



BRIEFING PAPER

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Migrant population of the UK

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Contents:

1. Who counts as a migrant?
2. Migrant population in the UK
3. Migrant population by region
4. Age structure
5. Demographic characteristics
6. Employment of migrants



Contents

Summary	3
The migrant population of the UK since 2007	3
EU and non-EU migrant population	3
Regional distribution of migrants	3
Age structure	3
Ethnicity and religion	3
Employment	4
Occupations	4
1. Who counts as a migrant?	5
1.1 Flows and stock	5
1.2 Who are the migrant population	5
1.3 Sources of statistics	6
2. Migrant population in the UK	7
2.1 EU migrant population	10
2.2 Non-EU migrant population	10
2.3 Naturalisation processes	10
3. Migrant population by region	12
4. Age structure	15
4.1 Impact on the UK population	16
5. Demographic characteristics	17
5.1 Ethnicity	17
5.2 Religion	18
6. Employment of migrants	21
6.1 Employment rates among migrants	21
6.2 Explaining the employment rate gap	22
6.3 Occupational profile of migrants	23

Summary

This briefing paper uses statistics on migrant stocks to examine trends in the EU and non-EU migrant populations living in the UK since 2007. It also provides an overview of the characteristics of migrants living in the UK, including ethnicity, religion, age structure and employment. Both EU and non-EU migrant populations are divided into smaller country groupings according to common geographies.

The migrant population of the UK since 2007

The number of foreign born people living in the UK increased from around 6.3 million in Q1 2007 to 9.3 million in Q4 2016. The proportion of the population born abroad grew from 10.4% to 14.3%.

The number of foreign nationals increased from 3.8 million (6.4%) to 6.0 million (9.3%). The difference between the two groups largely reflects the number of foreign born people who have obtained British citizenship over time.

EU and non-EU migrant population

EU and non-EU migrants display different patterns of change over the period. The number of non-EU born people (5.7 million in 2016) has remained higher than the number of EU-born migrants (3.5 million in 2016).

In contrast, the number of non-EU nationals increased from 2.3 million in 2007 to 2.5 million in 2016, compared with EU nationals who more than doubled over the period (from 1.5 million to 3.5 million). As a result, the number of EU nationals living in the UK became larger than the number of non-EU nationals in 2014 and the gap between the two has further widened since 2015.

Regional distribution of migrants

The migrant population is not distributed equally across the countries and regions of the UK. London is the region with the highest proportion of migrants: foreign born people comprised 38% of all residents, while foreign nationals made up 23%.

A higher proportion of people born in non-EU countries live in London, relative to EU-born residents. People born in EU8 countries were the most evenly distributed across the UK regions.

Age structure

A larger proportion of migrants are of working-age (16-64), compared with the UK population as a whole. In Q4 2016, 81% of foreign born people were of working-age, compared with 63% of all people living in the UK.

Ethnicity and religion

In Q4 2016 around 50% of the foreign born population was White, compared with 86% of the UK population as a whole.

Christians were the largest group among both the foreign born population (50%) and Great Britain as a whole (54%). The proportion of foreign born people with no religion (18%) is half the proportion for Great Britain (36%). Muslims were the second largest religious group among the migrant population of Great Britain.

Employment

In Q4 2016 there were around 5.6 million foreign born people in employment (18% of the total). As a whole, foreign born people were less likely to be in work than UK-born people. Employment rates for migrants, however, vary considerably among country groupings. The employment rate for EU-born people aged 16-64 (80%) was higher than for UK-born people (75%). Among non-EU countries, migrants born in countries in Oceania had the highest employment rate (87%) and migrants born in the Middle East and Central Asia the lowest (46%).

Occupations

A smaller share of EU-born migrant were employed in high skilled occupation than non-EU migrants. 21% of EU migrants were employed in elementary occupations, compared with 8% of non-EU migrants. 27% of people born outside the EU were employed in professional occupation, well above the share of EU-born (18%) and UK-born people (20%).

1. Who counts as a migrant?

1.1 Flows and stock

There is no single definition of a migrant, nor a single way to estimate the migrant population living in a given country. Migration statistics distinguish between 'flows' and 'stocks' to measure levels of migration. Flows refer to the number of people changing their country of residence for a given period of time. Stocks measure the number of people whose country of birth or nationality is different from their country of residence. While, flows statistics indicate levels of immigration, emigration, and net migration, stocks measure the size of the migrant population in a given country.

Over time the size of a country's migrant population is largely driven by levels of migration to and from that country. But the relationship between flows and stocks is not always straightforward. Some measures of migrant stocks, such as the number of foreign nationals living in a country, are affected by both migration and natural population change (the difference between deaths and births). Moreover, data on the stock of migrants living in a given country can provide detail about the composition of the migrant population, which is not reflected in headline estimates of net migration.

This briefing looks in detail at the UK's migrant stocks. An analysis of migrant flows can be found in the House of Commons Library briefing on [Migration Statistics](#).

1.2 Who are the migrant population

There are two most common definitions of the migrant population are:

1. **The foreign born population** – the number of people whose country of birth is different from their country of residence
2. **The foreign national population** – the number of people whose nationality is different from their county of residence

Both definitions have limitations as measures of the migrant population. The first definition includes people who were born abroad but who are nationals of the country in which they live (e.g. children born to British nationals overseas).

The second definition includes people who were born in the country in which they live but who are foreign nationals (e.g. children born to foreign nationals in their country of residence). It also misses foreign born residents who have obtained citizenship of the country in which they now live.

Another limitation is that migrant status is self-reported in population surveys, and when people are asked to report their nationality their answer may reflect a cultural affiliation to a particular national identity, rather than an actual legal status. A person's country of birth is less ambiguous and harder to misunderstand, and for this reason some demographers prefer this measure of migrant stocks. However,

government policy on immigration is typically based around rights acquired through citizenship so policymakers tend to focus on the foreign national population.

1.3 Sources of statistics

This briefing paper uses statistics on migrant stocks to examine trends in the EU and non-EU migrant population living in the UK since 2007.¹ To get a fuller picture, both EU and non-EU migrant populations are further divided into smaller country groupings with common characteristics. Within the European Union, countries are grouped depending on their accession period: EU14, EU8, and EU2.² Other EU countries include Malta, Cyprus and Croatia. Countries outside the EU are grouped according to their geographical location: Middle East and Central Asia, South and East Asia,³ Africa, Americas and Oceania.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides quarterly data on the foreign born and foreign national populations of the UK. It is the largest household survey in the UK, designed to provide official statistics on the employment circumstances of the UK population.⁴ The LFS, however, excludes people who live in some communal establishments, such as hotels or caravan parks, and may underestimate the number of recent migrants living in the UK.⁵

¹ When referring to the migrant population, EU nationals and EU-born exclude UK nationals and UK-born.

