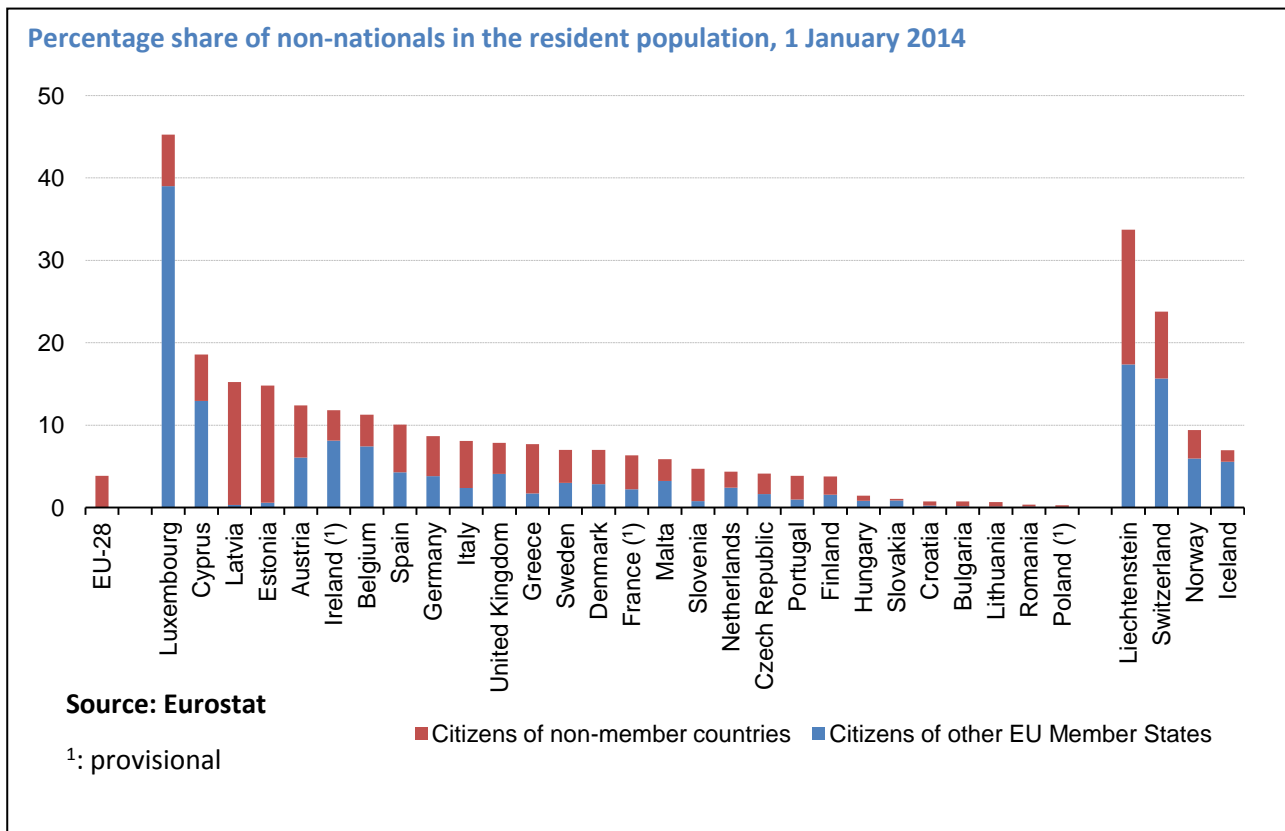


Key characteristics of EU migrant citizens in the UK and Northwest England

Policy Briefing: October 2015

In the earlier years of the European Union, the number of citizens of EU Member States exercising their right to work and live in another Member State remained low. However, in the last couple of decades an improved legal framework for EU migrant citizens, improved access to higher education, educational mobility programmes, and starkly uneven economic and employment opportunities have facilitated an increase in intra-EU migration. Overall numbers of EU citizens moving from their country of origin to another Member State nonetheless remain relatively small.

In January 2014, the UK had one of the highest overall numbers of EU migrant citizens; as a percentage of the national population (4.1 %), however, the UK's population of EU migrant citizens ranks behind Luxembourg (39%), Cyprus (12.1 %), Ireland (8.1 %), Belgium (7.4 %), Austria (6.1 %), and Spain (4.3 %) (Eurostat data, January 2014)ⁱ.



