

Analysis of National Insurance Numbers (NINOs) data – A Scottish Perspective

Purpose and counting criteria

NINOs cover accession migrants, new refugees and all other non-UK nationals who have registered to work. The data in this paper is drawn from DWP figures on National Insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals during 2006/07 by Local Authority area and country of origin. The purpose of this document is to look at the patterns of settlement in Scotland generated from NINO registration data.

Recommendations

- Use the information as a starting point to build a national and local picture of A8 and A2 migration in Scotland from the available data.
- Use this report to complement other Regional Strategic Partnerships' work on the migratory pressure experienced within each region/nation.
- Feed the information in to other research planned in this field.

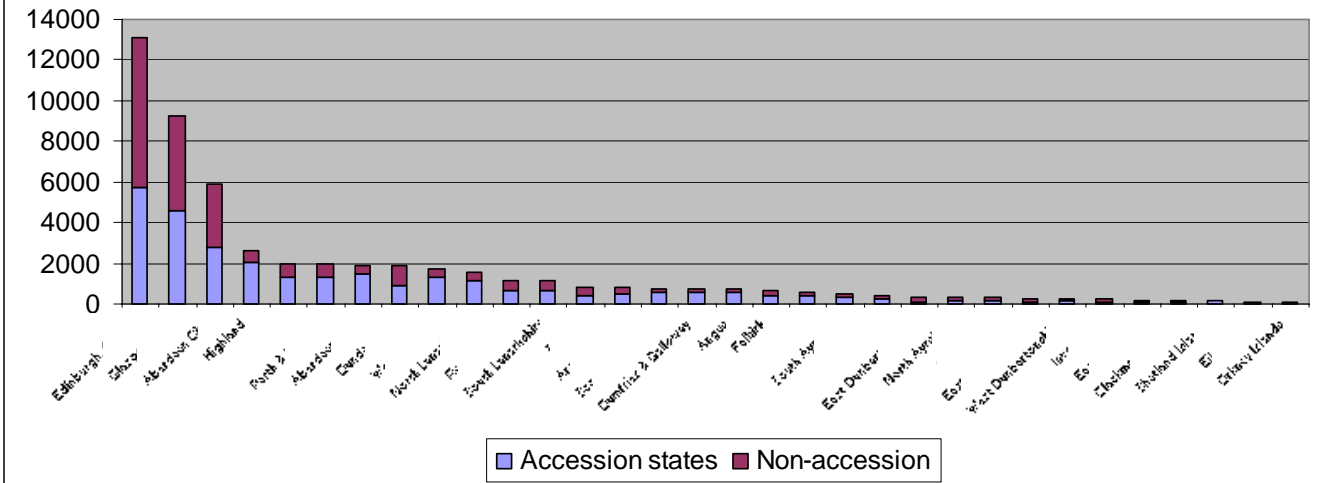
Limitations with data

The figures are not cumulative; they do not take account of non-UK national NINO recipients who have moved into a Local Authority area in previous years and remained there. The Local Authority area is allocated by the most recently recorded address of recipient as at May 2007; therefore, people counted may have left a Local Authority area after this date and others may have moved in. Furthermore, this data source does not account for when individuals leave the country. The figures do not take account of dependents or of people working illegally. There is evidence which suggest that significant numbers of accession nationals beyond these official figures have entered the country and are working here, but have not necessarily registered for a NINO. For example, the findings from Fife City Council's survey on 904 migrant workers revealed that 13% do not have a NINO.

All migration to Scotland for work

Chart 1 shows a break down of registrations by Local Authority area and each bar is divided to show the proportion of accession to non-accession applicants. A key point to note from Chart 1 is that migration from non-accession states is also significant – although this could be affected from 2008 by the introduction of the Points-Based System. There are 52,480 NINO registrations from non-UK nationals in Scotland during 2006/07, out of this total 23,110 registrations are from non-accession compared to 29,370 registrations from accession states. Edinburgh has received substantially the greatest NINO registrations in Scotland (13,090 NINO registrations in comparison to Glasgow's 9,270 registrations) during 06/07.

Chart 1: NINO 06/07 registrations for all new migrants



Accession migration

Chart 2 shows the proportion of accession applicants for Scotland by country of origin, clearly highlighting the relatively high proportion (78%) of Polish registrations.

