Understanding A8 migration to the UK since Accession

Emma Gillingham
Office for National Statistics

Abstract

In May 2004 ten countries joined the European Union (EU). Cyprus and Malta were already members of the Commonwealth and so their residents already had fewer restrictions on their right to enter the UK before 2004 than the other eight countries. The impact of migrants entering the UK from these remaining A8 countries – the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia – has had an effect on the UK population, particularly flows from the larger countries. This was anticipated through the setting up of the Worker Registration Scheme and has also been reflected in research carried out on the impacts of A8 migration to the UK by government departments, researchers and academics.

There are several different key data sources each with their own strengths and limitations which can help build a picture of A8 migration to and from the UK since Accession in 2004. This article aims to explore the strengths and limitations of the data sources available to analyse A8 migration, and it will discuss what these sources tell us about the demographic structure of A8 migration to the UK.
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Introduction

In May 2004 ten countries joined the European Union (EU). Cyprus and Malta were already members of the Commonwealth and so their residents already had fewer restrictions on their right to enter the UK before 2004 than the other eight countries. The impact of migrants entering the UK from these remaining A8 countries – the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia – has had an effect on the UK population, particularly flows from the larger countries. This was anticipated through the setting up of the Worker Registration Scheme and has also been reflected in research carried out on the impacts of A8 migration to the UK by government departments, researchers and academics.

In December 2009 the National Statistician’s annual demographic review\(^1\) provided an examination of the A8 population within the UK and considered the impacts of the recession on migration patterns. Building on that analysis, this article first explores the strengths and limitations of the data sources available to analyse migration to and from the UK by citizens of these eight accession countries, and how these sources may be used in combination despite their different definitions and coverage. It then goes on to discuss what these sources tell us about the demographic structure of A8 migration to the UK.

Any discussion of the distribution of migrants within the UK is beyond the scope of this article. For the purpose of this article we will refer to the UK as a whole, and no conclusions will be made at lower geographic levels.

Sources used to estimate migration

There is no single source that exists for the purpose of measuring migration. Instead the Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses surveys and administrative sources both separately and in combination to provide the best available estimates. Other government departments also publish a range of migration related data based on administrative sources. ONS uses a number of surveys which were originally designed for alternative purposes and have been developed over time to provide improved estimates of migration. These surveys can be used to identify A8 migrants based on a number of characteristics including their nationality, country of birth or citizenship.

The range of sources use different definitions to identify a migrant. Table 1 summarises the main data sources available on A8 migration and describes the differences in definition, coverage and exclusions.
Table 1  Summary of main data sources used to indicate migration of A8 citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of source</th>
<th>International Passenger Survey (IPS)</th>
<th>Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)</th>
<th>Worker Registration Scheme</th>
<th>NINo allocations to overseas nationals</th>
<th>Labour Force Survey / Annual Population Survey</th>
<th>Higher Education Statistics Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of a migrant derived from data source</td>
<td>Sample survey</td>
<td>Sample survey, adjustments made for those known to be missed</td>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>Sample survey</td>
<td>Administrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>UN definition, person moving to a new country for a period of at least 12 months</td>
<td>UN definition</td>
<td>Accession nationals planning to legally work in the UK for more than one month</td>
<td>Overseas nationals allocated a NINo</td>
<td>Country of birth is non-UK or nationality is non-British</td>
<td>Students in Higher Education whose home address is outside the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusions</td>
<td>Sample of all passengers entering and leaving the UK through ports</td>
<td>LTIM includes IPS data and adjustments for those whose length of stay changes, asylum seekers and moves to and from Northern Ireland</td>
<td>A8 nationals planning to work legally or claim benefits in the UK for more than one month</td>
<td>Adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo</td>
<td>Sample of all private households</td>
<td>Students in Higher Education in England and Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of migration</td>
<td>Those planning to stay for less than 12 months</td>
<td>Those planning to stay for less than 12 months</td>
<td>Accession migrants not planning to legally work and the self-employed</td>
<td>Migrants not planning to legally work or claim benefits</td>
<td>Most communal establishments</td>
<td>Non-students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication frequency</td>
<td>Inflows, outflows and net migration</td>
<td>Inflows, outflows and net migration</td>
<td>Inflow</td>
<td>Inflow</td>
<td>Stock</td>
<td>Stock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sources described in Table 1 are either sample surveys or administrative data designed for operational (non-statistical) purposes. Administrative sources provide direct counts compared to the estimates that are derived from sample surveys. The total numbers of A8 migrants that are registered to work or study in the UK can be derived through their applications to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS), their applications and approval for a National Insurance number (NINo), or their entry into Higher Education.

