

Update 01-2016

Migration Indicators: November 2015

January 2016

Summary

- Long-term international inflows to the UK rose for the second year in a row to reach 636 thousand in the year to June 2015, their highest level over the period since 2002. With international outflows falling, net flows increased by nearly a third to a new high of 336 thousand.
- The number of EU8 citizens migrating into the UK remained stable at 73 thousand whilst outflows fell to their lowest level since 2008.
- The number of EU2 citizens migrating to the UK rose by more than 60 per cent to 50 thousand, their highest level since joining the EU in 2007.
- Both the number of EU and non-EU citizens migrating to the UK rose by some 40 thousand. Whilst the number of EU migrants to the UK rose to their highest level, the number of non-EU migrants remains below levels seen in the mid-2000s.
- Formal study remains the most popular reason for migrating to the UK and rose by 17 thousand in 2015 to 192 thousand. Despite this rise, the number migrating for this reason is considerably below the 239 thousand in 2011.
- The number of people migrating to the UK in 2015 because of a definite job went up by 29 per cent (42 thousand) to 187 thousand; their highest level since the period began in 2010.
- In 2014, the number of 'Flag 4' registrations in England rose taking the total number of 'Flag 4' registrations to 634 thousand surpassing the previous high of 613 thousand registrations in 2011.
- London 'Flag 4' registrations have also risen in 2014 (up by just under 14 thousand) but in spite of this rise remain below the high seen in 2010.

Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) release their Migration Statistics Quarterly Report alongside an update of a range of migration data in February, May, August and November of each year. The geography used in these datasets relates mainly to the UK and London with the exception of 'Flag 4' data which is solely for England and, internal and short-term international migration data which relates to England & Wales.

All data in this *Update* are annual and in all instances the latest month to which a dataset refers is given, e.g. year to end September 2011 is for the period from October 2010 to September 2011. Throughout the report when a new dataset is presented the end month is established, and then for simplicity each period is referred to solely by the year in which it ends.

This *Update* covers the following:

- Internal migration;
- International migration;
 - Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)
 - International Passenger Survey (IPS)
 - Comparison of LTIM and IPS data
 - EU8 citizens
 - EU2 citizens
 - Citizenship
 - Reasons for migration
- National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations;
- 'Flag 4' GP registrations; and
- Short-term international migration

Table 1 provides a summary of the most recent migration data by date and whether this *Update* and/or the accompanying Excel spreadsheet have been updated to incorporate this. The next scheduled main release of data is 25 February 2016.

Table 1: Migration data summary

Migration data	Most recent update	New
Internal migration	YE June 2014	No
Final LTIM and IPS	YE December 2014	Yes
Provisional LTIM and IPS	YE June 2015	Yes
NINo allocations	YE September 2015	No
'Flag 4' GP registrations	YE June 2014	Yes
Short-term international migration	YE June 2013	No

Definitions of key terms used in this *Update* can be found at the end of the document. All data can be found in the accompanying Excel workbook located on the Migration Indicators Datastore homepage (<http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/migration-indicators>).

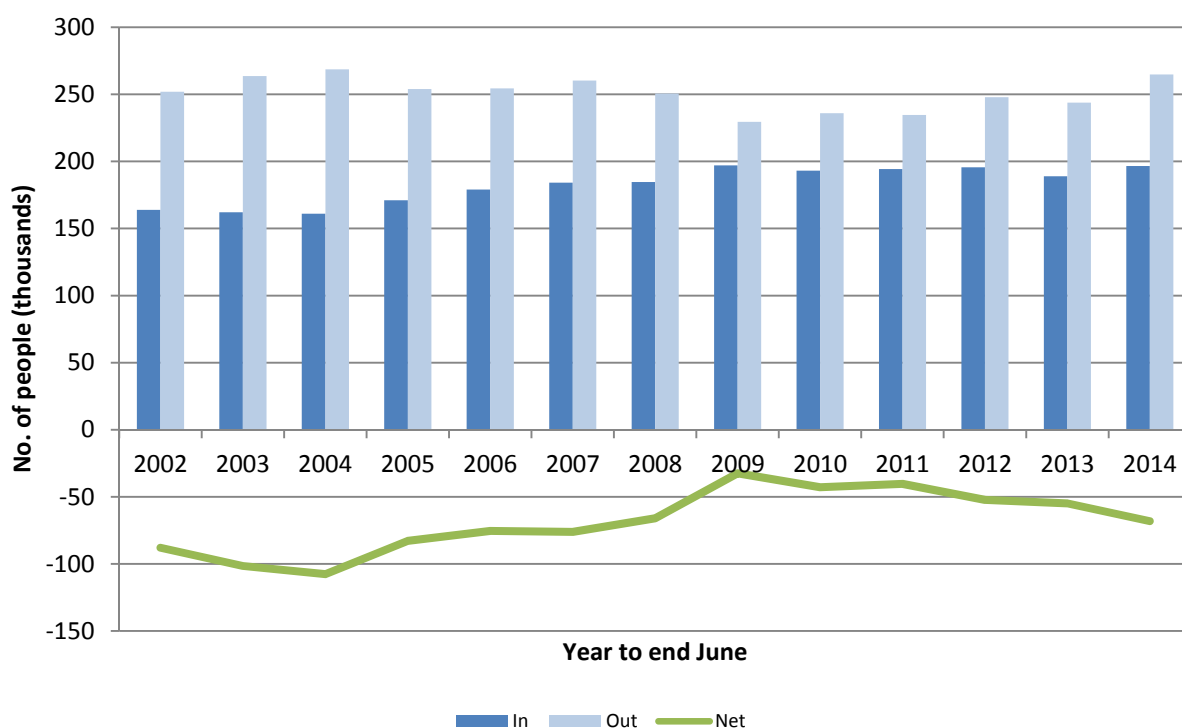
Internal migration

Most recent update: Year ending June 2014 (released June 2015).

Next update: Year ending June 2015 (released June 2016).

The most recent release of data was for the year ending June 2014. Figure 1 shows that both in and outflows to/from London rose in 2014. Outflows rose by 21 thousand to 265 thousand and their highest level since 2004. Inflows increased by less to 197 thousand and were on par with those seen in 2009. Net flow remains negative with more people leaving London than arriving.

Figure 1: Internal (England & Wales) migration, London, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: NHSCR moves and HESA data within the UK year ending June, ONS/PRDS

International migration

Most recent update: *Year ending June 2015 (released November 2015).*

Next update: *Year ending September 2015 (released February 2016).*

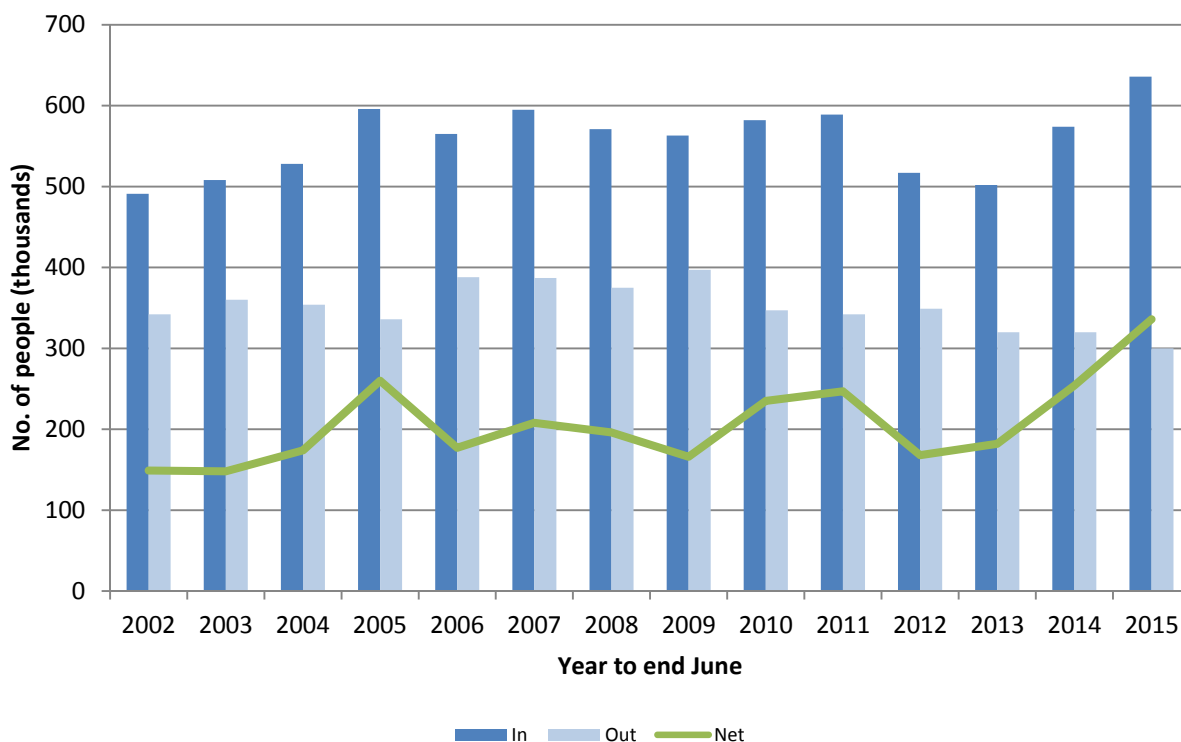
Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)

As part of the most recent release, ONS issued provisional LTIM data for the year ending June 2015 along with final LTIM data for the year ending December 2014.

