

MIGRANTS IN THE UK

A descriptive analysis of their characteristics and labour market performance, based on the Labour Force Survey

by Russel Haque
Department for Work & Pensions

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Acknowledgements

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Any inaccuracies or mistakes in the report, however, are the author's responsibility.

Any opinions expressed in this report are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department for Work & Pensions or any other Government Department.

Technical Note: Changes to the Labour Force Survey estimates

The data presented in this report are those that were available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in the summer and autumn of 2002. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has since released revised estimates of headline figures from the LFS, in the light of revised population estimates following the 2001 Census. The 2001 Census shows that the UK population is actually smaller than had been expected on the basis of previous population projections, on which the LFS data in this report is based. This affects data relating to all periods back to spring 1992. Hence some of the headline figures in this report, such as population numbers, are unlikely to be consistent with other headline figures released by ONS. Revised data at more detailed levels, based on the new population estimates, are unavailable as yet. The ONS plan to release these in summer 2003.

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This report brings together a range of statistics and evidence from the UK Labour Force Survey, in order to shed light on the key issues surrounding the migrant population in the UK in 2001. The data allows us to look at detailed characteristics of the migrant population (defined as those who are foreign-born), how they compare to the UK-born population (Part 2), and to link this with a number of indicators on labour market performance (Part 3).

1.1 Summary of findings

The foreign-born population comprise an important part of UK society and labour market and we are, therefore, interested in their characteristics and behaviour. The analysis in this report clearly shows that the foreign-born population in the UK is not a single homogeneous group. It comprises many different groups and individuals, with different histories, backgrounds and characteristics. Their experiences in the labour market also vary considerably, with some groups enjoying more success than others.

Characteristics of the migrant and UK-born population

Part 2 of the report shows that migrants represent a significant and growing minority in the UK. Currently, 3.6 million people of working age are foreign-born, representing about 10% of the working age population (or 4.8 million people of all ages – about 8% of the total population). They also represent a diverse group, coming from a wide range of countries from very different parts of the world. Many are from other industrialised countries (both English speaking and non-English speaking backgrounds), while others come from less developed countries.

Once in the UK, migrants tend to be concentrated heavily in London and the South of England, though there are many in other parts of the UK. Migrants tend to be of working age, and particularly concentrated in the ages of 25 – 49. Among those of working age, about half of the foreign-born are female (49%), similar to that of the UK-born (47%).

They are also concentrated at both the low and high end of the skill distribution¹. The foreign-born are at the same time more likely to have degree level qualifications, compared to the UK-born, and also more likely to be without any qualifications. There are also a large number of migrants who have unnamed (or unrecognised) qualifications.

The labour market performance of migrants and the UK-born

Part 3 of the report shows that migrants generally fair worse than the UK-born in terms of participating in the labour market and finding work. The employment rate among migrants is around 64%, compared to around 75% for the UK-born.

But there are substantial variations in labour market experience as well. Generally, those from other industrialised countries tend to do better than those from poorer countries. However, even among those from industrialised countries, the chances of finding work are evidently better for those with English speaking backgrounds.

¹ The indicator for skill level is proxied by a measure of the highest educational qualification obtained. These qualifications may have been obtained in the UK or in another country.

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This employment disadvantage for migrants exists consistently at all skill levels. Both the highly skilled and low skilled migrants have difficulty competing for jobs with their UK-born counterparts.

Those migrants who do find work tend to earn significantly more on average than the UK-born. Average gross weekly earnings among migrants is £403, compared to £338 among the UK-born. This is true, to a greater or lesser extent, at virtually all skill levels.

Many among the foreign-born are also self-employed, indeed more so than the UK-born. Generally, but not strictly, those coming from less developed countries are more likely to be in self-employment, while those from western countries are closer to the UK-born in this respect.

1.2 Data issues

Key definitions underlying the analysis

We have defined migrants as those who are foreign-born (that is, born outside the UK) and compared them with those who are UK-born. As noted in part 1, about half of those who are foreign-born have UK nationality. But regardless of whether or not they are UK citizens, most of these people share cultural ties with others of similar background, and face the same issues and barriers and with regard to integration in the labour market. Hence it would be inaccurate and misleading to define migrants as non-UK nationals. Furthermore, country of birth is a more appropriate indicator when comparing cross-country evidence, as immigration policy, and the ease with which citizenship is obtained, varies greatly between countries.

Also, this report doesn't specifically look at ethnic minorities, who form a distinct (though overlapping) group with migrants. As noted in part 1, many migrants are from white backgrounds, while there are many ethnic minorities in the UK who are not foreign-born.

Limitations, coverage and sample size

The data presented in this report is drawn from the quarterly UK Labour Force Survey (LFS). The survey samples around 60,000 households, but excludes the majority of communal establishments. This means that some asylum seekers, for example, may not be picked-up in the sample if they are living in asylum centres, say. This is likely to result in an underestimate of the migrant population, and comparisons with the UK-born population or between migrant groups may be subject to some error.

In any event, the LFS is unable to identify migrants by route of entry. That is, distinguish between those who have entered the UK for economic reasons, through specific entry routes, family reunification reasons or for asylum. It does allow us, however, to look at migrants by country of birth. For ease of presentation and due to sample size constraints, we have grouped migrants by broad country areas such Australasia, Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

We have been unable to conduct any analysis on household structure or on benefit claims. Both these are permitted by the LFS, but complexities in the way this information can be accessed and organised has proved too difficult to overcome in the available time.

The data relates to the year 2001 (averaged over the four quarters), unless indicated otherwise. Sections 2.1, 2.3 – 2.5 and 2.8 report on the population of all ages, while all other sections report specifically on the population of working age (16 – 59 for women

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and 16 – 64 for men). Annex A provides background on some of the key LFS variables from which the analysis is derived. Annex B and C (corresponding to parts 2 and 3 of the report, respectively) provide detailed tables of data used in the analysis.

The sample sizes involved are often quite small, which has restricted some of the analysis in parts. In some areas we have aggregated data across sample groups, and in others we have aggregated over additional years, in order to achieve sufficient statistical reliability.

