

Migrant Workers in the West of England

April 2008

1. Introduction

1.1 Migrant workers have always played an important role in the West of England economy, most notably in the City of Bristol. Since the European Union expanded in 2004 to encompass A8 countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia & Slovenia) there has been a noticeable net increase of migrant workers into the sub-region. They have been attracted to the area because of local skill shortages.

1.2 Since the inclusion of A8 countries into the EU there has been a number of research papers looking into the impacts of migration on the South West. Those papers of particular interest to the West of England sub-region are:

- [Migrant workers in the South West](#) - SWRDA & SLIM (South West Skills and Learning Intelligence Module), January 2008.
- [Migration and Population Demographics in Bristol](#) – Bristol City Council, June 2007.
- [Polish Community in Bristol and South Gloucestershire: Research Report](#) – Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Anglo-Polish Society (Bristol and South West), April 2007.
- [English as an Additional Language \(EAL\) in South West Schools](#) – South West Local Government Association, March 2007.
- [Polish Workers in Bristol](#) – Bristol City Council, October 2006.

There is also a catalogue of research on migration available on the [South West Local Government Association](#) Website.

1.3 There are a number of data sources that provide us with an estimate of the number of migrants entering the UK; however, migrant workers are a transient population and therefore difficult to count. The data sources available are as follows:

- National Insurance Number (NINo's) Registrations
- Worker Registration Scheme (WRS)
- Annual Population Survey (APS)
- International Passenger Survey (IPS)
- Immigration Control

1.4 Despite a range of data sources being available getting an accurate picture of the number of migrant workers is not easy. Each data source defines migrant working in a different way, so therefore cannot be accurately cross-worked. NINo registrations are also the only data source that is available at the local authority level, consequently without extensive primary research being undertaken at a lower geography an information gap is apparent.

2.The Picture in the West of England

2.1 National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations give an indication of the numbers of migrants applying to work in the UK, at local authority level. Table 1 and chart 1 below both show the increase in the number of NINo registrations to overseas nationals since 2003/4 in the WoE.

Table 1: Number of National Insurance Number Registrations to Overseas Nationals by Local Authority of Residence.

Source: NINo Registration Data, 2003/04 – 2006/7

Authority	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	% Change between 2003/4 and 2006/7
B&NES	800	1,130	1,400	1,600	100.0
Bristol	3,320	4,095	5,370	7,360	121.7
North Somerset	425	750	1,040	1,200	182.4
South Gloucestershire	655	785	1,150	1,700	159.5
West of England	5,200	6,760	8,960	11,860	128.1

- The number of NINo registrations has noticeably increased in all four authorities in the West of England since the inclusion of A8 countries into the EU in 2004.
- The number of registrations in the WoE in 2006/7 was more than double the number in 2003/4, from 5,200 registrations a year in 2003/4 to 11,860 in 2006/7, an increase of 128%.
- The City of Bristol has the highest number of NINo registrations in the sub-region; in 2006/7 there were 7,360 registrations; a total of 2,860 more registrations than the other three LA's in the sub-region combined.
- North Somerset has seen the largest percentage increase in the number of NINo registrations since 2003. With the number of registrations almost tripling in the four-year period.

Chart 1: Number of NINo registrations to Overseas Nationals in the West of England

Source: NINo Registration Data 2003/04 - 2006/07



2.2 Chart 2 below show's the rate of increase in the number of NINo registrations for the local authorities that make up the WoE sub-region.

- The rate of increase in NINo registrations has been greatest within the City of Bristol, with the other three LA's having a more gradual increase.
- The rate of increase in NINo registrations has been relatively consistent, but was sharpest in 2006/7 most markedly in the City of Bristol.

Chart 2: Number of NINo Registrations to Overseas Nationals (2003 - 2007) LA's within the West of England sub-region.

