



Statistical Bulletin

22 May 2014

Coverage: UK
Theme: [Migration](#)

National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK – registrations to March 2014.

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

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

Statistics on National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK are full [National Statistics](#);

Next release date 28th August 2014

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

Headline Figures:

- The total number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals in 2013/14 was 603 thousand, an increase of 40 thousand (7%) on the previous year.
- Within the European Union (EU) - The number of NINo registrations from EU nationals in 2013/14 was 439 thousand, an increase of 54 thousand (14%) on the previous year.
- The number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) in 2013/14 was 65 thousand, an increase of 36 thousand (129%) on the previous year
- Rest of the world - The number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from outside the EU in 2013/14 was 162 thousand, a decrease of 14 thousand (8%) on the previous year.

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28th August 2014

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Contents	Page
Definition of World Area	3
1 NINo Registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK	
<u>Time series</u>	
Fig 1.1 : time series by quarter (12 month total to the end of the quarter) January 2002 to March 2014	4
<u>World area and nationality</u>	
Fig 1.2 : by registration year and world area, 2002/3 to 2013/14	5
Fig 1.3 : Top 20 countries 2013/14	6
<u>UK area : geographical regions</u>	
Fig 1.4 : by UK region for 2013/14	7
Fig 1.5 : top 20 Local Authorities for 2013/14	7
2 Focus on: NINo Registrations to adult overseas nationals from the EU2	
Background and headline figures	8
Fig 2.1: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from EU2 nationals by year of registration - 2002/3 to 2013/14	8
Fig 2:2 Proportion of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals by gender and age group , registrations 2013/14.	9
Fig 2:3 Time taken between arrival in the UK and National Insurance number registration - registrations between 1 st January 2014 to 31 st March 2014	10
3 Sources / Notes	
Notes	11



Definition of World Area

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

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

Europe - EU Accession Countries : Countries acceding to the EU from May 2004.
Joined the EU 1st May 2004 – (EU8) Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia.

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

Joined the EU 1st January 2007 – (EU2) Bulgaria, Romania
Joined the EU 1st July 2013 - Croatia

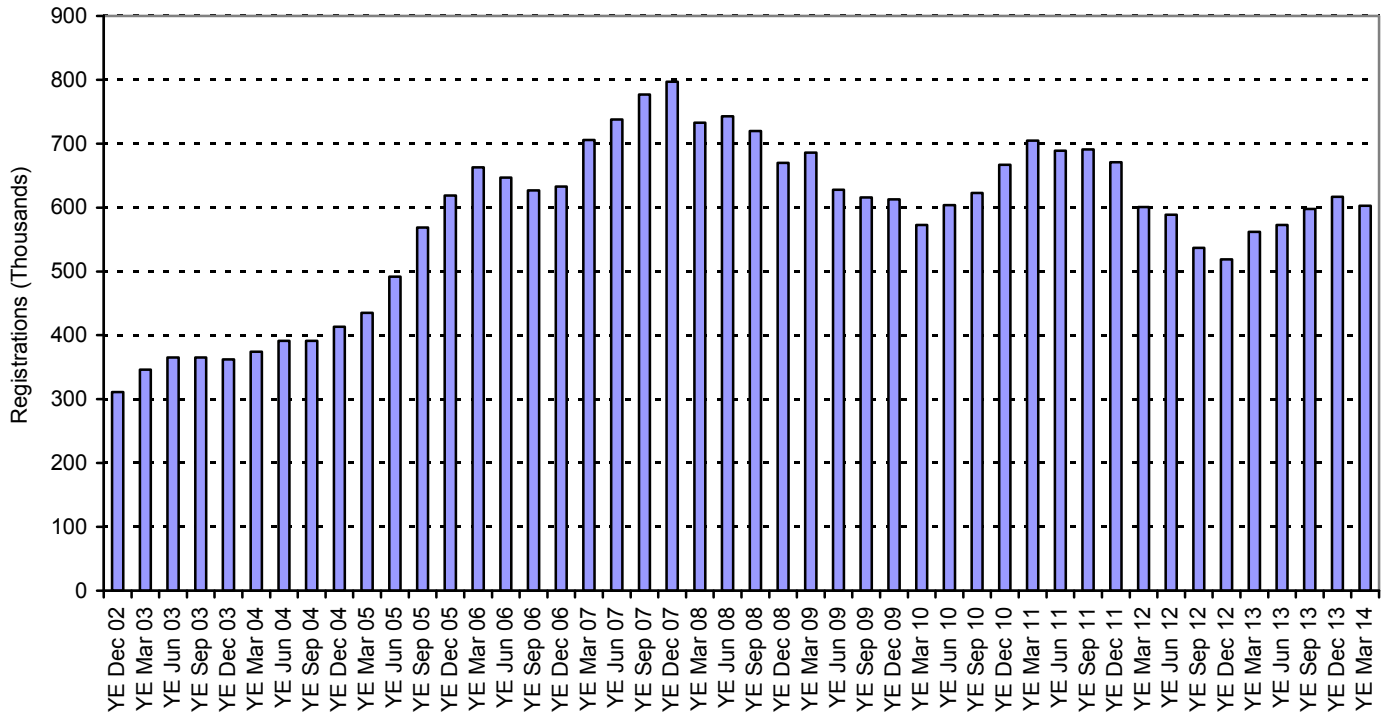
Europe – Non EU : European countries that are not members of the EU at 1st April 2014.