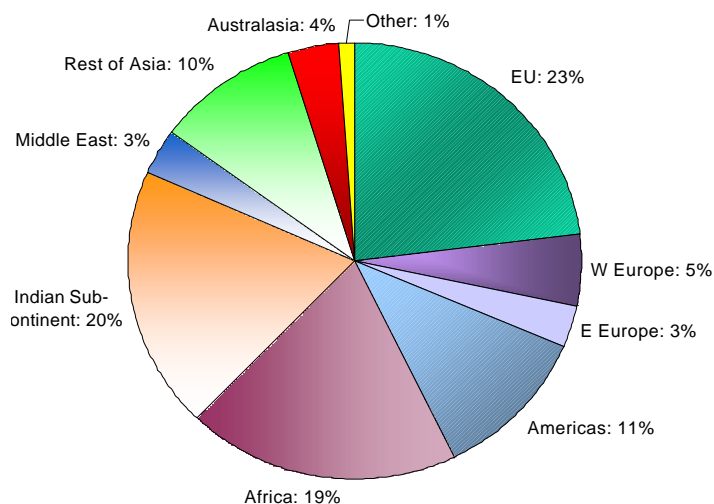
PART 2: DEMOGRAPHIC AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Population and source country composition

The stock of migrants (foreign-born population) in the UK consists of about 4.8 million people of all ages, or 3.6 million people of working age (16 – 59/64). This represents 8.0% of the total UK population for all ages, or 9.7% for working age. Both these proportions have been rising consistently since the mid-1990s, at an average rate of about a quarter percentage point per year.

The largest proportion of the migrant population were born in other countries within the European Union (23%), followed by those from the Indian sub-continent (20%) and Africa (19%). Relatively few come from the Middle East (3%), Eastern Europe (3%) and Australasia (4%).

CHART 1: THE ORIGIN OF MIGRANTS IN THE UK



Stock of working age foreign born population in 2001, by country of birth

Over the last 10 years or so, however, there have been some changes in the make-up of the migrant population by country of birth. Those from the EU have remained the largest group while those from the Indian sub-continent have been falling as a proportion and those from Africa have been increasing. Those from Eastern Europe, although still representing a small proportion of migrants, have seen the fastest increase since 1993.

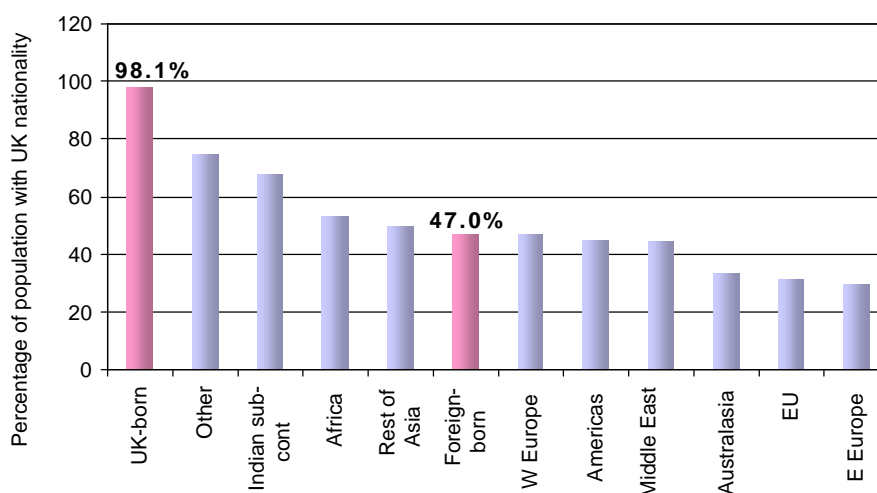
2.2 Gender

Among those of working age, about half of the foreign-born are female (49%), similar to that of the UK-born (47%). However, amongst those from Eastern Europe and the Americas women are more strongly represented (57% and 55% respectively), while among those from the Middle East women are underrepresented (36%).

2.3 Nationality

Almost half of those born outside the UK (of all ages) have UK nationality (47%), compared to almost all of those born in the UK (98%). Those from the Indian sub-continent tend to obtain UK nationality (68%) more than others, while those from Eastern Europe, the EU and Australasia tend to keep their original nationality, with around a third holding UK nationality.

CHART 2: NATIONALITY



2.4 Geography within the UK

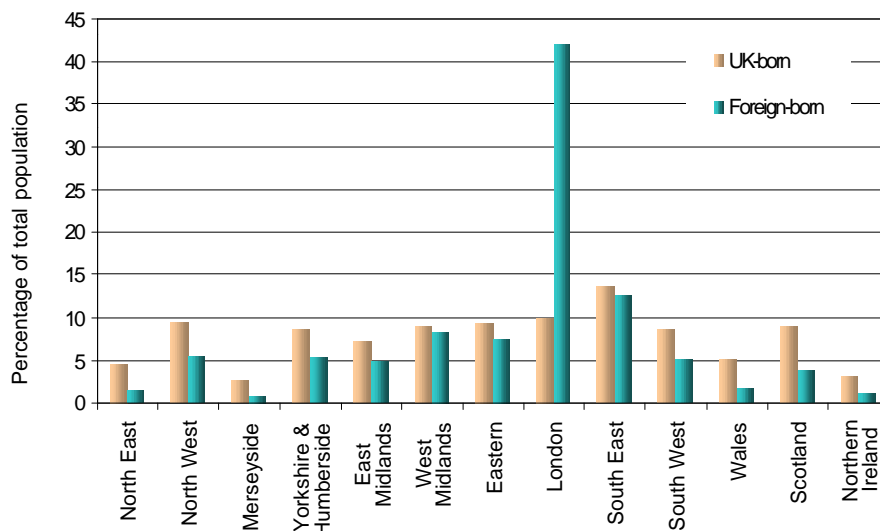
Migrants are much more concentrated in London, compared to the UK-born population, though less concentrated in the rest of the South of England. They are a little under-represented in comparison in the Midlands and Eastern regions, and very under-represented in the North of England and in Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland².

Over half of all migrants (60%) live in the south of England, with 42% living in London in particular. This compares to 32% of the UK-born population living in the South and 10% in London. Many of the migrant groups are even more heavily concentrated in the South, with the exception of those from the EU (54%) and the Indian sub-continent (47%). The latter group are also concentrated in London specifically (37%), though again more so than the UK-born population but less so than many other migrant groups.

About 26% of the population in London is foreign-born, with those from the EU (5.2% of the total population in London), Africa (5.8%) and the Indian sub-continent (4.4%) forming the largest groups.

² Data for Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland (throughout the report) has been aggregated into a single group due to the small sample sizes in each of the three regions.

CHART 3: REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS



2.5 Age profile and dependency

There are fewer children among the foreign-born, compared to the UK-born. 8% of the total foreign-born are aged 0 –15, compared to 22% among the UK-born³. The foreign-born are concentrated more in working age, particularly 25 – 49 (51% compared to 36%), but with a very similar proportion of older aged people, over 50s and over state pension age (around 15%).

