

Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2006-7)

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- Administer the marriage laws and to provide a system for the civil registration of births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland.

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Executive Summary



Executive Summary

1. Between 2001 and 2004 the population of Northern Ireland grew by around 7,000 people or 0.4% each year. This increase was due to natural change (more births than deaths) with virtually no change in the size of the population due to migration. Over the next three years from 2004 to 2007 annual increases in population have doubled. Last year, between 2006 and 2007, the population is estimated to have increased by 1% or 17,500 persons. This change is primarily due to European Union expansion and the subsequent increased migration seen in Northern Ireland.
2. Measuring migration is challenging. The United Nations definition of a long-term migrant based on a 12 month residency rule is used in Northern Ireland (see Annex B). This report sets out the sources available to count people coming to or leaving Northern Ireland. The report notes that these sources use different definitions of how, when and where migrants are recorded.
3. That said recent data from all administrative and statistical sources show increased migration. The sources also give a consistent picture on which parts of Northern Ireland new migrants are working and living in. Some key findings outlined in this report are:
 - health card registration data, which is the most comprehensive in-migration data source, show 19,400 new international health registrations in Northern Ireland in 2007. This is in contrast to 7,200 such registrations in 2003;
 - birth registration data show that the proportion of children born in Northern Ireland whose mother was born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland has risen three fold over the last eight years. In 2001, 3% of babies had foreign born mothers (700 babies out of 22,000) while in 2008 this is set to rise to 9% (a projected 2,300 babies out of 25,700);
- taking these and other sources together, NISRA estimate that 19,400 people came to live in Northern Ireland from outside the United Kingdom between mid 2006 and mid 2007. In addition, again over this time period, NISRA estimate a further 12,900 people came to live in Northern Ireland from Great Britain;
- the number of people leaving Northern Ireland is harder to estimate as there are limited data sources. NISRA have assessed information on school population loss, health card deregistrations and household surveys of people emigrating from Northern Ireland (these and other sources are described in this report); and
- taking these and other sources together, leads to an overall estimate between mid-2006 and mid-2007 of 11,300 people leaving Northern Ireland to live outside the United Kingdom. In addition NISRA estimate that again over this time period a further 11,100 people left Northern Ireland to live in Great Britain.
4. The overall effect between mid 2006 and mid 2007 is of population growth due to migration of 9,800 people (net 8,000 international migrants and net 1,800 people moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland). Taken with a natural increase the Northern Ireland population increased from 1.74 million people in 2006 to 1.76 million people in 2007. This increase in population is strong and this report details the scale of this change across local areas in Northern Ireland.
5. Whether this trend continues is difficult to say. The very latest 2008 statistics are mixed, Home Office Worker Registration and Work Permit scheme data are showing a fall in Northern Ireland registrations. However the latest data on National Insurance number applications, School Census and birth registration all remain strong. Where appropriate NISRA will disseminate the findings from these and other sources throughout the year.

Background and Introduction



Background and Introduction

6. There has been significant interest in the levels of international migration in the United Kingdom (UK) and in Northern Ireland. In particular, this interest has increased following the enlargement of the European Union (EU). This enlargement has increased the size of the EU from 15 states in April 2004 to 27 states in January 2007.
7. EU expansion has taken place in two tranches. Firstly in May 2004 the accession of ten new countries to the EU (referred to as the "A8" countries¹ along with Malta and Cyprus). Secondly the accession of two further Central and Eastern European countries (referred to as the "A2" countries²) to the EU in January 2007. More details of the expansion of the EU are given in Annex A.
8. The policy of the British Government towards movement of nationals of the EU countries is different for A8 and A2 nationals. For A8 nationals the Government granted full access to the UK labour market from accession in May 2004. In contrast, for A2 nationals, the Government has placed restrictions on free access to the UK labour market. The UK restrictions on A2 nationals are initially for a two year period, to be reviewed annually. After this, the Government has the right to apply to the EU for a further extension of restrictions on A2 nationals.
9. Enlargement of the EU has had an impact on the scale of migration to and from Northern Ireland. In recent years the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has undertaken research to assist measurement of the levels of international migration in Northern Ireland. This resulted in a first report published in July 2006³ and a second shorter report in July 2007⁴. This third paper updates these reports and provides similar but more up to date statistics for the period 2006-7 and where possible 2007-8.

1 Eight Central and Eastern European countries (referred to as the "A8" countries) joined the EU in May 2004. The A8 countries are the 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 in this report as they had full free movement rights to work in UK prior to enlargement.

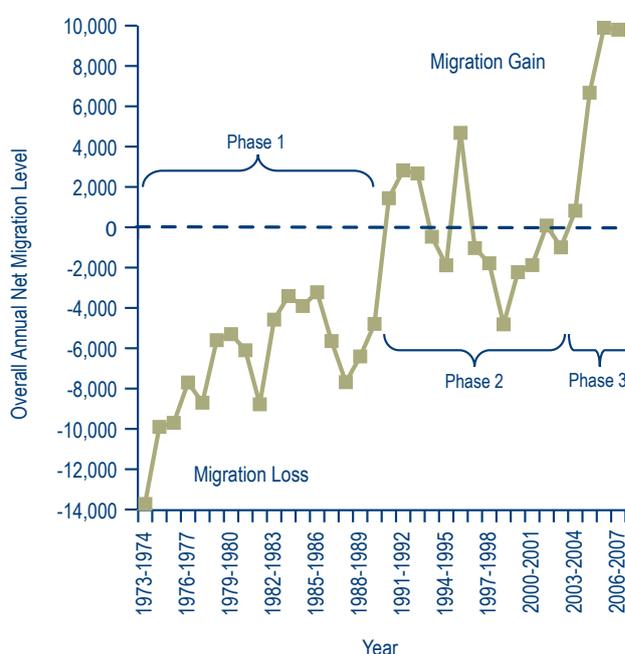
2 The A2 countries Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007.

3 NISRA produced a research paper entitled "Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2004-5) – Sources and Methodology" which can be found at: [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report\(2005\).pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report(2005).pdf).

4 NISRA produced a second research paper entitled "Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2005-6)" which can be found at: [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report\(2006\).pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report(2006).pdf).

10. Estimates of net migration for Northern Ireland since the mid-1970s are shown in Figure 1. The graph can be viewed in terms of three distinct phases of migration. The first phase during the 1970s and 1980s was when Northern Ireland experienced consistently large net population loss due to population movement (or out migration) approaching 10,000 people in some years. Clearly, the impact of "The Troubles" is significant here.

Figure 1: Estimates of long-term net migration - Northern Ireland (1973/4 - 2006/7)



11. The second phase from the early 1990s until 2004 shows population movement in balance, with broadly the same number of people coming to Northern Ireland as leaving. Over this period it is estimated that each year around 20,000 people came to live in Northern Ireland and 20,000 left. However, in the last or third phase since 2004, the annual number of people estimated to have come to Northern Ireland to live rose to 27,000 by mid-2005, to 31,000 by mid-2006 and to over 32,000 by mid-2007, while the number leaving increased marginally from 20,000 to 22,000 over the same period. This is a marked increase in international inflows and is related to the enlargement of the EU in May 2004, when people from countries in Eastern Europe were allowed to come to work in the UK and Ireland.

12. It is important to outline the migration definitions used before noting how the estimates of migration are made. The definition of migration in use for population estimates comes from the United Nations statistical definition of a long-term international migrant⁵:

“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.”

13. The United Nations also defines “short-term international migration” and the concept of a “Migrant Worker” – these definitions are given in detail in Annex B. The differences between the United Nations definitions create difficulties with interpretation. For example a migrant worker who works in Northern Ireland for a short period of time strictly is not defined to be a long-term international migrant. All official migration estimates for Northern Ireland population statistics refer to long-term migration; at present there are no official statistical estimates of the number of short-term migrants or migrant workers in Northern Ireland.
14. The remainder of this paper looks at a number of administrative/statistical sources, which NISRA have assessed to help estimate long-term international migration. The paper is divided into four sections:
- administrative/statistical data which can be related to international in-migration to Northern Ireland (Section 1);
 - administrative/statistical data which can be related to international out-migration from Northern Ireland (Section 2);
 - NISRA estimates of migration for Northern Ireland for 2006/7 (Section 3); and
 - further research and commentary (Section 4).

⁵ Taken from “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. UN 1998” available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/migrmethods.htm#B>.

Section 1

International In-Migration – Statistics for 2006-7



1. International In-Migration – Statistics for 2006-7

15. NISRA have assessed statistics from a number of sources to help estimate long-term international in-migration:
- the United Kingdom Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme;
 - the United Kingdom Border Agency Schemes for A2 nationals;
 - the Home Office Work Permits Scheme;
 - new National Insurance Numbers registered to foreign nationals;
 - the Department of Education Annual School Census
 - English as an Additional Language;
 - In-migration questions added to the 2007 School Census;
 - the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Farm Structure Survey;
 - the country of birth of new Northern Ireland mothers;
 - the country of birth of new Northern Ireland fathers; and
 - new registrations with a family doctor.
16. Most of these sources are described in detail in the 2004/5 report⁹.
17. The key results from these data sources are outlined below. Where possible data for 2006/7 and 2007/8 are presented alongside relevant trend data. More detailed tables on the data sources can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>.

