



# Home Office

## CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION: QUARTERLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY, UNITED KINGDOM

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2010

### MAIN POINTS

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#### BORDER CONTROL

- Comparing the year to 30 September 2010 with a year earlier (to 30 September 2009), the overall number of entry clearance visas issued increased by 10 per cent from 1,995,550 to 2,136,445; 1,882,375 to main applicants and 314,065 to dependants.
- The number of employment-related entry clearance visas issued was 166,945 in the year to September 2010, a decrease of 3 per cent on a year earlier (172,750).
- Between year ending December 2007 (227,640) and year ending March 2010 (158,820), the number of employment-related entry clearance visas issued within a 12 month period saw a general decrease and has since remained relatively flat.
- The number of entry clearance visas issued for the purposes of study, including Tier 4 (students), was 355,065 in the year to September 2010, an increase of 16 per cent on a year earlier (306,930).
- Since year ending December 2007 (248,015), visas issued within a 12 month period for the purposes of study have seen a general increase to year ending June 2010 (361,705).

#### ASYLUM

- The number of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, was 13 per cent lower in Q3 2010 (4,440) compared with Q3 2009 (5,110).
- This represents the fifth successive quarter for which the number of applications was lower than a year earlier, reversing a general trend of year-on-year increases for each quarter in the period from Q1 2008 to Q2 2009.
- In Q3 2010, 5,060 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants, a decrease of 29 per cent compared with Q3 2009 (7,155). 18 per cent of initial decisions in Q3 2010 were to grant asylum compared with 12 per cent in Q3 2009. 8 per cent of initial decisions were to grant Humanitarian Protection (HP) or Discretionary Leave (DL) compared with 9 per cent in Q3 2009. 75 per cent of initial decisions in Q3 2010 were refusals compared with 78 per cent in Q3 2009.

#### ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

- In Q3 2010, 14,690 persons were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, 17 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (17,705).
- This is the fifth successive quarter for which the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK was lower than a year earlier. The change appears to be primarily due to fewer non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed.

25 November 2010

- Within the total number of persons removed or departing voluntarily in Q3 2010, there were 2,450 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (19 per cent lower than in Q3 2009) and 12,240 non-asylum cases (17 per cent lower than in Q3 2009).

## **MANAGED MIGRATION**

### **After-entry applications to vary leave to remain**

- Of the 312,315 grants of extension of leave to remain<sup>1</sup> in the 12 months to September 2010, there were 247,455 grants under the Points Based System.
- Employment-related grants<sup>2</sup> of an extension of leave to remain fell by 24 per cent from 182,475 to 139,375 in the 12 months to September 2010.
- There was a 3 per cent decrease in grants of extensions of leave to remain relating to study<sup>3</sup> (down from 133,515 to 129,970 in the 12 months to September 2010).
- There was a 5 per cent decrease in grants of extensions of leave to remain relating to family (down from 23,495 to 22,300 in the 12 months to September 2010).

### **Settlement decisions<sup>4</sup>**

- The number of decisions on applications for settlement in the UK, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, rose by 35 per cent in the year ending 30 September 2010 (252,870) compared with a year earlier (187,905).
- Comparing the 12 months ending 30 September 2009 with the year to 30 September 2010, the number of persons granted settlement in the UK rose by 35 per cent from 177,595 to 238,950, the highest level since records began in 1960.
- There were increases in employment-related grants (up 17 per cent to 88,605), family formation and reunion grants (up 11 per cent to 72,180), asylum-related grants (up 9 per cent to 3,525) and other grants, including those on a discretionary basis<sup>5</sup> (more than doubled to 74,640) in the 12 months to September 2010.

### **Worker Registration Scheme**

- The number of approved WRS applicants in the 12 months to September 2010 was 111,385, a 2 per cent increase on a year earlier (108,840).
- Since the 12 months ending 30 June 2009, the falling trend of applicants has levelled out and the number of approved applicants in a 12 month period has ranged between 107,000 and 119,000.
- Approved applicants from Poland fell to 50,485 in the year ending 30 September 2010 from 59,700 a year earlier. However, over the same period, approved applicants from Lithuania increased to 21,190 from 13,220 and from Latvia increased to 18,895 from 12,350.

### **British citizenship**

- Comparing the last 12 months with a year earlier, applications for British citizenship rose by 11 per cent, from 181,770 to 200,945, continuing the increase from 147,055 in the year ending September 2008.
- The number of persons granted British citizenship in the UK fell 740 to 197,135 in the year to 30 September 2010 compared to a year earlier. Grants of British citizenship have shown a broadly rising trend since 2007, increasing from 126,310 in the year to September 2008 to 197,870 in the year to September 2009.

<sup>1</sup> Excluding settlement and asylum cases.

<sup>2</sup> Includes grants under Tiers 1, 2 and 5 of the Points Based System.

<sup>3</sup> Includes grants under Tier 4 of the Points Based System.

<sup>4</sup> Data relate to the number of people and include dependants of principal applicants.

<sup>5</sup> Includes persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases and grants where the category is unknown.

## INTRODUCTION

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This Statistical Summary aims to give users an overview of the work of the UK Border Agency. This information is grouped by key operational area of the UK Border Agency – i.e. border control, asylum, managed migration, and enforcement and compliance.

The report contains a mixture of National Statistics, identified by the use of the symbol **(NS✓)** in the section overviews, and management information. Supplementary tables that accompany this bulletin include information by country of nationality. All tables are available from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

### What's new

This Statistical Summary contains commentary on the trends since 2007 on key series.

#### Points Based System

Further to the developments in the last quarterly summary, a section (Section 0) has been introduced that summarises the Points Based System and covers both entry clearance visas and extensions of leave to remain. Reporting on the Points Based System (PBS) has been developed in the following way:

- A table showing both entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain for the Points Based System by “Tier” has been expanded to show all employment and study categories, including visas which have been superseded by PBS (pre-PBS equivalents) and visas for employment and study that are outside the PBS (non-PBS). (Tables 0.1 and 0.2)
- As part of the continual improvement programme and where data quality has allowed, visas for each Tier have been split into their sub-categories.
- Endorsements for employment-related and study-related pre- and non-PBS entry clearance visas have been re-classified to improve the alignment with PBS entry clearance visas and extensions for leave to remain. This reclassification has been back-dated to 2005 in Supplementary table 1b.

We welcome further comments on the categories used within tables 0.1, 0.2, 1.1, 1b and 4.2; these can be emailed to: [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

#### Asylum

In addition to the statistics on applications and initial decisions for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) by country of nationality, this quarter sees the introduction of quarterly figures since Q1 2006 for applications by age and sex (Supplementary Tables 2c and d) and initial decisions (Supplementary Table 2c). Age disputed applications are also available in Supplementary Table 2g.

As proposed in the last quarterly Statistical Summary, the quarterly publication of tables showing asylum cases within the Fast Track process has been discontinued. In future, these tables will be published annually.

#### Enforcement and compliance

This bulletin provides management information on persons leaving detention. Table 3.11 shows persons leaving detention during the third quarter of 2010, who had been held solely under Immigration Act powers, by reason, sex, place of last detention and age. This replaces Table 3.13 which showed only persons removed on leaving detention. Supplementary table 3e shows persons leaving detention during Q3 2010, who had been held solely under Immigration Act powers, by reason and country of nationality.

## Tables

From this quarter, the main tables are available in Excel and have not been included within this electronic document. All tables are available from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

## Future developments

### Points Based System

Further work is planned to allow sub-categories of Tiers to be shown for Table 4.2.

Further checks on the alignment of Entry Clearance Visa endorsements within the employment and family categories are planned.

### Border Control

From February 2011, it is planned to publish data on passenger arrivals for the first two quarters of 2010. Subsequently, quarterly arrivals data will be released every six months, with quarters 1 and 2 published in February of each year and 3 and 4 published in August.

### Asylum

A monthly data series was introduced in June 2010 showing the number of asylum applications lodged since April 2006 that are pending a decision. This series is based on the UK Border Agency's administrative database and is more accurate than the quarterly series of outstanding asylum applications currently published in this bulletin, although the latter remains a reasonable indicator of trends. The quarterly outstanding asylum application series has been calculated from the cumulative effect of applications received, decisions made, and applications withdrawn, applied to the total backlog figure produced from a manual count at the end of August 2001. This measure is based on a combination of different sources of information, which may have led to discrepancies over time. It is therefore planned to change the way outstanding asylum applications statistics are calculated and published for dates after December 2010; having published the outstanding asylum applications figure as at the end of December 2010 in February 2011, the figure for applications pending a decision will be used.

The following shows a comparison of the data series. There are differences in the definitions of the series; in particular, the pending applications series only includes applications lodged since April 2006, but does include fresh claims and cases which have had an initial decision but are in the asylum system pending further review.