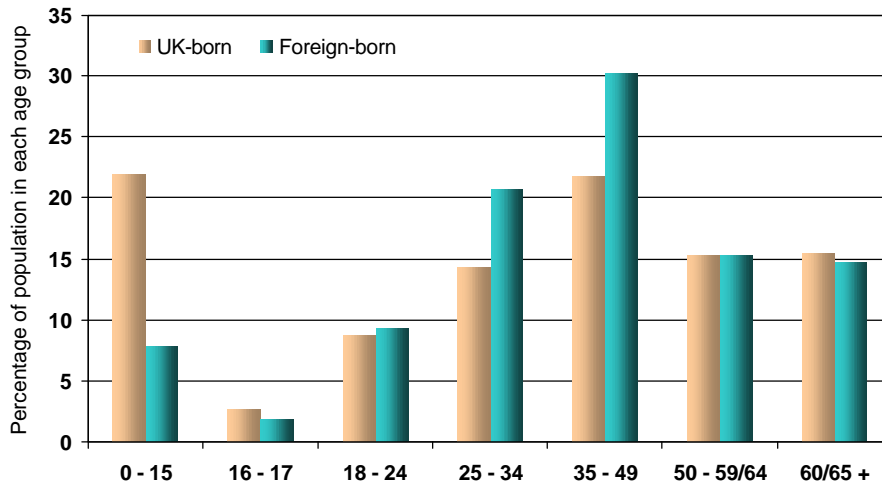
The relatively small number of young people among the foreign-born is also consistent across all groups by country of birth. Among those from the EU, and particularly from Eastern Europe there is a much greater concentration in older age groups (i.e. over 50s). On the other hand there are relatively few people over state retirement age among those from Africa, Rest of Asia, Australasia and particularly few from the Middle East. Those from Australasia are highly concentrated in the 25 – 34 age group – 37%, compared to 21% for all foreign-born and 14% for the UK-born.

A key interest is in the size of the economically dependent population (those aged under 16 years and those above State Pension Age) relative to the working age population. Furthermore, although the foreign-born population consists of fewer children, they will no doubt have children who are themselves UK-born. This causes some complications with the analysis, so we have instead looked at two indicators, which exclude children: the pensioner dependency rate, defined as the number of people over State Pension Age as a proportion of the working age (16 – SPA); and the old age dependency rate, defined as the number of people aged over 50 as a proportion of those aged 16 – 49.

³ Note that this analysis considers only the birthplace of the children themselves. An alternative is to consider children of foreign or UK-born parents. The LFS permits household level analysis of this type, but due to complexities of the data we have been unable to include it in the report.

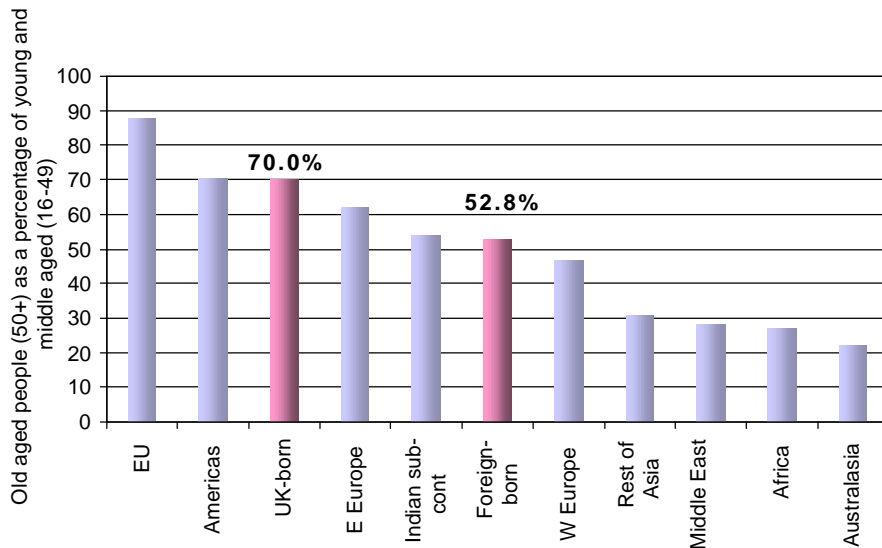
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CHART 4: AGE PROFILES



The migrant population overall has a lower pensioner dependency rate (23%) compared to the UK-born (29%). But notably, it has been particularly high among migrants from Eastern Europe – dependents (those aged over SPA) significantly outnumbering the working age in the early and mid-90s. Although this has fallen to 43% in 2001 it is still the highest of all groups. More specifically, males tend to have a much higher dependency rate among Eastern Europeans than females.

CHART 5: OLD AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO



The difference between the UK and foreign-born is more striking when we look at the old age dependency rate – with the UK-born at 70% and migrants at 53%. Among the foreign-born, there is also wide variation by country of origin – with those from other developed countries closer to the UK. Migrants from less developed countries have much

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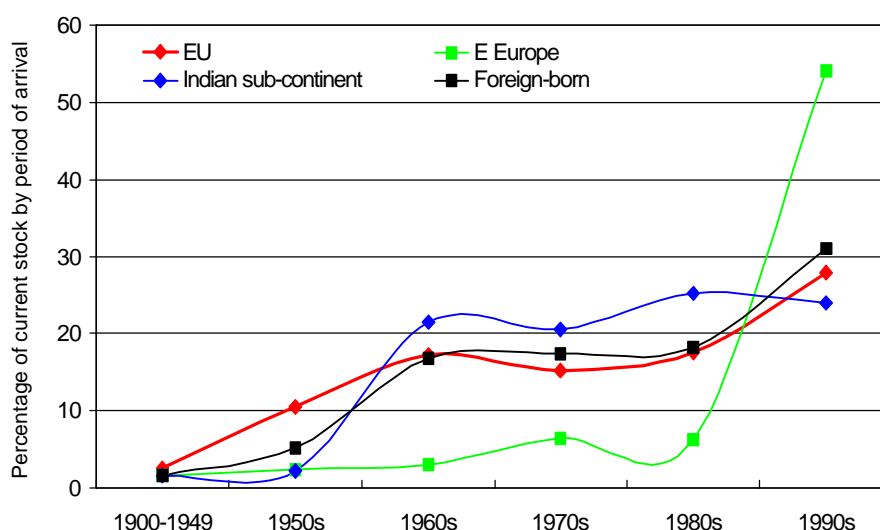
lower dependency rates, although Australasians are the only exception, with one of the lowest.

