

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Science and Policy

International Migration

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How do we measure international migration?



UN definition of long-term migration - 12 months or more.



Moved from intentions to actual travel patterns

Non-EU	EU	British
Visa data linked to an individual's travel patterns	Earnings and benefits data	International Passenger Survey

Long-Term International Migration 1975-2024

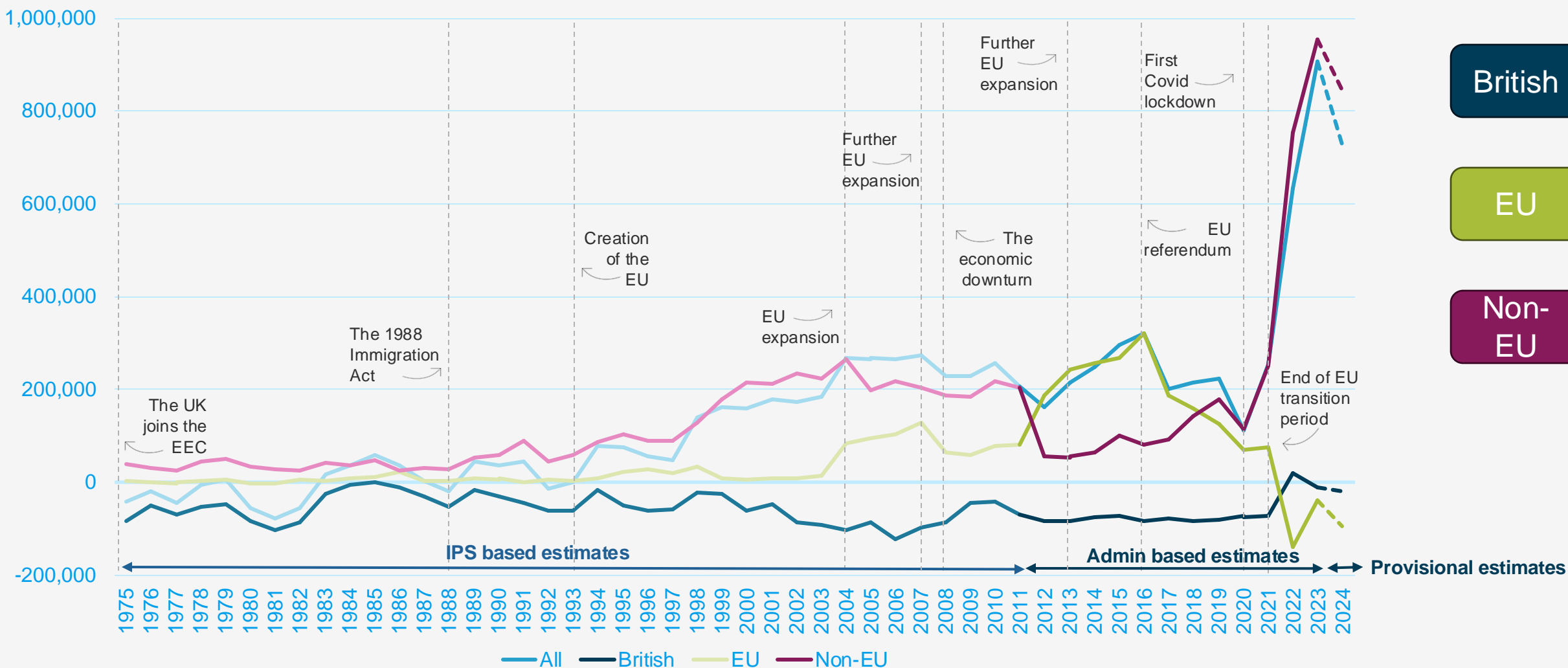
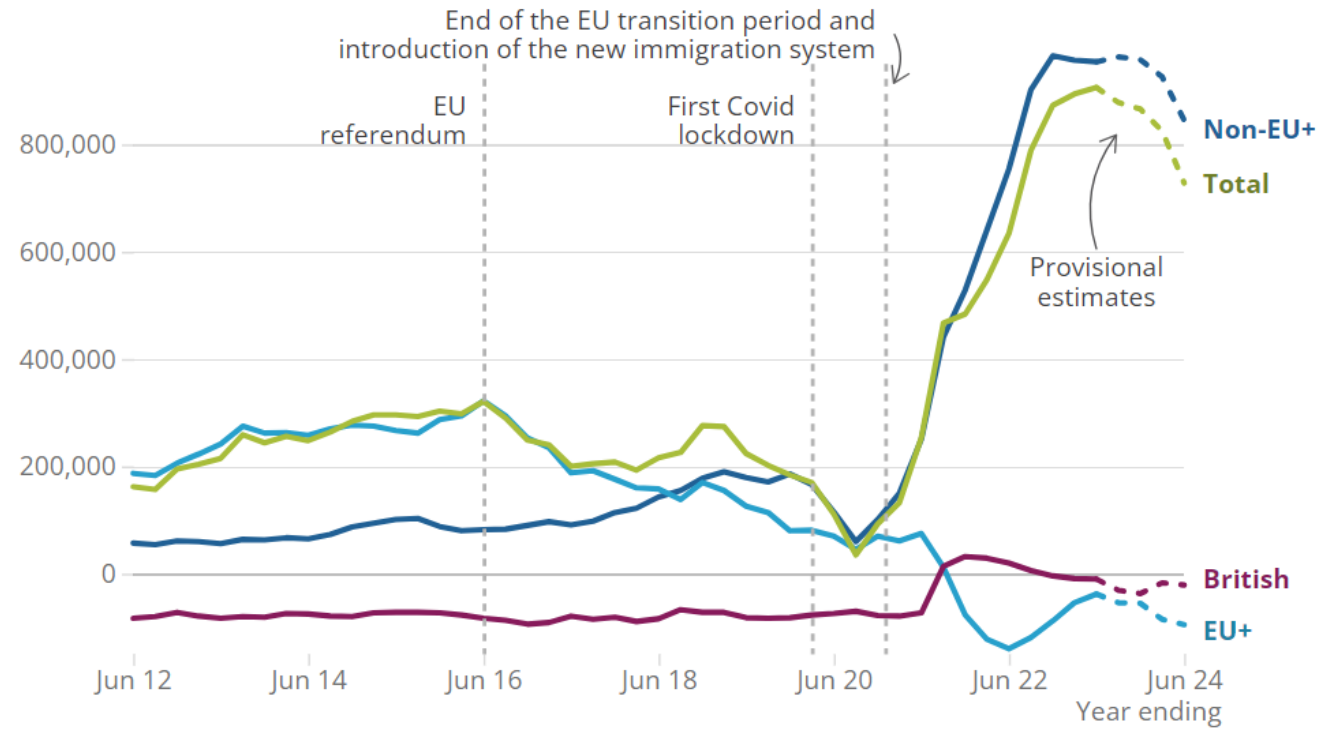