Source: NINo Registrations Data, 2003/04 – 2006/07

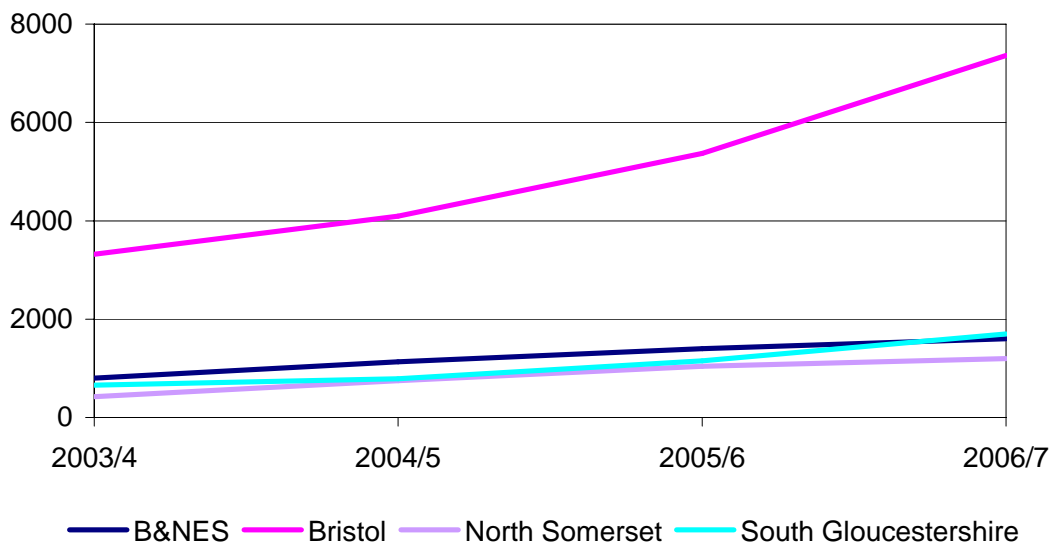


Table 2: Number of NINo Registrations in the West of England from A8 Countries 2005/6 – 2006/7

Source: NINo Registration Data, 2005/06 – 2006/07

Country of Origin	2005/06	2006/7
Czech Republic	220	250
Estonia	20	20
Hungary	150	260
Latvia	120	130
Lithuania	190	250
Poland	2,530	4,290
Slovak Republic	550	600
Slovenia	0	0
Total NINo. Reg. from A8	3,560	5,800
WoE all Non-UK NINo	8,960	11,860
% A8 registrations	39.7%	48.9%

2.3 Since the introduction of the A8 countries into the EU there has been an increase in the number of NINo registrations from these countries of origin, most notably from Poland as illustrated in table 2.

- The number of Polish applying for NINo registrations has increased by 69.5% since 2005/6 – 2006/7, from 2,530 registrations to 4,290.
- Hungary has shown the largest percentage increase since 2005/6, with an increase of 73%.
- The number of registrations from people originating from the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and the Slovak Republic has shown a small to moderate increase. Whereas, there has been no increase in the number of registrations from Estonians and Slovenes.
- In 2005/6 NINo registrations from A8 countries accounted for almost 40% of all registrations from non-UK nationals, in 2006/7 this had risen to almost 50%.

Table 3: Top 20 Countries of Origin of Migrant Workers to the West of England.

Source: NINo Registration Data 2006/07

West of England			
	Country	No.	%.
1	Poland	4,290	36.2
2	India	720	6.1
3	Slovak Rep	600	5.1
4	France	360	3.0
5	Spain	360	3.0
6	Australia	320	2.7
7	Hungary	260	2.2
8	Rep Lithuania	250	2.1
9	Germany	250	2.1
10	Czech Rep	250	2.1
11	Somalia	230	1.9

12	South Africa	220	1.9
13	Italy	220	1.9
14	Pakistan	210	1.8
15	Netherlands	160	1.3
16	USA	150	1.3
17	Rep Ireland	140	1.2
18	Philippines	140	1.2
19	Nigeria	120	1.0
20	Portugal	120	1.0

2.4 Table 3 shows the top 20 most popular countries of origin for migrant workers in the West of England. Poland is clearly the most popular country of origin, representing 36.2% of all migrant worker NINo registrations in the sub-region. Within the West of England five of the A8 countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania and Czech Republic) feature within the top 10; however, they are not the only major source of migrant workers in the sub-region, there is significant representation from other EU countries as well as a number of commonwealth countries including Australia, India and South Africa.

Table 4: English as an Additional Language in West of England Schools

Source: Annual Schools Census, LA's

	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Change 04 - 08	Change 04 - 08 (%)
Bath & North East Somerset	361	382	398	330	520	622	240	63%
Bristol	-	3,137	3,976	4,609	5,801	6,127	2,990	95%
North Somerset	255	260	329	413	206	639	379	146%
South Gloucestershire	490	650	710	802	787	1,293	643	99%
West of England Total	745	4,047	5,015	5,824	7,168	8,681	4,634	115%

N.B. Data collection may vary over time and between LA's, results should therefore only be taken as demonstrative. Data includes all local authority maintained nursery schools, as well as Primary, Secondary, Special and Academy Schools

2.5 EAL data is a count of all pupils that speak English as a second language, in that another language is spoken more regularly at home. It is assumed that the current increase in EAL pupils in the WofE relates to the growth in migrant families in the area. However, it must be noted that the current trend of migrants from A8 countries is that of young childless couples. It must also be noted that EAL data can be misleading in the sense that a pupil included within the data could be from an established community opposed to the more recent migrant population.