² The EU14 consists of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The EU8 consists of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The EU 2 consists of Bulgaria and Romania.

³ South and East Asia comprises South Asia, South East Asia, and East Asia.

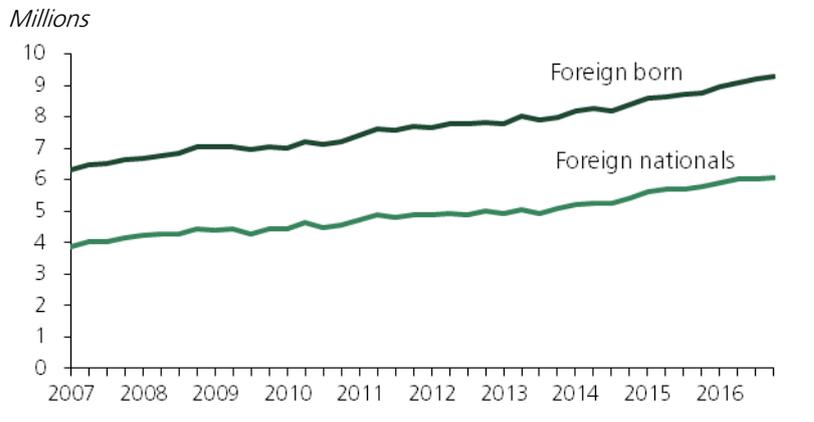
⁴ ONS, [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#), Accessed 19.05.2017

⁵ The Migration Observatory, [Migration in the UK: Overview](#), 21 February 2017

2. Migrant population in the UK

The chart below shows how the number of people born abroad and the number of foreign nationals living in the UK has changed since 2007:

Foreign born and foreign national population, UK, 2007-2016

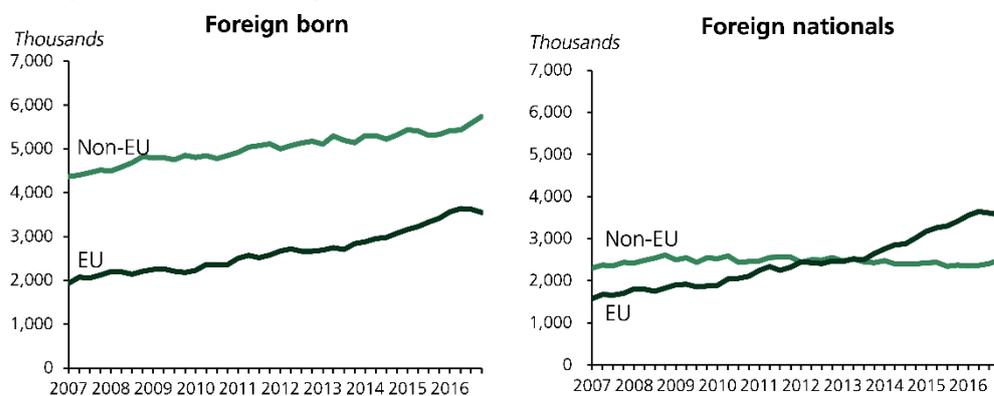


Source: Labour Force Survey, Q1 2007 – Q4 2016

The number of foreign born people living in the UK increased from around 6.3 million in Q1 2007 to 9.3 million in Q4 2016. The proportion of the population born abroad grew from 10.4% to 14.3%. Similarly, the number of foreign nationals increased from 3.8 million (6.4%) to 6.0 million (9.3%). The difference between the two groups largely reflects the number of foreign born people who have obtained British citizenship over time. Children born to foreign nationals living in the UK also affect the difference between the two estimates.

Although the migrant population increased between 2007 and 2016 on both measures, EU and non-EU migrants display different patterns of change over the period. The charts below compare trends in the EU and non-EU migrant population living in the UK.

Foreign born and foreign nationals in the UK, Q1 2007-Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q1 2007 – Q4 2016

8 Migrant population of the UK

The number of non-EU born people living in the UK has remained higher than the number of EU-born migrants. The former increased from around 4.4 million in Q1 2007 to around 5.7 million in Q4 2016, whereas the latter grew from 1.9 million to 3.5 million over the same period.

Foreign nationals, however, exhibit a different trend over the same period. The number of non-EU nationals increased at a much smaller rate (from 2.3 million to 2.5 million), compared with EU nationals who doubled over the same period (from 1.5 million to 3.5 million).

For this reason, EU-nationals living in the UK outnumbered non-EU nationals in 2014 and the gap between the two has further widened since 2015. These differences are reflected in the current composition of the foreign born and foreign national populations of the UK.

Migrant population of the UK by broad country group, Q4 2016

	Foreign nationals	Foreign born
EU14	26.2%	17.8%
EU8	25.4%	15.2%
EU2	7.0%	4.3%
EU Other	0.4%	1.1%
Europe Other	3.1%	4.0%
Middle East and Central Asia	3.5%	4.7%
Rest of Asia	17.2%	27.2%
Africa	8.3%	15.0%
Americas	5.8%	8.1%
Oceania	2.3%	2.5%
Other	0.7%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