Figures produced by the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate that by the end of 2014 there were just over 3 million EU migrant citizens living in the UK, of which just over 50 % originate from the 'new' EU Member States, with the remainder coming from those states which were part of the EU prior to its 2004 expansionⁱⁱ. In 2014, the largest nationality groups of EU migrant citizens in the UK were (in descending order) Polish, Irish, Romanian, Portuguese and Italian citizens.

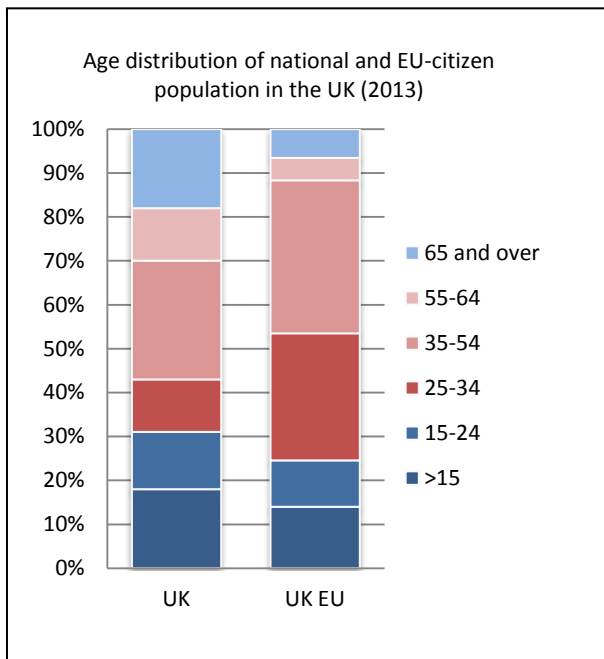
EU migrant citizens in the UK

Age of EU citizens in the UK

Overall, EU migrant citizens living in the UK are significantly younger than the national population.

EU migrant citizens from new member states (post 2004) are on average younger than those from old member states.

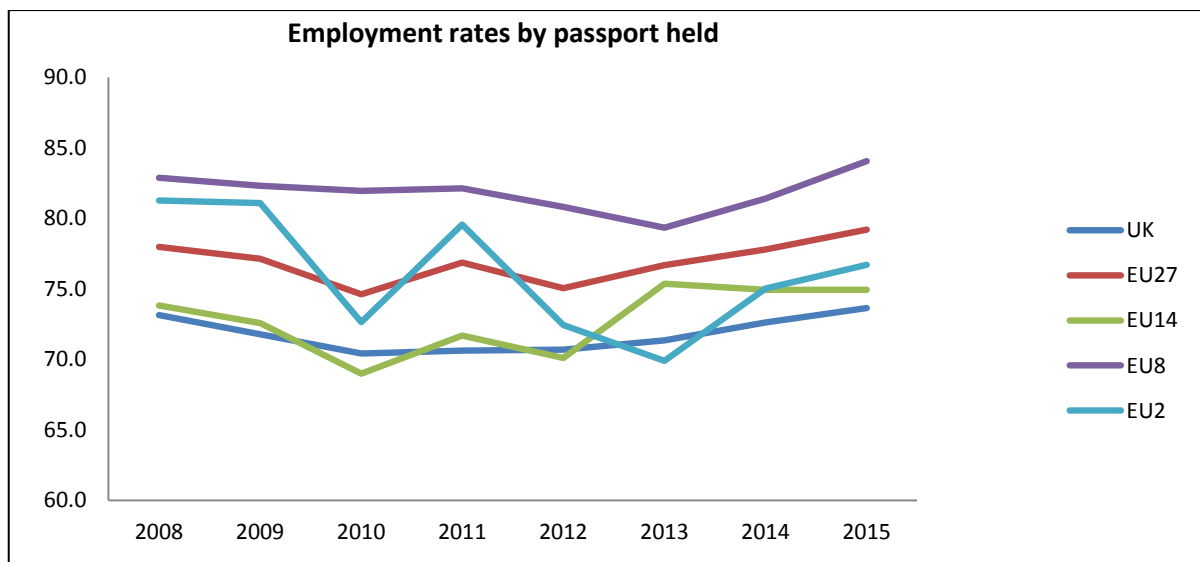
EU migrant citizens in the UK are younger than compared to many other member states.



Employment

EU migrant citizens have higher employment rates than the national UK population (ONS). The Labour Force Survey statistics published in August 2015 show that 79.4 % of the 16-64 year old EU migrant citizens in the UK are in employment (rising to 84.6% of those from the new EU Member States), compared to 73.5 % of British citizensⁱⁱⁱ.

