



## Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

23 May 2013

*Immigration Statistics, January – March 2013*

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics January – March 2013* release, published today, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to the end of March 2013. All data below relate to the year ending March 2013 and all comparisons are with the year ending March 2012, unless indicated otherwise.

### Key points from the latest release

Work, study and family-related immigration of non-EEA nationals continued to fall, with further falls in visas issued, although study has fallen less quickly than previously. The falls for work and study are likely in part to be due to policy changes which came into effect in 2011.

**Work:** There were 5% and 14% falls for work-related visas issued (to 141,800) and permissions to stay permanently (to 61,326). However, there was an 11% increase in work-related extensions of stay (to 144,056), explained by higher grants to skilled workers (Tier 2) partly offset by falls due to closures of the high value (Tier 1) Post Study and General routes.

**Study:** There were 9% fewer student visas issued (to 206,814, mainly relating to falls for nationals of Pakistan and India although there was an increase for China). Correspondingly, sponsored student visa applications fell 10% to 207,751, with a 5% increase for the university sector, contrasting with falls for the further education sector (-46%), English language schools (-46%), and independent schools (-7%).

**Family:** There was a fall of 16% for family-related visas issued (to 37,470), while extensions of stay (24,877) and grants of permission to stay permanently (53,258) reversed previous trends and increased by 45% and 4% respectively. The 45% increase was mainly due to 5,670 extensions recorded under the new Family life (10 year) route that would previously have been recorded as discretionary leave in the "other" category. There was also a 7% fall in the number of visas issued to all other dependants (excluding visitors) (to 71,068).

**EEA:** For the EU2 countries (Bulgaria and Romania) approvals under the Sector Based Scheme (SBS) fell by two-thirds (-67%) to 240 and approvals under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) fell by 9% to 20,390. In 2012 there were falls for the EU2 countries of 35% and 17% in approvals for accession worker cards (to 1,717) and for registration certificates (to 20,090), compared with 2011.

**Asylum:** There were 22,592 asylum applications, a rise of 14%, with rises in applications from nationals of Pakistan, Syria, Albania, India and Bangladesh. However, this remains low relative to the peak in 2002 (84,132), and similar to levels seen since 2005. At the end of March 2013, 14,225 of the applications received since April 2006 from main applicants were pending a decision, 24% more than a year earlier.

**Extensions:** There were 2% more grants to extend stay (to 281,552), with increases in work and family-related grants (+11% and +45%) offset by falls for study (-2%) and other (-52%, mainly discretionary). This followed annual falls in the total over the previous three years.

**Citizenship:** There was a 12% increase in people granted British citizenship (to 195,621), largely accounted for by grants on the basis of residence (+11,527, to 107,152, the highest number since records began in 1962) or on the basis of marriage (+5,260, to 39,644) and may also reflect greater resource used for decision-making.

**Detention:** In the first quarter of 2013, 37 children entered detention, a decrease of 16 on the first quarter of 2012, this fall coinciding with the closure of Tinsley House from 18 January to 20 March 2013 to new entrants due to an infectious illness.

**Removals and Voluntary Departures:** There were 5% fewer enforced removals (to 14,120), and 9% fewer passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed (to 13,606). There was a 4% increase in voluntary departures (to 28,309), although this increase can be explained by a low quarterly figure at the start of the year ending March 2012.

### Other points to note

Before Entry: There were 499,780 visas issued (excluding visitor and transit visas), a fall of 6% and the lowest annual recorded figure using comparable data available from 2005.

Admissions: There were 106.6 million journeys to the UK, similar to the year ending March 2012 (106.0 million).

Detention: 4% more people entered detention (28,735) and 6% more people left detention (28,761). Of those leaving detention, 60% were removed from the UK. As of the end of March 2013, 2,853 people were in detention, 6% fewer than the number recorded at the end of March 2012.

Settlement: There were 9% fewer people granted permission to stay permanently (settlement), falling to 137,394, accounted for by falls for work-related (-9,584) and discretionary or other grants (-7,228).

**Further and more detailed analysis can be found in the *Immigration Statistics, January – March 2013*.**

## Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, January – March 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)*
- *Short story on Seasonal Patterns of Long-term International Migration*
- *Short Term Migration Estimates for England and Wales - Mid-2011 Estimates*

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=International+Migration>

3. Also today, Home Office is publishing management information on the key input and impact indicators for immigration within the Home Office business plan. These are available from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/our-performance/>
4. The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) has assessed *Immigration Statistics* against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, as part of its routine programme of assessments, and published its report <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html> on 2 February 2012. Following improvements made in the May 2012 and August 2012 editions to address the requirements of the report, UKSA wrote to Home Office's Chief Statistician confirming the designation of Immigration Statistics as National Statistics. A copy of this letter is available at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/confirmation-of-designation-letters/letter-of-confirmation-as-national-statistics---assessment-report-177.pdf>. More information on National Statistics and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.
5. 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](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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

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