### Comparison, for main applicants, of applications outstanding initial decision (1) and pending cases (2)(3) as at the end of Q2 2010 and Q3 2010 (P)

	Applications outstanding	Pending cases received for asylum since April 2006				Total pending cases
		Pending an initial decision	Of whom:		Pending further review	
As at end			Less than 6 months old	More than 6 months old		
Q2 2010	4,100	7,720	2,800	4,920	14,740	
Q3 2010	2,800	6,485	2,595	3,890	12,325	

- (1) Figures rounded to the nearest hundred. The series on asylum cases outstanding initial decision is based on a combination of different sources of information, including a manual count at the end of August 2001, which may have led to discrepancies over time.
- (2) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum due to independent rounding.
- (3) Applications from main applicants, including fresh claims, received for asylum lodged since 1 April 2006 which are still under consideration at the end of the reference period.
- (P) Provisional figures.

Further work is needed on the number of pending applications to assure the quality of the earlier records before information on earlier years can be published.

## Enforcement and compliance

Consideration is being given to publishing the quarterly National Statistics on the number of children held in detention in an unrounded format; they are currently rounded to the nearest 5 in this bulletin in line with other enforcement and compliance data. We welcome comments, which can be e-mailed to: [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

## Consultation and long term developments

In September 2010, a forum was held with some of the key users of control of immigration data. It concluded that:

- Although the quarterly and annual publications are released primarily via the web, they are currently produced in the style of a traditional document. While suiting some tastes, this is not ideal for those searching for data on the internet or for promoting the wide range of data on control of immigration that Home Office publish.
- Data should be more clearly explained and more accessible, with less volume, particularly in terms of text.

As a result of this consultation, Home Office Statistics are considering a phased development of changes that would ultimately lead to the release of data using the web as the main vehicle of dissemination. It is proposed that commentary and analysis of the data should be shorter and focus on key points, but provide longer term trends.

We welcome comments regarding this proposal, both at this time and following further announcement of plans in February 2011, and comments on any of these new or future developments. These can be e-mailed to: [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

## Conventions used in figures and tables

All data, except percentages or unless otherwise stated, in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are generally given to the nearest percentage point. Data in some of the tables in this bulletin may not sum to the totals shown or, in the case of percentages, to 100 per cent, because they have been rounded independently.

All figures relating to January 2009 onwards remain provisional and subject to revision, unless otherwise stated.

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

—	Nil
*	1 or 2 (used in tables where other figures have been rounded to the nearest 5)
..	Not available
:	Not applicable
(—)	Nil per cent
(0)	Less than 0.5 per cent, but greater than 0 per cent
(e)	Estimated figures.
(M)	Figures based on management information that are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and subject to change.
(NS)	National Statistics.
(P)	Provisional figures.
(R)	Revised figures (see Background Notes).

## PROVISIONAL RELEASE DATES

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The following are provisional release dates for future quarterly bulletin publications:

<u>Release dates</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
24 February 2011	Quarter 4 2010
26 May 2011	Quarter 1 2011
25 August 2011	Quarter 2 2011
24 November 2011	Quarter 3 2011

The following are provisional release dates for future monthly asylum tables, based on management information, which are subject to change:

<u>Release dates</u>	<u>Month</u>
25 November 2010	September 2010
30 December 2010	October 2010
27 January 2011	November 2010
24 February 2011	December 2010
31 March 2011	January 2011
28 April 2011	February 2011
26 May 2011	March 2011
30 June 2011	April 2011
28 July 2011	May 2011
25 August 2011	June 2011
29 September 2011	July 2011
27 October 2011	August 2011
24 November 2011	September 2011

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## FURTHER INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK

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We would be interested in readers' views on how this publication might be developed further to increase its value to users. Please write to:

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## 0 POINTS BASED SYSTEM

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The Points Based System (PBS) consists of five “Tiers”. Three of these (Tiers 1, 2 and 5) relate to permission to work. Tier 1 provides a route for Highly Skilled Workers; its phased implementation took place between February 2008 and June 2008. Tier 2 and Tier 5 were implemented in November 2008. Tier 2 provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer while Tier 5 is for temporary workers and youth mobility, providing a route for those coming to the UK for primarily non-economic reasons. An additional tier (Tier 3) relates to unskilled workers and is currently suspended. Tier 4 was implemented in March 2009 and provides a route for students to study with an approved education provider.

Figures relating to the PBS can be found in various tables regarding entry clearance visas issued (Tables 0.1, 0.2 and 1.1), passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom (Table 1.2), decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain (Tables 0.1, 0.2, 4.1 and 4.2) and grants of settlement (Table 4.3).

Tables 0.1 and 0.2 show out of country visas to the United Kingdom issued and in country extensions of leave for employment and study categories for year ending 31 December 2009 and year ending 30 September 2010 respectively.

The number of entry clearance visas issued (“out of country”) under PBS is an indicator of the level of immigration for employment or study of non-EEA nationals; although it shows intention to travel, rather than entry to the UK, data are available on a more timely basis than admissions of passengers given leave to enter. Entry to the UK may be any time during the period the visa is valid. The number of grants of an extension (“in country”) under PBS is an indicator of changes in the length of stay in the UK for these migrants.

Entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain should not be summed as they are indicators of different aspects of migration. Also, individuals could be counted in both if the issue and grant occurs within the same year.

### 0.1 UK work and study visas (Tables 0.1 and 0.2)

As PBS has been phased in, the number of work and study visas issued that are pre-PBS equivalent visas is decreasing.

**Key findings comparing the 12 months ending 30 September 2009 with the 12 months ending 30 September 2010, for main applicants and dependants:**

- Issues of employment-related entry clearance visas decreased by 3 per cent from 172,750 to 166,945. Of these 166,945, 146,085 were visas under PBS and pre-PBS equivalents.
- Employment-related<sup>6</sup> grants of an extension of leave to remain fell by 24 per cent to 139,375 in the year to September 2010.
- Issues of entry clearance visas for the purposes of study, including Tier 4 (students), increased by 16 per cent from 306,930 to 355,065.
- There was a 3 per cent decrease in grants of extensions of leave to remain relating to study<sup>6</sup> to 129,970 in the year to September 2010.

Further key findings for year ending 30 September 2010 are available in Sections 1 and 4.

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<sup>6</sup> Trainee doctors and dentists on postgraduate training have been incorporated in Tier 4 (Students) of the Points Based System and have been aligned as such in Tables 0.1 and 4.2. This differs slightly from the coverage in section 4 of the commentary, which includes all trainees in employment-related grants to provide a consistent time series.

# 1 BORDER CONTROL

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## 1.1 UK entry clearance visas issued (Table 1.1)

European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals do not require a visa to come to the UK. However, over 100 nationalities require a visa to come to the UK for any purpose, covering three-quarters of the world population. For other nationalities a visa is required for those wanting to come to the UK for over 6 months, or to work.

Entry clearance visa statistics cover a range of permitted lengths of stay, including those for less than a year. Visas issued under Tiers 4 and 5 and the pre-PBS equivalents, together with other visa types such as EEA family permits, allow temporary entry clearance and require the individual to renew the visa before it expires should they wish to stay longer (see Section 4.1). Visas issued under Tiers 1 and 2 and the pre-PBS equivalents and some family visas allow an applicant to make an application for 'indefinite leave to remain' after a specified period. A number of other entry clearance visas, including some family visas, permit a person to stay in the UK indefinitely.

The figures of entry clearance visas issued show intentions to visit rather than actual arrivals and individuals can arrive at any time during the period that the visa is valid.

Dependants are allocated an entry clearance category according to the circumstances of their application. A child or partner will be recorded as a dependant under the tier of the main applicant, unless he / she has applied and been issued with a Points Based System (PBS) visa in their own right, when they will be included as a main applicant.

### Key findings for year ending 30 September 2010:

- Comparing the 12 months (ending 30 September 2010) with the previous 12 months (ending 30 September 2009), the overall number of visas issued increased by 10 per cent from 1,995,550 to 2,136,445; 1,882,375 were issued to main applicants and 314,065 to dependants.

Of the overall number of visas issued to main applicants and dependants in the year to 30 September 2010:

- The number of visitor visas issued was 1,488,925, an increase of 12 per cent on a year earlier (1,333,660).
- The number of employment-related entry clearance visas issued was 166,945, a decrease of 3 per cent on a year earlier (172,750).
- Between year ending December 2007 (227,640) and year ending March 2010 (158,820), the number of employment-related entry clearance visas issued within a 12 month period saw a general decrease and has since remained relatively flat.
- The number of entry clearance visas issued for the purposes of study, including Tier 4 (students), was 355,065, an increase of 16 per cent on a year earlier (306,930). Since year ending December 2007 (248,015), visas issued within a 12 month period for the purposes of study have seen a general increase until year ending June 2010 (361,705).

