A summary of the latest migration statistics for Scotland – providing Scottish-specific secondary analysis of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR) published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which focuses on the latest migration statistics at UK-level.

This summary brings together data from a range of sources to give an overview of key migration trends in Scotland, and presents it alongside comparable UK-level data. It includes data published by National Records of Scotland (NRS), the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Main points

- International migration has consistently added to Scotland's population since the EU expansion in 2004. Latest data show 20,200 more people coming to Scotland from overseas than leaving in the year to June 2019.

- The total number of non-British nationals living in Scotland (388,000 people) has increased over the year to December 2019. This was mainly driven by an increase in non-EU nationals. Polish remains the most common non-British nationality, with Polish nationals making up almost a quarter (23%) of all non-British nationals living in Scotland in 2019.

- Overseas nationals require a National Insurance number (NINo) to work in the UK and this can provide a view on work-related immigration (regardless of length of stay). Over the latest quarter, April to June 2020, there were 2,800 NINo registrations to overseas nationals living in Scotland. This is a 76% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2019 and is primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- There was widespread decline in international air travel since March 2020 due to coronavirus travel restrictions. At Scottish airports, there was a reduction of over 98% in monthly passenger arrivals between April to June 2020 compared to the same months in 2019.

Impact of COVID-19 on migration statistics

The migration statistics included in this summary cover different time periods, some of which do not yet take into account the impacts of the pandemic. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) used to measure headline net migration was suspended on 16 March 2020 due to COVID-19. As part of the ongoing transformation programme for migration statistics, the IPS being stretched beyond its initial purpose, and the impact of COVID-19, the IPS will no longer be used to measure migration. Administrative data will be used to deliver new measures of migration from November 2020 onwards. The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report has been reclassified as experimental statistics to support this period of development.

Latest migration statistics for Scotland and the UK

To fully understand migration trends, we need to consider all available data sources and look at not just year-on-year change but also evidence over a longer time series. The table below sets out the latest estimates across a range of sources, and analysis over time is then shown on later slides.

- In the year to June 2019, 20,200 more people came to Scotland from overseas than left, adding to the population. There were 39,900 people moving to Scotland from overseas and 19,700 people leaving in this period.

- The number of non-British nationals living in Scotland stood at 388,000 people, which is an increase from the previous year.

- There were 38,200 National Insurance number (NINo) allocations to overseas nationals in Scotland in the year to June 2020. This is a reduction of 11% over the year. Over the most recent quarter, April to June 2020, there were 2,800 NINo registrations down 76% compared to the same quarter in 2019. This recent decrease is primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measure	Source	Scotland			UK		
		Change over year	Latest estimate	Year ending	Change over year	Latest estimate	Year ending
Net migration	LTIM*	—	+20,200	Jun 2019	—	+313,000	Mar 2020
In migration	LTIM*	—	39,900	Jun 2019	—	715,000	Mar 2020
Out migration	LTIM*	—	19,700	Jun 2019	—	403,000	Mar 2020
Non-British nationals	APS	▲	388,000	Dec 2019	—	6,227,000	Dec 2019
National Insurance number allocations	DWP	▼	38,200	Jun 2020	▼	611,700	Jun 2020

* Experimental statistics undergoing development

▲ Increase   ▼ Decrease   ▬ Change is not statistically significant

Migration flows*

Scotland

UK

Estimates of long-term international migration (LTIM) to Scotland and the UK, measuring those with an intention to stay 12 months or more.

Migration continues to add to the population at both UK and Scotland level.

At Scotland level:

- In the year to June 2019, 20,200 more people came to Scotland from overseas than left.
- This was an increase from the previous year, however, this change was not statistically significant.
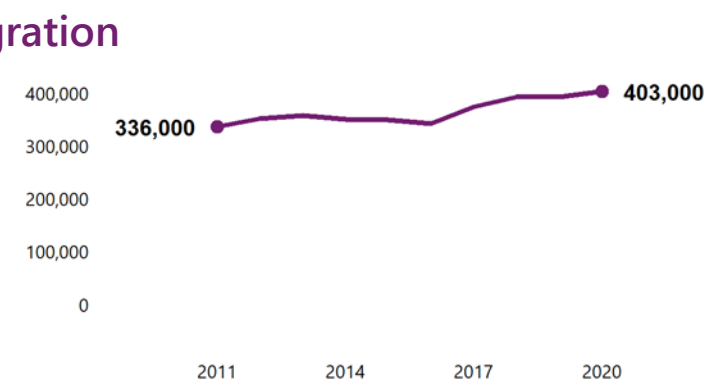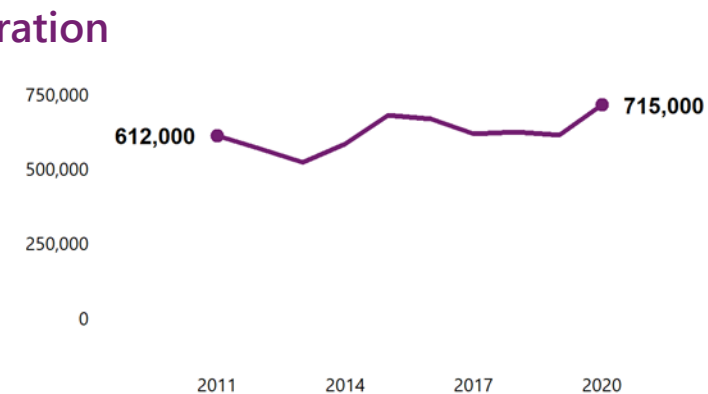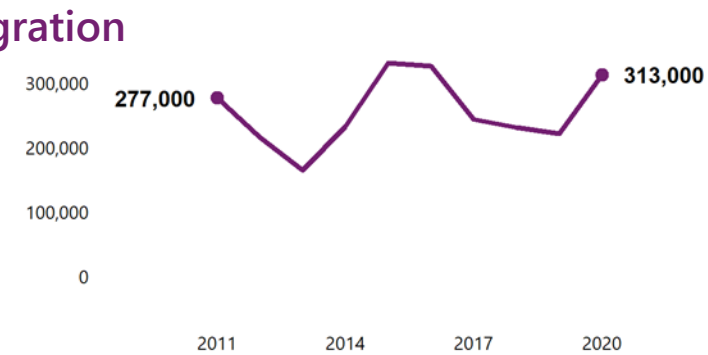
At UK level, in the year to March 2020:

- 313,000 more people came to the UK than left, adding to the UK's population.
- There were 715,000 people moving to the UK and 403,000 people leaving the UK in this period.
- After having remained stable between 2016 and 2019, recent data suggest that migration levels were beginning to increase in the past 12 months leading up to the coronavirus pandemic.
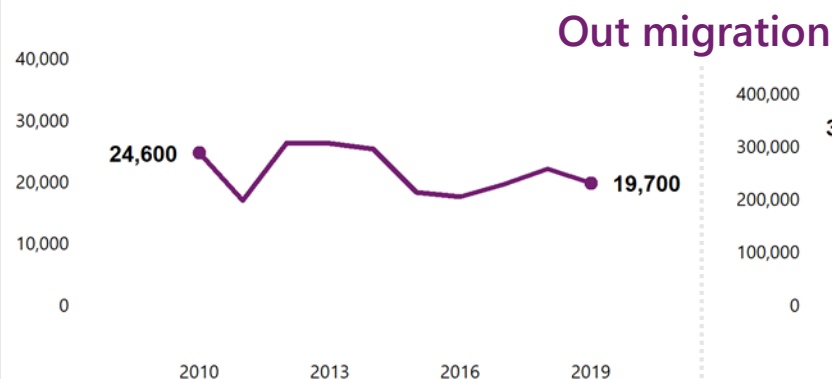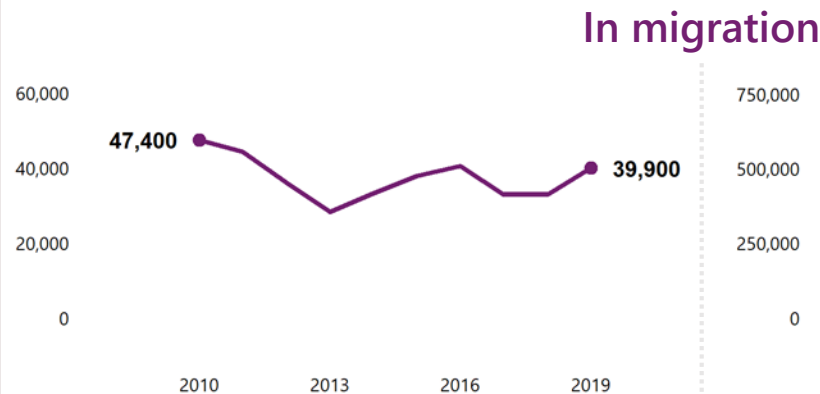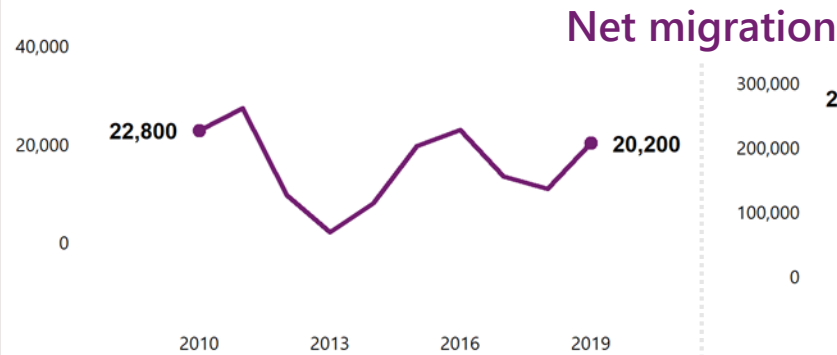
*Experimental statistics undergoing development

