



Home Office

Migrant journey: 2018 report

Statistical Bulletin 07/19

24 May 2019

1. Introduction

This release is the ninth in an annual series of publications (referred to as the 'Migrant Journey' report or previously 'Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status') that explore changes in non-European Economic Area (non-EEA) migrants' visa and leave status as they journey through the UK's immigration system.

Understanding these journeys helps to inform Parliament, policy makers and the public on the impact of changes to the Immigration Rules.

Method

The findings presented here are based on combining data collected from UK Visas and Immigration databases about grants of (entry clearance) visas outside the UK, and any subsequent grants of extensions of stay in the UK, as well as grants of settlement (permission to stay in the UK permanently i.e. indefinite leave) and grants of UK citizenship, to provide 'migrant journeys'.

This report focuses on migrant journeys (excluding those arriving on a visit visa) where there is no more than a 12-month gap between periods of leave. This is consistent with the UN definition of migration where an individual who has left the UK for a year or more would be considered an emigrant (and if they subsequently obtain a new visa to enter the UK, they would be a new immigrant, and start a new migrant journey in these data). This means numbers in this report for journeys starting each year will not match total numbers of visas granted each year.

The analysis examines the immigration status of migrants at the end of each calendar year.

1.1. Analysis

This report updates analysis from '[Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016](#)' published in February 2018, which reported on data up to and including 2016. This new report includes data up to the end of 2018.

It presents the data in two different but complementary ways:

- **The Forward Analysis:** examining the immigration status of migrants issued visas to the UK between 2004 and 2016. This analysis examines the changes in immigration status of migrants issued visas to the UK and explores four of the main categories of entry to the UK for migrants from outside the EEA: Family, Work, Study, and Dependants joining or accompanying. Visitors are excluded. The latest findings discuss in detail those issued a visa in 2013, focusing on their status after 5 years.
- **The Backward Analysis:** examining those whose entry to the UK ultimately resulted in them being granted settlement – permission to stay in the UK permanently – and on which visa type they initially came to the UK.

Who is included, and presentation

Both main applicants and dependants are included. Where applicable, the supplementary tables separately identify all cases, by applicant type.

The figures for the cohorts described in the report as starting with 'Study' include all lengths of sponsored Tier 4 Study visas but exclude the separate category of unsponsored Short-term study that normally have validity up to 6 months (in some cases 11 months) as this category of leave cannot be extended in-country.

In the **Forward Analysis**, migrants starting on visit visas, visas for immediate settlement (i.e. immediate permission to stay in the UK permanently), and other smaller miscellaneous entry clearance routes (e.g. EEA family permits) are excluded. In the **Backward Analysis**, migrants arriving on all routes are analysed. Anyone initially arriving as a visitor or for short-term study would not be included, and would only be recorded once entering in another category. Journeys where the earliest immigration record for a migrant appears as an in-country grant of leave, rather than out of country entry clearance visa, are also included.

Where the text below refers to those granted settlement, this also includes those who were granted citizenship (alternatively or subsequently to a grant of settlement), unless this is otherwise indicated. The supplementary tables separately identify migrants granted settlement and individuals who have been granted citizenship.

The data presented on migrant journeys for individuals (i.e. grants of visas, of settlement, and of UK citizenship) do not confirm whether individuals are currently in the UK.

Percentages in this report do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

1.2. User Guide

The ['Migrant Journey: user guide'](#) provides further details on this topic including definitions used, how figures are compiled, data quality, and issues arising from figures based on data sourced from an administrative database.

1.3. Feedback

If you have any comments or queries regarding the content or presentation in this report, please provide feedback by emailing MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk.

2. Key Facts

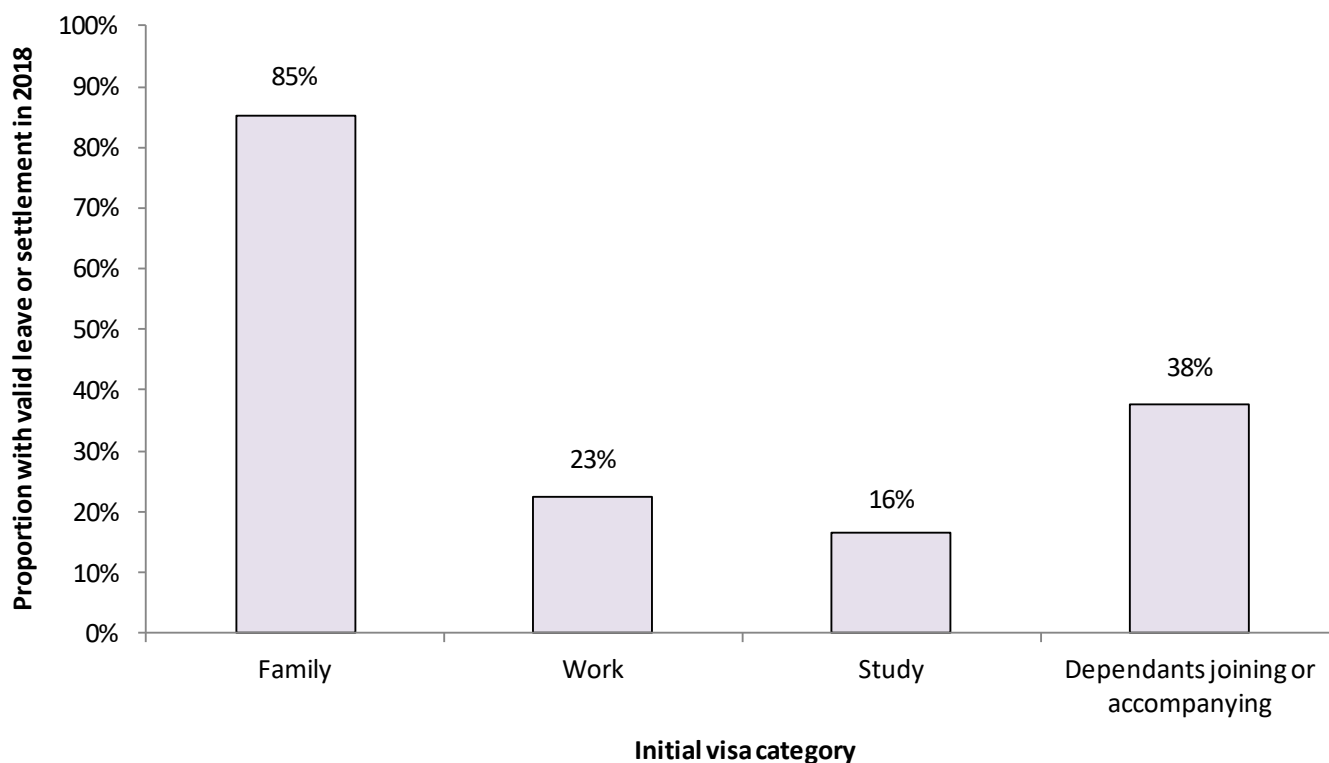
The data in this section relates to migrants granted an initial visa in 2013, and examining their status after 5 years, unless indicated otherwise.

2.1. Forward analysis: Overall

- Of the migrants issued a visa in 2013, a quarter (25%) held valid leave (temporary) or settlement (permission to stay in the UK permanently) after 5 years (i.e. at the end of 2018) – slightly lower than the proportion of migrants issued a visa in 2012 (27%).
- The proportion of migrants with valid leave or settlement after 5 years has decreased for each cohort since 2004.
- 7% of migrants issued a visa in 2013 had been granted settlement after 5 years (the lowest level in the years examined), down from 11% of migrants that were issued a visa in 2012. This continues the year-on-year decreases seen since 2007 (20%).
- Of the 5.1 million Migrant Journeys (for Family, Work or Study-related reasons) starting between 2004 and 2016, 637,929 (12%) were ongoing (i.e. had not expired or been granted settlement) at the end of 2018. Of the remaining journeys, 922,554 (18%) of migrants had been granted settlement, with the remaining 3.6 million journeys having expired by the end of 2018.

2.2. Forward analysis: Visa type

Figure 1: Proportion of migrants issued a visa in 2013 with valid leave or settlement after 5 years, by initial visa type



Source:

[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

- 1 in 6 students (16%) granted a visa in 2013 held valid leave or settlement after 5 years, at the end of 2018. The proportion of students with valid leave after 5 years has generally decreased each year since 2004 (see section 3 below).
- Migrants granted initial Family visas were the most likely to hold valid leave or settlement after 5 years (85%). The next highest categories were migrants on Dependant joining or accompanying visas (38%), followed by Work visas (23%) and Tier 4 Study visas (16%).

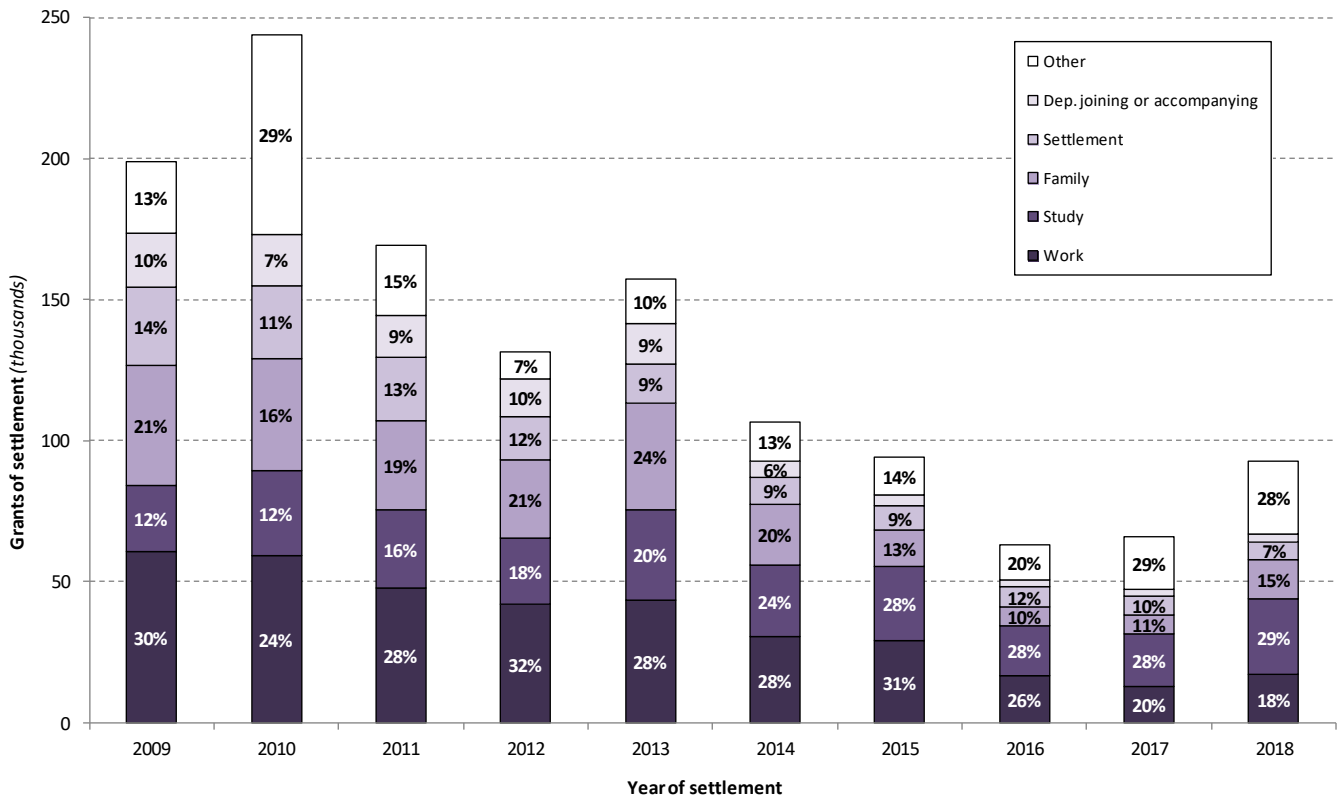
- Whilst the Family category had the highest proportion of migrants with settlement after 5 years (44%), this is markedly lower than those issued initial Family visas in 2012 (69%), and just over half the proportion of those issued initial Family visas in 2010 (82%).
- Less than 1% of those granted an initial Student visa in 2013 had been granted settlement after 5 years. Study is not a direct route to settlement which explains the much lower proportion compared with other categories.

2.3. Forward analysis: Nationality

- Of the top ten nationalities with an initial visa granted in 2013 (for all categories), Pakistani nationals had the highest proportion with valid leave or settlement after 5 years (57%). Chinese nationals had the lowest proportion (15%).
- Pakistani nationals also had the highest proportion granted settlement after 5 years (21%). The next highest were Russian nationals (9%) and Indian nationals (8%), with the remaining nationalities in the top ten having only 5% or less.

2.4. Backward analysis

Figure 2: Common immigration categories of those granted settlement in 2009 to 2018^{1,2,3}



Source:
[Volume 2, table MJ 02](#)

Figure note(s):

1. The 'Other' category contains grants of settlement where there had previously been grants related to asylum, grants of leave outside the immigration rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life, and other small miscellaneous categories.
 2. Categories less than 5% have not been labelled on the chart.
 3. EEA family permits have been excluded.
- The number of non-EEA migrants granted settlement has increased for the second consecutive year, after falling to its lowest point in 2016.
 - Between a quarter and a third (29%) of the people granted settlement in 2018 originally came as students, a similar proportion as in the preceding three years.

- 18% of migrants granted settlement in 2018 had been initially granted a Work visa, and 15% had been initially granted a Family visa.
- 28% of migrants granted settlement in 2018 fall under the 'Other' category.

The 'Other' category contains migrants where there had previously been grants related to asylum, but does not indicate the category that these individuals originally entered the UK under. The category also contains cases relating to grants of leave outside the immigration rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life, and other small miscellaneous categories.

- The high volume of cases granted settlement in 2010 reflects more grants given on a discretionary basis. This resulted from a review of the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applications announced in July 2006 by the then Home Secretary.

3. Forward analysis

This analysis examines the changes in the immigration status of migrants issued visas to the UK and explores four of the main categories of entry to the UK (excluding visitors) for migrants from outside the EEA:

- Family
- Work (including dependants)
- Study (including dependants)
- Dependants joining or accompanying

'Family' visas are where an individual is applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship to a person granted settlement in the UK or a British citizen.

'Dependants joining or accompanying' are dependants applying for a visa on the basis of their relationship with another migrant, (who has not been granted settlement and is not a British citizen).

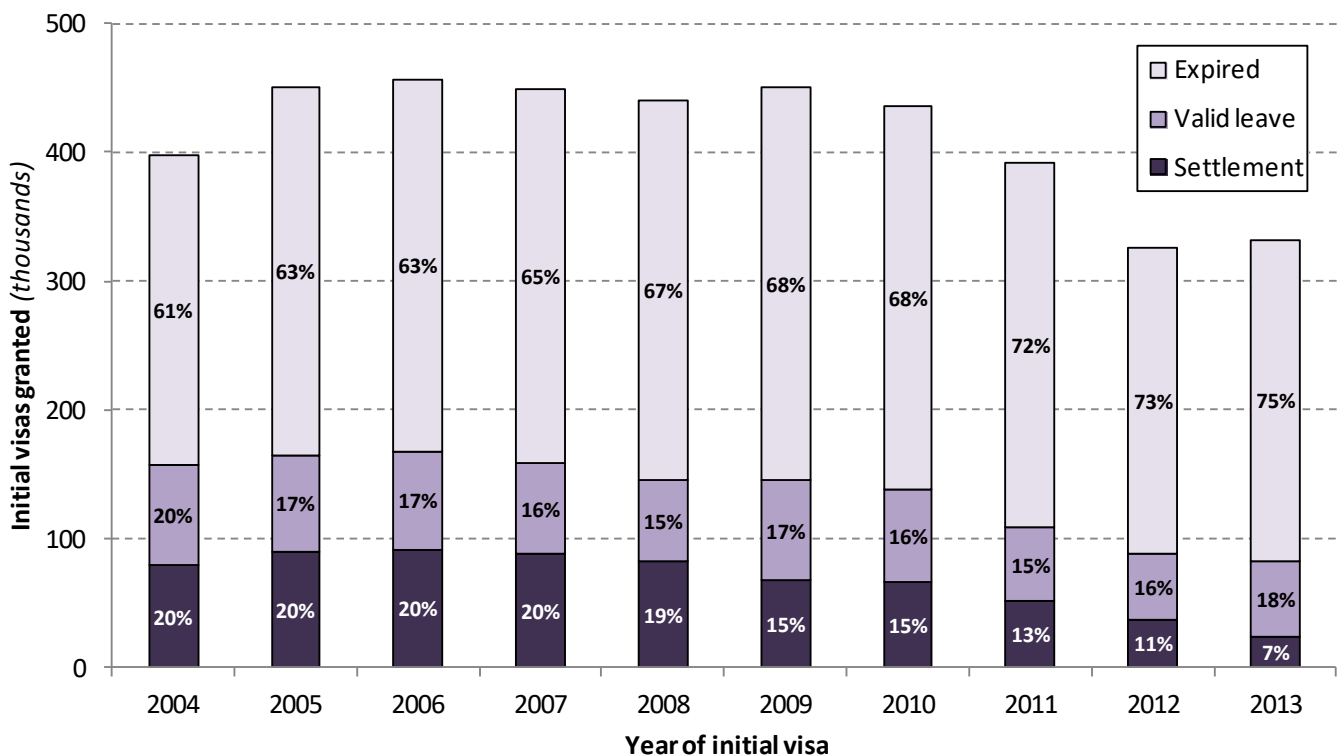
Within the work route, there is also some detailed discussion of the individual tiers of the points-based system (PBS).

For migrants initially issued a visa in one of these categories, this analysis looks at their journey through the immigration system, with a focus on their status five years after initial visa grant, where there is no more than a 12 month gap between periods of leave.

The expiration of an individual's (entry clearance) visa or extension of stay does not necessarily imply that person has (or has not) left the UK - there are number of reasons why an individual with an expired visa may still be in the UK legally e.g. whilst waiting the outcome of a further application to stay. Similarly some individuals granted a visa may never have entered the UK. For further details see the ['Third report on statistics being collected under the exit checks programme'](#).

3.1. Overall analysis

Figure 3: Number of migrants issued an initial visa in 2004 to 2013, broken down by their immigration status after 5 years



Source: [Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

Of the 332,242 migrants issued an initial visa in 2013, 25% held valid leave (18%) or settlement (7%) after 5 years (i.e. at the end of 2018). The number of migrants with valid leave or settlement (82,229) is the lowest of all the cohorts examined between 2004 and 2013, and under half the volume of the peak in 2006 (167,307).

On average, half of all journeys had expired at the end of the first two years after an initial visa was granted. Work and Study migrants had the highest proportion of expiries (56% and 54% respectively) after 2 years, with only 3% of Family migrants with expired journeys after 2 years. The propensity to switch category or status differs by initial visa type. Of migrants granted an initial Family visa in 2013, 39% still held a Family visa after 5 years, with the remaining either: switching categories, granted settlement or citizenship, or having their journeys expired. After 5 years, 12% of Work migrants held a Work visa, 10% of Study migrants held a Study visa, and only 1% of migrants initially issued Dependant joining or accompanying visas held the same type of visa.

The length of journeys can be influenced by a number of factors, such as the allowed duration of stay on an initial visa, the type of visa held (i.e. work, study, or family) and whether the migrant intends, and is permitted, to obtain an extension or granted settlement before their leave period expires.

Table 1: Proportion of migrants issued an initial visa that held valid leave or settlement after 5 years, by visa type, 2004 to 2013

Year of initial visa	Total	Family	Work	Study	Dependants joining or accompanying
2004	39%	79%	34%	32%	53%
2005	37%	81%	31%	28%	54%
2006	37%	83%	32%	26%	56%
2007	35%	85%	26%	25%	61%
2008	33%	86%	25%	23%	58%
2009	32%	86%	31%	23%	59%
2010	32%	88%	31%	21%	56%
2011	28%	88%	26%	18%	53%
2012	27%	89%	22%	17%	48%
2013	25%	85%	23%	16%	38%

Source:

[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

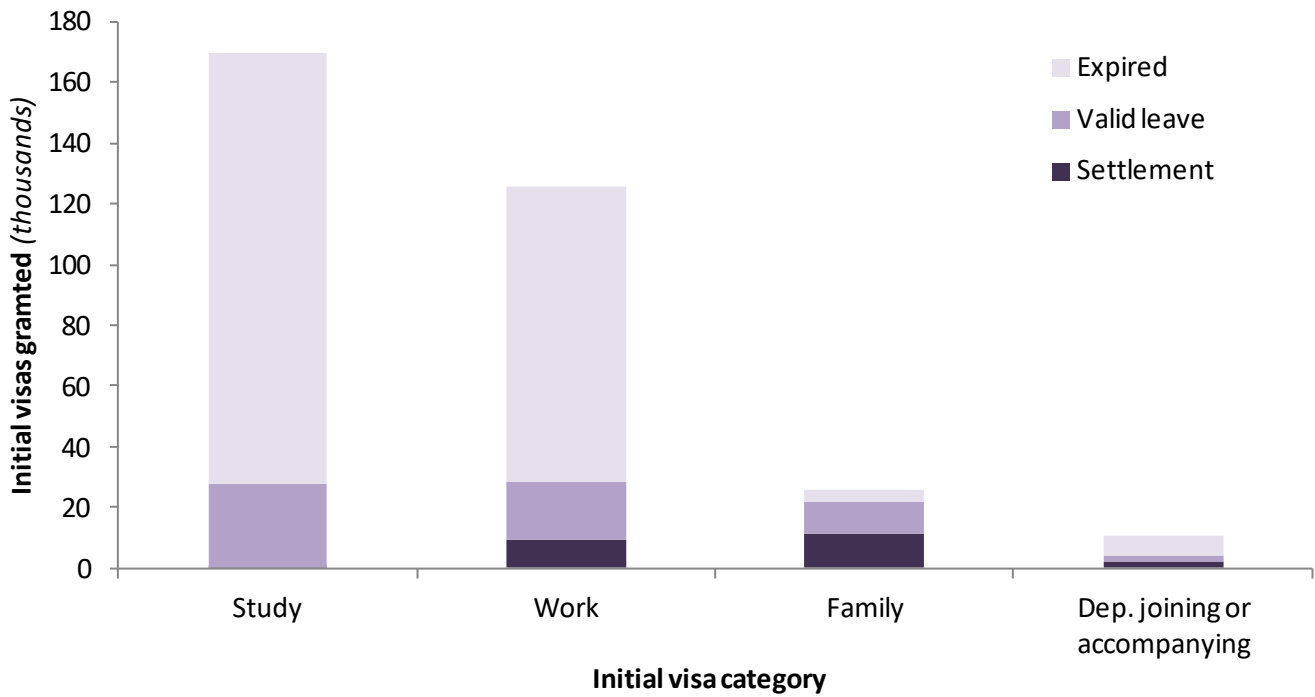
As Table 1 shows, Student migrants are less likely than those on other categories to have valid leave or have been granted settlement after five years. Of these, only a small proportion are granted settlement within a 5-year timeframe. The reasons for this include:

- the rules for Study visas mean that it is not a direct route to settlement, and therefore to settle a student would normally have to apply to stay in another route
- the propensity for people in Study to switch into other immigration categories that have a route to settlement and the time that would then need to elapse before a settlement application can be made

The Points Based System (PBS) was phased in from 2008 onwards. Tier 1 was introduced as a general category for work, but now primarily caters for 'high value' migrants, and was phased in between February and June 2008. This was followed by Tier 2 and Tier 5 which were implemented in November 2008. Tier 2 provides a route for skilled workers with a job offer. Tier 5 provides a route for temporary workers and youth mobility (for those coming to the UK for primarily non-economic reasons). These changes to the immigration system may have influenced the characteristics of those arriving for work after 2008.

