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Emigration reaches record high in 2008

Emigration from the UK reached a record high in 2008, according to figures released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). An estimated 427,000 people emigrated from the UK in 2008, up from 341,000 in 2007. This rise was due to an increase in non-British citizens leaving, up from 169,000 in 2007 to 255,000 in 2008.

Emigration of citizens of the A8 Accession countries (those countries of central and eastern Europe that joined the European Union in 2004) more than doubled from 25,000 to 69,000 between 2007 and 2008.

An estimated 590,000 people arrived to live in the UK in 2008. This compares with 574,000 in 2007 and is a continuation of the level of immigration seen since 2004.

Net migration to the UK, the difference between immigration and emigration, was 163,000 in 2008.

These data are available in more detail in the long-term international migration statistical bulletin and the new annual report 'Migration Statistics 2008', which provides a range of information on migration in 2008.

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report / Control of immigration

Also today the regular Migration Statistics Quarterly Report is released jointly by ONS, the Home Office and DWP. This provides the latest available migration and related data, including provisional statistics giving an indication of recent changes in international migration up to March 2009. It also includes control of immigration data from the Home Office, which show that:

- The number of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, was 24 per cent lower in the third quarter of 2009 (5,055) than in the third quarter of 2008 (6,685).
- In the third quarter of 2009, 17,055 people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, 6 per cent fewer than in the same quarter in 2008 (18,080). There was a fall of 18 per

cent to 2,870 for those leaving who had claimed asylum (including dependants) and an decrease of 3 per cent to 14,185 for non-asylum cases

- The number of people granted settlement in the UK, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, rose by 38 per cent in the third quarter of 2009 (49,555) compared with the third quarter of 2008 (35,910). Comparing the last 12 months (ending 30 September 2009) with the previous 12 months (ending 30 September 2008), the number of people granted settlement, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, rose by 18 per cent from 149,600 to 176,270

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates are available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=507>
2. The Migration Statistics 2008 annual report is available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15314>
3. The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report is available at www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15230
4. The eight central and eastern European EU Accession countries (A8) are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
5. LTIM is the most comprehensive estimate of long-term international migration. There is no single, all-inclusive system in place to measure movements of population into or out of the UK, so LTIM estimates are produced using a combination of data from different sources. None of the data sources used, while offering the best data currently available, are specifically designed to capture information solely on international migration. Further information on the LTIM methodology can be found in the document 'Methodology to estimate LTIM' at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=507>.
6. LTIM estimates for 2002 to 2007 have been revised to incorporate small revisions to source data. The LTIM methodology relating to flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and international migration into and out of Northern Ireland, has been revised. For further information please see the document 'Irish methodological changes' at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053>.
7. The Home Office statistics relate to people who are subject to immigration control under Immigration Acts (that is, to people who do not have the right of abode in the UK). They are produced mainly as a by-product of the process of immigration control. British citizens, those Commonwealth citizens who also have the right of abode, other European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and

Swiss nationals are not subject to immigration control and may freely enter and leave the UK. The UK Border Agency (UKBA), which is responsible for immigration control, regulates the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK and the variation of such conditions following entry. It also regulates settlement and the deportation or removal of people. It is not possible for UKBA to provide information on how many people have left the country as they do not count everyone into and out of the UK.

8. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from ONS Media Relations. Also available is a list of the names of those given pre-publication access to the contents of this release.
9. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards as set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference.

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