

Request for user views on the format, frequency and supporting information available on NINo adult overseas nationals Migration Statistics: Summary of Feedback

Introduction

Between the 24th November 2011 and 24th February 2012, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) requested users views on the format, frequency and supporting information available on NINo adult overseas nationals Migration Statistics. The Request for Users Views document can be viewed at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/nino_consult.doc

We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to this request. This document summarises the feedback we received which we are considering how to take forward.

Summary of Respondents Views

i) Data

Respondents were predominantly Local Authority Officials. Overall, it was felt that the statistical data mostly meets users' needs. The statistics which are most prominently used by respondents are nationality breakdowns, small area statistics & the two annual time series.

ii) Frequency & Timeliness of Releases

Overall, respondents feel that the release of data on a quarterly basis is reasonable. A small minority of Local Authority Officials would prefer the data to continue to be released quarterly, commenting that an annual release would substantially limit the usefulness of the statistics.

iii) DWP Tabulation Tool

Respondents felt that the Tabulation Tool on the whole met their needs. Whilst respondents like the way that they are able to create custom tables, they found the Tabulation Tool restrictive & somewhat complicated to use.

The majority of respondents would prefer the data output to be available in formats other than the current HTML format, specifically Excel or CSV. There were some respondents who would like to download our data from Nomis as they find it a really versatile and easy to use tool.

Suggested improvements to the Tabulation Tool include:

- ability to download data in either Excel or CSV format, as users find HTML format hard to work with
- having default values present when specifying a query
- ability to remember users previous choices so that the user doesn't need to rebuild the query each time
- ability to disseminate data to an individual Local Authority level
- data available at Output-Area level
- additional cross tabulations available such as the ability to download a table of gender by nationality by Local Authority

Several capability issues were emphasised which are common issues having already been highlighted in a previous consultation on the frequency and format of the DWP Statistical Summary and associated data. The findings from this report can be found at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/stats_summary_feedback.pdf

iv) Supporting Information

Overall, respondents agreed there is sufficient information on methodology and quality in support of the statistics produced. Most respondents also agreed there is sufficient commentary on the website or within the publication to assist in understanding the statistics.

v) Data Limitations

Respondents raised some points concerning the statistics. The majority of these were simply limitations of the data which the underlying source data can not address and are therefore “out of scope” for DWP to improve. These included:

- the lack of data on outflow of migrants
- the lack of data on children of migrants
- the lack of data on average lengths of stay
- no distinctions between short term & long term migration
- no requirements to de-register when leaving the country

The data covers adult overseas nationals entering the UK and allocated a National Insurance Number (NINo) on the National Insurance Recording & Pay As You Earn System (NPS). Allocation of a NINo includes all reasons i.e. the figures cover benefit/tax credit recipients as well as workers.

All adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo are included, regardless of their length of stay in the UK. Therefore, this definition of migrants (adult overseas nationals entering the UK and allocated a NINo) differs from other published migration statistics, such as International Migration statistics derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), and statistics on foreign workers derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Outcomes

From August 2012, DWP will revert to an annual release for the publication of National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK. This has been concluded after reflecting the views from users as well as the need to balance resources to provide existing routine statistics and to develop new enhanced Departmental statistics. “Stat-Xplore” will be introduced shortly as a new enhanced DWP data dissemination tool. For migration statistics, the new tool will incorporate many of the suggested improvements listed in this consultation except for the “out of scope” data limitations.

Thank you to all those who responded to this request. All points raised will be considered in due course. If you would like to be kept up to date on news of DWP statistical publications and wish to subscribe to our mailing list, please contact general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.