

National Insurance Numbers Allocated to Adult Overseas Nationals

Registrations to March 2017

Quarterly

Published 25th May 2017

United Kingdom

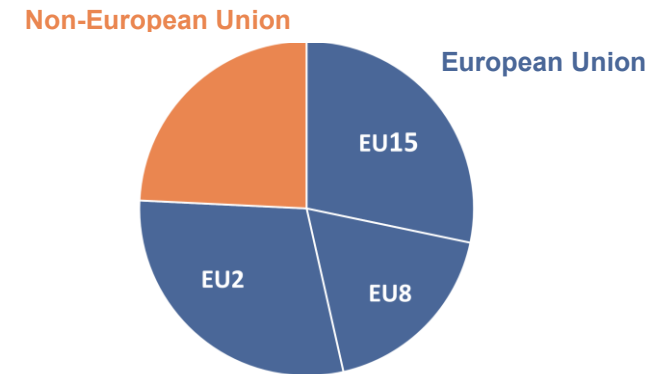
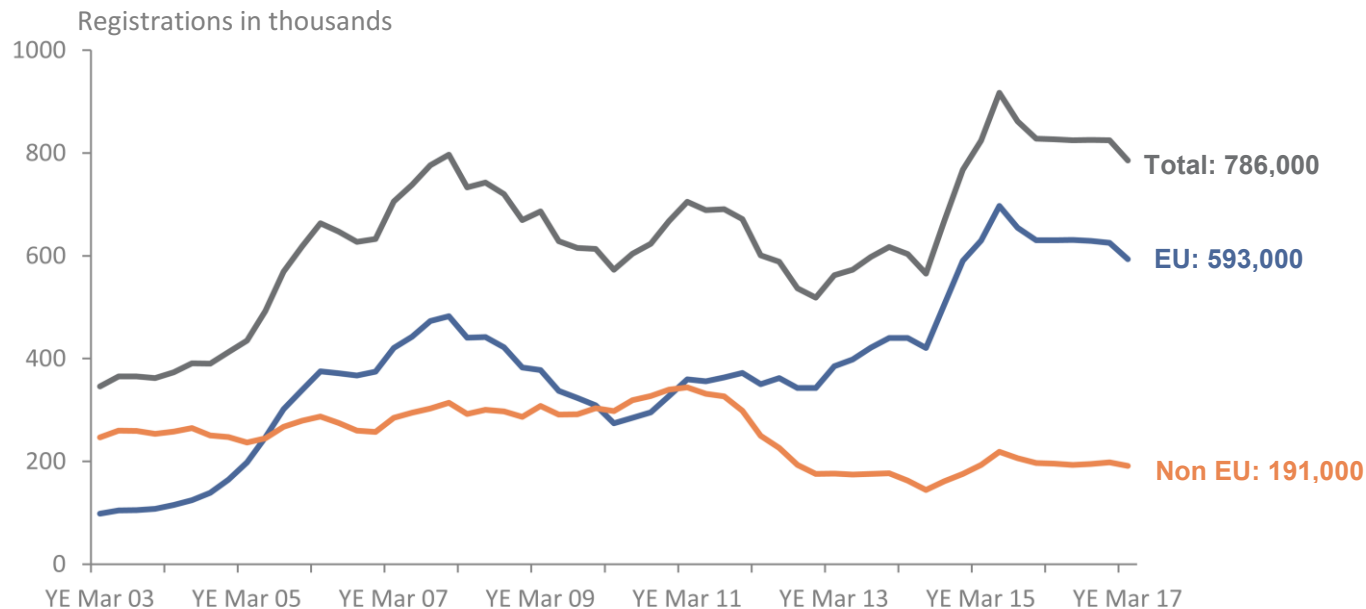
Official Statistics

What do these statistics show? A National Insurance Number (NINo) is generally required by any adult overseas national looking to work or claim benefits / tax credits in the UK. As such they show quarterly counts – by individual nationality - of the number of NINo's registered to adult non-UK nationals each quarter, irrespective of the length of stay in the UK. The NINo statistics are not a count of the number of adult non-UK nationals currently residing in the UK

Main stories

786 thousand NINo's registered in the year to March 2017: a 5% decrease on the previous year

...of these, 76% are from within the EU



At a glance

Page

[Where in the world are people registering from?](#)

3

[Where in the UK are people registering?](#)

4

[About the statistics](#)

5

[Where to find out more](#)

5

Lead Statistician: Steve Watkins

Steven.watkins@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5144

Comments? Feedback is welcome

Published 25th May 2017

Next edition on 24th August 2017

© Crown copyright

What you need to know

These statistics are designated as official statistics – see [Status: Official statistics](#)

What can you use these figures for?

