



# Statistical Bulletin

26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Coverage: UK  
Theme: Migration

## *National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK – registrations to December 2014*

*This report provides statistics regarding National Insurance Numbers (NINo) allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the United Kingdom (UK). A NINo is generally required by any overseas national looking to work or claim benefits / tax credits in the UK, including the self employed or students working part time.*

*The figures are based on recorded registration date on the HMRC National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System, i.e. after the NINo application process has been completed. **This may be a number of weeks or months (or in some cases years) after arriving in the UK.***

Statistics on National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK are full **National Statistics**;

### Headline Figures:

- The total number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals in the 12 months to December 2014 was 768 thousand, an increase of 151 thousand (24%) on the previous year.
- **Within the European Union (EU)** - The number of NINo registrations from EU nationals in the 12 months to December 2014 was 591 thousand, an increase of 151 thousand (34%) on the previous year.
- Following the lifting of the transitional arrangements on 1st January 2014, the number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) in the 12 months to December 2014 was 187 thousand, an increase of 160 thousand (576%) on the previous year.
- **Rest of the world** - The number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from outside the EU the 12 months to December 2014 was 176 thousand, a fall of 1 thousand (1%) on the previous year.

**DWP** Department for Work and Pensions

**Issued by:**  
IES  
Department for Work and Pensions

Telephone:  
Press Office: 0203 267 5160

Website:  
<http://www.gov.uk/dwp>

### **Statistician:**

Steve Watkins  
IES  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Kings Court  
80 Hanover Way  
Sheffield  
S3 7UF

Telephone: 01142098387  
Email:  
[steven.watkins@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steven.watkins@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**Next release of NINo registration data:**  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2015



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*Further information and statistics on NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals can be obtained using the Department's internet-based [interactive tabulation tool - Stat-Xplore](#)*



## ***Definition of World Area***

For reporting purposes, countries have been grouped into '**world areas**' based primarily on geographical location. Throughout this document Europe is represented as 3 world areas reflecting their status within the European Union (EU). These are :

**Europe - EU excluding Accession Countries** : (EU14) Founder members or countries acceding to the EU prior to May 2004. These comprise of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden

**Europe - EU Accession Countries** : Countries acceding to the EU from May 2004.

**Joined the EU 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004** – (EU8) Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia.

Cyprus and Malta (Joined the EU 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 but not referred to as part of the EU8)