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

1 NINo Registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK

Time series

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



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

Notes :

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

Note : Caution should be taken in interpreting trends based on raw quarterly data, hence a '12 month to date' rolling total is shown in fig 1.1 to better reflect trends in the annual series.

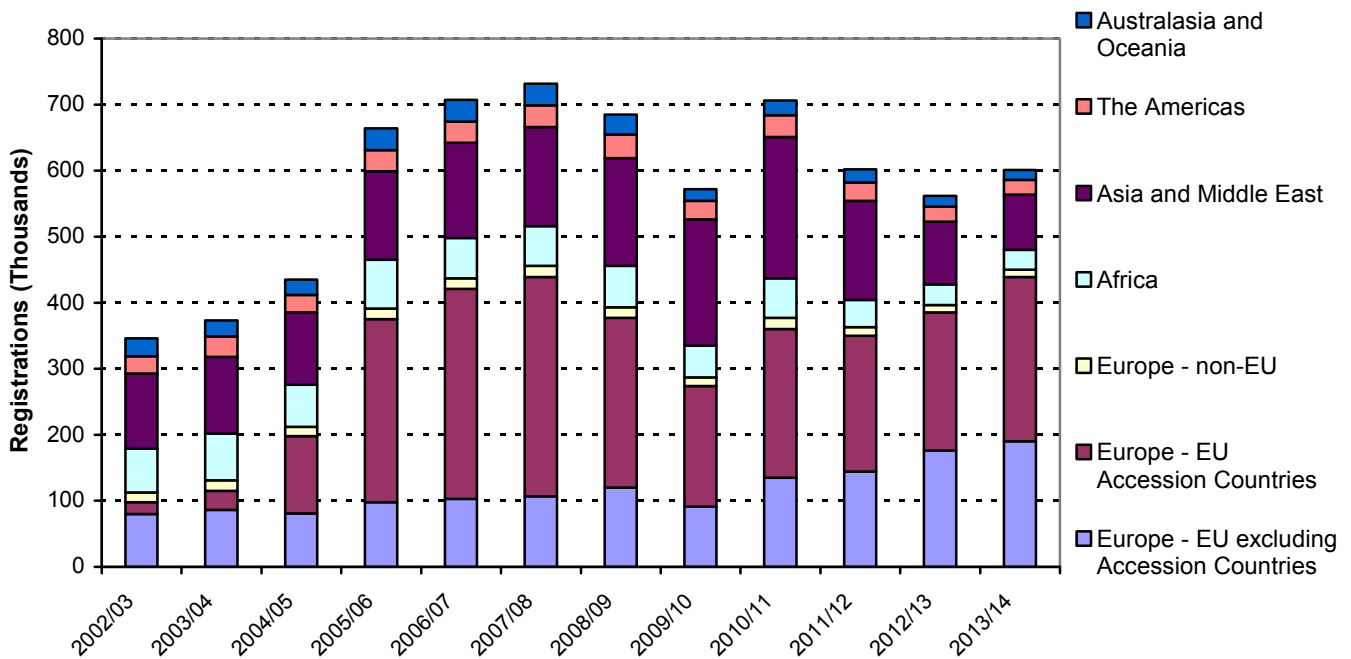
The raw quarterly time series of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals shows a number of peaks and troughs. The series is reflecting both seasonal effects in the registration of adult overseas nationals entering the UK and operational factors in recording a NINo on the NPS computer system.