Long-term International Migration to year ending: Jun 2019

Long-term International Migration to year ending: Mar 2020

Net migration

Scotland Net migration: 22,800 (2010) to 20,200 (2019)

UK Net migration: 277,000 (2011) to 313,000 (2020)

In migration

Scotland In migration: 47,400 (2010) to 39,900 (2019)

UK In migration: 612,000 (2011) to 715,000 (2020)

Out migration

Scotland Out migration: 24,600 (2010) to 19,700 (2019)

UK Out migration: 336,000 (2011) to 403,000 (2020)

Migrant stocks

Scotland

UK

Estimates of the number of non-British nationals living in Scotland and the UK at a particular point in time, from the Annual Population Survey (APS).
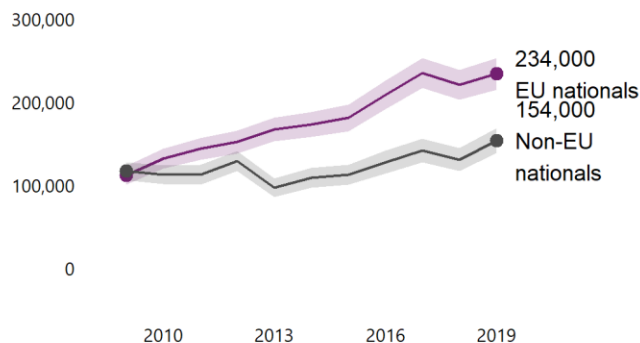
In Scotland:

- There were 234,000 EU nationals living in Scotland in the year to December 2019, and over half of those people were nationals of EU8 countries.
- There were 154,000 non-EU nationals, accounting for 40% of the non-British population.
- Polish remained the most common non-British nationality in the year to December 2019, with Polish nationals accounting for almost a quarter (23%) of all non-British nationals living in Scotland.

In the UK:

- The non-British population of the UK was 6.2 million in the year to December 2019, where around 1 in 11 of the UK population had a non-British nationality and the majority (60%) of these held an EU nationality.
- Polish has been the most common non-British nationality (900,000) in the UK since 2007. Polish nationals accounted for 14% of the total non-British residents in the UK in the year ending December 2019.
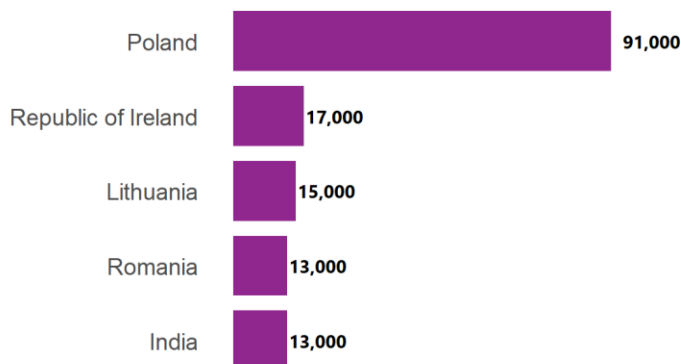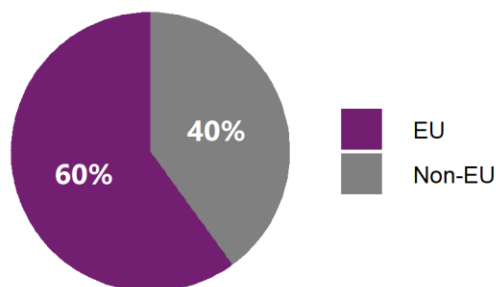
* Shaded sections indicate the 95% confidence intervals

Migrant stocks to year ending: Dec 2019

234,000 EU nationals
154,000 Non-EU nationals

Non-British nationals in Scotland: 388,000
7.2% of total population

60% EU
40% Non-EU

Poland	91,000
Republic of Ireland	17,000
Lithuania	15,000
Romania	13,000
India	13,000

