

24 September 2004  
IAD240904MW

Coverage: Great Britain  
Theme: Labour Market

## National Insurance number allocations to overseas nationals entering the UK 2002/03 (previously migrant workers statistics)

### Introduction

Statistics on National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations to overseas nationals entering the UK during 2002/03 are released today, via a report on the DWP website (address below):

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino\\_allocations.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp)

The DWP National Statistics Press Release issued on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (IAD250504MW) explained that statistics on migrant workers entering the UK in 2002/03 were delayed pending the receipt of additional data. This additional data were required in order to provide more comprehensive and consistent comparisons over time.

Now the additional source data have been received, linked and quality-assured, the new figures for 2002/03 have been released. Figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 on a consistent basis are also released in the report, replacing the figures previously published in DWP's annual Migrant Workers Statistics.

The report includes a brief comparison with statistics on immigration published by the Home Office, plus International Passenger Survey data published by the Office for National Statistics. The comparisons were undertaken as part of quality-assuring the new DWP statistics.

The title of the statistics has been changed – from Migrant Workers Statistics - to a title that more precisely reflects the coverage of the statistics. The new title is:

**NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER ALLOCATIONS TO OVERSEAS NATIONALS  
ENTERING THE UK (PREVIOUSLY MIGRANT WORKERS STATISTICS)**

### Headline Totals

During tax year 2002/03, 272 thousand overseas nationals subsequently allocated a NINo entered the UK. This is an increase of 9 thousand arrivals (3-4 per cent) on 2000/01 and 2001/02, when there were 263 thousand arrivals in each year. These 2000/01 and 2001/02 totals are upward revisions from the figures published in Migrant Workers Statistics in previous years, and are on a consistent basis with the 2002/03 figures.

### Arrivals receiving out-of-work benefits

Of the 2002/03 arrivals, 21 thousand (8 per cent) were claiming a key out-of-work benefit - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Income Support (IS) - in one or both of the two quarters after being allocated a NINo. Of these, 15 thousand were actively seeking work (receiving JSA) and 6 thousand were not obliged to be actively seeking work (receiving IB or IS). This compares with 13 per cent of the total working age population in Great Britain claiming JSA, IB or IS at any point in time during the same period.

### Region of Residence

The London Government Office Region (GOR) was home to significantly more 2002/03 arrivals subsequently allocated a NINo than any other region, with 113 thousand 2002/03 arrivals (41 per cent of the total). However, this is actually a small decrease since 2000/01, when 118 thousand arrivals (45 per cent of the total) resided in London. The South East region is the next most likely area of residence for arrivals, holding 12 per cent of arrivals in each year between 2000/01 and 2002/03. The chart below shows numbers of entrants residing in each region between 2000/01 and 2002/03:

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

**Issued by:**  
Information Centre  
Information and Analysis  
Directorate  
Department for Work and Pensions

Telephone :  
Press Office : 020 7238 0866  
Public Enquiries : 020 7712 2171

Website :  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd>

**Statistician:**  
Neil Sorensen  
Information Centre  
Information and Analysis  
Directorate  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Room BP 5 2 01  
Benton Park View  
Benton Park Road  
Longbenton  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
NE98 1YX

Telephone : 0191 225 3760  
Facsimile : 0191 225 7126  
email :  
[neil.sorensen@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:neil.sorensen@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**Next Publication:**  
To be announced

## **Nationality of Arrivals**

25 per cent of arrivals in 2002/03 were European Union (EU) nationals, with 30 per cent from Asia and the Middle East, 19 per cent from Africa and 10 per cent from other European countries. The proportion of arrivals who are EU nationals has declined slightly since 2000/01 (from 27 per cent to 25 per cent), whereas the proportion of African arrivals has increased slightly (from 16 per cent to 19 per cent). Almost 23 thousand Indian nationals arrived in the UK during 2002/03 – and were subsequently allocated a NINo - the highest total of any single country.

### **Notes to editors**

1. These statistics have been produced using 100 per cent sample data from the National Insurance Recording System. The data cover all overseas nationals allocated a NINo, whatever the reason for the allocation and whatever the length of stay in the UK. The data do not show when overseas nationals subsequently depart the UK, nor show lengths of stay in the UK. The figures therefore give a measure of the in-flow of overseas nationals, but not out-flow or overall stock of overseas nationals in the UK. Series derived from the International Passenger Survey and Census give a measure of these aspects.
2. The previous Migrant Workers Statistics up to 2001/02 have been removed from the DWP website.
3. The full version of the 2002/03 report in adobe acrobat format is on the DWP website at:

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino\\_allocations.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/nino_allocations.asp)

For further information contact:

**Press Office: 020 7238 0866**  
**Public Enquiries: 020 7712 2171**  
**Out of hours press enquires: 07659 108883**