**Table 1a: Entry clearance visas (1) to the United Kingdom issued to all applicants, by main category, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Employment</i> (2)	<i>Study</i> (2)(3)	<i>Families</i> (2)(4)	<i>Other temporary</i> (2)(5)	<i>Other settlement</i> (6)
2007 Q1	448,755	64,015	35,050	23,240	324,850	1,600
2007 Q2	634,195	64,415	54,605	20,395	493,695	1,090
2007 Q3	610,205	55,750	123,045	22,820	407,640	950
2007 Q4	379,255	43,460	35,310	18,525	281,310	650
2008 Q1	395,025	50,680	39,930	19,530	284,025	855
2008 Q2	605,215	56,645	52,680	19,795	475,250	850
2008 Q3	590,460	53,225	139,220	20,185	377,080	745
2008 Q4	364,035	44,770	42,390	14,940	261,350	585
2009 Q1	386,610	43,590	43,535	15,690	283,060	730
2009 Q2	576,275	45,900	42,740	13,985	472,670	985
2009 Q3	609,550	38,495	178,260	13,840	377,175	1,775
2009 Q4	423,115	34,480	76,560	16,395	294,525	1,160
2010 Q1	406,140	39,945	54,180	14,350	296,400	1,265
2010 Q2	636,980	47,690	52,705	14,915	520,745	930
2010 Q3	670,205	44,830	171,620	15,990	436,500	1,270

(1) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ( - = 0, \* = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

(2) Since the publication of Control of Immigration: Quarterly statistical summary Q2 2010, improvements have been made to the alignment of visa endorsements available prior to the introduction of the PBS with the PBS Tier equivalent in all years.

(3) Includes students, student visitors and PBS Tier 4.

(4) Includes fiancé(e) / proposed civil partner, and spouse / civil partner for probationary period and for indefinite leave.

(5) Includes EEA family permits, visitors, transit and other temporary. Excludes student visitors.

(6) Indefinite leave to remain; includes Certificate of Entitlement to right of abode.

## 1.2 Passenger arrivals (Table 1.2) (NS✓)

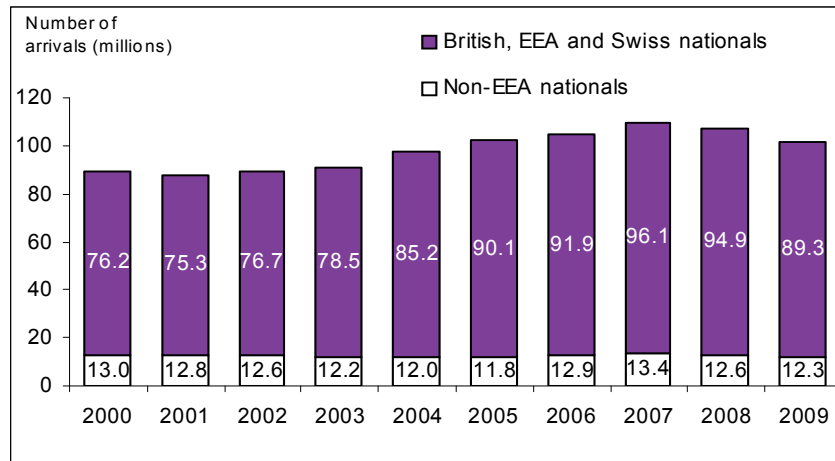
The statistics of total passengers entering the UK are derived from a range of sources and include all persons entering the UK. The number of journeys across the border by non-EEA nationals is derived from landing cards presented to Immigration Officers at the border crossing point. This excludes: EEA nationals; passengers who enter as members of HM or NATO forces; officers or members of the crew of ships, aircraft or Channel Tunnel trains; those who land briefly in the UK in transit without passing through immigration control; and any passengers who enter the UK from other parts of the Common Travel Area<sup>7</sup>. The data are of the number of journeys made; a person who makes more than one journey is counted on each occasion, either in a specific category, if given fresh leave to enter, or in 'passengers returning'.

*Key findings for 2009 (previously published in Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2009):*

- The estimated number of international arrivals from outside the Common Travel Area decreased by 6 per cent to 101.6 million in 2009. 12.3 million were estimated to be non-EEA nationals, a 2 per cent decrease on 2008.

<sup>7</sup> The Common Travel Area consists of the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

**Figure 1a: Total passenger arrivals, 2000 to 2009**



- An estimated 6.9 million non-EEA visitors were admitted in 2009 compared with 7.0 million in 2008, a decrease of 2 per cent. Business visitors decreased by 11 per cent to 1.5 million whilst ordinary visitors decreased by 1 per cent to 5.4 million.
- The total number of persons and their dependants recorded as admitted to the UK in a work category was 161,000 in 2009, a decrease of 12 per cent over the previous year.
- Around 270,000 non-EEA nationals were admitted to the UK in 2009 to study, an increase of 19 per cent on the previous year. Persons admitted under student visitor rules accounted for around 198,000 additional arrivals. When added together these data show a 25 per cent rise in the total number of non-EEA nationals entering the UK whose purpose is to study.
- A total of 4,360 persons in 2008 and 97,500 persons in 2009 were recorded as entering the UK under the PBS, as the respective Tiers were rolled out.

### 1.3 Non-asylum passengers initially refused entry<sup>8</sup> (NS✓)

Individuals seeking to enter the UK present themselves, on arrival at a “port of entry” (air, sea or land ports), to an Immigration Officer (IO). IOs have the power to conduct further examination on passengers who arrive in the UK. The powers are in accordance with paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971. An IO may examine a person who has arrived in the UK in order to determine the following: whether or not they are a British Citizen; whether or not they may enter without leave; or whether:

- they have been given leave to enter which is still in force;
- they should be given leave to enter and for what period and on what conditions (if any); or
- they should be refused leave to enter.

A person who is initially refused entry may subsequently be detained or granted temporary admission in the UK. This may be: due to an outstanding asylum claim; due to an appeal against a refusal of entry; or to allow travel arrangements to be made or removal directions to be set.

<sup>8</sup> Includes EEA nationals and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

Key findings for Q3 2010:

- In Q3 2010, 4,835 non-asylum passengers were initially refused leave to enter at border control points, 16 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (5,765). Of these passengers, 1,100 (23 per cent) were initially refused at juxtaposed controls.

**Table 1b: Non-asylum passengers initially refused entry, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>of these: refused at juxtaposed controls</i>
2007 Q1	7,155	1,390
2007 Q2	6,960	1,435
2007 Q3	6,930	1,510
2007 Q4	7,100	1,295
2008 Q1	6,970	1,275
2008 Q2	6,385	1,200
2008 Q3	6,685	1,260
2008 Q4	6,555	1,190
2009 Q1	5,705	990
2009 Q2	5,670	1,210
2009 Q3	5,765	1,355
2009 Q4	5,385	1,135
2010 Q1	5,085	970
2010 Q2	4,650	1,095
2010 Q3	4,835	1,100

## 2 ASYLUM

### 2.1 Asylum applications (Tables 2.1 and 2.3) (NS✓)

Asylum is protection given by a country to someone who is fleeing persecution in their own country. It is given under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention defines a refugee as a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it".

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- The number of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, was 13 per cent lower in Q3 2010 (4,440) compared with Q3 2009 (5,110).
- This represents the fifth successive quarter for which the number of applications was lower than a year earlier, reversing a general trend of year-on-year increases for each quarter in the period from Q1 2008 to Q2 2009. In Q1 and Q2 2009 the increases on a year earlier can be largely accounted for by an increase in applications from Zimbabwe; when excluding applications from Zimbabwe, Q3 2010 would be the eight successive quarter with a decrease in applications on the previous year.
- Including dependants, the number of applications to the UK decreased by 15 per cent in Q3 2010 (5,465) compared with Q3 2009 (6,450).
- Including dependants, the estimated number of applications to the EU27 decreased by 3 per cent in Q3 2010 (60,400)<sup>9</sup> compared with Q3 2009 (62,000)<sup>9</sup>. The UK ranks 14<sup>th</sup> amongst EU27 countries in terms of asylum seekers per head of population.

**Table 2a: Asylum applications, excluding dependants, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Port</i>	<i>In-country</i>
2007 Q1	5,720	820	4,895
2007 Q2	4,960	810	4,150
2007 Q3	5,885	1,040	4,845
2007 Q4	6,870	965	5,900
2008 Q1	6,645	705	5,940
2008 Q2	5,830	655	5,175
2008 Q3	6,685	685	6,000
2008 Q4	6,775	680	6,095
2009 Q1	8,430	545	7,880
2009 Q2	6,110	470	5,640
2009 Q3	5,110	505	4,605
2009 Q4	4,840	490	4,350
2010 Q1	4,355	395	3,955
2010 Q2	4,365	415	3,950
2010 Q3	4,440	430	4,010

<sup>9</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

## Fresh claims

When a human rights or asylum claim has been refused or withdrawn or treated as withdrawn under paragraph 333C of Immigration Rule 353 and any appeal relating to that claim is no longer pending, the decision maker will consider any further submissions and, if rejected, will then determine whether they amount to a fresh claim. The submissions will amount to a fresh claim if they are significantly different from the material previously considered. The submissions will only be significantly different if the content had not already been considered; and taken together with the previously considered material, created a realistic prospect of success, notwithstanding its rejection.

### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- In Q3 2010, the number of fresh claims for asylum, excluding dependants, was 330.

