Statistical bulletin

Long-term international migration, provisional: year ending June 2026

UK long-term international migration to year ending June 2026. Includes breakdowns by age, sex, nationality and reason. Official statistics in development.

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1 . Overview

Long-term immigration is where an individual moves to the UK for 12 months or more; long-term emigration is where an individual leaves the UK for 12 months or more. Long- term net migration is long-term immigration minus long-term emigration.

Long-term net migration

Our provisional estimates show long-term international net migration stood at 77,000 in year ending (YE) June 2026 and has more than halved compared with YE June 2025 (updated to 204,000). Excluding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, when international travel restrictions were in place, this is the lowest recorded net migration estimate since 1997 (when we used surveys to measure migration rather than administrative data).

While people arriving from outside the EU continued to add to the population, non-EU+ provisional net migration fell to 258,000 in YE June 2026, down from 379,000 a year earlier.

The fall in the net migration of non-EU+ nationals was the main reason for the latest decrease in overall net migration. It was driven by non-EU+ immigration falling by more than 100,000, while emigration remained broadly stable. Compared with YE June 2025, non-EU+ arrivals for work-related reasons fell by 45,000, asylum-related reasons fell by 19,000 and study-related reasons fell by 33,000.

Unlike non-EU+ nationals, more British and EU+ nationals left the UK long term than arrived. Provisional net migration for British nationals remained broadly stable at negative 137,000, while EU+ net migration was negative 45,000 and has been negative since YE June 2022.

In our latest figures, because updated data was unavailable, British estimates are based on an extended 15-month projection, which is longer than we would usually use to produce these estimates. This means they are subject to greater uncertainty and revision. More information is available in Section 6: Updates to estimates.

Long-term immigration

- The provisional estimate for total long-term immigration in YE June 2026 is 738,000, a decrease of 17% from the updated YE June 2025 estimate of 893,000; this continues a downward trend in our long-term immigration estimates from the peak at 1,469,000 in YE March 2023.
- Most people immigrating into the UK in YE June 2026 were non-EU+ nationals, provisionally estimated at 550,000, a decline from 671,000 in YE June 2025.
- When looking at the reasons for immigration of non-EU+ nationals in YE June 2026, 47% came for study-related reasons, 25% for work-related reasons, and 13% were for asylum-related reasons.
- The immigration of EU+ and British nationals in YE June 2026 has remained broadly stable, provisionally estimated at 79,000 and 109,000, respectively.

Long-term emigration

- The provisional estimate for total long-term emigration in the most recent period is 661,000.
- Long-term emigration has been increasing since 2022 but was broadly stable with our updated YE June 2025 estimate of 689,000.
- In YE June 2026, 292,000 non-EU+ nationals left the UK, remaining broadly stable compared with the previous year; around 53% of these originally arrived with study-related visas.
- Emigration of EU+ nationals declined to 124,000, down by 15% from the updated YE June 2025 estimate of 145,000.
- In YE June 2026, an estimated 245,000 British nationals left the UK, remaining broadly stable in the last five years.

The latest Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) data were unavailable for this release. As a result, British national estimates are subject to greater uncertainty than usual. Please see Section 6: Updates to estimates.

Figure 1: Net migration was 77,000 in year ending June 2026

Long-term immigration, emigration and net migration of non-EU+, EU+ and British nationals, year ending (YE) June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 4 and 6 to 7 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

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Updates to estimates

For this release, we have more available and updated Home Office data for EU+ and non-EU+ nationals. This means we get a more complete picture of travel behaviour, which we incorporate into our estimates.

Alongside this, we have also improved how we categorise non-EU+ nationals with dependant joiner visas, allowing them to be more accurately classified as either work or study dependants. This change affects the breakdown by reason for migration but not overall totals.

We are working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to obtain updated Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) data for estimating British national migration. In the meantime, we have projected YE December 2025 estimates from our May 2026 release forward to YE June 2026 using a model informed by timelier EU+ migration data. We will update the estimates in our next release.

The way we measure uncertainty has changed for this release and will apply to all releases from now on, as we have implemented revision-based intervals for non-EU+, EU+ and total estimates. This method illustrates how modelling revisions can provide information to users on the stability of current long-term international migration (LTIM) estimates, through predicting a likely revision range based on the trends and patterns of previous revisions. British national uncertainty remains simulation-based for this release, as they are the most recent group to undergo methodology changes.

More information on these updates is available in Section 6: Updates to estimates.

2 . How to use these statistics

With these statistics, you can:

- explore our new provisional estimates of net migration, immigration and emigration for the latest two time periods: year ending (YE) March 2026 and YE June 2026
- download the time series for YE June 2012 to June 2026, including standard revisions for YE March 2025 to YE December 2025
- compare historic time series for EU+ and non-EU+ nationals with caution because of changes to methods and updated data from YE June 2021
- use the uncertainty estimates in our accompanying dataset to understand the likely range within which LTIM estimates could be revised

With these statistics, you cannot:

- treat British national migration estimates as directly comparable across all periods; estimates from YE June 2021 are not comparable with those for earlier periods because of substantial methodological changes; estimates for YE March 2026 and YE June 2026 are modelled projections subject to greater uncertainty, so comparisons with earlier periods should be interpreted with caution
- add the most recent estimates to a time series from previous releases; as a result of revisions, the full time series associated with this release should be used
- compare revision-based intervals with previously published uncertainty intervals, as the new revision-based intervals capture more sources of uncertainty beyond the adjustments made to LTIM estimates
- use revision-based intervals to assess the accuracy of LTIM estimates, as they are provided to help users understand the stability of current estimates
- use non-EU family migration estimates alone to inform decisions, because of some ongoing data investigations in this breakdown

The latest figures are provisional and typically remain so for a year, when updated data allow us to replace them with more complete estimates.

More information on the complexity of measuring migration and why we revise provisional data is available in our article, What is international migration and how do we estimate it?

Our estimates have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Most calculations (including percentages) are done on unrounded numbers, so totals may not equal the sum of individual parts.

3 . Long-term net migration

Net migration is the difference between long-term immigration (people coming to the UK) and emigration (people leaving the UK).

In this statistical article, long-term migration refers to people moving to or from the UK for 12 months or more, in line with the United Nations (UN) definition.

Figure 2: Long-term net migration continues to fall

Total long-term net migration, immigration and emigration in the UK, year ending (YE) June 2012 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 4, 6 to 7 and 11 to 14 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

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The line chart in Figure 2 shows that net migration has fallen since its peak of 944,000 in year ending (YE) March 2023. In YE June 2026, it was provisionally estimated at 77,000.

Excluding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, when international travel restrictions were in place, this is the lowest recorded net migration estimate since 1997 (when we used surveys to measure migration rather than administrative data).

The chart includes new and in development revision-based intervals (90%) from YE June 2022. These intervals are produced based on previous revisions and aim to show a range in which the revised estimate will likely fall in future, considering changes in data and methods. They reflect notable past revisions as a result of substantial changes in our methods. As these methods are becoming more stable, we would expect our provisional estimates to be closer to the final estimates.

More information on uncertainty estimates is available in Section 6: Updates to estimates.

Net migration by nationality

Net migration was provisionally estimated at 77,000 in YE June 2026.

The fall over the year was mainly driven by lower net migration among non-EU+ nationals, which has continued to fall since 2023, when total net migration peaked at 944,000.

Net migration remained negative for British and EU+ nationals, meaning that, in each group, more people left the UK long term than arrived (Figure 3).

The provisional estimates for YE June 2026 show that:

- non-EU+ nationals' net migration was provisionally estimated at 258,000, a decline of 121,000 from the updated YE June 2025 (379,000)
- British nationals' net migration was provisionally estimated at negative 137,000, a fall of 12,000 from the updated YE June 2025 (negative 125,000)
- EU+ nationals' net migration was provisionally estimated at negative 45,000, an increase of 6,000 from the updated YE June 2025 (negative 51,000)

Definitions of British, EU+ and non-EU+ are in Section 7: Definitions.

Figure 3: Fall in non-EU+ net migration continues to drive the decrease in total net migration

Long term net migration of non-EU+, EU+ and British nationals, YE June 2012 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 7 and 11 to 14 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

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4 . Long-term immigration

Long-term immigration was provisionally estimated at 738,000 in year ending (YE) June 2026. This figure is down from 893,000 in YE June 2025, continuing a downward trend from the recent peak of 1,469,000 in YE March 2023.

During the YE June 2026:

- non-EU+ nationals accounted for 75% of total immigration (550,000)
- British nationals made up 15% (109,000)
- EU+ nationals made up 11% (79,000)

Figure 4: Long term immigration continues to fall

Number of non-EU+, EU+, and British nationals immigrating to the UK, year ending (YE) June 2012 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 7 and 11 to 14 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

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The line chart in Figure 4 shows that the recent rise and fall in long-term immigration has been mainly driven by non-EU+ nationals. Immigration remains highest for non-EU+ nationals, although it has continued to fall from its peak in YE March 2023.

In contrast, there has been a continuing decline in the number of EU+ nationals coming to the UK, which began around the time of the 2016 EU referendum. This fall became sharper after December 2020, when the UK left the EU and freedom of movement ended.

British nationals' immigration has remained relatively stable over the same period.

Trends may partly reflect continual changes to the immigration rules.

Immigration of non-EU+ nationals

Data on the reasons why non-EU+ nationals come to live in the UK are based on their original reason for immigrating (which could be a visa, their asylum application, or arrival under a resettlement scheme). As these data are for long-term migrants, they will only include people coming to stay for a year or more. Our definition of an asylum-related migrant is available in Section7: Definitions.

Figure 5: Study followed by work were the most common reasons for non-EU+ immigration

Number of non-EU+ nationals coming to live in the UK long-term by reason, year ending (YE) December 2019 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 3, 6 to 7 and 9 to 10 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

The line chart in Figure 5 shows that study-related migration is the most common reason for non-EU+ nationals to come to the UK, with a provisional estimate of 257,000.

Study-related arrivals were down by 11%, compared with YE June 2025 (290,000). Within the study-related arrivals, the number of main applicants (242,000) fell by 12%, compared with YE June 2025, and arrivals of their dependants remained stable at 15,000.