The total number of NINo registrations to all adult overseas nationals entering the UK rose from 311 thousand in 2002, with a sharper increase from 2004 following the accession of the eight eastern European countries (EU8) plus Malta and Cyprus, to the European Union, to a peak of 797 thousand in 2007. Since then they have fluctuated around 600,000, falling to a low of 519,000 in 2012. Latest data shows there were 603,000 registrations in the year ending March 2014.

Fig 1.1 has been derived from the quarterly time series available in Stat Xplore : <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics#stat-xplore>

World area and nationality

Fig 1.2 : NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, by year of registration and world area, 2002/03 to 2013/14.



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

Notes :

1. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NINo is maintained on the NPS
2. For consistency of reporting, EU Accession countries here refers to EU8, Malta and Cyprus and EU2(Bulgaria & Romania) for the entire Back Series including the periods before Accession and after transitional arrangements have ended. (See notes)
3. Time Series - Year Of Registration Date Years are shown as 1st April - 31st March

Within the European Union (EU):

During 2013/14, 249 thousand NINo's were registered to the Eastern European countries who acceded to the EU in 2004 (for whom labour market restrictions were lifted across the EU as a whole in May 2011) plus the more recent accession countries (Romania and Bulgaria) – an increase of 40 thousand (19%) on 2012/13.

Registrations to other EU nationals (190 thousand in 2013/14) increased by 8%.

Rest of the world:

Outside of the European Union, annual registrations to all world areas have typically fallen to lowest levels since the reporting period began (2002/03).

Those to European, non-EU nationals remained at 11 thousand.

84 thousand NINo's were registered to Asian & Middle East nationals during 2013/14 – 12% lower than in 2012/13.

Registrations to those from the Americas fell by 1% to 22 thousand.

Registrations from Africans fell by 4% (to 30 thousand) and from Australasia and Oceania fell by 9% (to 15 thousand).



Fig 1.3 : NI No registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, top 20 countries for 2013/14

2013/14 Rank*	Country	2013/14 Total (thousands)	% change from 2012/13	2012/13 Total (thousands)	2012/13 Rank
1 ●	Poland	101.93	12%	91.36	1
2 ▲	Romania	46.89	163%	17.82	9
3 ▼	Spain	45.62	0%	45.53	2
4 ▼	Italy	41.95	28%	32.80	3
5 ▼	India	28.76	-8%	31.25	4
6 ▲	Portugal	27.26	11%	24.55	7
7 ▼	Hungary	23.62	-4%	24.67	6
8 ▼	Rep of Lithuania	22.44	-18%	27.32	5
9 ▼	France	22.28	5%	21.23	8
10 ▲	Bulgaria	17.75	71%	10.40	18
11 ●	Rep of Ireland	16.37	5%	15.54	11
12 ▼	Pakistan	12.09	-25%	16.16	10
13 ▼	Slovak Rep	11.78	3%	11.48	15
14 ▼	Rep of Latvia	11.30	-17%	13.60	12
15 ▼	China Peoples Rep	11.13	-7%	12.01	13
16 ▼	Australia	10.70	-9%	11.78	14
17 ▼	Germany	10.52	-4%	10.95	16
18 ▼	Nigeria	10.28	-2%	10.51	17
19 ▲	Greece	9.04	4%	8.68	20
20 ▼	USA	8.69	-4%	9.03	19

*▲, ▼ : indicates **ranking** movement from previous year, for example Italian registrations have increased by 28% on the previous year but Italy has moved down to 4th in the ranked table compared to NI No registrations in 2012/13

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

Notes :

1. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NI No is maintained on the NPS
2. Time Series - Year Of Registration Date Years are shown as 1st April - 31st March

Factors thought to be influencing the trends in terms of NI No registrations across different nationalities / world areas are:

- The restrictions placed on non-EEA workers and students – India, Pakistan, China Peoples Republic, Australia and Nigeria all showing continued falling trends since 2010/11.
- High unemployment rates, particularly from countries most severely impacted by the euro zone crisis – Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy.

