usually a visa) denoting the initial route of entry. This chronological ordering showed when and how each individual entered the immigration system, and the date of expiry of their last recorded extension or change of leave.

Method Revisions

The original method grouped high-level routes according to the low-level visa categories in CRS and low-level case types in CID. This mapping approach led to problems in the identification of dependants of precursor PBS cases and required an additional data field, the Statistics Category Code,⁹ to help identify these cases. The revised method uses the Statistics Category Code as the primary data for route mapping. As well as simplifying the mapping process, the change provided a closer alignment of the results to the published statistics reports.

An assessment of data quality revealed that some migrants had cases recorded against a different person identifier.¹⁰ This problem arises when a caseworker is unable to locate previous immigration cases and creates a new personal identifier. The result is multiple journey segments for the same migrant. The revised method included steps to improve the quality of migrant journeys through the linking of journey segments into complete journeys. This was achieved through the matching of CID to itself using the same matching variables described above.

⁹ The caseworker enters the 'Statistics Category Code' on CID when a new case is created for a migrant. The code reflects the details of the specific immigration route.

¹⁰ The person identifier is a unique key for a migrant that is recorded on CID.

Appendix B: Additional tables

Conventions used in tables: the figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Rounding has served to ensure the confidentiality of the original source data used and the individual to whom it relates. Therefore the components in some tables may not sum to totals shown due to independent rounding. <<<< Note that rounding does not apply to tables at the moment >>>>

Symbols used in tables

Counts:

– nil

* less than 5

Percentages:

– nil

(0) less than 0.5 more than 0

Table B.1.1 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the family route, by end of 2009 for the 2004 cohort

End of year status	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	2	0	17	0	50	0	71	0	78	0	96	0
Expired	1,690	3	8,581	15	15,970	28	18,898	33	22,099	39	23,169	41
Family	54,566	96	45,533	80	15,324	27	7,545	13	3,835	7	1,983	3
Other	54	0	186	0	374	1	506	1	540	1	585	1
Settlement	167	0	1,298	2	23,704	42	28,320	50	28,857	51	29,965	53
Study	311	1	665	1	414	1	382	1	322	1	212	0
Visit	15	0	41	0	61	0	67	0	63	0	71	0
Work (Sett)	56	0	538	1	964	2	1,069	2	1,038	2	734	1
Work (Non-Sett)	3	0	6	0	7	0	10	0	36	0	52	0
Total	56,864	100	56,865	100	56,868	100	56,868	100	56,868	100	56,867	100

Table B.1.2 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the family route, by end of 2010 for the 2005 cohort

End of year status	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	36	0	151	0	222	0	249	0	263	0	278	0
Expired	1,405	2	9,232	15	17,456	28	20,583	33	23,699	38	24,785	40
Family	59,686	96	50,079	81	21,559	35	12,808	21	5,230	8	1,985	3
Other	45	0	194	0	682	1	758	1	787	1	777	1
Settlement	306	0	1,120	2	20,726	33	26,220	42	30,793	50	33,192	54
Study	384	1	667	1	666	1	541	1	409	1	303	0
Visit	10	0	45	0	58	0	71	0	76	0	77	0
Work (Sett)	90	0	468	1	585	1	646	1	596	1	477	1
Work (Non-Sett)	1	0	7	0	10	0	88	0	111	0	90	0
Total	61,963	100	61,963	100	61,964	100	61,964	100	61,964	100	61,964	100

Table B.1.3 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the family route, by end of 2011 for the 2006 cohort

End of year status	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	53	0	178	0	206	0	253	0	269	0	276	0
Expired	1,572	3	6,166	10	14,519	23	17,139	27	19,710	31	21,602	34
Family	60,612	97	54,611	87	24,698	39	11,798	19	4,945	8	1,200	2
Other	67	0	294	0	1,040	2	1,286	2	1,112	2	1,125	2
Settlement	239	0	890	1	21,639	34	31,634	50	36,114	58	38,070	61
Study	144	0	451	1	402	1	326	1	276	0	185	0
Visit	12	0	36	0	30	0	43	0	51	0	51	0
Work (Sett)	30	0	101	0	171	0	217	0	217	0	198	0
Work (Non-Sett)	2	0	4	0	28	0	37	0	39	0	26	0
Total	62,731	100	62,731	100	62,733	100	62,733	100	62,733	100	62,733	100