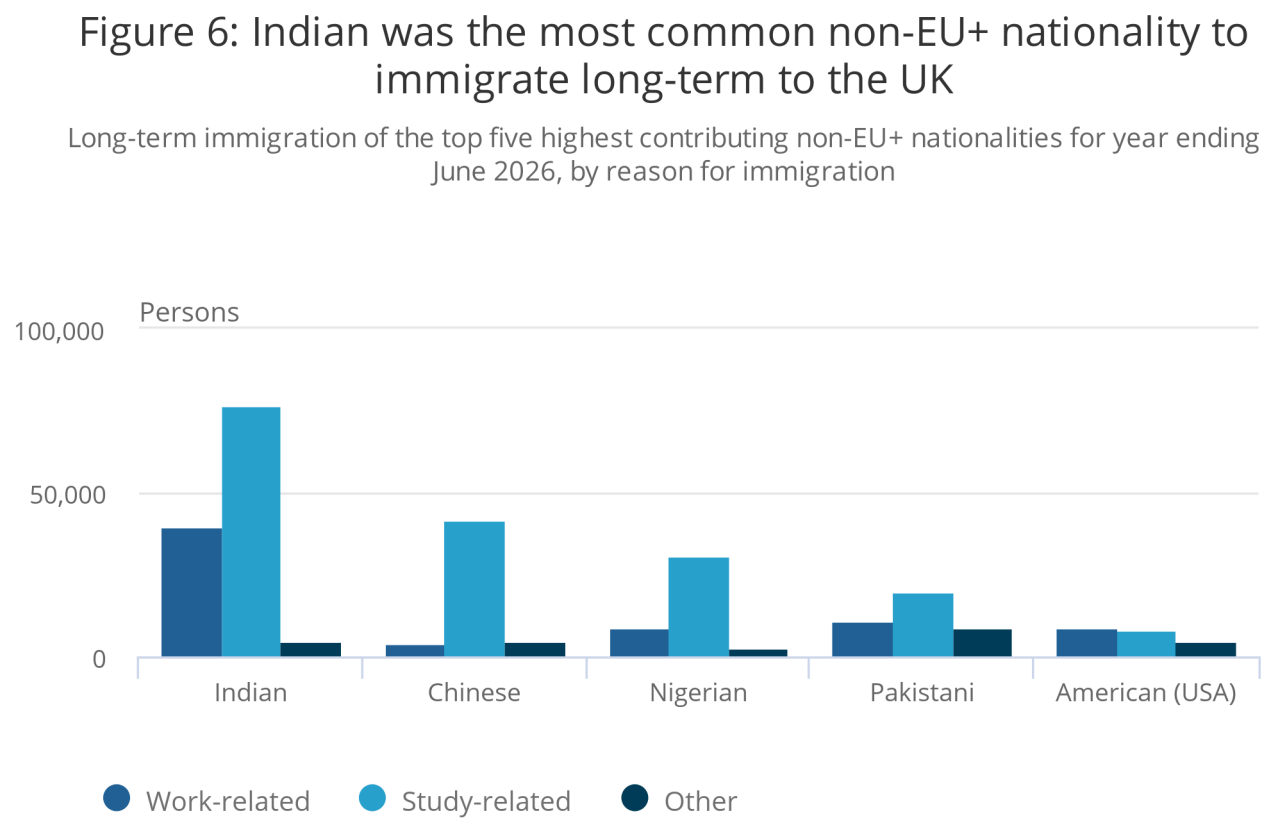
Around 135,000 people arrived for work-related reasons, down by 25% since YE June 2025 (180,000). Within the work-related arrivals, 75,000 were work dependants, falling by 21%, compared with YE June 2025, and 60,000 were main applicants, down by 30% for the same period.

The number of people immigrating for asylum-related reasons decreased to 73,000 in YE June 2026, down from 93,000 the previous year; these estimates include people who claimed asylum after arriving through a regular route and by illegal entry routes, such as small boats.

We are working with the Home Office to investigate a data issue that affects our estimates of family immigration. This means the current family immigration estimate could change once this issue is resolved. Family immigration data should not be used on its own to inform decision-making until then.

Figure 6: Indian was the most common non-EU+ nationality to immigrate long-term to the UK

Long-term immigration of the top five highest contributing non-EU+ nationalities for year ending June 2026, by reason for immigration



Source: Borders and Immigration data from the Home Office

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 3 and 8 to 10 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

The bar chart in Figure 6 shows that for YE June 2026, Indian was the most common non-EU+ nationality to immigrate to the UK. It also shows that, for the top four nationalities, study-related immigration was the most common reason. Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, and Nigerian are regularly among the top five most frequent non-EU+ nationalities for long-term immigration.

More information on the age and sex of non-EU+ migrants coming to the UK is available in our accompanying dataset.

Immigration of EU+ nationals

Freedom of movement between the EU+ countries and the UK ended in January 2021. Since then, EU+ nationals moving to the UK have needed a visa, status on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), or indefinite leave to remain to travel to the UK long term. Ireland is in the EU, but Irish nationals have the automatic right to live and work in the UK.

Our methods for estimating EU+ migration give us estimates for people who travel on a visa, have EUSS status, or who are Irish nationals.

There were 79,000 EU+ nationals immigrating in YE June 2026. This is broken down as follows:

- EU+ nationals who travel on a visa made up 47% (37,000)
- people with EUSS status made up 44% (35,000)
- Irish nationals made up 9% (7,000)

Over the last five years, people with EUSS status were the largest contributor to EU+ immigration until the latest period, when EU+ visa holders accounted for the largest share. Immigration among Irish nationals remained broadly stable over this period.

Information on the age and sex of EU+ migrants coming to the UK and the top 10 nationalities immigrating is available in our accompanying dataset. This dataset also includes information on the age and sex of British nationals coming to the UK.

5 . Long-term emigration

A provisionally estimated 661,000 people left the UK to live in another country long term during the year ending (YE) June 2026. This was broadly stable with our updated estimate for YE June 2025 (689,000).

Total emigration during YE June 2026 is broken down as follows:

- non-EU+ nationals made up 44% (292,000)
- British nationals made up 37% (245,000)
- EU+ nationals made up 19% (124,000)

Figure 7: Long-term emigration was broadly stable in the most recent period

Number of non-EU+, EU+, and British nationals emigrating long-term from the UK, year ending (YE) June 2012 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 7 and 11 to 14 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

The line chart in Figure 7 shows that emigration increased between 2022 and 2024, mainly driven by non-EU+ nationals. This followed a period of high immigration, which peaked at 1,469,000 in YE March 2023. Over the past year, non-EU+ emigration was broadly stable, while total emigration fell slightly in the latest period. This fall was mainly because of a decrease in EU+ emigration over the last 12 months.

Figure 7 also shows that in the most recent period, British emigration has remained broadly stable. The implementation of new methods in November 2025 led to a change in scale of British nationals emigrating since YE June 2021. This also affects total emigration. We know the previously used method of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) had under coverage of this nationality group. More information is available in our Implementing new methods for estimating the international migration of British nationals, progress update: November 2025 article.

Emigration of non-EU+ nationals

Emigration by reason is derived from the original long-term reason for immigrating. For example, estimates of non-EU+ nationals who emigrated for study are people who have left the UK, who originally immigrated long term to study in the UK.

Figure 8: Number of people emigrating who originally came to the UK on study-related visas has begun to fall

Number of non-EU+ nationals emigrating long-term from the UK by original reason for immigration, year ending (YE) December 2019 to YE June 2026

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 3, 6 and 9 to 10 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

The line chart in Figure 8 shows that most non-EU+ nationals who left the UK in YE June 2026 had originally come to the UK for study-related reasons, provisionally estimated at 155,000. This likely reflects the large number of international students who arrived in 2022 and 2023 and have since completed their studies and post-study work periods and left the UK.

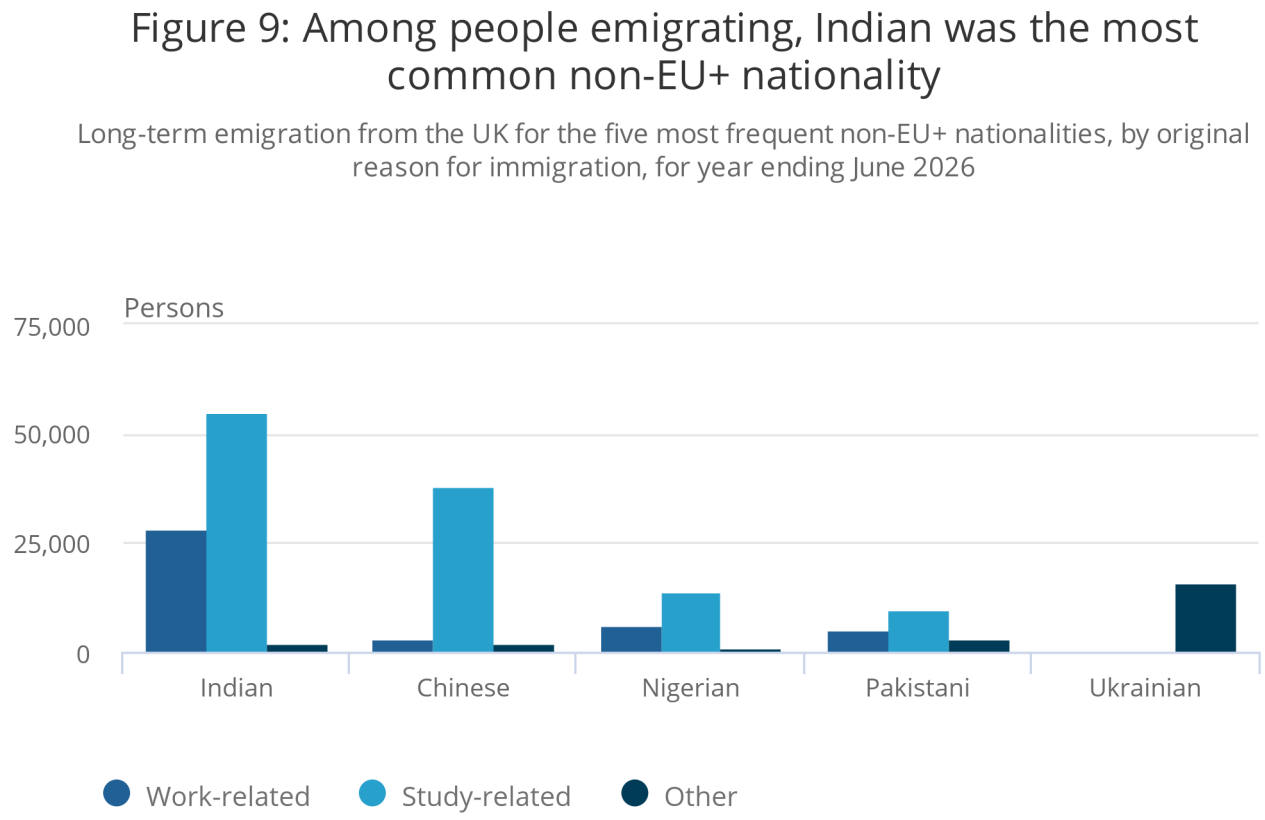
Among people who originally arrived for study-related reasons, the number of dependants emigrating fell by 16% to 21,000 compared with YE June 2025, while the number of main applicants emigrating fell by 6% to 134,000 for the same period.

