



Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

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. Most of the datasets relate either directly or indirectly to migration, but one – population estimates by country of birth and nationality – uses results from the Annual Population Survey relating to the period July 2007 to June 2008. Estimates are available at county and unitary authority level and continue a series that goes back to 2004.

This report presents these indicators as they relate to the UK and the South East.

The Data and Definitions

The following paragraphs are based on the ONS description of the data and the source.

The tables are produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts.

The LFS is a household survey of people in the UK. It includes those resident at private addresses and includes those students living in halls of residence whose parents are resident in the UK. However, the LFS does not cover most communal establishments.

The APS combines results from the LFS and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts, which increase the size of the sample. During 2004 and 2005 the APS also included a boost for England.

Each quarter's LFS sample of 53,000 households is made up from five "waves", each of approximately 11,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. Thus there is an 80% overlap in the samples for each successive quarter and the sample is completely different after six quarters.

In some areas of the UK the boost makes up the bulk of the APS dataset, with a smaller contribution from the main LFS. The boost has a four year wave structure instead of the five quarter wave structure in the main LFS; after the initial interview, sampled households are interviewed three more times on an annual basis. Therefore, the boost for these areas may be slower to react to a change in migration patterns than the main LFS and the speed with which the APS sample responds to changes in the household population may vary across the UK.

More robust estimates are available by using the APS rather than the main LFS. APS datasets are produced quarterly with each dataset containing 12 months of data. There are approximately 360,000 persons per dataset.

Nationality refers to that stated by the respondent during the interview. Country of birth is the country in

which they were born. It is possible that an individual's nationality may change, but the respondent's place of birth cannot change, although the country's name may subsequently change. This means that country of birth gives a more robust estimate of change over time.

People born in Northern Ireland have the right to British and/or Irish nationality/citizenship. Therefore in the nationality tables British and Irish have been combined for Northern Ireland. Non-British consists of all other nationalities except British, apart from Northern Ireland where it consists of all other nationalities except British and Irish. Where a respondent has dual nationality the first one is recorded.

In the tables the following terms are used:

United Kingdom/British – includes the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

European Union 13 – the 15 countries of the EU as constituted between 1995 and May 2004, less the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

European Union 14 – the 15 countries of the EU as constituted between 1995 and May 2004, less the United Kingdom.

European Union A8 – the eight Eastern European countries that joined the EU in May 2004.

European Union 24/26 – all members of the EU, except for the United Kingdom. For 2004 to 2006 this relates to 24 members and from 2007 it is 26 with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.

Rest of the World – all countries outside the EU as formed at the time.

Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.

Commentary

Table 1 shows that the South East and the UK have similar patterns of composition and change of the population by country of birth. There are declines in the percentages of UK and Irish-born but increases for all other groups. Not surprisingly, it is the increase in the A8 countries that is the most dramatic with their representation in the UK rising by nearly four-fold and with a near trebling in the region.

The situation is very similar when analysed by nationality as in Table 2. In both the UK and the South East higher percentages of the population are British than are born in the UK. In the South East in 2007-08 this is 94% compared to 90%. Once again it is the growth of the A8 population that is most dramatic and the rates of change are even higher when viewed by nationality than by country of birth.

Population estimates for the individual unitaries and counties are much less robust than for the region as a whole. For the South East region most of the 2007-08 estimates have a coefficient of variation (CV)¹ of between 5% and 10% and are considered by ONS to be 'reasonably precise'. Those for the Republic of Ireland have a CV of between 10% and 20% but are still considered to be 'acceptable'. In the unitary/county tables all UK born and British estimates are considered to be 'precise' with a CV of less than 5%. The majority of estimates of non-UK born and non-British have a CV of between 10% and 20% and are therefore considered to be 'acceptable'. The estimates for the Isle of Wight (both non-UK and non-British) and East Sussex (non-British only) have CVs in excess of 20% and the estimates are therefore considered to be 'not reliable for practical purposes'. Only Reading, Slough and Surrey have 'precise' estimates with a CV of less than 5% for both non-UK and non-British populations. Hampshire and Kent also have 'precise' estimates for non-UK born.

In Table 3, which shows country of birth, one cell is highlighted. In the '% UK' columns the highlights show areas with 8% or less. Slough has the lowest proportion of its population born in the UK at 67%. In the '% Change' column East Sussex shows a negative figure as the non-UK population was estimated to have fallen although the total population rose.

Similar statistics are displayed in Table 4 relating to population by nationality. Here the highlighted areas are those that have less than 90% of the population British, with Reading and Slough having the lowest

¹The CV is defined as being the standard error divided by the estimate expressed as a percentage.

values at 82%. In the ‘% Change’ column Slough is highlighted due to the overall population estimate having remained constant while the non-British population increased leading to an infinite value given the accuracy level of the data presented. East Sussex is also highlighted due to the negative value in the ‘% Change’ column. This is due to an estimated loss of non-British against an overall population growth. However it is this statistic that is considered to be ‘not reliable for practical purposes’.