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



UK area : geographical regions

NINo registrations are allocated to Regions (previously Government Office Regions), Local Authorities and Parliamentary Constituencies using address matching software and matching to the latest postcode directory. Figures reflect the best estimate of an adult overseas national’s locality at the time of registering for a NINo.

In 2013/14, of the 603 thousand NINo’s registered to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, 243 thousand (40%) first registered within the London Region. Northern Ireland and the North East have the fewest registrations, both with 1% of the UK total (Fig 1.4).

Of the top 20 Local Authorities (Fig 1.5) with the highest number of registrations in 2013/14, 16 are in the London Region. Birmingham, Edinburgh, Manchester and Leeds represent the highest Local Authorities outside of London.

Fig 1.4: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, by Region registrations 2013/14

Region	Thousands
London	243.03
South East	70.40
East of England	46.21
West Midlands	39.54
North West	38.55
Scotland	37.82
East Midlands	33.20
Yorkshire and The Humber	31.20
South West	31.12
Wales	11.01
Northern Ireland	9.06
North East	8.17
Overseas Residents	3.19

Fig 1.5: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, top 20 ranked Local Authorities 2013/14

Local Authority	Thousands
Newham	17.17
Brent	16.71
Tower Hamlets	15.24
Haringey	12.72
Waltham Forest	11.58
Ealing	11.35
Birmingham	11.18
Westminster	10.96
Lambeth	10.73
Southwark	10.72
Edinburgh, City of	10.49
Manchester	9.79
Barnet	9.42
Camden	8.75
Wandsworth	8.67
Hammersmith and Fulham	8.32
Hounslow	8.02
Islington	7.94
Hackney	7.65
Leeds	6.96

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

2 NINo Registrations to adult overseas nationals from the EU2

The EU2

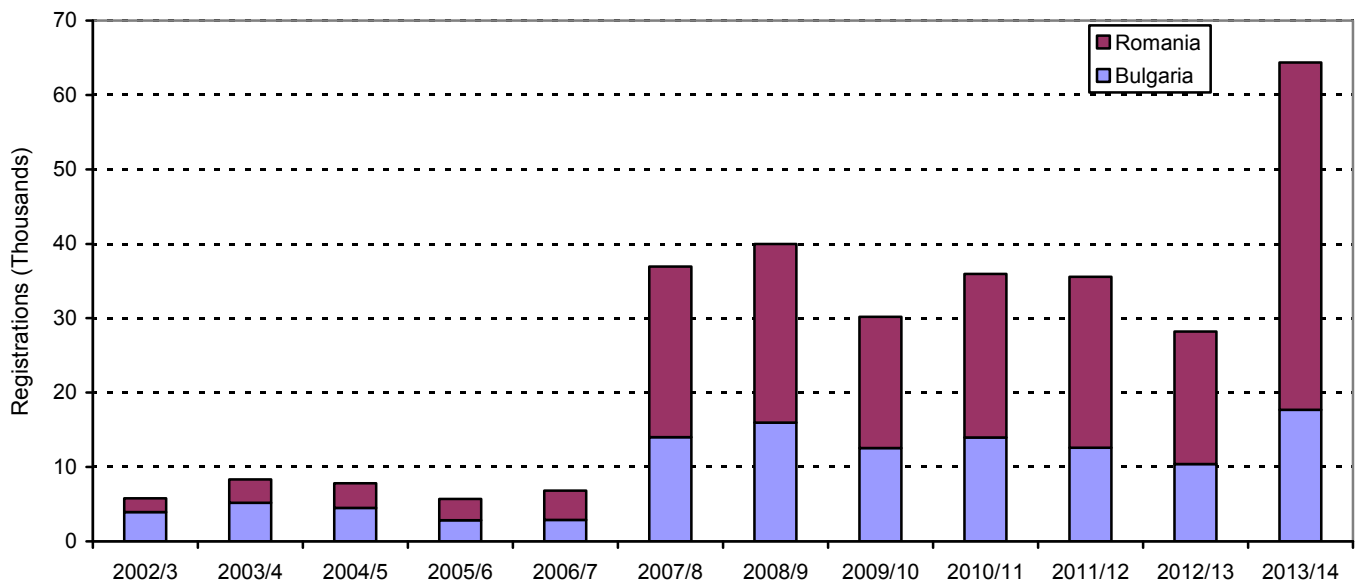
Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union (EU) on 1 January 2007. Since then, migrants from Bulgaria and Romania (collectively known as the EU2) coming to the UK were subject to transitional employment restrictions, which placed limits on the kind of employment they could undertake.