In YE June 2026, 85,000 non-EU+ nationals who had originally arrived in the UK for work-related reasons emigrated. Within work-related emigration, the number of work main applicants emigrating increased by 14% to 53,000 compared with YE June 2025, while the number of dependants increased by 12% to 32,000 for the same period.

We are working with the Home Office to investigate family emigration estimates. The current family emigration estimates could change once this work is complete. Family emigration data should not be used on its own to inform decision-making until then.

Figure 9: Among people emigrating, Indian was the most common non-EU+ nationality

Long-term emigration from the UK for the five most frequent non-EU+ nationalities, by original reason for immigration, for year ending June 2026



Source: Borders and immigration data from the Home Office

Notes:

1. Please see chart notes 1 to 3 and 8 to 10 in Section 9: Quality,methodsand data sources.

The bar chart in Figure 9 shows that Indian was the most common non-EU+ nationality to emigrate from the UK in the last year. Study was the most common original reason for four out of five of the top nationalities coming to the UK. For Ukrainian nationals, "Other" was the most common reason, showing that humanitarian routes, including the Ukraine schemes, are included in this category.

More information on the age and sex of non-EU+ migrants leaving the UK is available in our accompanying dataset.

Emigration of EU+ nationals

Around 124,000 EU+ nationals are estimated to have emigrated from the UK in YE June 2026. This is broken down as follows:

- those with status on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) made up 83% (103,000)
- people traveling on visas made up 13% (16,000)
- Irish nationals made up 4% (5,000)

Emigration among Irish nationals and EU+ visa holders remained broadly stable, while emigration among people with EUSS status fell in YE June 2026. Despite this fall, people with EUSS status continued to account for the majority of EU+ emigration, making up 83% of EU+ nationals leaving the UK long term in the latest period. This reflects the composition of the EU+ population living in the UK, as many EU citizens who arrived before the end of 2020 hold EUSS status.

Information on the age and sex of EU+ migrants leaving the UK and the top 10 nationalities emigrating is available in our accompanying dataset. This dataset also includes information on the age and sex of British nationals leaving the UK.

6 . Updates to estimates

We have revised long-term international migration estimates for non-EU+ and EU+ nationals for year ending (YE) March 2025 to YE December 2025. As a result of updated data being unavailable, we have not revised British nationals' for this period. We plan to update these estimates in our next release, in line with our standard revision policy.

The updates made in this release have had a minimal effect on our previous estimates (see Table 5 of our accompanying dataset and our revision triangles). These can be used to see how long-term international migration (LTIM) estimates change each time they are updated. By looking down the columns in each sheet, which represent year ending reference periods, users can see how a particular estimate is revised over time.

Updates to estimates of EU+ and non-EU+ nationals

New travel data

As more data become available, we get a more complete picture of travel behaviour, which we incorporate into our estimates. For example, we did not have complete data to say whether those who arrived between January and June 2025 would stay long term for the YE December 2025 period when we published our estimates in May 2026. Instead, we had to make assumptions. We now have 12 months of travel data for those who arrived between January to June 2025, so we have updated our estimates.

Method improvements for dependant joiners

We have also improved how we categorise non-EU+ nationals with dependant joiner visas. These were previously classified as "Other" but are now more accurately classified as either work or study dependants. This affects the breakdown by reason for migration but not overall totals.

Updates to estimates of British nationals

We have not updated our previously published estimates of British national migration in this release. This is because the delivery of the underlying Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) used to produce these estimates has been delayed. This was because of ongoing data investigations in some of the component parts of the overall RAPID data. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are working closely with HM's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to resolve these.

To provide estimates for the latest period, we have projected the RAPID-based estimates from our YE March 2025 estimates to YE June 2026. We plan to update the estimates for YE March 2025 to YE December 2025 in our next release, in line with our standard revision policy. Until these estimates are updated, users should account for greater uncertainty and a higher risk of revision from the extended projection.

Updates to uncertainty estimates

We have updated the way we measure uncertainty for this release, and we will apply it to all releases from now on.

The accompanying uncertainty intervals for non-EU+, EU+ and total estimates have been produced using a new modelling-based approach to provide a likely revision range for the current LTIM estimates. Through modelling revisions made to LTIM estimates, we can predict a plausible revision range based on the patterns and trends of previous revisions. Our new intervals provide users with additional information on the stability of the current estimates.

Our revision-based uncertainty intervals (90%) for latest YE June 2026 estimates are:

- 31,000 to 128,000 for net migration
- 696,000 to 788,000 for immigration
- 622,000 to 702,000 for emigration

Users should understand our revision-based uncertainty intervals as defining a likely range for our revisions to fall within. Each value within the range shown is not equally likely, with the most likely revised estimate being close to the published provisional estimate. The intervals shown represent lower and upper values within which future revisions have a 90% probability. This provides users with more information on the stability of the estimates, which can be affected by quality improvements, by incorporating additional data or methodological changes.

Our predicted revision range is based on our models having a reasonable fit and revisions following a similar trend. The revision-based intervals provide a useful guide based on previous revision patterns, but future revisions may differ from those seen in the past.

For this release, the British national uncertainty intervals are produced using our existing simulation-based approach, with the intention to move towards the revision-based approach. More information is available in Section 9: Quality, methods and data sources.

7 . Definitions

Administrative data

Collections of data maintained for administrative reasons, for example, registrations, transactions, or record keeping. They are used for operational purposes, and their statistical use is secondary. These sources are typically managed by other government bodies.

Asylum-related migrant

An asylum-related migrant (also referred to as an "asylum seeker") is someone who makes a claim to be recognised as a refugee under the Refugee Convention.

"Asylum" estimates in this statistical article refer to people who have claimed asylum in the UK. It includes people who claimed asylum after arriving in the UK through a regular route and those who claimed asylum after arriving by illegal entry routes, for example, by small boats.

To avoid double counting, it excludes anyone who was already a long-term migrant in the UK before claiming asylum. For example, someone who arrived on a study visa and has been in the UK for at least a year before claiming asylum will be counted as a study migrant.

An asylum-related return is where someone who originally claimed asylum has left the country long term. More information is available in the Home Office's User guide to: Immigration system statistics.

British national

For the purposes of our estimates, we assume a British national is anyone who has a National Insurance Number (NINo) and who is not included in the Migrant Worker Scan (MWS).

The MWS contains information on overseas nationals who have registered for, and are allocated, a NINo. UK residents typically receive a NINo through the Juvenile Registration scheme before the age of 16 years if Child Benefit was claimed on their behalf. Adults returning to the UK or not covered by Child Benefit apply through the Adult NINo Allocation and Registration service.

If a NINo is allocated, the relevant Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) systems are updated. These people are included in the MWS. A full description of this process is provided in the DWP's NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK: background information and methodology.

We also include people as British nationals on the MWS who have been resident in the UK for many years and are likely to have become British citizens. Users should note that this definition is statistical and may be different from legal definitions of nationality.

British nationals are those who were born with British nationality and those who have acquired British citizenship. As a result, the immigration estimates of British nationals will include people who have been British nationals from birth and those who have acquired British citizenship. The emigration estimates of British nationals will include former non-British nationals who have previously immigrated to the UK.

Full information on the definition used in our estimates is available in our Implementing new methods for estimating the international migration of British nationals, progress update: November 2025 article.

British national (overseas)

A British national (overseas) (BN(O)) is someone who was a British Overseas Territories citizen by connection with Hong Kong, who lost that citizenship on 30 June 1997 when sovereignty returned to China. However, such a person was able to register as a BN(O) before 1 July 1997. More information is available in the Types of British nationality guide on GOV.UK.

On 31 January 2021, the UK launched a bespoke immigration route for BN(O) status holders and their families from Hong Kong.

Dependant visas

International migrants that have entered the UK on a visa may be eligible to bring their dependant partner or child with them through a dependant visa, subject to the type of visa the main applicant holds. A dependant partner or child of an international migrant can be:

- a husband, wife, civil partner, or unmarried partner
- a child under 18 years of age, including if they were born in the UK during the international migrant's stay
- a child over 18 years of age if they are currently in the UK as the international migrant's dependant

EU and EU+

EU is the European Union, which is the sum of EU14, EU8, and EU2, plus other EU. These are:

- EU2 - Romania and Bulgaria
- EU8 - Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- EU14 - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden
- other EU - Malta, Cyprus, and Croatia (joined on 1 July 2013)

British nationals are not included in these numbers at any point.

EU+ is all current EU countries, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

EU settled status

EU settled status is a status available to eligible EU+ citizens after the UK left the EU and freedom of movement was rescinded. It allows them to live and work in the UK for an indefinite period.

Long-term international migration

Long-term international migration (LTIM) statistics estimate the flow of people to and from the UK. This statistical article uses the United Nations-recommended definition of a long-term international migrant, which is: "A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence".

Main applicant

A main applicant is an individual who has been granted leave to enter or to remain in the UK on a visa, for example, a work or study visa. Main applicants may be eligible to bring their dependant family members with them on a dependant visa.

Nationality

Nationality of a country is a legal status that usually gives a person a particular set of rights relating to that country.

Net migration

Net migration is the difference between the number of people coming to live in the UK (immigration) and the number of people leaving to live elsewhere (emigration). When more people are coming to the UK than leaving, net migration is above zero and so adds to the UK population.

Non-EU+

Non-EU+ is the sum of the rest of the world, including the rest of Europe not included in the EU+ category. British nationals are excluded from these numbers.

"Other" reason for migration

For non-EU+ and EU+ migrants, the reason for migration is based on their visa type. "Other" reason includes people who immigrated to the UK under visas classified as:

- admin
- visit
- other
- settlement
- protection
- those that did not fit into any of our designated classifications

Ukraine visa schemes

The Ukraine Family Scheme allowed applicants to join family members or extend their stay in the UK.

The Ukraine Extension Scheme allowed Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members to apply for permission to stay in the UK.

The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

The reason for migration data will mainly only show the out-of-country routes, as opposed to the extension routes.

Uncertainty intervals

Uncertainty intervals are provided for statistics created using administrative data. From November 2026, we have introduced revision-based intervals for non-EU+, EU+ and total long-term international migration estimates.

The revision-based intervals have been constructed by modelling revisions to provide users with a likely revision range, based on the trend and pattern of previous revisions. The interval suggests that the current estimates will be revised within the range of the 90% interval. A 90% revision interval does not mean that all outcomes within the interval are equally likely; revisions are generally more likely to fall near the centre of the interval than towards its extremes. We maintain a simulation-based approach for British national estimates, with the aim of shifting to revision-based intervals in future publications.

Our revision-based intervals differ from confidence intervals, which apply to estimates derived from sample surveys, where intervals derived from 95% of all possible random samples should contain the true value.

8 . Data on long-term international migration

Long-term international immigration, emigration and net migration flows, provisional
Dataset | Released 26 November 2026
Estimates for UK immigration, emigration and net migration, year ending June 2012 to year ending June 2026. These are official statistics in development. To access the most up-to-date data for each time period, please use the most recently published dataset.

Long-term international migration revision triangles
Dataset | Released 26 November 2026
Estimates for UK long-term immigration, emigration and net migration, year ending June 2021 to year ending June 2026. Comparison of long-term international migration initial estimates against estimates published later.

9 . Quality, methods and data sources

Chart notes

1. Please be aware that year ending (YE) periods overlap.

2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Most calculations are done on unrounded numbers, so totals may not equal the sum of individual parts.

3. More information on data sources and methods is available in Section 9: Quality, methods and data sources .

4. Total EU+ includes EU+ visa holders, those with status of EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and Irish nationals.

5. Estimates for British nationals pre-June 2021 should not be compared with post-June 2021 estimates, as the methods used to create them are different.

6. Comparisons between estimates published before and after June 2021 should be treated with caution because of changes in methodology.

7. We have revised long-term international migration (LTIM) estimates for non-EU+ and EU+ nationals for YE March 2025 to YE December 2025. YE March and June 2025 for British nationals and total estimates of migration have remained provisional in this release because of the delay in Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID) data; these will have their final standard set of revisions applied in the next release. Estimates for YE March 2026 and YE June 2026 have been published for the first time. Estimates for the latest four year-ending periods are provisional.

8. Estimates do not include those arriving via asylum and humanitarian resettlement routes. However, British nationals (overseas) (BN(o)) and Ukraine visa schemes were included in the analysis that produced these figures.

9. Reasons for immigration are based on initial reasons why individuals arrived in the UK. They do not show visas to which people may have transferred. Work- and study-related reasons include main applicants and dependants. "Humanitarian" in Figures 5 and 8 is the sum across various humanitarian visa schemes presented in our main LTIM dataset; this calculation is done on unrounded figures. "Other" in Figures 6 and 9 refers to all other reasons aside from work-related, study-related, asylum, and humanitarian resettlement. Reasons for emigration are based on the initial reason why an individual arrived in the UK.

10. More information on the reason for migration groupings is available in Section 7: Definitions.

11. Measures of uncertainty are only available for YE June 2022 to YE June 2026.

12. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is no longer used to produce current long-term international migration estimates. It is included in the source information because it was used to produce some earlier estimates in the time series (before YE June 2021).

13. The British nationals uncertainty intervals continue to use our existing simulation-based approach, producing 90% uncertainty intervals. Our revision-based intervals for non-EU+, EU+ and total estimates are also 90%.

14. Some earlier intervals look wider, as migration estimates were higher at that time. Revision-based intervals estimate revisions as a percentage or proportional change, meaning that a similar degree of relative uncertainty produces a larger numerical range around a larger estimate. A wider interval in absolute terms should not be interpreted as evidence that the estimate was proportionately more uncertain.

Data sources and methods

These estimates cover the period YE June 2012 to YE June 2026. Current and previous methods are described in our updated Methods to produce provisional long-term international migration estimates methodology. A more detailed account of these methods is provided within our Provisional long-term international migration estimates: technical user guide.

We routinely assess approaches for quality assuring methods and resulting outputs through various groups. This includes the National Statistician's Advisory Panel, which provides advice and assurance on methodological questions. Members of this group have supported a review of the assumptions used for this round of estimation. Additionally, our Quality and Improvement team provide periodic reviews of approaches to quality assurance processes.

Part of our quality assurance also involves comparing our estimates of immigration with other sources of information. More information on how our long-term international immigration estimates compare with other data sources is available in Tables 6a and 6b in our accompanying dataset.

EU+ nationals

In November 2024, we widened our EU category to EU+ for data back to YE June 2021. EU+ includes all EU countries, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

EU+ estimates before YE June 2021 were produced using RAPID. EU+ estimates for YE June 2021 onwards are produced using Home Office Borders and Immigration data (HOBID).

Read more on the latest HOBID methodology to estimate the migration of EU+ nationals in our Implementing new methods for estimating the international migration of EU+ nationals, progress update: November 2025 article.

Non-EU+ nationals

For non-EU+ nationals, we use HOBID, which combines visa and travel information to link an individual's travel movements into and out of the country. More information is available in the Home Office's User guide to: Immigration system statistics.

To estimate non-EU+ immigration, we have developed a method that uses an individual's first arrival and last departure dates to estimate their length of stay in the UK within the period for which they have a valid visa. More detailed information is available in our Provisional long-term international migration estimates: technical user guide.

British nationals

Census data have been used to estimate British nationals between YE June 2012 and YE June 2021. Pre-Census 2021 estimates should not be compared with post-Census 2021 estimates, as the methods used to create them are different. More information is available in our Estimating UK international migration: 2012 to 2021 article.

To estimate British nationals, we use RAPID data; this involves creating a time series that we use to infer the residency status of individuals. We look at RAPID data over time to determine the most likely residency status of individuals. Changes in residency status are indicative of immigration and emigration. We make adjustments for individuals who may not interact with the systems that make up RAPID, but who remain resident within the UK.

We also make an adjustment for people who have become British nationals since obtaining a National Insurance Number (NINo) when they arrived in the UK. The naturalisation adjustment increases annual British-national immigration estimates by approximately 7% and emigration estimates by 13% to 15% at the stage where it is applied, before the remaining adjustments are made. These percentages describe the effect on the estimated migration flows, not the proportion of Migrant Worker Scan (MWS) records assumed to be British.

For this release, we have projected estimates from our May 2026 release forward to YE June 2026 using a model informed by timelier EU+ migration data. These are modelled projections rather than confirmed changes in British national migration and are subject to greater uncertainty and revision. We will update the estimates in our next release.

More information on the latest British nationals methods is available in our Implementing new methods for estimating the international migration of British nationals, progress update: November 2025 article.

Uncertainty measures of international migration

We provide uncertainty intervals for statistics created using mainly administrative data and some survey data. A wider interval indicates more uncertainty in the estimate. Uncertainty intervals differ from confidence intervals, which are applicable to estimates derived from sample surveys.

The uncertainty intervals for data used in this statistical article are available in our accompanying dataset. Revision-based intervals can provide more information to users by indicating a plausible range within which current LTIM estimates could be revised. Our new modelling-based approach is based on previous trends and patterns of revisions, which captures more sources that affect the stability of estimates, including methods and data source improvements. Users should consider that the intervals are based on extrapolation and take care in their interpretation.

More detail on the modelling method is available in our Predicting the stability of non-EU+ long-term international migration estimates methodology. We have now replicated this method to model stability of total long-term migration estimates.

Uncertainty for British nationals continues to be based on our existing simulated-based approach. This is because of British nationals being the most recent group to undergo methodology changes, and a longer time series of revisions is required to produce acceptable revision-based intervals. We plan to move to revision-based intervals in 2027.

Strengths and limitations

The estimates for the most recent time periods in our data series (YE September to YE June 2026) are provisional and provide users with an early indication of migration during this period.

We update assumptions that feed into our provisional estimates to reflect changing behaviour. As a result, these estimates will be subject to a range of factors that mean they could change, because of improvements to our methods and scheduled revisions when more data become available. This is outlined in our Population and International Migration Statistics Revisions Policy methodology. More information is available in our research progress update.

This release coincides with the publication of the Home Office's Immigration system statistics quarterly release for the period to the end of September 2026. Numbers on visas granted may indicate trends in the arrivals of non-EU+ long-term migrants but cannot indicate the net effect after further stays and emigration, because this is not taken into account. We continue to work closely with the Home Office to produce a consistent insight into UK international migration.

Further information on strengths and limitations of data sources is included in our Methods to produce provisional long-term international migration estimates methodology.

Statistical designation

These statistics are labelled as "official statistics in development". They are based on information from HOBID from the Home Office and RAPID from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). We are developing how we collect the data and produce the statistics to improve their quality.

Once we have completed the developments, we will review the statistics with the Statistics Head of Profession.

If the statistics meet trustworthiness, quality and value standards based on user feedback, we will remove the "official statistics in development" label to publish under the "official statistics" label.

If they do not meet trustworthiness, quality and value standards, we will further develop them and might stop producing them.

If they were "accredited official statistics" before the start of the developments, we will ask the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) to reassess and re-accredit them.

We will inform users of the outcome of our, and any OSR, reviews or changes.

Learn more about our statistical designation plans and other prioritises for UK long-term international migration in our International migration statistics strategy article.

10 . Related links

Methods to produce provisional long-term international migration estimates
Methodology | Last revised 26 November 2026
An explanation of the methods used to produce the latest provisional statistics on migration flows into and out of the UK.

Provisional long-term international migration estimates: technical user guide
Methodology | Last revised 26 November 2026
Methodology used to produce our provisional long-term international migration estimates.

What is international migration and how do we estimate it?
Supporting methodology article | Last revised 21 May 2026
Estimating our population is complex. Find out what our migration statistics cover and how our methods are adapting to world events and changing trends.

UK emigration explained: what we know about Brits moving abroad
Article | Released 21 May 2026
Building a picture of where British nationals live abroad is difficult. Find out what the latest data tell us about how many are emigrating and which countries they go to.

Migration statistics
Web page | Last revised 26 November 2026
This series brings together documents relating to Home Office statistics on migration.

Predicting the stability of non-EU+ long-term international migration estimates
Methodology | Last revised 7 October 2025
Method for predicting the stability of non-EU+ long-term international migration (LTIM) estimates, with supporting revision analysis, to provide a probabilistic revision range for the current estimates.

11 . Cite this statistical article

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 26 November 2026, ONS website, statistical article, Long-term international migration, provisional: year ending June 2026