Figure 8: Falls in non-EU+ net migration driving falls in total net migration

Long-term net migration of non-EU, EU+, and British nationals in the UK, year ending (YE) June 2012 to YE June 2024



Latest Provisional Estimates – published November 2024

	YE Dec 2023	YE Jun 2024
Immigration	1,316,000	1,207,000
Emigration	450,000	479,000
Net Migration	866,000	728,000

Who is coming to the UK?



20% of immigration from India – 240,000



10% of immigration from Nigeria – 120,000



8% immigration from Pakistan – 101,000

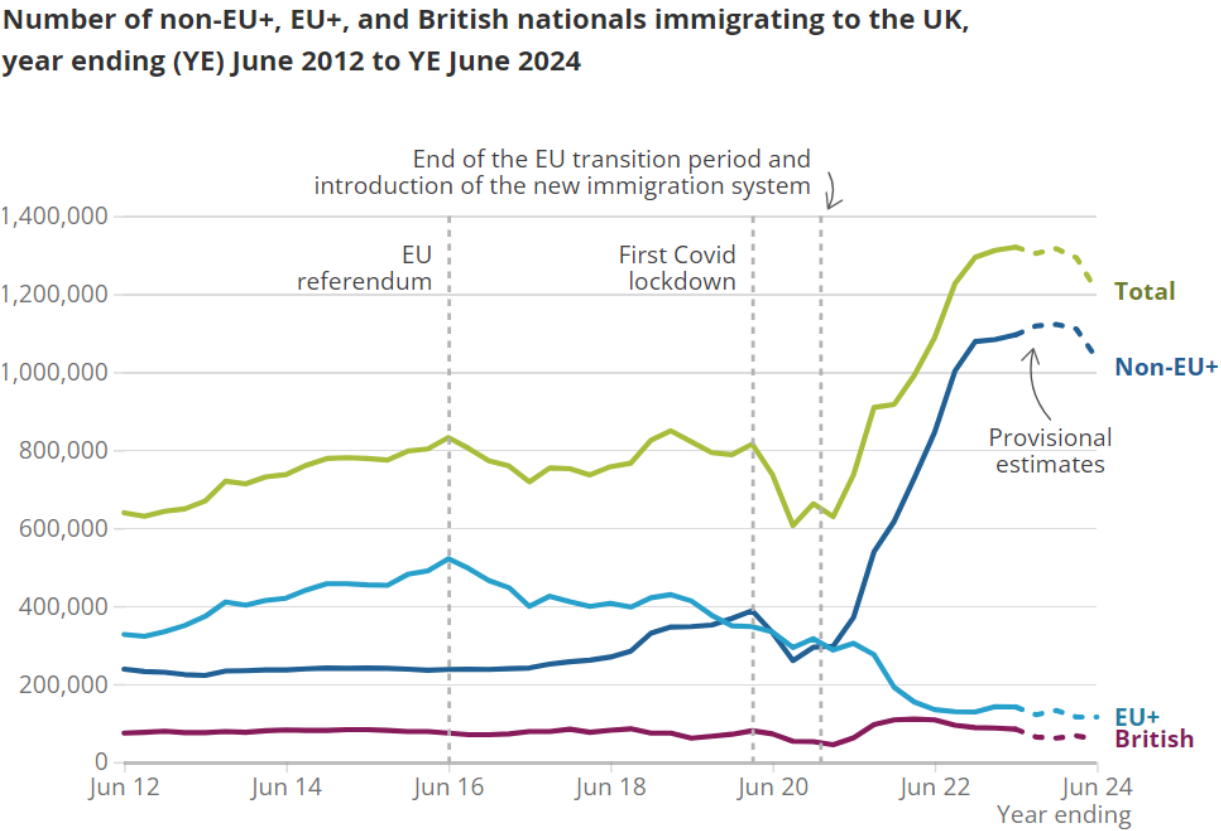


6% immigration from China – 78,000



3% immigration from Zimbabwe – 36,000

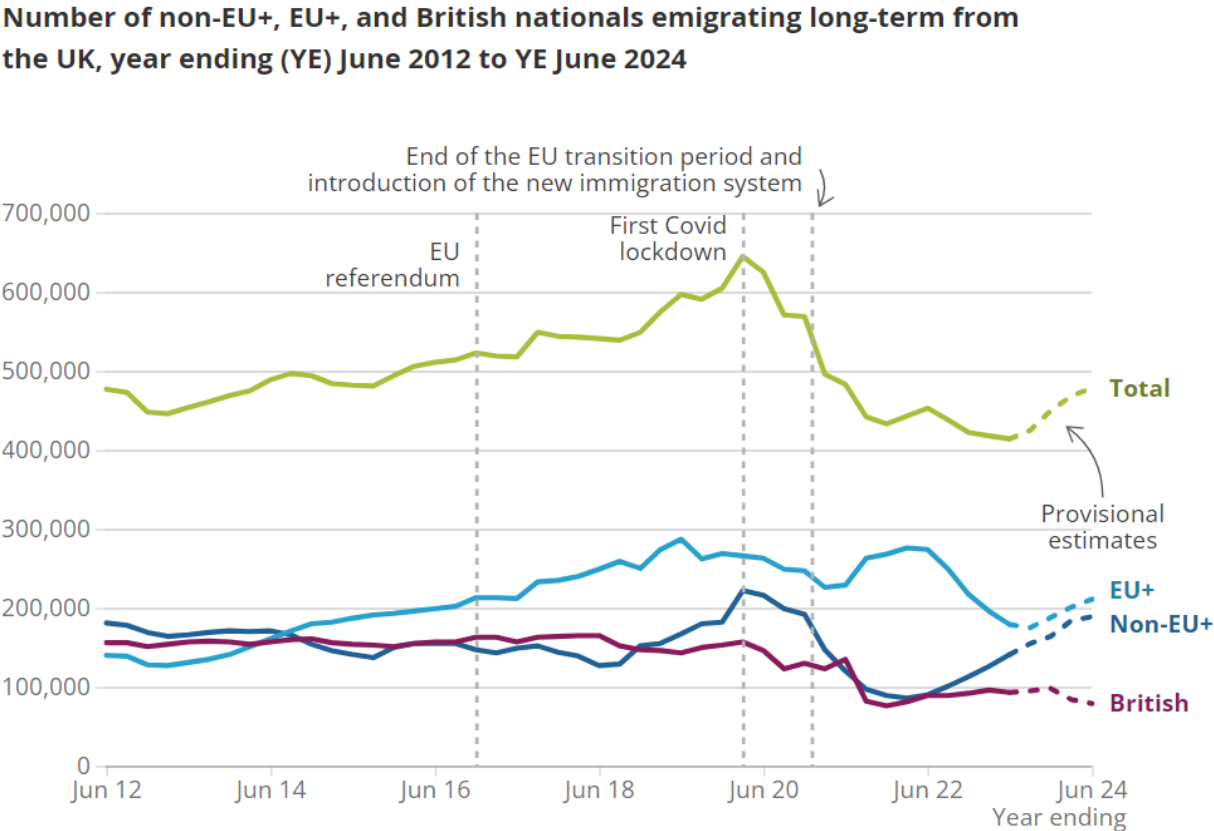
Figure 2: There has been a fall in long-term immigration



Focusing on the 1.0 million non-EU+ nationals immigrating:

- 82% (845,000) were of working age (16 to 64 years)
- 17% (179,000) were children (under 16 years)

