



## Migration Indicators: February 2009

### Background

On 24 February 2009 the Office for National Statistics (ONS), 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 report presents these indicators as they relate to the UK and the South East.

### Internal Migration

Data on migration within the UK is 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.

**Table 1: Internal Migration to and from South East (in thousands): 12-month periods ending in given quarters**

	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2008 Q2		Annual Change
<b>In</b>	225.7	225.6	226.0	216.4	219.6	225.8	<b>214.4</b>		-11.4
<b>Out</b>	217.5	216.0	213.6	202.4	200.2	202.1	<b>194.3</b>		-7.8
<b>Net</b>	8.2	9.6	12.4	14.0	19.4	23.7	<b>20.1</b>		-3.6
<b>UK</b>	1,268	1,263	1,270	1,213	1,212	1,227	<b>1,190</b>		
<b>South East Flows as % of UK</b>									
	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2008 Q1		
<b>In</b>	17.8	17.9	17.8	17.8	18.1	18.4	<b>18.0</b>		
<b>Out</b>	17.2	17.1	16.8	16.7	16.5	16.5	<b>16.3</b>		

The latest 12-month period to the end of June 2008 shows reductions in all flows over the year and the net gain to the South East has also reduced. Both the inflow to the region and the outflow from the region were at the lowest levels for the 21st century – as is the overall inter-regional movement for the UK.

### International Migration

Data on international migration is 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.

**Table 2: International Migration to and from the South East and the UK (in thousands): 12-month periods ending at given quarters**

UK	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2006 Q4	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	Annual Change
In	488	505	526	593	561	591	595	577	-14
Out	336	357	353	334	387	400	388	340	-60
Net	152	147	173	258	174	191	207	237	46
<b>South East</b>									
South East	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2006 Q4	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	Annual Change
In	67	71	74	77	71	81	81	84	3
Out	62	52	59	46	57	53	61	54	1
Net	5	19	15	31	14	28	20	30	2
<b>South East as % of UK</b>									
South East as % of UK	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2006 Q4	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	
In	14	14	14	13	13	14	14	15	
Out	18	15	17	14	15	13	16	16	
Net	3	13	9	12	8	15	10	13	

While nationally the gross flows have declined over the past year the South East inflow has increased slightly and net inflows to both UK and the South East have increased.

### Asylum Seekers

Data on asylum is now collected by the UK Border Agency and made available by the Home Office. The applications data is only available for the UK as a whole but the information on those asylum seekers who receive either subsistence only or accommodation support is available for all regions and local authorities, although data is rounded to the nearest five and is 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) is shown in the tabulations.

**Table 3: Asylum: UK Applicants (12-month periods ending at given quarters) and Supported Asylum Seekers at end of periods (in thousands)**

	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	2008 Q2	2008 Q4	Annual Change
<b>UK Applicants</b>	76.5	72.5	39.7	30.3	24.4	22.3	23.4	25.0	25.7	2.2
<b>Supported</b>										
	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	2008 Q2	2008 Q4	Annual Change
<b>UK</b>						48.1	43.0	30.6	31.3	-11.7
<b>South East</b>						1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	-0.1

Asylum applications have recently started to rise again after falling from the annual totals of over 70,000 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)

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 10, is available for all local authorities in the UK by a full range of origin countries for financial years.

**Table 4: National Insurance Numbers allocated to Overseas Nationals (in thousands): 12 month periods ending at given quarters**

		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2007 Q3	2008 Q1	2008 Q3	Annual Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>UK</b>	346.2	373.5	435.4	663.0	705.8	776.4	733.1	<b>719.9</b>	-56.6
	<b>South East</b>	37.4	43.5	51.0	80.2	79.3	..	82.8	..	..
<hr/>										
		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2007 Q3	2008 Q1	2008 Q3	Annual Change
<b>EU A8</b>	<b>UK</b>	11.4	19.9	107.8	269.3	308.9	335.9	293.8	<b>265.2</b>	-70.7
	<b>South East</b>	0.9	1.7	14.3	33.8	34.1	..	33.8	..	..
<hr/>										
		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2007 Q3	2008 Q1	2008 Q3	Annual Change
<b>Bulgaria &amp; Romania</b>	<b>UK</b>	5.8	8.4	7.8	5.7	6.8	24.7	36.9	<b>40.9</b>	16.2
	<b>South East</b>	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.7	..	3.5	..	..

The total inflow peaked in calendar year 2007 at 797,000 and the flow from the EU A8 countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) peaked in the year to September 2007. The A8 flow fell by over 20% in the following year. There has been the expected continual increase in flows from Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU at the beginning of 2007.

#### **Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) and Bulgaria/Romania**

The WRS relates solely to the A8 countries. The data is 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 is mainly given to the self-employed. Data on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme has not been presented here. None of the data is available below the level of the UK.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Annual Change
<b>WRS</b>	134.6	212.3	234.7	217.0	<b>164.0</b>	-52.0
<hr/>						
				2007	2008	Annual Change
<b>Bulgaria/Romania</b>				40.9	<b>29.9</b>	-11.0

The downturn in WRS reflects what has been seen with NINOs for A8 countries. The WRS fall to the end of 2008 was even steeper than that for NINOs at about 25%. It is too early to detect trends in the Bulgaria/Romania data given that 2007 was the first year since accession, however the registrations were down each quarter of 2008 compared with 2007.

#### **Conclusions**

The two measures that are used to prepare the mid-year estimates – internal and international migration – in combination show levels of net migration that imply that the South East is gaining more population through migration than was demonstrated by the ONS population estimates for mid-2007. Between mid-2006 and mid-2007 the net migration gain was estimated to be 44,000. The most recent estimates in combination show that the current gain could be increased to 50,000 – a gain of 20,000 internal migrants

and a gain of 30,000 international migrants. The data for calendar year 2007 on births and deaths for the South East shows a natural change of 26,000. Therefore the region is already on course for total population change in 2007-08 to be approaching 80,000 compared to 71,000 in 2006-07.

The general decline in the numbers of people moving between regions is an indication of the impact of the present financial downturn. Most moves affecting the South East tend to be families who are owner-occupiers with a large inflow expected from London. The reduction in completed sales would appear to be showing up as a significant reduction in the outflow of Londoners to the rest of the UK and this is the main cause of the drop in inflows to the South East. In the year to mid-2007 the flow from London to the South East was over 97,000, but this fell to less than 92,000 in the year to mid-2008.

The impact of global economic uncertainty is not shown in the international flows, which are for 2007, however the more up-to-date information on NINos and WRS shows that the deeper one looks through 2008 the greater the decline in the flow of workers to the UK. The only exception is the buoyant NINo flow from Bulgaria and Romania.

This report has been commissioned by the South East England Regional Assembly from the Greater London Authority.

For more information please contact John Hollis, Data Management and Analysis Group,  
Greater London Authority, City Hall (PP 24a), The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA  
Tel: 020 7983 4604 e-mail: [John.Hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:John.Hollis@london.gov.uk)

Data produced in this report have been reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and are © Crown Copyright