## 2.2 Initial asylum decisions (Tables 2.1) (NS✓)

### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- 5,060 initial decisions, excluding dependants, were made in Q3 2010, a decrease of 29 per cent compared with Q3 2009 (7,155).
- The number of cases (excluding dependants) recorded as awaiting an initial decision was 2,800<sup>10</sup> at the end of September 2010 (9,700<sup>10</sup> at the end of September 2009).
- 18 per cent of initial decisions in Q3 2010 were to grant asylum compared with 12 per cent in Q3 2009. 8 per cent of initial decisions were to grant Humanitarian Protection (HP) or Discretionary Leave (DL) compared with 9 per cent in Q3 2009. 75 per cent of initial decisions in Q3 2010 were refusals compared with 78 per cent in Q3 2009.
- The percentage of main applicants granted asylum, HP or DL at initial decision has remained in the range of 22 and 25 per cent since Q3 2009. In Q1 2009 there was a peak of 41 per cent, of which almost two-fifths were grants to Zimbabweans. Between Q1 2007 and Q4 2008 grants ranged between 24 and 32 per cent.

**Table 2b: Initial asylum decisions, excluding dependants, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grants of asylum</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Granted HP or DL</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Refused asylum, HP or DL</i>	<i>%</i>
2007 Q1	6,050	900	(15)	595	(10)	4,555	(75)
2007 Q2	5,930	835	(14)	560	(9)	4,530	(76)
2007 Q3	5,225	910	(17)	620	(12)	3,695	(71)
2007 Q4	4,570	900	(20)	420	(9)	3,250	(71)
2008 Q1	4,455	915	(21)	480	(11)	3,060	(69)
2008 Q2	5,010	995	(20)	560	(11)	3,455	(69)
2008 Q3	5,230	870	(17)	565	(11)	3,795	(73)
2008 Q4	4,700	945	(20)	560	(12)	3,195	(68)
2009 Q1	5,080	1,480	(29)	620	(12)	2,980	(59)
2009 Q2	5,690	1,025	(18)	625	(11)	4,045	(71)
2009 Q3	7,155	865	(12)	675	(9)	5,615	(78)
2009 Q4	6,360	815	(13)	635	(10)	4,910	(77)
2010 Q1	5,445	795	(15)	520	(10)	4,130	(76)
2010 Q2	5,220	775	(15)	460	(9)	3,985	(76)
2010 Q3	5,060	895	(18)	385	(8)	3,780	(75)

<sup>10</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest hundred. The series on asylum cases awaiting an initial decision is based on a combination of different sources of information, including a manual count at the end of August 2001, which may have led to discrepancies over time. See the 'Introduction' section for planned developments on this series.

## 2.3 Asylum appeals<sup>11</sup> (Table 2.4) (NS✓)

The Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA), consisting of the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber and Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC), formerly the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), hears and decides appeals against decisions made by the UK Border Agency. The First-tier Tribunal Judge will decide whether the appeal against the decision is successful or not (this is known as the decision being 'allowed' or 'dismissed').

### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- 3,890 appeals were received by the FTTIAC in Q3 2010, 22 per cent lower than Q3 2009 (5,005).
- The number of appeals determined increased by 3 per cent in Q3 2010 (4,540) from Q3 2009 (4,410).
- The proportion of appeals dismissed was 68 per cent in Q3 2010, whilst 27 per cent of appeals were allowed.
- The asylum work in progress total at the TSIA as at 30 September 2010 was 5,000<sup>12</sup>.

**Table 2c: Asylum appeals determined by AIT / FTTIAC, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>% Dismissed</i>	<i>% Withdrawn</i>	<i>%</i>
2007 Q1	3,675	745	(20)	2,695	(73)
2007 Q2	4,015	920	(23)	2,865	(71)
2007 Q3	4,105	930	(23)	2,970	(72)
2007 Q4	3,150	790	(25)	2,205	(70)
2008 Q1	2,430	515	(21)	1,750	(72)
2008 Q2	2,330	460	(20)	1,735	(74)
2008 Q3	2,985	745	(25)	2,105	(70)
2008 Q4	2,970	755	(25)	1,995	(67)
2009 Q1	2,720	695	(26)	1,865	(69)
2009 Q2	2,800	720	(26)	1,945	(69)
2009 Q3	4,410	1,345	(30)	2,835	(64)
2009 Q4	4,680	1,390	(30)	3,035	(65)
2010 Q1	4,850	1,305	(27)	3,305	(68)
2010 Q2 (R)	4,705	1,285	(27)	3,160	(67)
2010 Q3 (M)	4,540	1,210	(27)	3,065	(68)

## 2.4 Asylum support applications (NS✓)

Asylum support was set up to provide for asylum seekers while they await a decision on their asylum application. Asylum seekers who applied for asylum support could receive: accommodation only (where they were allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and must otherwise support themselves); subsistence only (where they received cash to support themselves but must find their own accommodation); or accommodation and subsistence (where they were allocated accommodation in a dispersal area and cash to support themselves).

<sup>11</sup> Source: The Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA), consisting of the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber and Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC), replaced the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 15 February 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Figure based on a snapshot of work in progress, at the end of September 2010, from the AIT / TSIA database ARIA. Figure rounded to the nearest thousand.



### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- The number of applications for asylum support in Q3 2010 was 3,305, 9 per cent lower than Q3 2009 (3,650).
- In Q3 2010, 2,595 (78 per cent of the total) applications were from single adults and 710 (22 per cent of the total) from family groups.

### 2.5 Supported asylum seekers, including dependants (Tables 2.5 and 2.6) (NS✓)

#### Key findings as at the end of Q3 2010:

- The total number of asylum seekers<sup>13</sup> in receipt of asylum support in Q3 2010 (23,640) was 21 per cent lower than at the end of Q3 2009 (29,895).
- 3,540 asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support<sup>14</sup>.
- 19,445 asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation<sup>15 16</sup>.
- 655 asylum seekers were supported in initial accommodation.

**Table 2d: Asylum seekers supported, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Subsistence only support</i>	<i>In dispersed accommodation</i>	<i>In initial accommodation</i>
2007 Q1	48,800	10,935	36,785	1,075
2007 Q2	48,995	10,865	37,280	850
2007 Q3	48,470	10,160	37,060	1,250
2007 Q4	44,495	8,900	34,150	1,440
2008 Q1	33,865	6,820	25,940	1,105
2008 Q2	31,580	6,495	24,060	1,025
2008 Q3	32,170	6,600	24,290	1,280
2008 Q4	32,580	6,195	25,145	1,240
2009 Q1	33,165	6,020	25,895	1,250
2009 Q2	31,500	5,120	25,535	845
2009 Q3	29,895	4,900	24,170	820
2009 Q4	29,150	4,670	23,845	635
2010 Q1	27,455	4,015	22,735	705
2010 Q2	25,555	3,730	21,280	545
2010 Q3	23,640	3,540	19,445	655

### 2.6 Applicants supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (NS✓)

Support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is provided in the form of accommodation and vouchers to cover the cost of food and other basic essential items. Individuals are generally eligible for Section 4 support if their asylum application has been finally determined as refused but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK.

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- 1,815 decisions to grant Section 4 support were recorded in Q3 2010, 31 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (2,620).

<sup>13</sup> Including dependants. Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated at around 4,000 in September 2010.

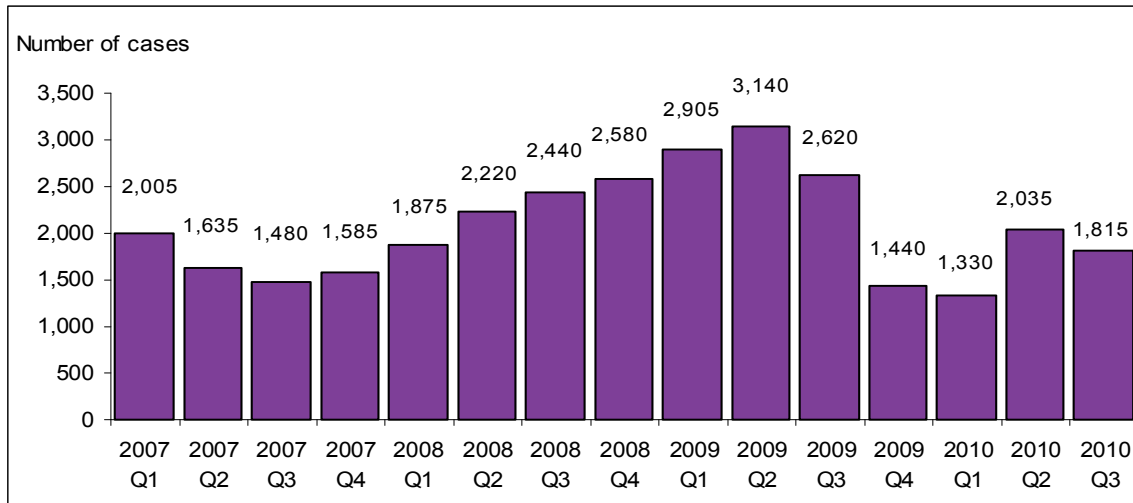
<sup>14</sup> From Q2 2009 any cases with an invalid application status are excluded.

<sup>15</sup> From Q2 2010 disbenefited cases are excluded.

<sup>16</sup> Includes 'accommodation only' and 'accommodation and subsistence' supported cases.

- As at the end of Q3 2010, 4,410 applicants, excluding dependants, were in receipt of Section 4 support, 63 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (12,020).

