

Distr.: General
19 August 2014

English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Work Session on Migration Statistics

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

10-12 September 2014

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Experiences from the 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration

Measuring international migration in the 2011 Census of England and Wales*

Note by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

Abstract

The UK has traditionally collected information on international migration in its census, but particularly so in the last fifty years since this now accounts for much of the country's population change. Figures from the 2011 Census of England and Wales showed that the population was 3.7 million higher than at the census 10 years previously, an increase of 7 per cent, and that it grew at twice the rate of the previous decade.

The information collected in the 2011 Census - particularly from the questions on national identity, passports held, year of entry into the UK and intention to stay, which were new to the census - has allowed inferences to be made about the level and pattern of international migration in the decade since the 2001 Census, and has provided a better understanding of the numbers and characteristics of people and households moving in the year prior to the census, particularly short-term residents. This paper describes the range of migration-related questions included in the 2011 Census for England and Wales, and summaries the key results to emerge. The material is taken from a number of reports of the census results recently published by ONS to which the reader is invited to refer¹⁻³.

An accompanying paper sets the pattern of international migration in an historical perspective.

*Prepared by Mr. Ian White.

Introduction

1. International migration is an important, though complex, driver of population change for European societies. Patterns of migration flows can change greatly over time, with the size and composition of the migrant population reflecting both current and historical patterns. Combined with the complexity and long-term nature of the migrant integration process, this can present challenges to policy makers who need good quality information on which to base decisions. It is important that the statistics should go beyond the basic demographic characteristics and present a wider range of socio-economic information on migrants and their descendants¹. The 2010 round of national censuses of population offered a major opportunity to provide such information at both the national level and down to low geographic levels.
2. Figures from the 2011 Census of England and Wales showed that the population was 3.7 million higher than at the census 10 years previously, an increase of 7 per cent, and that it grew at twice the rate of the previous decade. That is the biggest rise in modern times – greater even than in the baby boomer years after the Second World War, when it was driven by a jump in the birth rate. By contrast, this latest increase has been fuelled predominantly by the unprecedented levels of immigration that followed the expansion of the European Union in the mid 1990s, with an average of nearly 200,000 people being added to the population annually.
3. Data on the numbers and characteristics of international migrants from the 2011 Census of England and Wales was collected from responses to a number of both traditional and new questions. These included:

Traditional questions

 - Country of birth
 - Usual address one year before the census

New questions

 - Passports held (as a proxy measure for country of citizenship)
 - National identity
 - Date of most recent arrival in the UK (for non-UK born residents)
 - Length of intended stay in the UK
4. The new questions on ‘passports held’ and ‘year of arrival’ were introduced for the 2011 Census specifically to better understand international migration patterns and the characteristics of different groups of international migrants. The question on length of intended stay has enabled the identification of short-term migrants (or more precisely in the UK context, short-term residents) so that they can be excluded from the count of usual residents. These new questions have provided opportunities for demographic analyses that have not previously been possible in the UK.

Defining an ‘international migrant’

5. Using the 2011 Census there are three possible ways in which an international migrant can be defined:
 - A person who was born outside the UK and therefore has migrated to the UK at some point in the past (more commonly referred to as an ever migrant). However, while some people born abroad will have migrated recently, others will have lived in the UK for many years. Moreover, some people born abroad will be UK citizens, either because their parents were UK citizens living overseas at the time of their birth, or because they have been granted UK citizenship since arriving.
 - A person who holds a non-UK passport (taken to indicate a non-UK national). Again, while some non-UK nationals will have migrated to the UK recently, others will have lived in the UK for many years.
 - A person who was usually resident outside the UK one year prior to census day, indicating that they have migrated to the UK in the year up to 27 March 2011. This definition therefore excludes any international

migrants who arrived in the UK prior to 28 March 2010 and will include some people who are UK-born or UK nationals.

- 6 The analyses in this paper considers the first two of these categories, focusing on estimates by country of birth and passports held, using data released on 11 December 2012. In addition, year of arrival and age at arrival are also considered for those born overseas. Comparisons are made with earlier census data, where possible, and with other relevant sources.

