



Statistical News Release: Immigration Statistics

Immigration Statistics, October – December 2014

26 February 2015

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

Key points from the latest release

Work

In 2014, there were 8% more work-related visas granted (up 12,442 to 167,202), largely accounted for by 13% higher skilled work grants (+10,743) and 87% higher grants of investor visas (+1,397). There was a 14% increase in skilled work visa applications (to 54,571 in 2014, main applicants), with most of the applications sponsored by the Information and Communication (23,151), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (10,439), and Financial and Insurance Activities (6,529) sectors.

Study

Study-related visas (excluding student visitors) granted rose slightly to 220,116 in 2014 (+0.7%, +1,491), with university sponsored applications stable (+0.3%) and 10% fewer applications from the further education sector. There were higher numbers of study visas granted (excluding student visitors) for Chinese (+2,070 or +3%) and Saudi Arabian (+1,084; +12%) nationals, and falls for Indian (-999; -7%) and Nigerian (-1,521; -13%) nationals.

Study-related grants of extensions fell by over a third (-35%; -40,641) to 76,439 in 2014 which may reflect the introduction of the "genuineness" test, announced on 6 September 2013. Sponsored applications for extensions (main applicants) fell 32% (-34,992) to 73,037, largely accounted for falls in the further education (-18,520 or -56%) and university (-13,430 or -19%) sectors.

Family

There were 5% more family visas granted in 2014 (+1,805 to 34,967), accounted for by an increase in partner visas (+10%; +2,444) and 24% fewer children (-931). 32% of family visas decisions in 2014 were refusals, up from 2013 (29%).

There was also a 2% increase in the number of visas granted to all other dependants (excluding visitor visas) joining or accompanying migrants in the UK (+1,538 to 78,159) and 9% increase in EEA family permits granted to non-EU nationals (+2,109 to 25,002).

Family-related grants to stay permanently fell by nearly half (-45%) to 32,604, continuing the overall downward trend since 2010 (69,228). There were notable decreases in grants to wives (from 33,844 to 18,690) and to husbands (from 16,652 to 9,539).

Asylum

There were 24,914 asylum applications in 2014, an increase of 6% compared with 2013 (23,584) but still much lower than the peak number of applications in 2002 (84,132).

In 2014, the largest number of applications for asylum came from nationals of Eritrea (3,239), followed by Pakistan (2,711). Grants rates for asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or other grants of stay vary between nationalities. For example, 87% of the total decisions made for nationals of Eritrea were grants, compared with 20% for Pakistani nationals.

At the end of 2014, 22,974 of the applications for asylum received since April 2006 from main applicants were pending a decision (initial decision, appeal or further review). This was 34% more than at the end of 2013 (17,180), reflecting a decrease in staffing levels following a restructure initiated by the UK Border Agency. Since January 2014, the Home Office has taken steps to reallocate resources to this area.

The UK had the fifth highest number of asylum applications within the EU in 2014 (fourth in 2013). In 2014, Germany, Sweden, France and Italy had more asylum applicants than the UK.

Visitors

The number of visitor visas granted remained broadly flat (-0.3%) for 2014 at around 1.9 million, after excluding Omani, Qatari and United Arab Emirates (UAE) nationals, who were able to visit the UK without a visa from 1 January 2014, following the introduction of the Electronic Visa Waiver scheme. Including these nationals, the number of visitor visas granted fell by 3%.

The largest increases in visitor visa grants were for Chinese (+12%; +35,537, excluding Hong Kong), Philippine (+37%; +8,991) and Venezuelan (+1,757%; +6,942) nationals. The large percentage increase for Venezuelan nationals reflects changes from 5 May 2014, requiring all Venezuelan nationals to apply for a visa. Excluding Omani, Qatari and UAE nationals, the largest decreases were for Russian (-14%; -28,421) and South African (-9% or -7,933) nationals.

The latest data on non-EEA visitors arriving at the UK border, including those who do not need a visa, showed a 9% increase (0.7 million) to 8.8 million for the year ending June 2014, compared with the year ending June 2013.

Other points to note

Admissions and refusals at port

The total number of journeys increased by 5.7 million (+5%) to 117.0 million in 2014. The increase was accounted for by 5.2 million more journeys by British, other EEA and Swiss nationals (totalling 102.5 million) and 0.5 million more journeys by non-EEA nationals (14.5 million).

The number of passengers refused entry at port rose by 11% to 18,038 in 2014 compared with 2013 (16,292).

Student visitors

The number of student visitor visas granted fell by 5% (-3,976) to 73,625, after previously doubling from 37,703 in 2009 to 77,601 in 2013. Student visitor visas are granted for short-term study (up to 6 months or 11 months for English Language courses) and cannot be extended.

Extensions

There were 23% fewer (-69,963) grants of extensions, falling to 236,572 grants, accounted for by 28% fewer work-related grants (-33,907), 35% fewer study-related grants of extensions (-40,641) and partially offset by 29% more grants (+7,659) for other reasons (mainly an increase in discretionary leave). The -33,907 fall in work-related extensions was mainly accounted for by 32,055 fewer Tier 1 General grants (as this category has been closed to new entrants).

Permission to stay permanently (settlement)

There was a fall of a third (-33%; -51,542) in grants of permission to stay permanently, to 103,147 in 2014, the lowest figure since 1999 (97,115). This drop was accounted for by falls in family-related (-27,045), work-related (-20,499) and asylum-related grants (-4,075).

Detention

The number of people entering detention in 2014 fell slightly to 30,365 from 30,418 in 2013. Over the same period there was a fall of 1% in those leaving detention (from 30,030 to 29,655).

There was a continuing decline in the proportion of detainees being removed on leaving detention from a high of 64% in 2010 to 53% in 2014. Conversely, there was an increase in the proportion of detainees granted temporary admission or release, from 28% to 38% over the same period.

As at the end of December 2014, 3,462 people were in detention, 24% higher than the number recorded at the end of December 2013 (2,796). This increase may, in part, be accounted for by the opening in September 2014 of The Verne IRC as some detainees may have transferred from being held in prison establishments.

In 2014, 99 children entered detention. This was a 91% fall, and the lowest level since the beginning of the data series in 2009 (1,119).

Removals and Voluntary Departures

Enforced removals from the UK fell by 6% from 13,311 in 2013 to 12,460 in 2014.

The number of **passengers refused entry at port and who subsequently departed** increased by 11% in 2014, to 15,943 from 14,396 for the previous year. However, the long-term trends show levels decreasing since 2004.

In 2014, there were 24,001 **voluntary departures**. Due to the retrospective nature of data-matching exercises that are undertaken in counting for some voluntary departures, this figure is particularly subject to upward revision as matching checks are made on travellers after departure.

Further, more detailed, analysis can be found below.

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

Notes to editors

1. *Immigration Statistics, October - December 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 September 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.