

Using Census 2021 to understand international migration in England and Wales

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Census 2021 international migration

Census 2021 in England and Wales



1 in 6 usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK, an increase from 7.5 million in 2011 to 10 million in 2021



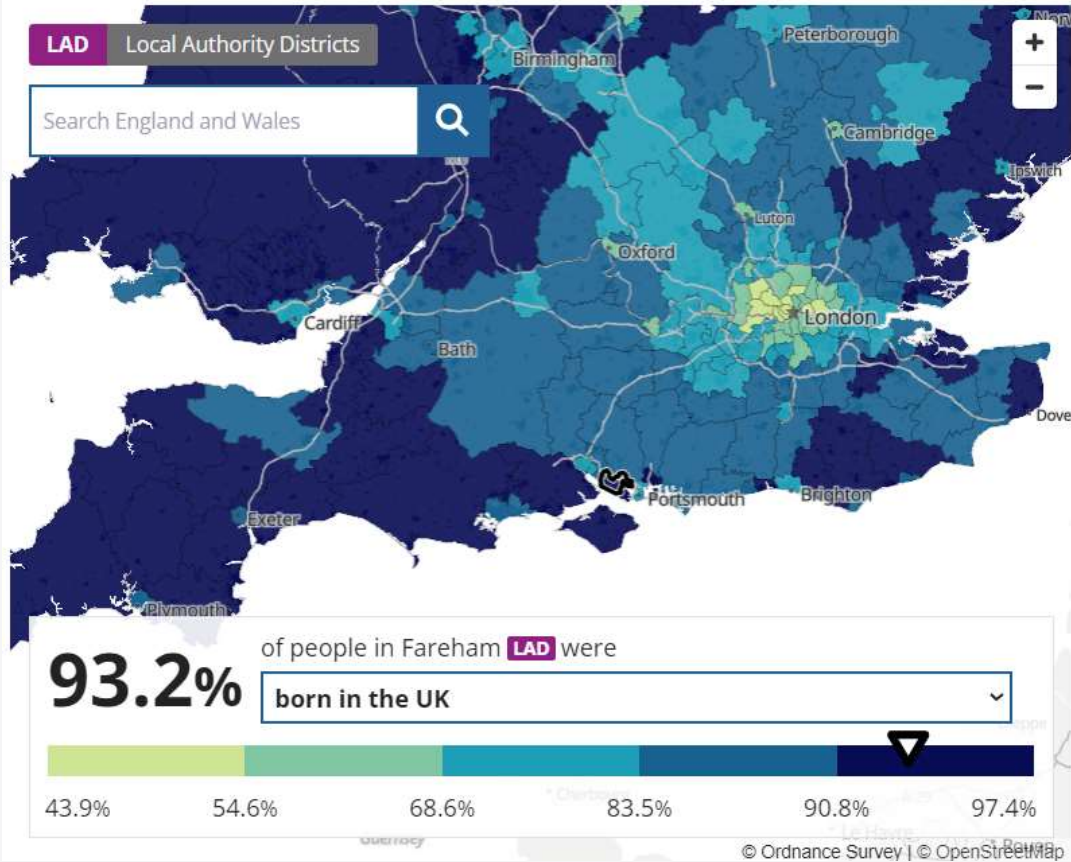
5.9 million usual residents held a non-UK passport,



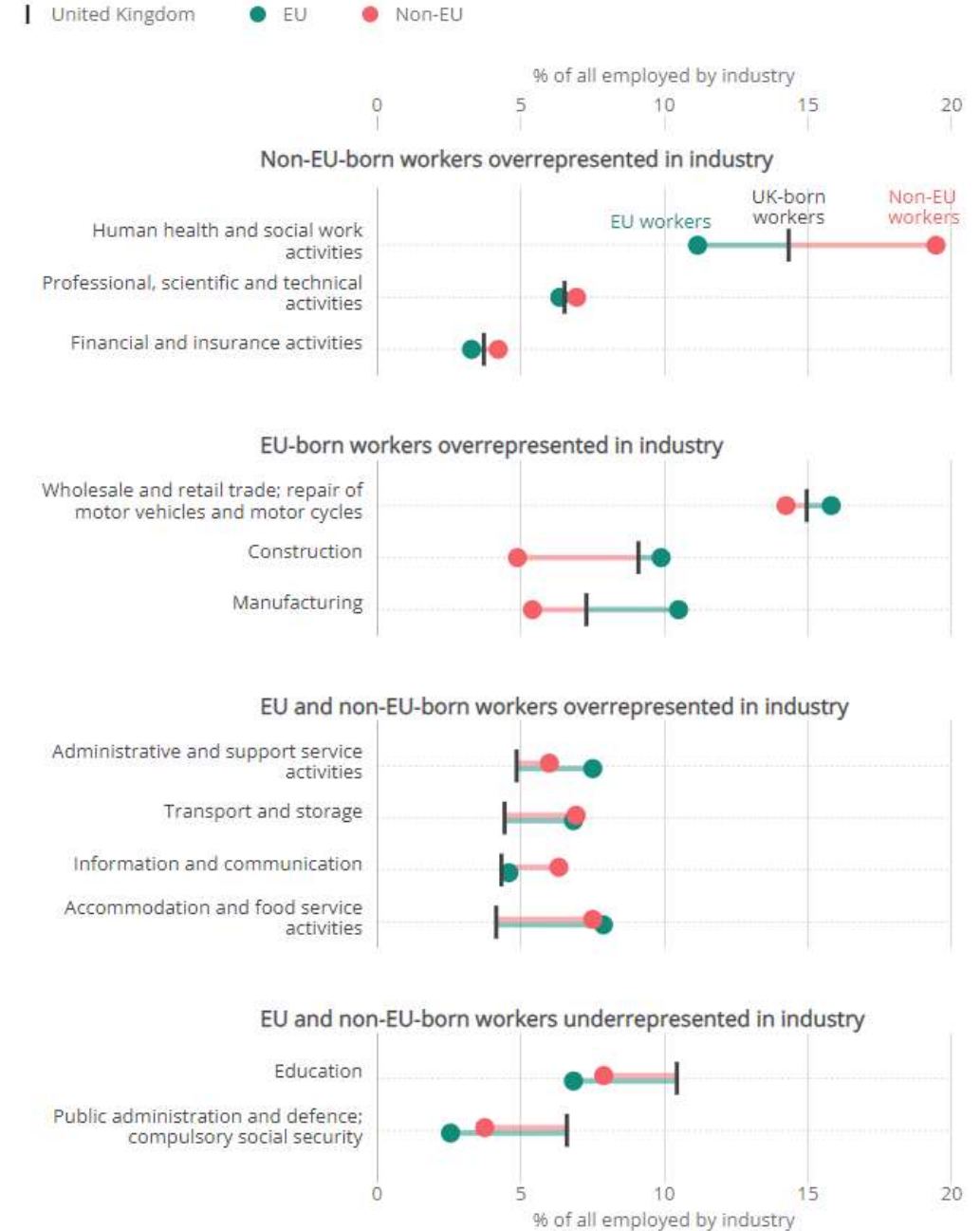
545,000 usual residents had an address outside the UK one year before the census.

Long-term international migration

Percentage of residents born by country of birth, 2021, local authorities in England and Wales



Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment by country of birth, 2021, England and Wales



Short-term international migration

136,000 non-UK-born short-term residents

Have to meet all of:

1. Born outside the UK
2. Arrived within the year before Census day
3. Intended to stay for between 3 and 12 months.

Short-term international migration



60% age 20-29



29% live in London



54% born in Middle East or Asia



46% students

International Students

363,000 international students in England and Wales.

Focus on international students in higher education. Have to meet all of:

1. In full time education
2. Non-UK born
3. Non-UK passport
4. Aged 17+ on arrival
5. Aged 18+ on Census day

International Students

- 40% from Middle East or Asia
- 57% ages 18-25
- 33% in London
- Of 33% in Employment, most likely to be employed in Retail and Social work.
- Those aged 18-25 most likely to live in student accommodation/ communal establishments



Dual Citizens

1.26 million held multiple passports

- UK and EU passports increased from 0.06% (31,400) to 0.32% (156,400)
- Similar increase in UK-Irish passports
- Majority of UK-other dual citizens identified with a UK national identity



Using Census 2021 to assure estimates of international migration over the last decade

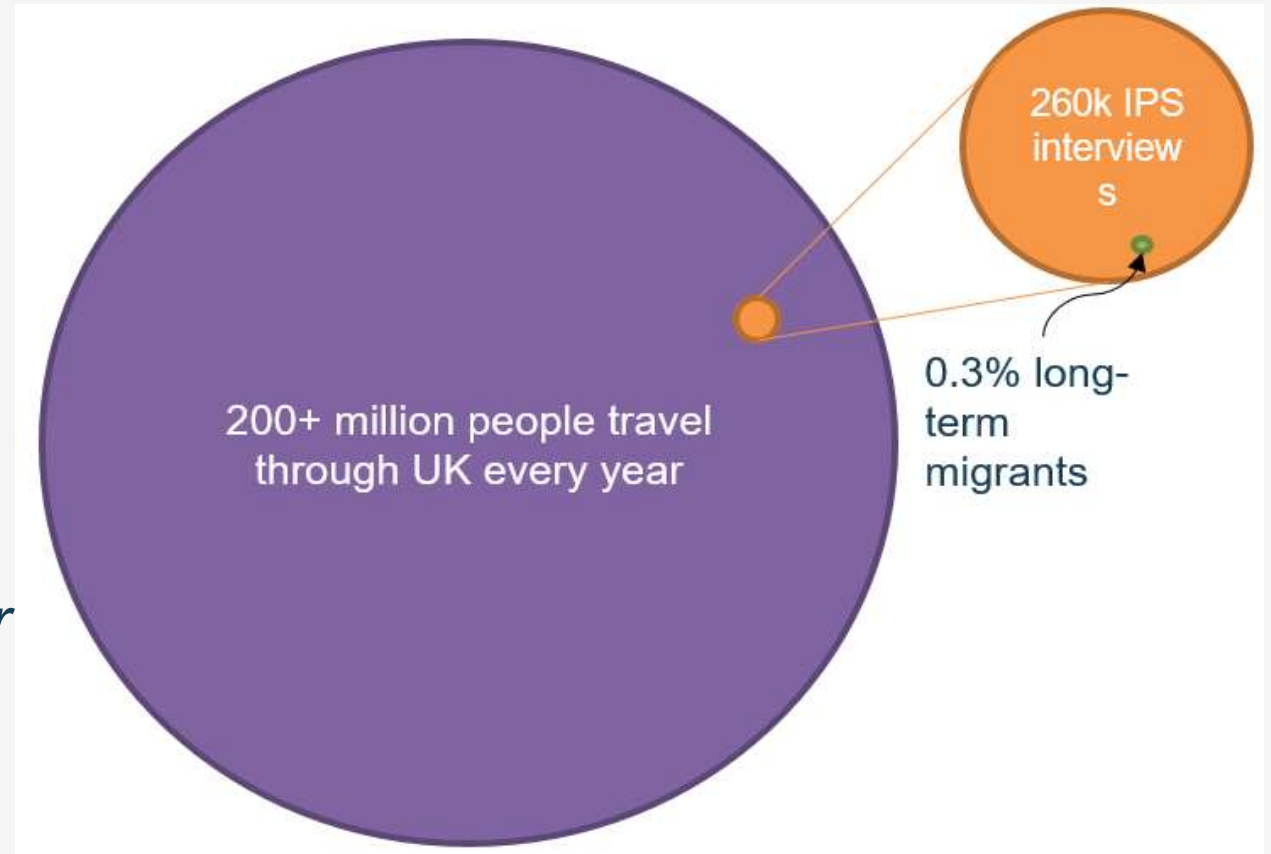
Introduction

- Census based population estimates are official mid-2021 population estimates.
- Also have 2021 rolled forward mid-year estimates (rolled forward from 2011 Census)
- Rolled forward population estimates 268,500 higher than Census based estimate.
- Overestimation of international migration the most likely contributor to this difference.

Historic migration statistics

- International Passenger Survey, intentions based
- **UN definition of long-term migration**

“A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.”



Administrative data based migration statistics





Non-EU: using visa data linked to travel information

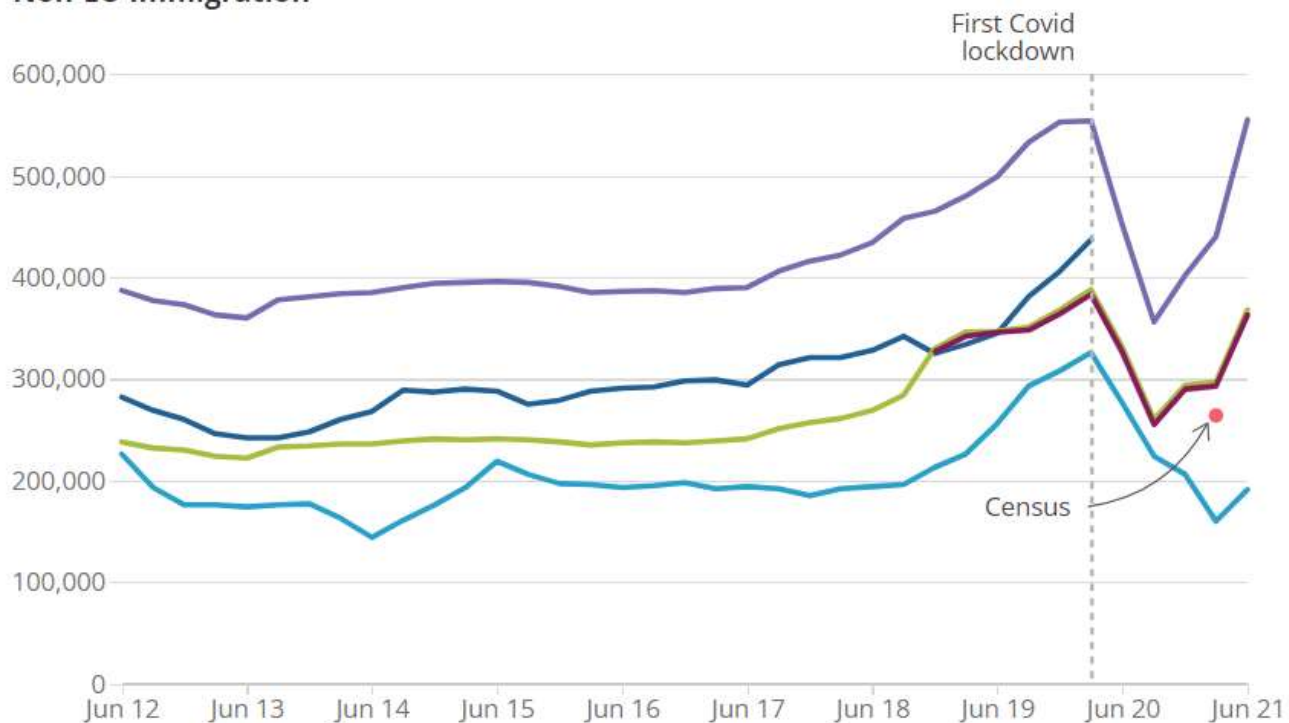
Compared new admin estimates against a variety of sources including Census to give us confidence

Figure 3: Updated non-EU net migration is lower than previous estimates because of both lower levels of immigration and higher levels of emigration

Comparison of updated estimates to previous estimates of non-EU migration to and from the UK, year ending June 2012 to year ending June 2021

- IPS-based series
- Admin-based migration estimates published May 2023 (pre Census rebasing)
- Census 2021 (England and Wales)
- RAPID (including students and U16)
- Updated estimates
- DWP NINo allocations
- Migrant journey visas expiries
- HO visas granted (excluding short-term & visit visas)

Non-EU Immigration





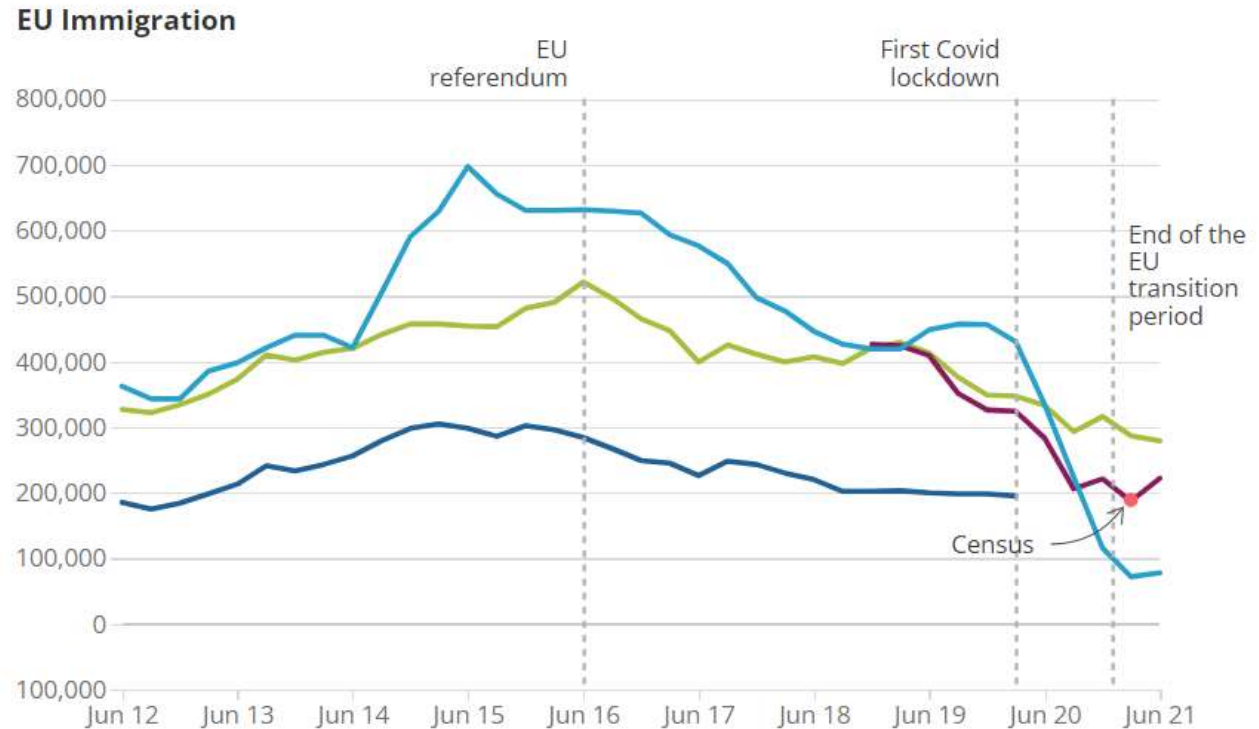
EU: using earnings and benefits data

- Initially included 4 arrival categories to reflect complexity of people's lives.
- Narrowed this to just those that aligned with UN definition after comparisons to Census 2021

Figure 2: Updated estimates of immigration and emigration by EU nationals are higher than previous estimates based on the International Passenger Survey

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- Census 2021 (England and Wales)
- Updated estimates
- DWP NINo allocations





British: using International Passenger Survey

- Used changes in UK-born population over the decade to estimate net migration between 2011-2021.
- Suggested negative net migration of 787,000
- IPS estimate of negative 317,000.
- Therefore, an undercount of 471,000 over the decade.
- Research continuing to move away from survey data to using administrative data.

Conclusion

- Census 2021 provided unique insight into characteristics of migrants living in the UK.
- Provided confidence in our administrative based estimates of migration across the decade
- Gave evidence to support revising estimates for British Nationals.