Figure 2 shows provisional LTIM flows for the UK for the year ending June 2002 to 2015. Inflows rose for the second year in a row to reach a 636 thousand, up 62 thousand compared to the previous year. This takes inflows to their highest level over the period since 2002 beating the previous high of 596 thousand in 2005 and continues the upward trend that has been seen since 2013.

Outflows on the other hand fell by 20 thousand to 300 thousand having remained stable at 320 thousand for the preceding two years. The combination of declining outflows yet rising inflows, means that net flow increased by nearly a third; an increase of 82 thousand to 336 thousand. This is the highest level of net flow over the period (2002-2014) and continues the increase in net flow since 2013.

Figure 2: Long-Term International Migration, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: *Long Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS*

Figure 3 compares UK and London inflows and outflows. The most recent London level data is for year ending December 2014 as London level data is released annually as part of the November ‘final’ LTIM release. ONS have discontinued the equivalent table for mid-years referring users to the components of change released as part of the mid-year population estimates. The mid-year series has therefore been updated to reflect these figures.

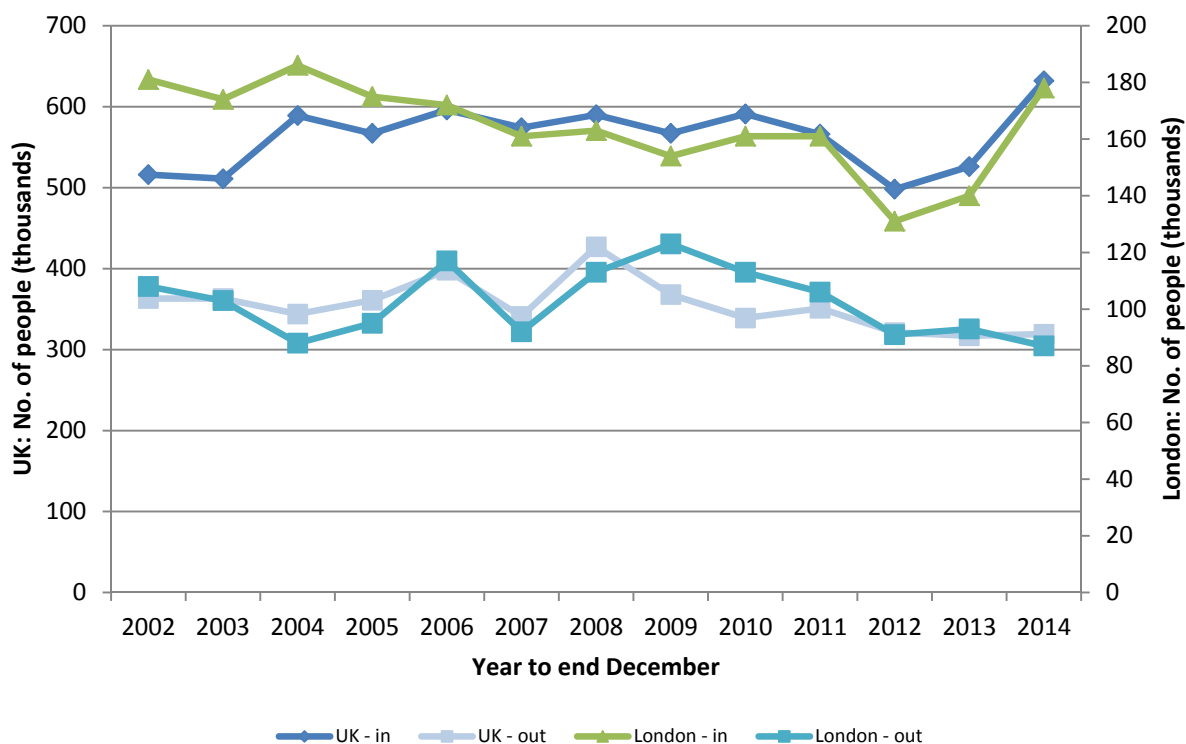
In 2014 both UK and London inflows rose sharply when compared to the previous year by 20.2 and 27.1 per cent respectively. This is in contrast to 2012 when both sets of inflows fell considerably reaching their lowest point over the period since 2002.

Outflows in the two areas showed contrasting patterns. Outflows from London fell by some six thousand whilst those from the UK as a whole rose by two thousand. These equate to a -6.5 and 0.6 per cent change respectively.

Despite the fall in outflows from London, net flow remains positive in both areas and rose between 2013 and 2014 resulting in 104 thousand more people arriving in the UK than leaving (44 thousand for London).

London's inflows as a proportion of UK inflows rose from 26.6 to 28.2 per cent whereas for outflows the proportion fell by two per cent to 27.3 per cent.

Figure 3: International migration based on LTIM, London and UK, 12-month periods ending December of year given, thousands



Source: Long Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates years ending December, ONS

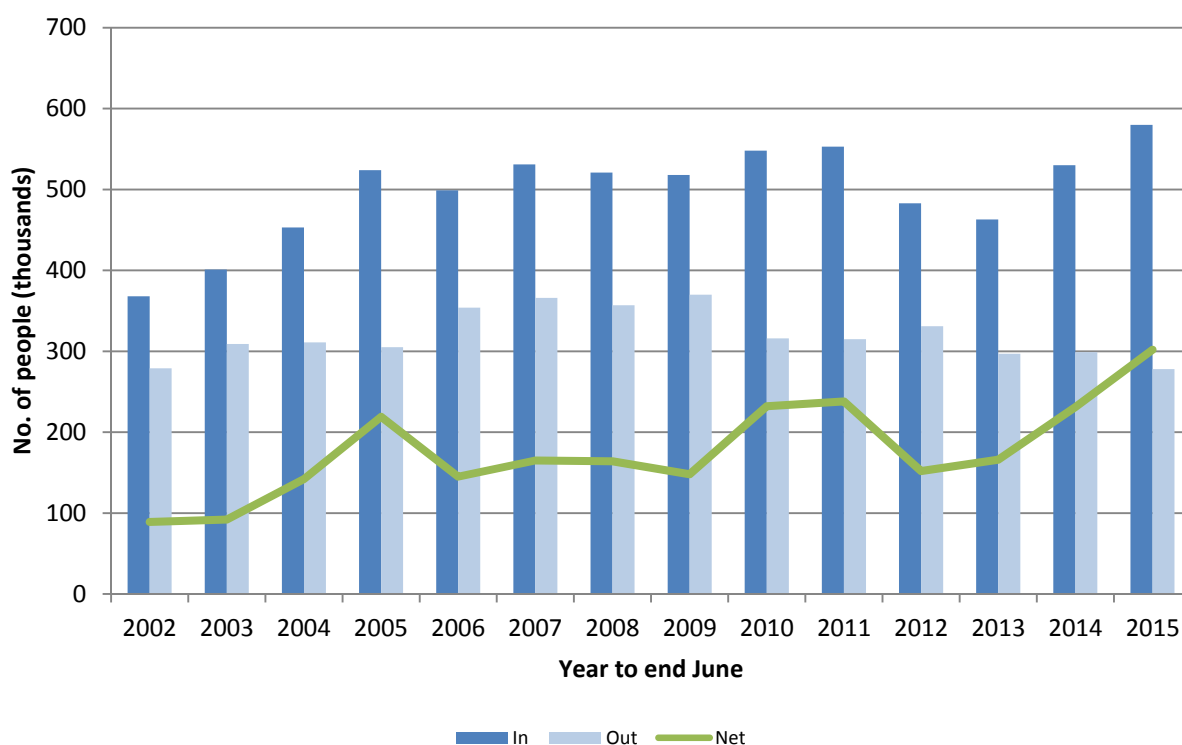
International Passenger Survey (IPS)

IPS estimates provide an alternative source of information on international migration and are based on a sample survey of passengers arriving and departing from UK airports, seaports and the Channel Tunnel. They form part of the LTIM estimates.

As with LTIM estimates, IPS estimates of international migration show in-migration have risen; up 50 thousand from the previous year to a high of 580 thousand in 2015 (Figure 4). This is the highest level of in-migration recorded over the period since 2002.

Outflows from the UK fell by just over 20 thousand to nearly 280 thousand. This fall coupled with the rise in inflows contributed to the increase in net flow of 71 thousand, the highest net flow over the period since 2002, reversing the pattern seen in the early 2010s of falling inflows and netflows.