Transitional controls limit the extent to which nationals of acceding countries can access the UK labour market. This report: [\(link\)](#) by the Migration Advisory Committee provides further details of how transitional controls were applied in the UK. In the UK, migrants from Romania and Bulgaria were only able to work in limited sectors or where they were self-employed. These restrictions ended on 1 January 2014.

Headline Figures:

- **Romania** : The total number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK from Romania in 2013/14 was 47 thousand, an increase of 29 thousand (163%) on the previous year.
- **Bulgaria** - The total number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK from Bulgaria in 2013/14 was 18 thousand, an increase of 7 thousand (71%) on the previous year.
- Registrations from EU2 nationals represent 11% of the total NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK in 2013/14. (Polish nationals represent 17%, Spanish nationals 8%, Italian nationals 7%).

Fig 2.1: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from EU2 nationals by year of registration - 2002/3 to 2013/14.

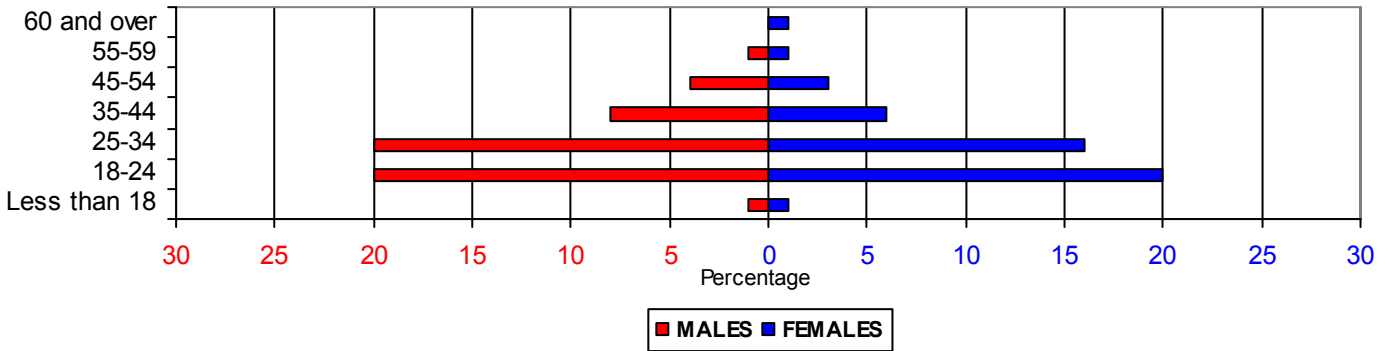


Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS)

