



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

27 February 2014

Immigration Statistics, October - December 2013

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics October - December 2013* release, published today, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control. All data below relate to the calendar year 2013 and all comparisons are with 2012, unless indicated otherwise.

Key points from the latest release

Asylum: There was an 8% increase in asylum applications in 2013 (23,507) compared with 2012 (21,843), although well below the peak number of applications in 2002 (84,132). The increase in 2013 was particularly driven by rises from Syria (+681), Eritrea (+649) and Albania (+507). While Syria saw the largest increase in applications, it remains fourth for overall numbers of asylum applications.

Visitor visas issued (Before Entry): 1.9 million visitor visas were issued in 2013, 14% more (+245,093) than in 2012. Increases were seen for a range of nationalities, including Chinese (+81,575), Russian (+35,658), Kuwaiti (+25,324), Indian (+17,973) and Saudi Arabian (+15,227) nationals.

Work: There were 7% more work-related visas issued (to 154,860 in 2013). The increase was largely accounted for by higher numbers for skilled workers (Tier 2, +18%), and for Youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5, +7%). The increases in Tier 2 and in Tier 5 was offset by fewer visas issued for high value workers (Tier 1) which fell by 35%. There were 13% fewer work-related extensions (falling to 122,451 in 2013) and 5% fewer permissions to stay permanently (falling to 59,249 in 2013).

Study: Study-related visas issued rose by 4% (to 218,773 in 2013). The increase includes higher numbers for Chinese, Brazilian and Malaysian nationals and falls for other nationalities, including Pakistan and India. There was a similar number of sponsored study visa applications (210,103 main applicants in 2013). There was a 7% rise in sponsored visa applications for the university sector, and falls in the further education sector (-34%), English language schools (-2%) and independent schools (-2%).

Family: There were 33,690 family route visas issued in 2013, a fall of 18%. Family-related grants to stay permanently rose by 26% (to 59,638 in 2013), although they were still lower than in 2009 (72,239). The increase was driven by an increase in grants to spouses.

EEA: For Bulgarian and Romania (EU2) nationals, there were falls in approvals for accession worker cards by 15% (to 1,526) and for registration certificates by 42% (to 12,930); these falls corresponded with falls in applications for both compared with 2012. EU2 nationals approved under the Sector Based Scheme (SBS) continued to fall, by 31% (to 335) and issuance of work cards under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) fell by 6% (to 19,630). However, figures for these schemes do not provide a full picture; in particular they exclude the self-employed.

Other points to note

Admissions: There were 111.1 million journeys to the UK, a 4% increase.

Visas issued (Before Entry): In total there were 532,574 visas issued in 2013, excluding visitor and transit visas, 5% higher than in 2012, with increases in grants of work visas (+9,750) and of study visas (+9,024, with increased applications for the university sector), and a fall in family visas granted (-7,202).

Student visitors: There was a 14% increase in student visitor visas issued, to 77,664. Student visitors are normally only allowed to stay for up to 6 months (11 months for English Language schools) and cannot extend their stay.

Extensions: There were 17% more grants of extensions (rising to 306,060 in 2013). This followed annual falls in each of the previous 3 years. The increase included a rise in study-related grants of extensions of a third and in family-related grants of extensions of more than double. Family-related grants of extensions more than doubled, rising from 16,627 to 40,670. Nearly two thirds (64%) of this increase was due to grants in the new Family Life (10-year) category (which would have previously been considered for discretionary leave).

Settlement: There were 18% more people granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), rising to 152,949 in 2013. This was still notably lower than in 2010 (241,192). The increase was accounted for by rises in family-related grants (+12,264), asylum-related grants (+9,288), and discretionary or other grants (+4,594). These rises were offset partially by a fall in work-related grants (-2,946).

Detention: The number of people entering detention in 2013 increased to 30,423, up 5%. Over the same period there was an increase of 5% in those leaving detention (to 30,036). As at the end of December 2013, 2,796 people were in detention, 4% higher than at the end of December 2012. In the fourth quarter of 2013, 63 children entered detention, compared with 65 in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Removals and Voluntary Departures: In 2013 the number of passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed increased by 2% and there was an increase of 10% in total number of voluntary departures. The number of enforced removals from the UK fell by 11% (to 13,051), which is the lowest figure since the series began in 2004.

Further and more detailed analysis can be found in the *Immigration Statistics, October - December 2013*.

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, October - December 2013* is available via the UK National Statistics publication hub website and the Home Office statistics web pages <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.
2. This release is published as part of a coordinated release of migration and population products. Today sees the release of the following publications:

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- *Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (Jointly with Home Office, DWP and National Records of Scotland)*
- *Provisional Long-term International Migration (latest quarterly)*

The *Migration Statistics Quarterly Report* summarises the regular quarterly migration and related data published by the Home Office, DWP, ONS and NRS and is available at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Migration>

Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

- *National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals to December 2013*

3. The UK Statistics Authority has assessed Immigration Statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and confirmed designation as National Statistics. More information can be found at report 177 on the UK Statistics Authority website <<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/>>.
4. For all press enquiries regarding the Home Office Immigration Statistics release, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with the Home Office Statistics team.

Newsdesk: **020 7035 3535**

Please note that the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone Public Enquiries 020 7035 4848, or email to MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries regarding ONS publications should be directed to the ONS Press Office.

5. The Home Office Responsible Statistician is David Blunt, Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics.