



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

28 February 2013

Immigration Statistics, October - December 2012

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics October – December 2012* release, published today, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to the end of 2012. All data below relate to the 2012 and all comparisons are with 2011, unless indicated otherwise.

Key points from the latest release

Work, study and family-related immigration of non-EEA nationals continued to fall in 2012. There were further falls in visas issued and admissions for study, work and family reasons, and also fewer extensions of stay and fewer permissions to stay permanently (settlement). The falls for work and study are likely in part to be due to policy changes which came into effect in 2011.

Work: There was a 3% fall in work-related visas issued (to 145,138) largely relating to very highly skilled workers, and an 11% fall in grants of permission to stay permanently (to 62,204). However, there was a 5% increase in grants of extensions of stay (to 141,007).

Study: There were 22% fewer sponsored student visa applications, with a 3% increase for the university sector contrasting with falls for the further education sector (-62%), English language schools (-69%), and independent schools (-14%). There was a corresponding 20% (-52,066) fall in student visas issued mainly relating to falls for Indian (-17,604) and Pakistan (-24,668) nationals, whilst there was an increase for Chinese nationals (+4,856).

Before Entry: There were 507,701 visas issued (excluding visitor and transit visas), a fall of 10% and the lowest annual recorded figure using comparable data available from 2005.

Asylum: There were 21,785 asylum applications, a rise of 10%, driven by rises in the latter half of 2012 and by particular nationalities, including Pakistan (+844), Syria (+637), India (+531), Bangladesh (+437) and Albania (+419). However, this remains well below the peak in 2002 (84,132).

Citizenship: There was a 9% increase in people granted British citizenship in 2012 (to 194,344), largely accounted for by grants on the basis of residence (up 13% to 107,196, the highest number since records began in 1962) or on the basis of marriage (up 10% to 39,138).

Detention: During the fourth quarter of 2012, 61 children entered detention, higher than the fourth quarter of 2011 (45) but well below the third quarter of 2009 (322); the recent rise reflects greater use of Cedars pre-departure accommodation which opened in August 2011 in conjunction with the new 'Family Returns Process'.

Removals and Voluntary Departures: There were 4% fewer enforced removals (to 14,435), and 14% fewer passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed (to 13,529). There was a 2% fall in voluntary departures (to 25,997).

Other points to note

Family: There were 10%, 3% and 16% falls for family-related visas issued (to 40,925), extensions of stay (to 16,700) and settlement (to 45,323). There was also a 14% fall in the number of visas issued to all other dependants (excluding visitors) (70,672).

EEA: In 2011 for the EU2 countries (Bulgaria and Romania) there were 2,641 and 24,065 approvals for accession worker cards and for registration certificates, up 1% and down 11% respectively compared with 2010. In 2011 there were 97,982 decisions on applications for residence documents for EEA nationals and non-EEA nationals who were related to EEA nationals, with 47,653 providing an initial recognition of right to reside, and 21,159 recognising permanent residence.

Admissions: There were 106.1 million journeys to the UK, similar to 2011 (105.9 million). This was influenced by a fall in the third quarter (33.6 million compared with 34.0 million) which reflected fewer passengers arriving during the staging of the London 2012 Olympics.

Extensions: There were 12% fewer grants to extend stay (falling to 262,234); the fall was largely due to fewer study-related grants (-27%).

Detention: 7% more people entered detention (28,909) and 5% more people left detention (28,538). Of those leaving detention, 60% were removed from the UK. At the end of 2012, 2,685 people were in detention, 11% higher than the number recorded at the end of 2011.

Settlement: There were 24% fewer people granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), falling to 126,891, the lowest level in the last five years, mostly following the outcome of the backlog case review in 2011.

Further and more detailed analysis can be found in the *Immigration Statistics, October - December 2012*.

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, October – December 2012* is available via the UK National Statistics publication hub website and the Home Office science, research and statistics web pages <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>.
2. Alongside this release, Home Office Statistics is publishing *Foreign National Offenders in detention and leaving detention – a short article*, providing additional in-depth analysis to assist users of migration data in understanding our figures. This is available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/foreign-national-offenders-13>
3. 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)*

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>

4. Also today, UK Border Agency is 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/>
5. The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) has assessed *Immigration Statistics* against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, as part of its routine programme of assessments, and published its report <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html> on 2 February 2012. Following improvements made in the May 2012 and August 2012 editions to address the requirements of the report, UKSA wrote to Home Office's Chief Statistician confirming the designation of Immigration Statistics as National Statistics. A copy of this letter is available at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/confirmation-of-designation-letters/letter-of-confirmation-as-national-statistics---assessment-report-177.pdf>. 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/>.
6. 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 appropriate department's Press Office.

7. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics.