



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET: UK 2012

## EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

### 1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in the United Kingdom during 2012, including latest statistics. It has been prepared in conjunction with the European Commission's 4th Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (2012).

### 2. Legal Migration and Mobility

#### 2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

**New immigration rules**<sup>1</sup> were introduced in 2012 which affect many immigration routes to the UK. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has undertaken different activities to communicate these changes to migrants, for example, via communication to partners including the organisation of events (in the UK and overseas), bi-monthly e-newsletter updates, leaflets and direct mailing, as well as news articles and pages on the UKBA website<sup>2</sup>. The UKBA has also communicated directly with migrants via intranet news stories, e-mails and briefing packs.

#### 2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

With regard to **satisfying labour market needs**, the government takes independent advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Following a report published by MAC on the impacts of migration, the skills threshold for skilled workers was raised to improve selectivity, whilst the resident labour market test was relaxed for jobs paying £70,000 per annum or above or requiring PhD-level skills. More selective arrangements for settlement were introduced, enforceable from 2016 onwards. The new arrangements stipulate that skilled workers applying to settle in the UK will need to be paid at least £35,000 per annum.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationrules/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>

In relation to **cooperation with partner/third countries for economic migration**, the UK included Taiwan and South Korea in its Youth Mobility Scheme. Some of the changes to the immigration rules serve to **facilitate access of highly qualified workers**. Changes apply to tier 1 (entrepreneurs and investors) and tier 2 (skilled workers)<sup>3</sup> migrants. A new route was also introduced for **Graduate Entrepreneurs**, who have been recognised as having exceptional business skills or ideas, for which English language requirements are relaxed. The exceptional talent route has also been made more attractive. The government moreover announced that in 2013 it intends to extend the Graduate Entrepreneur route to enable up to 1,000 MBA graduates to stay in the UK. Similarly, from 2013 onwards, all international PhD students who have completed their studies in the UK will be able to remain for an additional 12 months.

#### 2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The New Immigration Rules clarify, in accordance with article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), the grounds on which a person can enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their family or private life. As such, the new rules ensure that there is a clear focus on whether a relationship is genuine, that the sponsor can properly support their partner and any dependants financially, and that the partner is able to integrate into British society. The government announced that, from 2013 onwards, all applicants for settlement on grounds of family reunification would be required to pass the 'Life in the UK' Test and present English language speaking and listening qualification at B1 level or above. The government also intends to remove the full right of appeal against a family visit visa<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup><http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/immigration/statement-policy-immig-rules?view=Binary>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/june/13-family-migration>.

## 2.4. INTEGRATION

Under the **European Integration Fund (EIF)** and the **European Refugee Fund (ERF)**, measures largely aim to **increase migrants' socio-economic integration** with a particular emphasis on increasing migrants' employability. Projects that are supported through these funds include linguistic competence building as well as pre-employment measures. Migrants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of language and understanding of the UK by passing the 'Life in the UK' Test. For this purpose, a new Handbook was developed which places great emphasis on British history, culture and traditions. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a document **setting out the rights and obligations of migrants** which similarly states that a key element of the UK approach to integration is to promote British values. Increasingly, **integration strategies** are also formulated at **local level**. The DCLG supports three community based English for Speakers of Other Languages projects. Also, in support of the English language test for migrants and with support of the **EIF**, three projects are run in third countries (in particular Pakistan and Bangladesh) to provide English language training and orientation guidance. The UK furthermore participates in a number of bilateral agreements involving the mobility of international students.

## 2.5 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY<sup>5</sup>

The UK does not apply the Schengen Borders Code, the Visa Code or the VIS but maintains its own national visa policy and legislation, under which, from 2007 onwards, applicants for a UK visa are required to provide biometric data which are checked against a range of police and immigration databases. The Home Office committed to redesign the visa application process over the next two years.

## 3. International Protection and Asylum

During 2012 **the UK has actively contributed to the activities of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)**. For example, three officials from the UKBA were deployed to Greece as part of the EASO Asylum Support Teams; UKBA trainers provided European Asylum Curriculum (EAC) training courses in Luxembourg, Rome and Prague, and one of the UK Border Agency trainers was appointed as coordinator and content expert for an EAC module. UKBA representatives are moreover involved in the EASO Country of Origin (COI) Task Force and one seconded national expert contributes to EASO's work on the EU Action Plan on unaccompanied minors. In terms of the

<sup>5</sup> "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

**provision of support of EASO to the UK**, EASO organised a workshop on Syria in June 2012 to discuss the country situation and policy implications. With regard to the **external dimension**, the UK is involved in the Prague Process Targeted Initiative and has shared best practices with countries such as Australia and Turkey. For example, the UK hosted an EU-funded study visit for a Turkish delegation to witness UK operations and, using the FCO Returns and Reintegration Fund, the British Embassy in Ankara has sponsored three seminars to discuss and draft a new asylum law for Turkey. Concerning **resettlement**, the UK takes part in the Gateway Programme, under which it has resettled 985 persons in the UK (see table 5).

## 4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

The UK participates with Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands in the European Platform for Unaccompanied Minors (ERPUM) that aims to establish systems to return minors to their home countries in a manner that safeguards their welfare and best interests. The UK furthermore considers the best interests of the child whenever a case is subject to review or when an immigration decision is taken. The Government's new 'Missing Children and Adults Strategy' provides a core framework for local areas to put in place better arrangements to prevent children and adults going missing. It also provides a core framework of objectives for local agencies to review the arrangements they have in place and consider whether they can/should do more.

## 5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

The national referral mechanism (NRM) monitors processes for the **identification and support of victims of human trafficking**. The information technology system that supports the NRM process is currently being reviewed to see whether it can be updated to ensure that potential victims are referred and dealt with quickly and sensitively. Coordination and oversight of **care and support** arrangements have been outsourced to an external service provider whose services are monitored and reviewed on a three monthly basis. The government awarded a grant to the Refugee Council and the Children's Society to undertake an independent scoping review on the practical care arrangements for trafficked children to be carried out in 2013. The UK's approach to **prevent trafficking and to increase the prosecution of traffickers** is set out in its Human Trafficking Strategy. To facilitate a coordinated and collaborative response, an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking assesses trends and reports yearly. A new Joint Strategic Group with NGO partners was established in October 2012 which aims to further

improve coordination of prevention activities and will identify further action to improve awareness of the police and other front-liners. For the prosecution of trafficking offences, the UK advocates close collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the Crown Prosecution Service. The Crown Prosecution Service provides support and guidance to police forces and the judiciary on how to approach and deal with cases involving human trafficking and exploitation. Funding was granted for the design of an e-learning product for Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors.

## 6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

**Diaspora groups** play an important role in the UK's development policy. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to diaspora groups working in development through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- The Common Ground Initiative (CGI) which aims to increase funding to small and diaspora organisations to create real and sustainable change to some of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities in Africa. DFID is providing £20 million of co-funding for the CGI over five years (2009-2014). So far, over 100 grants have been awarded.
- The Global Poverty Action Fund is a demand-led fund supporting project focused on poverty reduction and pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. Funding was provided to three diaspora organisations in 2012.
- The 'Migration out of Poverty' Research Programme is funded by DFID and provides research and evidence on how the positive impact of migration on poverty can be enhanced in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

With regard to **remittances**, DFID works with financial institutions through new technologies to encourage robust markets and branchless banking. In its **efforts to mitigate brain drain**, the UK applies the Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals when recruiting healthcare professionals from overseas.

## 7. Irregular Migration

To support the **implementation of the EU's Readmission Agreements (EURA)**, the UK focuses on reviewing the performance and implementation of agreed EURAs by participating in EURA Expert meetings, Joint Readmission Committee meetings as well as through liaison with the authorities and EU Member State representatives in the concerned countries of origin. With regard to **managing mixed migration flows and preventing irregular migration**, the UK operates accelerated asylum processes as well as Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programs. Some activities are in particular undertaken

to prevent irregular migration from / through specific geographical regions. For example, the UK operates an AVR Programme in Turkey and has financed and participated in capacity building projects in Greece. Authorities have also cooperated with airlines, law enforcement agencies and liaison officers in Greece to tackle the threat from inadequately documented passengers.

In relation to **border control operations**, the UK temporarily waived national visa requirements for Games Family Members on occasion of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London; is conducting a pilot programme with the US to open up the US Trusted Traveller Programme to a limited number of UK passport holders, and; although not bound by the EUROSUR Regulation, the UK anticipates that it will enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements with neighbouring Member States for purposes of information exchange and cooperation. Moreover, in order to ensure **more effective control of the external land, sea and air borders**, the UK Border Force was launched in April 2012 which over the summer of 2012 successfully managed queues including the high demand produced by the Olympics. As to **return**, the UK participated in four joint return operations, three of which on a bilateral basis (Ghana, Nigeria, Kosovo and Albania) and one constituted a joint FRONTEX operation to Gambia led by Germany. The UK has also set up a US/UK working group for the return of migrants to countries of common interest.

## 8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

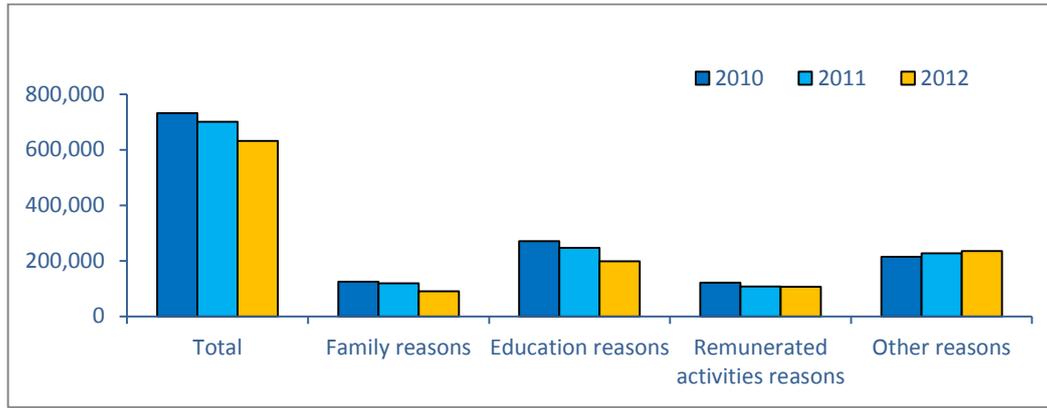
At EU level, the UK exchanges information in the field of asylum and immigration through various channels, including the EMN, GDISC, and the EU National Contact Points on Integration. The UK also participates in several working groups in the context of EU funding in addition to attending the formal SOLID meetings. At national level, the UK EMN NCP maintain a national network and the UK Border Agency partly funds the Strategic Migration Partnerships (a network of 12 regions across the UK that look at specific migration-related issues that might directly affect the regions).

### STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the United Kingdom on aspects of migration and asylum (2010-2012), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

## Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in the United Kingdom (2010-2012)

**Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason<sup>6</sup> (2010-2012)**



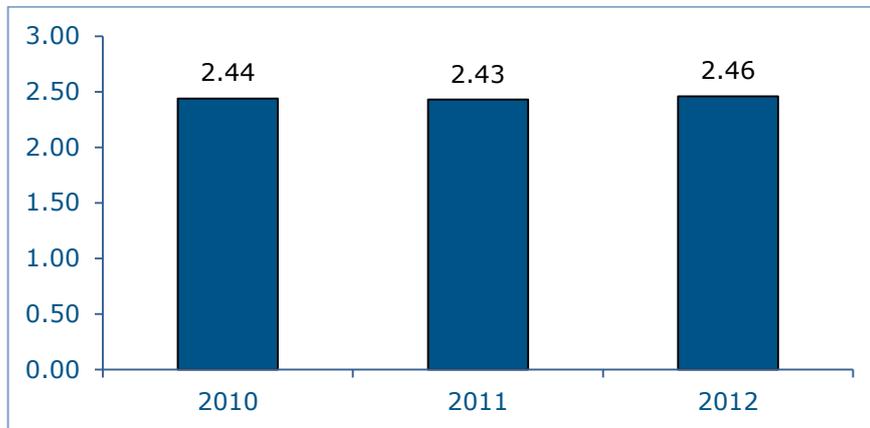
Source: Eurostat (*migr\_resfirst*)

**Table 1: First residence permits: Top 5 nationalities**

2010	2011	2012
<b>1. United States</b> – 154,250	<b>1. United States</b> – 121,264	<b>1. United States</b> – 132,828
<b>2. India</b> – 127,753	<b>2. India</b> – 119,182	<b>2. India</b> – 105,851
<b>3. China</b> – 57,079	<b>3. China</b> – 62,982	<b>3. China</b> – 68,967
<b>4. Pakistan</b> – 44,455	<b>4. Pakistan</b> – 52,239	<b>4. Philippines</b> – 40,356
<b>5. Philippines</b> – 32,715	<b>5. Philippines</b> – 51,795	<b>5. Pakistan</b> – 26,991

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (*migr\_resfirst*)

**Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals in millions (2010-2012)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (*migr\_pop1ctz*)

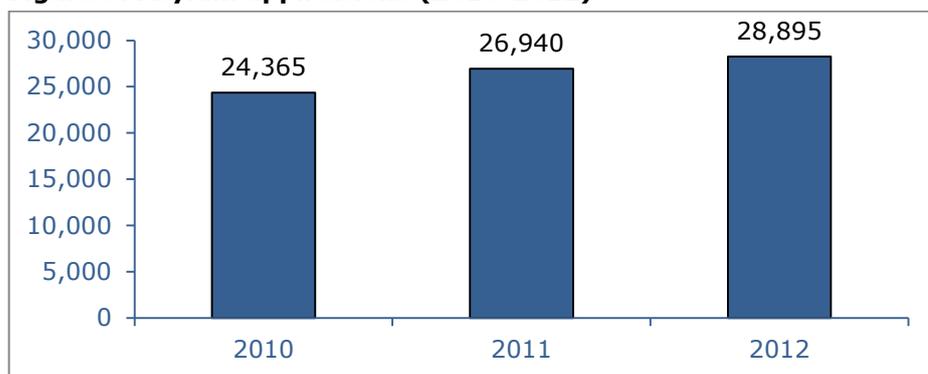
**Table 2: Resident population: Top 5 nationalities**

2010	2011	2012
<b>1. India</b> – 308,098	<b>1. India</b> – 332,826	<b>1. India</b> – 343,709
<b>2. Pakistan</b> – 193,478	<b>2. Pakistan</b> – 159,581	<b>2. Pakistan</b> – 175,826
<b>3. United States</b> – 146,068	<b>3. United States</b> – 152,520	<b>3. United States</b> – 144,778
<b>4. China</b> – 101,717	<b>4. China</b> – 115,130	<b>4. China</b> – 123,130
<b>5. South Africa</b> – 101,104	<b>5. South Africa</b> – 97,574	<b>5. Nigeria</b> – 107,515

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (*migr\_pop1ctz*) – includes third country nationals only.

<sup>6</sup> The UK does not have a residence permit database but provides estimates of third country nationals who are granted permission to stay in the UK. These estimates are derived from National Statistics data on passengers given leave to enter and supplemented with other management information such as visas issued and asylum granted.

**Figure 3: Asylum applications (2010-2012)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza); data for 2012 provided by UK EMN National Contact Point

**Table 3: Asylum applications: Top 5 nationalities**

2010	2011	2012
1. Zimbabwe – 2,490	1. Pakistan – 4,095	1. Pakistan – 4,970
2. Iran – 2,375	2. Iran – 3,165	2. Iran – 3,265
3. Pakistan – 2,220	3. Sri Lanka – 2,190	3. Sri Lanka – 2,175
4. Afghanistan – 1,980	4. Afghanistan – 1,665	4. Nigeria – 1,525
5. Sri Lanka – 1,675	5. Libya – 1,215	5. Afghanistan – 1,355

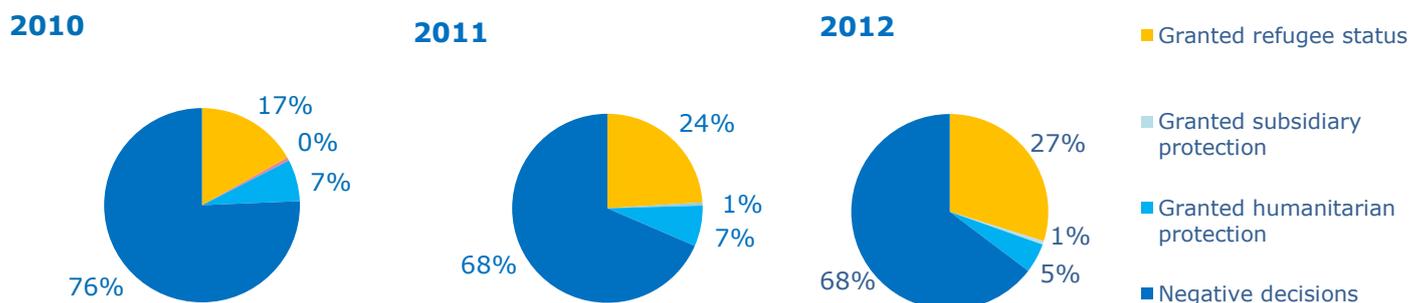
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza)

**Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)**

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2010	26,690	6,490	4,495	145	1,855	20,200
2011	22,970	7,240	5,515	125	1,600	15,735
2012	24,475	7,850	6,555	135	1,160	16,630

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta)

**Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)**

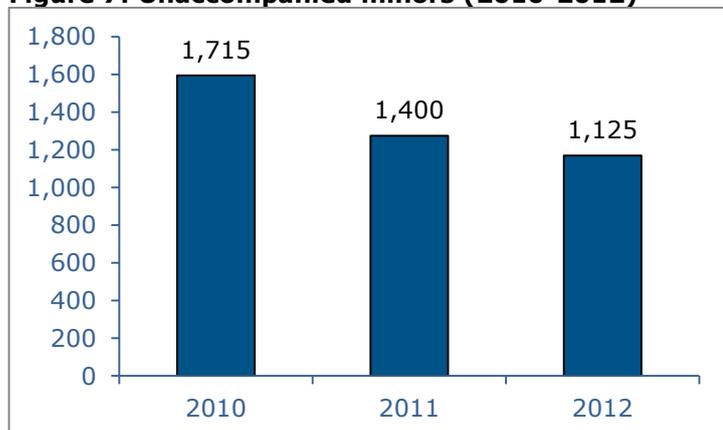


Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta)

**Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011-2012)**

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals relocated	N/A	N/A	N/A
Third-country nationals resettled	720	455	1,040

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyresa)

**Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)**

Source: Data provided by UK EMN National Contact Point \* Improved methodology used for calculating UASC as previous estimates were an overestimate.

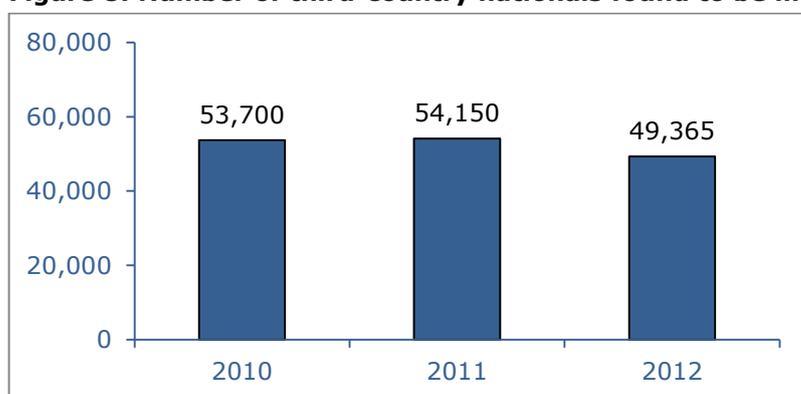
**Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)**

	2010	2011	*2012
<b>Unaccompanied minors (total)</b>	1,715	1,400	1,125
<b>Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants</b>	1,715	1,400	1,125

**Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders**

	2010	2011	2012
<b>Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders</b>	16,365	14,720	13,330

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eirfs)

**Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present**

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eipre); data for 2012 provided by UK EMN National Contact Point

**Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2010-2012)**

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
<b>2010</b>	53,700	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>2011</b>	54,150	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>2012</b>	49,365	31,309*	19,178*	3,693*

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eiord) and National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report; \*Data provided by UK EMN National Contact Point is a breakdown of Eurostat data (migr\_eirtn) - 54,180. Totals differ as they relate to the year in which a third country national is ordered to leave or returned.

**Table 9: Number of visas issued by type**

	2010	2011	2012
<b>Schengen visa (short-stay visas)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>National visa</b>	2,144,621	2,275,417	2,228,762
<b>Total visas</b>	2,144,621	2,275,417	2,228,762

Source: Immigration Statistics Publication of August 2013, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2013/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2013#before-entry> Data includes visitors and transit visas