



## Migrant Journey: 2019 report

This release explores changes in non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) migrants' visa and leave status as they journey through the UK's immigration system.

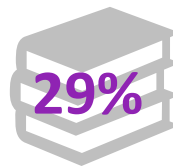
### Key results

Of migrants issued an initial visa in 2014, **around a quarter (26%) held valid temporary leave or settlement five years later** at the end of 2019.



Of migrants issued visas in 2014, the **under 18 years** age group was most likely to hold valid leave or settlement after five years (40%).

The largest group of migrants **granted settlement in 2019** were those who originally came to the UK on a **Study** visa (29%).



Of the 137,000 granted a **Work** visa in 2014, **around a quarter (24%) held valid leave or settlement at the end of 2019:**

- 74% of migrants issued **Tier 1 (High value)** visas
- 27% of those issued **Tier 2 (Skilled)** visas
- 10% of those issued **Tier 5 (Youth mobility and temporary worker)** visas



Of the 29,000 migrants granted a **Family** visa in 2014, **86% still held valid leave or had been granted settlement** at the end of 2019.

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# 1. Introduction

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This release explores changes in non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) migrants' visa and leave status as they journey through the UK's immigration system. It is the tenth in an annual series of publications.

The analysis combines the following data collected from UK Visas and Immigration databases to provide 'migrant journeys' through the immigration system:

- grants of visas outside the UK
- any subsequent grants of extensions of stay in the UK
- grants of settlement (permission to stay in the UK permanently)
- grants of UK citizenship

Understanding these journeys helps to inform Parliament, policy makers and the public on the patterns of migration to the UK and the impact of changes to the Immigration Rules.

This report includes data up to the end of 2019. It updates analysis from the ['Migrant Journey: 2018 report'](#) published in May 2019, which included data up to the end of 2018.

The data are presented in [detailed data tables](#) and new [summary tables](#) which include data on the age and sex of migrants for the first time.

Both main applicants and dependants are included within this report and all references to Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 4 or Tier 5 visas include their pre-points-based system (PBS) equivalents.

It is not possible to tell from the data whether individuals are currently in the UK.

This report focuses on migrant journeys with no more than a 12-month gap between periods of leave. This is consistent with the UN definition of migration where an individual who has left the UK for a year or more would be considered an emigrant. Therefore, the numbers in this report for journeys starting each year, although similar, will not match total numbers of visas granted each year.

The ['Migrant Journey: user guide'](#) provides further details on this topic including definitions used, how figures are compiled, data quality and issues arising from figures based on data sourced from an administrative database.

## 2. Overall trends

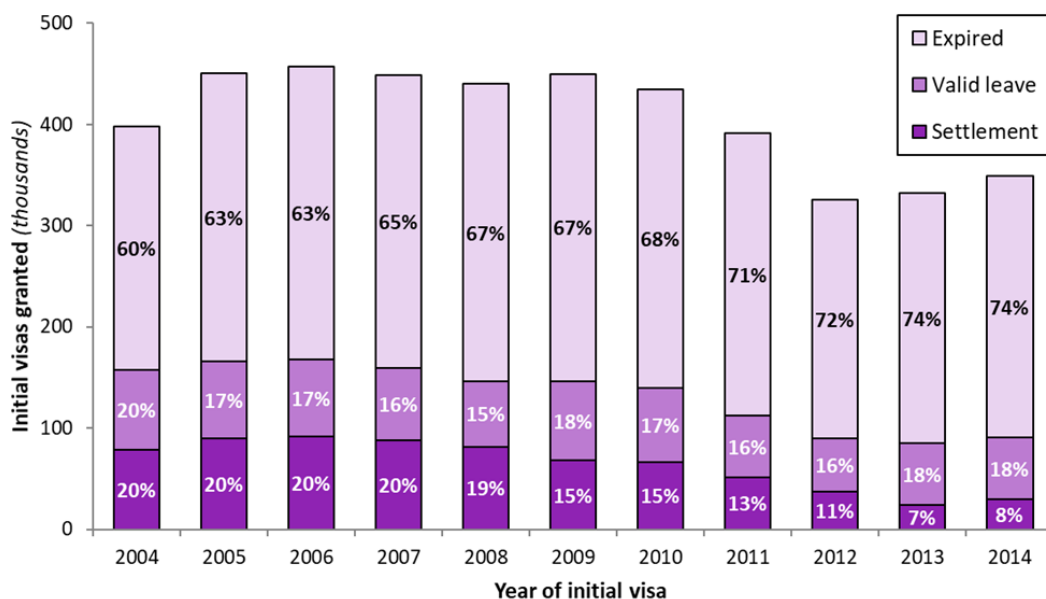
The data in this section relate to:

- Migrants granted an initial visa in 2014 and examining their leave status in 2019 (table MJ\_D01), by age and sex (tables MJ\_03 and MJ\_04)
- Migrants who were granted settlement in 2019 and which visas they used initially to come to the UK (table MJ\_D02), by age and sex (tables MJ\_05 and MJ\_06)

### Key results

- Of migrants issued an initial visa in 2014, **26% held valid temporary leave or settlement** (permission to stay in the UK permanently) at the end of 2019 – lower than earlier cohorts in the series, such as the proportion of those granted a visa in 2004 after five years (40%).
- **Around 1-in-12 (8%) migrants issued a visa in 2014 had been granted settlement after five years** – the first year-on-year increase in the data series; however, it remains much lower than the proportions of those arriving between 2004 and 2007 who had obtained settlement after five years (20%).
- Migrants issued visas who were **under 18 years old in 2014 were the age group most likely to hold valid leave or settlement after five years (40%)**. Migrants issued visas when they were between 18 and 29 years old were the least likely (20%).
- **The largest proportion of migrants granted settlement in 2019 were originally granted a Study visa (29%)**.
- Of the 95,000 migrants granted settlement in 2019, the majority (60%) were aged between 30 and 49 years old when they were granted settlement.

