

24 July 2007
IFD240707NINO

Coverage: Great Britain
Theme: Labour Market

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER ALLOCATIONS TO OVERSEAS NATIONALS ENTERING THE UK 2006/07

Introduction

The annual statistics on National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations to overseas (non-UK) nationals entering the UK are released today. The statistics are available via a report on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp

NINos are required for employment/self-employment purposes (ie for the administration of tax and national insurance contributions) and to claim benefits and tax credits. The tables in the publication are broken down by both the year of arrival into the UK and the year of NINo registration. The registration figures include registrations up to 2006/07 whereas the arrivals series only covers tax years up to 2005/06. This is because it often takes months or even years for new arrivals to apply for a NINo, eg where the overseas national undertakes a course of study before going into employment.

The DWP figures provide a measure of inflow for overseas nationals registering for a NINo, however do not measure outflow or overall migrant population.

Key Findings

Registrations:

- Total NINo registrations in 2006/07, at 713 thousand, were 51 thousand (7.7%) higher than in 2005/06.
- Registrations for Accession* nationals increased from 277 to 321 thousand (16%) over the same period, with Poland the largest contributor (69% of Accession national registrations in 2006/07).
- Registrations in respect of all non-Accession nationals rose by 7 thousand (1.7%).

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Issued by:
Information Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions

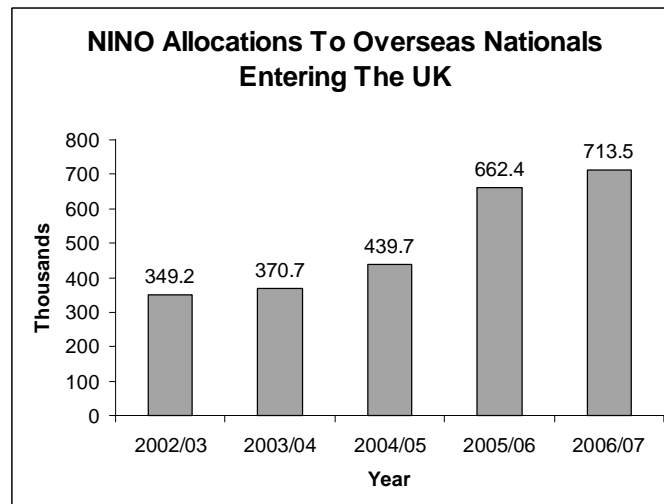
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Next publication:
To be confirmed



Arrivals:

- The total number of arrivals into the UK in 2005/06 - and who were registered on the National Insurance Recording System by 14 May 2007 - was 562 thousand. This series has risen each year since there were 284 thousand arrivals in 2000/01.
- Comparing 2004/05 and 2005/06 arrivals, the proportion claiming an out-of-work benefit within 6 months of NINo registration remained at around 3%.

Registrations to nationals of the EU Accession countries

Registrations to nationals from the EU Accession countries increased by 44 thousand (16%) in the year, to stand at 321 thousand in 2006/07. Most of this increase was due to Polish nationals who accounted for 69% (223 thousand) of registrations to nationals from Accession countries. Slovaks made up 9% (29 thousand) and Lithuanians 8% (24 thousand). Registrations to non-Accession nationals increased by 7 thousand (1.7%) between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Our figures are consistent with Home Office (Worker Registration Scheme) figures in that both show further increases in the number of Accession country migrants.

Overseas Nationals entering the UK and allocated a NINo, by Year of Registration and Continent of Origin

	<i>Thousands</i>				
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
All	349.2	370.7	439.7	662.4	713.5
Europe - EU Accession Countries	17.9	28.7	119.2	276.7	321.2
Europe - EU excluding Accession Countries	80.7	84.9	81.3	97.6	103.7
Europe - non-EU	14.7	15.8	14.1	15.5	16.3
Asia and Middle East	114.5	115.0	110.0	134.2	145.4
Australasia and Oceania	27.3	24.2	23.4	32.5	33.2
The Americas	26.6	31.2	26.7	31.4	31.8
Africa	66.6	70.1	64.5	73.9	61.4
Others and Unknown	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	*0.5

Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording System at 14th May 2007.

Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum due to rounding.

EU Accession Countries include Romania and Bulgaria who joined the EU on 1st January 2007

* Accession Nationals refer to the twelve countries that have joined the European Union since 1 May 2004: the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria. All twelve are included under "EU Accession Countries" throughout the time series above.

Arrivals claiming out-of-work benefits

Of the 562 thousand total arrivals into the UK in 2005/06, 16 thousand (3%) were claiming an out-of-work benefit - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Income Support (IS) - within 6 months of NINo registration. Figures for recent years are lower than for earlier years because Accession nationals are generally required to have worked continuously for 12 months before they are entitled to income-related benefits.

Of the 16 thousand 2005/06 arrivals going onto out-of-work benefits, almost 13 thousand were actively seeking work (receiving JSA), while just under 3 thousand were not obliged to be actively seeking work (receiving IB or IS).

Age and Gender

Of the 713 thousand new registrations in 2006/07, 583 thousand (82%) were under the age of 35 and only 8 thousand were over 55. Males accounted for 54% of new registrations and females 46%.

**Overseas Nationals registering in the UK in 2006/07 and allocated a NINo,
by Age and Gender**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	713.5	382.1	331.4
<18	5.9	3.3	2.7
18-24	264.7	129.4	135.3
25-34	312.2	173.1	139.1
35-44	85.3	50.2	35.1
45-54	37.2	21.5	15.8
55-59	5.7	3.2	2.4
60+	2.5	1.5	1.0

*Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording System at 14th May 2007.
Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum due to rounding.*

'-' denotes nil or negligible.

Notes to editors

This definition of migrants – overseas nationals allocated a NINo – differs from other published statistics in the area, for example International Passenger Survey statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year following arrival. The various definitions of migrants mean that other data sources may have a different number of migrants for the same time period.

These statistics have been produced using 100% sample data from the National Insurance Recording System. The data covers all overseas nationals allocated a NINo, whatever the reason for the allocation and whatever the length of stay in the UK. The data does not show when overseas nationals subsequently depart the UK, nor length of stay in the UK. The figures therefore give a measure of the inflow of overseas nationals (excluding those who do not register for a NINo such as tourists), but not outflow or overall stock. Series derived from the International Passenger Survey, Labour Force Survey and Census give a measure of stock.

The arrivals figures for all years, but especially 2005/06, will rise in future as other people already resident in the UK apply for and are allocated a NINo.

The full version of the report in adobe acrobat format is on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp

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