Figure 4: International migration based on IPS, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



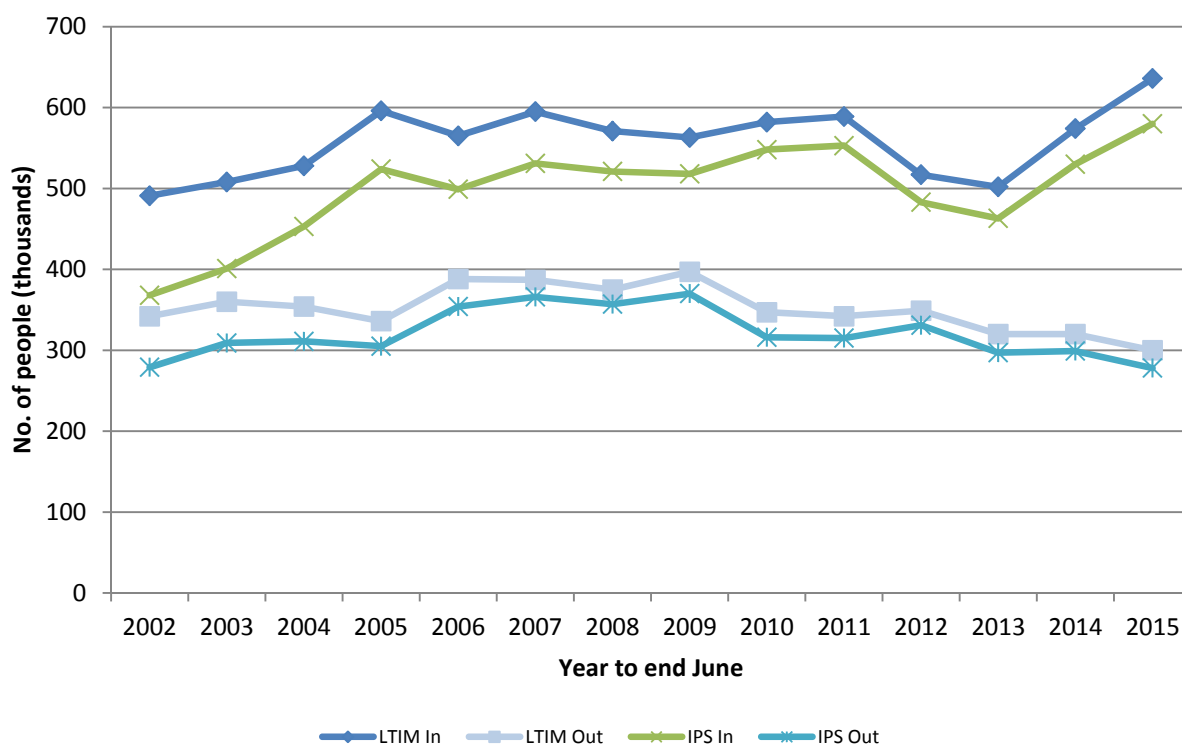
Source: International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates year ending June, ONS

Comparison of LTIM and IPS

Figure 5 shows in and out-migration for both LTIM and IPS data between 2002 and 2015. The LTIM data for both in and out-migration are higher, which is to be expected as they are adjusted to take into account other data sources such as asylum seekers and those migrating to/from Northern Ireland. However both sets of data follow the same trend with there being larger differences in inflows than outflows.

The difference in both in- and outflows has narrowed over time from over 100 thousand more LTIM inflows than IPS in the early 2000s to some 40 thousand in recent years. However 2015 did see a rise in the difference in inflows to 56 thousand (up by 12 thousand compared to the previous year); the largest difference since 2007. The difference in outflows has been smaller and remains stable at just over 20 thousand for 2015.

Figure 5: International migration based on LTIM and IPS data, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Sources: Long Term International Migration (LTIM) and International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates year ending June, ONS

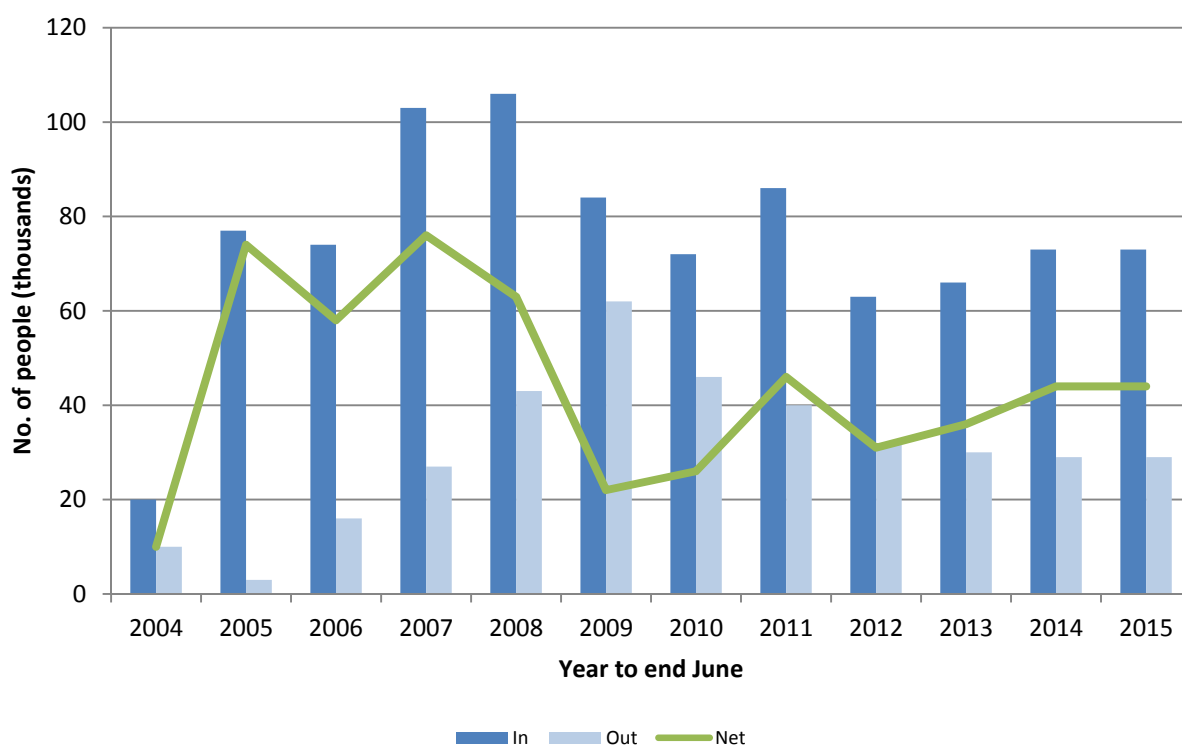
EU8 citizens

Figure 6 shows that the number of EU8¹ citizens migrating into the UK in 2015 remained stable at 73 thousand when compared to 2014. This follows rising inflows in 2013 and 2014. The number of in-migrants still remains considerably below the high of 106 thousand seen in 2008 and the second peak in 2011 of 86 thousand.

Like inflows, outflows have also remained stable in 2015. Both 2014 and 2015 saw outflows drop to 29 thousand, their lowest level since outflows starting falling in 2010.

In general the past couple of years has seen net migration rise due to an increase in inflows and a fall in outflows. Although net migration of EU8 citizens is higher in 2015 than in more recent years and is now on par with that seen in 2010, it still remains below that experienced in 2007 when there were 76 thousand more EU8 citizens moving to the UK than leaving.

Figure 6: Migration of EU8 citizens, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Long Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS

Following accession in 2004, over 40 per cent of migrants to the UK from the EU were from EU8 countries. By 2008 this had risen to more than half of EU migrants but by 2015 had dropped to its lowest proportion of only 28 per cent despite the increase in the number of EU migrants to the UK. This could partly be explained by an increase in the number of EU member states in both 2007 and 2011 coupled with a rise in the number of migrants from EU15 countries due to the effects of the economic downturn.