Survey sources are used both in isolation and in combination with administrative data sources. In addition, other sources are available that do not measure migration directly but can inform our understanding of migrant behaviour, such as births to women born in A8 countries and
employment rates by country of birth from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Using these sources in combination provides a more complete migration picture than any single source on its own.

The International Passenger Survey and Long-Term International Migration

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is ONS’ key source of data on the flow of international migrants into and out of the UK. The IPS surveys a sample of people entering and leaving the UK and provides estimates of the inflow and outflow of migrants. The IPS also asks respondents about their intentions upon entering and leaving the country. Net migration is calculated by deducting outflows from inflows, therefore a positive estimate indicates net immigration (inflows higher than outflows) and a negative estimate indicates net emigration (outflows higher than inflows). The IPS was originally designed for compiling the international tourism/travel account of the balance of payments, and has been redesigned over time to give improved estimates of migration flows\(^2\).

The IPS defines a long-term migrant using the UN definition, which is someone who changes their country of residence for at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence. In this analysis A8 migrants were identified in the IPS as those who intend to stay in (immigrants) or leave (emigrants) the UK for at least a year and whose citizenship was recorded as being from an A8 country.

The IPS has a number of strengths. The survey sample represents migrants of all ages entering and leaving the UK. The provisional IPS estimates are the most timely source of Long-Term international migration, with quarterly provisional estimates published 8 months after the reference date and final annual estimates published 11 months after the reference date. This article makes particular use of data collected about the main reason the respondent is migrating.

The IPS is intentions based and some intentions may not be realised. Another limitation of this data source is that estimates of migrants from accession countries available pre-2004 are less reliable due to smaller sample sizes and this hinders before and after accession comparisons. Where IPS data are examined within this article, only data from 2004 onwards is used. Although the A8 countries joined the EU on 1 May 2004, they are included in the A8 definition for the whole of 2004, whether the migration occurred before or after 1 May 2004. Although data on short-term migrants are available from the IPS, that is movement to and from the UK for a period of more than 1 month but less than 12 months; these were experimental statistics at the time this article was written, and as a result migration estimates from the IPS used in this article refer to long-term migration only.

Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates produced by ONS provide a more comprehensive estimate of international migration flows, combining information from the IPS with other sources to adjust estimates for people whose intentions regarding their length of stay change, asylum seekers and international migration to and from Northern Ireland. LTIM is constructed largely from IPS data and has many of the same limitations. LTIM cannot provide breakdowns for migration in the same way as the IPS, so data from the IPS is used in this article to examine A8 migration patterns.
The Labour Force Survey
The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a sample survey of private households in the UK, run by ONS. The LFS is carried out under an EU Directive and was designed to measure the characteristics of the UK labour market, to evaluate and report on labour market policies.

The LFS can be used for estimates of the number of people resident in the UK who were born outside the UK or who have non-British nationality. This makes it possible to analyse the working status of migrant workers. The strengths of this source include its timeliness and large sample size. A limitation of this source is that it only represents a sample of migrants of employment age in the UK. The LFS excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent. It also excludes people in most other types of communal establishment.

The Annual Population Survey
The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a combined survey of private households in the UK. It provides information on social and economic variables within the UK. The APS uses the LFS as a foundation and supplements this with annual local area sample boosts to produce rolling annual estimates. ONS uses the APS to produce National Statistics on the population of the UK by country of birth and nationality. Unlike nationality, an individual’s country of birth cannot change over time; therefore we used country of birth in this article to identify A8 migrants.