Dependency is generally higher for females than males. Among the UK-born the old age dependency rate is 64% for males and 77% for females. Among the foreign-born, it is 49% for males and 57% for females.

2.6 Time of arrival in the UK

The largest proportion of migrants currently in the UK arrived in the 1990s – 31%⁴. Indeed, given that a certain proportion of migrants leave the UK and other sources indicating an increase in migrant inflows in the 1990s, we would expect that a greater proportion of the current stock would have arrived in more recent periods. However, this is not a consistent trend, as large proportions who arrived in the 1960s and 70s reflect significant immigration waves during these periods. The exception to this is the group from Eastern Europe, which shows a much larger proportion having arrived in the 90s – this is the fastest expanding group, as we noted earlier.

CHART 6: TIME OF ARRIVAL IN THE UK



2.7 Educational qualifications

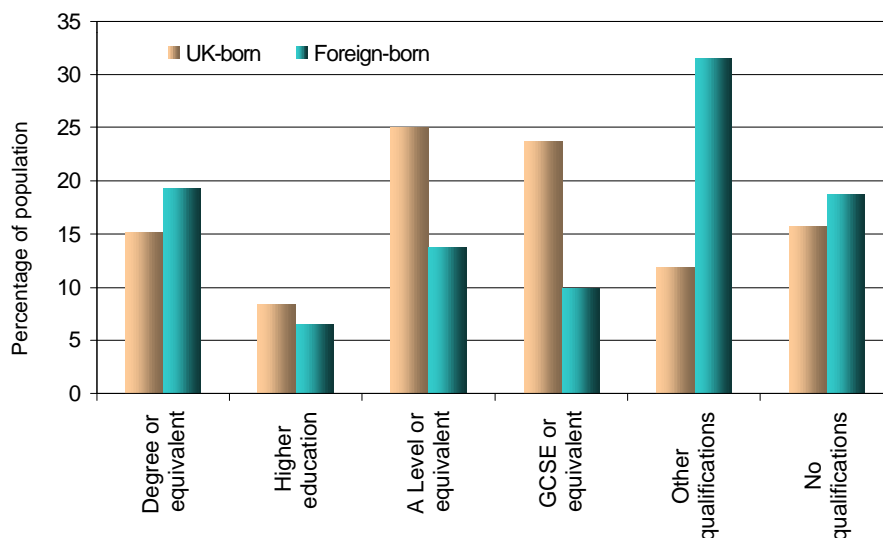
The foreign-born are more likely to be highly qualified, with 19% of working age people holding degrees, compared to 15% among the UK-born. However, a greater proportion among the foreign-born also have no qualifications (19% compared to 16%), while fewer among the foreign-born also have intermediate levels of qualifications such as GCSEs or A levels.

⁴ This refers to the year of arrival of those who are foreign-born and who are currently in the UK, in 2001.

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Notably also, a much greater proportion among the foreign-born have Other (or unnamed) qualifications⁵ (32% compared to 12% among the UK-born). It appears that there are a large number of migrants who may have GCSE or A Level standard qualifications but, because their qualifications are from abroad and may not be easily comparable to the UK system, they are consequently not being recognised. Given the difficulty in identifying and comparing foreign qualifications in a survey such as the LFS, it may be difficult for employers to do so as well when recruiting.

CHART 7: QUALIFICATION LEVELS



Among migrants, those from the Middle East (29%), Australasia (26%), Africa (24%) and the Americas (22%) are more likely to have degrees. Those from the Indian sub-continent (13%) and from Europe (non-EU) – between 12 and 14% – tend to have the least. The incidence of no qualifications is by far the highest among those from the Indian sub-continent (37%) and Western Europe (29%), and also among those from the EU (16%). It is the least among those from Australasia⁶.

Generally, it is those groups from largely English speaking parts of the world who tend to be more qualified, with the exception of the Middle East and Africa. But those from industrialised countries are not necessarily more qualified. This could reflect partly a lack of comparability of qualifications with non-English speaking countries.

Women are generally less well qualified compared to men, among migrants as among the UK-born. 17% of migrant women have a degree, compared to 21% of migrant men (a difference of 3.6 percentage points). Considering only degree qualifications, women compare less favourably to men, among the foreign-born than among the UK-born. However, even foreign-born women are more likely to hold degrees compared to UK-born men. Furthermore, the difference between women (foreign and UK-born) is smaller than the difference between men.

⁵ The data presented is for “Other qualifications”, which includes named and unnamed qualifications. More detailed analysis (not presented) shows that the vast majority of Other qualifications among the foreign-born and unnamed, while this is not the case among the UK-born.

⁶ Figure not reported due to insufficient sample size.

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The overall pattern is that migrants, compared to the UK-born, are more polarised in terms of qualification levels. That is, although they are highly likely to hold degree qualifications, they are also highly likely to have no qualifications at all. This pattern is true at different ages as well. However, migrants seem more likely, compared to the UK-born, to hold Other (or unnamed) qualifications at the younger age groups (16-24 and 25-49), and they are less likely to be without qualifications among older people. Indeed, migrants aged over 50 are either equally likely or even less likely (among those over State Pension Age) to hold no qualifications.

Younger people are generally more qualified, for both UK and foreign-born. Though Other (or unnamed) qualifications, which is evenly distributed across the age groups for the UK-born, is skewed towards young people among the foreign-born.

Looking at the population by geography, the pattern across qualifications varies. In the North, migrants are even more likely to have degrees compared to the UK-born, and less disadvantaged in terms of intermediate level qualifications. But they are also much more likely (than the national picture) to have no qualifications at all. In the Midlands and the East, are not as advantaged in terms of degrees (from the national picture) though are even more disadvantaged in terms of A-Level equivalents and even more likely to have no qualifications.

In London and the South, migrants are also not as advantaged in terms of degrees. Indeed, in London the reverse is true – that is, the UK-born are more likely to have degrees compared to migrants, and the difference is large. Also in London, the gap in terms of unnamed qualifications is even wider than the national picture.

In Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland, the gap in terms of both degrees and no qualifications is wider than in England, but the gap for intermediate levels and unnamed qualifications is narrower.