Table 1: Population by Country of Birth: United Kingdom and the South East: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

Thousands	United Kingdom					South East				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
United Kingdom	53,807	53,872	53,770	53,791	53,869	7,329	7,356	7,346	7,381	7,387
Non-United Kingdom	5,233	5,552	5,997	6,342	6,486	667	696	760	786	816
Republic of Ireland	452	437	434	420	416	56	50	49	51	49
European Union 13	768	767	809	832	842	133	129	143	135	152
European Union A8	167	274	430	589	650	21	36	39	63	60
European Union 24/26	1,492	1,577	1,769	1,969	2,052	222	224	244	266	279
Rest of the World	3,741	3,975	4,228	4,373	4,434	446	472	516	520	537
Total	59,040	59,424	59,767	60,133	60,355	7,996	8,052	8,106	8,167	8,203
Percentage	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
United Kingdom	91.14	90.66	89.97	89.45	89.25	91.66	91.36	90.62	90.38	90.05
Non-United Kingdom	8.86	9.34	10.03	10.55	10.75	8.34	8.64	9.38	9.62	9.95
Republic of Ireland	0.77	0.74	0.73	0.70	0.69	0.70	0.62	0.60	0.62	0.60
European Union 13	1.30	1.29	1.35	1.38	1.40	1.66	1.60	1.76	1.65	1.85
European Union A8	0.28	0.46	0.72	0.98	1.08	0.26	0.45	0.48	0.77	0.73
European Union 24/26	2.53	2.65	2.96	3.27	3.40	2.78	2.78	3.01	3.26	3.40
Rest of the World	6.34	6.69	7.07	7.27	7.35	5.58	5.86	6.37	6.37	6.55

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Population by Nationality: United Kingdom and the South East: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

Thousands	United Kingdom					South East				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
British	56,091	56,229	56,162	56,192	56,297	7,634	7,655	7,651	7,685	7,708
Non-British	2,946	3,198	3,594	3,941	4,054	361	397	454	482	494
European Union 14	951	945	981	971	972	138	134	149	134	142
European Union A8	125	233	404	567	636	14	31	34	60	55
European Union 24/26	1,094	1,198	1,403	1,588	1,672	154	166	185	199	203
Rest of the World	1,852	2,000	2,191	2,354	2,382	207	231	269	284	292
Total	59,037	59,427	59,756	60,133	60,351	7,995	8,052	8,105	8,167	8,202
Percentage	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
British	95.01	94.62	93.99	93.45	93.28	95.48	95.07	94.40	94.10	93.98
Non-British	4.99	5.38	6.01	6.55	6.72	4.52	4.93	5.60	5.90	6.02
European Union 14	1.61	1.59	1.64	1.61	1.61	1.73	1.66	1.84	1.64	1.73
European Union A8	0.21	0.39	0.68	0.94	1.05	0.18	0.38	0.42	0.73	0.67
European Union 24/26	1.85	2.02	2.35	2.64	2.77	1.93	2.06	2.28	2.44	2.48
Rest of the World	3.14	3.37	3.67	3.91	3.95	2.59	2.87	3.32	3.48	3.56

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 3: Population by Country of Birth: Unitary Authorities and Counties: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

	2004			2007-08			2004 Total	2007-08		% Change Non-UK
	UK	Non-UK	% UK	UK	Non-UK	% UK		Total	Change	
Bracknell Forest UA	99	9	92	99	13	88	108	112	4	100
Brighton and Hove UA	212	32	87	213	37	85	244	250	6	83
Isle of Wight UA	127	5	96	131	5	96	132	136	4	0
Medway UA	232	16	94	226	23	91	248	249	1	700
Milton Keynes UA	191	25	88	192	36	84	216	228	12	92
Portsmouth UA	174	14	93	176	18	91	188	194	6	67
Reading UA	115	25	82	110	32	77	140	142	2	350
Slough UA	85	33	72	80	39	67	118	119	1	600
Southampton UA	204	18	92	202	29	87	222	231	9	122
West Berkshire UA	134	10	93	138	12	92	144	150	6	33
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	116	18	87	119	20	86	134	139	5	40
Wokingham UA	136	13	91	136	19	88	149	155	6	100
Bucks.	433	41	91	430	54	89	474	484	10	130
East Sussex	460	32	93	470	29	94	492	499	7	-43
Hampshire	1,151	80	94	1,163	93	93	1,231	1,256	25	52
Kent	1,255	85	94	1,290	91	93	1,340	1,381	41	15
Oxfordshire	546	65	89	561	67	89	611	628	17	12
Surrey	957	95	91	951	133	88	1,052	1,084	32	119
West Sussex	700	51	93	701	64	92	751	765	14	93
South East	7,329	667	92	7,387	816	90	7,996	8,203	207	72

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 4: Population by Nationality: Unitary Authorities and Counties: 2004 to 2007-08:
thousands and percentages

	2004			2007-08			2004 Total	2007-08		% Change Non-Brit.
	British	Non-Brit.	% Brit.	British	Non-Brit	% Brit.		Total	Change	
Bracknell Forest UA	104	5	95	104	8	93	109	112	3	100
Brighton and Hove UA	223	22	91	227	23	91	245	250	5	20
Isle of Wight UA	130	2	98	134	2	99	132	136	4	0
Medway UA	239	10	96	234	16	94	249	250	1	600
Milton Keynes UA	202	15	93	201	27	88	217	228	11	109
Portsmouth UA	179	9	95	182	13	93	188	195	7	57
Reading UA	121	19	86	116	26	82	140	142	2	350
Slough UA	103	16	87	97	22	82	119	119	-	-
Southampton UA	211	11	95	210	20	91	222	230	8	113
West Berkshire UA	139	5	97	142	8	95	144	150	6	50
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	124	10	93	128	11	92	134	139	5	20
Wokingham UA	143	7	95	144	11	93	150	155	5	80
Buckinghamshire	456	17	96	451	33	93	473	484	11	145
East Sussex	475	17	97	485	15	97	492	500	8	-25
Hampshire	1,192	38	97	1,211	45	96	1,230	1,256	26	27
Kent	1,294	46	97	1,333	47	97	1,340	1,380	40	3
Oxfordshire	572	39	94	583	46	93	611	629	18	39
Surrey	1,000	51	95	998	84	92	1,051	1,082	31	106
West Sussex	728	23	97	728	37	95	751	765	14	100
South East	7,634	361	95	7,708	494	94	7995	8202	207	64

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

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