



The British in Europe

Summary

1. Claims that some two million British people are working in other EU states¹ are simply wrong. The number of British workers in the other countries of the European Union, about 407,000², is less than one third of the 1.4 million workers from another EU country in the UK. The number of British residents in another EU country, about 930,000, is just over a third of the 2.5 million residents of the UK who come from another EU country.

British workers in the EU

2. The table at Annex A sets out the number of British workers in the EU as recorded by Eurostat for 2011; it gives a total of 407,000. Well over half – 241,000 - are in just three countries Ireland, Germany and Spain³.

EU residents and workers in Britain

3. The number of workers in Britain from another EU country is published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics. The most recent total is 1.4 million⁴ There is an equal split between those from the EU14 countries and those from the EU8 (Eastern European) countries, 739,000 and 707,000 respectively.

Table 1. Number of EU workers in the UK, Quarter 4 2012.

Workers in UK from other EU Countries	
EU14	739000
EU8	707000
Total	1446000

1 For example, Ed Miliband on the Today Programme, BBC Radio 4, 4th May 2011.

2 Latest data for EU born workers in UK – Q4 2012, ONS. Latest data for UK born workers in EU – 2011, EUROSTAT.

3 The number for Germany is our estimate using data from Eurostat and the IPPR. Data for some smaller countries is missing; where necessary the previous year's figures have been used.

4 ONS, Labour Market Statistics, Table EMP05 Employment Levels by Country of Birth and Nationality, Updated February 2013, URL: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/march-2013/table-emp05.xls>

4. The Annual Population Survey⁵ estimates that there are 2.5 million people living in the UK who are from another EU country. There are sizeable EU communities across the country most notably in London which is home to 770,000 people from another EU country.

British communities in Europe

5. The main British communities are in:

a. Spain – There are almost 370,000 British residents in Spain, of whom 62,000 are working. The remainder are economically inactive of whom 73,000 are over 65.

b. France – The data are patchy and possibly unreliable. Eurostat figures show 46,000 British workers in France. There is no data for the total number of British people living in France but there are 32,000 over 65. In 2006 the IPPR estimated that the total was 200,000 but some may have returned home since.

c. Germany – There 105,000 residents in Germany according to Eurostat, of whom an estimated 73,000 are workers.⁶

d. Ireland – According to Eurostat, there were 217,000 British residents in Ireland of whom 106,000 are workers and 27,000 are over 65.

24th April 2013

5 Annual Population Survey, Population by Country of Birth and Nationality January 2011 – December 2011, Table 1.1 Estimated Population resident in the United Kingdom, by country of birth, URL: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2012/population-by-country-of-birth-and-nationality.xls>

6 EUROSTAT gives a figure of 105,000 British living in Germany. Here we assume that 70% of them are working. This is based on an estimate of 115,000 British living in Germany in 2006, 33,000 or 30% of whom were pensioners.

Number of UK born living, working and those over 65 in other EU Countries, 2011

	Living in EU	Working in EU	Over 65
Austria	-	4874	1395
Belgium	23614	8793	2684
Bulgaria	3042	-	-
Cyprus	-	9134	5670
Czech Republic	3822	1732	-
Denmark	16582	10701	2005
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	4547	1465	278
France	-	45918	31835
Germany*	104,526	73000	-
Greece	-	2755	983
Hungary*	2486	495	-
Ireland	216614	106080	27228
Italy	68249	30559	5178
Latvia	1672	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	3815	383
Malta	-	2409	1198
Netherlands	47269	24807	2239
Poland	47449	494	-
Portugal	-	3210	1424
Romania*	-	555	-
Slovakia*	-	643	-
Slovenia	545	-	-
Spain	366740	61882	73366
Sweden	20839	13279	2222
Total	927996	406597	158088

* Notes: The number of British workers in Germany is an estimate. The number of British living in Germany and Hungary is based on citizenship rather than place of birth. The number of British workers in Romania and Slovakia is 2010 data.

Sources

1. Eurostat publishes data collected and collated by its member states.
2. IPPR 'Brits Abroad' Study (2006) estimated the number of British people living in every country outside of the United Kingdom.
3. ONS Labour Market Statistics.