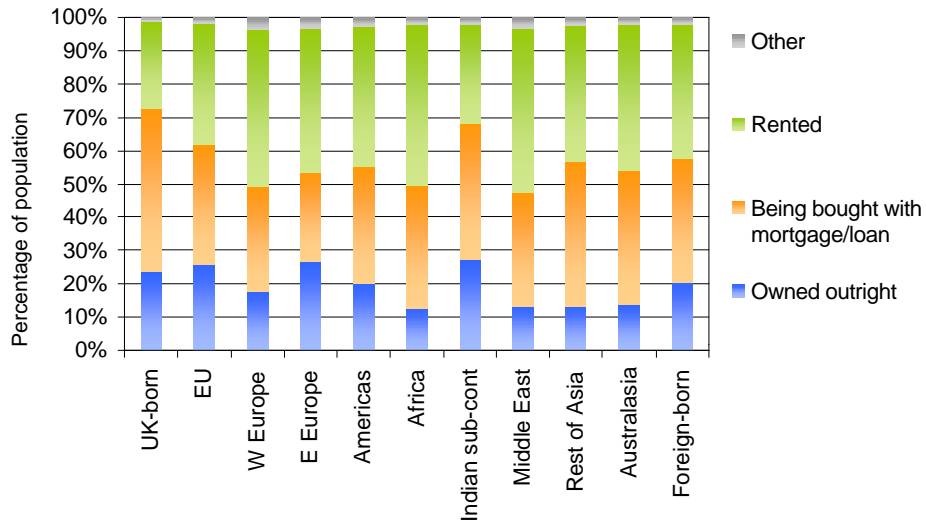
2.8 Home ownership and accommodation

The foreign-born are less likely to own a house or a mortgage, compared to the UK-born, although the difference is only marginal for owning outright. Around 49% of the UK-born are buying their house using a mortgage, compared with 37% among the foreign-born. The foreign-born are generally more likely to be living in rented accommodation (40% compared to 26%).

Those from the Indian sub-continent are the most likely to own their home outright (27%) and one of the most likely to own a mortgage (40%) and the least likely to be renting (30%). Those from Eastern Europe are also very likely to own their home (26%) though relatively less likely to have a mortgage (27%). Those from the Rest of Asia on the other hand are relatively less likely to own their home outright (13%) but more likely (indeed most likely) to have a mortgage (43%).

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CHART 8: ACCOMMODATION AND HOME OWNERSHIP



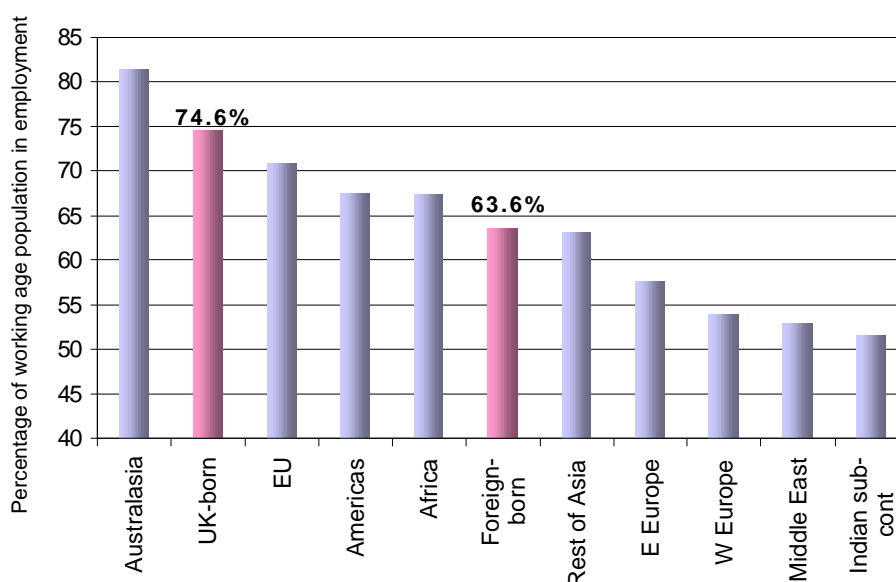
PART 3: LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

3.1 Employment

Around 75% (22.7 million people) of the working age UK-born population are in employment, compared to an employment rate of around 64% (1.8 million people) among migrants of working age. This represents a gap of about 11 percentage points.

There is, however, a wide variation in employment rates by country of origin. Generally, those from English speaking or other industrialised countries do better, indeed those from Australasia have an employment rate (82%) that is considerably higher than that of the UK-born. The exceptions are those from (non-EU) Western European countries (54%), who along with those from Eastern Europe (58%), Middle East (53%) and the Indian sub-continent (52%) have the lowest employment rates. Another exception is the group from Africa who have a higher than average employment rate (67%).

CHART 9: EMPLOYMENT RATES



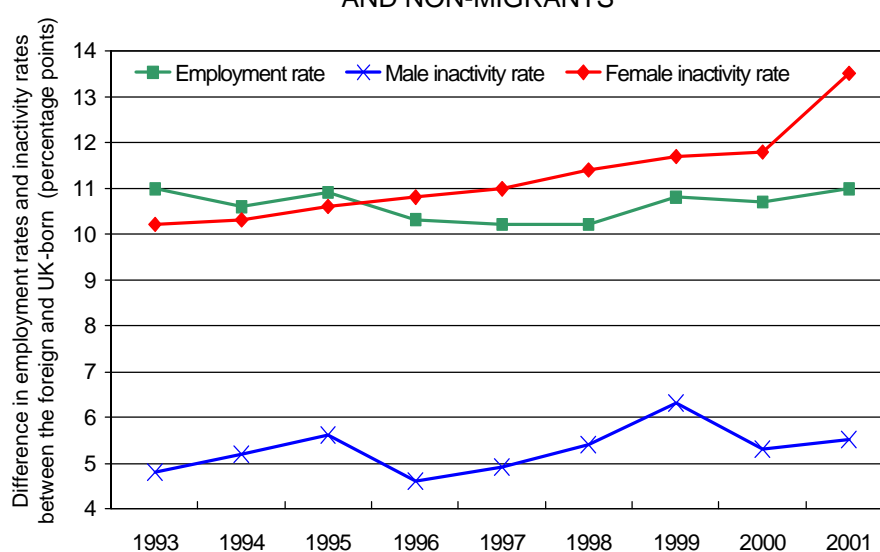
The employment rate of women (64%) is about 13 percentage points lower than that of men (77%) among the UK-born. Among the foreign-born the gap is larger, at about 16 percentage points (68% for men compared to 52% for women). It is particularly large among those from the Indian sub-continent (30 pps) and particularly small among those from Eastern Europe (4 pps), Australasia (7 pps) and the EU (9 pps).

While the overall UK employment rate has been steadily on the rise since the early 90s, so too has that of the foreign-born. In fact, the gap of 11 percentage points has been virtually unchanged over this period. This suggests that the labour market performance of migrants has at least not deteriorated in comparison. However, looking at inactivity a different picture emerges.

