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INFORMATION NOTE

Publication of migrant workers statistics 2002-03

Summary

DWP publishes annual National Statistics about migrant workers who enter the UK and register for a National Insurance number. The latest figures, covering the 2001-02 tax year, were published on 10th April 2003.

Publication of figures for 2002-03 is currently delayed pending receipt of additional data to give more accurate comparisons over time. We are doing this because of concerns about the quality of the statistics produced from National Insurance Recording System data. A new data extract has been commissioned that will allow us to prepare a more comprehensive and consistent series.

We hope to receive the additional data in July 2004, following which the date of publication will be announced via National Statistics Updates and the DWP website.

Notes

These statistics on migrant workers are produced using an annual extract from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2). The extract has historically been taken each September, and covered all migrant workers allocated a National Insurance number who had arrived in the UK during the previous tax year. It therefore excludes other migrants such as students, non-working dependents, or workers given a temporary number. The series has always undercounted the total number of migrants applying to work in the UK each year to a degree, partly because of applications from people whose date of entry was some time ago (earlier than the last tax year) and partly due to the time taken in making and processing applications for National Insurance numbers (NINOs). The new data will allow us to get a more complete picture of applications for NINOs and enable us to update the figures on a regular basis.

The new extract should be ready in July and an exact publication date for the revised figures will be announced as soon as possible after that via National Statistics Updates and the DWP website (www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage.asp).

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