A strength of using the APS is that it has the largest sample size of any household survey, and the estimates produced can be considered reliable for groups where the LFS sample size alone is too small. A limitation of using an individual’s country of birth is that some people who were born abroad have British nationality, for example those whose parents were stationed abroad in the military when they were born. Another limitation is that both the APS and LFS omit most communal establishments. Although students living in halls of residence with a UK parental address are covered, the survey omits overseas students who do not have a UK resident parent. This will include some A8 nationals.

The APS shows the number or ‘stock’ of migrants living in households in the UK over time. This is in contrast to the IPS which shows the inflow and outflow of migrants over a particular period.

National Insurance Number allocations to overseas nationals
The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produce National Statistics on allocations of National Insurance Numbers (NINos) to overseas nationals. DWP currently publish quarterly figures based on date of registration. Analysis presented here uses the calendar year series by nationality, available for download from the DWP Tabulation tool.

NINo allocations to overseas nationals can provide an indication of the number of A8 nationals registering in the UK to legally work or claim benefits. The figures provide a measurement of the inflow of adult overseas nationals registering for a NINo, but do not measure migrants leaving the UK or the number of migrants resident in the UK. The figures include both long-term and short-term migrants.

One strength of this source is that it provides an indication of A8 migrants intending to work legally in the UK. A limitation of the source is that there may be a delay between a migrant entering the UK and registering for a NINo. However, research suggests that over half of all registrations may
occur within the first six months of arrival, and three-quarters of registrations within a year of arrival in the UK. Another limitation of the source is that it provides no indication of when a migrant leaves the UK, and so it will count some migrants who have already left the country.

**The Worker Registration Scheme**

The Home Office produce statistics on the number of applications to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS). The scheme was introduced in May 2004 when the A8 countries joined the EU, and was designed to monitor where those citizens are entering the UK labour market. Members of the A8 are normally required to register under the WRS if they are planning to work legally in the UK for more than one month, or plan to claim benefits. As a result, the figures include both long-term and short-term migrants.

The main strength of this source is that it was specifically designed to monitor A8 migrants’ access to the UK labour market. It therefore covers the majority of A8 migrants planning to legally work or claim benefits in the UK. The scheme covers migrants planning to work for at least a month, and therefore covers both short and long-term migrants. The data are based on the applicant’s place of work rather than usual residence, as Home Office research indicates that workplace is more accurate on the WRS. A potential limitation of the WRS for understanding migration is that as there is no obligation to de-register, this source can only be used to understand the inflow of A8 migrants.

The WRS operates as a transitional arrangement to monitor A8 migrants’ access to the labour market following accession. The scheme must end by 30 April 2011, and after this point A8 nationals will have the same rights as other EU nationals to take up employment in the UK. At present it is unclear what the impact of the loss of this data source will be, however, A8 migration will continue to be measured through the other sources discussed within this article.

**Higher Education Statistics Agency**

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) produce statistics on all further education and higher education students in each academic year. An advantage of this source is that students who are not working (and thus not allocated a NINo) are still counted in the HESA statistics. However if the students are also working, and thus allocated a NINo, there may be some double-counting between sources. A limitation of this source is that determining the number of those who remain resident within the UK after studying is not possible.

Data available to ONS are for higher education students in England and Wales only, so this is not a direct comparison to UK estimates from other sources. This includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at any point in the selected academic years. It excludes incoming visiting and exchange students; and students where the whole of their programme of study is outside of the UK. A student may return home to write up their work, or be on a placement year in another part of the UK or even abroad. As a result, a ‘full time’ student is not necessarily resident at their place of study, or still in the UK. The number of students from A8 countries who are in Higher Education in England and Wales was identified using domicile country.
Migration data sources in the future

The e-Borders Programme aims to improve border security by collecting information electronically from all those travelling to and from the UK. Although e-Borders is primarily designed to improve border security, ONS has been working with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) through the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme\(^1\) to identify how this information might be used to improve ONS migration statistics. The e-Borders programme is currently under review and the full benefits are unlikely to be realised before the end of the MSIP in March 2012. However, the MSIP aims to provide a platform for delivering these benefits beyond the end of the Programme.
Understanding A8 migration to the UK since Accession Nov 2010

The following sections will use migration data sources to examine overall levels of A8 migration, as well as the age and sex distribution of these migrants.