3.2 Non-participation in the labour market

Economic inactivity⁷ is higher among migrants (31%) compared to the UK-born (22%), by about 8 percentage points, and higher among foreign-born women compared to foreign-born men, by about 23 percentage points (the difference between UK-born men and women is about 18 percentage points). Inactivity is particularly high among men from other Western European countries (30%), Eastern Europe (30%) and the Middle East (38%). It is also particularly high among women from other Western European Countries (52%) and the Indian sub-continent (65%). It is low among men and women from Australasia (9% and 20%, respectively) and among women from the EU (33%). This suggests that inactivity rather than employment is more of a concern among the foreign-born, particularly women⁸.

CHART 10: LABOUR MARKET COMPARISON OF MIGRANTS AND NON-MIGRANTS



The inactivity rate among UK-born women has been falling since the early 90s, but among foreign-born women has been rising a little. Hence the difference has widened from about 10.2 percentage points in 1993 to about 13.5 pps in 2001. Among men, inactivity has been rising for the UK-born while it has also been rising, but at a faster rate, for the foreign-born. Hence, the gap among men has widened a little, from 4.8% in 1993 to 5.5% in 2001.

The employment rate gap and inactivity rate gap between migrants and the UK-born is larger in most parts of England (the North and South including London) compared to the UK as a whole. However, the gaps are smaller in Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland. Migrants' employment rates are highest in these regions (67%), the South (65%, which includes London) and in the Midlands and East (66%). It is lowest in the North (59%) and in London (62%). In London, the employment rate of those born in the UK is 76%. Londoners from Australasia have the highest employment rate (86%), while the lowest

⁷ The economically inactive population consists of those who are not participating in the labour market. That is, those who are neither in employment nor unemployed (by the ILO definition). For a full definition of ILO unemployment see Labour Market Trends, *National Statistics*.

⁸ However, the definition of inactivity also includes students. It is not clear to what extent the difference in inactivity between the UK and foreign-born (and changes over time) may be due to differences in the proportion who are in education and not working or looking for work.

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employment rates are among those from other Western Europe (41%), Eastern Europe (54%) and the Indian sub-continent (53%).

3.3 Unemployment⁹

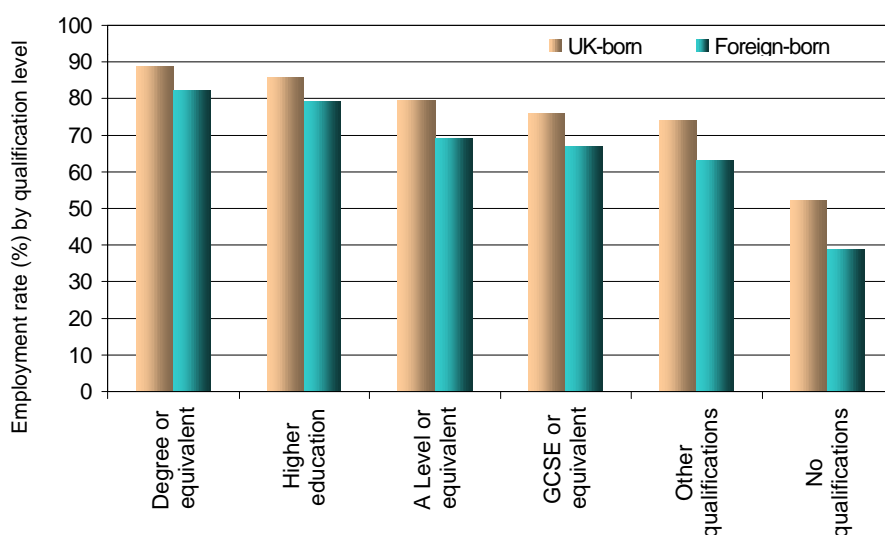
The ILO unemployment rate is also higher among migrants – 7.2%, compared to 4.9% among the UK-born. As it is lower among women than men for the UK-born (4.3% compared to 5.4%), this is also the case for migrants (6.3% among women, compared to 7.9% among men).

For both the UK-born and foreign-born, the ILO unemployment rate has fallen over the last 10 years or so. Indeed it has halved since the 1993 rates of 10.0% and 15.2%, respectively. This is also the case for males and females.

3.4 Educational qualification levels and employment

When analysing employment rates by qualifications we also find that the foreign-born have lower employment rates compared to the UK-born at all qualification levels. For example, among those who have degrees, 90% of the UK-born are in work compared to 82% of the foreign-born (a gap of 6.5 percentage points). The gap is generally larger at lower qualification levels. Among those with GCSE and Other (unnamed) qualifications, the gaps are 9.0 and 11.0 pps, respectively, while among those with no qualifications the gap is largest at 13.5 pps. Nevertheless, for both UK and foreign-born the employment rates rise with qualification levels.

CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT RATE AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



3.5 Industrial sectors and occupation type

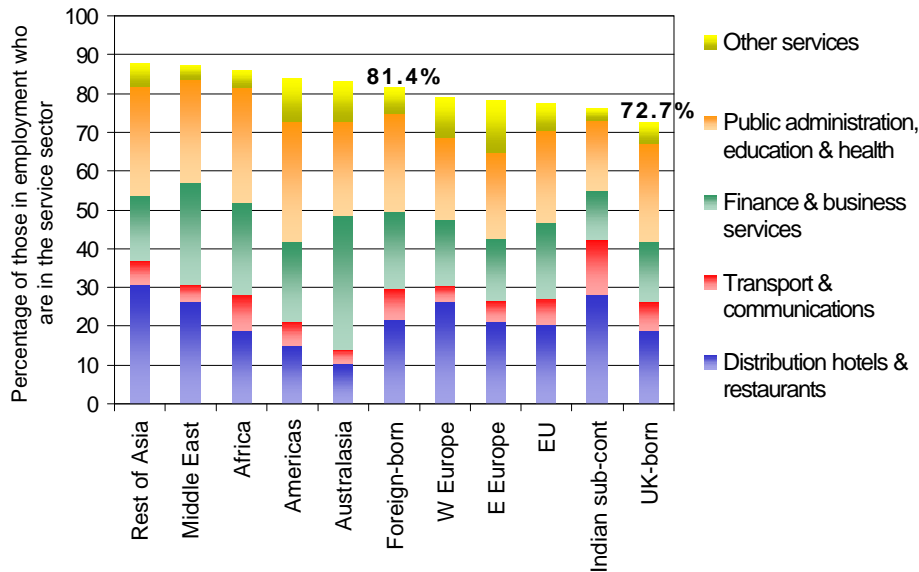
Migrants are more likely to be working in the service sector than the UK-born (81% of all in employment, compared to 73%). This is also true for all groups by country of origin. Within services, migrants are fairly similarly distributed between the various sectors,

⁹ Analysis of ILO unemployment by country of birth is not possible due to insufficient sample sizes.