Country of birth

- 7 In 2011, 13 per cent of the resident population of England and Wales were born outside the UK. This proportion is compared to the proportion of 'foreign born' resident in other European Union (EU) countries in Figure 1. Luxembourg has the highest proportion, with 33 per cent of its resident population being foreign born; England and Wales ranks between Spain and the Republic of Ireland. The proportion for the United Kingdom (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) is also included for comparative purposes. England and Wales had a higher percentage of foreign born residents compared to any other the other EU countries with a population of 50 million or more (France, Germany, and Italy.)
- 8 The top ten non-UK countries of birth, shown in Figure 2, accounted for 45 per cent of the foreign born population of England and Wales. The three largest groups of residents born outside the UK are those born in India (694 thousand or 1.2 per cent of the resident population), Poland (579 thousand or 1.0 per cent) and Pakistan (482 thousand or 0.9 per cent).

Figure 1 Percentage of usual residents in the EU27 countries that are foreign born, 2010 Census round

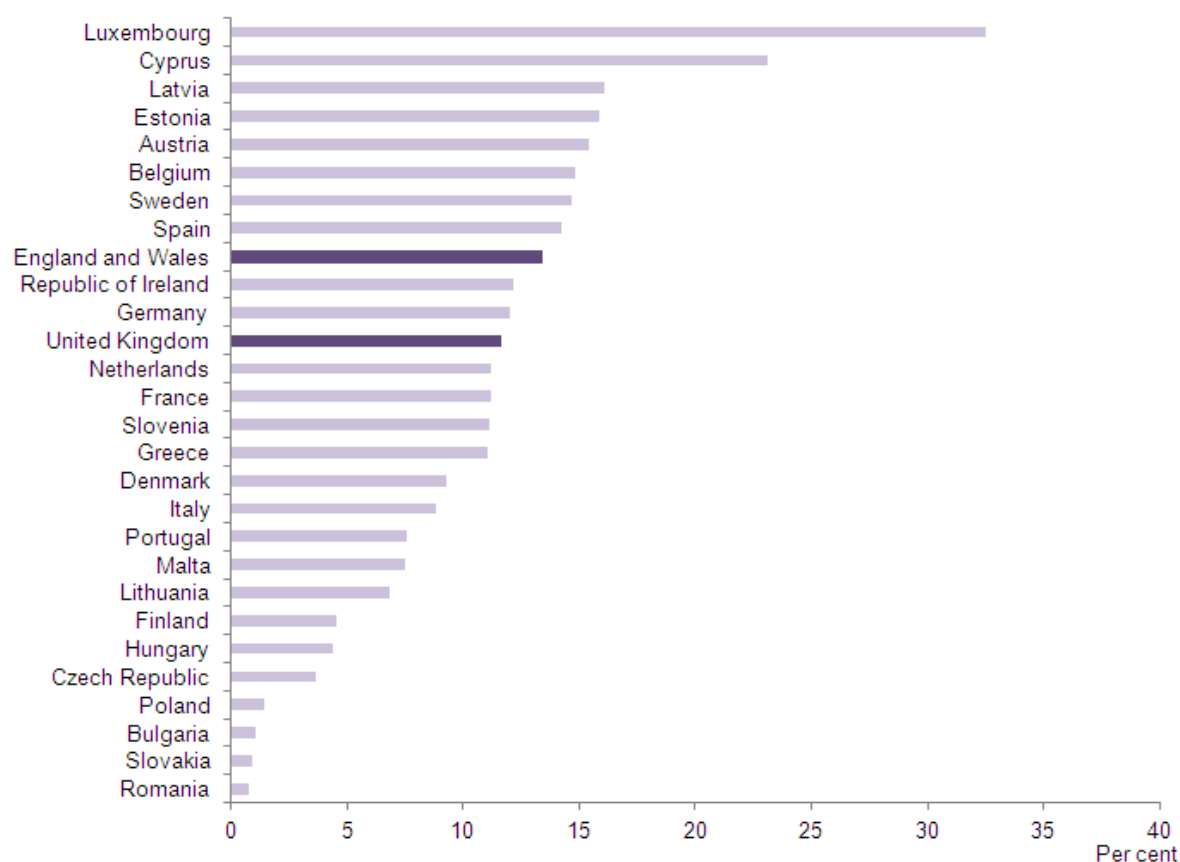
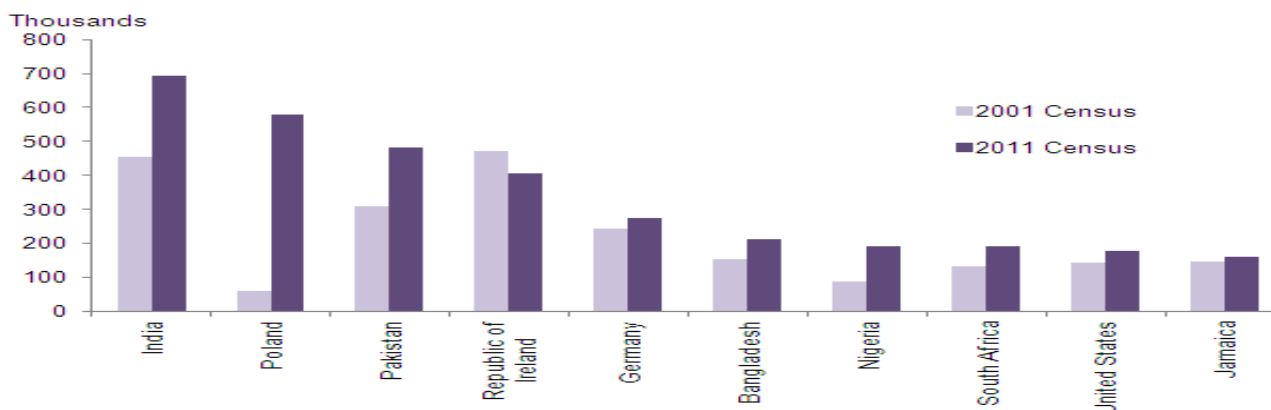


Figure 2 Top ten ranked countries for non-UK born resident in England and Wales, 2001 and 2011



- 9 Among the top ten countries for those born outside the UK, Poland showed the largest increase between 2001 and 2011, from 58 thousand (0.1 per cent of the resident population) to 579 thousand (1.0 per cent). This represents a nine-fold increase (521 thousand) over the decade and reflects the ease of movement to the UK since Poland joined the EU in May 2004. The next highest ranking Accession 8 countries were Lithuania (21st) and Romania (26th).
- 10 The second largest percentage increase in the top ten for residents born outside the UK was for people born in Nigeria, an increase from 87 thousand (0.2 per cent of the resident population) in 2001 to 191 thousand (0.3 per cent) in 2011. The only country in the top ten non-UK countries of birth to show a decline over the period 2001 to 2011 was the Republic of Ireland. There were nearly 66 thousand fewer Irish-born residents in England and Wales in 2011 compared with 2001 (a drop of 14 per cent from 473 thousand to 407 thousand).

How does country of birth compare with country of citizenship?

- 11 The 2011 Census showed that the profile of usual residents as determined by country of citizenship (derived from the information recorded on passport held) was somewhat different to that by country of birth. Figure 3 shows that the Polish ranked highest in term of the number of residents with a non-UK citizenship (558 thousand, whereas the Polish-born only ranked 2nd of those who were foreign born. Irish citizens were ranked 2nd (372 thousand) compared with 4th among the foreign born, while Indian citizens were ranked 3rd (315 thousand) though the Indian-born represented the largest proportion of the foreign born population.
- 12 This difference was similar for the Pakistani-born with 482 thousand residents compared to 149,000 Pakistani passport holders. This is due to the more established nature of migrants from India and Pakistan, many of whom came to the UK from the 1960s onwards, and have since gained UK citizenship.
- 13 Three countries of citizenship (Italian, French and Portuguese) appear in the top ten in Figure 3, though they were not ranked in the top ten countries of birth. Each country had a greater number of passport holders than people born there. These differences are likely to be partly due to migrants from former Italian, French and Portuguese territories acquiring citizenship of the country (for example, the children of Portuguese emigrants to Brazil acquiring Portuguese passports). Additionally, children born in the UK to parents of foreign citizenship may have also acquired that citizenship.