Migrant stocks to year ending: Dec 2019

3,715,000 EU nationals
2,511,000 Non-EU nationals
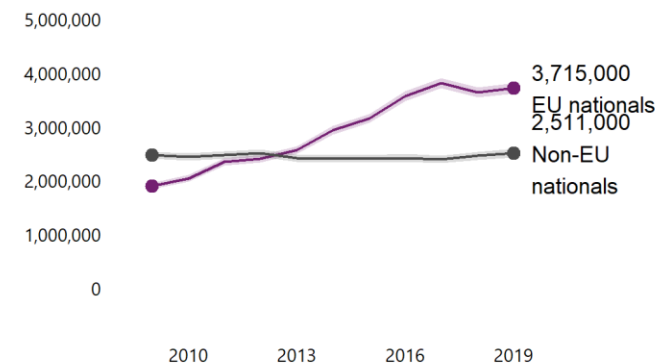
Non-British nationals in the UK: 6,227,000
9.4% of total population

60% EU
40% Non-EU

Poland	900,000
Romania	450,000
India	365,000
Republic of Ireland	320,000
Italy	304,000

Scotland

UK
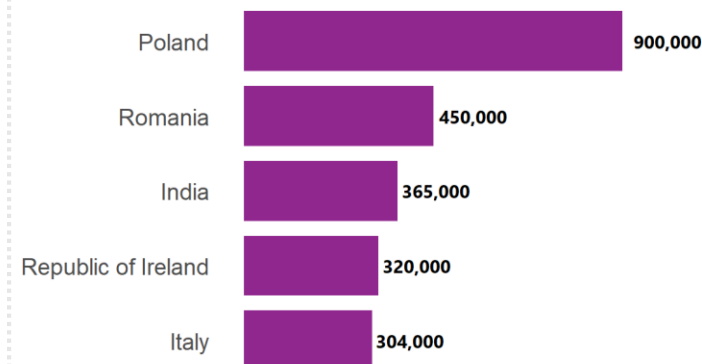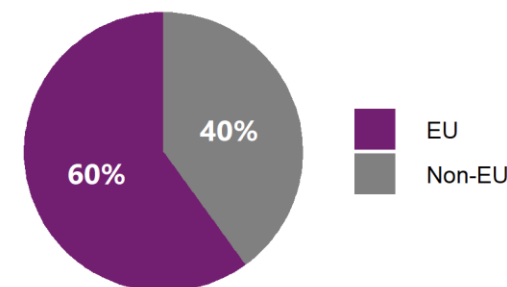
Statistics on National Insurance numbers (NINo) allocated to adult overseas nationals come from the Department for Work and Pensions, and are updated every quarter. These are a measure of non-British nationals who are applying for a NINo for the first time, for the purpose of working and accessing benefits in the UK.

Scotland

In the year ending June 2020, there were a total of 38,200 NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals in Scotland (down by 11% from previous year).

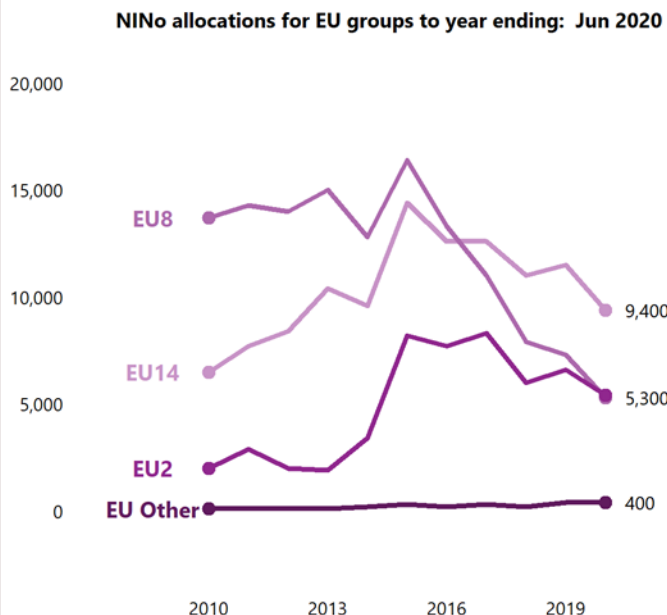- 20,500 of these allocations were to (non-UK) EU nationals (down by 21% from previous year).
- 17,700 of these allocations were to non-EU nationals (up by 4% from previous year).

UK

In the year ending June 2020, there were a total of 611,700 NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals in the UK (down by 13% from previous year).

- 334,400 of these allocations were to (non-UK) EU nationals (down by 25% from previous year).
- 276,400 of these allocations were to non-EU nationals (up by 8% from previous year).