**Joined the EU 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007** – (EU2) Bulgaria, Romania

**Joined the EU 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013** - Croatia

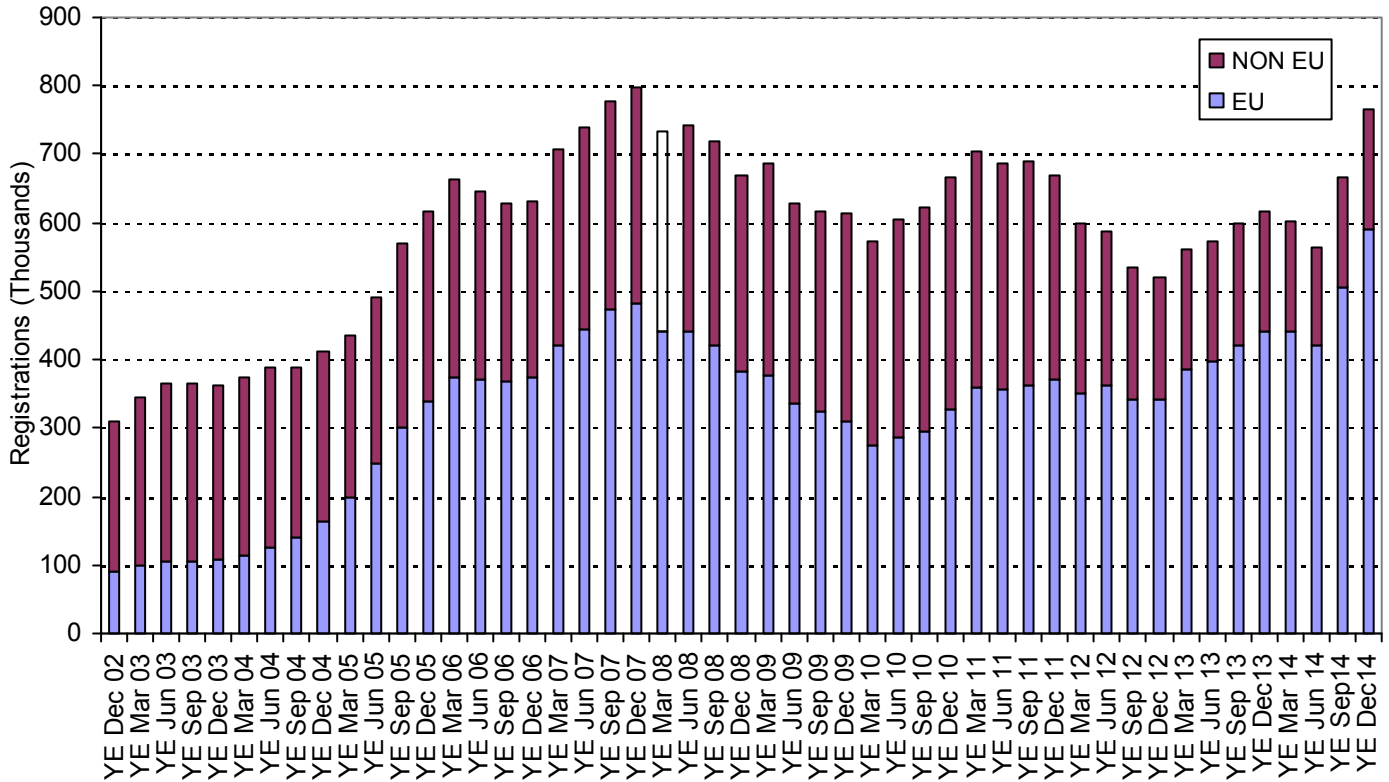
**Europe – Non EU** : European countries that are not members of the EU at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

Note : European Economic Area (EEA) comprises of the member states of the European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway

**1 NINo Registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK**

**Time series**

**Fig 1.1 : NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, time series by quarter (12 month total to the end of the quarter), December 2002 to December 2014.**



Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS).

1. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NINo is maintained on the NPS

2. For consistency of reporting, EU refers to current EU status at Publication for the entire Back Series including the periods before Accession and after transitional arrangements have ended

3. Caution should be taken in interpreting trends based on raw quarterly data, hence a '12 month to date' rolling total is shown

**4 Caution - A change to the process of recording NINOs during the quarter April-June 2014, means that the volume of NINo registrations recorded are lower in this quarter than would otherwise be the case.**

In the calendar year 2014:

- The total number of NINo registrations in 2014 was 768 thousand, an increase of 151 thousand (24%) on 2013
- Within the European Union (EU) the number of NINo registrations in 2014 was 591 thousand, an increase of 150 thousand (34%) on 2013
- The number of NINo registrations from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) in 2014 was 187 thousand, an increase of 160 thousand (576%) on 2013. They now comprise 1 in 4 new registrations to adult non-UK nationals.
- Comparative figures for Poland show 107 thousand (down 4% on 2013), and Spain, 50 thousand (down 3% the previous year) – See Fig 1.2
- Outside of the EU the number of NINo registrations in 2014 was 176 thousand, a fall of 1 thousand (1%) on 2013

Fig 1.1 has been derived from the quarterly time series available in [Stat Xplore](#) :



