



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

22 May 2014

Immigration Statistics, January - March 2014

Home Office's *Immigration Statistics January - March 2014* release, published today, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control. All data below relate to the year ending March 2014 and all comparisons are with the year ending March 2013, unless indicated otherwise.

Key points from the latest release

Asylum

There was a 5% (+1,101) increase in asylum applications in the year ending March 2014 (23,731) compared with the previous 12 months (22,630), although this remains well below the level seen in 2002 (84,132). The 1,101 increase was particularly driven by rises from Eritrea (+802), Syria (+559), and Albania (+474), which were offset by notable falls for some nationalities, including Iran (-479), India (-215) and Somalia (-179). The largest number of asylum applications in the year ending March 2014 was from nationals of Pakistan (3,285), Iran (2,233), Sri Lanka (1,813), Syria (1,722) and Eritrea (1,570).

Visitor visas issued (Before Entry)

There were 1.95 million visitor visas issued in the year ending March 2014, a 14% increase from the previous year (+244,812), including higher numbers issued to Chinese (+88,540 or +41%), Russian (+34,635 or +20%), Kuwaiti (+25,257 or +39%), Indian (+20,538 or +7%) and Saudi Arabian (+16,557 or +21%) nationals.

Work

In the year ending March 2014, there were 10% more work-related visas issued (up 14,606 to 156,378). The 14,606 increase was largely accounted for by higher numbers for the entrepreneur (+929) and investor (+421) categories, skilled workers (Tier 2, +12,342), and Youth mobility and temporary workers (Tier 5, +3,509), partially offset by fewer visas issued for the two categories that have now been closed to new entrants; Tier 1 Post-Study (-3,567) and Tier 1 General (-1,252).

Study

Study-related visas issued rose by 6% (to 219,053) in the year ending March 2014. The increase included higher numbers for Chinese, Brazilian and Malaysian nationals, offset by falls for other nationalities, including Pakistan and India. The number of study-related sponsored visa applications (main applicants) rose 1% in the year ending March 2014 (209,011) compared to the previous 12 months (207,750). This included a 7% rise in sponsored visa applications for the university sector (to 168,075), and falls for the further education sector (-31%), English language schools (-2%) and independent schools (-2%).

Family

There were 4% fewer family visas issued in the year ending March 2014 (35,872). Family-related grants to stay permanently fell by 12% to 47,825, continuing the overall downward trend since the year ending March 2010 (75,852).

Other points to note

Admissions

There were 111.9 million journeys to the UK in the year ending March 2014, a 5% increase.

Visas issued (Before Entry)

In total there were 538,219 visas issued in the year ending March 2014, excluding visit and transit visas. This was an 8% (+38,578) increase, largely accounted for by higher numbers of work (+14,606), study (+12,291) and student visitor (+9,935) visas, partly offset by a fall in family visas granted (-1,583).

There is evidence that recent increases in visas issued have reflected higher numbers of short term visas. The short story accompanying this bulletin, [Entry clearance visas by length](#), indicated that the increase from 2012 to 2013 in total visas issued, excluding visit and transit visas, was accounted for by higher numbers of short-term (less than 1 year) visas.

Student visitors

There was a 14% increase in student visitor visas issued, to 79,456 for the year ending March 2014. 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 2% fewer (-5,429) grants of extensions in the year ending March 2014 (276,050). There were fewer work-related extensions (-37,201), including notable falls in two categories that had been closed to new entrants; Tier 1 General and Tier 1 Post-Study. This fall was partially offset by increases in the entrepreneur and (Tier 2) skilled workers categories. There were also increases for family-related grants (12,539, notably in the new Family Life (10-year) category), Other grants (+17,486, mainly discretionary) and study grants (+1,747).

Looking at the data in terms of individuals' previous category, 6,238 former students were granted extensions for work in 2013 (main applicants) compared with 38,505 for 2012. This large fall reflected the closure of the Tier 1 Post Study category in 2012.

EEA

In the 9 months since the accession of Croatia on 1 July 2013, 416 applications were received from Croatians for either authorisation to work or for a registration certificate confirming that the applicant is exercising a right to reside in the UK.

The SAWS and SBS closed at the end of 2013, when restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals ended. These arrangements have not been open to Croatian nationals.

Settlement

There were 5% fewer (-7,023) grants of permission to stay permanently (settlement), falling to 131,998 in the year ending March 2014. The 7,023 decrease was accounted for by falls in work-related (-9,350) and family grants (-6,685) partly offset by increases in asylum-related (+1,798) and other grants (+7,214).

Detention

The number of people entering detention in the year ending March 2014 increased to 30,113, up 5% on the previous year (28,733). There was a continuing decline in the proportion of detainees being removed to 56% in the year ending March 2014 compared with 60% in the previous 12 months. There was an increase in the proportion of detainees granted temporary admission or release from 33% to 37%.

As at the end of March 2014, 2,991 people were in detention, 5% higher than the number recorded at the end of March 2013 (2,853).

In the first quarter of 2014, 19 children entered detention in immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation, which, together with the figure for the first quarter of 2011, is the lowest since the series began in 2009.

Removals and Voluntary Departures

The number of enforced removals from the UK fell by 12% (-1,662), to 12,621 in the year ending March 2014. This was the lowest figure since the series began in 2004.

However, there was a much larger increase of 25% (+7,344) in total voluntary departures, to 37,227 in the year ending March 2014. Over the same period the number of passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed also increased by 3% (+432) to 14,265.

Further and more detailed analysis can be found in the Immigration Statistics, January - March 2014.

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, January - March 2014* 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 March 2014*

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.