Figure 1: Number of migrants issued an initial visa in 2004 to 2014, broken down by their immigration status after five years



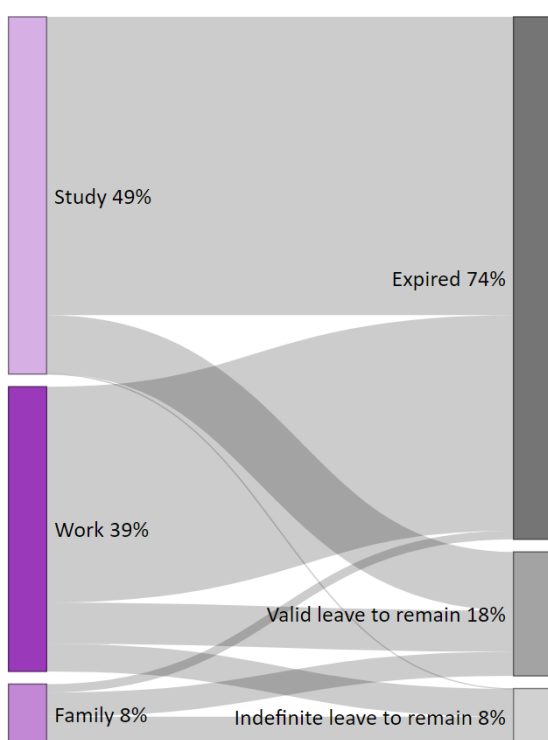
Source: [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

In 2014, around 350,000 migrants were issued an initial visa within four main categories of leave: Work, Study, Family, and Dependants joining or accompanying. Of these, 61,000 (18%) still held valid leave and 29,000 (8%) had been granted settlement at the end of 2019.

These proportions differ by initial visa category, as shown in Figure 2. The vast majority (86%) of migrants granted Family visas in 2014 had valid leave or settlement at the end of 2019, compared to 24% of Work visas and 17% of Study visas. This report presents the differences in migration patterns across these three key categories.

Figure 2: Immigration status at end of 2019 of migrants issued an initial visa in 2014, by visa type



Source: [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

Notes:

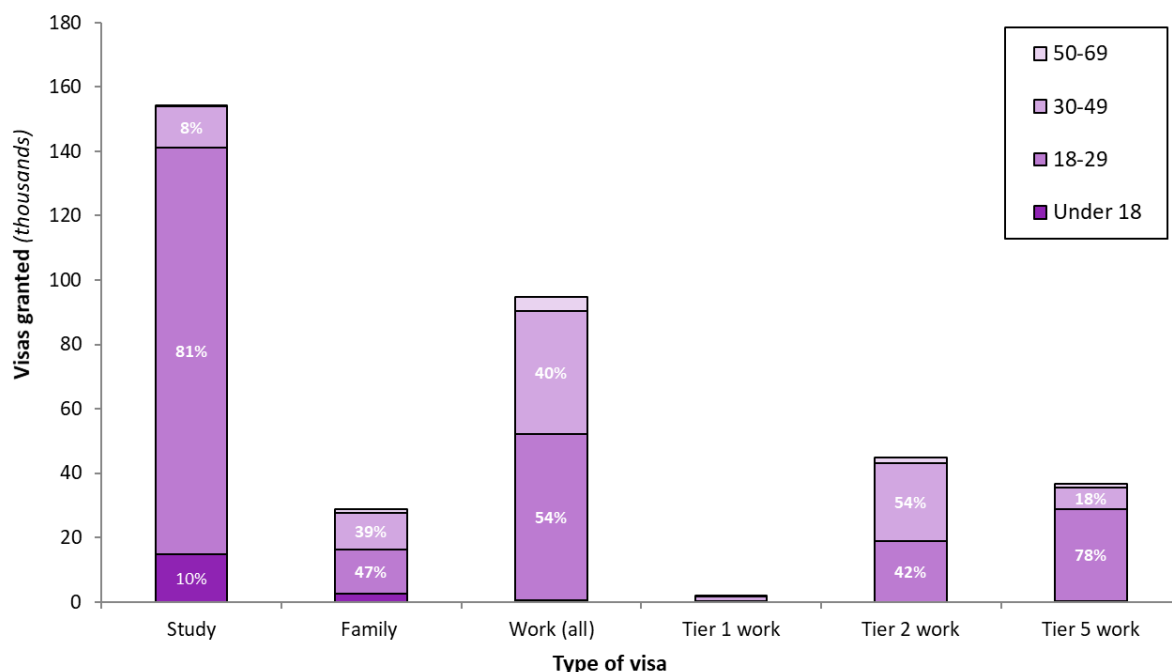
1. Percentages on the left do not sum to 100% as visas issued to 'Dependants joining or accompanying' are excluded from the chart.
2. 'Study' excludes short-term study.

New analysis of the age and sex data shows that under 18s were the age group most likely to hold valid leave or settlement after five years. Two-thirds (66%) of this age group issued visas in 2014 were dependants of another visa holder, rather than the main applicant, likely coming to the UK with their parents. This indicates that children accompanying adult migrants are particularly likely to stay in the UK long term, extending their leave or applying for settlement. This may also apply to the adult migrants who bring their children with them as dependants, although it is not possible to confirm from this analysis.

Those aged between 18 and 29 were the least likely to hold valid leave or settlement after five years. This is likely related to the differences in age profiles of different visa categories,

as shown in Figure 3. For example, 18 to 29 year olds made up 81% of Study visas and 78% of Tier 5 Work visas issued to main applicants in 2014, both of which are temporary routes without a direct path to settlement.

**Figure 3: Number of migrants issued an initial visa in 2014, broken down by their age when granted a visa, by visa type (main applicants only)**



**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Age and Sex Summary tables – MJ\\_03](#)

**Notes:**

1. Only main applicants are included in the chart.
2. Over 70s are not included in the chart due to small numbers.
3. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
4. The 'Work (all)' category is the total of Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 5 and non-PBS work categories.
5. Tier 1 route is for 'High value' migrants, Tier 2 for skilled workers, Tier 5 for Youth mobility and temporary workers.
6. Categories include pre-PBS equivalents.

