

North East England Migrant Workers

Update: Published July 2006

Introduction

This update to the RLN LMI Bulletin '*Migrant Workers in the North East*' provides further analysis of National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations to non-UK nationals in the North East by the year of registration (see Appendix 1 for further information on NINos). The data presented in this update examines specific countries of origin in addition to the total figures presented in the previous Bulletin.

Data Summary¹

- In 2004/05, there were 7,410 NINo allocations to non-UK nationals in the North East. This is a 35% increase on the number allocated in 2002/03.
- Total UK NINo allocations to non-UK nationals increased by 26% between 2002/03 and 2004/05.
- The North East has accounted for 2% of the total UK NINo allocations to non-UK nationals each year since 2002/03.
- The largest group of non-UK nationals allocated NINos in the region in 2004/05 were from India. The number of Indian nationals registering in the North East rose from 590 to 1030 between 2002/03 and 2004/05 (+75%).
- In 2004/05, Poland and Germany entered the top ten countries of non-UK nationals registering for a national insurance number in the North East; they did not appear in the top ten of the previous two years.
- Iraq, Bangladesh and Malaysia featured in two of the three years; Zimbabwe only appeared in the top ten in 2002/03.
- India, Peoples Republic of China, Philippines, Pakistan, Iran, South Africa and France were in the top ten countries in all three years.

Table 1: Non-UK Nationals entering the North East and Allocated a NINo by Year of Registration²: Top Ten Countries

2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
India	590	India	850	India	1030
Peoples Republic of China	420	Peoples Republic of China	630	Peoples Republic of China	780
Philippines	360	Philippines	370	Poland	570
Iraq	290	Pakistan	290	Pakistan	380
Pakistan	270	Bangladesh	190	Philippines	300
Iran	240	South Africa	180	Malaysia	210
Zimbabwe	230	Iran	180	South Africa	210
South Africa	200	France	170	Germany	210
France	170	Iraq	160	Iran	210
Bangladesh	160	Malaysia	150	France	200

¹ NINo Data Notes: Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten; Totals may not sum due to rounding; Numbers are based on 100% data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS). 100% sample at 25th June 2005 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

² Year shown relates to the financial year.

EU Accession Countries

On 1 May 2004, ten countries joined the European Union (EU). Those countries are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. From that date, nationals of Malta and Cyprus have had full free movement rights and rights to work, throughout the European Union. Prior to enlargement, existing EU member states had the right to regulate access to their labour markets by nationals of the other eight countries – the ‘Accession 8’ or ‘A8’. The UK Government put in place transitional measures to regulate A8 nationals’ access to the labour market (via the Worker Registration Scheme) and to restrict access to benefits³.

This section looks specifically at these ten countries.

- Polish nationals form the largest group by far of non-UK nationals registering for a national insurance number in the North East in 2004/05.
- Lithuania and Latvia are the second and third largest groups, both with increases of from 0 to 80+ between 2002/03 and 2004/05.
- Poland experienced the largest percentage increase (+1800%) during the same period.
- Of the top ten countries in 2004/05, Poland was the only EU Accession country featured; no EU Accession countries appeared in the top ten countries in 2002/03 or 2003/04.
- In 2002/03, North East NINo registrations by EU Accession nationals formed 0.2% of the total North East non-UK NINo registrations. In 2004/05, EU Accession NINo registrations had risen to 2.7% of the total registrations by non-UK nationals in the region.

Table 2: North East NINo Registrations by Nationals of EU Accession Countries

Country	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	% Change
Poland	30	50	570	1800%
Lithuania	0	10	100	-
Latvia	0	0	80	-
Czechoslovakia	10	10	30	200%
Hungary	10	10	30	200%
Estonia	0	0	20	-
Malta	0	0	10	-
Cyprus	0	10	10	-
Slovenia	0	0	0	-

³ Crown Copyright (2005). *Accession Monitoring Report May 2004 – September 2005*. A joint online report by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, the HM Revenue & Customs and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. 22 November 2005.

