Immigration in the UK: Numbers, Impacts and Policy Debates

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Numbers: Migration and migrants
Who is a migrant?

- Place of birth
- Citizenship
- Time spent in the country

→ implications for statistics, impact analysis, public opinion and policies
Net-migration by citizenship: 1991-2011

Notes: Source is ONS, Long-Term International Migration estimates. December 2011 value still provisional.
Immigration by citizenship: 1991-2011

Notes: Source is ONS, Long-Term International Migration estimates. December 2011 value still provisional.
Share of migrants in the population, 1993-2011

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Year

Foreign born
Foreign citizen
Recent

Source: Labour Force Survey. Quarter 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of birth</th>
<th>Share of all foreign born</th>
<th>Country of citizenship</th>
<th>Share of all foreign citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Numbers:
Migration and population growth
Annual population change
Contribution of natural change and net migration, UK, 1991-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Natural change</th>
<th>Net migration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Projected UK population
Components of change, Principal projection, 2010-2035

- Net migration (5.1 million)
- Natural change due to net migration (2.3 million)
- Natural change assuming no migration (3.5 million)
Projected UK population
Different sets of projections, principal projection, 1994-2031
Public Opinion
Immigration to Britain: too many or 'gone too far'

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Immigration among the public's most important issues

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Nations among 3 most important issues


Source: Ipsos-MORI Issue Index

Legend:
- Crime (6 mo. moving avg.)
- Economy (6 period moving avg.)
- NHS (6 period moving avg.)
- Race/Immigration
Opposition to immigration: UK vs. comparable countries, 2011

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

% of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Too Many Immigrants?</th>
<th>Immigration 'More Problem than Opportunity'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Transatlantic Trends: Immigration 2011
Perception of immigrants: length of stay, Sep 2011

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

When you think about immigrants coming to and living in Britain, which of these groups would you normally think about? Please select all the groups that apply.

- Permanently
- 5+ years (not permanent)
- 1-5 years
- Less than 1 year
- None of these
- Do not know

Source: Migration Observatory/Ipsos MORI, 2-8 Sep 2011. See table 3, Appendix A
Perception of immigrants: reasons for migrating, Sep 2011

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

When you think about immigrants coming to and living in Britain, which of these groups would you normally think about? Please select all the groups that apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage/Partner</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All respondents (n=985 weighted)

Source: Migration Observatory/Ipsos MORI, 2–8 Sep 2011. See table 4, Appendix A
Policies on immigration often affect specific groups of people coming to Britain. For each of the following groups, please tell us whether the number of people coming to Britain should be increased, reduced or kept the same.

Source: Migration Observatory/Ipsos MORI, 2–8 Sep 2011. See tables 8 and 9, Appendix A.
Attitudes to reducing immigration: legal vs illegal, Sep 2011

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

"You have said that you would prefer to see immigration reduced. Among which of these groups would you like to see immigration reduced?"

- All respondents who wanted immigration reduced
  - (n=676 weighted)

Source: Migration Observatory/Ipsos MORI, 2–8 Sep 2011. See table 5. Appendix A
Impacts
Impacts: what we know and don’t know

- Labour markets
- Fiscal effects
- Economic growth and “well-being”
- “Social cohesion”
- Crime
- Public health
- What else?

....see latest MAC report:
“Analysis of the Impacts of Migration”
Impacts: in whose interests?

• “Existing residents” (how defined? What about trade-offs?)
• New migrants
• Countries of origin

→ Implications for cost-benefit analysis and impact assessments
Policy debates
What drives immigration policy?

• Interests

• Institutions

• “National interest”
  – objectives: economic efficiency; distribution; national identity/social cohesion; security/crime
  – Constraints: capacity to control; the “liberal constraint”
  – Mediating factors: political system, welfare states, labour markets

• Public opinion
Two types of questions: “positive: and “normative”

• What is the impact of immigration on unemployment in the UK?
• Given the impacts, what specific policies should the UK pursue?
• MigObs focuses on positive questions but we do discuss pros and cons of different policy options ... rarely one “right “answer in immigration .... Trade-offs
From impacts to numbers: Fundamental shift in policy

• Labour: design policy that maximises net benefits for the UK; no numbers objective (e.g. Blunkett Newsnight interview)

• Current Government: reduce net-migration to “tens of thousands”
Reducing net-migration to the “tens of thousands by 2015”

Major policy changes:
• non-EU labour immigration (2011): cap, higher skills thresholds
• Students (2011): enforcement, right to work
• Non-EU settlement (2012): breaking the link between temp migration and settlement
• Non-EU family (2012): new min earnings threshold
Table – Home Office impact assessments of reductions in net migration
government policy changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 1 &amp; Tier 2 numerical limits</strong> and other programme changes</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 4 &amp; post-study programme changes</strong></td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes to family migration rules</strong></td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The estimates are taken from the Home Office’s impact assessments of recent policy changes: see Home Office 2011a, 2011b, and 2012b.
Policy challenges

• The net-migration target: out-of-reach?
  – Net-migration bounce
  – Measurement; data not good enough

• Public opinion

• Students: clear trade-off

• EU migration
  – Supply response (Conservatives)
  – Demand response (Labour)

• Mind the gap: migration and public policy

• Challenge: linking numbers with impacts
Hypothetical reductions to net-migration and in-flows

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Migration Observatory modelling based on MAC Limits report 2012 & Home Office Migrant Journey report 2010
IPS immigration, emigration and net-migration with conf. interval

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Source: Office for National Statistics, confidence interval 95%
EU countries' net-migrant stock with other EU countries

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Source: World Bank, 2010. Values for some countries are too small to be visible in the figure.
UK's net-migrant stock with EU countries, 2010

Chart provided by www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Source: World Bank, 2010. Values for some countries are too small to be visible in the figure.
Policy challenges

• The net-migration target: out-of-reach?
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• Mind the gap: migration and public policy

• Challenge: linking numbers with impacts
So:
What next?
More information, data and analysis at:  
www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Follow the MigObs on Twitter and Facebook!
For more analysis:

• “Britain’s 70 Million Debate: A primer on reducing immigration to manage population size”:
  http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/britains-70-million-debate

• “Thinking Behind the Numbers: Understanding public opinion on immigration in Britain”:
  http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/understanding-uk-public-opinion/executive-summary

• “Top ten problems in the evidence base for public debate and policy-making on immigration in the UK” (April 2011)
  www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/top-ten/overview