A greater proportion of females issued their visas in 2014 held valid leave or settlement after five years (28%) than males (23%). Again, this is likely related to the category of visas issued – females made up almost three-quarters (72%) of Family visas issued in 2014, which have a much higher rate of leave or settlement after five years compared to other categories of visa. Work and Study visas were issued to a more equal balance of males and females.

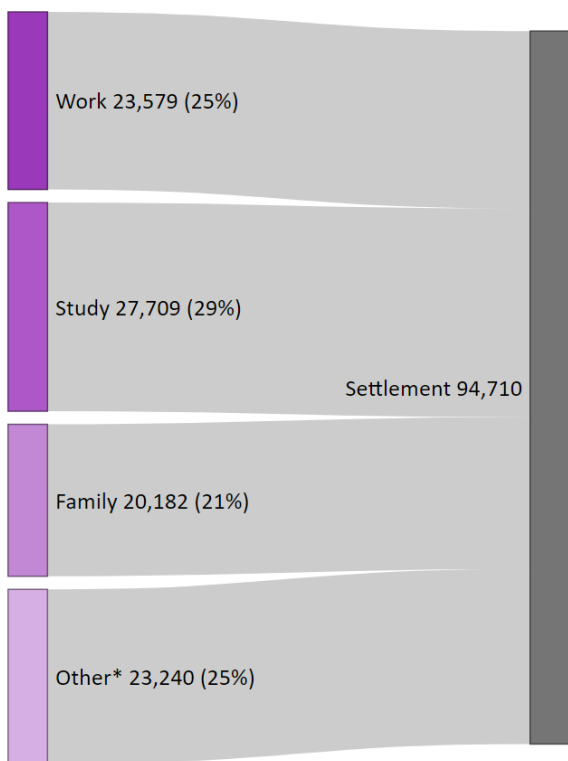
The fastest non-asylum pathways to settlement are the Family and some Work categories, which are the direct routes to settlement allowed under the Immigration Rules. These categories allow a grant of settlement without the migrant switching to another immigration category. Study is not a direct route to settlement, therefore a student would normally have to apply to stay in another route before being eligible for settlement.

Of the 95,000 migrants granted settlement in 2019, 29% had initially been granted a Study visa, 25% a Work visa and 21% a Family visa. Those initially on Family or Work visas who were granted settlement in 2019 were most likely to have been granted their initial visa in

2014, that is five years previously. This is a result of Family and Work migrants taking up the option for settlement as soon as they become eligible after five years.

Meanwhile, those who settled in 2019 and had initially been granted Study visas were most likely to have been granted their initial visa in 2009. As Study is a temporary route, these migrants will, in most cases, have subsequently switched into another route to permanent settlement or applied for settlement under the ten-year long-term residency rule.

**Figure 4: Migrants granted settlement in 2019, by initial visa type**

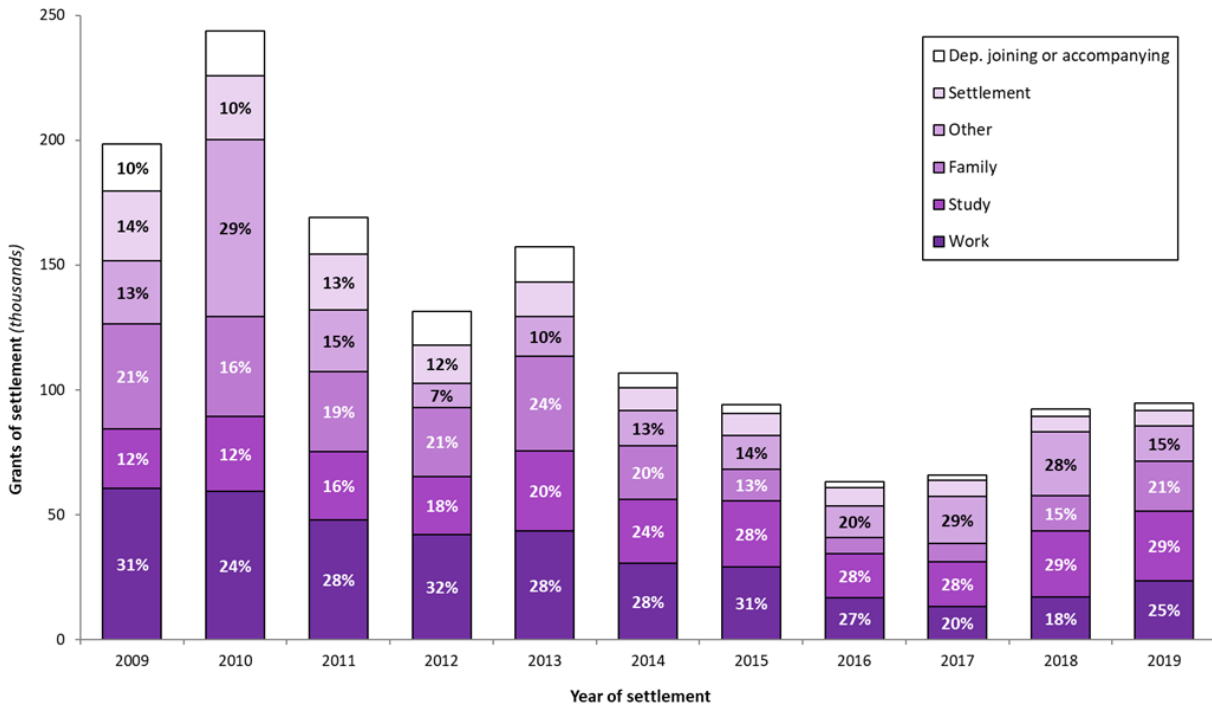


**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D02](#)

**Note:** The 'Other' category contains grants of settlement to: Dependants joining or accompanying; visas for immediate settlement; EEA family permits; where there had previously been grants related to asylum, grants of leave outside the Immigration Rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life; and other small miscellaneous categories.

The numbers of cases granted settlement in different years can also reflect casework management decisions as well as policy changes. The high volume of cases granted settlement in 2010 reflects more grants given on a discretionary basis. This resulted from a review of the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applications announced in July 2006 by the then Home Secretary.