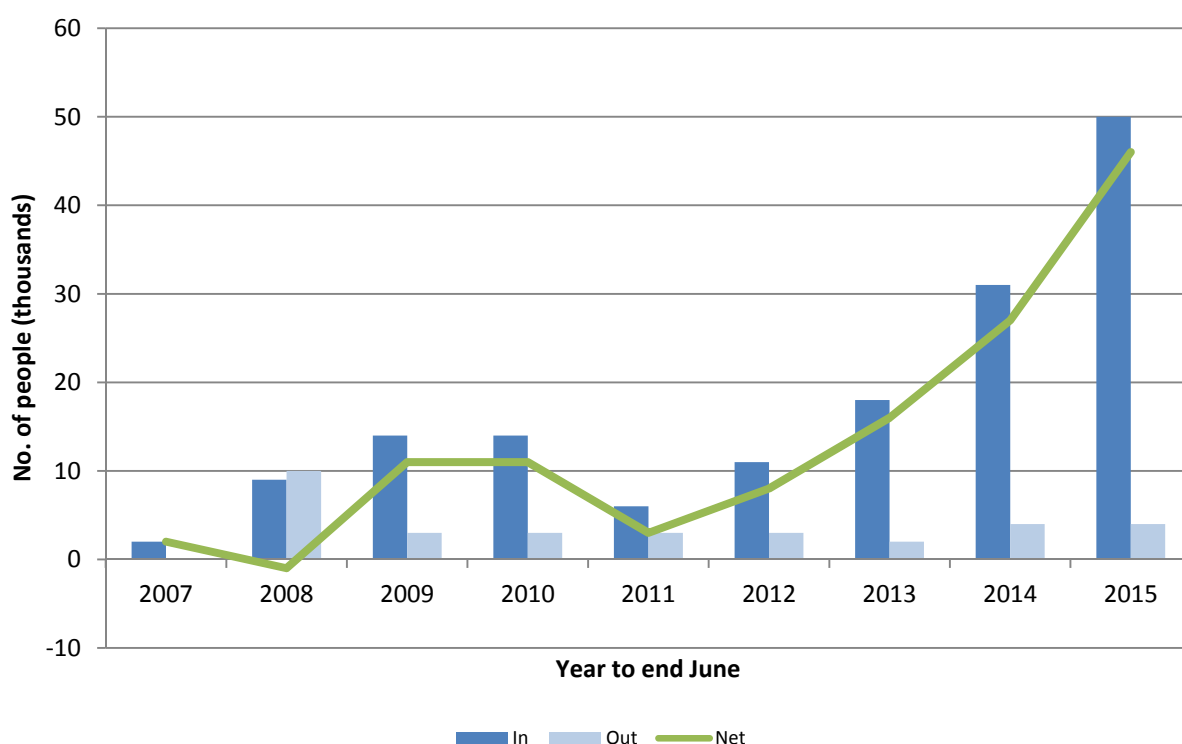
¹ See Key Terms and Definitions for a list of countries in the EU8

EU2 citizens

The EU2 comprises of Bulgaria and Romania who joined the EU in 2007. However work restrictions were placed on citizens of these countries regarding the type of employment that they could take up in the UK. These restrictions ended on 1 January 2014.

LTIM data does not provide separate numbers for those migrating to the UK from EU2 nations. However, this data is available as part of the IPS. Although the IPS is not considered as comprehensive a source as LTIM data, it does provide an indication of trends.

Figure 7: Migration of EU2 citizens, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates year ending June, ONS

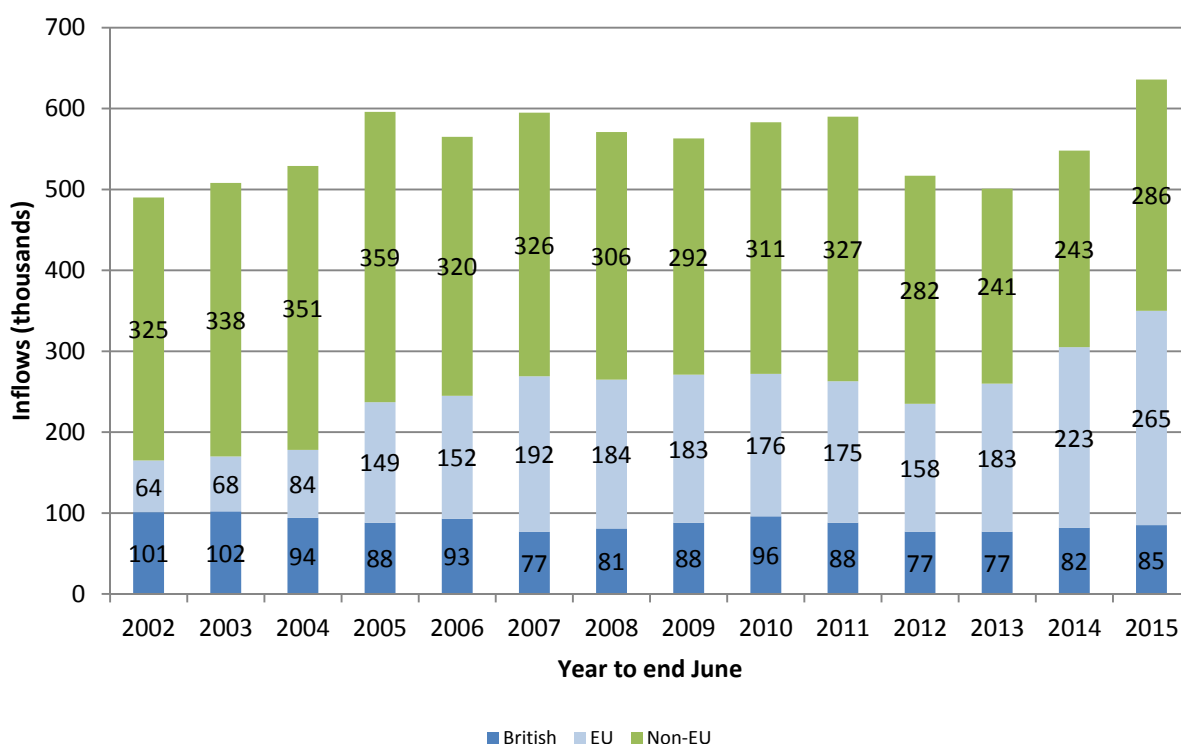
Figure 7 shows that for the year ending June 2015 the number of EU2 citizens migrating to the UK rose by more than 60 per cent to 50 thousand; the highest number since these countries joined the EU in 2007. Outflows remained stable at fewer than five thousand resulting in net flow rising by 70 per cent to 46 thousand.

Citizenship

Data on migrants' citizenship is released as part of the LTIM data. Figure 8 shows the split of British, EU and Non-EU in-migrants to the UK. For the year ending June 2015, the number of both EU and non-EU in-migrants has risen by some 40 thousand. In spite of the rise, the number of non-EU migrants remains well below the high of 359 thousand seen in the mid-2000s. The number of EU citizens migrating to the UK rose for the third consecutive year to their highest level (up by nearly 20 per cent to 265 thousand) over the period from 2002.

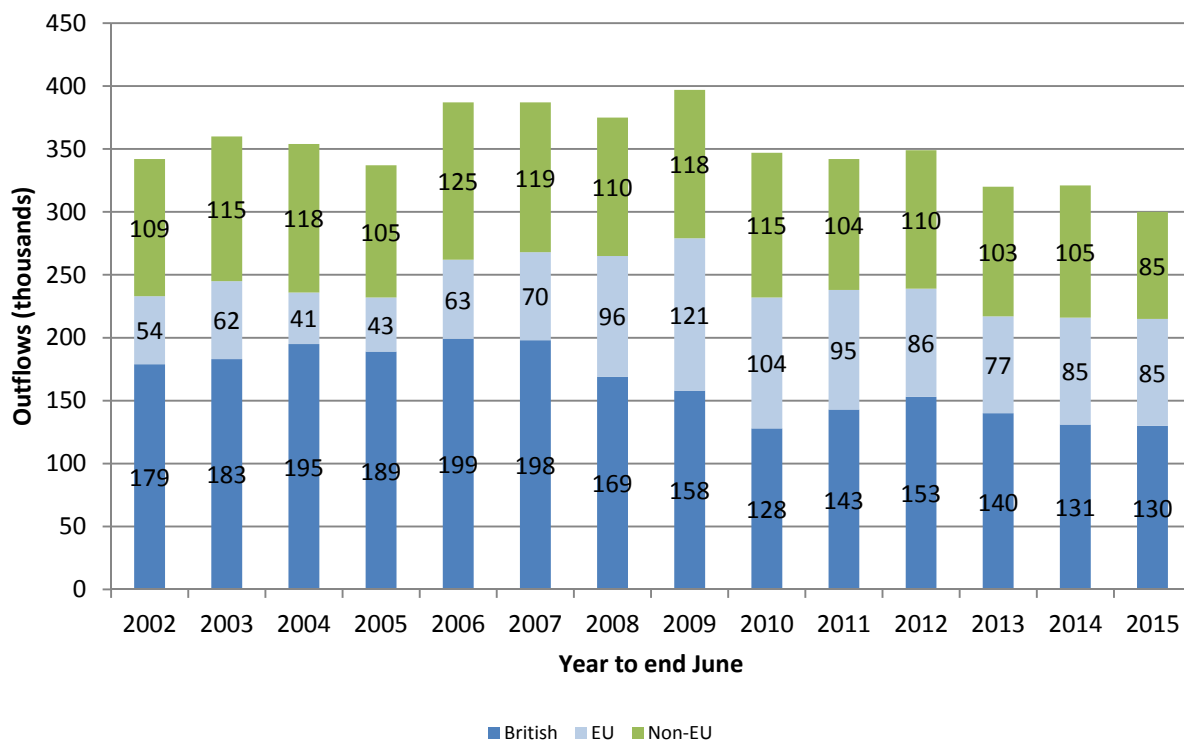
British in-migrants remained stable and are some 20 thousand lower than the early to mid-2000s.