Figure 6: There has been a rise in long-term emigration

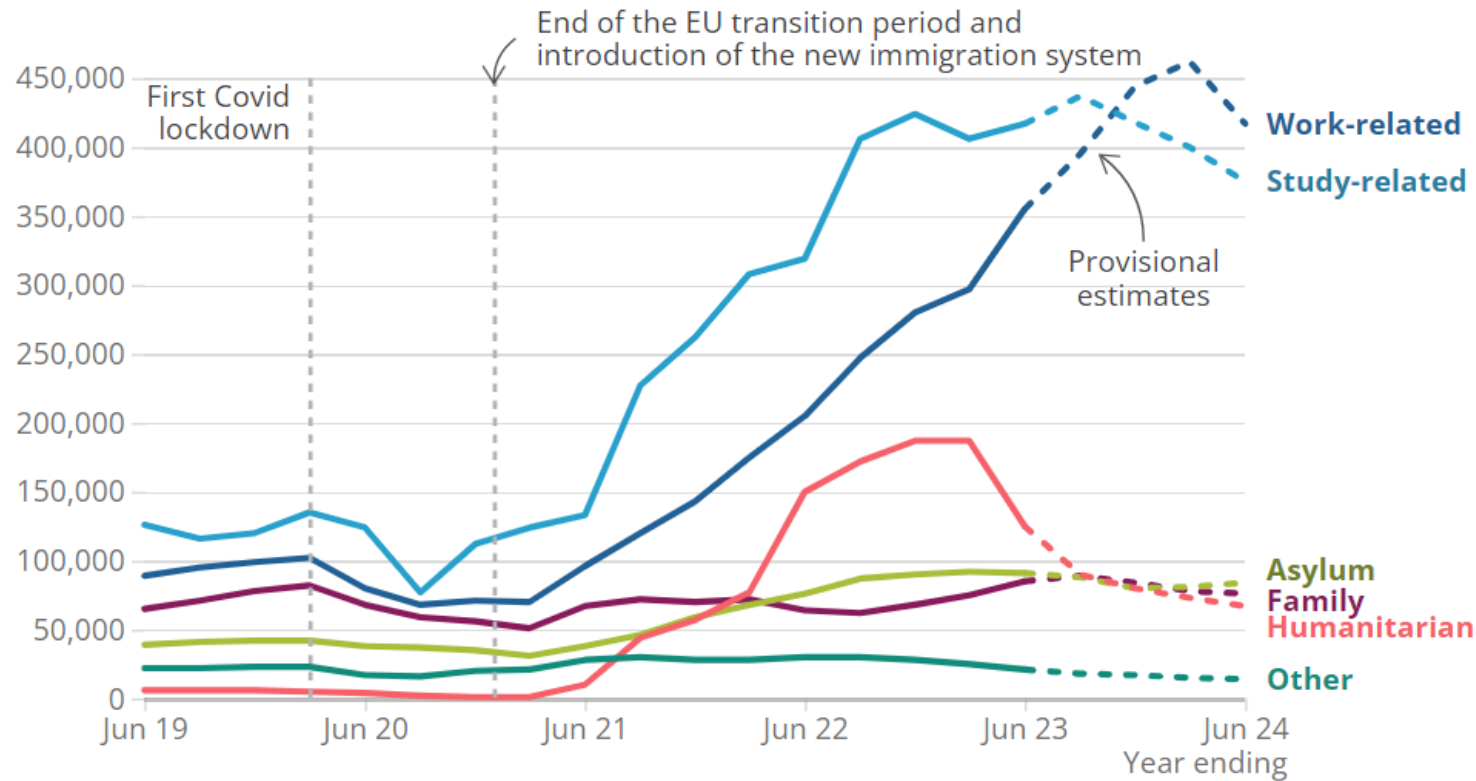


Of the 189,000 non-EU+ nationals emigrating:

- 90% were of working-age (between 16 and 64 years)
- 9% were children (under 16 years)
- 1% were aged 65 years or over.