✓ they provide a 100% count of foreign nationals registering for a NINO in a quarter; what their nationality was at the time of registering and where they registered.

What you cannot use these figures for:

✗ As a count of quarterly or annual migration to the UK.

✗ The number of foreign nationals who start work.

✗ The number of foreign nationals who are currently in the UK

This summary contains statistics on National Insurance Numbers (NINo) allocated to adult overseas nationals, covering the period from January 2002 to March 2017.

The NINo statistics show the number of people registering for a NINo in order to work or to claim benefits / tax credits and are one of a number of supplementary measures produced by Government of in-migration to the UK.

The statistics are published as part of the scheduled timetable for the release of cross-Government migration statistics. The [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report \(MSQR\)](#) is a summary of the quarterly releases of official international migration statistics by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

NINo statistics are not a direct measure of long term migration and therefore are not directly comparable with ONS long-term estimates of immigration. On 7 March 2016, the ONS published an [information note](#) explaining the reasons why long-term international immigration figures from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) could differ from the number of NINo registrations. This was followed by an [analytical paper](#) presenting analysis that has been undertaken across government to help understand why the 2 series are showing different trends, with focus on EU migration.

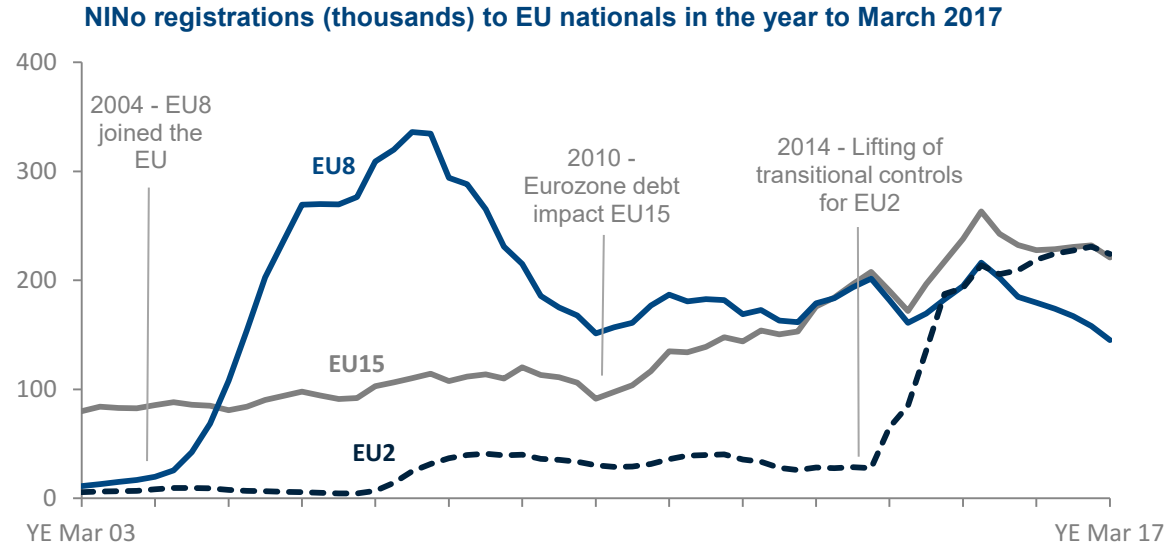
EU groupings used within migration statistics:

EU15 (original EU members), EU8 (joined the EU in 2004), EU2 (Romania & Bulgaria) and European Union Other

For reporting purposes, countries have been grouped into ‘world areas’ based primarily on geographical location, for more details see [World Areas](#)

Where in the world are people registering from?

Registrations to EU8 are half of their peak in 2007 while EU15 and EU2 now make up 57% of all registrations.