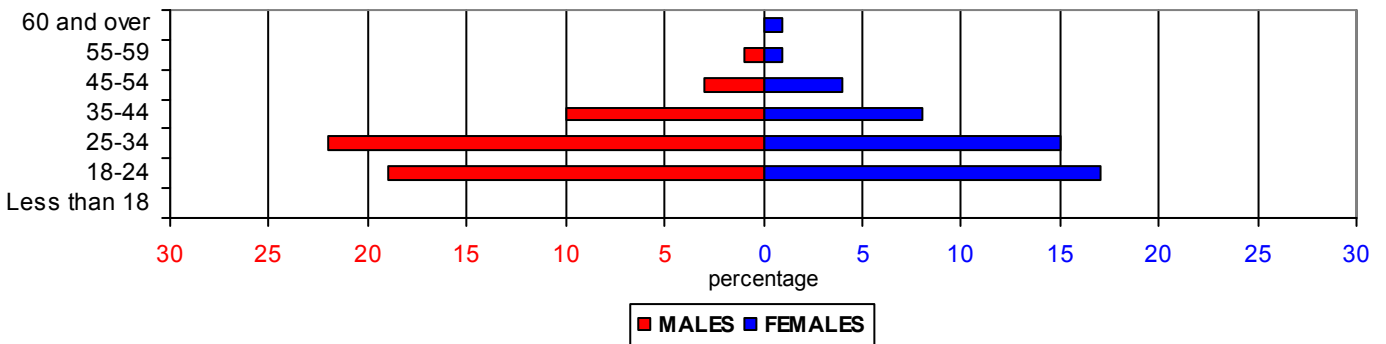
Age and gender :

Fig 2:2 Proportion of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals by gender and age group, registrations 2013/14.

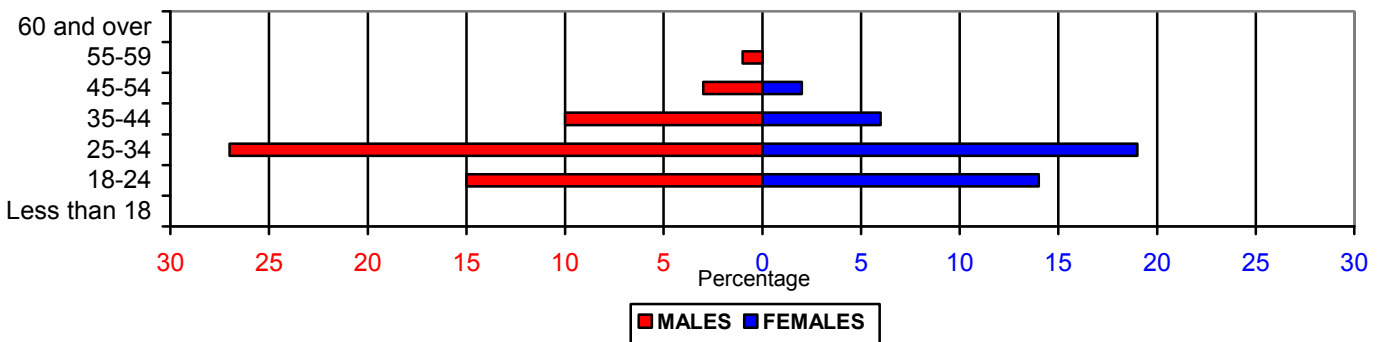
2.2a : European Union nationals:



2.2b : Bulgarian nationals:



2.2c : Romanian nationals:



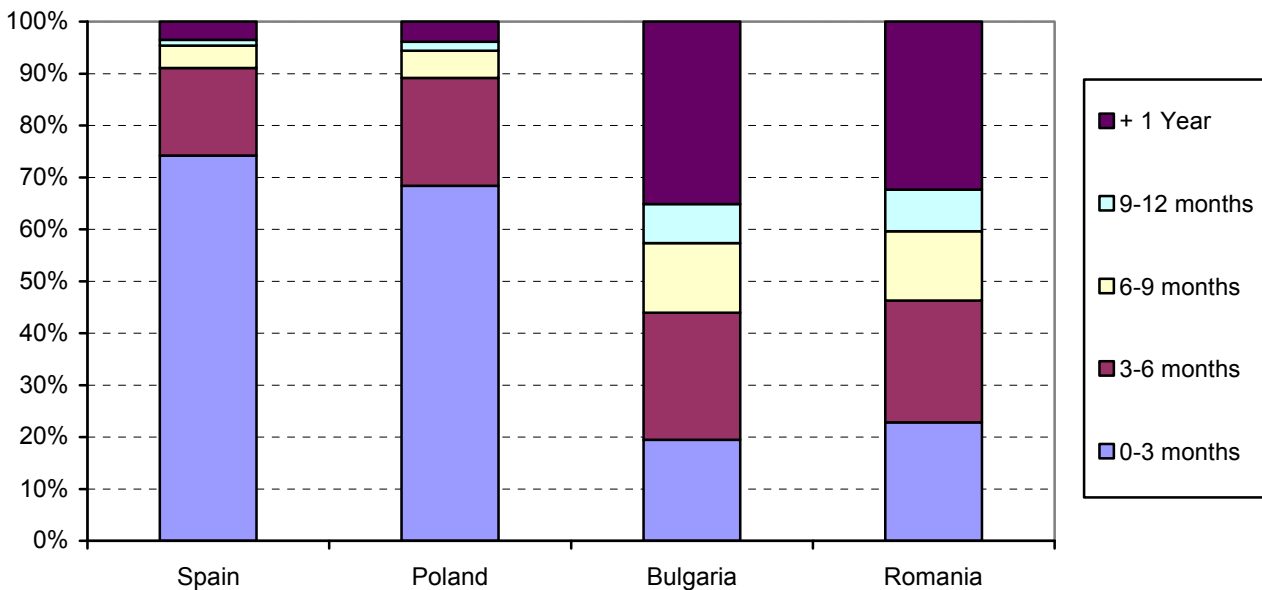
Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS)
 Chart 2.2a, European Union includes EU2

- The gender split of NINo registrations (2013/14) from within the EU2 compared to within the EU is broadly consistent with approximately 55% of registrations from males and 45% from females.
- Single largest age / gender group from EU2 nationals registering for a NINo is from males aged 25-34. The breakdown is distributed more evenly from within the EU as a whole for males and females aged 18-24 and males aged 25-34.



Arrival and registration: In order to apply for a National Insurance Number (NINo), in the first instance, a migrant worker makes an inquiry to a Job Centre. They must attend an "Evidence of Identity interview" at a local DWP Jobcentre Plus office where they must be able to prove that they are who they say they are and that they satisfy the criteria for needing a NINo. The figures are based on recorded registration date on the HMRC National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System, i.e. after the NINo application process has been completed. This may be a number of weeks or months (or in some cases years) after arriving in the UK.

Fig 2:3 Time taken between arrival in the UK and National Insurance number registration, registrations between 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014



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

The above chart shows the time taken from arrival in the UK to NINo registration date for EU2 nationals. For reference, Poland and Spain are shown alongside EU2 nationals as they represent highest single nationalities for registrations (2013/2014).

Although January to March 2014 NINo registration series show large increases from EU2 nationals on the same quarter of the previous year, of those registering for a NINo in the latest quarter (1st Jan 2014 to 31st March 2014) :

- over 30% of EU2 nationals had arrived in the UK over a year prior to registering for a NINo, this is compared to around 4% for Polish and Spanish nationals.
- Approximately 22% of NINo registrations from EU2 nationals registered for a NINo with 3 months of UK arrival, this is compared to approximately 70% of registrations from Polish and Spanish nationals.

This indicates that the EU2 NINo registration figures (January to March 2014) are actually reflecting migration over an extended period: the majority of those EU2 nationals registering for a NINo since transitional controls were lifted had arrived in the UK a number of months / years earlier

Note – quarterly NINo registrations data is available through Stat Xplore: ([Quarterly table](#))



Comparison of NINo statistics against Labour Force Survey (LFS) statistics

The NINo statistics represent a flow measure of new registrations by non-UK nationals registering for a National Insurance Number. The NINo statistics are not directly comparable to the LFS employment estimates which indicate the stock of people working in the UK, nor do they necessarily align well with migration flows.

NINo registration figures in January to March 2014 are representing migration over an extended period: the majority of those EU2 nationals registering for a NINo since transitional controls were lifted had arrived in the UK at least a number of months earlier.

Source :

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

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

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

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

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

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



Other statistics on migration

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report provides a comprehensive picture of the various sources of migration statistics available and analysis of trends and includes headline NINo statistics.
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vInk=15230>