**Figure 5: Common immigration categories of those granted settlement in 2009 to 2019**



Source: [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D02](#)

**Notes:**

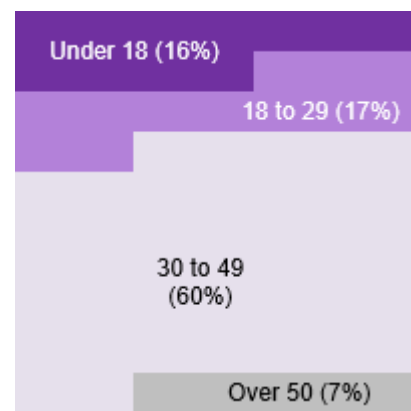
1. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
2. The 'Other' category contains grants of settlement where there had previously been grants related to asylum, grants of leave outside the Immigration Rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life, and other small miscellaneous categories.
3. Categories less than 10% have not been labelled on the chart.
4. EEA family permits have been excluded.

Settlement rates also differ considerably by nationality. Of the top ten nationalities issued visas in 2014, Pakistani nationals had the highest proportion who had been granted settlement after five years (28%). The next highest were Indian nationals (9%), with the remaining nationalities in the top ten having a settlement rate of 5% or less.

Of all those granted settlement in 2019, the largest number were originally from India (16%), Pakistan (11%) and China (6%).

Of all those granted settlement in 2019, a majority (60%) were between 30 and 49 years old. A slightly higher proportion were female (53%) than male.

**Figure 6: Age in years of migrants granted settlement in 2019**



### 3. Study

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The data in this section relate to:

- Migrants granted an initial Study visa in 2009 and 2014, and examining their leave status in 2019 (table MJ\_D01), by age and sex (tables MJ\_01 to MJ\_04)
- Migrants granted settlement in 2019 who were initially issued a Study visa to come to the UK (table MJ\_D02), by age and sex (tables MJ\_05 and MJ\_06)

References to 'Study' visas refer to Tier 4 (Sponsored study) visas and their pre-PBS equivalents. Short-term study visas are excluded from this analysis. All figures include dependants unless otherwise stated.

#### Key results

- **Five-year cohort:** Of the 172,000 granted a Study visa in 2014, 16% held valid leave at the end of 2019 – slightly lower than the 2013 cohort, continuing year-on-year decreases seen since the initial 2004 cohort.
- **Ten-year cohort:** Of the 269,000 granted a Study visa in 2009, 6% still held valid leave and 8% had been granted settlement at the end of 2019.
- **Of all those granted settlement in 2019**, 29% had initially been granted a Study visa; despite low rates of settlement compared to other visa categories, the large volume of migrant students resulted in them accounting for nearly a third of settlement cases in 2019.
- Around three-quarters (76%) of Study visas issued in 2014 were to 18 to 29 year olds, but the long path to settlement for Study migrants means they are unlikely to be granted settlement until their 30s and 40s.

Of migrants granted a Study visa in 2014, 16% held valid leave at the end of 2019:

- 10% remained on a Study visa
- 4% had switched to a Work visa
- 1% had switched to a Family visa
- 1% held other categories of visa

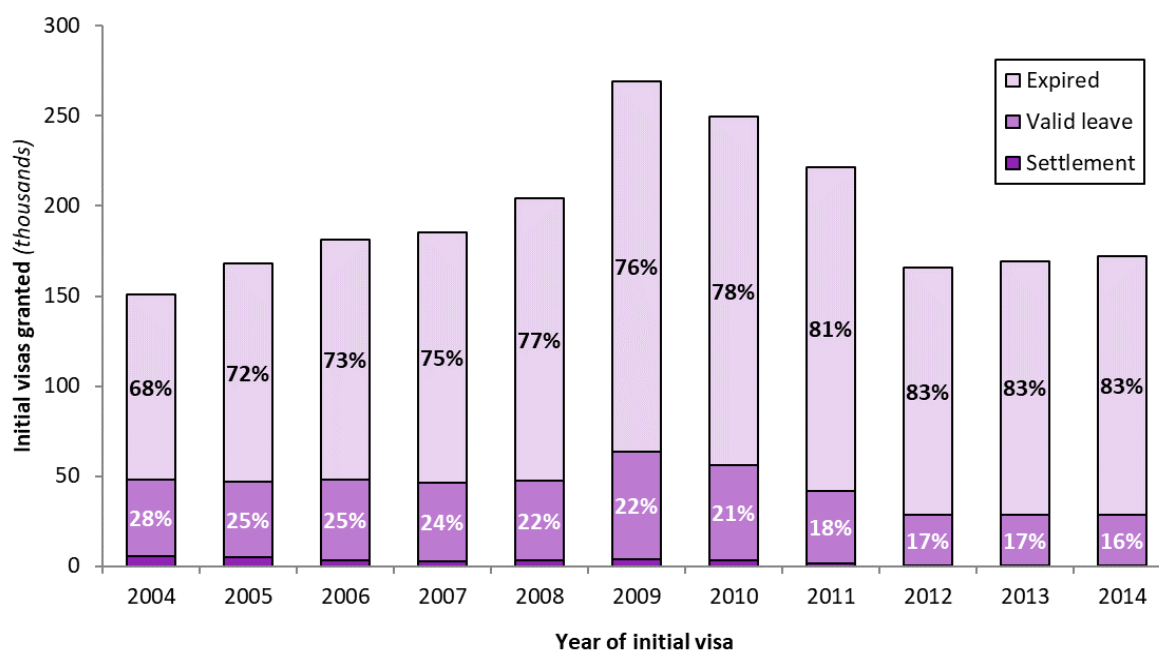
Of migrants issued an initial Study visa in 2014, 55% had expired leave after just two years, indicating that many people on Study visas will come to study shorter courses, including postgraduate and further education courses. After five years, the proportion with expired leave had increased to 83%. These figures relate only to those whose initial visa was a Tier 4 (Sponsored study) visa, and exclude the large numbers of migrants on 'Short-term study' visas for short courses and study-abroad programmes.