**Figure 2a: Decisions to grant Section 4 support, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**



### 3 ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

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The UK Border Agency seeks to remove persons who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK. This includes persons who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including persons entering clandestinely and by means of deception on-entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;
- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; and
- persons who have been refused asylum.

Some may depart under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. They could also return voluntarily, to either their country of origin or a country that will accept them, after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure. From 2005 onwards, “other voluntary departures” show persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

#### 3.1 Total removals and voluntary departures<sup>17</sup> (Tables 3.1 to 3.3) (NS✓)

Key findings for Q3 2010:

- In Q3 2010, 14,690 persons were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, 17 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (17,705). This is the fifth successive quarter for which the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK was lower than a year earlier. The change appears to be primarily due to fewer non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed. Within the total number of persons removed or departing voluntarily in Q3 2010, there were 2,450 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (19 per cent lower than in Q3 2009) and 12,240 non-asylum cases (17 per cent lower than in Q3 2009).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q3 2010, 4,675 persons were initially refused entry at port (40 per cent lower than in Q3 2009), 5,125 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (1 per cent higher than in Q3 2009), 1,250 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (3 per cent lower than in Q3 2009), and 3,640 were other voluntary departures (2 per cent higher than in Q3 2009).
- Based on management information, 1,330 foreign national prisoners<sup>18</sup> were removed in Q3 2010 compared with 1,410 in Q3 2009.

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<sup>17</sup> Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), notified voluntary departures, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

<sup>18</sup> These figures are based on provisional management information and, as per all removals and voluntary departures figures, are subject to change. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, and are not identified separately in the published statistics on removals and voluntary departures. The figures include notified, assisted and other forms of voluntary departures. All cases are considered for an exclusion order by the UK Border Agency where there is a legal framework to do so.

**Table 3a: Total removals and voluntary departures, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Asylum cases, principal</i>	<i>Asylum cases, dependants</i>	<i>Non-asylum cases</i>	<i>Total</i>
2007 Q1	3,230	290	11,460	14,975
2007 Q2	3,355	300	11,740	15,390
2007 Q3	3,240	220	12,680	16,145
2007 Q4	2,885	185	13,785	16,855
2008 Q1	3,075	215	13,860	17,150
2008 Q2	3,080	185	12,665	15,930
2008 Q3	3,260	240	14,575	18,080
2008 Q4	2,620	195	14,005	16,820
2009 Q1	2,825	205	13,350	16,380
2009 Q2	2,650	145	13,550	16,345
2009 Q3	2,890	155	14,665	17,705
2009 Q4	2,575	195	14,015	16,785
2010 Q1	2,700	170	12,170	15,040
2010 Q2	2,265	115	11,750	14,130
2010 Q3	2,350	100	12,240	14,690

### 3.2 Removals and voluntary departures of asylum seekers (Table 3.1) (NS✓)

Persons who have claimed asylum and whose claims have been refused, and any rights of appeal which would suspend removal exhausted, can be:

- refused entry at port and subsequently removed;
- removed as a result of enforcement action (by deportation, administrative or illegal entry powers); or
- removed under Third Country provisions without substantive consideration of their asylum claim.

Persons who have claimed asylum may also depart at any stage of the asylum process under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. They could also leave voluntarily, to either their country of origin or a country that will accept them, after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure. From 2005 onwards, “other voluntary departures” show persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- In Q3 2010, 2,350 principal applicants were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, 19 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (2,890).
- Including dependants, 2,450 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q3 2010, 19 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (3,040). This is the eighth successive quarter for which the number removed or departed voluntarily from the UK was lower than a year earlier.
- 1,610 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q3 2010, 11 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (1,815).
- 675 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q3 2010 (620 principal applicants and 50 dependants), 15 per cent lower than Q3 2009 (790).
- 165 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures<sup>19</sup> in Q3 2010, 62 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (435).

<sup>19</sup> Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

### 3.3 Persons entering detention<sup>20</sup> (Table 3.4)

Immigration legislation provides powers of detention. People are detained under Immigration Act powers in UK Border Agency Removal Centres, UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities, police cells and Prison Service establishments. Detention may be used whilst identity and basis of claim are established, where there is a risk of absconding, as part of fast-track asylum procedures (in the case of straightforward asylum claims that can be decided quickly) and in support of the removal of failed asylum seekers and others who have no legal right to be in the UK.

Statistics are produced on those entering detention over a period of time.

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- A total of 6,780 people entered detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2010, 5 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (7,110). Of these, 3,305 (49 per cent of the total) were asylum detainees, 21 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (4,170).
- Of the 6,780 people entering detention in Q3 2010, 4,440 (66 per cent of the total) entered UK Border Agency Removal Centres and 2,335 (34 per cent of the total) entered UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities.
- 35 children entered detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2010, 89 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (320). Of these 35, 20 were asylum detainees, 89 per cent lower than in Q3 2009 (205).

### 3.4 Occurrences of persons entering detention<sup>20</sup> (Tables 3.5 to 3.6)

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- Of the 6,780 people who entered detention in Q3 2010, 6,690 entered once, 40 entered twice and less than 3 entered three times during the quarter.
- Of the 6,780 people who entered detention in Q3 2010: 6,165 entered for the first time; 505 entered for the second time; 60 entered for the third time and 5 entered for the fourth or more times since January 2009, the earliest recording point in this dataset.

### 3.5 Persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers<sup>21</sup> (Tables 3.7 to 3.10) (NS✓)

Statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published as a snapshot as at the last day of each quarter. They exclude people detained under both criminal and immigration powers and currently exclude people detained in Prison Service establishments on the date the snapshot was taken.

#### Key findings as at 30 September 2010:

- A total of 2,890 persons were detained solely under Immigration Act powers, the highest since these data first became available (2001) and similar to that as at 30 September 2009 (2,885).
- 2,795 were held at UK Border Agency Removal Centres and 95 at UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities.

<sup>20</sup> These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change. Excludes persons detained in Harwich Short Term Holding Facility, police cells and Prison Service establishments.

<sup>21</sup> Excludes persons detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments.

- 1,795 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (62 per cent of all detainees), 13 per cent lower than as at 30 September 2009 (2,070). 89 per cent of asylum detainees were male.
- There were 5 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers recorded as being less than 18 years of age<sup>22</sup>. All of the 5 had been in detention for 7 days or less.
- Management information shows that of the 2,860 people detained, 1,140 had been in detention for less than 29 days, 525 for between 29 days and two months, 470 for between two and four months, 195 for between four and six months, 300 for between six months and a year, and 260 for over a year.
- Management information shows that there was 1 family with children in detention solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September 2010.

### 3.6 Persons leaving detention<sup>23</sup> (Table 3.11)

Statistics are produced on those leaving detention over a period of time. Currently, published National Statistics are only available on persons who are removed from the UK upon leaving detention. Figures on all persons leaving detention are based on management information and are not directly comparable with previous figures due to a revised methodology being used.

#### Key findings for Q3 2010:

- A total of 6,675 people, who had been held solely under Immigration Act powers, left detention in Q3 2010. Of these, 4,325 persons were removed from the UK, 1,815 were granted temporary admission/release, 420 were bailed, 35 were granted leave to enter/remain and 80 were released for other reasons.
- 35 children left detention in Q3 2010. Of these, 15 persons were removed from the UK and 20 were granted temporary admission/release.

<sup>22</sup> Rounded to nearest 5. See 'Future developments' section of Introduction regarding consideration to publish data unrounded.

<sup>23</sup> These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change. Excludes persons detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments.

## 4 MANAGED MIGRATION

### 4.1 After-entry applications to vary leave to remain (Tables 4.1 and 4.2) (NS✓)

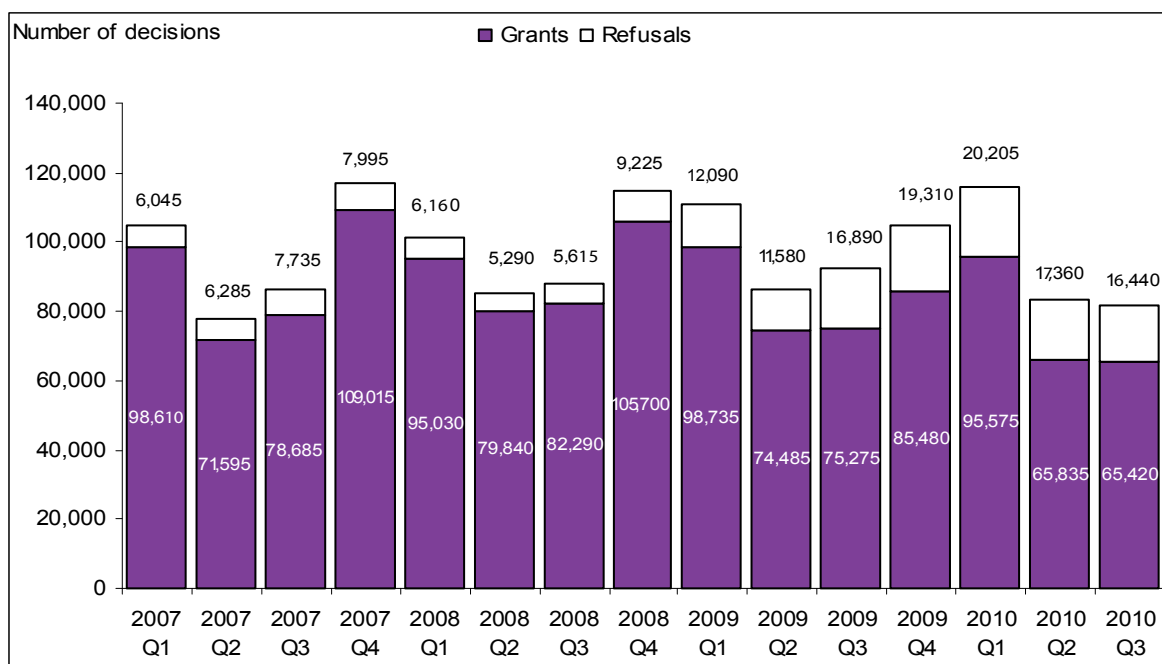
Statistics on after-entry applications to vary leave to remain relate to persons wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK. An individual is required to make an application for an extension or change in status before their existing permission to enter or stay has expired. Within the immigration rules, an individual may make more than one application in any given year.