Work and study remain the most common reasons for non-EU+ immigration

Number of non-EU+ nationals coming to live in the UK long-term by reason, year ending (YE) June 2019 to YE June 2024



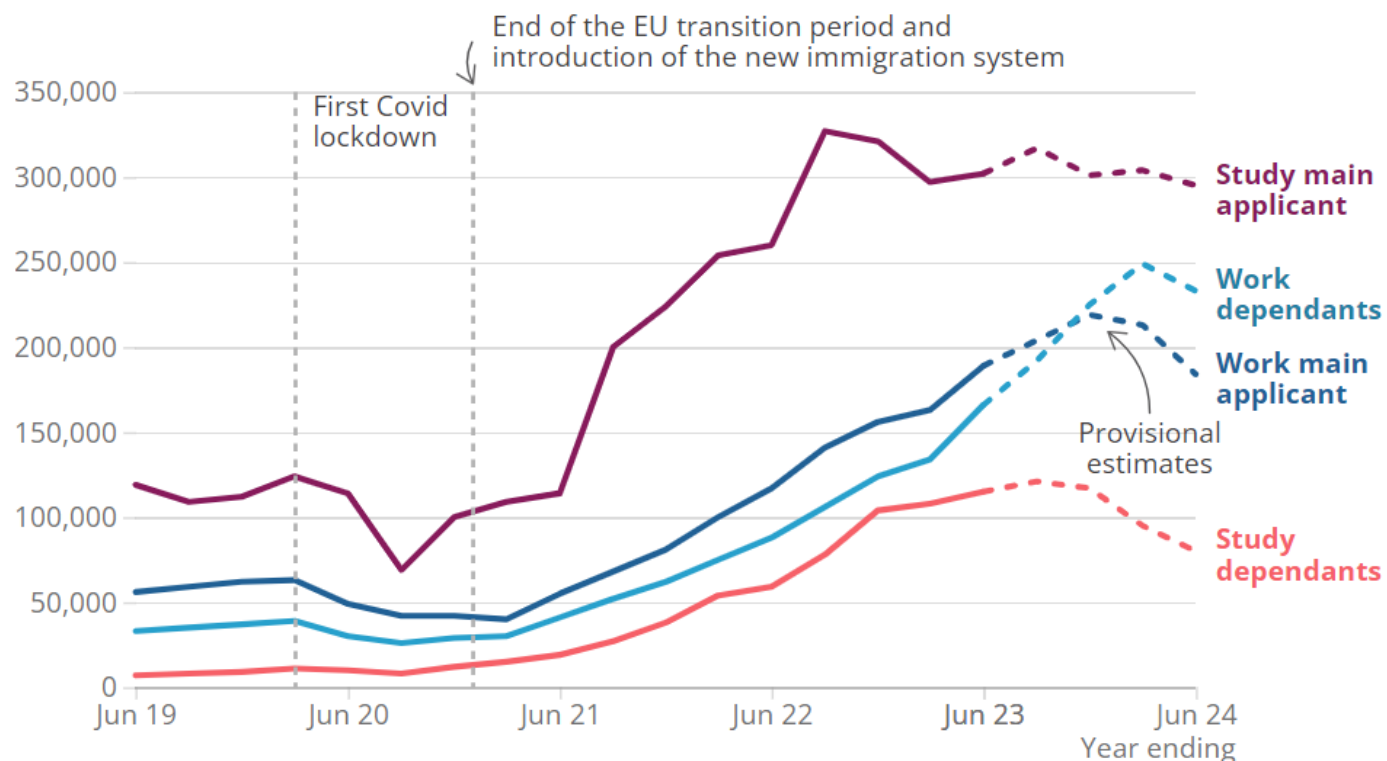
Our estimates also include asylum applications.