Levels of A8 migration

Figure 1  IPS estimates of long-term international migration of A8 citizens, UK, 2004-2009

This figure differs from Figure 1.4 in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: November 2010, published on 25 November 2010 because all estimates are calibrated and estimates for 2008 onwards include migration between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Note: Breaking down IPS data into citizenship groupings is difficult as some IPS estimates have a high level of standard error. As a result, some estimates of A8 immigration and emigration should be treated with caution.

Estimates of A8 migration from the IPS shown in Figure 1 indicate that immigration to the UK increased from 49,000 in 2004, to a peak of 103,000 in 2007. Immigration then declined between 2007 and 2009. Estimates of A8 emigration indicate that emigration rose slightly in the years immediately after accession. Emigration peaked at 67,000 in 2008, before declining in 2009. Net migration reached its highest level of 78,000 in 2007. Net migration estimates for A8 citizens then declined to 9000 in 2008.

Of the 57,000 A8 citizens coming to the UK in 2009, an estimated 56 per cent were from Poland. The proportion of citizens from Poland has constituted the highest percentage of A8 inflows since accession in 2004, however the proportion from other countries have increased between 2004 and 2009.
Table 2  IPS inflows of A8 citizens by Main Reason for Migration, 2004-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>SE%</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>SE%</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>SE%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All reasons</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work related</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non work</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reason stated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate and conditional formatting has been applied to them. A standard error of <=20 per cent has a white background, >20 per cent but <=25 per cent has a light yellow background and >25 per cent is in italics and has an orange background. A migration figure with a standard error of >25 per cent is not considered to be reliable. Where the standard error is >30 per cent the associated estimate is in italics. For any given estimate there is a 95 per cent probability that the true figure lies in the range: estimate +/- 0.0196 x estimate x standard error %.

Immigration of A8 citizens for work related reasons increased between 2004 and 2007. Immigration for work related reasons reached 82,000 by 2007. Work related reasons include those with a definite job to go to and those looking for work. Migration for non-work related reasons also increased between 2004 and 2007, although this increase was not statistically significant. Non work related reasons include those coming to accompany or join others in the UK, those coming to study, and all other reasons stated. It should be noted that some estimates of A8 immigration for non-work related reasons have high standard errors and so should be treated with caution. These are indicated in Table 2.
This pattern from IPS estimates is also observed in other data sources including the number of NINo allocations to A8 migrants. Figure 2 shows that allocations to A8 migrants were at a level of 17,000 prior to accession in 2003. This peaked at just under 335,000 in 2007, before declining in 2008 and 2009 to a level of 168,000 allocations in 2009.

**Figure 2**  
**NINo allocations to overseas nationals from A8 countries by calendar year of registration, 2002-2009**


NINo allocations to overseas nationals and WRS applications can both give an indication of the number of people coming to the UK to work, and reflect the same overall pattern of a rapid decrease in applications in 2008 and 2009.

