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Coverage: Great Britain  
Theme: Labour Market

## National Insurance Number allocations to overseas nationals entering the UK (previously migrant workers statistics)

### Introduction

The annual statistics on National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations to overseas (non-UK) nationals entering the UK are released today. The statistics are available via a report on the DWP website (address below):

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino\\_allocations.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp)

The tables in this year's publication are broken down by both the year of arrival into the UK and year of NINo registration. The statistics in previous years were only broken down by year of arrival. The registrations figures include registrations in 2004/05, whereas the arrivals series only covers tax years up to 2003/04. This is because it may take several months (or even years in some cases) between arrival and NINo application, then registration e.g. where the overseas national undertakes a course of study before going into employment.

### Key Findings

#### Arrivals:

- The total number of arrivals into the UK in 2003/04 - and who were registered on the National Insurance Recording System by 25<sup>th</sup> June 2005 - was 306 thousand. This series has risen gradually since total arrivals in 2000/01 of 274 thousand;
- Arrivals figures for all years, but especially 2003/04, will rise in future as other people already resident in the UK apply for and are allocated a NINo;
- The proportion of arrivals claiming an out-of-work benefit within 6 months of NINo registration fell from 11% to 6% comparing 2002/03 arrivals with 2003/04.

#### Registrations:

- Total NINo registrations have increased by 69 thousand, from 371 to 440 thousand between 2003/04 and 2004/05;
- Registrations to Accession nationals increased from 20 to 111 thousand over the same period, with Poland as the largest country represented (57% of total registrations from Accession nationals in 2004/05);
- Registrations in respect of non-Accession nationals fell by 22 thousand (6%).

#### Arrivals claiming out-of-work benefits

Of the 306 thousand total arrivals into the UK in 2003/04, 17 thousand (6%) were claiming an out-of-work benefit - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Income Support (IS) -within 6 months of NINo registration.

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This represents a sharp fall on the three previous years, when between 11 and 12% of arrivals claimed an out-of-work benefit within 6 months of NINo registration.

Of the 17 thousand 2003/04 arrivals going onto out-of-work benefits, almost 13 thousand were actively seeking work (receiving JSA), whilst over 4 thousand were not obliged to be actively seeking work (receiving IB or IS). This compares with about 4.6 million total out-of-work benefit claimants in Great Britain over the same period (13% of the total working age population).

### Registrations to Nationals of the EU Accession Countries

The total number of NINo registrations to overseas nationals in 2004/05 was 440 thousand, an increase of 69 thousand (19%) on a year earlier. Registrations to nationals from the EU Accession countries increased by 91 thousand between 2003/04 and 2004/05: from 20 thousand to 111 thousand. Registrations to non-Accession nationals fell by 22 thousand between 2003/04 and 2004/05.

### Region of Residence

London remained the most likely destination for migrants over the period covered by the statistics, although the proportion residing in London is decreasing slightly. 39% of registrations in 2004/05 were made to migrants living in the London Government Office Region, down from 43% in 2002/03. The proportion of registrations made to migrants living in the South East rose from 11 to 12% between 2002/03 and 2004/05. The next most likely destinations in respect of 2004/05 registrations were the East of England (8%) and North West (7%).

### Background: Difference between the Arrivals and Registrations Series

The table below shows the difference between the arrivals and registrations series:

		<i>Thousands</i>						
		Year of arrival						
All		Pre 6/4/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	Post 5/4/04	
Year of registration	<b>All</b>	n/a	<b>274</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>306</b>	n/a	
	Unknown	n/a	4	3	3	3	n/a	
	00/01	n/a	104	-	-	-	-	
	01/02	n/a	83	66	-	-	-	
	02/03	<b>349</b>	36	47	147	119	-	
	03/04	<b>371</b>	24	21	42	139	144	
	04/05	<b>440</b>	13	13	17	38	146	
	Post 5/4/05	n/a	2	3	6	14	n/a	

*Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording System at 25<sup>th</sup> June 2005*

*Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and may not sum due to rounding.*

*Arrivals figures subject to change as some migrants may take several months or years between arrival and NINo application/registration.*

*n/a denotes not available on a consistent basis.  
'-' denotes nil or negligible.*

### **Notes to editors**

These statistics have been produced using 100% sample data from the National Insurance Recording System. The data cover all overseas nationals allocated a NINo, whatever the reason for the allocation and whatever the length of stay in the UK. The data do not show when overseas nationals subsequently depart the UK, nor show lengths of stay in the UK. The figures therefore give a measure of the in-flow of overseas nationals (excluding those who do not register for a NINo such as tourists), but not out-flow or overall stock of overseas nationals in the UK. Series derived from the International Passenger Survey and Census give a measure of these aspects.

The full version of the report in adobe acrobat format is on the DWP website at:

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino\\_allocations.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp)

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