1.1 United Kingdom Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme

18. The Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) is managed by the UK Border Agency on behalf of the Home Office. The scheme is used to register migrant workers from the eight Eastern European states (the A8¹) that acceded to the EU in May

2004. Detailed statistical information on the scheme can be obtained from the UK Border Agency website⁶.

19. Between 1 May 2004 and 31 March 2008, a total of 812,000 people registered with the WRS in the UK. Of these just over 31,500 people (or 4% of the UK total) registered to work in Northern Ireland. In contrast the Northern Ireland population makes up around 3% of the UK population thus indicating the scale of A8 migration to Northern Ireland.
20. Table 1 shows that between May 2004 and March 2008 Northern Ireland has had around one-third more migrant workers registering on a per capita basis than the rest of the UK, with a figure of 18 WRS registrations for every 1,000 persons in Northern Ireland compared to 13 WRS registrations for every 1,000 persons in the UK as a whole.

Table 1: WRS registrations per 1,000 population (May 2004 to March 2008)

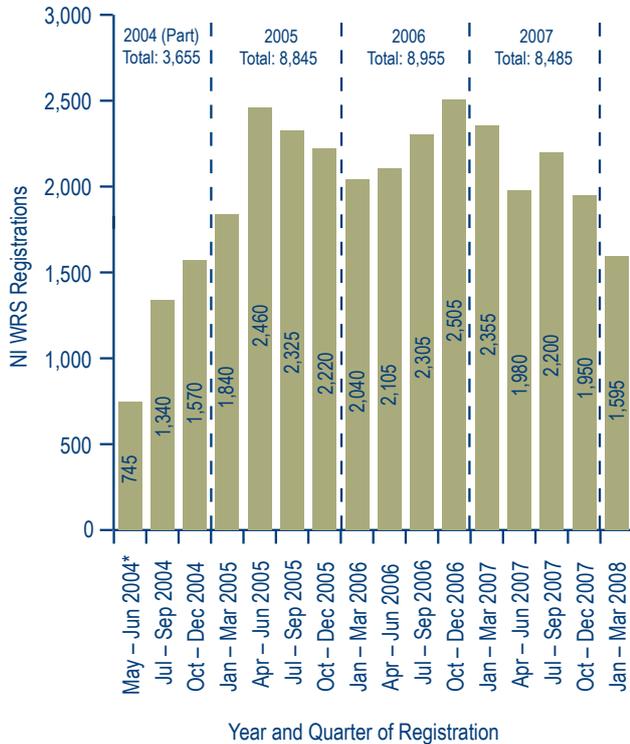
Country	WRS registrations (May 2004 - Mar 2008)	2006 Population Estimate	WRS registrations per 1,000 population
England	687,500	50,763,000	13.5
Scotland	66,500	5,117,000	13.0
Wales	22,000	2,966,000	7.4
Northern Ireland	31,500	1,742,000	18.1
United Kingdom	812,000	60,587,000	13.4

Source: Home Office: UK Border Agency (July 2008)

21. Between mid-2006 and mid-2007, 9,100 people registered with the WRS to work in Northern Ireland, this is an increase on the 8,700 people who registered in the period mid-2005 to mid-2006 and the 7,200 people who registered in the mid-2004 to mid-2005 period. However, the very latest WRS data indicates a fall off in Northern Ireland registrations as shown by the quarterly statistics in Figure 2.

⁶ Information on the United Kingdom Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme can be found at: http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accesion_monitoring_report/

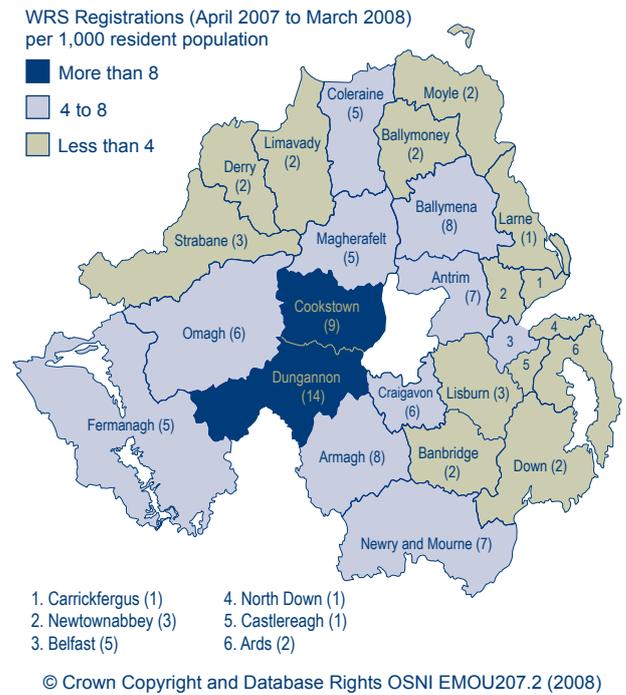
Figure 2: Number of Northern Ireland Registrations with the WRS by Quarter (May 2004 – March 2008)



* Quarter 2 2004 covers the period May and June only and care should be taken when comparing this with subsequent quarters.

22. WRS statistics are available by area of employer only. These statistics for Northern Ireland show that significant numbers of WRS workers are registered to work in Belfast, Dungannon, Newry & Mourne and Craigavon Local Government Districts. However, looking at the number of registrations based on the population size, Dungannon and Cookstown Local Government Districts have the highest registrations per 1,000 resident population as shown in Map 1.

Map 1: Northern Ireland WRS Registrations by local authority of employment per 1,000 resident population (April 2007 – March 2008)



- 23. Most people registered on the WRS to work in Northern Ireland are from Poland (17,700 registered in Northern Ireland). However, based on UK population share, Northern Ireland has received markedly more registrations from Lithuania than the UK as a whole.
- 24. Over the lifespan of the WRS, around half of registered workers in Northern Ireland intended to stay less than 3 months when they registered. Further WRS statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

1.2 United Kingdom Border Agency Schemes for A2 nationals

- 25. On 1 January 2007 Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU. All Bulgarian and Romanian nationals have an initial right of residence in the UK for three months and a right to remain indefinitely if they are students, self-employed or self-sufficient persons. However, beyond these groups EU Member States can, under EU law, place restrictions on the migration of A2 workers for up to seven years.

26. The UK Government chose to impose restrictions for an initial two-year period, to be reviewed on an annual basis. Low-skilled Bulgarian or Romanian nationals may only apply to work as seasonal agricultural workers or on sector-based schemes (currently limited to food processing). Bulgarian or Romanian workers with specialist skills are admitted, as previously, on the basis of work permits.
27. Over the period 1 January 2007 to the 31 March 2008 there were 300 work permits issued to Bulgarian nationals and 100 work permits issued to Romanian nationals working in Northern Ireland, see Section 1.3 for information on work permits.
28. Bulgarian or Romanian nationals seeking to take up work through the Work Permit or Sectors Based Schemes must then apply to the UK Border Agency for an Accession Worker Card⁷. The UK Border Agency is able to provide information on the number of applications for Accession Worker cards from Bulgarian or Romanian nationals which were approved.
29. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 there have been 4,100 applications approved for Accession Worker cards in the UK. Of these 1,800 were from Bulgarian nationals and 2,300 from Romanian nationals. The Accession Worker cards figures are not available by region, so it is not known how many Bulgarian and Romanian nationals have come to Northern Ireland. However, if all those who were issued a work permit during this period also applied for an Accession Worker Card in the same period, then there are likely to be around 400 Accession Worker cards for those working in Northern Ireland with a work permit during this period (see above).
30. The UK Border Agency is also able to provide information on the number of registration certificate applications. Bulgarian or Romanian nationals exercising a Treaty right in the UK may seek a registration certificate. This includes those exempt from the worker authorisation restrictions; highly skilled migrants; those with restricted access to the labour market – students, the self-employed, and self-sufficient persons; and family members of main applicants.
31. Between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 there have been 28,600 applications for registration certificates approved in the UK, 8,800 from Bulgarian nationals and 19,800 from Romanian nationals. These figures are not available by region, so it is not known how many of these Bulgarian and Romanian nationals have come to NI, but it is likely that the numbers are relatively small – if the numbers are proportionate to the WRS, it equates to around 1,000 people.

1.3 Home Office Worker Permits Scheme

32. Work permits are issued by Work Permits (UK), part of the Home Office. A work permit relates to a specific person and a specific job. The work permit scheme⁸ lets UK employers recruit or transfer people from outside the European Economic Area (EEA), while still protecting the interests of resident workers in the UK.
33. Between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2008, a total of 653,500 work permits were approved in the UK and of these there were just over 11,000 (1.7%) to people working in Northern Ireland;
34. In the financial year 2007/8 there were 1,800 permits issued to people working in Northern Ireland, this is a decrease from the 2,500 people who registered in the 2006/7 period.
35. Work permits were available by area of employer. They show that most workers are employed in Ballymena, Belfast, Newry and Mourne and North Down Local Government Districts.
36. A significant element of Northern Ireland based work permits were for Indian and Filipino nationals, although 2007/8 showed an increasing number of Bulgarian nationals coming to Northern Ireland following their accession to the EU.
37. Further work permits statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

⁷ Information from the UK Border Scheme for A2 migrants can be found at: <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/bulgarianromanian/>.

⁸ Information on the UK Work Permit Scheme can be obtained from an article in Labour Market Trends "Work permits and foreign labour in the UK: a statistical review" by James Clarke & John Salt from University College London at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/labour_market_trends/Workpermits_nov03.pdf.

1.4 National Insurance Number registrations

38. National Insurance Numbers are required for employment purposes or to claim benefits and tax credits. Foreign nationals living in Northern Ireland apply to their local Social Security or Jobs and Benefits Office for the issue of a National Insurance Number⁹.
39. Of those people who moved to the UK in the 2004/5 year, just over 10,400 had registered for a National Insurance Number with a Northern Ireland address by December 2006 (21 months later). Further registrations are expected and NISRA estimate the final total to be over 12,000 people.
40. Most National Insurance Numbers registered were to non-UK nationals living in Belfast, Craigavon, Dungannon and Newry and Mourne Local Government Districts.
41. A8 countries account for over half of National Insurance Numbers registered to non-UK nationals since 2004/5, with the highest numbers for Polish, Lithuanian and Slovakian nationals.
42. National Insurance Number registration data are not yet available for 2006/7. However, application data is available. In 2003/4 there were 7,800 Northern Ireland based applications for National Insurance Numbers from non-UK nationals, this increased to 16,300 in 2004/5 and again to 20,100 such applications in 2005/6, 23,100 in 2006/7 and 24,100 in 2007/8. The number of registrations will be smaller than the applications as some applications will be rejected, however the general pattern shows the increasing number of applications.
43. Almost 10,300 of the 24,100 applications in 2007/8 were from Polish nationals and as with the registrations data over half of the applications for National Insurance Numbers were from A8 migrants.
44. Further National Insurance Number statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

⁹ The latest reports on National Insurance numbers allocated to overseas nationals entering Northern Ireland are available at: http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/stats-publications/stats-benefit-publications/stats_nino_allocation.htm. DSD have indicated that in the future these statistics will be reported on a UK wide basis by the Department for Work and Pensions and not DSD. Also statistics produced in the future will relate to the migrant's location when they registered for a National Insurance Number rather than using the migrant's last known address as are currently reported.

1.5 Annual School Census

45. Each year the Department for Education in Northern Ireland (DENI) undertakes a School Census exercise. The latest School Census was held on 5 October 2007. A number of related statistics are available from the School Census to help to measure migration.
 - firstly the School Census includes a standard question on the number of pupils who have English as an additional language. A breakdown of the "first" language of these pupils is also recorded;
 - secondly last year NISRA worked with the DENI to include a new in-migration specific question on the School Census. This new school level question relates to "the number of children now at your school, who came to live in Northern Ireland during the 2006/7 academic year". This new question gives a more direct count of the number of children who have come to Northern Ireland and are new pupils;

English as an Additional Language¹⁰ – primary school children

46. The statistics for the 2007 School Census show that 3,500 "primary" school children had a language other than English as their "first" language. This figure is a 46% increase on the 2,400 "primary" school children who had English as an Additional Language in the 2006 School Census. In 2007, the 3,500 "primary" school children equates to over 2% of the "primary" school population (1 child in every 45).
47. In the 2007 School Census, Polish was the most common first language (1,200 primary school children). In total almost 1,800 primary school children had an A8 language as their first language out of 3,500 primary school children who had English as an additional language. Other popular first languages, excluding A8 languages, included Portuguese and Filipino.
48. The 2007 School Census shows that there are primary school children with English as an additional language in every Local Government District.

¹⁰ Children recorded in the School Census as having English as an Additional Language are not necessarily new migrants. Some children who have English as an additional language will have moved to Northern Ireland a number of years ago and others who have English as an additional language will have been born and lived in Northern Ireland throughout their life. It is for this reason that NISRA and DENI introduced the secondary migration specific question

However the scale varies across the province. Whilst overall 2% of primary school pupils have English as an additional language, 8% of primary school pupils in schools in Dungannon Local Government District had English as an additional language compared to 0.4% of primary school pupils in schools in Larne Local Government District.

English as an Additional Language – post primary school children

49. In the 2007 School Census, 1,700 post primary school children had a language other than English as their “first” language; this is a 49% increase from the 1,100 post primary school children recorded in the 2006 School Census. The 1,700 post primary school children equates to around 1% of the post primary school population.
50. In the 2007 School Census, Polish is the most common first language for post primary school children (500 children). A8 languages make up almost half of the overall total; with 800 post primary children having an A8 language as their first language out of the 1,700 post primary school children who had English as an additional language. Other popular first languages, excluding A8 languages, included Cantonese and Portuguese.
51. Whilst overall 1% of post-primary school pupils have English as an additional language, 5% of post-primary school pupils in schools in Dungannon Local Government District have English as an additional language compared to less than 0.5% of post primary school pupils in schools in Carrickfergus, Derry, Larne, Magherafelt and Moyle Local Government Districts.

In-migration – Primary School Children

52. The 2007 School Census included a new school level question which relates to “the number of children now at your school, who came to live in Northern Ireland during the 2006/07 academic year”. This new question gives a more direct count of the number of children who have come to Northern Ireland and are new pupils.
53. In total the 2007 School Census recorded 2,000 primary school pupils in year 1 to year 7 that had come to live in Northern Ireland from outside the province in the 2006/7 academic year.

54. Schools in Antrim (3.2%) and Dungannon (2.6%) Local Government Districts had the largest percentage increase due to pupils coming from outside Northern Ireland whilst Larne Local Government District had the smallest increase (0.3%).

In-migration – Post Primary School Children

55. In total the 2007 School Census recorded that 700 post primary school pupils in years 8 to 14 had come to live in Northern Ireland from outside the province in the 2006/7 academic year.
56. Schools in Dungannon Local Government District had the largest percentage (1.5%) increase due to pupils coming from outside Northern Ireland.
57. In total 2,700 school children (2,000 primary school and 700 post primary school pupils) were reported by the 2007 School Census as coming to Northern Ireland in the 2006/7 academic year.
58. As a comparison the estimate of in-migration flows in the 4-16 year old age group in the 2006-7 mid-year estimates was 3,500 children. Whilst the mid-year estimate figure is higher than the School Census inflows it is likely that timing issues of when these two sources record the migrants will explain some of the difference.
59. Further School Census statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

1.6 Farm Structure Survey

60. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) regularly collate information on the structure of the farming industry in Northern Ireland to satisfy EU data requirements regulations. Factors considered are type of farming, livestock kept, land use, diversification or off farm employment and the use of contractors.
61. In 2007, the data combined information from three sources:
 - the June 2007 Agricultural Census;
 - administrative data; and
 - a special survey conducted in March 2007 to collect the information not available elsewhere – generally known as the Farm Structure Survey;

62. In 2007, DARD in consultation with NISRA included a question on the March 2007 Farm Structure Survey on the use of migrant labour on farms in Northern Ireland.
63. The results of this survey showed that some 500 farms (2% of farms) in Northern Ireland made use of migrant worker labour at some time during the previous 12 months (in total there are around 26,000 farms in Northern Ireland). In addition some 200 migrant workers were employed on a casual basis. All types of farms were included in those that made use of migrant labour but notable areas were fruit, mushrooms horticulture and dairy (relief milking). Migrant farm labourers were much more likely to be working on larger farms.
64. Further farm structure survey statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

1.7 Births to Mothers born outside Northern Ireland

65. All births occurring in Northern Ireland are by law registered with the General Register Office. When registering a birth the new mother supplies information on her country of birth.
66. In Northern Ireland births to new mothers, who themselves were born outside the UK and Ireland, has risen markedly in recent years. In total around 700 such births occurred in 2001 and this has risen to 1,900 such births in 2007.
67. Within these figures there has been an even more marked increase in births to mothers born in the A8 countries, with around 10 such births in 2001 compared to almost 800 births in 2007.
68. Figures for the first six months of 2008 show a further significant rise. In total there were 500 births in Northern Ireland to A8 born mothers in the first six months of 2008 compared to 800 such births in the whole of 2007.
69. In 2007 the percentage of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland ranged from 18% (nearly one birth in every five) in Dungannon Local Government District (156 births) to 2% in Ballymoney and Moyle Local Government Districts. Antrim, Belfast, Coleraine and Craigavon Local Government Districts also exhibited high percentages of births (over 10%) to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland.
70. Further birth statistics by mother's country of birth are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

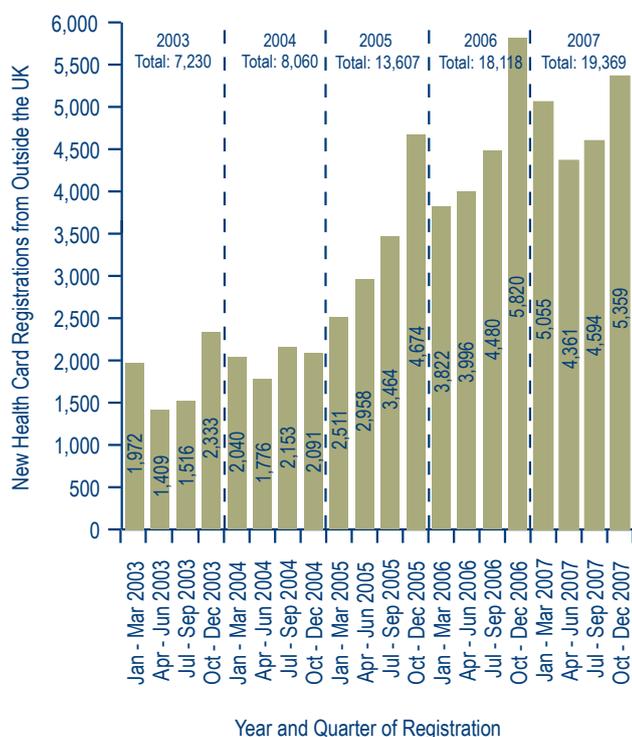
1.8 Births to Fathers born outside Northern Ireland

71. Births to new Northern Ireland fathers who themselves were born outside the UK and Ireland showed a similar pattern to births to Northern Ireland mothers who were born outside the UK and Ireland.
72. In 2007, 1,800 births were recorded in Northern Ireland to new fathers who themselves were born outside the UK and Ireland. This is a three-fold increase from the 600 such births recorded in 2001. It is important to note that whilst both these figures are lower than the equivalent figures for mothers, in around 10% of births each year the father's details are not included, therefore their country of birth cannot be analysed.
73. Consistent with the figures on births to mothers, there has been an increase in births to fathers born in the A8 countries, with less than 10 such births in 2001 compared to 700 births in 2007.
74. Figures for the first six months of 2008 show a further significant rise. In total there were 500 births in Northern Ireland to A8 born fathers in the first six months of 2008 compared to 700 such births in the whole of 2007.
75. Of the 24,500 births registered in 2007, for 16,400 births (67%) both the mother and father were born in Northern Ireland, for a further 5,900 births (24%) one parent was born in Northern Ireland and for 2,100 births (8%) neither parent was born in Northern Ireland.
76. For the 800 births that were registered in Northern Ireland in 2007 to mothers born in one of the A8 countries, 84% of these births had an A8 born father also.
77. Further birth statistics by father's country of birth are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

1.9 New registrations with a family doctor

78. To register with a family doctor in Northern Ireland someone must provide information on his or her age, place of residence and time of stay in Northern Ireland to the Central Services Agency (CSA). Registration forms are available in 14 languages (English, Portuguese, Polish, Latvian, Czech, Lithuanian, Russian, Slovak, Urdu, Irish, Hindi, Chinese, Bulgarian and Romanian)¹¹.
79. Only those who plan to stay for a period of at least three months or more can be registered with a family doctor – short term visitors are not formally registered with the CSA.
80. In 2007 the total number of new registrations on family doctor's list in Northern Ireland from outside the UK was 19,400 people. This number has risen markedly over the last five years – in 2003 it was 7,200 registrations and in 2006 it was 18,100 registrations. Figure 3 shows the number of registrations by quarter.

Figure 3: New Health Card Registrations from outside UK by quarter of application (2003-2007)



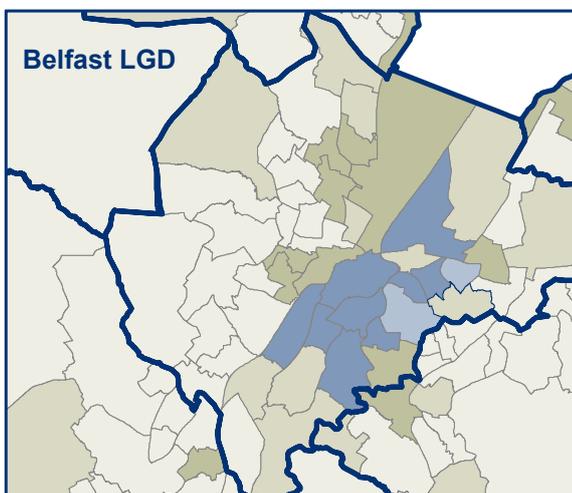
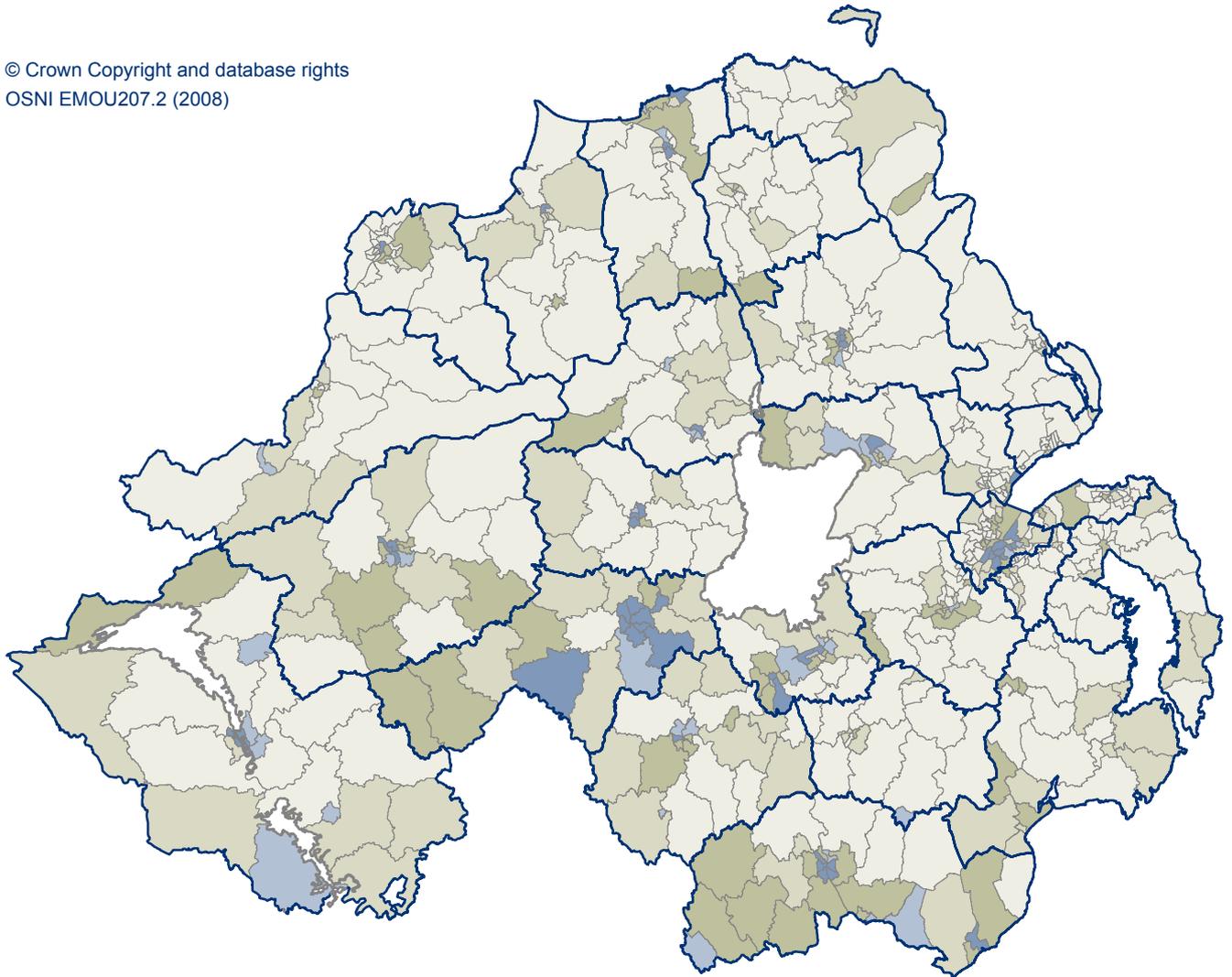
¹¹ A copy of the relevant health service registration application form is available at: <http://www.centralservicesagency.com/files/files/file/english2007.pdf>.

81. In 2006 and 2007 most new registrations on family doctor's lists in Northern Ireland from outside the UK related to people living in Belfast, Craigavon, Dungannon or Newry and Mourne Local Government Districts.
82. Over the last year detailed work has been undertaken by the CSA to further develop information from the health service registration application form. New information available includes small geographical area of residence, country of birth, country of last residence, reason for coming and date of entry to the UK for new registrants.
83. Map 2 shows the annual average number of registrations from non-UK nationals for 2006 and 2007, per 1,000 population, for each electoral ward¹². The map indicates the variation in the scale of in-migration and highlights at a low level where migrants are living in Northern Ireland. Table 2 shows the 20 electoral wards with the highest proportional registration levels over this two year period along with the main reason for moving to the UK.
84. In the top 20 electoral wards with the highest proportional registration levels between 2006 and 2007, there were six electoral wards from Dungannon Local Government District, five of which were also the highest five wards in Northern Ireland – Ballysaggart, Killymeal, Coolhill, Drumglass and Mullaghmore. The most likely reason for migration to these wards was for the purpose of work rather than family, education or other reasons.
85. Belfast Local Government District had five electoral wards in the top 20 – Ballynafeigh, Windsor, Botanic, Shaftesbury and Blackstaff. Again even though some of these areas would be very popular with students the main reason for migration to these electoral wards was for work, although Botanic ward had very similar numbers of migrants who came for work and education reasons.

¹² The ward population is taken from the 2003 Mid-Year Estimates calculated for the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation measures. See: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/aboutus/default.asp?2.htm>.

Map 2: Average annual Health Card Registrations from non-UK nationals, by Electoral Ward per 1,000 population, 2006-2007 (Calendar Year)

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Average annual Health Care Registrations from non-UK nationals per 1,000 population, 2006-2007 (Calendar Year)



Table 2: Top 20 electoral wards with the highest health card registrations per 1,000 population from non-UK nationals, 2006-2007 (Calendar Year)

Electoral Ward	Local Government District	Main reason given by registrants coming to the UK (Percentage of all registrants in area with that reason)	Average annual registration (2006-2007) per 1,000 population
Ballysaggart	Dungannon	Work (68%)	118
Killymeal	Dungannon	Work (64%)	104
Coolhill	Dungannon	Work (75%)	97
Drumglass	Dungannon	Work (65%)	90
Mullaghmore	Dungannon	Work (74%)	85
Annagh	Craigavon	Work (68%)	84
Castle Demesne	Ballymena	Work (74%)	81
Rostulla	Newtownabbey	Education (77%)	67
Strand	Derry	Education (44%)	65
Corcrair	Craigavon	Work (56%)	63
Moy	Dungannon	Work (63%)	57
Ballynafeigh	Belfast	Work (59%)	56
Windsor	Belfast	Work (44%)	56
Botanic	Belfast	Work (39%), Education (38%)	56
Newbuildings	Cookstown	Work (72%)	54
Park	Ballymena	Work (69%)	52
Shaftesbury	Belfast	Work (58%)	48
Callan Bridge	Armagh	Work (66%)	47
Blackstaff	Belfast	Work (64%)	46
Central	Coleraine	Work (50%)	46

Source: Central Services Agency (May 2008)

86. Table 3 gives the leading countries of birth of new registrants in 2006 and 2007. The table shows that A8 countries account for half of all non-UK registrations, with the highest numbers for people from Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia.

Table 3: Health card registrations from non-UK nationals by Country of Birth, 2006-2007 (Calendar Year)

Country of Birth	2006	2007
Poland	5,400	6,800
Lithuania	2,000	1,600
Republic of Ireland	1,400	1,400
Slovakia	1,000	1,100
India	700	800
China	400	500
Philippines	500	500
Latvia	500	400
Hungary	200	300
USA	300	300
Portugal	300	300
Germany	200	300
Czech Republic	300	200
East Timor	100	200
France	200	200
Australia	100	100
South Africa	100	100
Spain	100	100
Other A8 Countries	100	-
All Other Countries	2,000	1,900
Unstated/Unknown	2,100	2,400
Total	18,100	19,400

Source: Central Services Agency (May 2008)

87. The regional breakdown of health card registrations by country of birth in 2006 shows that Poland had the most registrations in 20 out of the 26 Local Government Districts and it had the second highest registrations in the remaining six Local Government Districts. By 2007, 25 of the 26 Local Government Districts had the most registrations from those born in Poland with only Cookstown having Slovakia as the most popular country of birth, although Poland was the second highest.

Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2006-7)

88. Around 53% of those registering with a family doctor in Northern Ireland in 2007 stated that their reason for migration was for work, followed by 20% for family reasons and 7% for education purposes. The remaining 20% gave another or no reason for their migration.
89. Further statistics on new registrations with a family doctor are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

Section 2

International Out-Migration – Statistics for 2006-7



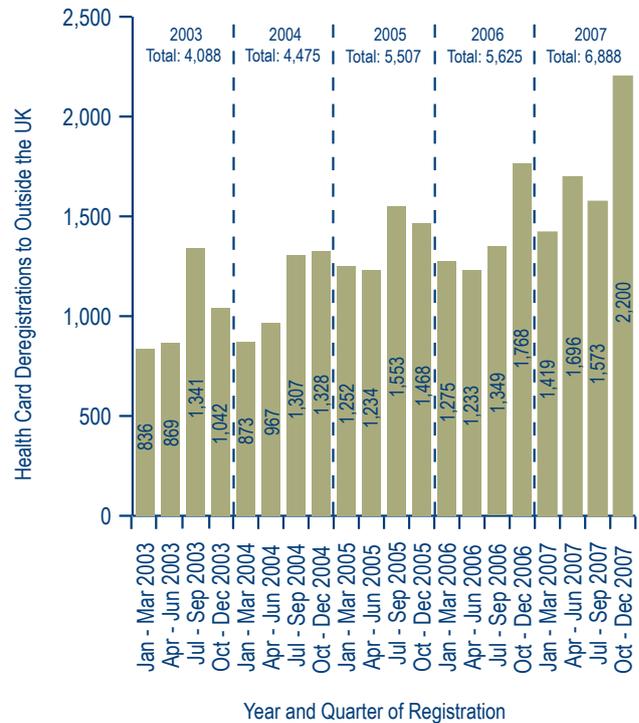
2. International Out-Migration – Statistics for 2006-7

90. NISRA have assessed data from a number of sources to help estimate long-term international out-migration:
- deregistrations from the family doctor system – health cards;
 - new National Insurance Numbers registered to foreign nationals which are no longer in use;
 - out-migration questions added to household surveys in Northern Ireland; and
 - out-migration questions added to the 2007 School Census run by the Department of Education.
91. The key results from the data sources are outlined below.

2.1 Deregistrations from the family doctor system – health cards

92. The Central Services Agency (CSA) maintains a list of people registered with a family doctor in Northern Ireland. The system can also provide information on people who have been removed from the health card register and who are believed to have left Northern Ireland.
93. The number of deregistrations of people who moved to outside the UK rose from 4,100 deregistrations in 2003 to 5,600 in 2006 and increased to 6,900 deregistrations in 2007. Figure 4 shows the number of deregistrations by quarter.

Figure 4: New Health Card deregistrations from outside the UK by quarter of application (2003-2007)



94. Most deregistrations to outside the UK were from people living in Belfast, Derry, and Newtownabbey Local Government Districts.
95. Further deregistrations with a family doctor statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

2.2 New National Insurance Numbers registered to foreign nationals which are no longer in use

96. NISRA have liaised with colleagues in the Department for Social Development (DSD) to investigate the number of National Insurance Numbers issued to foreign nationals which fall out of use. For new National Insurance Numbers registered to foreign nationals in the 2004/5 financial year around 40% were no longer in use by the 2005/6 financial year. Further work on this is ongoing at the UK level and is planned to be reported by DSD / Department for Work and Pensions colleagues.

97. Research has also been undertaken in the Republic of Ireland on the use of Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) by foreign migrants. The latest report by the Central Statistics Office Ireland¹³ shows that of the 118,000 PPSNs issued to non-Irish nationals aged 15 and over in 2004, only 50% had employment activity in 2006. However, for A8 nationals (around 58,000 registrants), this figure rises to 65%, thus 35% were no longer in use. This is very similar to the finding in Northern Ireland. Both of these findings point to a significant element of short-term migration within the A8 migrant community in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

2.3 New questions on household surveys in Northern Ireland

98. To improve measures of out-migration NISRA ran a suite of household survey questions on out-migration in the Omnibus Surveys in October 2005, January 2006, January, April, May and September 2007 and January and April 2008 and the 2007/8 annual Continuous Household Survey.

99. The specific out-migration questions asked are consistent with questions asked in the Republic of Ireland Quarterly National Household Survey. The questions are listed below:

- (i) *Is there anyone who usually lived in your household on [date one year ago], who is now living elsewhere?*
- (ii) *How many people have left your household in the last year?*

For each person ask

- *Is [person (1)] male or female?*
- *What age was [person (1)] last birthday?*
- *Where is [person (1)] living now?*
- *Which country has [person (1)] moved to?*
- *In what month did [person (1)] leave?*
- *Is [person (1)] likely to have left your household for more than one year?*

100. As can be seen from the questions they only provide estimates of the number of “partial household” moves. Thus if a whole household were to leave the country, the survey, as designed, will not record this. In addition migration into and out of communal establishments (e.g. nursing homes,

halls of residence) will not be included. However these issues can be addressed when scaling up the results of the survey and the methodology behind this was reported in the 2004/5 migration report¹⁴;

101. in the 2007 and 2008 Omnibus and Continuous Household surveys in total around 10,000 households were surveyed with these questions. In total around 500 or 5% of those households surveyed had at least one household member leave in the previous year.

102. The vast majority of this migration was believed to be long-term, i.e. more than one year. In terms of destination, as would be expected, the vast majority (around 70%) of people moved to another address within Northern Ireland.

103. In total from the sample just under 200 people left Northern Ireland. Within this most people, around 60%, went to Great Britain, while 10% went to the Republic of Ireland and 30% went to another country.

104. The results from the 2007 and 2008 Omnibus and Continuous Household surveys have been scaled up to the Northern Ireland level to give an overall estimate of 25,000 people leaving Northern Ireland. Of this, around 10,000 people are estimated to have left to countries outside the UK. This is slightly higher than the figures estimated from the previous surveys in 2005 and 2006, however migration estimates from other sources over this period also showed an increase in international outflows.

105. Further household survey statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

2.4 Annual School Census

106. As noted in section 1.5, each year the Department for Education in Northern Ireland (DENI) undertakes a School Census exercise. The latest School Census was held on 5 October 2007.

107. Last year NISRA worked with DENI to include a new out-migration specific question on the School Census. This new school level question relates to “the number of pupils at your school who left Northern Ireland during the 2006/07 academic year”. This new question gives a more direct count of the number of children who left Northern Ireland.

¹³ See http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour_market/current/ppsn.pdf for full report.

¹⁴ See Annex B of 2004/5 migration report [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report\(2005\).pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report(2005).pdf).

108. The 2007 School Census recorded 1,400 primary school pupils in year 1 to year 7 who left to live outside Northern Ireland during the 2006/7 academic year. The 2007 School Census also recorded a further 500 post primary school pupils in years 8 to 14 who left to live outside Northern Ireland in the 2006/7 academic year. Thus in total just under 1,900 school children were reported by the 2007 School Census as leaving Northern Ireland in the 2006/7 academic year.
109. As a comparison the estimate of out-migration flows in the 4-16 year old age group in the 2006-7 mid-year estimates was just over 2,000 children.
110. Primary and post-primary schools in Antrim Local Government District had the largest percentage (4% in primary and 1% in post primary) loss of pupils in relation to the pupil population in the 2006/7 academic year.
111. Further School Census statistics are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

Section 3
Estimates of International Migration used in 2007
Population Estimates



3. Estimates of International Migration used in 2007 Population Estimates

3.1 International In-migration

112. Family doctor registration data is the most complete source that can be used to estimate international inflows to Northern Ireland. This source gives information on an intention to stay for a period of time and covers all age-groups.
113. However, registrations with family doctors are an imperfect measure of migration. It is recognised that there is a deficiency in health registration of young adult males. Therefore the age distribution of young adult males is adjusted to be similar to the young adult female distribution in the final migration estimates.
114. In addition, for the 2007 mid-year population estimate, it is the health card registrations during the 2007 calendar year that is used to make the migration estimate as it can take time for new migrants to register for a health card. The source therefore estimates an international inflow of 19,400 people between mid-2006 and mid-2007.

3.2 International Out-migration

115. The health card system records deregistrations with GPs in Northern Ireland, while the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Ireland Quarterly Household Survey provides the number of people moving from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. In combination, these sources have been used to estimate outflows from Northern Ireland to all countries outside the UK.
116. Previous research has also shown that out-migration is not measured fully by the health card system¹⁵. This research has shown that the number of deregistrations with a doctor should be scaled up by 50%, after the figure on the number of out migrants to the Republic of Ireland as estimated by CSO Ireland is accounted for. It is also recognised that the health card source is deficient in recording young males; therefore, as with in-migration, the age distribution of males is adjusted to be similar to the female age distribution.

117. In addition, for the 2007 mid-year population estimate, it is the health card deregistrations during the 2007 calendar year that is used to make the migration estimate as it can take time for migrants to deregister. Using the scale up and adjustment method with the 2007 deregistration figures gives an estimate of 11,300 out-migrants from Northern Ireland to outside the UK between mid-2006 and mid-2007.

3.3 Estimate of Net International Migration

118. Using both health card estimates for international in- and out-flows after scaling and adjusting for the CSO Ireland outflows gives a net figure of 8,000 international migrants to Northern Ireland between mid-2006 and mid-2007.

3.4 Overall estimate of migration

119. In net terms a further 1,800 people are estimated to have migrated to Northern Ireland from Great Britain. Therefore in overall terms NISRA have made a net migration estimate of 9,800 people to Northern Ireland between mid-2006 and mid-2007. The regional breakdown within Northern Ireland shows that Dungannon Local Government District had the largest population growth during 2006-7 (4%) and most of this growth was due to international migration.
120. Further migration statistics for the population estimates are available from www.nisra.gov.uk.

¹⁵ NISRA's previous research paper on migration describes this in detail – see http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/dev_est_mig.pdf.

Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2006-7)

Table 4: Estimated Net GB and International Migration (July 2000 – June 2007)

	Time-period							Total
	Jul 2000 - Jun 2001	Jul 2001 - Jun 2002	Jul 2002 - Jun 2003	Jul 2003 - Jun 2004	Jul 2004 - Jun 2005	Jul 2005 - Jun 2006	Jul 2006 - Jun 2007	
Estimated GB Inflows	11,643	12,505	11,106	12,244	13,294	12,404	12,897	61,945
Estimated GB Outflows	11,650	11,598	11,000	11,839	11,294	11,532	11,128	56,793
Estimated Net GB Migration	-7	907	106	405	2,000	872	1,769	5,152
Estimated International Inflows	6,737	8,791	7,230	8,060	13,607	18,118	19,369	66,384
Estimated International Outflows	8,605	9,613	8,332	7,644	8,936	9,095	11,332	45,339
Estimated Net International Migration	-1,868	-822	-1,102	416	4,671	9,023	8,037	21,045
Estimated Total Inflows	18,380	21,296	18,336	20,304	26,901	30,522	32,266	128,329
Estimated Total Outflows	20,255	21,211	19,332	19,483	20,230	20,627	22,460	102,132
Estimated Total Migration	-1,875	85	-996	821	6,671	9,895	9,806	26,197

Source: NISRA (July 2008)

Table 5: Components of Change, by Local Government District (July 2006 - June 2007)

Area (LGD)	2006	Natural Change ¹⁶	Net International Migration	Net UK and Internal Migration ¹⁷	2007	Population Change	
	Resident Population				Resident Population	Number	Percentage
Antrim	51,510	383	307	421	52,621	1,111	2%
Ards	76,179	213	42	683	77,117	938	1%
Armagh	56,789	392	385	119	57,685	896	2%
Ballymena	61,352	264	313	189	62,118	766	1%
Ballymoney	29,225	150	44	322	29,741	516	2%
Banbridge	45,497	369	114	469	46,449	952	2%
Belfast	267,374	749	1,625	-2,213	267,535	161	0%
Carrickfergus	39,715	97	33	181	40,026	311	1%
Castlereagh	65,633	118	22	-211	65,562	-71	-0%
Coleraine	56,718	148	21	-72	56,815	97	0%
Cookstown	34,769	247	341	72	35,429	660	2%
Craigavon	86,766	707	894	453	88,820	2,054	2%
Derry	107,904	725	-31	-63	108,535	631	1%
Down	68,314	413	220	241	69,188	874	1%
Dungannon	52,334	434	1,421	117	54,306	1,972	4%
Fermanagh	60,570	245	332	144	61,291	721	1%
Larne	31,256	71	16	1	31,344	88	0%
Limavady	34,346	258	14	-190	34,428	82	0%
Lisburn	112,929	787	164	-360	113,520	591	1%
Magherafelt	42,419	365	284	31	43,099	680	2%
Moyle	16,541	40	13	146	16,740	199	1%
Newry & Mourne	93,432	795	1,223	44	95,494	2,062	2%
Newtownabbey	81,204	471	-149	164	81,690	486	1%
North Down	78,681	179	-63	-140	78,657	-24	-0%
Omagh	51,030	284	454	-260	51,508	478	1%
Strabane	39,132	228	-2	72	39,430	298	1%
Northern Ireland	1,741,619	9,132	8,037	360	1,759,148	17,529	1%

Source: NISRA (July 2008)

¹⁶ Natural change is the difference between births and deaths.

¹⁷ Includes other changes - principally in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

Section 4

Strategic reviews, ongoing research and commentary



4. Strategic reviews, ongoing research and commentary

121. There continues to be significant public debate on population migration. This public debate creates significant interest in and demand for migration statistics. Over the last few years this debate has given rise to a number of UK level strategic reviews which are directly or indirectly related to population statistics. In addition demography has also become a point of interest for the British-Irish Council. These issues are outlined below.

Strategic reviews of population statistics

122. Firstly, the UK National Statistician set up a cross-governmental task force in May 2006 to identify improvements that could be made to estimates of international migration and migrant populations in the UK. The task force reported in December 2006 and its recommendations are summarised in Annex C.
123. Secondly, the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee has recently held an inquiry entitled “The Economic Impact of Migration”. The Committee published its findings in April 2008¹⁸. Although the report primarily focused on the economic issues relating to migration the Committee noted that a significant priority for action was that “Government should improve radically the present entirely inadequate migration statistics”.
124. Thirdly, in May 2008 the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee reported on their “Counting the Population” inquiry¹⁹. The inquiry was undertaken “due to concerns expressed in the House of Commons... about the adequacy of current population statistics”. The Committee made a number of recommendations which are currently being considered by the UK Government and the UK Statistics Authority. The recommendations are summarised in Annex D.
125. Finally, the British-Irish Council has initiated a demography sectoral group and the first ministerial meeting under this strand was held in Edinburgh

in March 2008²⁰. The meeting focused on the challenges presented by changes in fertility, life-expectancy and migration in each of the administrations.

NISRA development work on migration statistics in Northern Ireland

126. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), through the Registrar General for Northern Ireland, has statutory responsibility for commenting on the size of the Northern Ireland population. The other sections of this and previous reports outline some of the developments made by NISRA over the last three years in improving the quality of migration estimates relating to Northern Ireland. However, other areas have been progressed and these are outlined below.
127. The primary vehicle for measuring international migration in Great Britain, the International Passenger Survey, is not used to make Northern Ireland migration estimates²¹. Thus NISRA work with colleagues in the Office for National Statistics to provide Northern Ireland migration statistics for UK level estimates. However, significant UK level benefits are planned from national developments in improved sources to measure migration. One important part of this relates to developments allowable under data sharing provisions within the Statistics and Registration Services Act (2007). Work is ongoing in Whitehall assessing the population statistics benefits the UK statistical offices would derive in using individual level information from the school census, the tax system and the benefit system. The Northern Ireland element of this work will be reported on by NISRA next year.
128. NISRA continue to hold discussions with colleagues from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Ireland on population statistics matters. This work is undertaken in the context of the British-Irish Council demography workstream and relates to how estimates of in- and out-migration could

18 See <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldconaf/82/82.pdf> for the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee report “The Economic Impact of Migration”.

19 See <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmtreasy/183/183.pdf> for the Treasury Select Committee report “Counting the Population”.

20 See <http://www1.british-irishcouncil.org/documents/demography.asp> for a full description of the British Irish Council demography workstream.

21 There are three main reasons why the International Passenger Survey is not used for estimating Northern Ireland international migration. Firstly the survey does not sample from Northern Ireland air or seaports and therefore the number of migrants captured for Northern Ireland is very small usually around 10 contacts per year. Secondly the survey does not cover the land border within Ireland. Thirdly the survey does not easily distinguish Northern Ireland migrants travelling to/from GB ports; as respondents can note their future/last address as being “Ireland” without being specific to Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

be co-ordinated across Ireland and Northern Ireland. For example as noted in section 2.3 of this report, NISRA use out-migration questions within household surveys which are similar to those used by colleagues in the CSO. NISRA includes these questions in the Omnibus, Continuous Household and Travel surveys in Northern Ireland and the resultant statistics provide a valuable estimate of migration from Northern Ireland.

129. A significant future milestone for Northern Ireland demographic statistics is the 2011 Census. Subject to the necessary Ministerial and Assembly approval, planning is progressing on the basis that the next Census in Northern Ireland will be held on 27 March 2011. NISRA have been assessing how best to garner information on the population and migration within the 2011 Census. This will be outlined in formal proposals for the 2011 Census in Northern Ireland, which are likely to be published later in the year.
130. During 2007/8 NISRA have, alongside colleagues in Great Britain, updated projections of the future size of the population in Northern Ireland. This series include projections of the future level of migration to and from Northern Ireland. In overall terms the Northern Ireland population is projected to increase to 1.812 million in 2011 from 1.742 million in 2006. In the next five years it is projected that there will be 50,700 more births than deaths and 19,400 more people coming to Northern Ireland to live than leaving. Population projections have also been made for local areas within Northern Ireland – the results are available on the NISRA website²².
131. During 2008 NISRA have also produced household projections for Northern Ireland. In overall terms the number of households in Northern Ireland is projected to grow by 48,500 or 7% over the five year period 2006 to 2011, from 672,600 households in 2006 to 721,100 households in 2011. Household projections have also been made for local areas within Northern Ireland – the results are available on the NISRA website²³.

22 See <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/projections/popproj06.pdf> for a report on the 2006 Northern Ireland population projections and http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/projections/Sub_NI06_Pop_Projs.pdf for a report on the 2006 local area population projections.

23 See http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/household/NI06_House_Projs.pdf for a report on the 2006 Northern Ireland household projections.

Wider Northern Ireland development work relating to migration statistics

132. During 2007/8 the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) have commissioned several social surveys relating to migrant workers. Firstly the Department has commissioned a number of public attitude surveys on migrant workers. Questions included on the public attitude surveys related to how often people came into contact with a migrant worker (49% of people came into contact with migrant workers at least once a week). Other questions related to the degree of personal prejudice towards migrant workers and the impact of migrant workers on the economy and services. Full results can be obtained from the DEL website²⁴.
133. Secondly, DEL have commissioned a survey of the experiences of migrant workers. The survey of around 500 migrant workers is in the field and the results will be reported towards the end of 2008. The survey will help to inform Government on the future intentions of, and the difficulties faced by, the migrant worker community in Northern Ireland.
134. Alongside the work of DEL, the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department for Education have over the last year developed improved information on the impact of migrant workers and their families in the agriculture and education sectors in Northern Ireland. This work will continue in 2008/9 and helps to estimate the annual scale of migration to and from Northern Ireland and also to make estimates of the cumulative number of migrants in the Northern Ireland population.
135. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) has identified the need for improved information on Black and Minority Ethnic and migrant worker communities in Northern Ireland. The initial NIHE research was published in October 2006²⁵ and a second report published in November 2007²⁶. The second report included commentary on a questionnaire of the 35 NIHE district housing offices. The questionnaire provided information on

24 See <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-stats/research-reports-2/publicattitudestomigrantworkers.htm> for further details on the DEL survey of attitudes towards migrant workers.

25 See <http://www.nihe.gov.uk/bmenorthernireland2006.pdf> for the 2006 NIHE report on Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Northern Ireland.

26 See http://www.nihe.gov.uk/black_and_ethnic_minorities_update_report_2007nov5.pdf for the 2007 NIHE report on Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Northern Ireland.

the number of applications for, and allocations of, social housing to migrant worker households. As at July 2007, 350 migrant worker households were NIHE tenants and over the year to July 2007, 1,000 migrant worker households had applied for social housing. The ratio of applications to tenants (around 3 to 1) indicates the scale of the recent increase in migration to Northern Ireland. Further results from the district housing survey are available from the NIHE website²⁷.

136. In the longer term greater use of administrative data will further enhance the quality of the estimates. In particular it is anticipated that the Home Office's electronic borders (e-Borders²⁸) programme for assessing in-migrants will provide information on migration patterns. The aim of e-Borders is to electronically collect and analyse information from carriers (including airlines, ferries and rail companies) about everyone who intends to travel to or from the UK before they travel.
137. As reported last year, NISRA launched the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) in late 2006. This study tracks a sample of people from the 2001 Census and includes information on migration (from health card registration). Last year the Economic and Social Research Council and the Health Service Research and Development Office commissioned Dr Ian Shuttleworth from Queen's University to undertake research on migration within Northern Ireland during the period 2001-2006. This research will attempt to build a model to help explain migration within Northern Ireland. In the longer term NISRA hope to be able to use the NILS to help build an improved picture of migration to and from Northern Ireland.

Commentary: In-migration flows

138. This report details the changes in levels of international migration to and from Northern Ireland over the last decade. Estimates of direct international in-migration flows to Northern Ireland have risen in absolute terms from around 6,700 people in 2000/1 to around 19,400 people in 2006/7 (a near three fold increase).

139. These figures do not account for in-migration to Northern Ireland from Great Britain. Estimates of migration to Northern Ireland from Great Britain have not increased so markedly. In absolute terms the in-migration flow to Northern Ireland from Great Britain has remained around 12,000 people per annum over the period 2000/1 to 2006/7. However, this flow will include some secondary migration of non-UK nationals who were living in Great Britain.
140. What is clear from these statistics is that, where ten years ago migration to Northern Ireland was dominated by migration from Great Britain, this is no longer the case. International in-migration flows are now the dominant phenomenon of Northern Ireland in-migration. This has significant implications for the delivery of services in Northern Ireland.