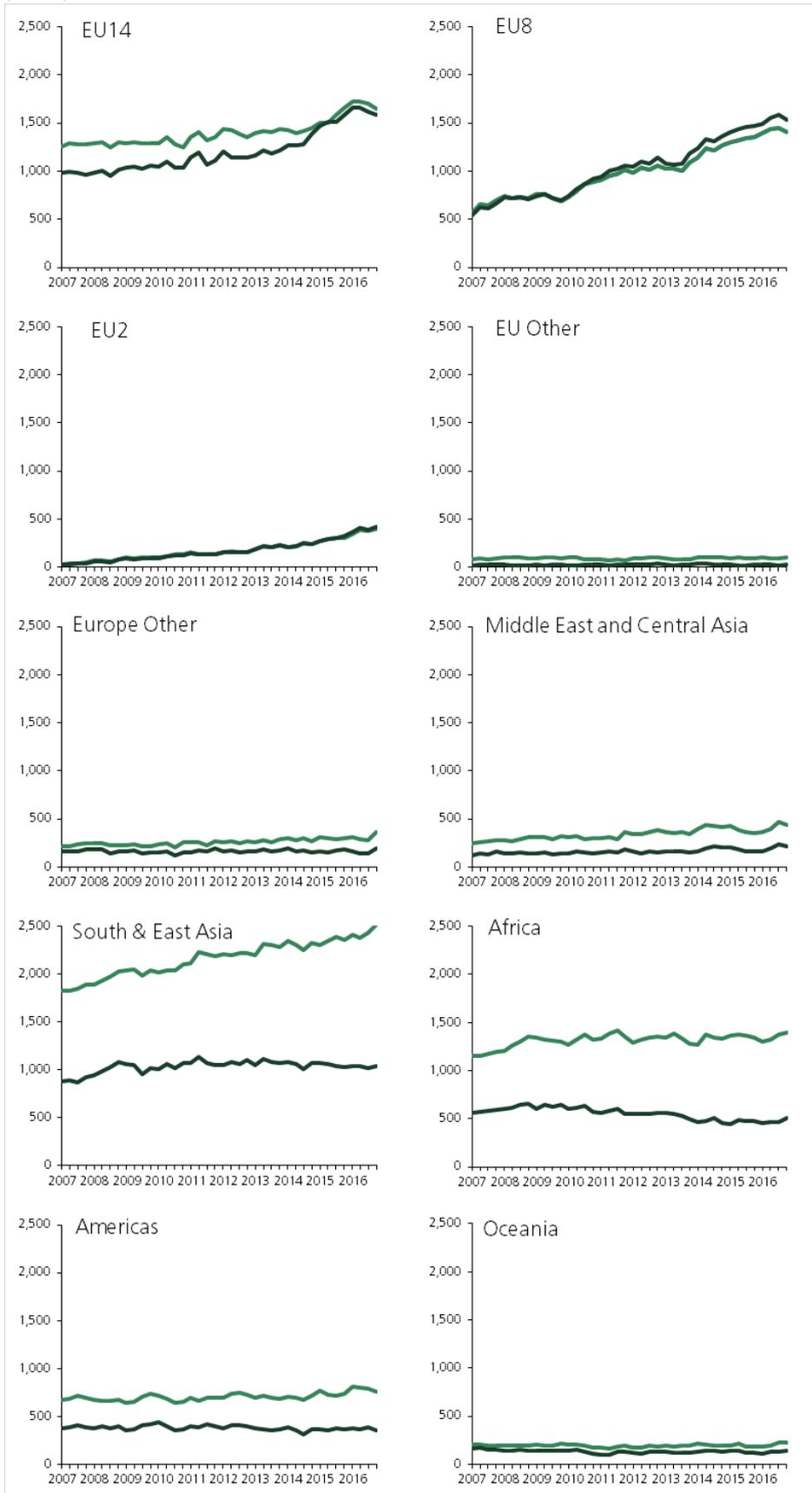
Source: Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

In the last quarter of 2016, the majority of foreign nationals living in the UK were EU nationals (59%). Citizens of EU14 alone accounted for 26% of all non-British residents and a further 25% were EU8 nationals. Their share of the foreign born population was 18% and 15%, respectively.

The opposite is true for non-EU migrants: non-EU born people were a larger proportion of the foreign born population (62%) than nationals of non-EU countries were of the foreign national population (41%). Migrants born in the East and South of Asia were the biggest group among foreign born residents (27%), 8 percentage points higher than their share of foreign nationals.

The charts below show the number of foreign nationals and foreign born residents of the UK by broad country groupings in each quarter since Q1 2007.

Population by country of birth and nationality, Q1 2007–Q4 2016
(000s)



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q1 2007 – Q4 2016

2.1 EU migrant population

The size of the EU population living in the UK grew continuously between 2007 and 2016. The number of people born in EU14 countries increased from around 1.3 million to 1.6 million. However, their share of all EU-born migrants fell from 65% in Q1 2007 to 46% in Q4 2016. This is because the number of migrants born in EU8 countries increased much faster: from 558,000 in Q1 2007 to 1.4 million at the end of 2016. Their share of the EU migrant population increased from 29% to 40%. Migrants born in EU2 countries experienced a similar trend: Their number increased from 33,000 in Q1 2007 to 397,000 in Q4 2016, and their share increased from 2% to 11%.

There are small differences between the number of people born in the EU and the number of EU nationals living in the UK. However, these differences vary between country groupings. For example, since 2011 the number of EU8 nationals has grown faster than the number of people born in EU8. This is because children born to EU8 nationals who are living in the UK take the nationality of their parents in the first instance. This phenomenon is not observed for either EU14 or EU2 migrants where the number of nationals has never exceeded the number of foreign born people over the period between 2007 and 2016.

2.2 Non-EU migrant population

As discussed above, while the number of migrants born outside the EU increased over the period between Q1 2007 and Q4 2016, the number of non-EU nationals has experienced little change.

People who were either born in, or who were nationals of South and East Asia were the largest country grouping among non-EU migrants in Q4 2016 (42% and 44% respectively). While the number of people born in South and East Asia increased continuously between 2007 and 2016, the number of nationals of these countries remained constant at around 1.0 million since 2008. As a result, in 2016 there were 2.5 million people born in South and East Asia, compared with 1.0 million nationals of these countries living in the UK.

The number of migrants born in other non-EU countries increased slightly over the period 2007-2016 with no distinct changes. The number of nationals of countries in Africa, North and South America and Oceania fell slightly over the same period. At the end of 2016, there were more than double the number migrants born in Africa (1.4 million) than there were nationals of African countries (504,000). Likewise, the number of people born in countries in North and South America and in the Middle East and Central Asia were around double the number of nationals of countries in these regions.

2.3 Naturalisation processes

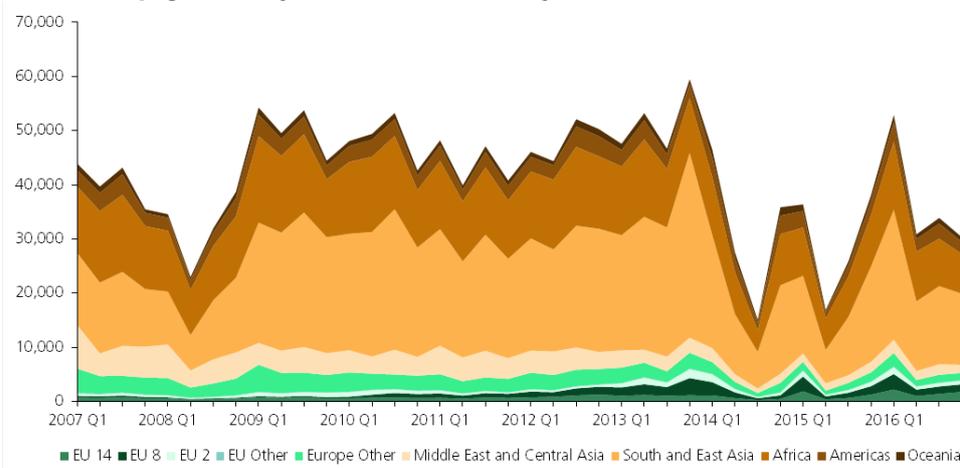
As explained above, there are big differences between the number of foreign born and foreign national migrants from EU and non-EU countries living in the UK. One way to explain these differences is to

examine rates of naturalisation among the migrant population. Naturalisation is the acquisition of citizenship by someone who held foreign citizenship in the past.⁶

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on the number of citizenship applications and grants by the former nationality of the applicant. It is not possible to determine the proportion of foreign nationals living in the UK that acquire British citizenship within a given period of time following their arrival because data on citizenship does not include information on migrants' year of first arrival in the UK.

The chart below shows the number of citizenship grants by former nationality within broad country groupings between Q1 2007 to Q4 2016.

Citizenship grants by former nationality, Q1 2007 – Q4 2016



Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics October – December 2016, Table cz.06

Over the entire period, nationals of countries in South and East Asia accounted for the highest proportion of citizenship grants (30% in Q1 2007 and 40% in Q4 2016), followed by nationals of African countries.

In the last quarter of 2016, 87% of citizenship grants were to non-EU nationals and 13% to EU nationals. This is despite the fact that in recent years EU migration levels in the UK have been similar to non-EU migration levels. Note that the rapid decrease in citizenship grants in 2014 may have been due to administrative changes in naturalisation procedures, rather than changes in migration levels.⁷

In the sixth edition of their [Migrant Journey](#) report, the Home Office examines changes in the immigration status of non-EEA migrants who were issued visas in 2009. It provides further detail on the proportion of Non-EEA migrants who were granted settlement or had permission to stay permanently by their visa type (i.e. work, family, study, accompanying).

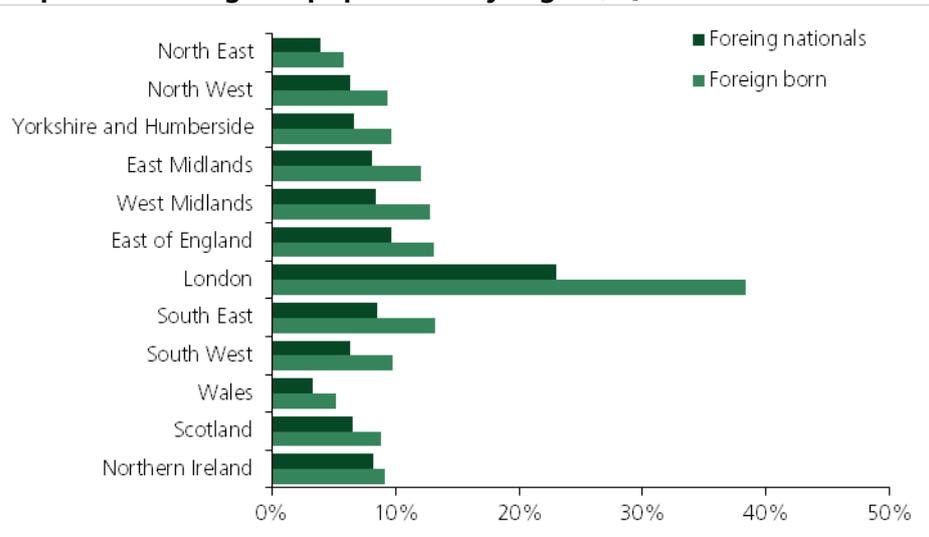
⁶ The Migration Observatory, [Naturalisation as a British Citizen: Concepts or Trends](#), 8 August 2016

⁷ The Migration Observatory, [Naturalisation as a British Citizen: Concepts or Trends](#), 8 August 2016

3. Migrant population by region

In Q4 2016, foreign born people and foreign nationals comprised 14% and 9% of all UK residents respectively. The migrant population, however, is not distributed equally across regions and countries in the UK. The chart below shows the proportion of foreign born residents and foreign nationals of the UK population by region:

Proportion of migrant population by region, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

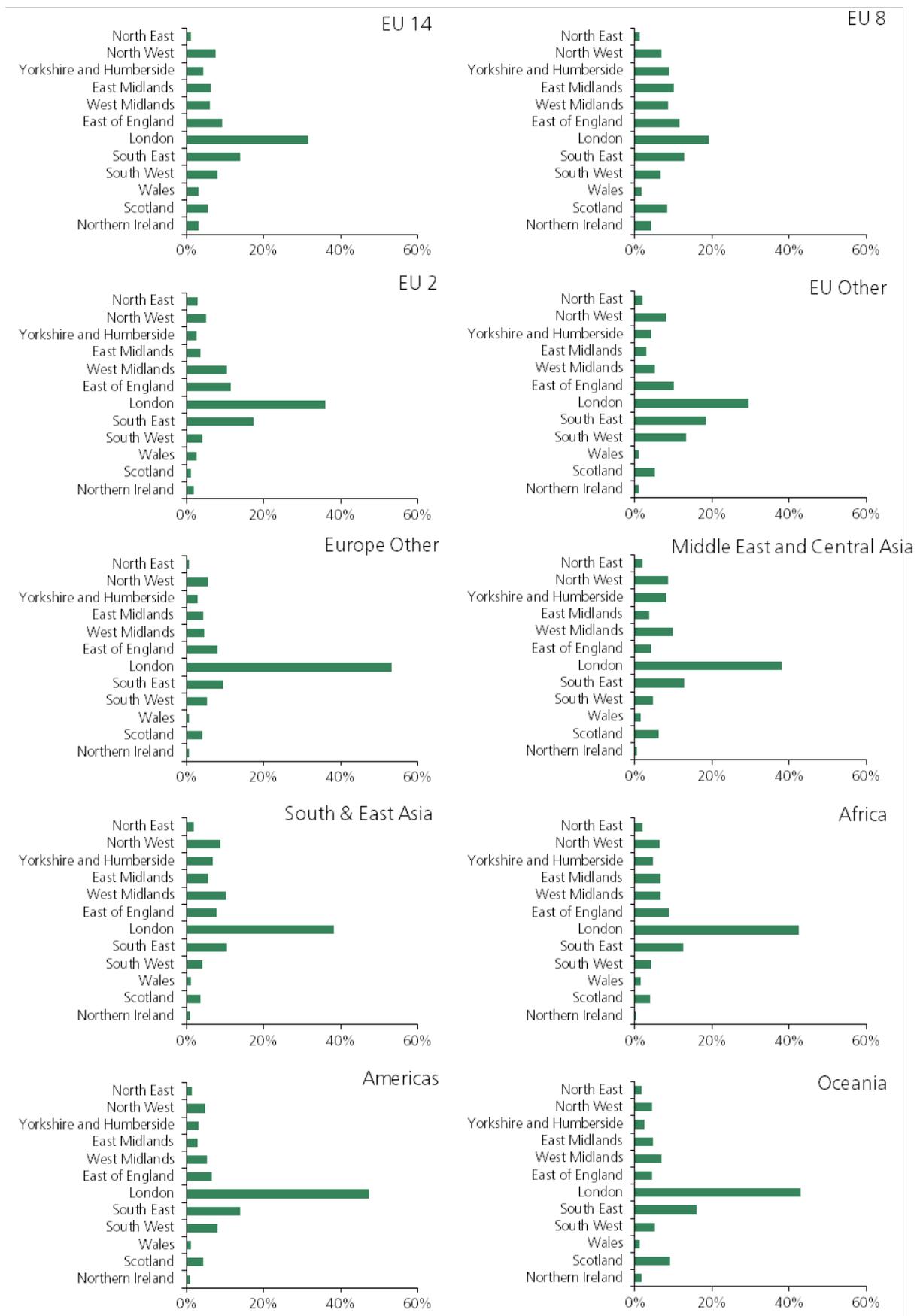
London was the region with the highest proportion of migrants; Foreign born people comprised around 38% of all residents, whereas foreign nationals accounted for around 23%. Both figures were well above the national average of 14% foreign born and 9% foreign national.