Figure 8: Citizenship of in-migrants, UK, 12-month period ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS

Figure 9: Citizenship of out-migrants, UK, 12-month period ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS

The number of non-EU out-migrants fell by 20 thousand to 85 thousand in 2015, their lowest level over the period since 2002 whereas the number of both EU and British out-migrants remained stable in 2015.

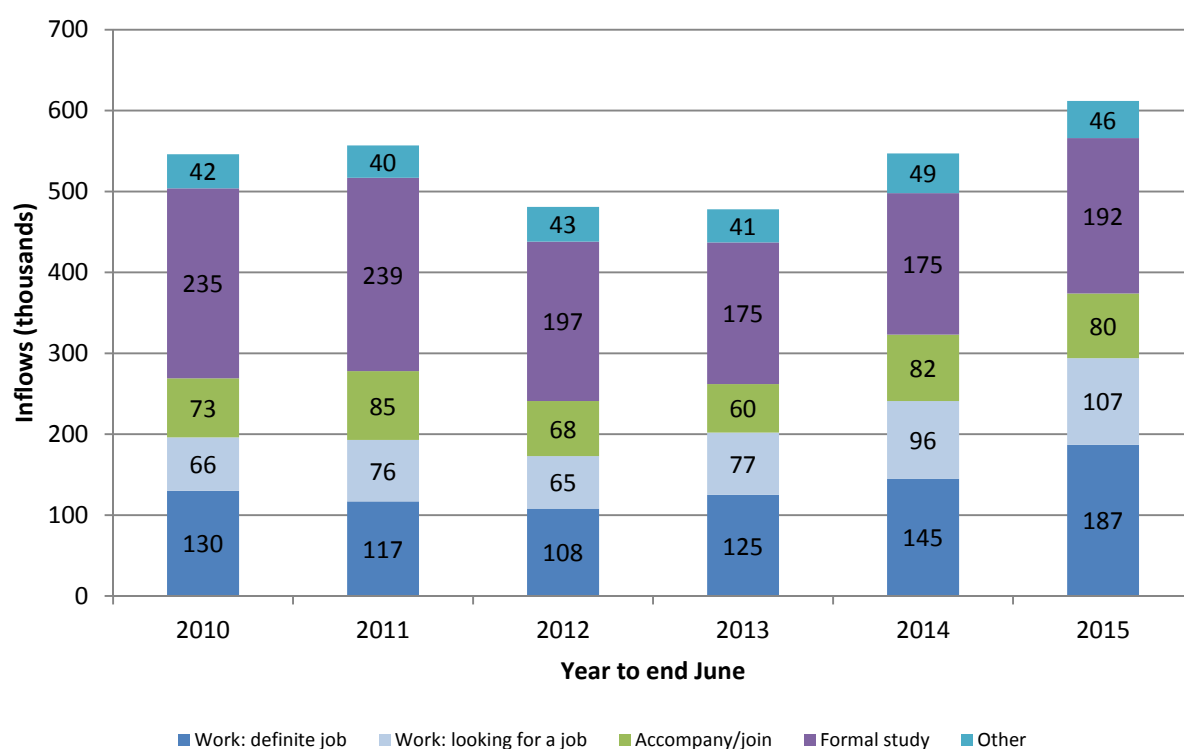
Reasons for migration

The most popular reason for migrating to the UK continues to be for 'formal study' with 192 thousand people migrating to the UK for this reason during the year ending June 2015. This was an increase of 17 thousand but in spite of this ten per cent rise, the number remains considerably lower than in 2010 and 2011 when some 235 thousand people migrated to the UK for 'formal study'.

In percentage terms, the largest increase was in those who migrated to the UK because of a 'definite job' (29 per cent or a rise of 42 thousand). This took the number migrating for this reason to 187 thousand, the highest number over the period since 2010. The number of people migrating to the UK to look for a job rose by 11 thousand to 107 thousand, also the highest level seen since 2010.

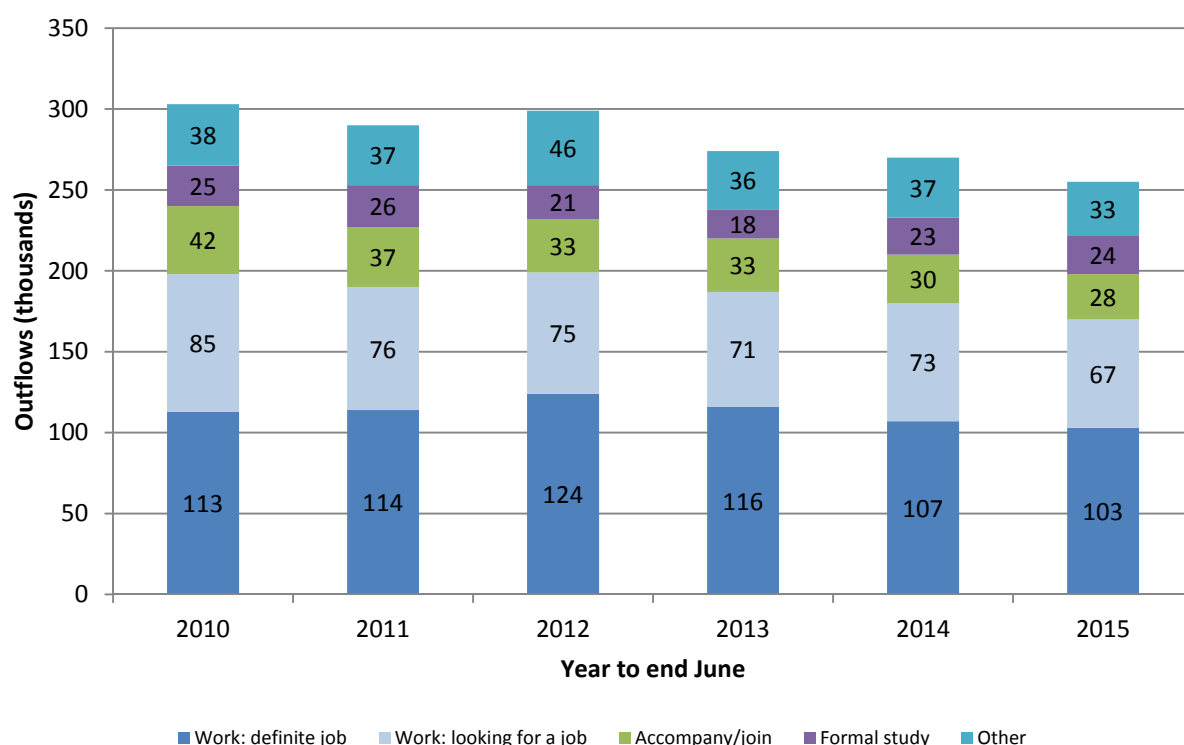
Both the number of people who migrated to the UK to 'accompany/join' someone and for 'other' reasons fell slightly in 2015 compared to the year before.

Figure 10: Reasons for in-migration, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS

Figure 11: Reasons for out-migration, UK, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates year ending June, ONS

With the exception of formal study which rose by one thousand, all reasons have seen a fall in the number of out-migrants in 2015 when compared to the year before. In absolute terms, the number of migrants who left the UK to look for a job elsewhere fell the most; a drop of six thousand to 67 thousand, the lowest level seen over the period since 2010.

The reason for emigrating can be different to the original reason for immigrating to the country and consequently it is not possible to compare Figures 10 and 11 directly.

National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations

Most recent update: *Quarter 3: July-September 2015 (released November 2015)*.

Next update: *Quarter 4: October-December 2015 (released February 2016)*.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) releases quarterly NINo registration data via the Stat-Xplore website (<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>). The accompanying Excel workbook data provides this data by quarter although Figures 12 to 15 as well as the accompanying text focuses on the financial year, i.e. year to end March.

DWP have stated that NINo registrations during the quarter April to June 2014 are estimated to be around 15-25 per cent lower than would otherwise be the case due to a change to the process of recording NINos. This impacts on comparisons of NINo registrations over time.

NINo registrations are used as proxy for international migration as to work in the UK you are required to have a NINo. However they provide no indication as to when the person arrived in the UK because they are based on a recorded registration date in the HMRC system.