The proportion of migrants arriving on an initial Study visa who subsequently held a Work visa after five years has decreased over time – from 14% of those granted a Study visa in the 2004 cohort to 4% in the 2014 cohort. This change is consistent with the tightening of



the Immigration Rules for students since September 2007. It also reflects changes in the composition of student migrants coming to the UK. For example, Chinese students accounted for 13% of Study visas granted in 2004 compared to 28% in 2014 (and most recently, 41% of Study visas granted in 2019). Chinese nationals are less likely than other nationalities to stay in the UK long term – 17% of Chinese nationals granted visas for Work, Study, Family or Dependants joining or accompanying in 2014 had valid leave or settlement five years later, compared to 28% across all other nationalities.

**Figure 7: Number of migrants issued an initial Study<sup>1</sup> visa in 2004 to 2014, broken down by their immigration status after five years**



**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

**Notes:**

1. Tier 4 (Sponsored study) and pre-PBS equivalents. Excludes Short-term study visas.
2. Categories less than 5% are not labelled on the chart.
3. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Under 18s issued Study visas in 2014 were the most likely to hold valid leave after five years – over a third (36%) still held a visa at the end of 2019. Of the under 18s issued Study visas in 2014, 37% were dependants of a main visa holder (likely the children of adult students), while the remaining 63% were main applicants. Under 18s who were main visa holders were particularly likely to continue holding valid leave after five years (45%). This is likely because many of them come to study at schools, rather than universities, and therefore stay for a longer period to complete their education. However, under 18s only made up 14% of Study visas issued in 2014.

Of those aged between 18 and 29 years, who made up over three-quarters (76%) of Study visas issued in 2014 (and of which 97% were main applicants), only 13% still had valid leave at the end of 2019. There were no substantial differences between male and female Study migrants.

Less than 1% of those granted an initial Study visa in 2014 had been granted settlement by the end of 2019. Only a very small proportion of Study migrants are granted settlement within a five-year timeframe, as Study is not a direct route to settlement – a student would usually have to apply for another type of visa, for example through marriage or switching into skilled employment, before being eligible for settlement.

After ten years, the proportion of Study migrants with settlement is greater; 8% of those granted an initial Study visa in 2009 had been granted settlement by the end of 2019. These migrants will, in most cases, have subsequently switched into another route to permanent settlement or applied for settlement under the ten-year long-term residency rule. Only 7% of those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially been issued a Study visa, remained on a Study visa immediately prior to being granted settlement. Over half (53%) had switched to a Work visa and over a quarter (28%) had switched to a Family visa.

Although the settlement rate for Study migrants is low compared to migrants on Work and Family visas, the volume of Study visas issued is much larger than other categories. As a result, of those granted settlement in 2019, 29% had originally entered the UK on a Study visa. They were most likely to have been granted their initial Study visa in 2009, demonstrating the longer route to settlement for Study migrants.

Of the top five nationalities issued Study visas in 2014 (who together accounted for 53% of total Study visas granted), Nigerian nationals had the highest proportion with valid leave after five years (22%). American nationals were less likely to have valid leave after five years (9%).

**Table 1: Top 5 nationalities issued an initial Study<sup>1</sup> visa in 2014**

Visa category	Migrants in 2014 cohort	Immigration status after five years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>171,917</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Of which:				
China	48,747	87%	13%	0%
United States	13,337	90%	9%	0%
India	11,151	85%	15%	0%
Malaysia	8,975	88%	12%	0%
Nigeria	8,882	78%	22%	0%

**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

**Notes:**

1. Tier 4 (Sponsored study) visas and pre-PBS equivalents. Excludes Short-term study visas.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Of all those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Study visa, the most common nationalities were Indian (21%), Pakistani (12%) and Chinese (10%).

Of those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Study visa, 79% were between 30 and 49 years old when granted settlement. This is despite the majority of Study

visas being issued to 18 to 29 year olds. This is likely related to the longer path for settlement for Study migrants, meaning they are often ten or more years older by the time they are granted settlement.

## 4. Work

The data in this section relate to:

- Migrants granted an initial Work visa in 2014 and examining their leave status in 2019 (table MJ\_D01), by age and sex (tables MJ\_03 and MJ\_04)
- Migrants who were granted settlement in 2019, who were initially issued a Work visa to come to the UK (table MJ\_D02), by age and sex (tables MJ\_05 and MJ\_06)

All references to 'Tier 1', 'Tier 2' and 'Tier 5' visas within this section also include their pre-PBS equivalents. All figures include dependants unless otherwise stated.

### Key results

- Of the 137,000 granted a Work visa in 2014, around **a quarter (24%) held valid leave or settlement at the end of 2019**, slightly higher than one year earlier, for those granted Work visas in 2013 at the end of 2018.
- 10% of migrants granted a Work visa in 2014 had been granted settlement after five years, a slight increase compared to the 2012 and 2013 cohorts of Work migrants.
- For migrants issued Tier 1 (High value) visas in 2014, 74% held valid leave or settlement after five years, compared to 27% of those issued Tier 2 (Skilled) visas and 10% of those issued Tier 5 (Youth mobility and temporary worker) visas.
- Of all those granted settlement in 2019, a quarter (25%) had initially arrived on a Work visa.

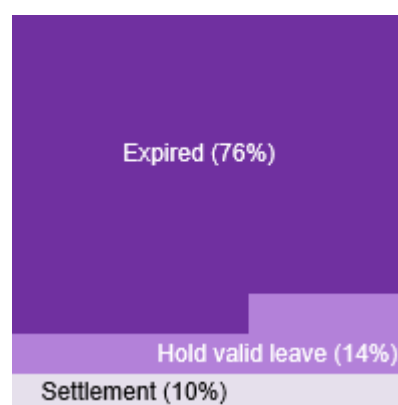
At the end of 2019, around a quarter (24%) of migrants who initially came to the UK in 2014 on a Work visa (either as the main applicant or their dependant) held valid leave or settlement:

- 11% remained on a Work visa
- 3% had switched to a different category of visa
- 10% had been granted settlement

The remaining 76% of migrants issued Work visas in 2014 had expired leave by the end of 2019.