Chart 2: NINO registrations by Accession state country of origin 2006/2007

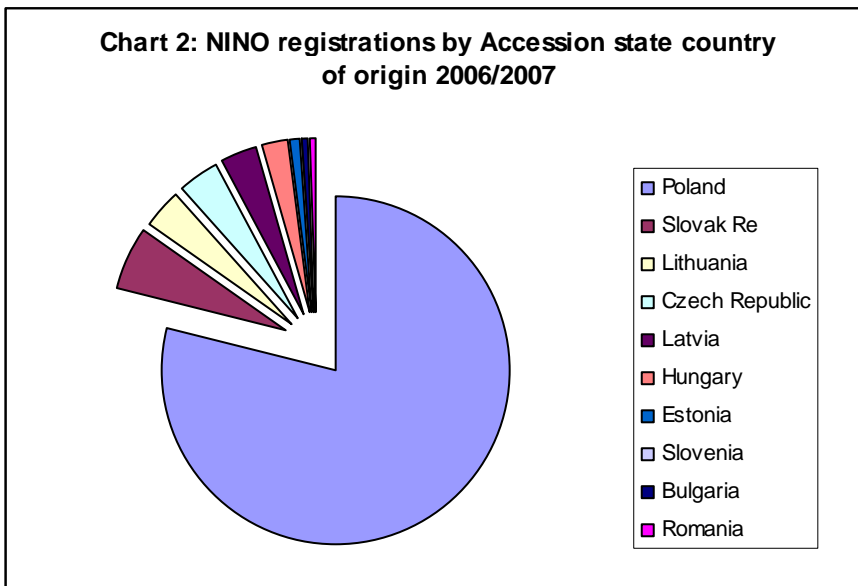
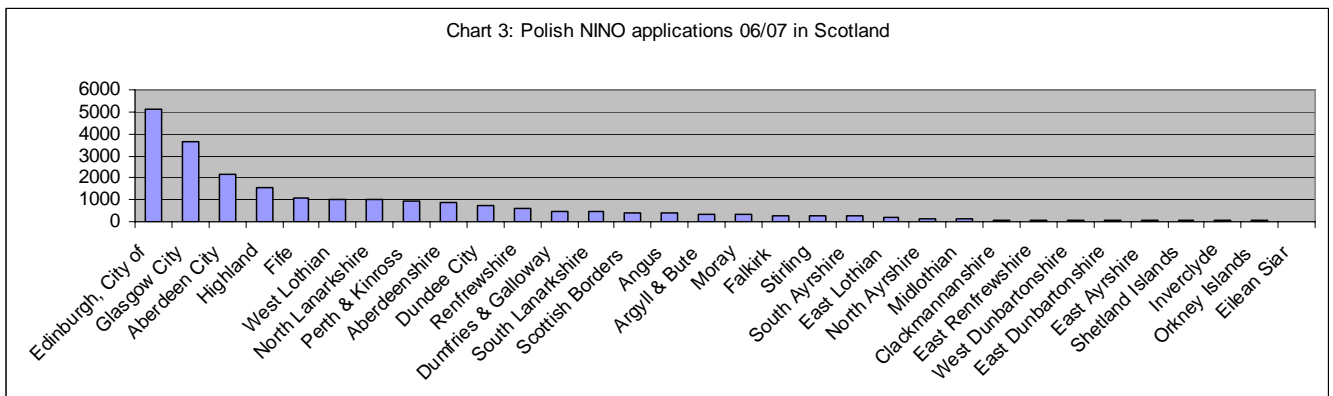


Chart 3 takes the Polish NINO registrations only, and shows how these applicants are settled around the region. It shows a similar pattern to the first chart on overall NINO applications to the Local Authority areas.



Conclusions

This paper is not a stand alone piece of work; it is an example of what can be drawn from the available data on new migration. The paper will tie in with other available data and work that is being carried out, such as research on impacts of migration on services, which will contribute to building a national and local picture of migration from EU accession states in Scotland.

Even taking into consideration the limitations of NINO data, it is clear that during 2006/2007 each local authority in Scotland has experienced the arrival of different volumes and types of migrant workers; this emphasises the point that Local Authorities are subject to a range of potential pressures to which they have had to develop a tailored response, or are in the process of doing so. These pressures include responding to the needs of migrant workers in areas that have no or little experience of BME communities.

Experience has shown that whilst overall populations may stabilise, the ‘churn’ effect of migration upon local communities and services is substantial. As emphasised above, we do not yet have a system which can count people out as well as in, locally and nationally. As the more mobile migrant population follows work opportunities, they are often replaced by newer migrants with less English and UK living skills. The transitory nature of some migrant populations could place additional pressure on resources and cohesion in specific areas. There is scope to enhance NINO data on a national level by identifying numbers which have become inactive; however, this would not account for local movement.

The challenge for local government is to develop dynamic data collection processes to enable them to better understand, plan and evidence the composition of their populations, its needs and its dynamics. This understanding will become increasingly important for authorities in service planning, sustaining community cohesion and developing local and regional economic, housing, community safety and other key strategies.

Appendix 1: Breakdown of non-UK NINO registrations in 2006/07 by Local Authority

	Accession states	Non- accession	Total for each LA
Edinburgh, City of	5750	7340	13090
Glasgow City	4590	4680	9270
Aberdeen City	2780	3150	5930
Highland	2040	580	2620
Fife	1350	640	1990
Perth & Kinross	1340	600	1940
Aberdeenshire	1460	420	1880
Dundee City	860	1000	1860
West Lothian	1330	370	1700
North Lanarkshire	1160	400	1560
Renfrewshire	680	450	1130
South Lanarkshire	670	440	1110
Stirling	440	400	840
Argyll & Bute	520	300	820
Scottish Borders	560	200	760
Dumfries & Galloway	590	150	740
Angus	610	120	730
Falkirk	430	190	620
Moray	440	120	560
South Ayrshire	310	170	480
East Lothian	260	170	430
East Dunbartonshire	100	210	310
North Ayrshire	190	110	300
Midlothian	140	150	290
East Renfrewshire	100	180	280
West Dunbartonshire	140	140	280
Inverclyde	70	170	240
East Ayrshire	100	90	190
Clackmannanshire	120	60	180
Shetland Islands	130	40	170
Eilean Siar	60	30	90
Orkney Islands	50	40	90
Total	29370	23110	52480