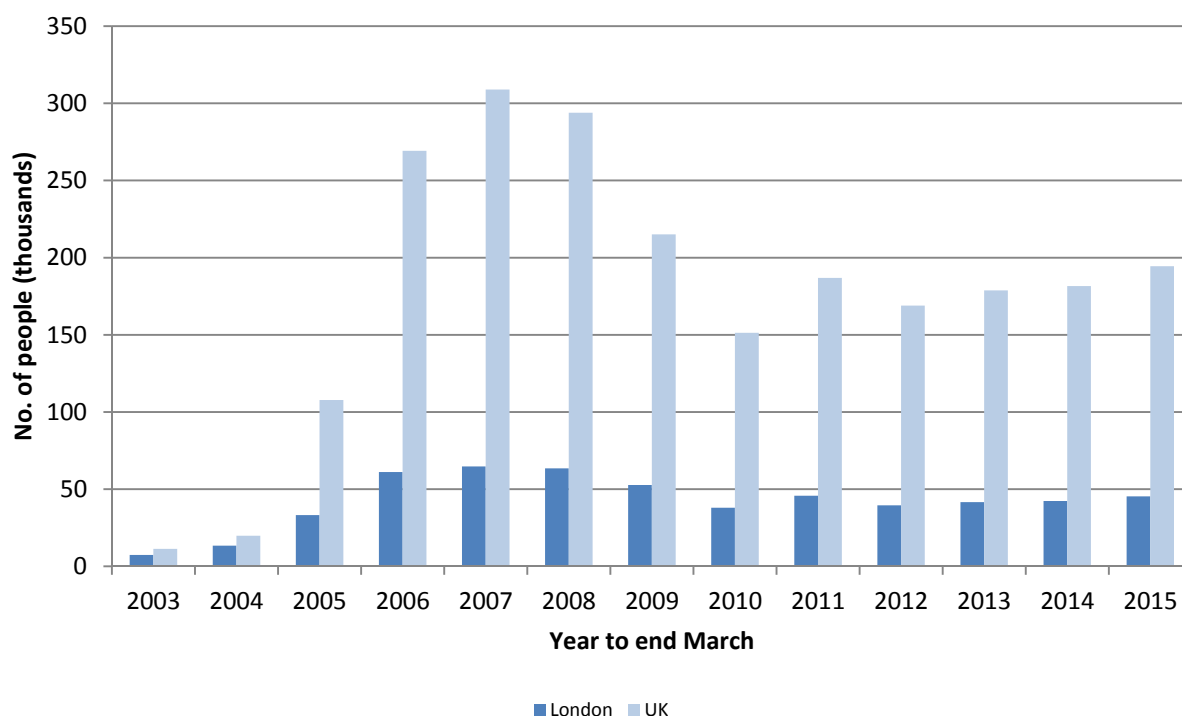
The total number of NINo registrations in the UK rose for the year ending March 2015 by over 220 thousand to nearly 821 thousand compared with the previous year; a 36.7 per cent rise. This takes the number of registrations to their highest level over the period since 2002. Registrations in London also rose compared with the previous year to 334 thousand, up 91 thousand or 37.6 per cent. Like the UK, the number of registrations recorded in London for the year ending March 2015 is at their highest over the period since 2002.

An end to working restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanians in January 2014 is likely to have had an effect on the considerable rise in NINo allocations in 2015. This copies a similar trend seen following accession of the EU8 countries to the EU.

Figures 12 and 13 show the trends for EU8 and EU2 nationals. NINo registrations to EU8 nationals peaked in 2007 with 309 thousand registrations in the UK of which nearly 65 thousand (20.9 per cent) were in London. However while the number of registrations in both areas fell in subsequent years, the number of registrations in London as a proportion of those in the UK rose to a high of 25.1 per cent in 2010. The most recent year of data shows there were 195 thousand NINo registrations to EU8 nationals in the UK of which 45 thousand (23.3 per cent) were in London. This is the third successive year that the number of NINo registrations has risen in both London and the UK although both remain below the levels seen in the mid-2000s.

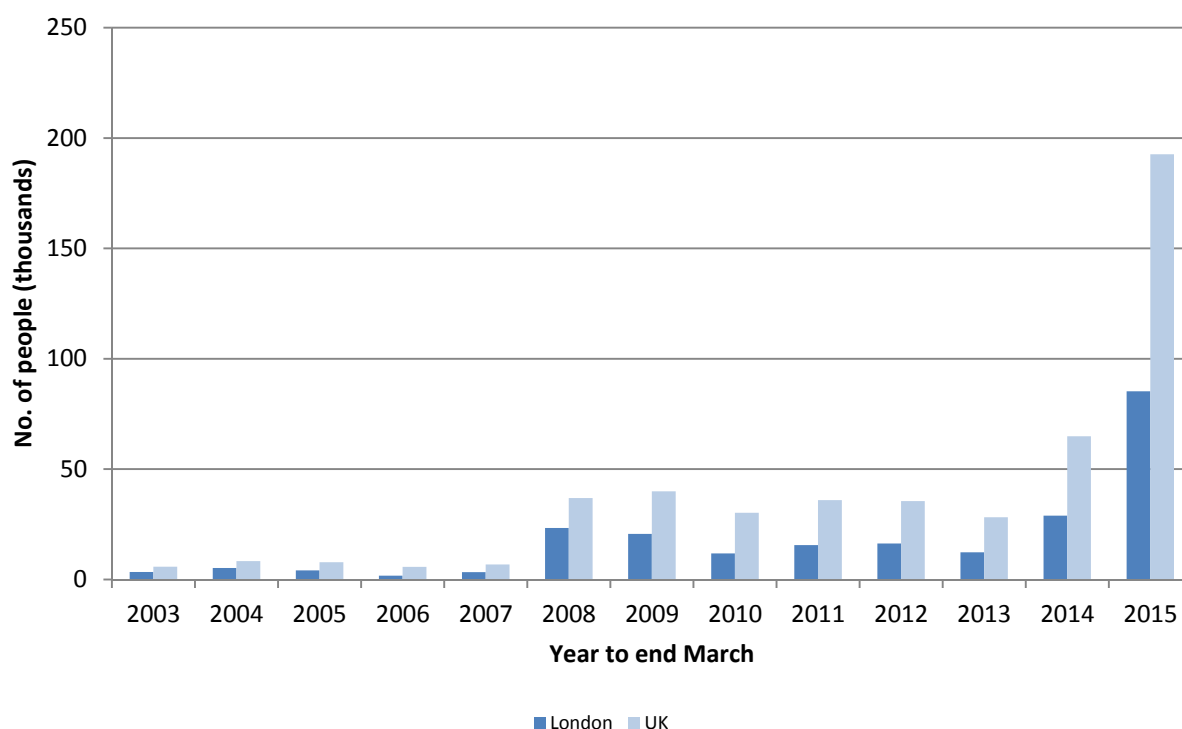
Registrations of EU2 nationals increased considerably in 2015 in both the UK and London. In London these were up 56 thousand (194.6 per cent) to 85 thousand whilst the UK saw a rise to nearly 193 thousand, equivalent to 196.9 per cent increase. London's proportion of NINo allocations to Bulgarians and Romanians remained steady at just below 45 per cent.

Figure 12: National Insurance Number allocations to EU8 citizens, UK and London, 12-month periods ending March of year given, thousands



Source: NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, DWP

Figure 13: National Insurance Number allocations to EU2 citizens, UK and London, 12-month periods ending March of year given, thousands



Source: NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, DWP

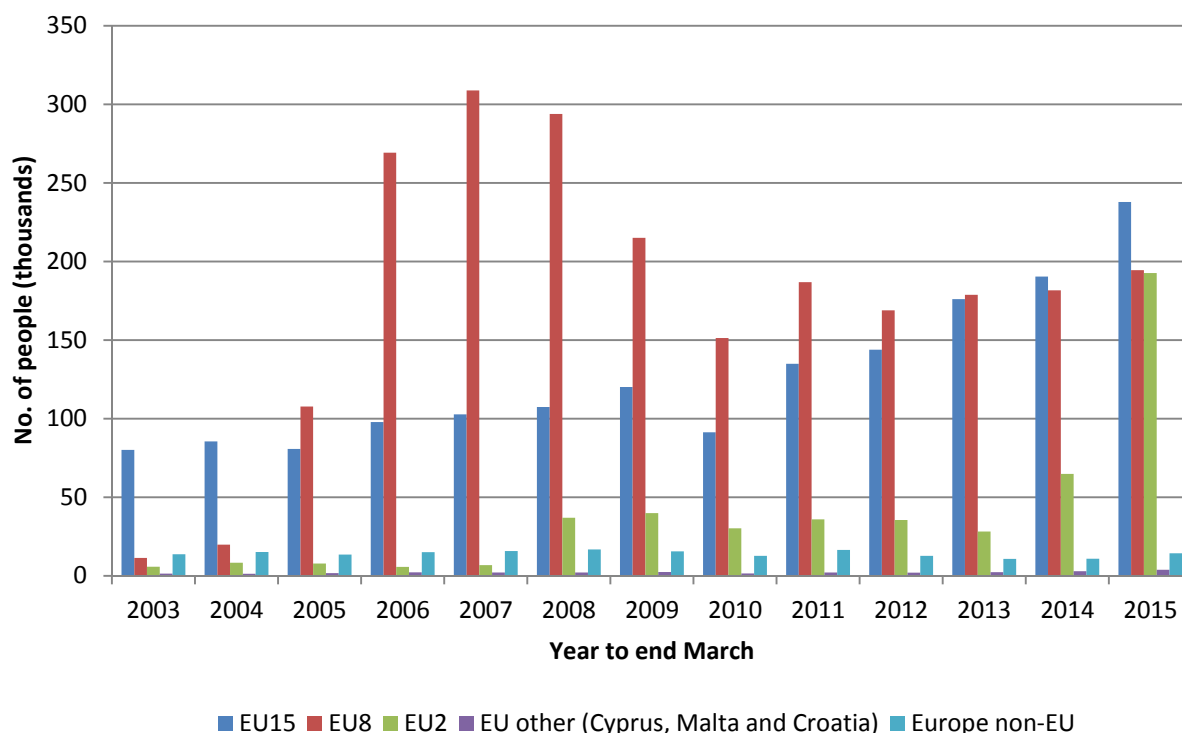
Figure 14 shows the number of NINo allocations by European geographical area. Since 2010 there has been a steady rise in the number of EU15 migrants registering for a NINo. For the year ending March 2015, registrations had risen 25 per cent, equivalent to 48 thousand registrations, compared to the previous year. This could be linked to continuing economic crises and high levels of unemployment in several EU15 countries.