Additional Information

Information on the languages spoken by newcomers to the region is essential in order to provide appropriate services. Table 3 shows the official languages of the top ten countries of origin of non-UK nationals allocated national insurance numbers in 2004/05.

Table 3: Official/National Languages of Top Ten Countries

Country	Languages ⁴
India	Hindi and English (22 officially recognized languages)
Peoples Republic of China	Mandarin Chinese
Poland	Polish
Pakistan	Urdu, Sindhi, English
Philippines	Filipino, English
Malaysia	Malay
South Africa	Afrikaans, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu, English.
Germany	Standard German
Iran	Western Farsi
France	French

Of the languages identified in Table 3, three appear in the most widely spoken languages in the world - Mandarin Chinese (1st), English (3rd) and Hindi/Urdu (4th)⁵.

English Language Learning

At a recent British Council conference on international education a report suggested that the number of people undertaking some formal learning of English could peak at 2 billion by 2010, meaning that there should be enormous potential for the UK to grow this particular segment of the overall study market, but of course as demand for a product increases, so too does the number of suppliers on offer. The UK faces increasing competition in attracting English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students from countries such as the US, Australia, Ireland and Malta.

The top five EFL source markets in 2002 were France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. More recent data is not yet available but it is possible that demand from Poland and other Accession Countries may have grown in the interim period; Poland was the 7th largest EFL source market in 2002⁶.

Poles form the largest group of nationals from EU Accession countries allocated a national insurance number in the North East in 2004/05. A survey for the European Commission on Europeans and Languages⁷ indicates that:

- 100% of respondents in Poland name Polish as their mother tongue; 49% of Polish respondents able to participate in a conversation in another language than their mother tongue and the three most widely known non-Polish languages in Poland are English (25%), Russian (24%) and German (19%).

⁴ Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition*. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.

⁵ Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia (2006). *Language Speaker Data*. Date of last revision: 19 June 2006. Available online at: http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Language_speaker_data&oldid=59405514

⁶ Visit Britain (2005). *Foresight: Market Focus – Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary*. Issue 19 May 2005.

⁷ Eurobarometer (2005). *Europeans and Languages*.

Conclusion

The allocation of national insurance numbers to non-UK nationals in the North East has been increasing over the last three years (+35% between 2002/03 and 2004/05); the number has also increased in the UK as a whole (+26%).

The largest groups of nationals in the North East in 2004/05 are from India, China and Poland. Of the EU Accession countries, Polish nationals form the largest groups.

There is likely to be potential for economic development in the region e.g. development of appropriate EFL courses (around a quarter of Polish nationals can hold a conversation in English), utilising the language skills of migrant workers for training purposes and employment of foreign nationals in Tourism and other relevant industries to improve customer service by communicating in appropriate languages.

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If you require any further information regarding languages data, please contact:

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Appendix 1: Background Information on NINo Allocations

The data cover non-UK nationals allocated a National Insurance Number (NINo) on the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS). The figures cover non-UK nationals allocated a NINo for whatever reason i.e. the figures cover benefit/tax credit recipients as well as workers. All non-UK nationals allocated a NINo are included, regardless of their length of stay in the UK.

The figures by Year of Registration are based on the date of registration onto NIRS2 i.e. after the NINo application and allocation process has been completed. The Registrations figures will only be subject to very minor, if any, future change.

This definition of migrants – non-UK nationals allocated a NINo - differs from other published statistics in the area, such as International Migration statistics derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), and statistics on foreign workers derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The IPS-based statistics define a migrant as someone who stays in the UK for at least a year following arrival. The LFS defines a foreign worker as someone who works but has foreign citizenship, and a foreign-born worker as anyone born outside of the UK, including British citizens. The various definitions of migrants mean the data sources may have different numbers of migrants for the same time period.

For additional data: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/nino_allocation.asp