The proportion of the population born abroad in the East, South East and the West Midlands was around 13%. Wales and the North East recorded the smallest proportion of foreign born residents: 5% and 6%, respectively.

The charts overleaf show the proportion of the population that were foreign born and foreign national in each country and region of the UK by broad country groupings in Q4 2016.

A plurality of migrants from all country groupings were living in London. As a whole, a higher proportion of people born in non-EU countries were living in London, relative to EU-born residents. The South East was the second most preferred region for foreign born residents. People born in EU8 countries were the most evenly distributed across UK regions, with 19% living in London, 13% in the South East and 12% in the East of England.

Migrant population by country and region of the UK, Q4 2016



14 Migrant population of the UK

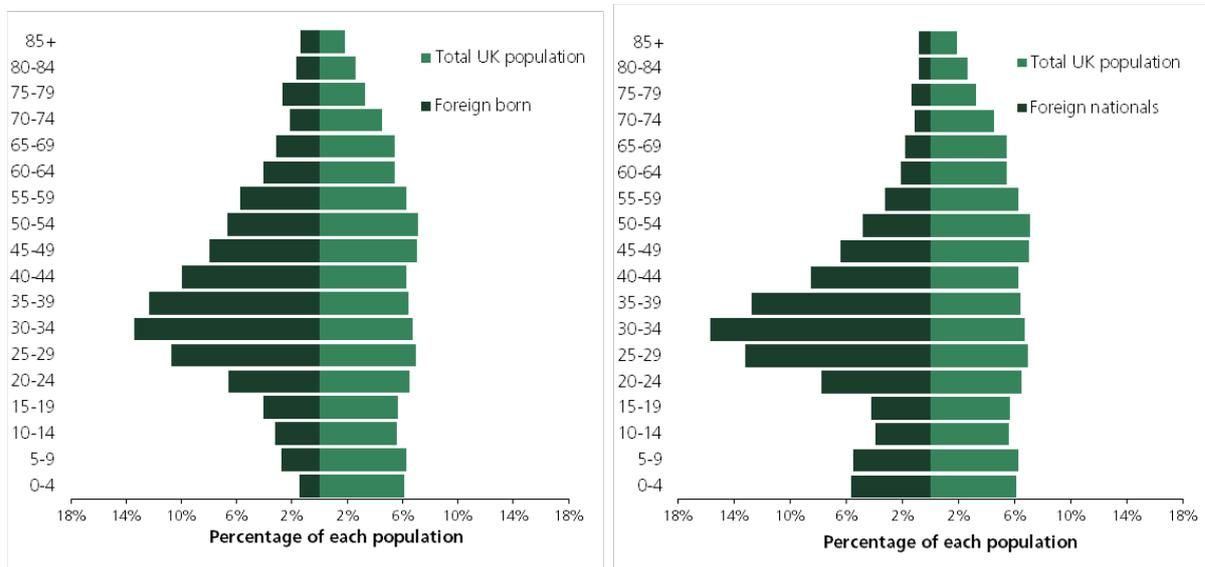
Source: ONS, Labour Force Statistics, Q4 2016

4. Age structure

The age structure of the migrant population of the UK differs from that of the overall population of the UK in a number of ways. A higher proportion of migrants are of working-age (16-64), compared with all UK residents. In Q4 2016, 81% of foreign born people were aged between 16-64, compared with 63% of the UK as a whole. Conversely, 8% of migrants were aged 0-15, compared with 11% of all people living in the UK.

The population pyramids below compare the age structure of the foreign born and foreign national populations to the UK as a whole. They show the percentage of each population in five year age bands.

Age structure of the migrant population, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

People aged 45-54 comprised the highest proportion of the UK population as a whole (14%). In contrast, 36% of foreign-born people and 42% of foreign nationals living in the UK were aged between 25 and 39. This is not surprising considering that in 2015, 86% of all migrants coming to the UK were aged between 15 and 44.⁸ The Migration Observatory notes that this has been the trend over the last decade.⁹

There are also differences between the age composition of the foreign born population and foreign nationals. The proportion of foreign nationals aged 0-9 was around 11%, considerably higher than the share of foreign born people (4%). This is because children born to foreign nationals in the UK have the nationality of their parents in the first

⁸ ONS, [Long-term international migration 2.07](#), age and sex, UK

⁹ Migration Observatory, [Geographical Distribution and Characteristics of Long-Term International Migration Flows to the UK](#), 28 June 2016

instance.¹⁰ Furthermore, only 6% of foreign nationals were aged 65 or older, compared with 11% of foreign born, and 18% of the total UK population. This can be explained by the fact that a notable proportion of migrants living in the UK obtain a British citizenship after a given period of residency in the country.

4.1 Impact on the UK population

Like many developed countries the UK has an ageing population, characterised by low fertility rates and rising life expectancy. These demographic trends put pressure on the long-term sustainability of the public finances and the services they fund, such as pensions, health and social care.¹¹ As the migrant population has a younger age-structure than the native born population of the UK, migration then increases the number and proportion of the population in working age-groups.

One way to quantify the impact of migration on the age structure of the population is the old-age dependency ratio. This is the ratio of the working age population to the pension age population.