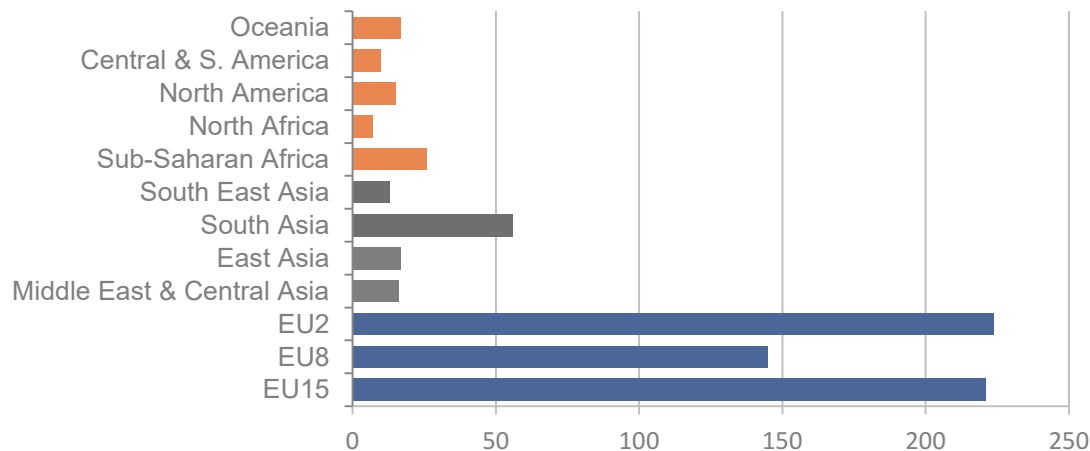


- In the year to March 2017, there were 593,000 NINo registrations by EU nationals (down 6% on the previous year) and 191,000 by non-EU nationals (down 2% on the previous year).
- There were 145 thousand registrations to EU8 nationals, a 19% decrease on the previous year: less than half of what they were in 2007.
- The number of NINo registrations from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) was 224 thousand, an increase of 5 thousand (2%) on the previous year.

There was a sharp rise in NINo registrations in 2014 following the removal of restrictions on work for EU2 citizens. Some of this is reflecting individuals who were residing in the UK prior 2014 and would only have been able to register for a NINo after that date (see [arrival to registration analysis on EU2 nationals](#)).

Outside of the EU, South Asia has the most registrations

Registrations (thousands) in the year to March 2017 by world area



Top 5 individual nationalities, registrations in year to March 2017 (thousands) and the % change from previous year.

EU		Non EU	
Romania	182 (+1%)	India	35 (+1%)
Poland	84 (-23%)	Australia	12 (-9%)
Italy	62 (+8%)	Pakistan	12 (-1%)
Spain	44 (-9%)	China	12 (-10%)
Bulgaria	42 (+6%)	United States	10 (+4%)

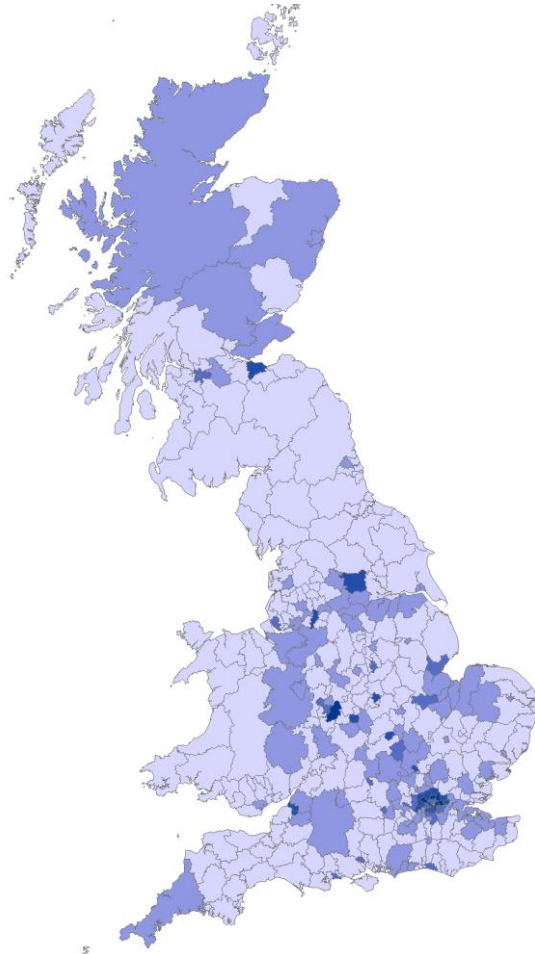
Nationalities with the largest increases in registrations in the year to March 2017 are: Italy, Romania, Bulgaria (see above). Greece up 15% to 15,000 and Syria up 42% to 5,000.

Where in the UK are people registering?

