



## How skilled are immigrants to Britain?

### A. Composition of migrants

#### 1. Settlement figures

In the period 1998-2002 (5 years) the proportions of the total number of grants of settlement were as follows:

Category	Average 1998-2002	2002 only
Employment	14%	17%
Asylum	30%	26%
Family formation	48%	45%
Discretionary grants	8%	9%
Category unknown	<1%	2%

Note: 1) Employment and Asylum includes dependants who are about half of the total for employment. 2) Asylum numbers will only include those granted asylum and ELR and therefore understate true levels of migration caused through asylum (i.e. those who stay on illegally after claims rejected are not counted in the official figures) 3) Employment figures are in respect of Work Permits issued 4 years earlier – so will not reflect current high inflows. Source: Derived from Home Office Control of Immigration Statistics 2002 On-line Publication 10/03 Table 4.1

#### 2. Net migration figures

Net non-EU immigration in 2002 was 233,000. Our estimate of the breakdown by category is:

Category	Number	Percentage
Asylum	78,000	33%
Long-term WP holders	66,000	28%
Students	40,000	17%
Spouses and fiancées	30,000	13%
Other dependants	20,000	9%
Other long-term	0	0%

Notes:

*Asylum* = 104,000 claimants

Less: 14,000 removals

Less: 8,000 voluntary departures (based on Home Office claim that 10% of failed asylum seekers leave of their own accord).

Less: 4,000 safe country applicants removed (approx)

#### *Long-term Work Permit holders*

Estimated inflow/extensions including dependants = 118,000

Less outflow of 52,000 gives 66,000, including 30% for dependants.

#### *Students*

Net inflow of non-EU students in IPS in 2001 was c 39,000 (source MN28) – so rounded up to 40,000

#### *Spouses and fiances*

From Control of Immigration Statistics UK 2002 CM6053 Table 3.2

#### *Other dependants*

Assumed to be c 20,000 to bring totals for family formation up to settlement figures.

#### *Others*

Would include categories such as working holidaymakers, au pairs – numbers being admitted under these categories are fairly stable and are therefore assumed to be in balance – inflows and outflows.

### B. Source of asylum seekers

Source Region	Number	%
Europe	13,000	15%
Americas	2,000	2%
Africa	29,000	35%
Middle East	18,000	23%
Rest of Asia	21,000	25%

Note: excludes dependants

Education and qualifications are likely to vary considerably – but most are unlikely to be highly educated.

C. Spouses and dependants granted settlement (including dependants of WP holders and refugees) – 2002

Source Region	Number	%
Europe	8,000	10%
Americas	9,000	12%
Africa	22,000	28%
Indian S-C	21,000	27%
Rest of Asia	13,000	17%
Oceania/Other	4,000	5%

About three-quarters are from the developing world – most are unlikely to be highly educated or skilled.

D. Work Permits

In a written answer to Dominic Grieve in 2003, Beverley Hughes gave a breakdown of WP's issued in 2002-3. Most are for skilled workers. She listed the main categories – covering 126,000 permits. Almost 29,000 (23%) were in respect of nurses (most of them issued in-country, for reasons which are unclear). Nurses are almost exclusively from developing countries. Teachers numbered 8,000 – mainly from the developed world but also South Africa and Jamaica contributing prominently.

A few are for less skilled occupations – particularly chefs – nearly 5,000 and other hotel/catering occupations – nearly 2,000.

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