



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

24 May 2018

Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018

The Home Office's [Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018](#) release provides the latest figures on persons who are subject to United Kingdom immigration controls. All data below relate to the year ending March 2018 (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018) and all comparisons are with the year ending March 2017 (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), unless stated otherwise.

The Immigration Statistics release provides information on the Home Office's operation of immigration control and related processes, including the work of UK Border Force, UK Visas and Immigration, and Immigration Enforcement.

Figures on performance against service standards and processing times are published as part of the Home Office [Migration transparency data](#).

The Home Office publish a range of other research on migration, available at the [Migration research and analysis](#) page. Details on the developments and future plans for Home Office migration statistics can be found in [Developments in migration statistics since 2010](#).

Summary of latest statistics

Work

There was a slight fall in the number of Work-related visas granted (down 1% to 162,874). This included a slight fall (1%) in Skilled (Tier 2) work visas, to 93,048. Skilled work visa account for the majority of all Work-related visas.

The number of high-value (Tier 1) visas granted increased by 11% to 5,198, while the number of youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5) visas fell 3% compared with a year earlier.

Study

There was a 7% increase in the number of Tier 4 Study-related visas granted. This was driven by increases in Chinese and Indian nationals (up 11,381, or 15% and 3,530, or 30% respectively).

The number of University-sponsored study visa applications rose 6% to 178,612, including an 8% increase for Russell Group universities.

Family

There was a slight fall (1%) in the number of Family-related visas granted (including EEA family permits, and dependants coming on other visa types) to 134,789.

Visit

The number of Visitor visas granted increased by 7% to 131,302. This included notable increase for Indian nationals (up 12%), Russian nationals (up 22%), and Pakistani nationals (up 34%). Chinese nationals, who account for the largest share of all Visitor visa granted saw a 3% increase.

There were a record number of passenger arrivals to the UK (which includes returning UK residents) in the year ending March 2018 (137.9m). An increase of 6.0 million compared with a year earlier.

Extensions

There were 163,817 main applicants granted an extension to their stay in 2017 (the latest available data by previous reason for stay). Of these, 79% allowed the individual to stay within their previous reason for stay, and 21% switched categories.

Settlement

There were 71,676 grants of settlement in the UK in the year ending March 2018, up 23% on the previous year, but low relative to the peak in the year ending September 2010 (241,586).

Documents certifying permanent residence

There were 141,883 documents certifying permanent residence and permanent residence cards issued to EEA nationals and their non-EEA family members. The majority of these (88%) were issued to EU nationals. This is fewer than the highest recorded figure for the year ending December 2017 (168,413), reflecting quarter-on-quarter falls in decisions from a peak of 51,466 in the first quarter of 2017 to 24,886 in the most recent quarter.

British citizenship

Total applications for British citizenship rose by 6% to 140,073. Applications made by non-EU nationals fell by 10,195 to 99,617, and applications by EU nationals almost doubled, up 18,302 to 40,456.

Asylum and resettlement

The number of asylum applications in the UK decreased by 8% to 26,547 in the year ending March 2018. The fall in asylum applications reflects a return to levels seen before the European migration crisis in 2015. The falls are consistent with what has been seen more widely across Europe, with a decrease of around 41% in applications to EU countries in the last year.

There were 14,166 grants of asylum, alternative forms of protection and resettlement, down 11% compared with 15,973 in the previous year. Of these, 42% were children. Additionally, 5,874 Family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK.

A total of 4,342 Syrian nationals were provided protection under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), bringing the total number of Syrians provided protection to 11,649 since the scheme began in 2014.

Detention

In year ending March 2018, 26,541 individuals entered the detention estate, down 8% on the previous year.

At the end of March 2018, there were 2,400 persons held in the detention estate (excluding HM Prisons), a fall of 18% compared with 12 months earlier. Additionally, 358 individuals were held in immigration detention in HM Prisons.

Returns

The total number of enforced returns from the UK, including those not directly from detention, decreased by 9% to 11,621 in year ending March 2018 compared with 12,766 in the previous year.

A total of 5,630 Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) were returned from the UK. Two-thirds of these were EU nationals.

Notes to editors

1. [Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018](#) is available on Gov.UK.
2. This release is published as part of a coordinated release of migration products. These related products are also published today:
[Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality: 2017](#)
[ONS Short-term international migration for England and Wales: year ending June 2016](#)
[Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\) National insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals to March 2018](#)
3. 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 Migration 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 ONS Press Office.
4. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is Bex Newell.