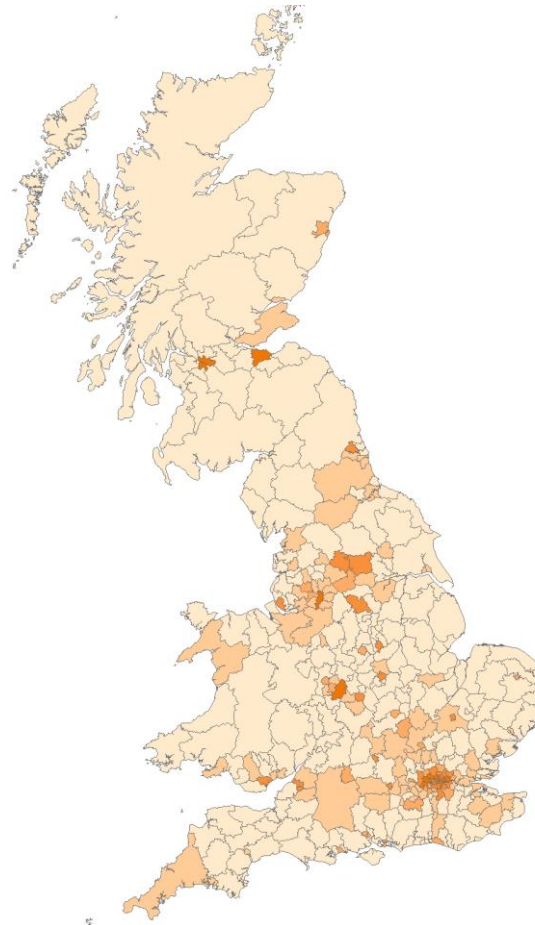
37% of all registrations are in London

NINo registrations Year to March 2017, by Local Authority at time of registration

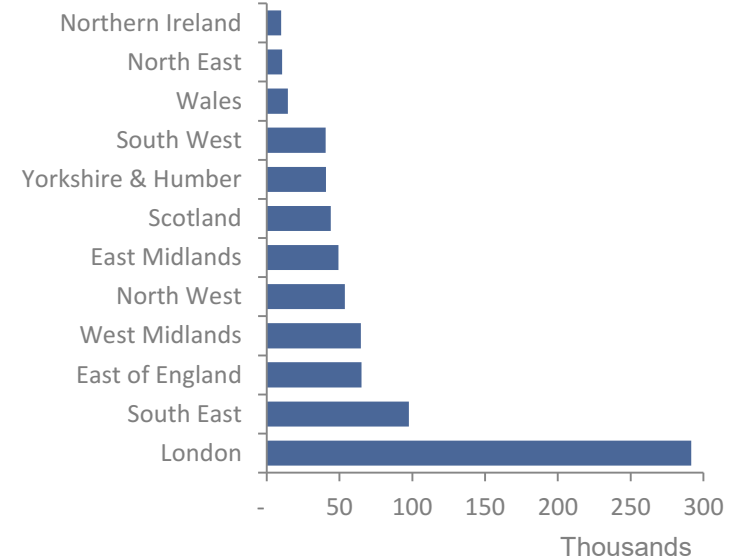
European Union



Non European Union



NINo registrations : Year to March 2017, by region



Top 10 Local Authorities	Registrations (thousands)
Newham	23
Brent	19
Birmingham	19
Tower Hamlets	17
Ealing	14
Waltham Forest	13
Haringey	13
Manchester	12
Barnet	12
Edinburgh, City of	12

The darker areas of the map show local authorities with higher levels of registrations
 Click [here](#) for the interactive version: NINo registrations for year to March 2017

About these statistics

Status: Official statistics

On 26 January 2017, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published a [report on the reassessment of the NINo statistics](#).

We welcome the report and in particular that it upholds the quality and accuracy of the NINo statistics. These statistics now carry an 'Official Statistics' badge – as the Office for Statistics Regulation have suspended the 'National Statistics' badge and have set out some requirements for the statistics in order to have the National Statistics badge reinstated.

DWP have addressed a number of these requirements in the Statistical Release, via the statistics landing page and through publication of a new User Guide to the Statistics. Further to this, the OSR intend to review.

World Areas

For reporting purposes, countries have been grouped into 'world areas' based primarily on geographical location. Countries are grouped according to current world area status for the entire back series.

World Area	Sub Group
European Union (EU)	European Union EU15 (original EU members), European Union EU8 (joined EU in 2004), European Union EU2 (Romania & Bulgaria), European Union Other
Non-European Union (Other Europe)	Other Europe
Asia	Middle East and Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, South East Asia
Rest of the World	Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, North America, Central and South America, Oceania

A detailed nationality breakdown for each world area is available in the supplementary tables accompanying this [release](#).

Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

Further information including detail on data sources, uses and limitations of the series can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/nino-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk-background-information>

Build your own tables using Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

See our interactive map: Click here: <://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=e449d3f2bd5e4e55aebc6154f69de07a>

View our new interactive NINo dashboard: <https://ninodash.herokuapp.com/>

Further detail on the NINo application process is available here : <https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number>

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report provides a comprehensive summary of the various sources of migration statistics including headline NINo statistics:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/previousReleases>

Enquires and feedback.

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements : Email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Press enquiries should be directed to the Department for Work and Pensions Press Office: 0203 267 5144.

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

steven.watkins@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

russ.bentley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk