

Size of the EU Accession (A8) population resident in Northern Ireland (2007)



Introduction

1. There is significant interest in the levels of international migration in the United Kingdom and in Northern Ireland. In particular, this interest has increased following the accession of eight Central and Eastern European countries¹ (referred to as the “A8” countries) to the European Union in May 2004.
2. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has undertaken research to assist measurement of the flow of international migration into and out of Northern Ireland. The reports published from this research² provide information on the flow of migrants during different time periods. The measurement of migration flows utilises the United Nations statistical definition of a long-term international migrant³:

“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. From the perspective of the country of departure the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival the person will be a long-term immigrant.”

3. There is no complete single data source for measuring long-term international migration to Northern Ireland. Currently family doctor registration data is used to estimate international inflows to Northern Ireland as it is the most complete source and covers the full age spectrum. Also those registering with a doctor are likely to be long-term migrants to Northern Ireland. This is because the rules around registration require any person registering with a doctor to have *“an identifiable purpose for their residence here and that purpose must have a sufficient degree of continuity to be properly described as settled”*.

¹ The A8 countries are Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Malta and Cyprus also joined the EU on 1 May 2004 but are considered separately from the A8.

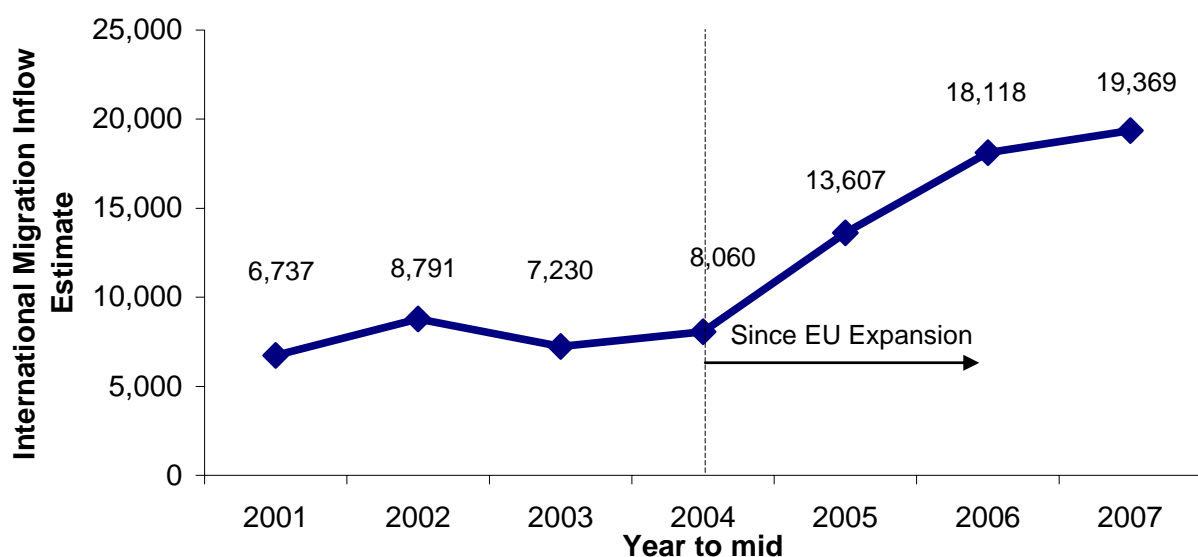
² NISRA produced reports and tables on Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2004-5), (2005-6) and (2006-7) which can be found at:
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>

³ Taken from “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. UN 1998” available at
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report\(2005\).pdfmigrmethods.htm#B](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report(2005).pdfmigrmethods.htm#B)

However all other available data sources annually on inflows of migrants to assess migration patterns are examined to quality assure the family doctor registration figures.

4. In 2007 the total estimate of international in-migration to Northern Ireland was 19,400 people. This number has risen markedly over the last five years – in 2003 it was 7,200 people. The chart below shows international in-migration estimates to Northern Ireland since 2001 and identifies clearly the impact of enlargement of the European Union in 2004.

Figure 1: Estimate of long-term international in-migration to Northern Ireland, 2001-2007



5. However users of migration statistics wish to get information on not only the **flows** of migration but also the scale of the size of the A8 population living in Northern Ireland (**the stock**). The remainder of this paper focuses on the size of the A8 stock population living in Northern Ireland. The 2001 Census provides a starting point. The last Census showed that only around 250 people recorded their place of birth as one of the A8 countries. Thus the baseline in 2001 is of a small A8 population living in Northern Ireland. Clearly there has been a significant change since then.

Administrative data on the A8 population living in Northern Ireland

GP Registration system

6. For the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2007⁴, 26,000 people came directly from A8 countries and registered with a family doctor in Northern Ireland. Note that this is a registration, not a stock, figure. This figure will exclude short-term moves of A8s nationals to Northern Ireland and also people who come from A8 countries to Northern Ireland but have previously lived, and were registered with a family doctor, in Great Britain.
7. The GP patient registration system also involves a deregistration process from which outflows are calculated leading to estimates of net migration flows for use in mid-year estimates. However, information is only available on the number of people who have left Northern Ireland to either go to another part of the UK or to somewhere else in the world. It is not possible, at present, to link flow information and thus estimate population stocks by, for example, country of birth from the doctor registrations. NISRA is working with the Central Services Agency to be able to make this link in future.

Worker Registration system

8. The UK Government, through the Home Office, maintains the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS). This scheme means that people coming to Northern Ireland from one of the A8 countries to work as an employee must register their presence. Between 1 May 2004 and 31 December 2007 around 30,000 people registered to work in Northern Ireland. This figure will exclude persons (e.g. children) from A8 countries who are in Northern Ireland but not working and also excludes the self-employed. Again the data relate to inflow moves only, as unlike the doctor registrations there is no mechanism to de-register from the WRS. This is thus no easy way of knowing how many of those A8 migrants who registered have since left Northern Ireland.

⁴ Whilst the figures relate to registrations in this period it can take some time for someone to register with a family doctor after moving to NI. Research by NISRA has shown that a lag of at least six months should be expected. Thus these figures can only relate to migrants arriving up to the middle of 2007.

National Insurance Applications

9. To work officially or claim benefit in the UK someone must have a National Insurance Number (NINo). The Department for Social Development keep records of the number of applications for National Insurance Numbers. Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, 35,600 A8 nationals applied for a National Insurance Number in Northern Ireland. This figure will exclude children and other people from A8 countries who are in Northern Ireland but not working or claiming benefit. As with WRS data the figures relate to inflow moves only as there is no direct method for deregistering a National Insurance Number when a person leaves Northern Ireland. It is thus not possible to estimate directly how many of those A8 nationals that registered are still living in Northern Ireland.

Annual School Census

10. The Department of Education has responsibility for the School Census. The last School Census in October 2007 showed that 1,800 primary (Year 1 to Year 7) and 800 post primary school children had an A8 language as their “first” language. This is a stock count of the number of children with an A8 language in October 2007. This is not a complete count as it may exclude some children by virtue of having reasonable English (perhaps after being resident for a number of years).

Birth Registration Data

11. A final significant administrative data source is birth registration data. Birth registration data give the number of children born in Northern Ireland and also record the country of birth of mothers. Figures for new mothers in Northern Ireland of A8 origin have risen markedly over the last few years. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007 there were 775 births registered in Northern Ireland to mothers born in one of the A8 countries – 3% of the total births registered.

12. The individual sources provide a partial picture of the A8 population living in Northern Ireland but combining the information can lead to a more robust estimate and one method is described below.

Combined estimate of the size of the A8 population living in Northern Ireland

13. The method starts with the number of births to A8 mothers in Northern Ireland registered during 2007 - 775 births. Then by using the overall age-specific fertility rates in 2007 and applying these rates to the number of births to A8 born mothers in 2007 estimates the number of A8 mothers. This method gives a figure of 10,000 A8 females of child-bearing age (15-44) in 2007. Clearly this element of the calculation assumes that A8 females have levels of fertility similar to the overall Northern Ireland fertility rate.
14. The estimate of 10,000 resident A8 females aged 15-44, can be quality assured through comparison with other administrative data sources. The most robust of these are GP registrations which suggest an in-flow of about 11,000 females over this period. Some of these females will have subsequently left Northern Ireland but within the short period of 2004-2007 and with many having babies a plausible estimate is that around 10,000 are still resident in Northern Ireland. The figures from the WRS and NINo sources (10,000 and 13,000 registrations respectively) are less useful in this respect as the registration numbers potentially suffer from both overcount (they do not necessarily relate to long-term (usual) residence definitions) and undercount (they omit non-working females accompanying working males). Nevertheless, the WRS and NINo figures are not out-of-line with the estimate of 10,000 resident A8 females.
15. Using the ratio of males to females aged 15-44 on the WRS, NINo and Health Card sources it is possible to estimate the number of A8 males in Northern Ireland. The 10,000 females equates to 14,000 males aged 15-44. Adding figures on children (based on the birth registration and School Census data) and making a small adjustment for those aged over 45 (based on ratios from WRS, NINo and Health Card sources) together gives an estimate of 30,000 people of A8 origin living in Northern Ireland around December 2007 as shown in the table below.

NISRA Calculation of the A8 stock population in Northern Ireland, 2007

Population Element	2007 Estimate
<u>Females (15-44 years)</u> based on 2007 birth registration data and assumed fertility	10,000
<u>Males (15-44 years)</u> based on WRS and Health Card (Male: Female Ratios)	14,000
<u>Children</u> based on birth registrations and school children with A8 languages (2007 School Census)	4,000
<u>Persons (45+ years)</u> based on WRS and Health Card Age Ratios	2,000
Total	30,000

16. Estimates for each Local Government District, consistent with the overall Northern Ireland estimate are given in Annex A. These estimates are based on apportioning NI figures on the average LGD apportionment of the WRS, births to A8 mothers and registrations of A8 migrants with General Practitioners but are subject to disproportionately greater potential error and should be treated as indicative.

Survey estimates of the A8 stock population

17. There are a limited number of survey sources which can give a stock count of A8 migrants. The main source in Northern Ireland is the Labour Force Survey which is a survey of households to provide labour market estimates. Results from the Labour Force Survey are grossed up to adjusted 2007 mid-year population estimates as the Labour Force Survey excludes most people living in communal establishments.
18. The table below shows the figures derived from the Northern Ireland 2007 Labour Force Survey. It shows that in 2007 there were 23,000 A8 migrants (based on country of birth) resident in Northern Ireland. It should be borne in mind however that the LFS sample size of migrants is small and therefore this figure has a relatively high coefficient of variation and a confidence interval of +/- 7,000 persons.

2007 LFS estimated population resident in the Northern Ireland, by country of birth^{5,6}

Country of Birth	LFS 2007 Population Estimate	Confidence Interval +/- ⁷
United Kingdom	1,640,000	61,000
Republic of Ireland	34,000	9,000
EU13 ⁸	6,000	4,000
A8	23,000	7,000
Rest of World	31,000	8,000

Conclusion

19. A calculation based on administrative sources estimates 30,000 A8 migrants were living in Northern Ireland at the end of 2007. While this is broadly in line with survey based estimates, the figure should be treated with caution – clearly it is subject to significant non-sampling errors.

Demography and Methodology Branch

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

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⁵ The LFS excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parents and people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc). The survey is grossed to adjusted population estimates of those living in private households.

⁶ The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.

⁷ CI+/- is the upper (+) and lower (-) 95% confidence limits.

⁸ Estimates are shown for the European Union 13, that is: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are not included in this grouping, but are shown separately in this table.

Annex A - NISRA indicative calculation of the A8 stock population by Local Government District, 2007

To breakdown the estimate of 30,000 A8 people living in Northern Ireland to Local Government District level there are only three data sources which can identify the A8 population by Local Government District – the WRS, births to A8 mothers and GP registrations of A8 migrants. The average percentage distribution for all three of these sources was taken for the latest year available to calculate the figures in the table below.

Local Government District	A8 Population	2007 Mid Year Estimate	% of Population
Dungannon	3,700	54,300	6.8
Craigavon	3,100	88,800	3.5
Newry and Mourne	3,000	95,500	3.1
Antrim	1,500	52,600	2.9
Ballymena	1,600	62,100	2.6
Cookstown	900	35,400	2.5
Omagh	1,200	51,500	2.3
Armagh	1,200	57,700	2.1
Coleraine	1,200	56,800	2.1
Magherafelt	900	43,100	2.1
Belfast	5,000	267,500	1.9
Fermanagh	1,000	61,300	1.6
Ballymoney	300	29,700	1.0
Down	600	69,200	0.9
Limavady	300	34,400	0.9
Lisburn	1,000	113,500	0.9
Newtownabbey	700	81,700	0.9
Strabane	300	39,400	0.8
Ards	500	77,100	0.6
Banbridge	300	46,400	0.6
Derry	600	108,500	0.6
Moyle	100	16,700	0.6
Castlereagh	300	65,600	0.5
North Down	300	78,700	0.4
Larne	100	31,300	0.3
Carrickfergus	100	40,000	0.2
Northern Ireland	30,000	1,759,100	1.7