Commentary: Out-migration flows

141. The report also details the efforts made by NISRA to improve estimates of out-migration. Estimates of direct international out-migration flows from Northern Ireland have risen from around 8,600 people in 2000/1 to around 11,300 people in 2006/7. These out-migration estimates are consistent across a number of sources (household surveys, deregistrations with a family doctor, figures on migration to the Republic of Ireland obtained from the CSO Ireland and information on out-migration of school children from the School Census).
142. These figures do not account for out-migration from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. Estimates of out-migration from Northern Ireland to Great Britain average in absolute terms at around 11,000 people per annum over the period 2000/1 to 2006/7. What is clear from these statistics is that out-migration from Northern Ireland to Great Britain remains a significant phenomenon of Northern Ireland out-migration.

Commentary: Net-migration

143. Estimates of direct international net-migration flows from Northern Ireland have risen from a loss of around 1,900 people in 2000/1 to a gain of 8,000 people in 2006/7.

²⁷ See http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp_home/plans/district_housing_plans.htm to view the most recent District Housing Plans

²⁸ See <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/technology/eborders> for further information on the e-Borders programme.

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144. These figures do not account for net-migration from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. Estimates of net-migration from Northern Ireland to Great Britain average in absolute terms at around a gain of 1,000 people per annum over the period 2000/1 to 2006/7.
145. In overall terms net-migration flows to Northern Ireland have risen in absolute terms from a loss of 1,900 people in 2000/1 to a gain of around 9,800 people in 2006/7. So over the period the migration picture in Northern Ireland has reversed from a situation of loss to one of a significant gain.

Annexes



Annex A – States included within the European Union (2004-2007)

European Union April 2004 – EU 15	European Union May 2004 – EU 25	European Union January 2007 – EU 27
Austria	Austria	Austria
Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
Denmark	Cyprus	Bulgaria
Finland	Czech Republic	Cyprus
France	Denmark	Czech Republic
Germany	Estonia	Denmark
Greece	Finland	Estonia
Ireland	France	Finland
Italy	Germany	France
Luxembourg	Greece	Germany
Netherlands	Hungary	Greece
Portugal	Ireland	Hungary
Spain	Italy	Ireland
Sweden	Latvia	Italy
United Kingdom	Lithuania	Latvia
	Luxembourg	Lithuania
	Malta	Luxembourg
	Netherlands	Malta
	Poland	Netherlands
	Portugal	Poland
	Slovakia	Portugal
	Slovenia	Romania
	Spain	Slovakia
	Sweden	Slovenia
	United Kingdom	Spain
		Sweden
		United Kingdom

146. States marked in bold joined the EU at the date shown.

Annex B – United Nations definitions relating to international migration

147. The migration definition used in population estimates comes from the United Nations statistical definition of a long-term international migrant:

“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.”²⁹

148. The United Nations also defines a short-term international migrant as:

“A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months), except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. For purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it.”³⁰

149. Another term that is often used in the local context is “Migrant Worker”; the United Nations defines this to be:

“A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national”.³¹

²⁹ Taken from “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. United Nations 1998” available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/migrmethods.htm#B>.

³⁰ Taken from “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. United Nations 1998” available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/migrmethods.htm#C>.

³¹ Taken from “International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. United Nations 1990” available at <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs24.htm>.

Annex C – Recommendations to National Statistician by Task Force on International Migration (December 2006)

150. The task force recommended that the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will in the longer term (2008-2012):
- Obtain more information about migrants as they enter or leave the country. For example through port surveys, the e-Borders project which will include passport scanning or information from landing cards;
 - Obtain more comprehensive and timely information about migrants living in this country. For example by developing a communal establishment component of the Integrated Household Survey, surveying local authorities, employers or agencies providing work for migrants, using the 2011 Census to identify short and long term migrants and accessing administrative information that potentially identifies migrants;
 - Use data linkage to obtain better information relating migrants' intentions at entry to the UK to subsequent events, such as employment, having a child and when they leave the country. For example by looking at the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, health registers, School Census, information on student migrants from the Higher Education Statistics Agency and looking at the feasibility of linking data sets together to provide additional information on migrants;
 - Provision of more timely, robust key indicators of migrant numbers. By improving statistical and demographic models to enhance migration and population estimates; and
 - Bring together all the statistics collected across Government on migration and migrants in a single UK wide report, as there is currently no single official source. Key information on migration collected across government should be brought together in one place to achieve coherent reporting. This should be summarised in an Annual Report on Migration Statistics, by the National Statistics Centre for Demography.
151. The Task Force Recommendations have been divided into five streams, each of which will be taken forward by a working group. The five working groups are:
- **Entry/Exit Data** – will look at the collection and use of data as people enter or leave the country. It includes both administrative sources and survey sources, in particular e-borders, the points based system, International Passenger Survey data and the port survey review;
 - **Local Population Estimates** – will look at the quality and coverage of local population estimates. Specific work areas include students, internal migration, administrative data replacing Census for distributions, short term migration and the reliability and error associated with the local area population estimates;
 - **Alternative Sources** – will look at the scope for using administrative and survey sources not already exploited in the production of population and migration statistics. Particular sources currently under consideration are the Department of Work and Pensions Longitudinal study dataset, Schools Census data and improvements to current surveys;
 - **Analysis and Indicators** – will be overseeing research that is aimed at improving the understanding of migration and migrants – including migrant workers – and how it impacts on the economy. It will explore questions such as:
 - What are the local indicators for migration?
 - What additional products can be developed to give a better indication of migration?
 - What is the impact of migration at local level?
 - **Migration Reporting** – the aim of this group is to have greater coherence in the way in which migration-related releases are made across government. It aims to coordinate releases so that customers and the public do not get confused with different outputs based on different definitions and reference periods giving different impressions.

Annex D: Recommendations from the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee on their “Counting the Population” inquiry (May 2008)

152. The Counting the Population Inquiry Report recognised that in a period of significant population change and individual mobility meeting the requirements of users of population estimates has become more complex for the UK Statistics Authority. The amount of population turnover, both nationally and locally has made it increasingly difficult for the current methods of counting the population to estimate the numbers of people in an area and on what basis they are there.
153. It is accepted that population estimates are central to every national system of official statistics. They are used in statistical formulae that allocate vast sums of public money to the devolved administrations, to local government, the health service and public services. It is therefore a matter of social responsibility to ensure that population statistics are calculated accurately.
154. The provision of accurate information about how many people are present within the country and where they are located is essential to effective policy-making and the effective delivery of services. Society is becoming more mobile and the information held electronically about events, persons and services by government agencies and other bodies has substantially increased.
155. The committee recommended that:
- The UK Statistics Authority set out the steps it will take to utilise and better link data held by the Government and by local government in order to provide a more accurate picture of the population within this country;
 - The UK Statistics Authority replaces the International Passenger Survey with a new Survey that is more comprehensive and more suited to the accurate measurement of international movements affecting the size of the resident population of the UK;
 - The UK Statistics Authority should establish as an immediate priority the provision of local population statistics that more accurately reflects the full range of information available about local populations and the effects of internal migration;
- The UK Statistics Authority investigate the feasibility of producing population estimates based on different measures of population, such as estimates which include short-term migrants and estimates which include the day-time population of Local Authorities;
 - The UK Statistics Authority examines the feasibility of producing estimates of short-term migration at sub-national level, using the successor to the International Passenger Survey and a greater range of administrative data;
 - The UK Statistics Authority continues the Office for National Statistics (ONS) work with Local Authorities and carries out a series of case studies to identify alternative administrative data sources. These include the National Insurance Number register, GP lists, other health service lists, council tax records, and various registers on children and school children;
 - The UK Statistics Authority produce a best practice guide associated with counting the population and administrative registers;
 - A fourth page is added to the current plans for the 2011 Census. (Following the inquiry it was announced the extra £25 million need to finance this page would be provided through cross-government funding);
 - The Government consult the UK Statistics Authority and others to remove any outstanding obstacles to the production of an address register for the 2011 Census;
 - The Government work with the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that strong ethical safeguards are put in place to protect the personal information held by government departments;
 - The UK Statistics Authority set out in response to this Report the action that the Authority will take under the powers in the Statistics and Registration Service Act to develop the Government’s administrative databases to provide a more accurate and cost effective method of monitoring the population;
 - The UK Statistics Authority establish a pilot project enabling a population register to be operated alongside the 2011 Census in order to compare the effectiveness of such a system with that of the Census;

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- The UK Statistics Authority liaise with the Department of Health on the project to replace the current National Health Service Central Register to ensure that opportunities offered by a new system for improvements in the contribution of such data to population statistics are not lost; and
- The UK Statistics Authority set strategic objectives to ensure that the data gathered throughout the UK can be used to produce annual population statistics that are of a quality that will enable the 2011 Census to be the last census in the UK where the population is counted through the collection of census forms.

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