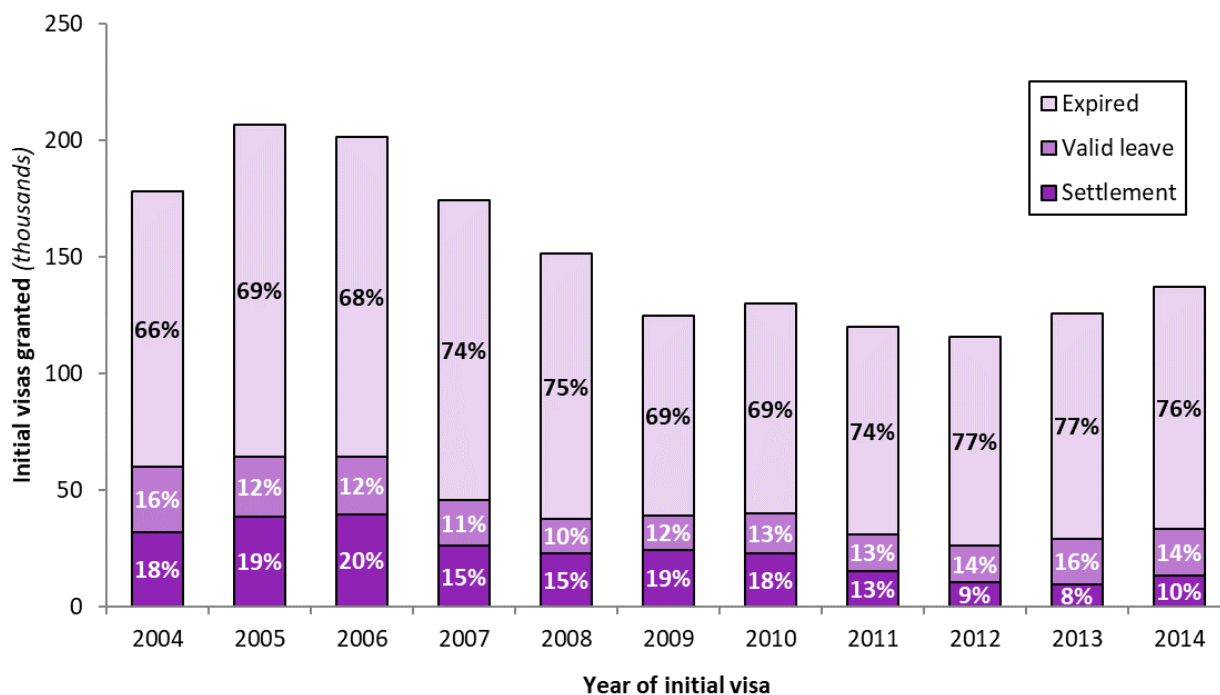
Under 18s issued Work visas in 2014 were the age group most likely to hold valid leave or settlement five years later (38%). Almost all (90%) of these were dependants accompanying someone else on a Work visa, such as their parents. This may indicate that Work migrants who bring children with them are more likely to stay in the UK long term. There were not big differences in the rate of leave and settlement after five years for the other age groups, ranging between 20% and 24%.

**Figure 8: 2019 status of migrants granted Work visas in 2014**



At the end of 2019, 26% of females issued Work visas in 2014 held valid leave or settlement, compared to 22% of males.

**Figure 9: Number of migrants issued an initial Work visa in 2004 to 2014, broken down by their immigration status after five years**



**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

**Note:** Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Migrants on the Tier 1 route (and pre-PBS equivalents) had the highest proportion of individuals with valid leave or settlement (74%) after five years, although this category also represents the smallest number of Work visas issued. The Tier 1 route has focused on providing visas for ‘High value’ migrants, including the exceptional talent route, investors and entrepreneurs.

By comparison, there was a much lower proportion of valid leave or settlement for migrants on the Tier 2 route (27%), and even lower for migrants on the Tier 5 route (10%), of which unsurprisingly, given its temporary nature, there were very small numbers of settlement cases.

**Table 2: Migrants issued an initial Work visa in 2014, broken down by work category**

Visa category	Migrants in 2014 cohort	Immigration status after five years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
<b>All categories</b>	<b>137,022</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Of which:				
High value (Tier 1)	8,320	26%	38%	36%
Skilled (Tier 2)	78,746	73%	15%	12%
Youth mobility & temporary work (Tier 5)	38,269	90%	10%	0%
Non-PBS / Other	11,687	81%	9%	10%

**Source:** [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

**Notes:**

1. Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 5 totals include pre-PBS equivalents.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Of all those granted settlement in 2019, a quarter (25%) had initially been granted a Work visa. They were most likely to have been granted their Work visa in 2014, with migrants applying for settlement as soon as they were eligible after five years.

Due to their higher settlement rate, Tier 1 workers made up 22% of migrants granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Work visa, despite making up less than 10% of Work visas issued. Tier 2 workers have a lower settlement rate but account for a much larger proportion of Work visas issued, hence over half (60%) of workers granted settlement in 2019 had entered on Tier 2 visas. The remaining 18% of settlement cases in 2019 who been issued initial Work visas, entered the UK on Tier 5 (10%) and non-PBS (8%) Work visas.

### Tier 2 (Skilled) work

Tier 2 visas (and pre-PBS equivalents) accounted for over half (57%) of Work visas issued in the 2014 cohort. 12% of migrants on this route had been granted settlement within five years. This is an increase of three percentage points on the settlement rate compared to the 2013 cohort (9%), the first time that the Tier 2 worker five-year settlement rate has increased since the route was first introduced in 2009. However, the proportion of Tier 2 workers granted settlement within five years remains much lower than 2009 levels (23%).

The proportion of Tier 2 workers who had been granted settlement within five years differs by nationality. Some differences between nationalities are likely to be related to the number of migrants with visas under the Intra-company Transfer (ICT) route,<sup>1</sup> which does not have a direct route to settlement. Of the top ten nationalities granted Tier 2 visas in 2014,

<sup>1</sup> The Intra-company Transfer route enables multinational employers to transfer their existing employees from outside the EEA to their UK branch for training purposes or to fill a specific vacancy that cannot be filled by a British or EEA worker. The rules were changed from 6 April 2010, meaning that the Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) category no longer leads to settlement.