Figure 3 Top ten citizenships as a percentage on non-UK citizens, 2011

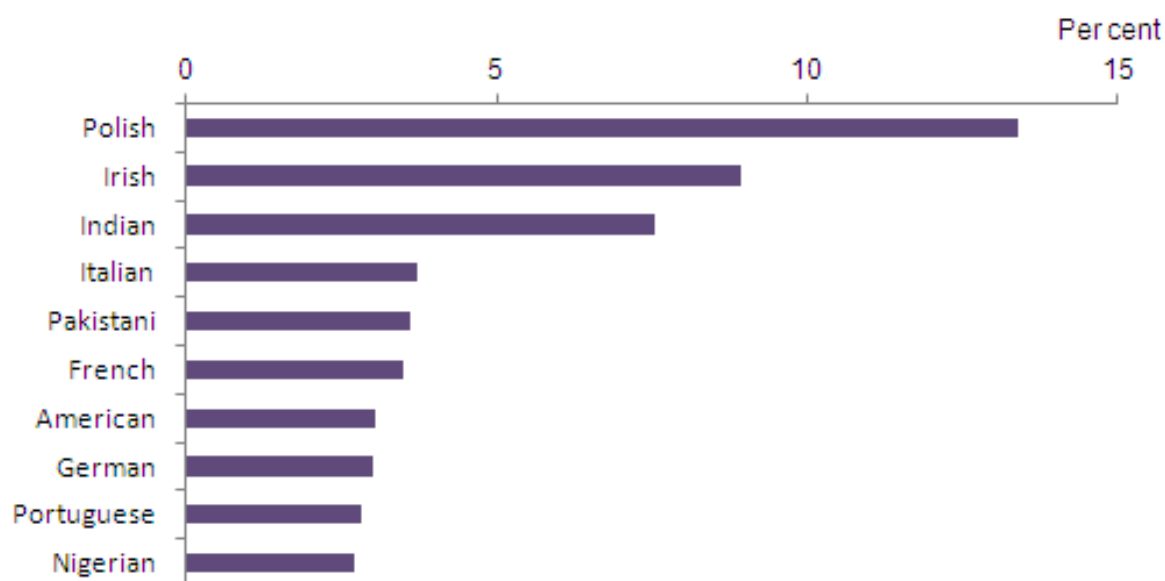
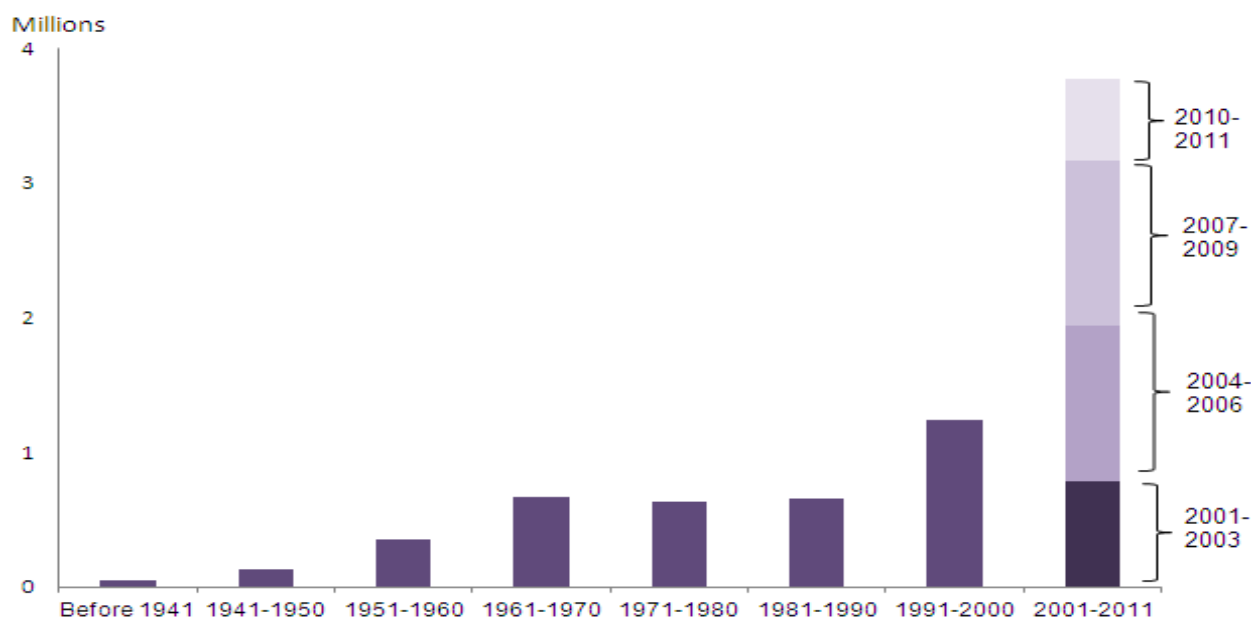


Figure 4 Most recent year of arrival in the UK, residents in England and Wales born outside the UK, 2011



Year of arrival and age on arrival in the UK

- 14 Figure 4 above shows that just over half of all those residents of England and Wales who were born outside the UK had most recently arrived during the period 2001 to 2011, and almost 40 per cent had arrived since 2004.
- 15 Of course, many people who change their country of residence do so for work or educational study; consequently migration patterns are often skewed towards working ages. Figure 5 presents data for age on arrival in the UK. This demonstrates a peak among those aged 15-29 (accounting for 51 per cent of all

arrivals); some of these may be the parents of dependent children who have accompanied them, accounting for the smaller peak at age 0-4.

Figure 5 Usual resident in England and Wales born outside the UK, by age on arrival in the UK

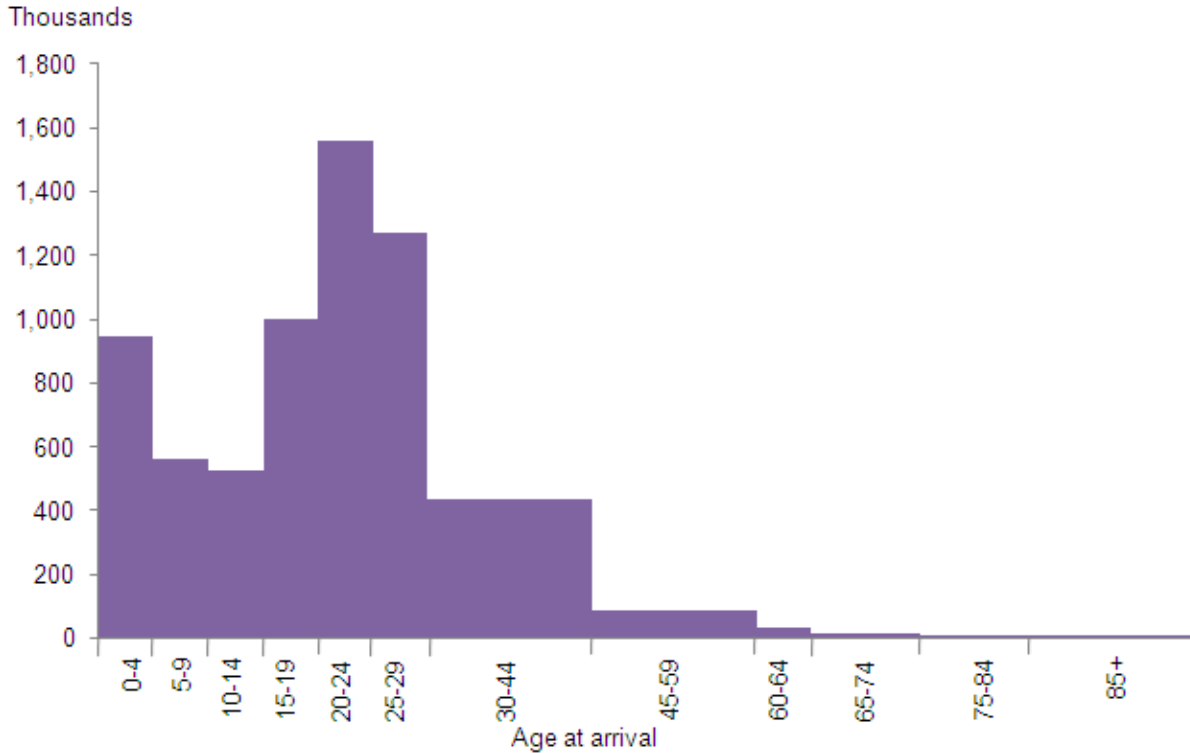
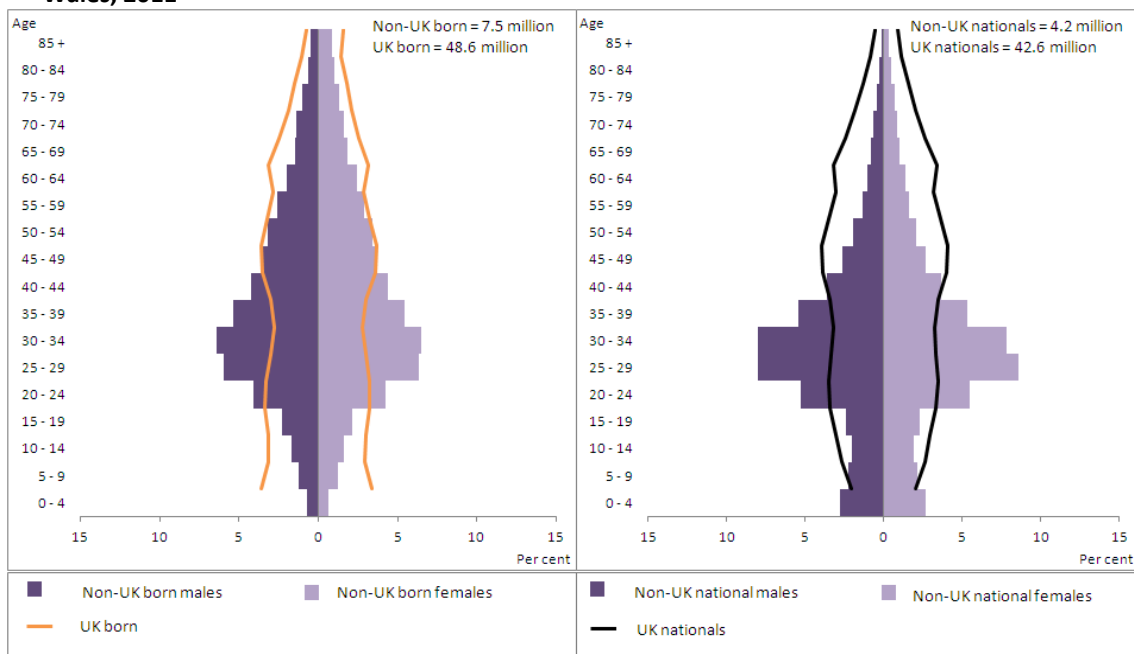


Figure 6 Age and sex distributions of the UK born/non-UK born and for UK and non-UK citizens, England and Wales, 2011



Age and sex by country of birth and citizenship

- 16 The age distributions of the UK born/ non-UK born populations and those for UK passport holders and foreign citizens are shown in Figure 6 above. The age profile of those born abroad is younger than those born in the UK, and more concentrated in the younger working ages 20-44. For example, 36 per cent of the foreign born were aged 25 to 39, compared to just 20 per cent of the UK born. More generally it is the case that foreign citizens will have arrived in the UK more recently and have an even younger age structure, with relatively few older adults. For example there was a concentration of 43 per cent of foreign citizens in the 25-39 age group.
- 17 However, the interactions between country of birth, citizenship and length of time in the country are complex and will all have an impact on these age structures. As noted above, many of those born outside the UK will be UK citizens and therefore not included in the foreign national population. At the same time, many young children born in this country to parents of foreign citizenship have acquired the citizenship of their parents. This explains why the number of non-UK passports held by children aged under 10 (409,000, 10 per cent) is greater than the number of children aged under 10 born abroad (290,000, 4 per cent).

Short-term residents

- 18 The question on length of intended stay (included in the UK for the first time in 2011) has enabled the identification of short-term residents so that they can be excluded from the count of usual residents. The United Nations (UN) provides a definition of *short-term migrants* rather than short-term residents. The UN definition of a short-term migrant is someone who changes their country of usual residence for between 3 and 12 months for the purpose of work or study. The UK's short-term migration estimates are produced to this definition, and cover both the UK-born and non UK-born short-term migrants. The national estimates also cover the broader group of short-term migrants who change their country of usual residence for 1 to 12 months for whatever reason. The UK measures short-term migration by identifying the actual time spent living in the UK from departing short-term migrants interviewed by the International Passenger Survey (IPS).
- 19 However, the definition of a *short-term resident* used in the census in England and Wales differs from that of a short-term migrant in that it refers to anyone living in England and Wales who was born outside the UK and who intended to stay in the UK for a period of between 3 and 12 months, for whatever reason. These data represent the stock only of non-UK born short-term residents at a particular point in time (those present on 27 March 2011), and are not estimates of short-term migration moves.
- 20 With that in mind there were 195,000 short-term residents in England and Wales on Census day – equivalent to 35 per 10,000 usual residents. This compares with the latest available estimate of the number of 214,000 short-term migrant visits to England and Wales for the year to mid-2009 to mid 2010 (based on the IPS); this is 19,000 more than the stock of short-term residents in the 2011 Census but will, of course include some UK-born short-term migrants. Furthermore, most of the short-term migrants arriving in the year to mid-2010 would have left England and Wales by Census day 2011 (27 March).
- 21 The age distribution of short-term residents compared to the usually resident population is shown in Figure 7. Overall, this population was relatively younger than the usually resident population: nearly 70 per cent (135,000) were aged 15 to 29 of whom the majority (77,000, 57 per cent) were aged 20 to 24 years, indicating that many may have been in the UK for study purposes. In comparison, the 15 to 29 age-group accounted for only 20 per cent (11.2 million) of the usually resident population, and of these only a third (3.8 million) were aged 20 to 24.
- 22 Those aged 65 and over accounted for 2.9 per cent (6,000) of the short-term resident population, with 0.8 per cent aged 75 and over (2,000). By contrast, among the resident population those aged 65 and over and 75 and over accounted for 16 per cent (9.2 million) and 7.8 per cent (4.4 million).
- 23 The age distributions of male and female short-term residents differed; females were more concentrated in ages 15 to 24, while males outnumbered females at ages 25 to 44 (Figure 8).

Figure 7 Age distribution of non-UK born short-term residents compared to usual residents in England and Wales, 2011