Table B.2.1 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (leading to settlement) route, by end of 2009 for the 2004 cohort

End of year status	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	1	0	9	0	36	0	61	0	88	0	121	0
Expired	7,708	8	19,300	20	27,296	28	32,088	33	42,877	45	50,984	53
Family	33	0	156	0	320	0	505	1	659	1	549	1
Other	4	0	18	0	31	0	53	0	87	0	77	0
Settlement	528	1	2,543	3	3,662	4	5,778	6	12,348	13	29,096	30
Study	132	0	259	0	194	0	179	0	157	0	125	0
Visit	38	0	119	0	172	0	221	0	226	0	261	0
Work (Sett)	87,420	91	73,252	76	63,982	67	56,831	59	39,296	41	14,557	15
Work (Non-Sett)	31	0	237	0	197	0	174	0	154	0	123	0
Total	95,895	100	95,893	100	95,890	100	95,890	100	95,892	100	95,893	100

Table B.2.2 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (leading to settlement) route, by end of 2010 for the 2005 cohort

End of year status	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	3	0	23	0	59	0	77	0	139	0	167	0
Expired	8,000	7	22,794	21	33,211	31	38,430	35	49,156	45	59,739	55
Family	35	0	198	0	466	0	671	1	650	1	515	0
Other	8	0	23	0	50	0	75	0	100	0	145	0
Settlement	838	1	1,651	2	2,987	3	6,300	6	16,909	16	34,145	32
Study	83	0	126	0	171	0	167	0	166	0	131	0
Visit	29	0	115	0	176	0	194	0	224	0	259	0
Work (Sett)	99,260	92	83,158	77	70,972	66	62,193	57	40,823	38	13,002	12
Work (Non-Sett)	39	0	207	0	203	0	189	0	130	0	194	0
Total	108,295	100	108,295	100	108,295	100	108,296	100	108,297	100	108,297	100

Table B.2.3 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (leading to settlement) route, by end of 2011 for the 2006 cohort

End of year status	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	3	0	28	0	70	0	124	0	165	0	226	0
Expired	8,058	7	23,979	20	40,768	34	46,385	39	53,642	45	72,156	60
Family	42	0	265	0	503	0	569	0	543	0	449	0
Other	0	0	41	0	89	0	120	0	128	0	214	0
Settlement	162	0	1,201	1	3,460	3	7,736	6	17,572	15	34,920	29
Study	26	0	163	0	200	0	199	0	158	0	104	0
Visit	37	0	96	0	135	0	179	0	222	0	181	0
Work (Sett)	111,990	93	94,440	78	74,983	62	64,867	54	47,594	40	11,770	10
Work (Non-Sett)	13	0	118	0	123	0	152	0	307	0	311	0
Total	120,331	100	120,331	100	120,331	100	120,331	100	120,331	100	120,331	100

Table B.3.1 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (not leading to settlement) route, by end of 2009 for the 2004 cohort

End of year status	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	3	0	48	0	427	0	708	1	845	1	986	1
Expired	23,453	21	37,773	34	91,862	84	93,771	85	95,223	87	96,097	87
Family	17	0	349	0	2,308	2	2,648	2	1,503	1	1,114	1
Other	4	0	28	0	86	0	68	0	72	0	81	0
Settlement	2	0	32	0	132	0	404	0	1,687	2	2,816	3
Study	42	0	361	0	2,970	3	2,115	2	1,453	1	884	1
Visit	13	0	82	0	835	1	280	0	204	0	223	0
Work (Sett)	349	0	2,133	2	7,589	7	8,144	7	7,706	7	6,931	6
Work (Non-Sett)	86,006	78	69,081	63	3,677	3	1,748	2	1,193	1	754	1
Total	109,889	100	109,887	100	109,886	100	109,886	100	109,886	100	109,886	100

Table B.3.2 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (not leading to settlement) route, by end of 2010 for the 2005 cohort