8% of non-EU+ long-term migrants who arrived in the UK in YE June 2024 claimed asylum.

This is 84,000 people and includes those who claimed asylum after arriving via a regular route and those who claimed after arriving irregularly, for example, via small boats.

Work

Number of non-EU+ nationals coming to live in the UK long-term by work- and study-related reasons, YE June 2019 to YE June 2024



Work-related immigration is **417,000** for YE June 2024, up from **355,000** a year earlier.

There were **233,000** work dependants immigrating long-term, up from **166,000** a year earlier, but the most recent data points show early signs of a fall.

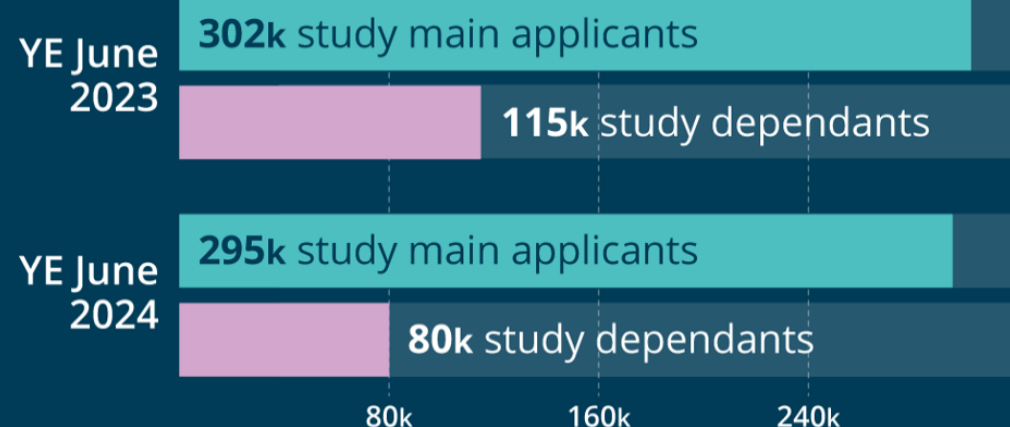
This is consistent with Home Office data on visa applications and partly reflects policy changes from earlier this year.

International Students



375,000 non-EU+ nationals (main applicants and dependants) **came to live in the UK for study-related reasons**

in the year ending June 2024, a fall from YE June 2023



60% of the non-EU+ nationals who left the UK in YE June 2024 had originally arrived for **study-related reasons**

These figures reflect the large number of students that came to the UK after the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions were lifted, who are now completing their studies



Future Developments



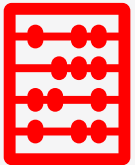
Consistency for EU and non-EU estimates



Quality measured, reported and improved upon



Granular – more by reason, nationality, region and age



And in the longer term...

Coherence across migration flows and population levels