Japanese nationals had the highest proportion of ICT visas (88%), along with the lowest proportion of migrants granted settlement after five years (2%). Pakistan had the lowest proportion of ICT visas (9%) and the highest proportion granted settlement after five years (47%).

**Table 3: Top 10 nationalities (by volume) issued an initial Tier 2 (Skilled) work visa in 2014, ordered by proportion granted settlement**

Nationality	Migrants in 2014 cohort	Proportion of Tier 2 visas issued which were ICTs <sup>1</sup>	Immigration status after five years		
			% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>78,746</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Of which:					
Pakistan	1,307	9%	23%	30%	47%
Philippines	1,180	16%	28%	25%	47%
Russia	943	35%	49%	22%	30%
South Africa	1,069	39%	57%	20%	23%
China	1,992	44%	64%	19%	17%
Canada	1,224	36%	67%	21%	12%
Australia	1,845	32%	68%	21%	12%
United States	9,811	56%	75%	17%	8%
India	45,989	82%	80%	12%	8%
Japan	3,192	88%	79%	20%	2%

**Sources:**

[Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

[Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes – Vis\\_D02](#)

**Notes:**

1. Tier 2 visa totals include pre-PBS equivalents.
2. ICT figures sourced from the quarterly Home Office 'Immigration Statistics' publication.

Of all those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Work visa, the top nationalities were India (29%), Pakistan (9%) and the USA (8%).

Around two-thirds (64%) of those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Work visa were aged between 30 and 49 years old when granted settlement.

The majority (56%) of those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Work visa were female.

## 5. Family

The data in this section relate to:

- Migrants granted an initial Family visa in 2014 and examining their leave status in 2019 (table MJ\_D01), by age and sex (tables MJ\_03 and MJ\_04)
- Migrants initially issued a Family visa to come to the UK and who were granted settlement in 2019 (table MJ\_D02), by age and sex (tables MJ\_05 and MJ\_06)

### Key results

- Of the 29,000 migrants granted a Family visa in 2014, 86% held valid leave or settlement at the end of 2019, much higher than other categories of visa. This is a slightly lower proportion than the 2013 cohort.
- Females accounted for nearly three-quarters (72%) of Family visas issued in 2014 and were slightly more likely (87%) than males (84%) to hold valid leave or settlement five years later.
- Under 29 year olds who arrived on a Family visa were slightly more likely (89%) than other age groups (83%) to hold valid leave or settlement five years later.
- Of migrants granted a Family visa in 2014, 46% had been granted settlement at the end of 2019, a slight increase compared to the 2013 cohort, but remaining much lower than earlier years, likely due to changes in the Immigration Rules.
- Of all those granted settlement in 2019, 21% had initially been granted a Family visa.

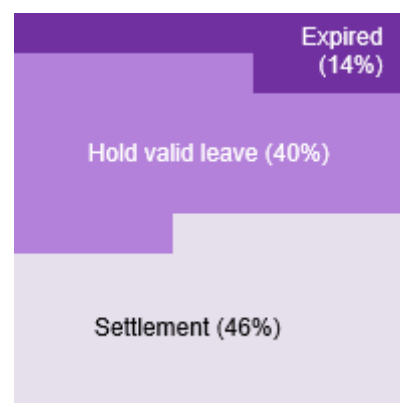
At the end of 2019, 86% of migrants granted a Family visa in 2014 held valid leave or settlement:

- Over a third (38%) remained on a Family visa
- 1% had switched to a different category of visa
- Almost half (46%) had been granted settlement

The remaining 14% of migrants issued Family visas in 2014 had expired leave by the end of 2019.

The proportion of migrants granted a Family visa in 2014 who had been granted settlement five years later (46%) was a slight increase compared to the 2013 cohort (44%). However, it remains markedly lower than for previous cohorts. It fell by almost a quarter from 2012 (69%) and almost half from 2010 (82%). This can be accounted for by changes in July 2012 to the Immigration Rules for Family visas, which changed the eligibility period for settlement from two years to five years.

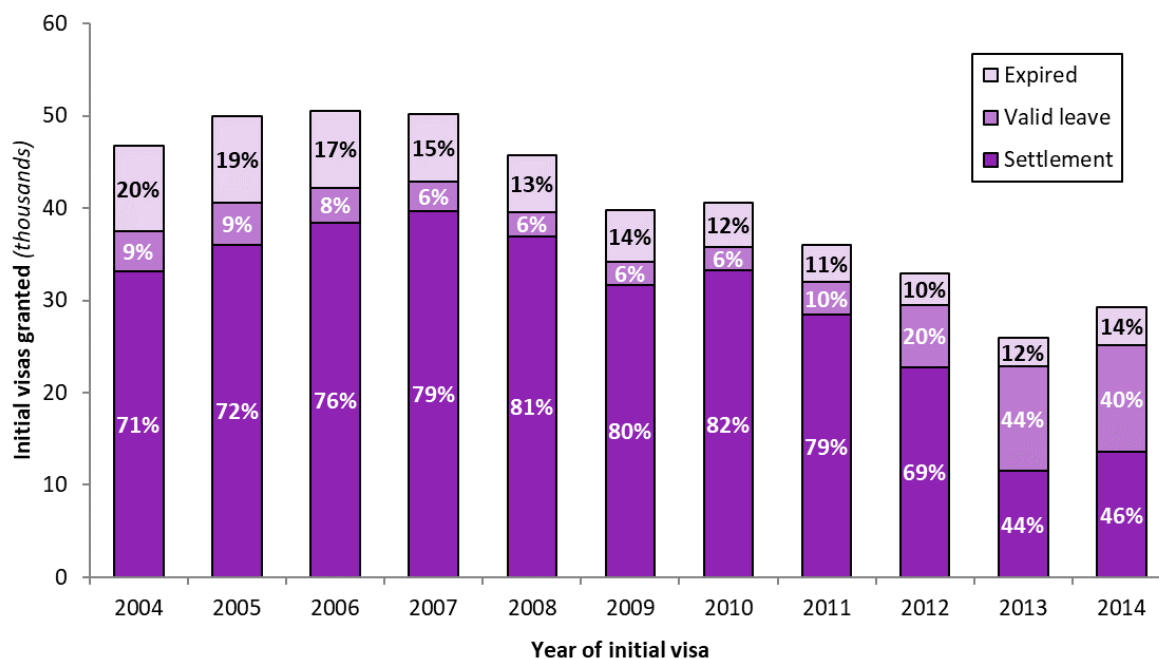
**Figure 10: 2019 status of migrants granted Family visas in 2014**





Younger age groups (under 29 years old) issued Family visas in 2014 were the most likely to hold valid leave or settlement five years later – 88% of under 18s and 89% of 18 to 29 year olds. Females accounted for 72% of Family visas issued in 2014 and were slightly more likely (87%) than males (84%) to hold valid leave or settlement at the end of 2019.