Registrations to those from EU2 countries also rose considerably over the past year; up 128 thousand or 197 per cent. This is likely to be because working restrictions for Bulgarians and Romanians in the UK came to an end in January 2014.

The number of registrations to those from EU8 countries also rose; an increase of 13 thousand and are at their highest level since 2009. Despite the rise to nearly 195 thousand they remain well below the high of nearly 309 thousand registrations seen in 2007.

Registrations to those from EU other and Europe (non-EU) countries rose by some 30 per cent when compared to 2014.

Figure 14: National Insurance Number allocations by European geographical area, UK, 12-month periods ending March of year given, thousands

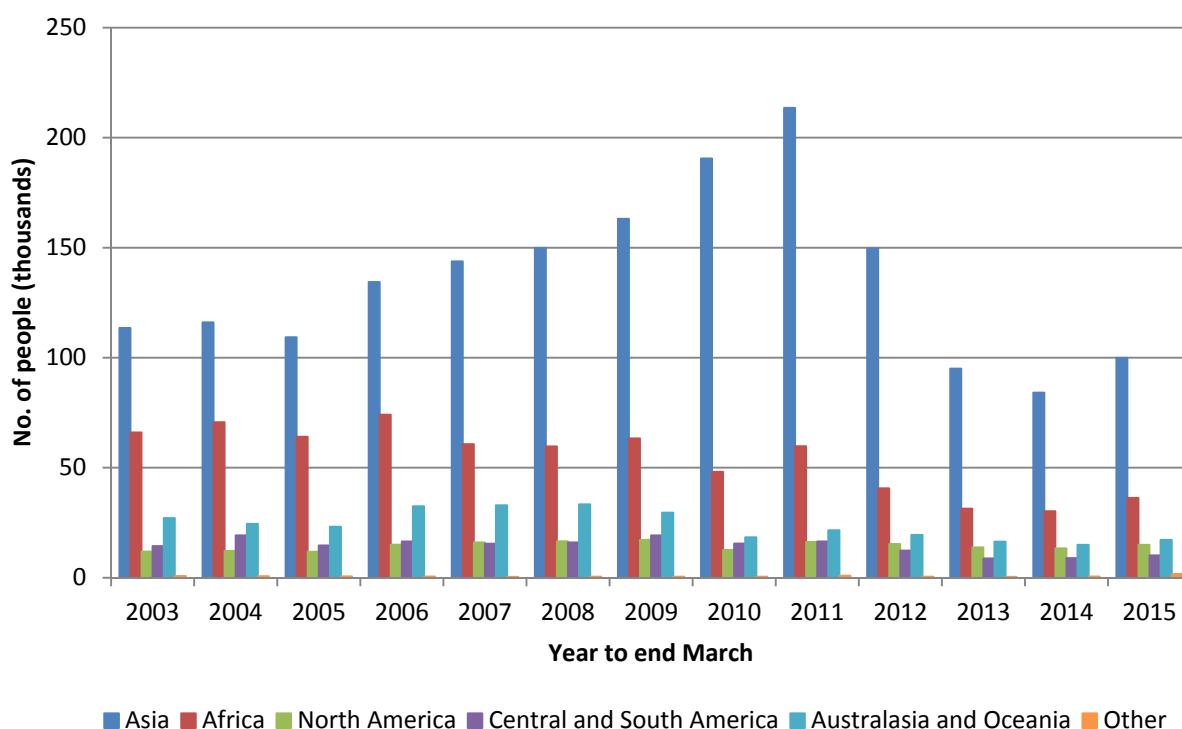


Source: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, DWP

NINo registrations to those from Asia (including the Middle East) make up the largest group outside of Europe. However the number of registrations to those from these countries has fallen considerably from a high of over 213 thousand in 2011 to a low of 84 thousand in 2014. In 2015, registrations rose by 18.7 per cent taking the total for 2015 to nearly 100 thousand.

The number of NINo registrations to those from Africa rose by 20 per cent in 2015; up six thousand, having been declining since 2011. In spite of this rise, registrations remain well below the high of 74 thousand allocated in 2006.

Figure 15: National Insurance Number allocations by geographical area outside Europe, UK, 12-month periods ending March of year given, thousands



Source: NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, DWP

'Flag 4' GP registrations

Most recent update: *Year ending June 2014 (released August 2015).*

Next update: *Year ending June 2015 (released August 2016).*

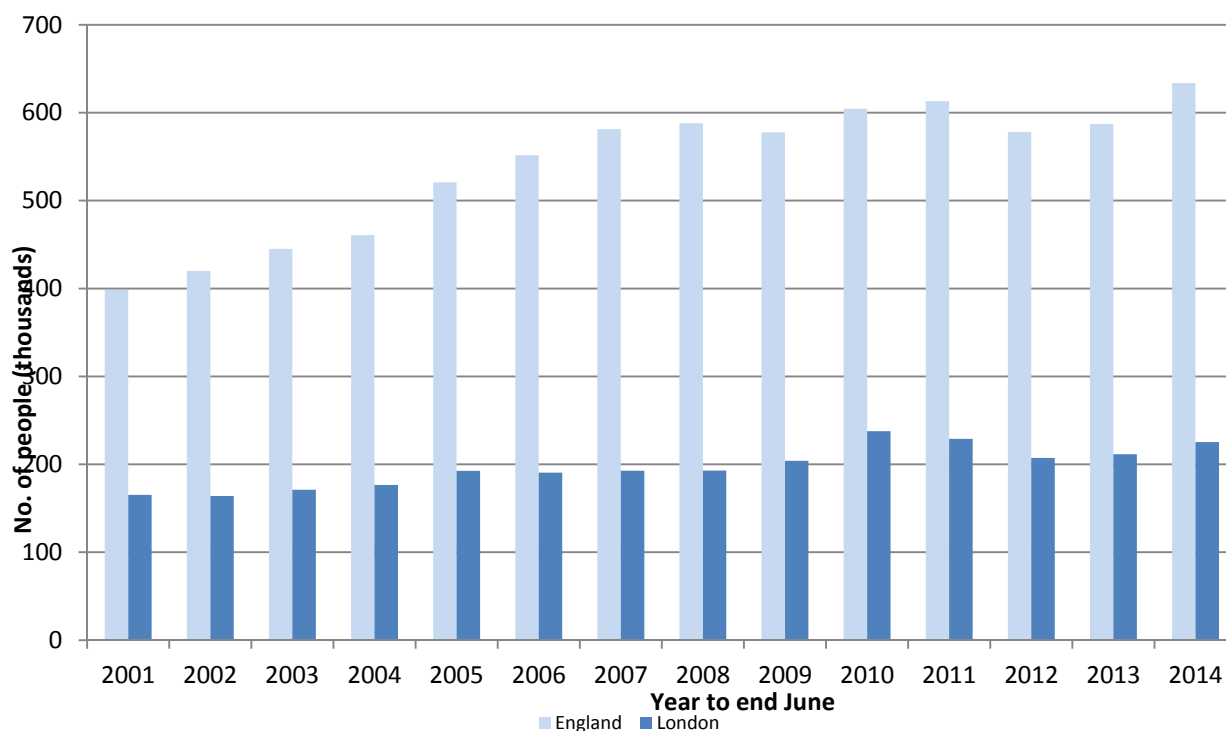
'Flag 4' data provides an indication of recent international in-migrants to an area through registrations with a GP. The data is released annually for both England and London and covers the period July to June of each year.

