Regional Breakdown of UK and Foreign Nationals in Employment

February 2011



Background

The statistics below are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Each quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes figures for the number of UK nationals and foreign nationals in employment in the UK. These can be found in the ONS Labour Market Statistical Bulletin. However the bulletin does not provide a breakdown by Government Office Region, so this breakdown is provided in this document.

The figures for the regional breakdown of UK and foreign nationals in employment are extracted from the LFS using a simple SAS code. Nationality is used to classify migrants rather than country of birth as it is nationality that determines access to the labour market. Employment includes both full time and part time. Table 1 below gives this regional breakdown for Q4 2010 and the corresponding values in Q4 2009.

Results

The table shows that London is the region with by far the highest number of foreign nationals in employment, which was also true in the previous year. In most regions there has been little change over the year, although the Eastern and East Midlands regions have seen substantial increases. The distribution for UK nationals is more evenly spread, with the highest number in the South East. The North West, London and the South West have seen the highest increases over the year.

Table 1: Number of UK and foreign nationals in employment in each Government Office Region

	Q4 2009		Q4 2010	
Region	UK nationals	Foreign nationals	UK nationals	Foreign nationals
North East	1,113,000	44,000	1,096,000	39,000
North West	2,407,000	147,000	2,462,000	146,000
Merseyside	543,000	16,000	546,000	15,000
Yorkshire &				
Humberside	2,289,000	115,000	2,271,000	122,000
East Midlands	2,036,000	114,000	1,987,000	146,000
West Midlands	2,307,000	139,000	2,277,000	143,000
Eastern	2,597,000	185,000	2,596,000	225,000
London	2,851,000	856,000	2,918,000	868,000
South East	3,843,000	315,000	3,852,000	339,000
South West	2,377,000	125,000	2,433,000	112,000
Wales	1,252,000	50,000	1,283,000	50,000
Scotland	2,360,000	132,000	2,363,000	132,000
Northern Ireland	716,000	50,000	711,000	62,000
Total	26,691,000	2,288,000	26,795,000	2,398,000

Source: LFS, seasonally unadjusted and rounded to the nearest '000. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.