According to the British Labour Force Survey, EU migrant citizens in Britain are employed across all sectors of the economy, but with significant differences by country of origin. EU migrant citizens from Old Europe work predominantly in high-skilled service sectors, such as financial industries, education and health care (48 %), whereas those from Central and Eastern European countries primarily work in the distribution and hospitality sector (34 %) and in manufacturing (22.7 %), with a small but significant proportion working in agriculture (3.3 %). Bulgarians and Romanians predominantly work in construction (29.3 %), but also in banking and financial services (20.7 %). The UK government also actively recruits high-skilled workers (e.g. healthcare professionals) from other EU Member States.



EU migrant citizens in Northwest England

Numbers in the Northwest

The number of EU migrant citizens relative to the total population in the Northwest in December 2014 was 3.2 %, significantly less than the UK (4.7 %) or London (11 %) averages. 1.4 % of those in the Northwest were citizens of old EU states, while 1.8 % came from new (post-2004) EU states. In comparison, 2.7 % of Northwest residents hold non-EU citizenship^{iv}. The Northwest's largest EU nationality group is Polish citizens, followed by Irish citizens.

EU citizens are unevenly distributed across the Northwest. This can be seen in the variation in numbers of EU migrant citizens resident in the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester, the most

populous area in the Northwest with the highest presence of EU citizens overall.

Employment in the Northwest

As in the rest of the UK, EU migrant citizens are employed across all sectors of the economy and at all occupation levels; a significantly high proportion is employed as process, plant and machine operatives, supporting manufacturing in the North West. For citizens of most EU states, the retail sector is an important employer: significant numbers of citizens from old Member States are also employed in the education sector.

EU migrant citizens as percentage of total residents; Boroughs of Greater Manchester

Bury	3.3 %	Salford	4.7 %
Bolton	1.8 %	Stockport	1.3 %
Manchester	6.7 %	Tameside	1.9 %
Oldham	1.6 %	Trafford	3.6 %
Rochdale	2.5 %	Wigan	1.3 %

*Briefing compiled by Cecilia Bruzelius, Rebecca Ehata and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser
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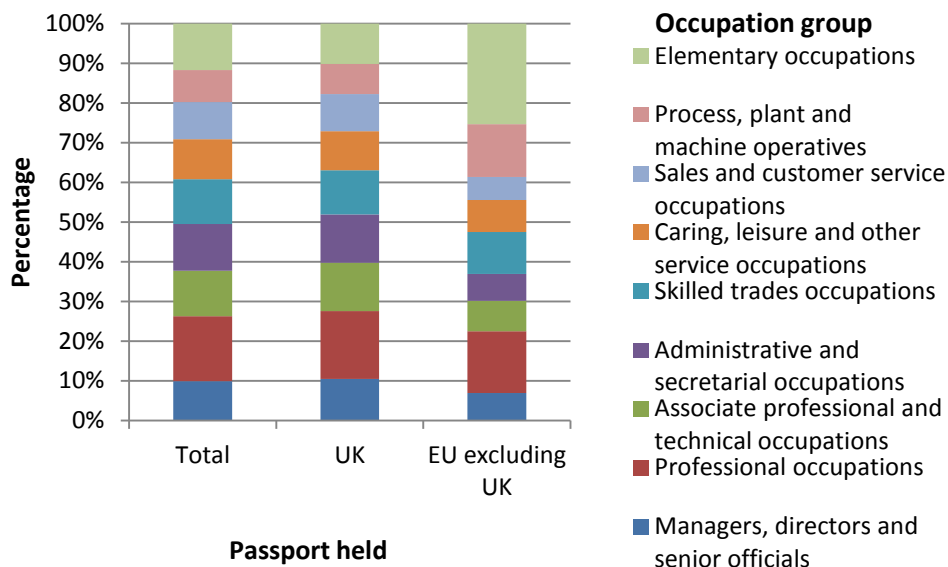
ⁱ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/5/5a/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics_YB2015.xlsx

ⁱⁱ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_414724.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/october-2015/table-emp06.xls>

^{iv} <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/population-by-country-of-birth-and-nationality/2014/rft-table-5-pop-by-cob-jan-14-to-dec-14.xls>

Occupation by passport held: Northwest England



Source: 2011 Census, ONS Dataset CT0386