WRS applications peaked slightly earlier in 2006 at around 228,000 applications. It should be noted that figures from the fourth quarter of 2009 indicate that 64 per cent of WRS applicants gave their intended length of stay as less than twelve months, and so would not be considered a long-term migrant under the IPS definition.¹²
In comparison to NINo allocations to overseas nationals and WRS applications, which both show a decline in the number of migrants coming to the UK for work, HESA data shown in Figure 3 shows that the total number of A8 students in Higher Education in England and Wales has increased each year since accession. In recent years this increase is occurring at a slower rate than immediately after accession. In the academic year 2008/09 there were nearly 17,000 Higher Education students who were previously domiciled in an A8 country; this constitutes less than 1 per cent of the total student numbers in England and Wales (0.7 per cent in 2008/09 compared to 0.2 per cent in 2004/05).
The impact of A8 migration on the size of the A8-born population resident in the UK can be seen by using the APS. The number of people living in the UK who were born in one of the A8 countries has increased each year between 2004 and 2009. Figure 4 shows that in recent years this growth has occurred at a slower rate than the years immediately after accession. Those born in an A8 country made up 3 per cent of the non-UK born population in 2004. By 2009, this had risen to 11 per cent.
Sex distribution of A8 migrants

Migration estimates from a number of sources can also be broken down by sex. The sex ratio of A8 immigration and emigration flows has varied since accession in 2004, as shown below in Figure 5. In the year of Accession there was a lower proportion of male immigration, with males constituting 44 per cent of inflows of A8 citizens. Then each year from 2005 onwards, there was a higher proportion of male inflows than in 2004, the highest proportion being 67 per cent in 2007, and then falling to 56 per cent by 2009.

Figure 5  IPS flows of A8 citizens by sex, 2004-2009

The proportions of A8 immigration broken down by sex differs slightly from the pattern observed for the immigration of all other citizens. In 2004, there were a lower proportion of A8 male immigrants, with males constituting 44 per cent of A8 inflows. Similarly, the proportion of all other male inflows was 46 per cent. By 2009, the proportion of A8 male immigrants had increased to constitute 56 per cent of all A8 inflows. In contrast, over the same period, the proportion of all other male immigrants had increased only slightly to constitute 48 per cent of inflows.
Sex distribution of A8 migrant workers

Figure 6  NINo allocations to overseas nationals from A8 countries by sex and calendar year of registration, 2002-2009


NINo allocations to overseas nationals and WRS applications can be used to investigate differences in the migration patterns of male and female A8 workers to the UK, before and after accession in 2004. Figure 6 shows that in 2002, prior to accession, 43 per cent of all NINo allocations to migrants from A8 countries were male, and 57 per cent were female. By 2005, 57 per cent of NINos allocated to migrants from A8 countries were to men. This proportion has since declined slightly each year, reaching 53 per cent by 2009.
Figure 7  

**Percentage of WRS applications by date of application and sex, May 2004\(^1\) - December 2009**

![Percentage of WRS applications by date of application and sex, May 2004\(^1\) - December 2009](image)

Source: Worker Registration Scheme, Home Office.

Note: Figures differ slightly from those reported in the Home Office’s ‘Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom – 3\(^{rd}\) Quarter 2010’ publication due to a different data extraction date.

1. Data available for 2004 are for the period 1 May to 31 December 2004.

Similarly, WRS figures seen in Figure 7 also show that males had a higher percentage of applications in each year since the scheme started in May 2004; however this percentage has been decreasing from 2005 onwards. The biggest change occurred between 2007 and 2008, when the proportion of A8 female applicants increased to constitute 47 per cent of all A8 applications, with male applicants reducing to 53 per cent. This pattern remains fairly constant in 2009.
These sources of data on migrant workers both suggest that in the years following accession (2005-2007) the majority of A8 migrants coming to work in the UK were male (57 per cent of NINo allocations to A8 nationals were to males in 2005). However, in recent years (2008 and 2009), the ratio of males to females has become more balanced - 54 per cent of NINo allocations to A8 nationals were to males in 2009. Table 3 shows the numbers of NINo allocations to overseas nationals and WRS applications to A8 citizens. The number of NINo allocations to overseas nationals peaks in 2007 for both A8 males and females, and slightly earlier in 2006 for WRS applications. These levels then declined in 2008 and 2009. Table 3 also shows that the change in the proportion of males to females is due to a greater decline in the number of male applicants compared to the decline in the number of female applicants over time, increasing the proportion of female applications slightly.