Figure 16 shows the number of 'Flag 4' registrations between 2001 and 2014 for both London and England. Overall, the numbers show that registrations in England have been rising since 2001 with the exceptions of a slight decline in both 2009 and 2012. In 2014, the number of 'Flag 4' registrations in England rose taking the total number of 'Flag 4' registrations to 634 thousand surpassing the previous high of 613 thousand registrations in 2011.

London registrations have followed a similar pattern to those in England and also rose in 2014; up by just under 14 thousand. In spite of this rise, unlike the UK, registrations are not at their highest level since 2001 with both 2010 and 2011 seeing greater 'Flag 4' registrations in London than 2014.

London's percentage share of registrations has remained steady in 2014 at around 36 per cent, considerably lower than the high of 41.5 per cent in 2001.

Figure 16: 'Flag 4' registrations, London and England, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: 'Flag 4' GP registrations year ending June, ONS/PRDS

Short-term international migration

Most recent update: Year ending June 2013 (released May 2015).

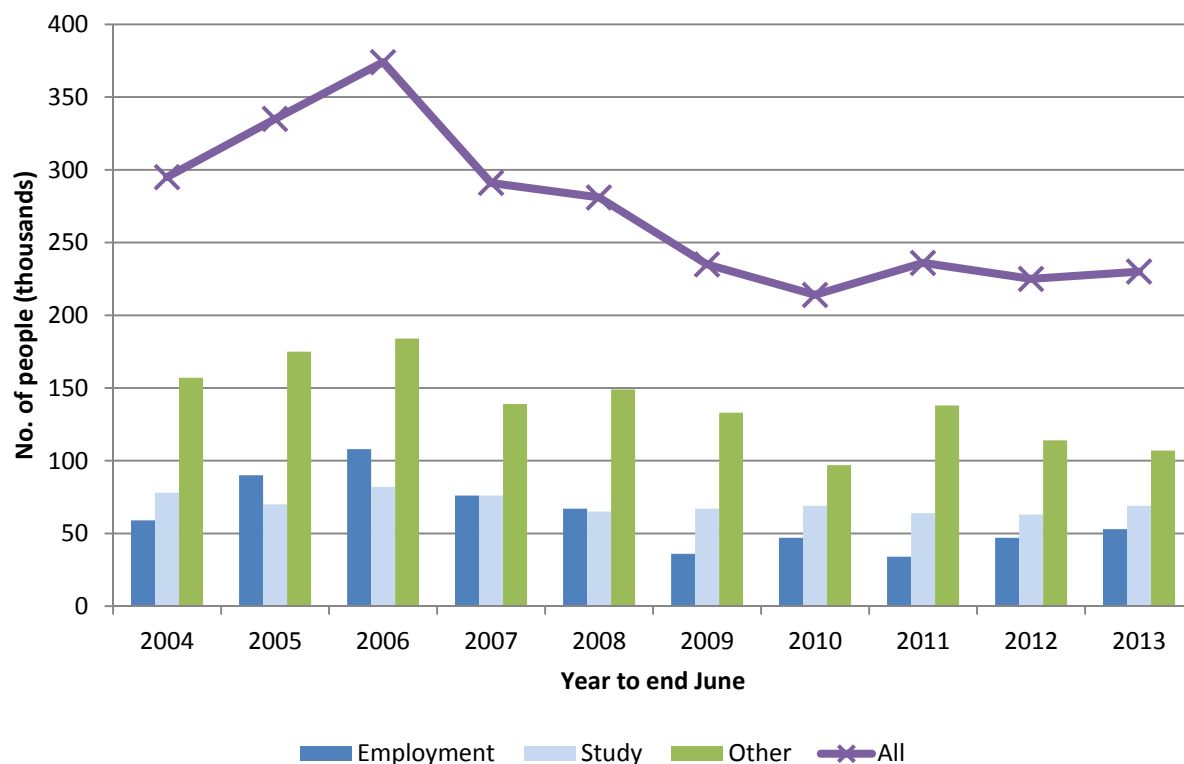
Next update: Year ending June 2014 (released May 2016).

Short-term international migration (stays of less than 12 months) data are released annually for England & Wales for the period ending June of each year. The number migrating to the UK for between three and 12 months has been declining since 2006 (a high of 374 thousand) and has remained relatively stable over the past three years at around 230 thousand.

The number migrating for employment rose year-on-year between 2004 and 2006 (Figure 17). It then fell for three consecutive years to 36 thousand before fluctuating. The latest figures released for 2013 show that the number who migrated for employment purposes rose for a second year running; an increase of six thousand taking the total to 53 thousand.

The number migrating for study has fluctuated since the late 2000s and in 2013 also increased by six thousand to be on par with the number seen in 2010 of 69 thousand. It is the 'other' category which makes up the largest group of short-term migrants to the UK. This encompasses those coming for 'other employment' reasons such as business trips and those visiting for reasons such as holidays, visiting family and for religious reasons.

Figure 17: Short-term migrants (3-12 months) inflows by reason, England & Wales, 12-month periods ending June of year given, thousands



Source: Short-term migration estimates year ending June, ONS

Key terms and definitions

Internal migration

Estimates of migration within England & Wales are mainly based on patient re-registrations (National Health Service Central Register [NHSCR]) and are released in cumulative 12-month periods. This tracks people's moves every time they re-register with a GP. However, not everyone will register with a GP every time they move. Certain groups of people are more likely to register (such as children and the older population) particularly those with a need for routine medical care and advice. The data also includes a student adjustment based on HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) data.

Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)

This is considered the most comprehensive estimate of international long-term migration. It is based on the IPS with adjustments made to take into account "*asylum seekers, migration to and from Northern Ireland and people whose length of stay changes from their original intentions*".

Interpolated LTIM data

Figures for years ending March and September for each year in the period to December 2009 have been interpolated by ONS. They are provided solely as an indication and should not be used.

Citizenship

The member countries of the European Union have altered over the period covered by the tables and charts. Estimates by citizenship are based upon membership of the relevant groups at the time of migration.

Reason for migration

Respondents are asked to identify their main reason for migration. The data included in this workbook excludes those who did not state a reason for their migration. "No reason stated" includes non-responses and the non-specific responses "Emigrating/Immigrating" and "Returning home to live". The reason for emigrating can be different to the original reason for immigrating to the country and consequently it is not possible to directly compare the data.

International Passenger Survey (IPS)

This is a sample survey of passengers arriving and departing from UK airports, seaports and the Channel Tunnel. ONS releases provisional IPS data so as to provide an indication of any changes in international migration prior to the release of LTIM data. This is because data from outside sources, such as asylum seeker data, which are used in the LTIM estimates are not available until a later date.

EU (European Union)

The EU in this sense comprises the EU15 up to 2003, the EU25 from 2004 to 2006, the EU27 from 2007 to 2013, and the EU28 from 2013 onwards. It is therefore not possible to directly compare the figures as the size of the EU has grown over the time period to take into account new member states. The EU most recently grew in size to 28 countries when Croatia became a member state in July 2013.

EU2

The EU2 comprises Bulgaria and Romania which joined the EU in 2007. They were formerly known as the A2 (Accession 2). Temporary work restrictions for citizens of the EU2 came to an end in January 2014.

EU8

The EU8 is made up of eight countries which joined the EU in 2004 alongside Cyprus and Malta. The EU8 is comprised of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. They were formerly known as the A8 (Accession 8).

EU15

The EU15 is made up of the 15 countries which were members of the EU in 2003. These encompass: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK.

EU25

The EU25 includes all countries that are part of the EU15 and the EU8 as well as Malta and Cyprus.

EU27

The EU27 comprises the EU25 plus the EU2.

EU28

The EU28 is the current grouping and includes all current 27 member states (including the UK). It is made up of the EU25 plus the EU2 plus Croatia who joined in July 2013.

National Insurance Numbers (NINOs)

A National Insurance Number (NINo) is necessary in order to be able to work in the UK and therefore the allocation of new NINOs to overseas nationals by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has become a useful way of monitoring the flow of people coming to the UK for work. The data, rounded to the nearest ten, are available for financial years for all local authorities in the UK by a full range of origin countries.

'Flag 4' GP registrations

'Flag 4s' are codes within the Patient Register Data Service (PRDS) held by the NHS. The flag indicates someone who has registered with a GP in England & Wales but was previously living overseas. They provide an indication of recent international in-migrants to an area.

Short-term migration

A short-term migrant is defined by the ONS as "*someone who changes their country of residence for between 1 and 12 months*" although data is also released for those who migrate for between 3 and 12 months. The data analysed covers short-term international migration only.

Short-term migration reasons:

Employment: migrants going to a definite new job which includes au pairs and those seeking a job.

Study: migrants arriving to attend formal study courses, includes both further and higher education.

Other employment: migrants visiting on business for their existing employer.

Other: migrants visiting for other reasons, e.g. holiday, visiting friends and relatives, medical treatment, religious pilgrimage.