



Home Office



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

29 November 2012

Immigration Statistics, July - September 2012

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

Key points from the latest release

There were further falls in visas issued for work, study and family reasons, and also fewer extensions of stay and fewer permissions to stay permanently (settlement). The recent falls for work and study are likely in part to be due to policy changes, which came into effect in December 2010 and April 2011.

There were fewer work-related visas issued (-4% to 145,604, the lowest recorded using comparable data) and fewer grants of work-related permissions to stay permanently (-5% to 65,310). However there was an increase in work-related grants to extend stay in the UK (10% to 142,443).

There were 29% fewer sponsored student visa applications and similarly there were 26% fewer study visas issued. There was a 1% increase in sponsored student visa applications for the university sector, contrasting with falls for the further education sector (-67%), English language schools (-76%), and independent schools (-17%).

The total number of visas issued, excluding visitor and transit visas, fell by 14% to 508,488, to the lowest 12-monthly total recorded using comparable data available from 2005.

There were 105.6 million journeys to the UK in the year ending September 2012. This total was 0.6 million less than for the year ending June 2012 reflecting fewer passengers arriving during the staging of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

There were 20,838 asylum applications, 8% higher than the previous 12 months. This remains well below the peak number of asylum applications received in the year ending December 2002 (84,132).

During the third quarter of 2012 (July to September), 48 children entered detention, lower than for the second quarter of 2012 (60). The number of children in detention for the third quarter of 2012 remains well below the peak in these figures for the third quarter of 2009 (322) using comparable data available from 2009.

Enforced removals remained steady at 14,823, while the number of passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed has fallen 15% to 13,632. There was a 7% fall in total voluntary departures to 23,184, (although retrospective checks mean that these figures are particularly subject to upward revision).

Other points to note

By contrast to the fall in study visas issued, there was a 12% increase in student visit visas issued to 66,569 in the year ending September 2012. However, student visit visas are for short-term study (normally for 6 months) and cannot be extended.

There were 15% fewer family-related visas issued (42,213), and visas issued to all other dependants, excluding visitors, also fell by 21% to 70,805.

In 2011 there were a record 97,982 decisions on applications for residence documents for EEA nationals and non-EEA nationals who were related to EEA nationals, 20% higher than 2010. Of these 97,782 decisions, 47,653 provided an initial recognition of right to reside and 21,159 were issued in recognition of permanent residence, and the remainder were refusals.

There were 10% fewer grants to extend stay (falling to 273,513); the fall was largely due to fewer study-related grants (-28%).

There were 9% more people entering detention (28,705) and 8% more people leaving detention (28,442). Of those leaving detention, 61% were removed from the UK.

At the end of September 2012, a record 3,091 people were in detention, although similar to the numbers in detention at the end of June 2012 (2,993) and at the end of March 2012 (3,034).

There were 28% fewer people (132,099) granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), largely accounted for by fewer family formation and reunion, employment-related and “other” grants.

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

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, July – September 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. 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>

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. 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-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 have written 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-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/>.
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, or email to MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries regarding ONS publications should be directed to the appropriate department’s Press Office.

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