In Q4 2016, there were 3.2 people of working age for every person of pension age among people born in the UK. Among the foreign born population the ratio was 7.3. The combined ratio for the UK population as a whole (UK and foreign born) is 3.6.

More information about the impact of immigration on public finances and the economy can be found in the library briefing [The Impact of immigration on population and the economy](#).

¹⁰ House of Commons Library, [Impact of migration on population and the economy](#), 25 July 2016

¹¹ OBR, [Financial sustainability report, Chapter 3](#), January 2017

5. Demographic characteristics

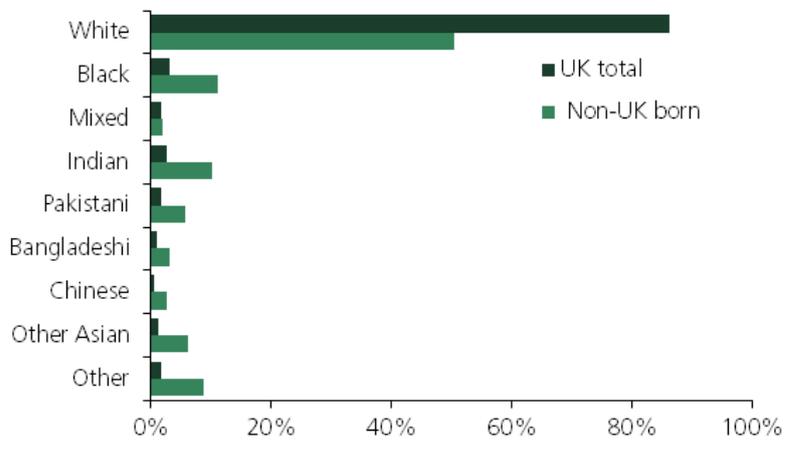
5.1 Ethnicity

Migration has made the population of the UK more ethnically diverse. Between the 1991 and the 2011 Census, the proportion of people in England and Wales in the White ethnic group fell from 94% in 1991 to 86% in 2011.¹²

Ethnicity is self-defined both in the Census and the Labour Force Survey. People belong to whichever ethnic group they identify in response to the question: "What is your ethnic group?"

The chart below shows the ethnic composition of the foreign born population the UK as whole for Q4 2016.

Population by ethnic group, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

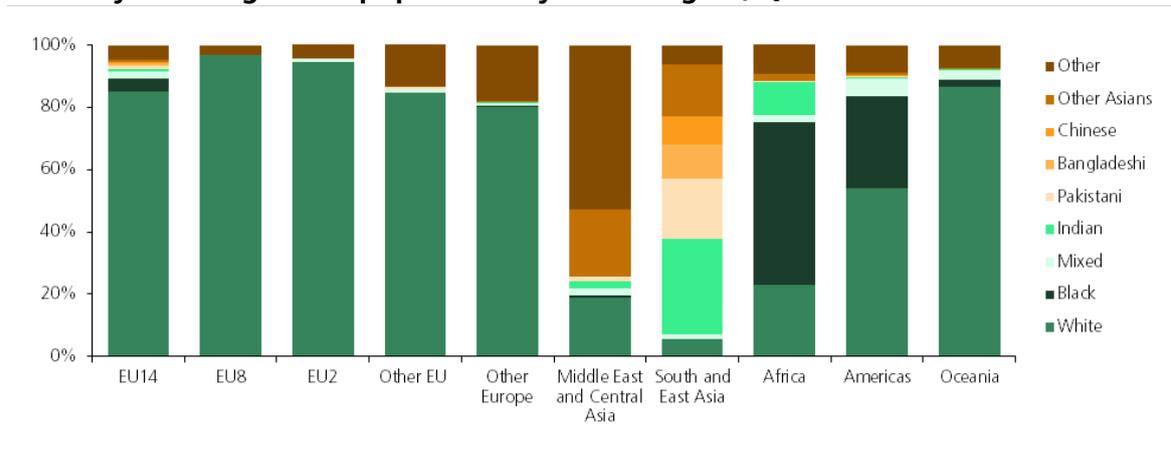
In Q4 2016 around 86% of the UK population were White, compared with around 50% of the foreign born population. The proportion of the population in each non-White ethnic group was higher among people born abroad than among the UK population as a whole. 11% of the foreign born population was Black and another 10% was in the Indian ethnic group,¹³ compared with national shares of around 3% in each of these groups. The smallest difference was in the Mixed ethnic group.

The ethnic composition of the migrant population of the UK varies by country of birth. The chart overleaf shows the ethnicity of the foreign born population of the UK by broad country of birth in Q4 2016:

¹² ONS, [2011 Census Analysis: Ethnicity and Religion of the Non-UK born population in England and Wales](#), 18 June 2015

¹³ The Indian ethnic group is a subset of the Asian or Asian British ethnic group.

Ethnicity of foreign born population by world region, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

The majority of people born in European countries living in the UK were White, with migrants born in EU8 countries recording the highest proportion in the White ethnic group (97%), followed by people born in EU2 countries (95%).

Around 86% of UK residents born in countries in South and East Asia identified as Asian. More specifically, 31% identified as Indian and a further 20% as Pakistani.

The majority of people born in countries in the Middle East and Central Asia (53%) identified their ethnic group as “Other” and another 22% saw themselves as “Other Asians”.

Over 50% of UK residents born in Africa identified as Black, followed by around 30% of migrants born in North or South America.

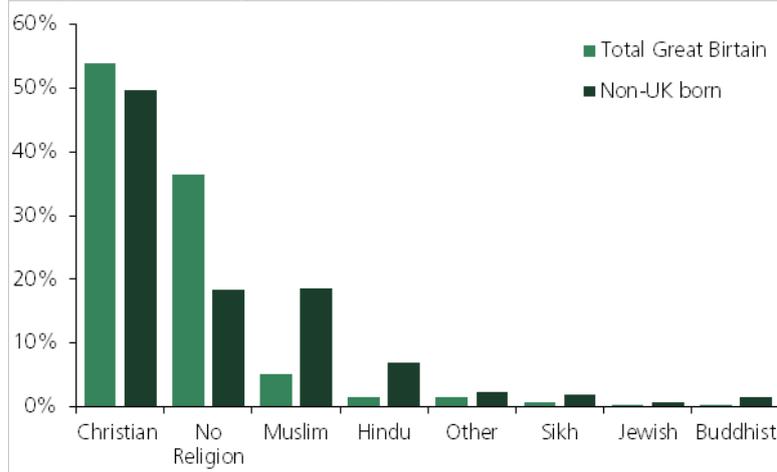
5.2 Religion

As with ethnicity, religious affiliation is self-defined. People belong to whichever religion they identify in response to the question: “What is your religion?”

Behavioural indicators of religious affiliations, such as attendance at religious services, are not included in the Labour Force Survey. Data on religious affiliation is only available for Great Britain, rather than the UK as a whole, because the LFS question on religious affiliation is different in Northern Ireland and the response categories are not compatible.

The chart below shows the religious affiliation of the foreign born population of Great Britain, compared with Great Britain as a whole:

Religion of foreign born population, Great Britain, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

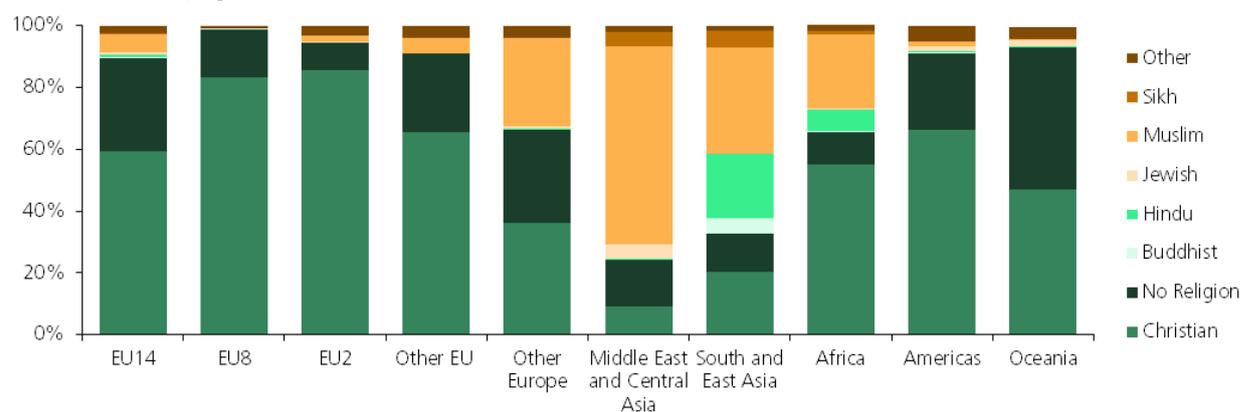
Christians were the largest religious group among both the foreign born population (50%) and the population of Great Britain as a whole (54%).

People with no religion were the second largest group in Great Britain (36%) but the proportion of the foreign born population in this group was around half that of Great Britain as a whole (18%).

Among the non-UK born population, 19% were Muslim – making them the second largest religious group among foreign born residents. The proportion of people identifying as Hindu (7%), Sikh (2%) and Buddhist (2%) was larger among the foreign born population than in Great Britain as a whole.

The chart below shows the religion of the foreign born population of Great Britain by broad country groupings:

Religion of foreign born population by broad country group, Great Britain, Q4 2016



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

Christianity was the predominant religion among people born in European countries. While 86% of people born in EU2 countries, and 83% of those born in EU8 countries, were Christian, just 59% of people born in EU14 were Christian. This is mainly because a larger proportion of them identified as having no religion (20%).

20 Migrant population of the UK

Among those migrants born outside Europe, Muslims were the largest religious group among people born in the Middle East and Central Asia (64%) and South and East Asia (34%).

Although Christianity was also the predominant religion among migrants born in Africa (55%) and in North and South America (66%), only 10% of people born in Africa had no religion, compared with 25% in North and South America.

The proportion of people born in Oceania that were Christian (47%) was similar to the proportion that had no religion (46%).

6. Employment of migrants

As of Q4 2016 there were around 5.6 million foreign born people in employment, comprising 18% of all people in work. Of them around 2.4 million (42%) were EU-born and 3.3 million (58%) non-EU born.

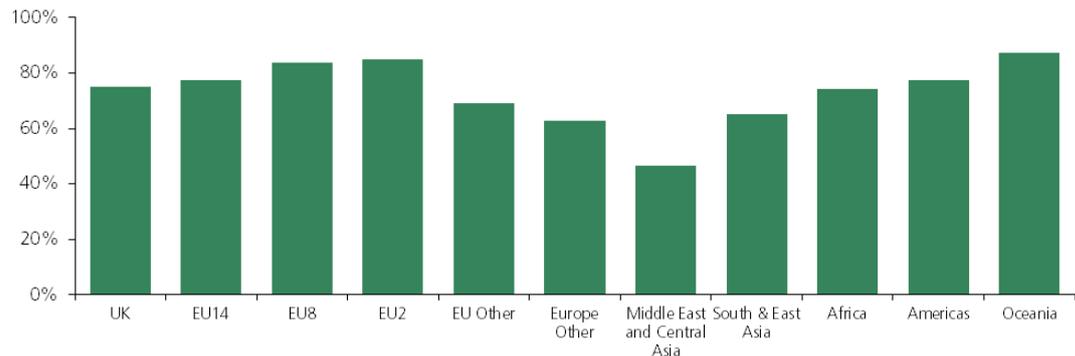
The proportion of foreign born workers has increased by 6 percentage points since Q1 2007, when 11.6% of all people in employment were Non-UK born. The number of EU workers started to increase more rapidly after 2004, following the accession of EU 8 countries.

6.1 Employment rates among migrants

As a whole, foreign born people living in the UK are less likely to be in work compared with those born in the UK but this masks big differences between country groupings. The employment rate (i.e. the proportion of working-age people (16-64) in employment) was 73% among the migrant population and 75% for the native population.

Employment rate by country of birth, Q4 2016

% of people aged 16-64 in work



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey Q4 2016

As of Q4 2016, migrants of working age born in the EU (apart from EU other) were more likely to be in employment than the UK-born population in the same age group. People born in EU2 had the highest employment rate (85%) among EU country groupings, followed by EU 8 migrants (84%).

In contrast, migrants born in non-EU countries were less likely to be in work than the native population, with an average employment rate of 68%. However, this varies considerably across country groupings. The employment rate of migrants born in countries in Africa (74%), North and South America (77%) and Oceania (87%) was similar or higher than the rate for the UK-born population (75%). In fact, people born in countries in Oceania were the most likely group to be in work.

In contrast migrants from countries in the Middle East and Central Asia and the rest of Asia have considerably lower employment rates: 46% and 65%, respectively.