NINo allocations to year ending: Jun 2020 (Scotland)

Total: 38,200
EU: 20,500
Non-EU: 17,700

NINo allocations to year ending: Jun 2020 (UK)

Total: 611,700
EU: 334,400
Non-EU: 276,400

NINo allocations for EU groups to year ending: Jun 2020 (Scotland)

EU8: 9,400
EU2: 5,300
EU14
EU Other: 400

NINo allocations for EU groups to year ending: Jun 2020 (UK)

EU14: 148,500
EU8: 125,700
EU2: 56,100
EU Other: 4,100
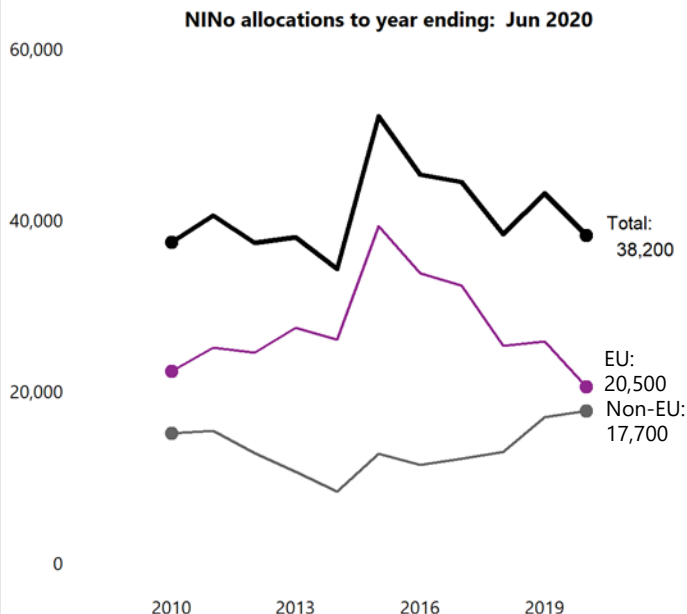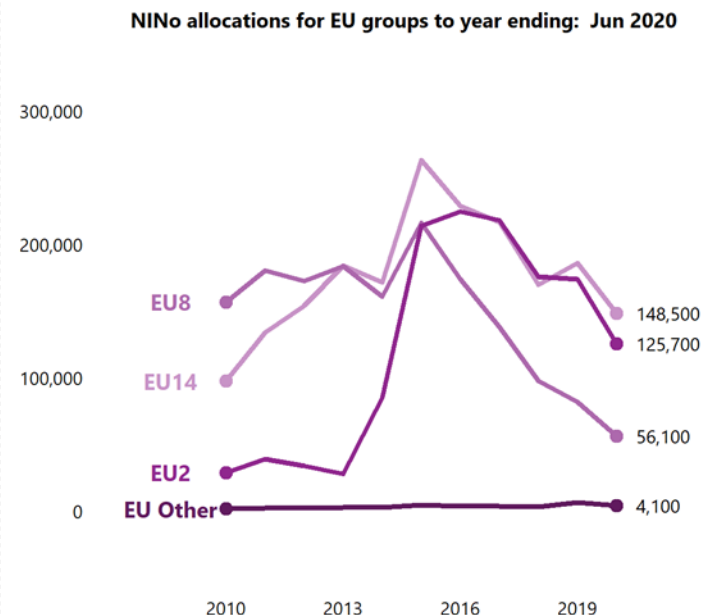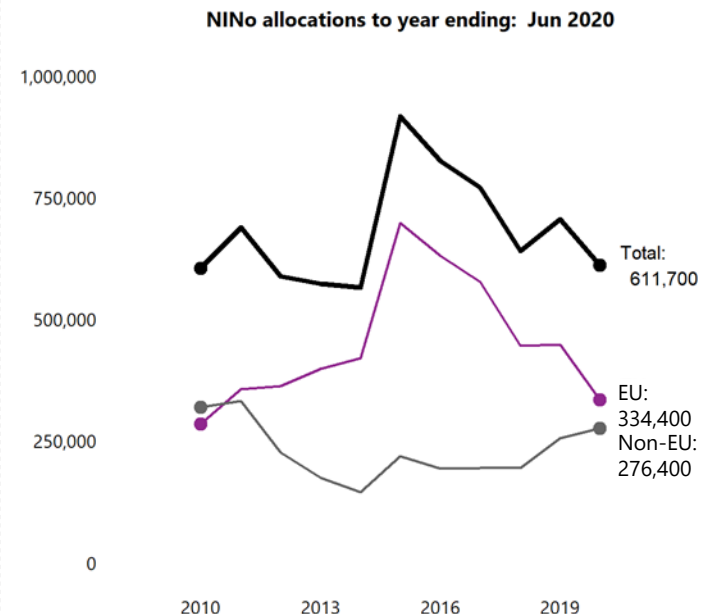
Scotland

UK

In the year ending June 2020:

- From the EU, **Scotland** received most registrations from EU14 countries (9,400); from non-EU, Scotland received most registrations from Asia (9,800).
- From the EU, **the UK** received most registrations from EU14 countries (148,500); from non-EU, the UK received most registrations from Asia (162,300).