**Fig 1.2 : NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, top 20 countries, 12 months to December 2014**

year to December 2014 Rank*	Country	year to December 2014 Total (thousands)	% change from December 2013	year to December 2013 (thousands)	year to December 2013 Rank
1 ▲	Romania	145.58	715%	17.87	9
2 ▼	Poland	107.42	-4%	111.45	1
3 ●	Italy	51.22	16%	44.11	3
4 ▼	Spain	50.26	-3%	51.73	2
5 ▲	Bulgaria	41.79	325%	9.83	19
6 ▼	India	31.75	4%	30.62	4
7 ▼	Portugal	30.55	1%	30.12	5
8 ●	France	25.42	5%	24.20	8
9 ▼	Hungary	22.33	-17%	26.77	6
10 ▼	Rep of Lithuania	20.53	-21%	25.83	7
11 ▼	Rep of Ireland	18.24	5%	17.41	10
12 ▼	Pakistan	12.61	-11%	14.24	11
13 ▲	China Peoples Rep	12.52	4%	12.06	14
14 ▲	Germany	11.67	1%	11.51	16
15 ▼	Slovak Rep	11.50	-11%	12.90	13
16 ▼	Australia	11.15	-5%	11.69	15
17 ●	Nigeria	10.94	-1%	11.01	17
18 ●	Greece	9.79	-1%	9.89	18
19 ▼	Rep of Latvia	9.42	-29%	13.19	12
20 ▲	Czech Rep	9.39	0%	9.41	21

\*▲, ▼ : indicates **ranking** movement from previous year

Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS).

Factors thought to be influencing the trends in terms of NINo registrations across different nationalities / world areas are:

- Lifting of transitional employment restrictions (1<sup>st</sup> January 2014) for EU2 nationals - Romanian nationals are now showing the highest annual number of NINo registrations. Previously, Polish nationals have recorded the highest number of annual registrations from 2011.
- High unemployment rates, particularly from countries most severely impacted by the euro zone crisis – Spain, Italy and Portugal all feature highly.

Note - Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union (EU) on 1 January 2007. Since then, migrants from Bulgaria and Romania (collectively known as the EU2) coming to the UK were subject to transitional employment restrictions, which placed limits on the kind of employment they could undertake. These restrictions ended on 1 January 2014.

**Previously published analysis indicates that EU2 NINo registration figures from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 are actually reflecting migration over an extended period: Approx 36% of those EU2 nationals registering for a NINo since transitional controls were lifted had arrived in the UK before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – [see analytical report May 2014](#)**

### 3 Notes/Sources

DWP receive a quarterly cumulative scan from HMRC's National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS) which contains details of all adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo. This is used to produce these National Statistics.

Data released on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 relates to NINo registrations for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. the statistics are published as part of the scheduled timetable for the release of cross-Government migration statistics.

*A change to the process of recording NINOs during the quarter April-June 2014, means that the volume of NINo registrations recorded were lower in that quarter and then higher in the subsequent quarter July to September 2014 than would otherwise be the case. Therefore, comparisons of NINo registrations over time for the latest quarterly periods should be viewed with caution, the impact on annual figures is negligible.*

The registration date referred to in this report represents the date the information on the individual was processed on HM Revenue and Customs' National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS) i.e. after the NINo application and allocation process has been completed. This may be a number of weeks or months after arriving in the UK. The registration series is not subject to any future change.

The DWP NINo data covers people allocated a NINo for all types of work – including the self-employed and students working part-time – and whatever the length of stay in the UK. It also covers adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo to claim benefits or tax credits. In addition, the data is a 100% sample held at case-level data sources. In particular, the data can be merged with benefits data to show how many entrants claim key benefits following their NINo registration in the UK.

The DWP NINo data does not show when overseas nationals subsequently depart the UK, nor does it show length of stay in the UK. The DWP figures are therefore a measure of inflow of overseas nationals registering for a NINo. It does not measure outflow or overall stock of overseas nationals in the UK.

The definition of migrants in this publication – adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo – differs from other published statistics in the area, such as International Migration statistics derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), and statistics on foreign workers derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The various definitions of migrants mean the data sources may have different numbers of migrants for the same time period.

The figures reflect adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo through the adult registration process. In addition there will be a small number of overseas nationals (aged 16-19 yrs) allocated a NINo automatically through the Juvenile Registration scheme. This occurs when the individual has previously been allocated a child registration number. These juvenile cases are not captured by the statistics.

#### **Other statistics on migration**

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report provides a comprehensive picture of the various sources of migration statistics available and analysis of trends and includes headline NINo statistics.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vInk=15230>