- Bristol schools have always had a high number of EAL pupils in relation to its neighbouring authorities; this is because more opportunities are seemingly on offer to migrants in large cities as opposed to more rural areas.
- Even though migrant numbers have always been high within Bristol, the number of pupils to whom English is an additional language has increased by nearly 100% in the last 4 years.

- North Somerset has seen the largest percentage increase of EAL pupils, almost tripling since 2004. Whereas, Schools within Bath and North East Somerset have experienced the lowest percentage increase of EAL pupils out of the WofE UA's. This correlates with the number of NINo registrations in these two authorities.
- The rise in EAL pupils in the WofE will have implications on school service provision.

3. The West of England's Context Within the South West Region

3.1 Compared to the rest of England, the South West has a relatively low proportion of people of working age who are not UK nationals at 3.8% of the total. However, this number is rising quickly, in 2006 around 85,700 non-UK nationals worked in the South West, this is an increase of 35% from 2004.

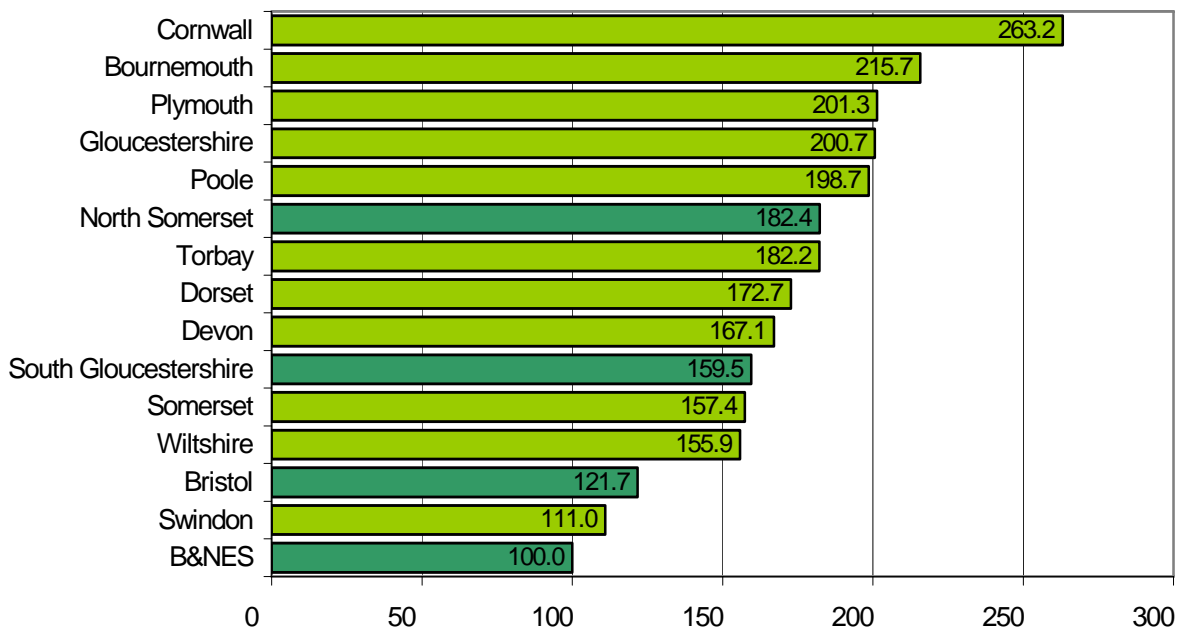
3.2 This rapid growth is mirrored by NINo registrations, in 2006/7 there were around 42,000 new NINo registrations in the SW region; this is almost double that of the 2004/5 registrations.

3.3 The expansion of the EU in 2004 has had a significant effect on the number of migrant workers within the SW region. 55% of NINo registrations in the SW during 2006/7 were by registrants from A8 countries, with Polish migrants accounting for 42%.

3.4 Migrant workers in the SW tend to be occupying mainly lower skilled, lower paid jobs. Working in areas where local employers are recruiting migrant workers due to difficulties in recruiting locally and/or because of a skills shortage.

Chart 3: Percentage Increase in the Number of NINo Registrations in the South West (2003/4 - 2006/7)

Source: NINo registration data 2003/4 – 2006/7



- Cornwall has experienced the largest percentage increase in migrant workers since 2003 (263.2%), whereas Bath and North East Somerset has experienced the least (100%).
- North Somerset has shown the largest percentage increase (182.4%) in NINo registrations of the four West of England authorities. South Gloucestershire has

shown a relatively moderate increase (159.5%), whereas Bristol and B&NES have shown small increases compared to other areas in the South West.