End of year status	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	1	0	87	0	439	0	595	1	736	1	846	1
Expired	24,965	24	40,865	39	89,962	86	91,280	88	92,637	89	93,252	90
Family	12	0	588	1	2,019	2	2,092	2	1,237	1	841	1
Other	9	0	27	0	99	0	66	0	64	0	91	0
Settlement	14	0	34	0	84	0	458	0	1,536	1	2,587	2
Study	33	0	384	0	1,350	1	1,142	1	812	1	494	0
Visit	9	0	135	0	537	1	217	0	181	0	154	0
Work (Sett)	450	0	3,447	3	6,896	7	6,898	7	6,158	6	5,448	5
Work (Non-Sett)	78,686	76	58,612	56	2,793	3	1,432	1	817	1	465	0
Total	104,179	100	104,179	100	104,179	100	104,180	100	104,178	100	104,178	100

Table B.3.3 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the work (not leading to settlement) route, by end of 2011 for the 2006 cohort

End of year status	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	3	0	80	0	245	0	457	1	569	1	657	1
Expired	26,031	28	41,451	45	80,368	88	81,791	89	82,650	90	83,489	91
Family	23	0	527	1	1,496	2	1,465	2	822	1	509	1
Other	10	0	31	0	79	0	71	0	74	0	87	0
Settlement	7	0	22	0	47	0	370	0	1,132	1	1,850	2
Study	26	0	343	0	599	1	596	1	473	1	237	0
Visit	13	0	111	0	345	0	220	0	190	0	129	0
Work (Sett)	495	1	4,133	5	5,841	6	5,364	6	4,899	5	4,216	5
Work (Non-Sett)	64,782	71	44,692	49	2,370	3	1,056	1	582	1	216	0
Total	91,390	100	91,390	100	91,390	100	91,390	100	91,391	100	91,390	100

Table B.4.1 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the study route, by end of 2009 for the 2004 cohort

End of year status	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	4	0	58	0	188	0	485	0	693	0	1,065	1
Expired	29,406	16	77,561	43	104,642	58	118,722	66	128,598	71	135,939	75
Family	55	0	524	0	1,352	1	2,144	1	2,382	1	2,171	1
Other	9	0	56	0	79	0	108	0	144	0	175	0
Settlement	10	0	88	0	209	0	582	0	1,401	1	5,230	3
Study	150,238	83	94,321	52	61,268	34	41,877	23	26,030	14	15,792	9
Visit	65	0	320	0	610	0	798	0	886	0	998	1
Work (Sett)	1,097	1	7,823	4	12,224	7	14,780	8	15,646	9	13,589	8
Work (Non-Sett)	8	0	142	0	320	0	1,396	1	5,112	3	5,933	3
Total	180,892	100	180,893	100	180,892	100	180,892	100	180,892	100	180,892	100

Table B.4.2 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the study route, by end of 2010 for the 2005 cohort

End of year status	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	7	0	78	0	339	0	570	0	1,003	1	1,362	1
Expired	28,334	15	83,058	45	112,695	60	127,806	69	139,264	75	146,435	79
Family	67	0	496	0	1,370	1	1,996	1	2,070	1	2,042	1
Other	9	0	33	0	87	0	128	0	171	0	290	0
Settlement	8	0	74	0	135	0	444	0	1,435	1	4,271	2
Study	156,604	84	96,143	52	58,938	32	36,802	20	21,994	12	13,068	7
Visit	34	0	231	0	495	0	645	0	774	0	958	1
Work (Sett)	1,417	1	6,265	3	11,005	6	12,071	6	12,792	7	12,088	6
Work (Non-Sett)	13	0	114	0	1,430	1	6,031	3	6,990	4	5,981	3
Total	186,493	100	186,492	100	186,494	100	186,493	100	186,493	100	186,495	100

Table B.4.3 – Immigration status of main applicants and dependants in the study route, by end of 2011 for the 2006 cohort

End of year status	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
EU & EEA	2	0	79	0	192	0	621	0	1,027	0	1,508	1
Expired	40,452	19	94,246	45	127,641	61	147,253	70	160,764	77	172,051	82
Family	36	0	483	0	1,230	1	1,880	1	2,368	1	2,333	1
Other	6	0	39	0	49	0	88	0	196	0	441	0
Settlement	35	0	79	0	124	0	474	0	1,418	1	2,857	1
Study	168,225	80	109,136	52	62,723	30	39,005	19	23,382	11	10,957	5
Visit	40	0	192	0	411	0	610	0	835	0	863	0
Work (Sett)	926	0	3,979	2	7,012	3	8,894	4	10,970	5	12,403	6
Work (Non-Sett)	12	0	1,500	1	10,349	5	10,907	5	8,771	4	6,318	3
Total	209,734	100	209,733	100	209,731	100	209,732	100	209,731	100	209,731	100

