

Long Term International Migration 2010

Net migration to the UK in 2010 was 252,000 - the highest calendar year net migration figure on record. While immigration has remained steady at 591,000, this increase has been caused by declining emigration, which in 2010 was 339,000 - the lowest since 2001.

Emigration by non-British citizens also declined to 203,000, from a peak of 255,000 in 2008.

Fewer people are emigrating from the UK for work-related reasons. Provisional figures for the year ending March 2011 show that 174,000 emigrants left the UK for work related reasons. This is the lowest for five years.

Study continues to be the most common reason stated for immigration to the UK, having overtaken work-related reasons in 2009. Final figures show that 238,000 people arrived to study in the UK in 2010, compared with 211,000 in 2009.

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report

These data are available in more detail in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report. This product is released jointly by ONS, the Home Office and DWP. It provides the latest available migration and related data, including final estimates of Long Term International Migration for 2010 (released provisionally in August 2011) and provisional statistics giving an indication of recent changes in international migration up to March 2011. It also includes immigration statistics from the Home Office.

Background notes

1. 1. The latest long-term international migration estimates are available at www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=International+Migration
2. The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report is available at www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/november-2011/msqr.html
3. LTIM is the most comprehensive estimate of long-term migration. There is no single, all-inclusive system in place to measure movements of population into or out of the UK, so Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates are produced using a combination of data from different sources. None of the data sources used, while offering the best data currently available, are specifically designed to capture information solely on international migration. Further information on the LTIM methodology can be found at www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/methodology-to-estimate-tim/methodology-to-estimate-long-term-international-migration.pdf
4. The Home Office statistics relate to people who are subject to immigration control under Immigration Acts (that is, to people who do not have the right of abode in the UK). They are produced mainly as a by-product of the process of immigration control. British citizens, those Commonwealth citizens who also have the right of abode, other European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and Swiss nationals are not subject to immigration control and may freely enter and leave the UK. The UK Border Agency (UKBA), which is responsible for immigration control, regulates the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK and the variation of such conditions following entry. It also regulates settlement and the deportation or removal of people. It is not possible for UKBA to provide information on how many people have left the country as they do not count everyone into and out of the UK. Immigration statistics published by the Home Office are available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/
5. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the media office.
6. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2011. Next publication: The next migration annual release will be 24 November 2012
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7. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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