3.5 Table 5 indicates that migrant workers are largely registering for NINo's in the urban areas of the region. The most popular location being Bristol, which is unsurprising as it is the largest city within the SW. The draw of migrant workers to the main urban areas is to be expected, as there is a greater supply of jobs and housing. There is also more likely to be advice, support networks and services in place for migrants in large urban areas than in rural locations.

Table 5: Most Popular Locations for NINo Registrations, 2006/7

Source: NINo Registration Data

Local Authority	Total NINo Registrations 2006/7	% of South West Total
City of Bristol	7,360	17.6
Bournemouth	4,120	9.9
Swindon	2,490	6.0
Plymouth	2,260	5.4
South Gloucestershire	1,700	4.1
Bath & North East Somerset	1,600	3.8
Cheltenham	1,440	3.5
Exeter	1,270	3.0
Gloucestershire	1,260	3.0
North Somerset	1,200	2.9

Table 6: Percentage of Working age population who are not UK nationals 2004 – 2006

Source: Annual Population Survey 2004 – 2006 (NOMIS)

Area	2004		2006		2004 - 2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Change	% Change
South West	86,800	2.9	114,500	3.8	27,700	31.9
B&NES	4,600	4.4	5,000	4.7	400	8.7
Bristol	11,000	4.5	20,200	8.1	9,200	83.6
North Somerset	2,800	2.5	1,700	1.6	-1,100	-39.3
South Gloucestershire	4,200	2.7	7,200	4.6	3,000	71.4
West of England	22,600	3.7	34,100	5.5	11,500	50.9
Bournemouth	5,900	6.0	10,000	10.1	4,100	69.5
Cornwall	5,800	2.0	7,500	2.5	1,700	29.3
Devon	7,400	1.8	11,000	2.7	3,600	48.6
Dorset	6,200	2.7	3,900	1.7	-2,300	-37.1
Gloucestershire	9,600	2.8	11,900	3.5	2,300	24.0
Plymouth	2,900	1.9	5,700	3.7	2,800	96.6
Poole	2,900	3.5	2,800	3.3	-100	-3.4
Somerset	6,800	2.3	7,600	2.6	800	11.8
Swindon	7,700	6.7	7,900	6.7	200	2.6
Torbay	1,400	1.9	1,500	2.0	100	7.1
Wiltshire	7,800	3.0	10,600	4.0	2,800	35.9

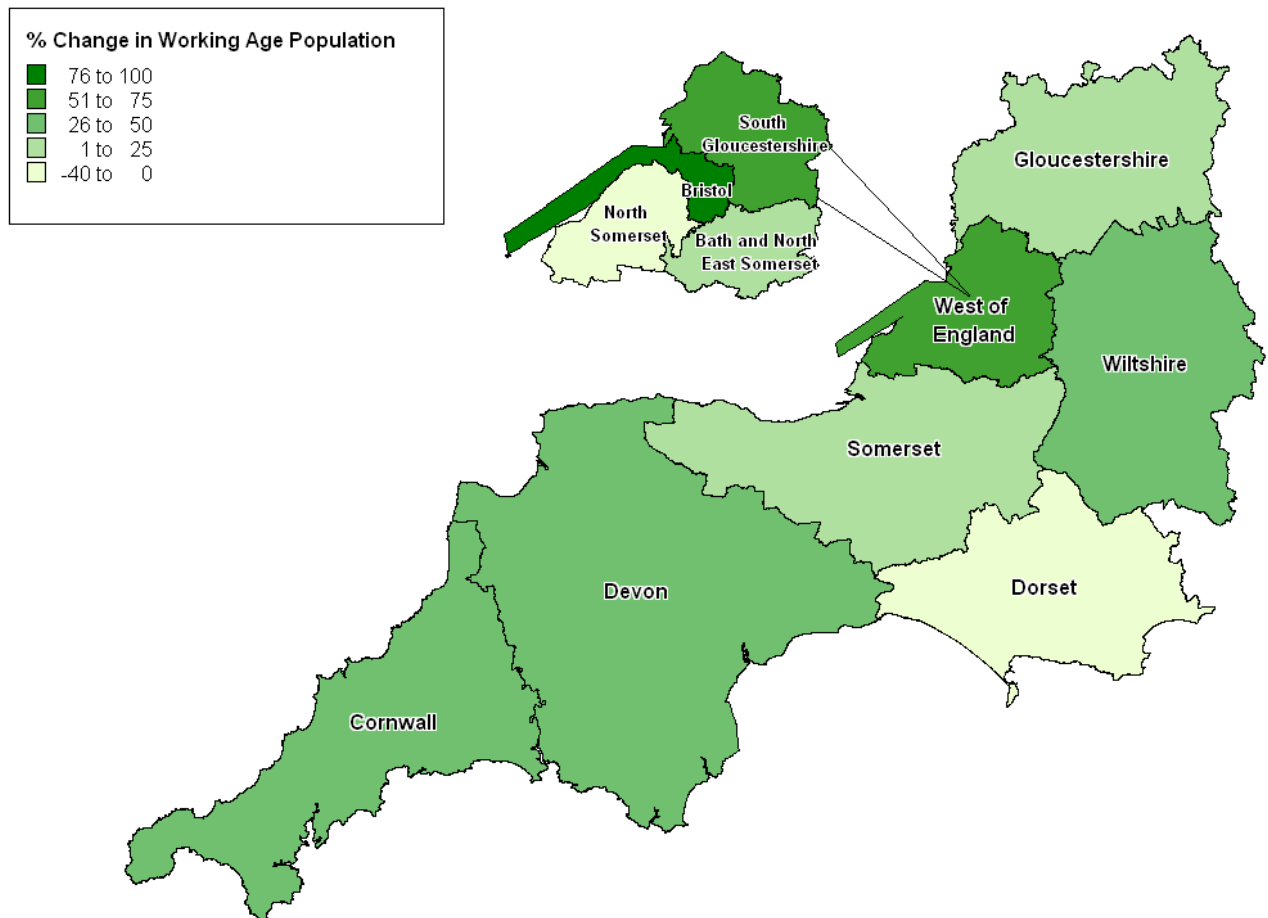
3.6 Table 6 on the previous page shows the number of Non-UK nationals of working age in the South West taken from Annual Population Surveys (APS). There has been an increase in the number of non-UK nationals of working age in the South West since 2006. This increase is mirrored in the West of England sub-region, however there are differences in the four LAs.