Changing resource priorities within the UK Border Agency as well as policy changes and other factors need to be considered when comparing the number of decisions on applications to vary leave to remain.

Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010, for main applicants and dependants:

- The number of decisions<sup>24</sup> on applications to vary conditions of leave fell by 5 per cent in the year ending 30 September 2010 (385,635) on a year earlier (403,985).
- Of the total decisions in the 12 months ending 30 September 2010, 19 per cent (73,315) were refusals compared with 12 per cent (49,790) a year earlier and 6 per cent (25,060) in the year ending 30 September 2008.

**Figure 4a: Decisions on applications for leave to remain in the United Kingdom, main applicants and dependants, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**



Comparing the year ending 30 September 2009 with the year ending 30 September 2010:

- Employment-related grants<sup>25</sup> of an extension of leave to remain fell by 24 per cent from 182,475 to 139,375, more than reversing the increase from 172,775 for the 12 months ending 30 September 2008.

<sup>24</sup> Excluding settlement and asylum cases.

<sup>25</sup> Includes grants under Tiers 1, 2 and 5 of the Points Based System.

- There was a 3 per cent decrease in grants of extensions of leave to remain relating to study<sup>26</sup> (down from 133,515 to 129,970), continuing the fall from 147,820 for the 12 months ending 30 September 2008.
- There was a 5 per cent decrease in grants of extensions of leave to remain relating to family (down from 23,495 to 22,300), continuing the fall from 31,595 for the 12 months ending 30 September 2008.

**Table 4a: Grants of an extension of leave to remain by broad category of grant, main applicants and dependants, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total grants</i>	<i>Employment-related (1)</i>	<i>Study (2)</i>	<i>Family (3)</i>	<i>Other (4)</i>
2007 Q1	98,610	41,990	46,295	6,255	4,065
2007 Q2	71,595	30,860	29,945	6,790	4,005
2007 Q3	78,685	36,850	28,600	9,390	3,845
2007 Q4	109,015	40,325	57,090	8,210	3,390
2008 Q1	95,030	40,715	42,140	8,680	3,500
2008 Q2	79,840	39,705	28,240	8,210	3,685
2008 Q3	82,290	52,030	20,355	6,490	3,410
2008 Q4	105,700	56,020	41,375	5,180	3,125
2009 Q1	98,735	48,525	40,390	6,335	3,490
2009 Q2	74,485	42,895	21,540	6,155	3,895
2009 Q3	75,275	35,035	30,210	5,825	4,205
2009 Q4	85,480	37,010	37,425	5,280	5,765
2010 Q1	95,575	43,425	41,185	5,985	4,980
2010 Q2	65,835	29,620	25,875	5,850	4,495
2010 Q3	65,420	29,320	25,485	5,185	5,430

(1) Includes Tiers 1, 2 and 5.

(2) Includes Tier 4.

(3) Probationary period applications.

(4) Includes grants where the category is not known.

## 4.2 Settlement decisions<sup>27</sup> (Table 4.3) (NS✓)

The statistics of grants of settlement – i.e. persons subject to immigration control who are allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely – are the main available measure of long term immigration of persons subject to immigration control. The settlement figures comprise persons granted settlement on arrival at ports, and persons initially admitted to the country subject to a time limit that was subsequently removed on application to the Home Office.

When comparing some aspects of settlement data, changes in the immigration rules, enlargement of the EU, and various UK Border Agency programmes need to be considered<sup>28</sup>.

### Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- The number of decisions on applications for settlement in the UK, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, rose by 35 per cent in the year ending 30 September 2010 (252,870) compared to a year earlier (187,905).
- Of the total decisions, 94 per cent (238,950) were grants and 6 per cent (13,925) were refusals.

<sup>26</sup> Includes grants under Tier 4 of the Points Based System.

<sup>27</sup> The variations in the number of decisions on applications to vary leave to remain may reflect changing resource priorities within the UK Border Agency as well as policy changes and other factors.

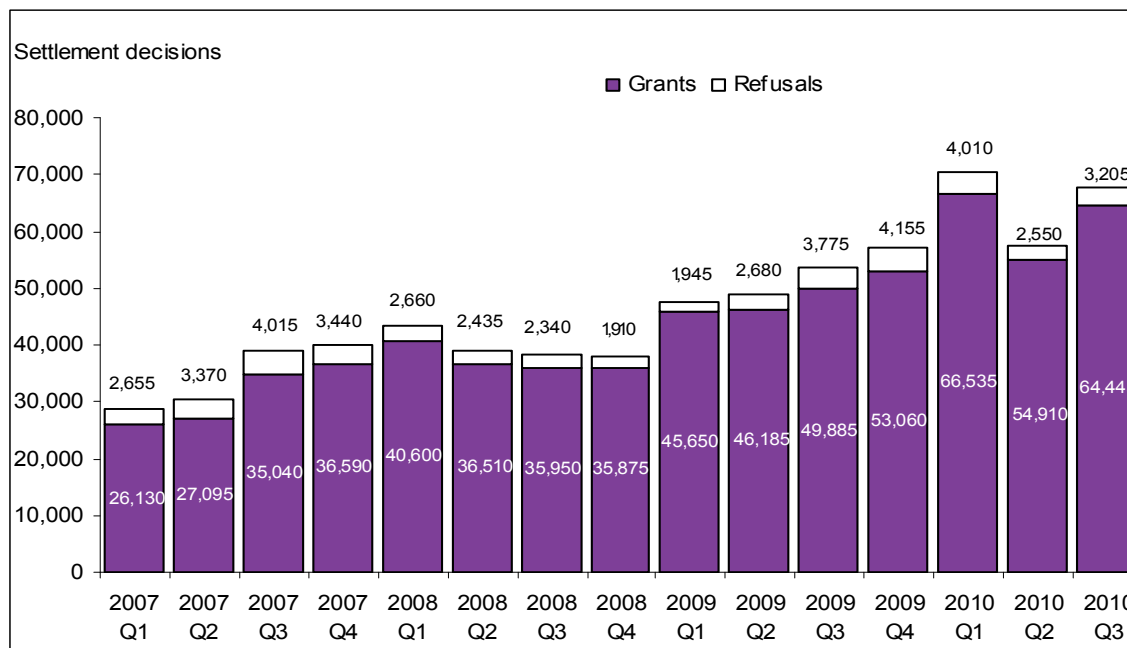
<sup>28</sup> See footnotes to the tables.



Comparing the 12 months ending 30 September 2009 with the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- The proportion of family formation and reunion grants fell from 37 per cent to 30 per cent, employment-related grants fell from 43 per cent to 37 per cent and asylum-related grants fell from 2 per cent to 1 per cent. The proportion of other grants including those on a discretionary basis<sup>29</sup> increased from 19 per cent to 31 per cent of all settlement.
- The number of persons granted settlement in the UK rose by 35 per cent from 177,595 to 238,950, the highest level since records began in 1960.
- Employment-related grants of settlement rose by 17 per cent from 75,980 to 88,605 continuing the increase in employment-related grants since 2007 partly reflecting an increase in the number of people admitted in work-related categories 5 years earlier.
- Asylum-related grants of settlement rose by 9 per cent from 3,240 to 3,525. Previously, asylum-related grants have shown a broadly decreasing trend, decreasing from 20,200 in the 12 months ending 30 September 2007.
- Family formation and reunion grants of settlement rose by 11 per cent from 64,860 to 72,180 continuing the increase from 54,440 for the 12 months ending September 2008.
- Other grants, including those on a discretionary basis<sup>29</sup>, more than doubled from 33,510 to 74,640. The increase in these grants since 2007 can be attributed to persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases.

Figure 4b: Grants and refusals of settlement, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010



<sup>29</sup> Includes persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases and grants where the category is unknown.

