

Migration Indicators: November 2007

Background

On 19th November 2008 the Office for National Statistics (ONS), in combination with the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), published a range of demographic statistics as part of the most recent quarterly consolidated release. Several of the datasets relate either directly or indirectly to migration. The geography used in the indicators varies but in all cases relates to the UK.

This *Update* presents these indicators as they relate to the UK and London.

Internal Migration

Table 1: Internal Migration to and from London, 12 month periods (thousands)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2007 Q1	2006-07	2008 Q1	Annual Change
In	156.0	152.5	151.6	157.6	163.1	167.5	167.0	165.7	-1.8
Out	254.2	262.9	267.8	246.9	243.7	247.7	248.4	243.4	-4.3
Net	-98.2	-110.4	-116.2	-89.3	-80.6	-80.2	-81.4	-77.7	2.5
UK	1,268	1,263	1,270	1,213	1,212	1,228	1,227	1,200	-28
London Flows as % of UK									
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2007 Q1	2006-07	2008 Q1	
In	12.3	12.1	11.9	13.0	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.8	
Out	20.0	20.8	21.1	20.4	20.1	20.2	20.2	20.3	

Data on migration within the UK are based on patient re-registrations in cumulative 12-month periods. The full dataset is for countries of the UK and English regions showing flows between regions, hence the UK figure is the total number of inter-regional moves. The latest 12-month period to the end of March 2008 shows reductions in all gross flows over the year. However, the net loss to London has reduced to its lowest value since the late 1990s.

International Migration

Data on international migration are based on a number of sources, principally the International Passenger Survey but also estimates of moves to and from the Republic of Ireland and asylum. The full dataset relates to calendar years for countries of the UK and English regions. However, a secondary set of information is used for the mid-year to mid-year flows at local authority level for the preparation of the mid-year estimates. The latest data relate to 2007 but the following table shows the longer trends in the more familiar mid-year form. While all gross flows have declined over the past year the net inflows to both UK and London have increased.

Table 2: International Migration to and from London and the UK, 12-month periods (thousands)

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006	2006-07	2007	Annual Change
UK	In	488	505	526	593	561	591	..	577	-14
	Out	336	357	353	334	387	400	..	340	-60
	Net	152	147	173	258	174	191	..	237	46
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006	2006-07	2007	Annual Change
London	In	180	174	178	187	171	170	172	162	-8
	Out	97	111	90	92	98	117	121	92	-25
	Net	83	63	88	95	72	53	51	70	17
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006	2006-07	2007	
London as % of UK	In	36.9	34.5	33.8	31.5	30.5	28.8	..	28.1	
	Out	28.9	31.1	25.5	27.5	25.3	29.3	..	27.1	
	Net	54.6	42.9	50.9	36.8	41.4	27.7	..	29.5	

Asylum Seekers

Table 3: Asylum: UK Applicants (12-month periods) and Supported Asylum seekers at end of period (thousands)

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007 Q3	2007-08	2008 Q3	Annual Change
UK Applicants		76.5	72.5	39.7	30.3	24.4	22.3	22.3	25.0	25.8	3.5
Supported											
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007 Q3	2007-08	2008 Q3	Annual Change
UK							48.1	47.2	30.6	30.9	-16.3
London							9.4	8.7	5.3	5.3	-3.4

Data on asylum are now collected by the UK Border Agency and made available by the Home Office. The applications data are only available for the UK as a whole but the information on those asylum seekers who receive either subsistence only or accommodation support are available for all regions and local authorities, although data are rounded to the nearest 5 and are not published if less than 15 cases (subsistence). However, in the case of accommodation support all local authorities giving some support (even if rounded to zero) are shown in the tabulations. Asylum applications have recently started to rise again after falling from the annual totals of over 70 thousand around the turn of the century. Numbers receiving support are still falling, representing some backlog of those applying in earlier years.

National Insurance Numbers (NINos)

Table 4: National Insurance Numbers allocated to Overseas Nationals, financial years and calendar quarters (thousands)

		2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007 Q2	2007/08	2008 Q2	Annual Change
Total	UK	349.2	370.8	439.7	662.4	713.5	166.1	733.1	175.5	9.4
	London	149.6	157.4	169.7	235.4	240.9	..	272.7	71.1	..
		2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007 Q2	2007/08	2008 Q2	Annual Change
EU A8	UK	11.4	19.9	107.8	269.3	309.0	67.2	293.8	61.6	-5.6
	London	5.8	8.4	33.2	61.0	64.6	..	63.4	15.5	..
		2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007 Q2	2007/08	2008 Q2	Annual Change
Bulgaria & Romania	UK	7.2	13.3	7.8	5.7	6.8	8.5	36.9	11.2	2.7
	London	3.8	5.2	4.2	1.7	3.4	..	23.4	6.1	..

New NINos allocated to overseas nationals by the DWP have become a useful way of monitoring the flow of citizens of EU accession states coming to the UK for work. The data, rounded to the nearest ten, are available for all local authorities in the UK by a full range of origin countries. The total inflow continues to rise but the flow from the EU A8 countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) has started to fall. There has been the expected increase in flows from Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU at the beginning of 2007.

Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) and Bulgaria/Romania

Table 5: Worker Registration Scheme (A8); Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates (Bulgaria/Romania), calendar years and quarters (thousands)

	2004	2005	2006	2007 Q3	2007	2008 Q3	Annual Change
WRS	134.6	212.3	234.7	59.2	218.0	37.8	-21.4
				2007 Q3	2007	2008 Q3	Annual Change
Bulgaria/Romania				9.5	40.9	6.5	-3.0

The WRS relates solely to the A8 countries. The data are available by 'regions' related to the first two characters of the postcode and do not align with the government office regions. For workers from Bulgaria and Romania there are a number of administrative ways by which they may legally obtain work in the UK. The data presented here relate to Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates, which are mainly given to the self-employed. Data on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme have not been presented here. None of the data are available below the level of the UK. The downturn in WRS reflects what has been seen with NINos for A8 countries. It is too early to detect trends in the Bulgaria/Romania data.

Conclusions

The most recent migration data generally show a diminution of migration flows, but the two measures that are used to prepare the mid-year estimates – internal and international migration – both show levels of net migration that imply that London is losing less population through migration than was demonstrated by the ONS population estimates for mid-2007. Between mid-2006 and mid-2007 the net migration loss was estimated to be 30 thousand. The most recent estimates in combination show that the current loss could be reduced to 8 thousand – a loss of 78 thousand internal migrants and a gain of 70 thousand international migrants. The data for calendar year 2007 on births and deaths for London show a natural change of 75 thousand. Therefore London is already on course for total population change in 2007-08 to be nearly 70 thousand compared to 44 thousand in 2006-07.