In contrast, the ratio of A8 males to females in Higher Education in England and Wales has varied very little since 2004. Student figures from HESA show that females have constituted on average 63 per cent of all A8 students in Higher Education since 2004. In comparison, the ratio for all students in Higher Education in England and Wales since 2004 shows that females have constituted on average 57 per cent of A8 students. These have remained stable despite fluctuating inflows, outflows and net migration figures reflected in the IPS over the same period.
Sex distribution of A8 population stock

Figure 8  Percentage of the A8 population resident in the UK by sex, 2004-2009

Source: Annual Population Survey by country of birth, Office for National Statistics

Figure 8 shows estimates of the A8 population resident in the UK according to APS estimates. This shows that the proportion of males and females has fluctuated slightly since 2004. In 2004, males constituted only 45 per cent of the A8 population in the UK. The proportion of males in the population peaked in 2006 at 54 per cent. Since this peak the proportion has declined and by 2009 the distribution has become more even, with males constituting 49 per cent of the A8 population.
**Age patterns of A8 migrant workers**

It is often assumed that A8 migrants coming to the UK are mostly young workers. Sources of migration data show that while this is still the case, over time there has been a slight change in the age structure of A8 migrants coming to the UK.

**Figure 9**   **Percentage of WRS applications by age and date of application, May 2004\(^1\) - December 2009**

![Percentage of WRS applications by age and date of application, May 2004\(^1\) - December 2009](chart.png)

**Source:** Worker Registration Scheme, Home Office.

**Note:** Figures differ slightly from those reported in the Home Office’s ‘Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom – 3\(^{rd}\) Quarter 2010\(^13\)’ publication due to a different data extraction date. Any applications which did not state age have been excluded.

1. Data available for 2004 are for the period 1 May to 31 December 2004.

Evidence from WRS applications and NINo allocations to overseas nationals show that the proportion of A8 citizens within the 25-34 age category decreased between 2004 and 2009. This is in contrast to an increase in the proportion of the 35-54 age group. Figure 9 shows the WRS proportions in the first year of accession (May – December 2004) compared to 2007 and 2009.
Figure 10  
**Age distribution of NINo allocations to A8 nationals in 2004, 2007 and 2009 by calendar year of registration**


NINo allocations to overseas nationals data shown in Figure 10 shows little change within the 18-24 age group in 2004, 2007 and 2009. These data also show a greater reduction in the proportion of allocations within the 25-34 age group over time and a rise in all older age groups.
Age patterns of A8 population stock

Figure 11  Percentage of A8-born population resident in UK by Age, 2004 and 2009

Source: Annual Population Survey by country of birth, Office for National Statistics

The impact of these age patterns on the A8 population can be seen in the estimates of the A8 population stock from the APS (Figure 11). Although there has been a decline in A8 born people living in the UK within some age groups, overall the total A8-born population increased, and this was predominantly accounted for by increases in the proportion of the working age groups.
Impacts of A8 migration

Other sources of data are available which do not directly measure A8 migration but can aid our understanding of migrant behaviour. These sources enable us to measure the impacts of migration within this group upon areas such as the UK labour market and birth levels.

Table 4  Employment, Unemployment, and Inactivity rates\(^1\) by country of birth, 2001-2009\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employment A8</th>
<th>Employment UK</th>
<th>Unemployment A8</th>
<th>Unemployment UK</th>
<th>Inactivity A8</th>
<th>Inactivity UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>79.6</td>
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<td>7.1</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Note: Rates taken as averages over four quarters. Source data from 2001 to Q2 2006 are weighted to 2007 Population Estimates. Source data from Q3 2006 onwards are weighted to 2009 Population Estimates.

1. Employment and Inactivity rates are provided for the population aged 16 to 64. Unemployment rates are the number of unemployed persons aged 16 and over as a proportion of the economically active population aged 16 and over. The economically active population is defined as the number of people employed plus the number of people unemployed.