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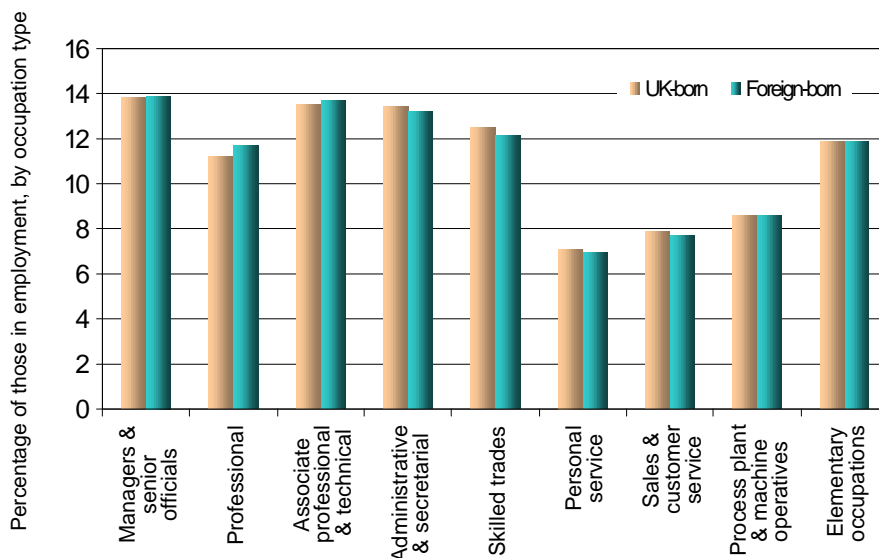
compared to the UK-born, but with some exceptions. Those from the Indian sub-continent and the Rest of Asia are more concentrated in Distribution, hotels & restaurants, while those from Australasia are more concentrated in Finance & business services. Migrants are less likely to be working in Manufacturing – 13% among migrants compared to 17% among the UK-born. They are even less likely to be working in Energy & Water (0.7% compared to 1.2%) or in Agriculture & Fishing (0.6% compared to 1.4%).

CHART 12: EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICE SECTOR INDUSTRIES



Both the UK and the foreign-born are very similarly distributed across occupations. However, the foreign-born are a little more likely to be working in managerial and professional type jobs.

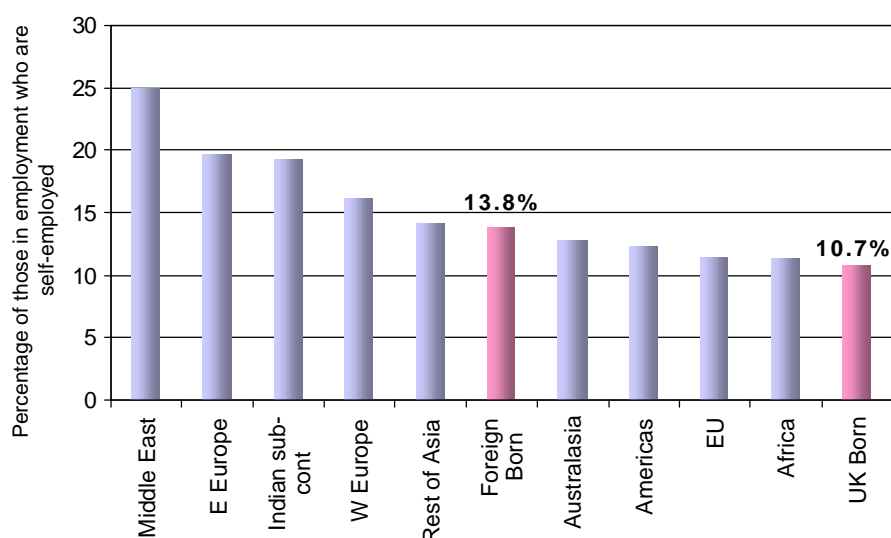
CHART 13: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION



3.6 Self-employment

Migrants are much more likely to be self-employed, compared to the UK-born. 14% of migrants in employment are self-employed compared to 11% for the UK-born. In fact, all migrant groups are more likely to be in self-employment compared to the UK-born.

CHART 14: SELF-EMPLOYMENT



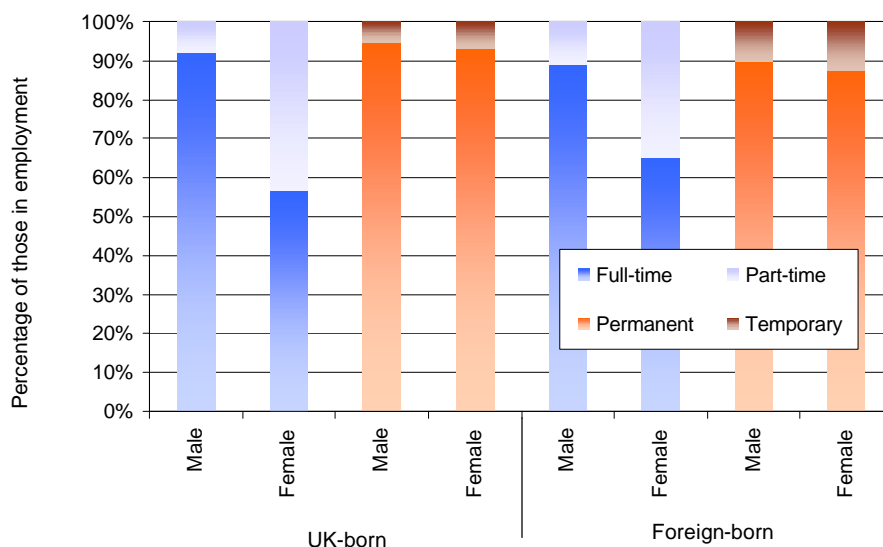
Generally, but not strictly, those coming from less developed countries are more likely to be self-employed, while those from western countries are closer to the UK-born in this respect. Migrants from the Middle East (25%), Eastern Europe (20%) and the Indian sub-continent (19%) are most likely to be in self-employment, while migrants from the Americas (12%), EU (11%), and Africa (11%) are least likely. Evidently, many groups who have the poorest labour market performance in terms of employment tend to be more in the entrepreneurial mould. This may be partly due to discrimination in the labour market, which drives people to seek alternative forms of earnings, but may also reflect cultural differences and backgrounds.