- Between 2004 and 2006 the number of non-UK nationals of working age in the West of England had increased by 50%.
- Bristol and South Gloucestershire both experienced a high percentage increase in the number of non-UK nationals of working age; increasing by 83.6% and 71.4% respectively.
- Bath and North East Somerset experienced only a very small increase in the number of non-UK nationals of working age. Increasing by only 400 people between 2004 and 2006, a percentage increase of only 8.7%.
- According to the APS North Somerset has actually seen a decrease in the number of non-UK nationals of working age. Decreasing by 1,100 between 2004 and 2006. (As APS data is taken from a sample survey, this is unlikely to be significant).
- In the SW region Plymouth has experienced the highest percentage growth in the number of non-UK nationals of working age, with an increase of 96.6%. Bristol has the second highest increase and South Gloucestershire the third (the main urban areas of S. Gloucestershire make up the north and east fringe of the greater Bristol area. These are major urban area within the region, again suggesting that migrant workers are attracted to these areas due to better economic opportunities and housing.
- Only three areas in the SW have seemingly experienced a decline in the number of non-UK nationals, these areas are Poole, Dorset (not including Poole and Bournemouth) and North Somerset.

3.7 Map 1 overleaf shows that the largest increase in the number of non-UK nationals of working age in the South West is in the West of England sub-region.

Map 1: Percentage Change in the Number of Non-UK Nationals of Working Age in the South West (2004 – 2006)

Source: Annual Population Survey (2004 – 2006), NOMIS



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4. Conclusions

4.1 The data provided from NINO registrations, the APS and LA's annual school census indicate that the number of migrant workers in the WoE is increasing. This has most notably been since the inclusion of A8 countries into the EU. Bristol attracts the highest number of migrant workers, drawn to the more substantial housing and economic opportunities the city has to offer, although the more rural authorities have also shown a substantial increase in the number of migrant workers.

4.2 It remains to be seen if the increase in migrant workers will have a sizeable effect on service provision within the sub-region and the individual UA's, as there is a distinct lack of primary research in this area.

4.3 There is not enough information on movements of migrant workers after they are initially captured by NINO registrations data. For example the numbers who move out of the sub-region or indeed return to their country of origin is not recorded.

4.4 Anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant proportion of migrant workers stay for only short term gains. As the cost of living rises in the UK, and wages remain level, the prospect of working in the UK is less attractive.

4.5 It is not possible to say therefore if the recent trend of an increase in migration will be sustained; and what the future implications will be.

4.6 The levels of migration could stabilise or even decline in the future, which would cause a problem in filling the number of jobs required to support the level of economic growth proposed by the Regional Spatial Strategy.