Table B.5.1 – Migrants granted settlement in 2009, by year of entry and initial route

Initial Route	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	10	0	16	0	13	0	150	1	15	0
Family	297	7	384	7	579	5	968	5	1,170	4
Other	16	0	19	0	109	1	107	1	145	0
Settlement	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	0
Study	1,071	26	1,863	33	4,882	42	5,184	29	4,728	16
Visit	1,877	46	2,399	42	3,124	27	4,475	25	3,044	10
Work (Sett)	248	6	390	7	1,564	13	5,541	31	19,068	65
Work (Non Sett)	578	14	635	11	1,401	12	1,299	7	1,165	4
Total	4,098	100	5,706	100	11,673	100	17,727	100	29,340	100

Initial Route	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	15	0	22	0	17	0	6	0	11	0
Family	4,708	22	10,310	55	27,660	87	1,780	39	350	1
Other	107	1	92	0	153	0	154	3	41	0
Settlement	8	0	16	0	53	0	22	0	39,584	96
Study	1,298	6	474	3	72	0	14	0	0	0
Visit	1,676	8	1,728	9	467	1	163	4	74	0
Work (Sett)	12,344	58	5,827	31	3,252	10	2,370	53	1,046	3
Work (Non Sett)	1,096	5	329	2	24	0	1	0	0	0
Total	21,252	100	18,798	100	31,698	100	4,510	100	41,106	100

Table B.5.2 – Migrants granted settlement in 2010, by year of entry and initial route

Initial Route	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	14	0	12	0	50	0	21	0	39	0
Family	333	6	425	4	723	5	916	5	2,512	9
Other	19	0	146	1	131	1	616	3	178	1
Settlement	1	0	1	0	5	0	8	0	4	0
Study	1,891	37	5,088	48	4,695	35	5,236	29	3,268	12
Visit	2,178	42	2,938	28	3,587	27	3,973	22	2,559	9
Work (Sett)	321	6	1,105	10	2,222	17	5,953	32	18,538	66
Work (Non Sett)	422	8	919	9	1,830	14	1,625	9	1,061	4
Total	5,179	100	10,634	100	13,243	100	18,348	100	28,159	100

Initial Route	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	40	0	45	0	28	0	51	1	35	0
Family	4,645	24	9,976	59	24,430	88	1,333	29	337	0
Other	254	1	295	2	178	1	178	4	58	0
Settlement	13	0	15	0	25	0	22	0	78,189	98
Study	1,120	6	437	3	79	0	31	1	5	0
Visit	1,702	9	1,702	10	396	1	257	6	73	0
Work (Sett)	10,988	56	4,153	25	2,749	10	2,738	59	811	1
Work (Non Sett)	767	4	317	2	20	0	7	0	4	0
Total	19,529	100	16,940	100	27,905	100	4,617	100	79,512	100

Table B.5.3 – Migrants granted settlement in 2011, by year of entry and initial route

Initial Route	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	11	0	38	0	11	0	33	0	45	0
Family	200	3	420	5	511	4	1,181	9	2,044	8
Other	93	1	83	1	275	2	186	1	140	1
Settlement	1	0	1	0	5	0	18	0	13	0
Study	3,524	51	3,505	42	3,546	30	3,102	24	1,637	7
Visit	1,883	28	2,415	29	3,157	27	2,816	21	1,966	8
Work (Sett)	743	11	1,106	13	1,939	16	4,220	32	18,037	73
Work (Non Sett)	391	6	731	9	2,368	20	1,563	12	720	3
Total	6,846	100	8,299	100	11,812	100	13,119	100	24,602	100

Initial Route	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Euro & EEA	27	0	22	0	18	0	16	0	6	0
Family	3,843	32	9,245	64	17,387	84	1,239	33	236	1
Other	156	1	245	2	193	1	185	5	68	0
Settlement	7	0	5	0	16	0	16	0	32,750	97
Study	734	6	291	2	72	0	23	1	3	0
Visit	1,129	10	1,144	8	274	1	238	6	60	0
Work (Sett)	5,394	46	3,254	23	2,684	13	1,981	53	714	2
Work (Non Sett)	555	5	208	1	17	0	5	0	1	0
Total	11,845	100	14,414	100	20,661	100	3,703	100	33,838	100

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