**Figure 11: Number of migrants issued an initial Family visa in 2004 to 2014, broken down by their immigration status after five years**



Source: [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Of the top five nationalities issued Family visas in 2014 (accounting for 41% of total Family visas granted), Indian nationals had the highest proportion with settlement after five years (47%). American nationals were less likely to have settlement after five years (34%).

**Table 4: Top 5 nationalities (by volume) issued an initial Family visa in 2014**

Visa category	Migrants in 2014 cohort	Immigration status after five years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>29,241</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46%</b>
Of which:				
Pakistan	4,852	9%	46%	45%
India	2,894	11%	42%	47%
United States	1,807	31%	34%	34%
Bangladesh	1,324	8%	46%	45%
Sri Lanka	1,160	8%	48%	44%

Source: [Migrant Journey – Detailed Tables – MJ\\_D01](#)

Of all migrants granted settlement in 2019, 21% had been initially granted a Family visa. Around 44% of these were issued their initial Family visa in 2014, with migrants applying for settlement as soon as they become eligible after five years.

Of all those granted settlement in 2019 who had initially entered on a Family visa, the top nationalities were Pakistani (16%) and Indian (10%).

Similar to the Study and Work visa categories, the majority (60%) of those granted an initial Family visa who had been granted settlement in 2019 were aged between 30 and 49. Most (73%) were female, which is consistent with the proportion of Family visas issued to female migrants (72%).

## 6. Further information and enquiries

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The data are presented in two [detailed data tables](#):

- Table MJ\_D01: End-of-year category and immigration status of all applicants issued a visa by year of initial grant, category of initial visa and country of nationality. Migrants starting on Visit visas, visas for immediate settlement and other smaller miscellaneous entry clearance routes (e.g. EEA family permits) are excluded.
- Table MJ\_D02: Migrants granted settlement by year of settlement grant, initial leave category and country of nationality. Migrants arriving as visitors or for short-term study are excluded.

This release also includes data on the age and sex of migrants for the first time. These data are presented in new [summary tables](#):

- Table MJ\_01: Status of those issued an initial visa in 2009 at the end of 2019, by initial visa category and age at initial visa grant.
- Table MJ\_02: Status of those issued an initial visa in 2009 at the end of 2019, by initial visa category and sex.
- Table MJ\_03: Status of those issued an initial visa in 2014 at the end of 2019, by initial visa category and age at initial visa grant.
- Table MJ\_04: Status of those issued an initial visa in 2014 at the end of 2019, by initial visa category and sex.
- Table MJ\_05: Grants of settlement in 2019 by year of initial grant, initial visa category and age at time of settlement.
- Table MJ\_06: Grants of settlement in 2019 by year of initial grant, initial visa category and sex.

Tables MJ\_01 and MJ\_03 are based on the age of migrants when granted their initial visa, while table MJ\_05 is based on the age of migrants when granted settlement.

### About the figures

Both main applicants and dependants are included.

The Study figures include all lengths of sponsored Tier 4 Study visas but exclude Short-term study (where validity is up to 6 or 11 months), as this category of leave cannot be extended in-country.

Where the text refers to those granted settlement, this also includes those who were granted citizenship (alternatively or subsequently to a grant of settlement), unless this is otherwise indicated. The supplementary tables separately identify migrants granted settlement and individuals who have been granted citizenship.

Those granted settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme are not included in this analysis. Statistics relating to the EU Settlement Scheme are published monthly and quarterly as part of the [EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#) release.

Percentages in this report do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

'Family' visas are where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person granted settlement in the UK or a British citizen.

'Dependants joining or accompanying' are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant (who has not been granted settlement and is not a British citizen).

The expiration of an individual's (entry clearance) visa or extension of stay does not necessarily imply that person has (or has not) left the UK – there are a number of reasons why an individual with an expired visa may still be in the UK legally e.g. while waiting for the outcome of a further application to stay. Similarly some individuals granted a visa may never have entered the UK.

This is the tenth in a series of reports based on the 'Migrant Journey'; it is published annually by the Home Office and complements data published as part of the quarterly National Statistics release of '[Immigration Statistics](#)'. If as a user you have any comments on this report please email [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk).

The findings presented here are based on data collected from Home Office administrative databases. These databases hold records of individuals granted Entry clearance visas and any subsequent grants of extensions of stay in the UK. As these are sourced from operational systems, numbers may change and may not precisely reflect other published statistics, if those are produced and published at a different time. While EEA nationals do not require visas, records suggest that some apply and are granted visas, and therefore small numbers may be included in this analysis. Nationals from countries that became part of the EEA over the time period of this analysis are also likely to be included in earlier cohorts.

The '[Migrant Journey: user guide](#)' provides further details on this topic including definitions used, how figures are compiled, data quality and issues arising from figures based on data sourced from an administrative database.

The numbers of applications and decisions made reflect changes in the levels of immigration over time as well as policy and legislative changes, including changes to immigration legislation. Details of these policy changes, together with information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, can be found in '[Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline](#)' published alongside this report.

### **Statistical or public enquiries**

If you would like to make an enquiry about this release or have any general feedback about this release, please contact the Migration Statistics team by emailing [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk).

## Media enquiries via Home Office news desk

Journalists with enquiries can call the Home Office news desk on 020 7035 3535. The desk operates from 7am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

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