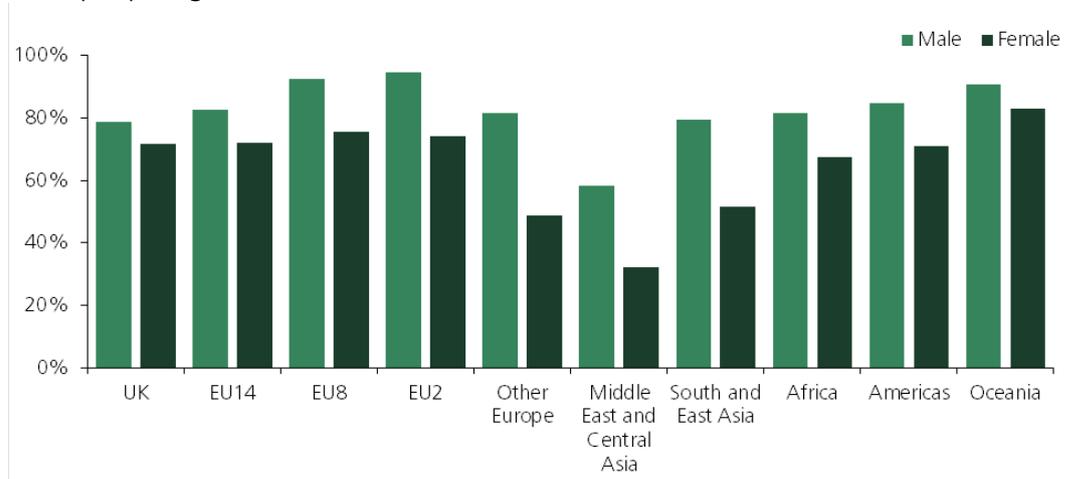
6.2 Explaining the employment rate gap

There are a number of factors affecting employment levels in the UK such as the number of students, people with disabilities with limited access to the labour market and other people who are not looking for work.

The ONS notes that students comprise a higher proportion of non-EU nationals living in the UK than EU nationals. This can partly explain the lower employment levels among non-EU nationals. However, they were also estimated to experience higher levels of economic inactivity for other reasons: in 2016 nearly 22% of non-EU nationals were not in employment and not seeking work for reasons other than study, compared with the national average of 16%.¹⁴

The Migration Observatory notes that gender differences in the employment rate of the foreign born population might explain the gap.¹⁵ Since 2006 a similar proportion of foreign born men have been in work as the proportion of UK-born men. In fact in Q4 2016 82.4% of foreign born men aged 16-64 were in work compared with 78.8% of UK-born men in the same age group. In contrast, foreign born women in working age were (far) less likely to be in employment (63.5%) than UK-born women (71.7%). The chart below compares the employment rate of foreign born men and women by broad country groupings.

Employment rate by gender and broad country groupings, Q4 2016¹⁶
% of people aged 16-64 in work



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey Q4 2016

The gap in employment rate between foreign born men and women is bigger than between UK-born men and women across all country groupings. Among EU countries, EU 2 migrants experienced the biggest discrepancies: While 95% of men of working age were in employment,

¹⁴ ONS, [International immigration and the labour market, UK: 2016](#), 12 April 2017

¹⁵ The Migration Observatory, [Characteristics and Outcomes of Migrants in the UK Labour Market](#), 23 March 2017

¹⁶ EU Other (Cyprus, Malta and Croatia) is excluded due to small sample size.

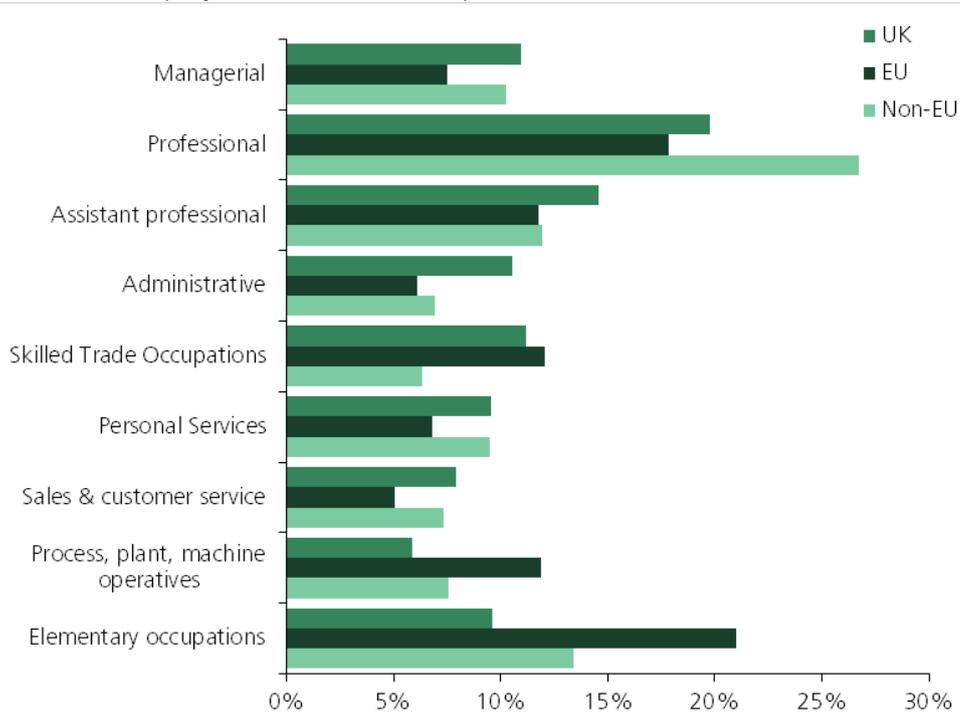
74% of women were in work. However, the employment rate for EU-born women is still higher than for UK-born women.

The largest gap between men and women was among people born in Europe but not in the EU. 49% of female migrants from that region were in work, compared with 82% of men. However, both male and female migrants from the Middle East and Central Asia were experiencing the lowest levels of employment: 58% of men and only 32% of women from that region were in work in Q4 2016.

6.3 Occupational profile of migrants

Overall, a higher proportion of the migrant population was employed in elementary occupations and processing (26%), compared with the UK-born population (16%). Among higher skilled jobs, a greater share of the foreign born population was employed in professional occupations (23%) than the proportion of the native population (20%). The chart below shows the occupational distribution of EU and Non-EU migrants, compared with the UK-born population for Q4 2016:

Employment of EU and non-EU migrants by occupation, Q4 2016
 % of workers employed in different occupations



Source: ONS, Labour Force Survey, Q4 2016

As a whole, a smaller share of EU-born people were employed in high skilled occupations than non-EU migrants.

21% of EU-migrants were employed in elementary occupations, followed by processing (12%), compared with 13% and 8% of non-EU migrants, respectively. In contrast, 27% of all people born outside the EU were employed in professional occupations, well above the share of EU-born (18%) and UK-born people (20%).

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