The most common individual countries applying for NINo:

- **In Scotland**, Romania (22% decrease from previous year) from the EU, and India (3% increase from previous year) from outside of the EU.
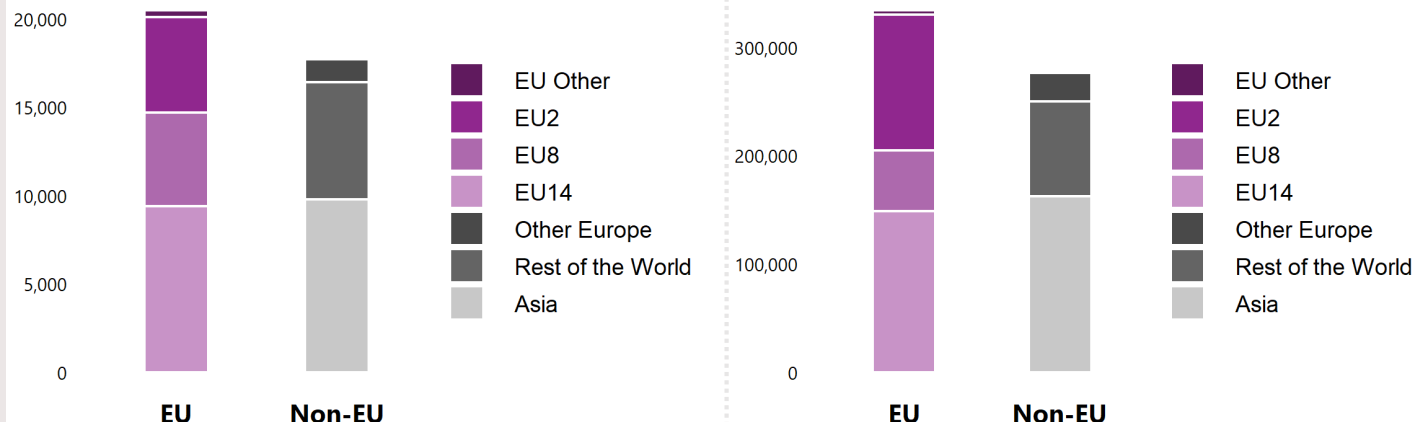- **In the UK**, Romania (30% decrease from previous year) from the EU, and India (20% increase from previous year) from outside the EU.

The Scottish council area that had the most new registrations in the year to June 2020 was Glasgow City (10,700, 28% of total registrations).

At UK level, the local authority with the most registrations was Newham (17,200, 3% of total registrations).

NINo allocations by nationality

Legend: EU Other, EU2, EU8, EU14, Other Europe, Rest of the World, Asia

Scotland — EU, Non-EU
UK — EU, Non-EU

Top 5 EU and non-EU countries

EU		Non-EU		EU		Non-EU	
Romania	3,600	India	3,300	Romania	95,900	India	76,600
Poland	3,000	Syria	1,300	Italy	36,800	Pakistan	19,100
Spain	2,300	China	1,100	Poland	30,400	Nigeria	12,900
Italy	1,900	Nigeria	1,100	Bulgaria	29,800	China	11,700
Bulgaria	1,800	Pakistan	1,000	Spain	29,100	United States	10,500

Top 10 local authorities

Scotland:

Local authority	Registrations
Glasgow City	10,700
City of Edinburgh	10,000
Aberdeen City	3,300
Perth and Kinross	2,100
Fife	1,800
Dundee City	1,200
Highland	1,000
Angus	900
Aberdeenshire	900
Stirling	700

UK:

Local authority	Registrations
Newham	17,200
Tower Hamlets	14,400
Birmingham	14,000
Brent	13,300
Manchester	11,100
Glasgow City	10,700
Ealing	10,300
City of Edinburgh	10,000
Westminster	9,800

The data in this section comes from the Home Office. The refugee data is released quarterly, three months after the reporting period. It covers Refugees (and others) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The citizenship data is released once a year in May and it has a 6 month lag. It indicates the number of people attending British citizenship ceremonies in the past year.

Refugees*

In the year ending March 2020, there were 531 refugees (6% decrease from previous year) resettled in Scotland and 4,030 (7% decrease from previous year) in the whole of the UK.

In Scotland, Edinburgh City had the most resettled refugees at 135 (125 in previous year). In the UK, it was Birmingham at 137 (122 in previous year).
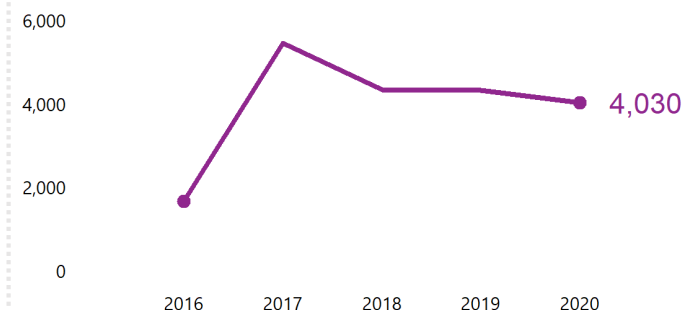
Citizenships

The labels on the graph indicate the number of people attending British citizenship ceremonies and change over year for each authority.

In Scotland, Edinburgh City had the most people attending British citizenship ceremonies (25% of total attendees in Scotland). In the whole of the UK, it was Birmingham (2% of total attendees in the UK).

Refugees

Refugees in Scotland to year ending: Mar 2020

(line chart, 2016–2020, value labelled 531)
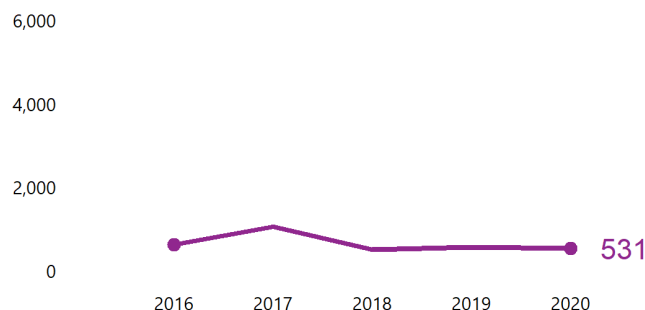
Refugees in the UK to year ending: Mar 2020

(line chart, 2016–2020, value labelled 4,030)

Top 5 Authorities

Authority	Resettled Refugees	% of Total	Authority	Resettled Refugees	% of Total
City of Edinburgh	135	25.4	Birmingham	137	3.4
North Ayrshire	67	12.6	City of Edinburgh	135	3.3
Glasgow City	41	7.7	Gateshead	107	2.7
Fife	28	5.3	Fermanagh and Omagh	106	2.6
Renfrewshire	28	5.3	Coventry	96	2.4

Citizenships

Total attending British citizenship ceremonies in Scotland, 2019: 4,460

Authority	Value
City of Edinburgh	1,102 (down by 0.9%)
Glasgow City	1,037 (up by 3.3%)
Aberdeen City	557 (down by 5.6%)
Aberdeenshire	200 (up by 5.8%)
Fife	169 (up by 3.7%)
West Lothian	130 (up by 3.2%)
Dundee City	117 (down by 8.6%)
Highland	107 (up by 5.9%)
South Lanarkshire	104 (down by 17.5%)
Perth & Kinross	100 (up by 58.7%)

Total attending British citizenship ceremonies in the UK, 2019: 110,079

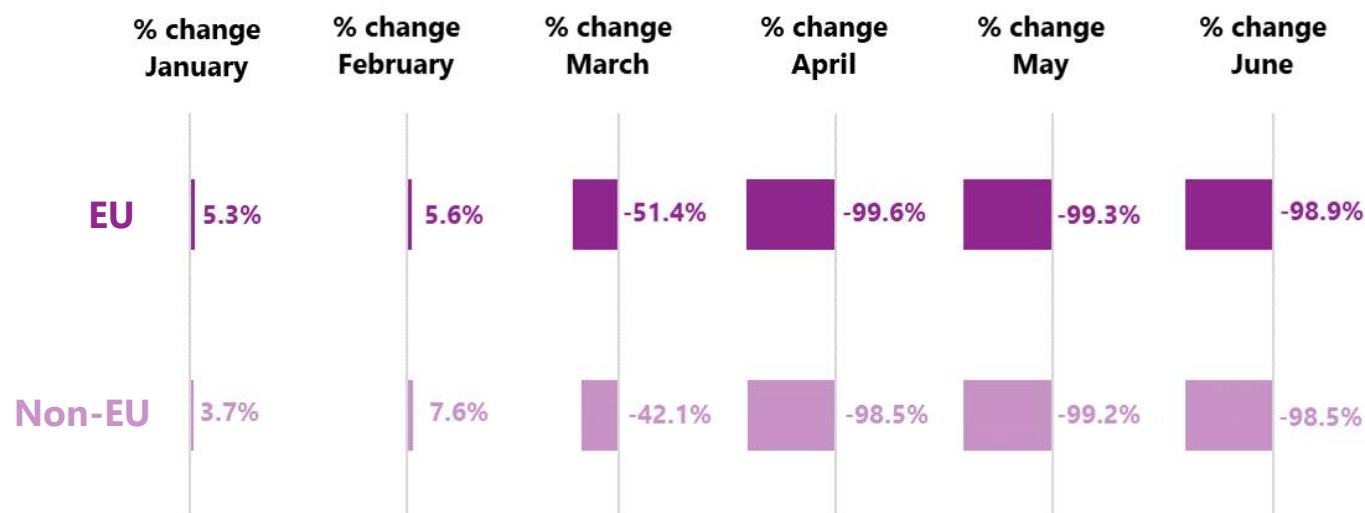| Authority	Value
Birmingham	2,699 (up by 5.9%)
Westminster	2,519 (up by 7.7%)
Surrey	2,505 (down by 1.1%)
Hertfordshire	2,420 (down by 1.3%)
Ealing	2,367 (up by 9.4%)
Tower Hamlets	2,302 (up by 2.9%)
Barnet	2,283 (down by 2.4%)
Newham	2,282 (down by 8.3%)
Brent	2,277 (down by 3.2%)
Wandsworth	2,057 (down by 8.7%)

* Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no resettlement activity was undertaken in Q2 of 2020 (April to June). Therefore, no data is available for these months.

International travel patterns

The data in this section come from the Civil Aviation Authority. They cover travel patterns by all types of passengers, not just international migrants. Travel data can provide early insight and context to official statistics on international migration. However, they do not provide information about a passenger's nationality or country of residence. These statistics are therefore not a measure of migration and should not be interpreted as such; they include all air passengers and relate solely to travel patterns.

- There was **widespread decline in international air travel to the UK since March 2020.**

- The volume of air passengers arriving to the UK and Scotland was significantly lower in March 2020 compared with March 2019. Due to widespread travel restrictions, April to June 2020 then saw further reductions compared with the same months in 2019, with a **reduction of over 98% in passenger arrivals at Scottish airports from both the EU and non-EU**.

- Figures for UK airports are comparable to the Scottish data presented in this summary.

Annual percentage change in monthly air passenger arrivals at Scottish airports, January to June, 2019 and 2020

	% change January	% change February	% change March	% change April	% change May	% change June
EU	5.3%	5.6%	-51.4%	-99.6%	-99.3%	-98.9%
Non-EU	3.7%	7.6%	-42.1%	-98.5%	-99.2%	-98.5%

Monthly air passenger arrivals at Scottish airports, January to June, 2019 and 2020

World Region of Airport	January		February		March		April		May		June	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
EU	360,700	379,800	352,300	372,000	425,200	206,600	546,400	2,300	611,500	4,500	662,100	7,500
Non-EU	81,800	84,900	73,700	79,300	92,700	53,700	118,700	1,800	141,700	1,100	181,000	2,800

Summary of data sources

Long-Term International Migration (LTIM), ONS
These statistics are published quarterly as part of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report. They measure the number of migrants entering and leaving the country in any given period. They are typically called migrant 'flows' and can be used to calculate net migration (the difference between immigration and emigration). Estimates are largely based on migrant intentions to stay in Scotland/the UK for 12 months or more. The data is sourced mainly from the International Passenger Survey.

Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, ONS and NRS
These statistics are published twice a year by ONS and NRS. They measure the size of the population (non-UK born and non-British nationals) at a particular point in time. They are typically called migrant 'stocks' and are sourced from the Annual Population Survey.

National Insurance number allocations (NINo) to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, DWP
This is administrative data updated each quarter by DWP. The NINo statistics count the volume of registrations to adult non-UK nationals over a calendar quarter. A NINo is generally required if looking to work or claim benefits. The statistics are not a count of the number of adult non-UK nationals currently living in Scotland/the UK.

Immigration statistics, Home Office
The refugees resettled data is published every quarter and covers refugees (and others) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The Citizenship data is updated once a year and indicates the number of people attending British citizenship ceremonies in a given year. Both of these measures are from administrative data published by the Home Office.

Migration Statistics, NRS
Latest migration flows for Scotland published by NRS. These include breakdowns for flows between Scotland and overseas, Scotland and the rest of the UK, and internal migration within Scotland.

Local Area Migration, NRS
This tool brings together migration statistics from a range of sources for council and NHS Board areas in Scotland. It is published annually by NRS.

Further information about the strengths and limitations of each data source are available within the publications (use links above).

National Records of Scotland