3.7 Part-time and temporary work

Among those who are employees, 92% of UK-born men work full-time, compared to 89% among foreign-born men. The difference among women is larger, however, as 57% of UK-born women work full-time, compared to 65% of foreign-born. Notable exceptions are women from Australasia, 75% of whom work full-time.

Employed migrants are almost twice as likely to be in temporary work (11.3%) compared to the UK-born (6.1%). Particularly concentrated in temporary work are those from Eastern Europe (23.7%), the Middle East (16.1%) and Australasia (15.1%). Even the least likely migrant group (those from the EU, at 9.8%) is more likely to be in temporary work than the UK-born.

CHART 15: TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT



Employed women are slightly more likely to be in temporary work compared to employed men. This is true among the UK-born (6.9% of employed women are in temporary work compared to 5.4% of men) as well as the foreign-born (12.6% compared to 10.2%).

3.8 Analysis of earnings levels

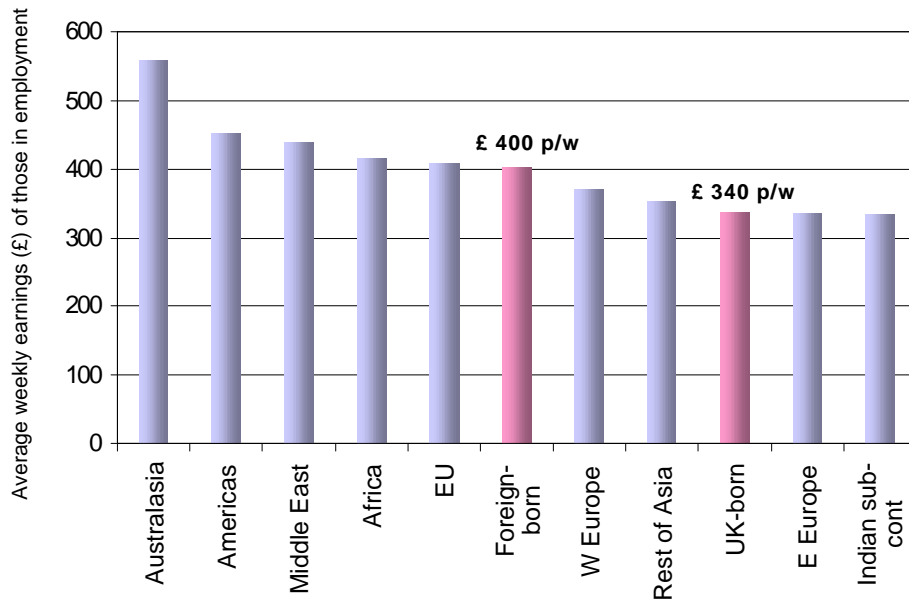
Of those who are in work, migrants on average earn more than the UK-born. Average gross weekly earnings among migrants is £403, compared to £338 among the UK-born (that is, about 19% more). Among women, migrants earn £312 per week, compared to £246 for the UK-born (a difference of 27%). Among men, migrants earn £481, compared to £419 for the UK-born (a difference of 15%).

With the exception of migrants from Eastern Europe (£336 p/w) and the Indian sub-continent (£334) all other migrant groups earn more than the UK-born. Particularly high earners are those from Australasia (£560), Americas (£450), and the Middle East (£441).

Migrants also earn more than the UK-born in all age groups. The highest earners are among those aged 35 – 49 (£457 p/w among migrants, and £385 p/w among the UK-born).

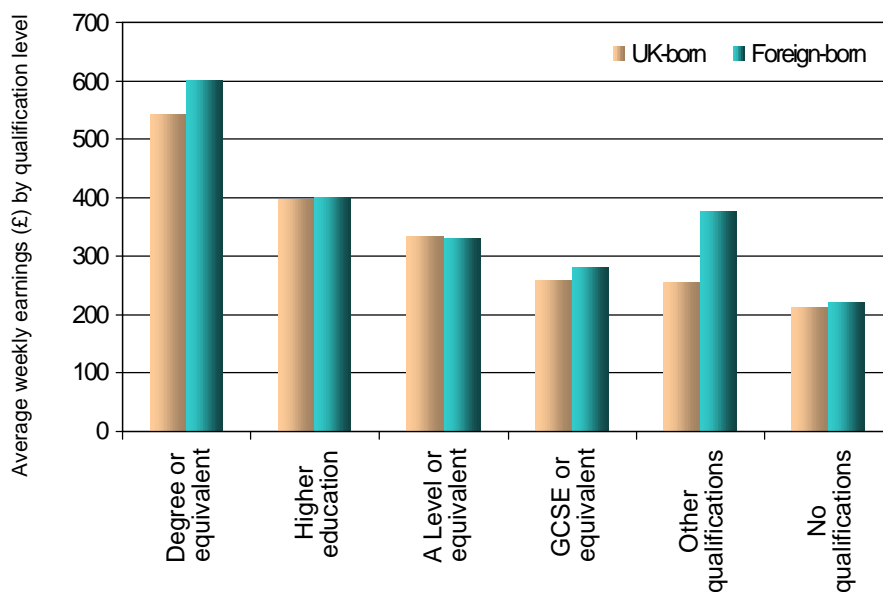
MIGRANTS IN THE UK

CHART 16: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS



Earnings at different skill levels are also higher, or at least equivalent, for migrants compared to the UK-born. At the high skill end (proxied by those with a degree qualification), migrants earn £601 per week compared to £543 p/w for the UK-born (that is, about 11% more). At lower skill levels, for instance among those with GCSE level qualifications, migrants earn £281 compared to £259 (about 8% more). The difference is even larger among those with unnamed qualifications - £378 compared with £255 (48% more).

CHART 17: EARNINGS AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



MIGRANTS IN THE UK

In all regions migrants earn more than the UK-born, except in London (£455 for migrants and £466 for UK-born) and parts of the Midlands. The difference is greatest in Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland where migrants earn £354 compared to £298 for the UK-born.

There is a large difference in weekly earnings between those working full-time and those part-time. Among migrants, full-timers earn £476 per week compared to £139 p/w for part-timers. A similar difference exists among the UK-born (£405 compared to £127). This is partly, but not entirely due to the difference in hours. Hourly earnings for migrants working full-time is £11.54, which is still higher than migrant part-timers (£7.50). Among the UK-born as well, full-timers earn more (£9.94 p/h) than part-timers (£6.82 p/h).

CHART 18: AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