**Table 4b: Grants of settlement by broad category of grant, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Employment (1)</i>	<i>Asylum (2)</i>	<i>Family formation and reunion</i>	<i>Other (3)(4)</i>
2007 Q1	26,130	2,750	5,920	14,810	2,650
2007 Q2	27,095	7,195	6,020	11,905	1,975
2007 Q3	35,040	14,020	1,300	13,000	6,720
2007 Q4	36,590	13,250	945	11,110	11,285
2008 Q1	40,600	15,775	710	13,540	10,570
2008 Q2	36,510	14,755	390	15,495	5,870
2008 Q3	35,950	14,730	680	14,295	6,245
2008 Q4	35,875	15,505	1,045	12,015	7,310
2009 Q1	45,650	17,535	885	20,570	6,660
2009 Q2	46,185	19,830	645	17,015	8,700
2009 Q3	49,885	23,115	670	15,260	10,845
2009 Q4	53,060	20,710	910	19,395	12,045
2010 Q1	66,535	26,930	620	23,310	15,675
2010 Q2	54,910	21,440	620	13,915	18,940
2010 Q3	64,445	19,530	1,375	15,560	27,975

(1) In April 2006, the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from 4 to 5 years, delaying grants of settlement that would otherwise have occurred earlier. This led to a fall in the number of grants between Q2 2006 and Q2 2007 inclusive after which grants returned to previous levels.

(2) Asylum-related grants of settlement were at high levels in Q1 2007 and Q2 2007 due to the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) exercise and due to grants to persons given exceptional leave four years previously.

(3) Data from Q3 2007 include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases.

(4) Includes grants where the category is not known.

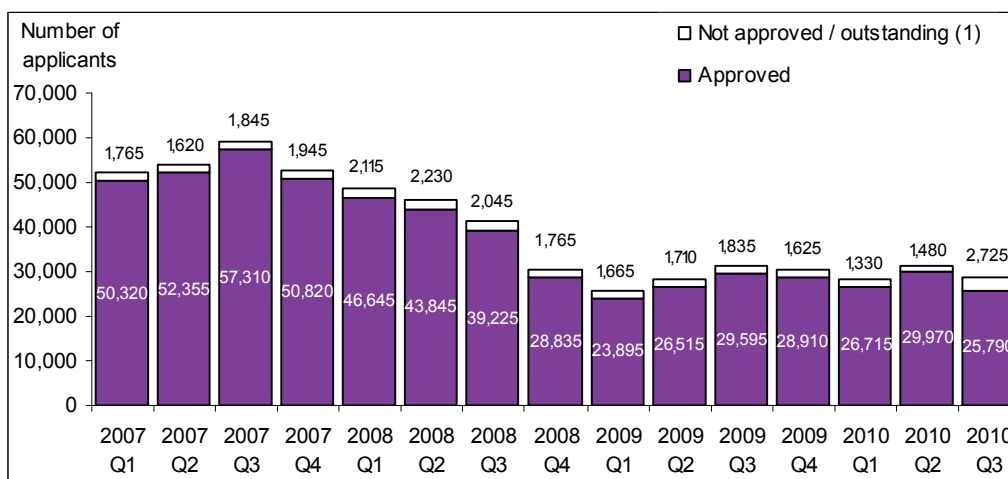
### 4.3 Worker Registration Scheme and benefit applications (Tables 4.4 and 4.5)

On 1 May 2004, ten countries – Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia – joined the European Union (EU). From that date, nationals of Malta and Cyprus have had full free movement rights and rights to work, throughout the EU. Prior to enlargement, existing EU member states had the right to regulate access to their labour markets by nationals of the other eight countries – the ‘Accession 8’, ‘or ‘A8’. The UK Government put in place transitional measures to regulate A8 nationals’ access to the labour market (via the Worker Registration Scheme) and to restrict access to benefits.

#### Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- Comparing the year ending 30 September 2010 with a year earlier, there were a total of 118,550 initial applicants to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS), up 2 per cent from 115,815.
- The number of approved WRS applicants was 111,385, a 2 per cent increase compared to 108,840 approved applicants a year earlier.
- Approved applicants from Poland fell to 50,485 in the 12 months ending 30 September 2010 from 59,700 a year earlier. However, over the same period, approved applicants from Lithuania increased to 21,190 from 13,220 and from Latvia increased to 18,895 from 12,350.
- Since the 12 months ending 30 June 2009, the falling trend of applicants has levelled out and the number of approved applicants in a 12 month period has ranged between 107,000 and 119,000.
- There were 24,173 applications for tax-funded income-related benefits in the 12 months ending 30 September 2010, compared to 24,156 received in the 12 months ending 30 September 2009. The majority of applications, 16,876 (70 per cent), were disallowed on failing the Right to Reside and Habitual Residence Test.

**Figure 4c: WRS applicants, by quarter of application, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**



(1) Due to the timeliness of the data, it is expected that the proportion of applications not approved or outstanding will be greater in the latest quarter than in previous quarters due to the impact of outstanding applications.

#### 4.4 Bulgarian and Romanian Accession (Table 4.6)

On 1 January 2007 Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU. The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 make Bulgarian and Romanian nationals taking employment in the UK after 31 December 2006 subject to a requirement to hold a work authorisation document. Other Bulgarian and Romanian nationals not taking employment but exercising a Treaty right in the UK may seek a registration certificate. This includes: those exempt from the worker authorisation restrictions; highly skilled migrants; those with restricted access to the labour market; and Bulgarian and Romanian family members of main applicants.

#### Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- A total of 3,230 applications for accession worker cards were received, compared to 2,895 in the year ending 30 September 2009; 2,345 of these applications were approved, compared to 2,225 approved in the year ending 30 September 2009.
- There were a total of 33,270 applications for registration certificates compared to 25,395 applications in the year ending 30 September 2009; 22,640 of these applications were approved, compared to 19,730 approved applications in year ending 30 September 2009.
- The operators of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) issued 17,540 SAWS work cards to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, compared to 19,795 issued a year earlier.

#### 4.5 British citizenship (Table 4.7) (NS✓)

The British Nationality Act 1981 came into force on 1 January 1983 and replaced citizenship of the UK and Colonies with three separate citizenships: (a) British citizenship, for people closely connected with the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; (b) British overseas territories citizenship, for people connected with the British overseas territories; and (c) British Overseas citizenship, for those citizens of the UK and Colonies without connections with either the UK or the British overseas territories.

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 amended the British Nationality Act 1981 and requires all successful applicants for British citizenship who are aged 18 or

above to take an oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony, unless exempted by the Home Secretary.

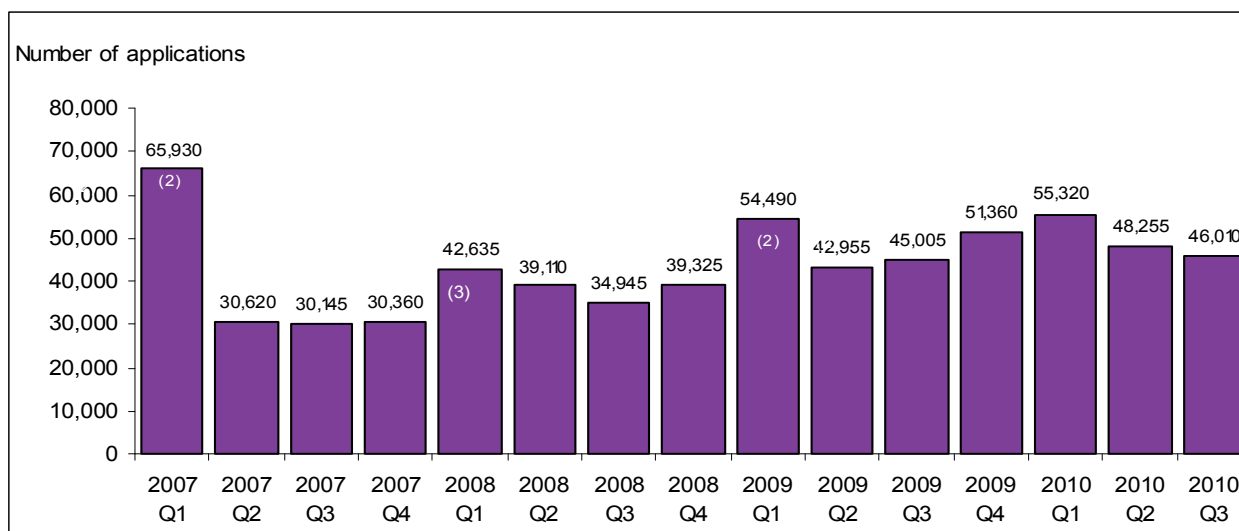
The variations in totals of applications recorded, and decisions made, reflect changing resource priorities within UKBA, as well as policy changes and other factors.

## Citizenship applications received

### Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- Comparing the last 12 months with the previous 12, applications rose by 11 per cent, from 181,770 to 200,945, continuing the increase from 147,055 in the 12 months ending September 2008.
- These increases may partly reflect increased grants of settlement to non EEA nationals<sup>30</sup>. New provisions for registration as a British citizen, introduced in the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, may also have contributed to the increase<sup>31</sup>.

**Figure 4d: British citizenship applications (1), Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**



(1) Data of British citizenship applications have been revised to exclude Right of Abode cases and therefore differ from those published before May 2009.