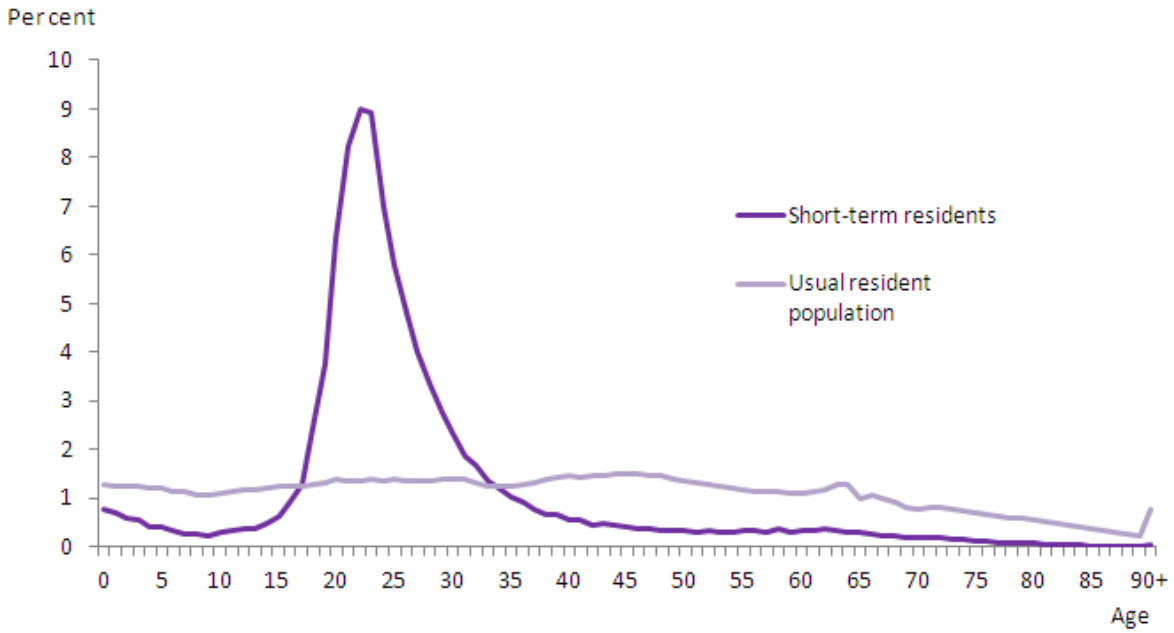
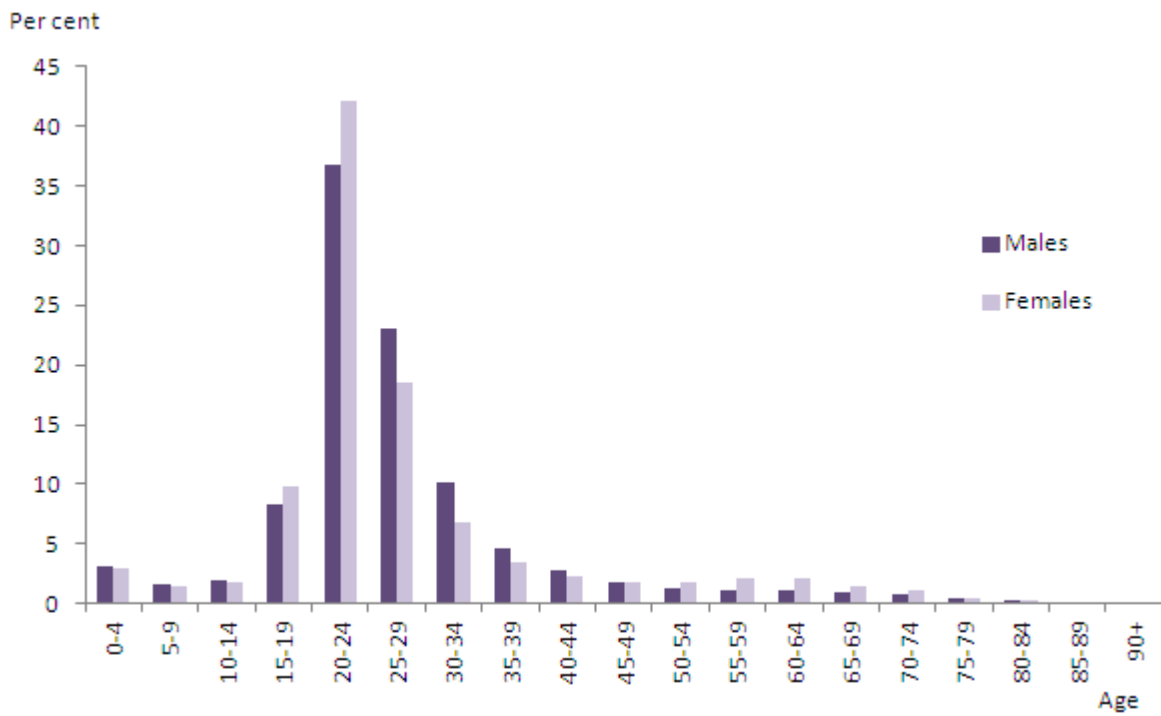


Figure 8 Age distribution of non-UK born short-term residents by sex, England and Wales, 2011



Summary conclusions

- 24 The current picture of international migrants in England and Wales using 2011 Census data is presented. The key findings to emerge are:
- Two key variables have been used to define international migrants: country of birth and passports held (to determine citizenship).
 - In 2011 13 per cent (7.5 million) of usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK; in 2001 this was 9 per cent (4.6 million).
 - The most common non-UK countries of birth for usual residents of England and Wales in 2011 were India, Poland and Pakistan. Poland showed by far the largest percentage increase in the top ten countries of birth, with a nine-fold rise over the last decade and following its accession to the EU in 2004.
 - There were 4.8 million non-UK passports held by usual residents of England and Wales in 2011, accounting for 9 per cent of the resident population. Of these, 2.3 million were EU (non-UK) passports.
 - Around half (3.8 million) of all usual residents of England and Wales on census day who were born outside the UK last arrived in the UK between 2001 and 2011.
- 25 An accompanying supplemental paper *An historical perspective to migration in England and Wales* provides further reading. It is available on the UNECE Work Session website.
-