2. Not seasonally adjusted.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) can be used to estimate employment rates of A8 migrants (aged 16 to 64). Estimates in Table 4 show that the average employment rate of A8’s in the UK prior to A8 accession was 60.1 per cent. This compares to an average employment rate of 73.7 per cent for the UK as a whole. After accession, the average A8 employment rate increased to 80.2 per cent. This is higher than the average UK employment rate over the same period of 73.3 per cent. In the post-accession period (2004-2009), the A8 unemployment rate was on average 5.8 per cent, compared with a lower level for the UK born population of 5.4 per cent. Until 2008, A8 born migrants experienced higher levels of unemployment compared to the UK born population. In 2008, A8 born migrants experienced an average unemployment rate of 4.3 per cent, increasing in 2009 to 4.8 per cent. The average inactivity rate, that is those not seeking work or unavailable to start work, was 14.8 per cent for A8 migrants in the post-accession period, lower than the average UK rate of 22.5 per cent.

This indicates that A8 born migrants generally experienced higher levels of unemployment before 2008 compared to the UK born population. In recent years (2008 and 2009) they have experienced lower levels of unemployment and inactivity in the labour market compared to the UK average. The higher employment rates since 2004 relative to the UK born population, and the lower comparative...
Proportion of inactive A8 migrants shows a high level of engagement with the labour market which might be expected as many of the A8 migrants who have come to the UK since 2004 did so to seek work.

Table 5  
Percentage of live births in the UK by mother’s country of birth, 2001-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-UK¹</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8²</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Birth Registrations

¹ Data for 2009 remain provisional (p) until the publication of the 2009 Annual Report of the Registrar General due to be released in December 2010.

² Includes Czechoslovakia (not otherwise stated)

UK birth registrations data in Table 5 show the percentage of live births in the UK by mother’s country of birth. It should be noted that not all women born in A8 countries will be recent immigrants. Foreign born women will include some UK nationals, for example those born to UK service people stationed abroad. Similarly, the category ‘UK born women’ will include some second and third generation migrants. Table 5 shows that births to women born in A8 countries are making up an increasing percentage of all live births in the UK, however they constitute a small percentage of total live births. Births to A8 born mothers constituted 0.3 per cent of all live births in the UK in 2001. This increased to 0.5 per cent in 2004. Following Accession in 2004, births to A8 born women increased further and by 2009 constituted 3.7 per cent of all live births in the UK. Although the number of births to A8 born women has increased in recent years, this is in line with an increase in the proportion of women of child-bearing age (15-44) living in the UK who were born in an A8 country. In 2004, an estimated 0.5 per cent of women of child-bearing age living in the UK were born in an A8 country, compared with 2.3 per cent in 2009. Table 5 shows that although live births to women born in A8 countries are increasing, they constitute a small percentage of total live births in the UK.

Conclusion

This article has explored some of the strengths and limitations of the data sources available to analyse the impacts of A8 migration to and from the UK, and has examined the demographic structure of A8 migration to the UK. The range of survey and administrative sources use different definitions to identify a migrant, which are suited to different purposes and have a number of strengths and limitations. ONS uses surveys and administrative sources both separately and in combination to provide the best available estimates.

Levels of A8 net migration increased in the years immediately following Accession, but have declined in recent years, due to a decline in inflows and increase in outflows. A8 migrants are engaged in the UK labour market and have experienced higher levels of employment in recent years compared with the UK-born population. However, there has been an overall decline in the
number of A8 migrants coming to the UK for the purpose of work, and the age structure of these migrants has shifted towards the older working ages. There has also been an increase in those coming to the UK for non-work related reasons, including for the purpose of study. The proportion of women of child-bearing age in the UK who were born in an A8 country has also increased since Accession, and as a consequence the number of live births to women born in A8 countries has also increased. However, these births remain a small proportion of total live births in the UK.

Despite the differences in overall levels of migration shown by the sources due to differences in coverage and definition, this article has demonstrated that similar patterns are revealed. These patterns could not be observed by using a single data source. As a result a number of survey and administrative sources used in combination are necessary to understand the full picture of A8 migration to and from the UK.

For further information on this article, or on ONS Migration Statistics please contact: migstatsunit@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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Notes and References


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