(2) The unusually high number of applications received in Q1 2007 and Q1 2009 may be connected with the increases in processing fees introduced on 1 April 2007 and 6 April 2009.

(3) The increase in the number of applications in Q1 2008 may be connected to publication of the green paper "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System" in February 2008.

## Citizenship decisions – grants and refusals

### Key findings for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010:

- Comparing the last 12 months with the previous 12, the total number of decisions fell by 1 per cent from 208,615 to 205,600.
- 8,470 applications for British citizenship (4 per cent of all decisions) were refused, withdrawn or found to be British already in the last 12 months, a decrease of 21 per cent compared to the previous 12 months (10,745). In the last four quarters the proportion of all decisions that were not grants was 4 per cent. The proportion of refusals and withdrawals has fallen from 8 per cent for the 12 months ending September 2008, reflecting the introduction of application checking services leading to

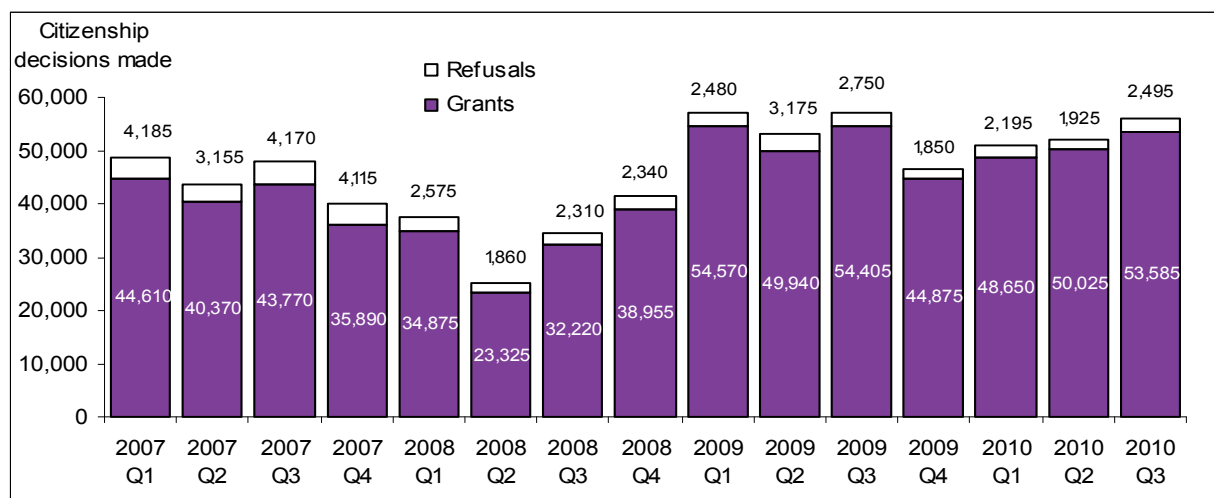
<sup>30</sup> After a period of residence those granted settlement, become eligible to apply for citizenship.

<sup>31</sup> See Home Office bulletin HOSB 09/10 'British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009' for further information on long term trends.

fewer incomplete or inappropriate requests<sup>32</sup>.

- The number of persons granted British citizenship in the last 12 months, fell by 740 to 197,135, following a 57 per cent increase from 126,310 for the 12 months ending September 2008.

**Figure 4e: British citizenship decisions made, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**



- Comparing the last 12 months with the previous 12, the number of decisions to grant based on residence fell by 4 per cent from 98,505 to 94,690. Grants based on marriage fell by 2 per cent from 49,920 to 48,815 while grants to children rose by 6 per cent from 45,545 to 48,100 and grants on other grounds rose by 42 per cent from 3,900 to 5,530.

**Table 4c: Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom by basis of grant and refusal, Q1 2007 to Q3 2010**

	Grants by basis of grant					Total refusals
	Total grants	Residence	Marriage	Children	Other	
2007 Q1	44,610	24,230	6,620	11,970	1,790	4,185
2007 Q2	40,370	21,250	7,250	10,265	1,610	3,155
2007 Q3	43,770	23,590	8,955	9,730	1,485	4,170
2007 Q4	35,890	18,715	7,600	8,565	1,010	4,115
2008 Q1	34,875	18,220	7,685	8,115	855	2,575
2008 Q2	23,325	10,575	4,460	7,230	1,060	1,860
2008 Q3	32,220	16,185	8,005	7,040	995	2,310
2008 Q4	38,955	20,735	8,925	8,450	845	2,340
2009 Q1	54,570	27,690	13,455	12,540	885	2,480
2009 Q2	49,940	23,680	13,255	12,045	965	3,175
2009 Q3	54,405	26,405	14,290	12,515	1,200	2,750
2009 Q4	44,875	21,700	11,630	10,715	825	1,850
2010 Q1	48,650	23,535	11,860	11,975	1,280	2,195
2010 Q2	50,025	23,560	12,135	12,500	1,825	1,925
2010 Q3	53,585	25,895	13,185	12,910	1,600	2,495

<sup>32</sup> See Home Office bulletin HOSB 09/10 'British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009' for further information on long term trends.

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## BACKGROUND NOTES

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### Structure of quarterly statistics bulletin

1. The contents of the quarterly asylum bulletin were reviewed following the user consultation as part of the review of published statistics on control of immigration carried out during December 2007 to February 2008. Having looked at the scope, detail and frequency of the UK Border Agency's migration statistics the intention to proceed was announced on 20 May 2008 – see link below:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylum-stats-proposal-0508.pdf>.

This is the initial outcome of the Border and Immigration Agency (now UKBA) review of statistics on “control of immigration”. The final report is available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bia-immig-stat-review-07.pdf>.

2. This revised publication, introduced in August 2008 for the Q2 2008 publication, is the result of that consultation and aims to give users an overview of the work of the UK Border Agency. The information is grouped by key operational area of the UK Border Agency – i.e. border control, asylum, managed migration, and enforcement and compliance.

### Tables

3. Tables of data are available online in Excel format from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html> and <http://www.data.gov.uk>.
4. Supplementary tables, giving further breakdowns of the statistics published in the main tables, are available online from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html> and <http://www.data.gov.uk>.

### Explanatory notes

5. More detailed explanatory notes and a glossary of terms relating to the control of immigration are published in the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin “Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009” available online from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

### Revisions to data

6. All the UK statistics for 2009 and 2010 produced on a quarterly basis are provisional. It is anticipated that the data for 2010 will be revised in due course; data for 2009 may be revised. It is not possible to evaluate whether future revisions will be upward or downward; but the reasons for revisions are likely to include:
  - late reporting of cases – a small proportion of cases are not included when the statistics are calculated for the quarterly publication;
  - the results of data cleansing exercises (data identified that cannot be included when the statistics are calculated for the quarterly publication because of missing or invalid values, the identification of duplicates in the data); and
  - reconciliations with alternative sources of data which will identify cases not yet included in the statistics.

Where data have been revised from previous publications, this is denoted by (R) in the appropriate section of the table.

7. Every effort is made to produce data which is correct at publication. Where we discover errors after the production of the quarterly statistical summary, we will take the following action:
- correction in the next quarterly statistical summary, if the error is minor or textual; or
  - the publication of revised tables on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website together with an explanatory note, if the error is significant.

Further details on the Revisions Policy for the Home Office can be found on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website within the Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice (see below).

### **National Statistics**

8. 'National Statistics' are a subset of official statistics which have been granted accreditation by the UK Statistics Authority. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. All statistics in this bulletin are produced free from political interference. A statement regarding the Home Office compliance with the Code of Practice can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/statsprog1.html>.

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION

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### Home Office statistical publications

1. This bulletin is accompanied by data tables, available from:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.
2. Statistical information which set the figures in this bulletin in a wider context is available in the annual Home Office Control of Immigration Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin, "Control of Immigration Statistics, United Kingdom 2009", is available online at:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.
3. Issues of "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" prior to 2007 were published in the form of a Command Paper, concentrating on border control, managed migration and enforcement and compliance, and are available online from The Stationery Office website at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk>.
4. Prior to 2008, statistics on asylum applications and decisions were published annually in the "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom" bulletin available online from:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.
5. Statistical information on grants of British citizenship is published annually in the Home Office British Citizenship Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin, Issue 09/10 "British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009", is available online from:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.
6. Until May 2009, the Home Office UK Border Agency published management information on:
  - 'Accession Monitoring Report', a quarterly report on the Accession State Worker Registration Scheme.
  - 'Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics', a quarterly report on the schemes for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals.

Past copies can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100503160445/http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/>. These reports are no longer published. Key findings and summary data for the A8 and A2 continue to be included within this publication.

Enquiries about accession monitoring policy should be made to the UK Border Agency, Managed Migration Policy, Vulcan House – Steel, 6 Millsands, Sheffield, S3 8NU, and for data should be made to Migration Statistics (see Further Information and Feedback, page 9).

### Home Office research publications

7. Research reports on immigration control are published by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS) as online reports and occasional papers available online from: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/horrrpubs.html>.

### Publications by other government departments

8. "Control of Immigration Statistics, United Kingdom 2009", available online from: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>, provides a list of further sources of information on control of immigration. The National Statistics publication hub <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population> also lists a wide range of statistical publications on immigration and migration.