Although the proportion is smaller, student migrants represent a substantial number of migrants with valid leave or settlement after 5 years (27,696), similar to the number for work migrant categories (28,342), as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Number of migrants issued an initial visa in 2013, broken down by their immigration status after 5 years, by visa type



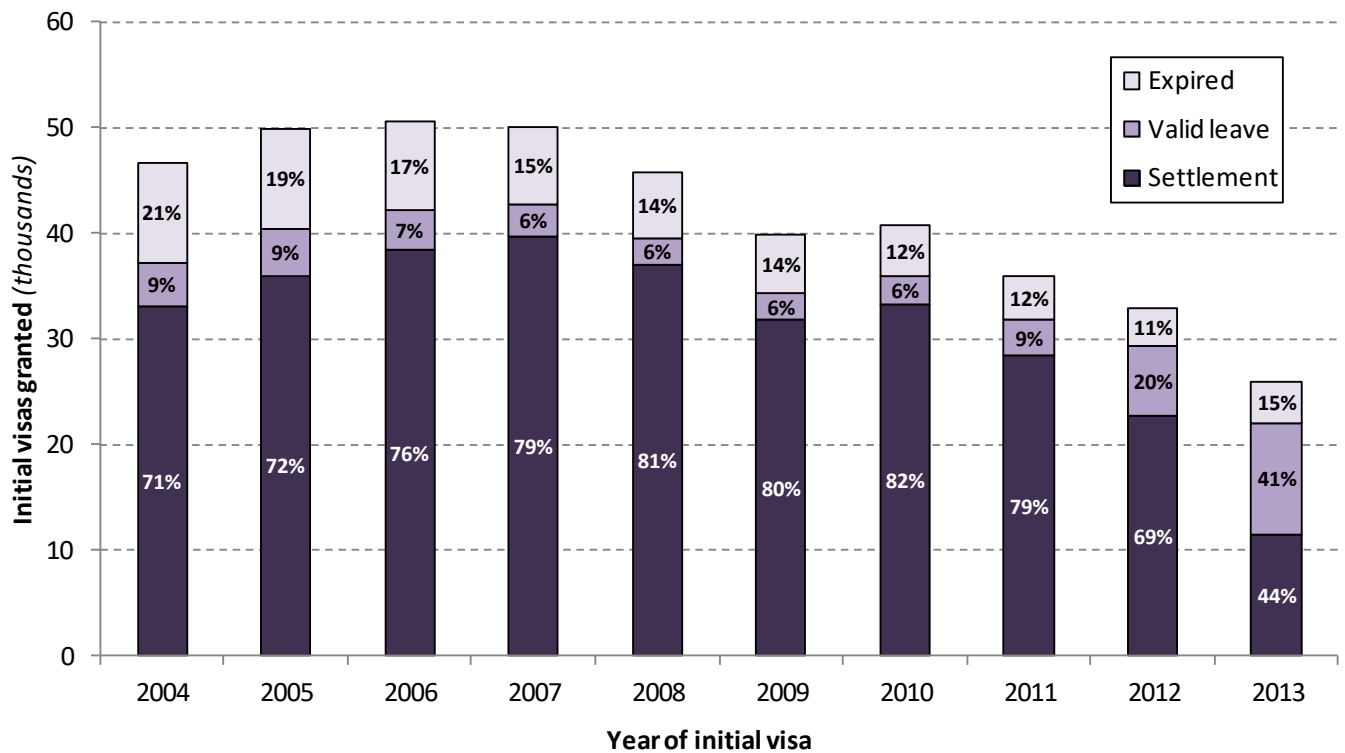
Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

3.2. Family visas

For migrants issued an initial Family visa in 2013, 85% held valid leave or had been granted settlement (41% and 44% respectively) after 5 years. People coming under the Family route will normally be part of or seeking to establish a long-term relationship.

As showing in Figure 5, the proportion of Family migrants with settlement after 5 years fell markedly for migrants arriving in 2013 (44%), compared to those arriving the previous year (69%), and is close to half the proportion of those issued Family visas in 2010 (82%). This can be accounted for by the changes in July 2012 to the immigration rules for Family visas, which changed the eligibility period for settlement from 2 years to 5 years.

Figure 5: Number of migrants issued an initial Family visa in 2004 to 2013, broken down by their immigration status after 5 years



Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

In the 2013 cohort, the top 5 nationalities (Pakistan, India, United States, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh) accounted for over two-fifths (39%) of Family visas issued.

The proportion who had been granted settlement after 5 years differs by nationality. A lower proportion of nationals from the US (29%) were granted settlement after 5 years, compared with nationals from Bangladesh (52%), Sri Lanka (47%), India (45%), and Pakistan (42%).

Table 2: Top 5 nationalities (by volume) issued an initial Family visa in 2013

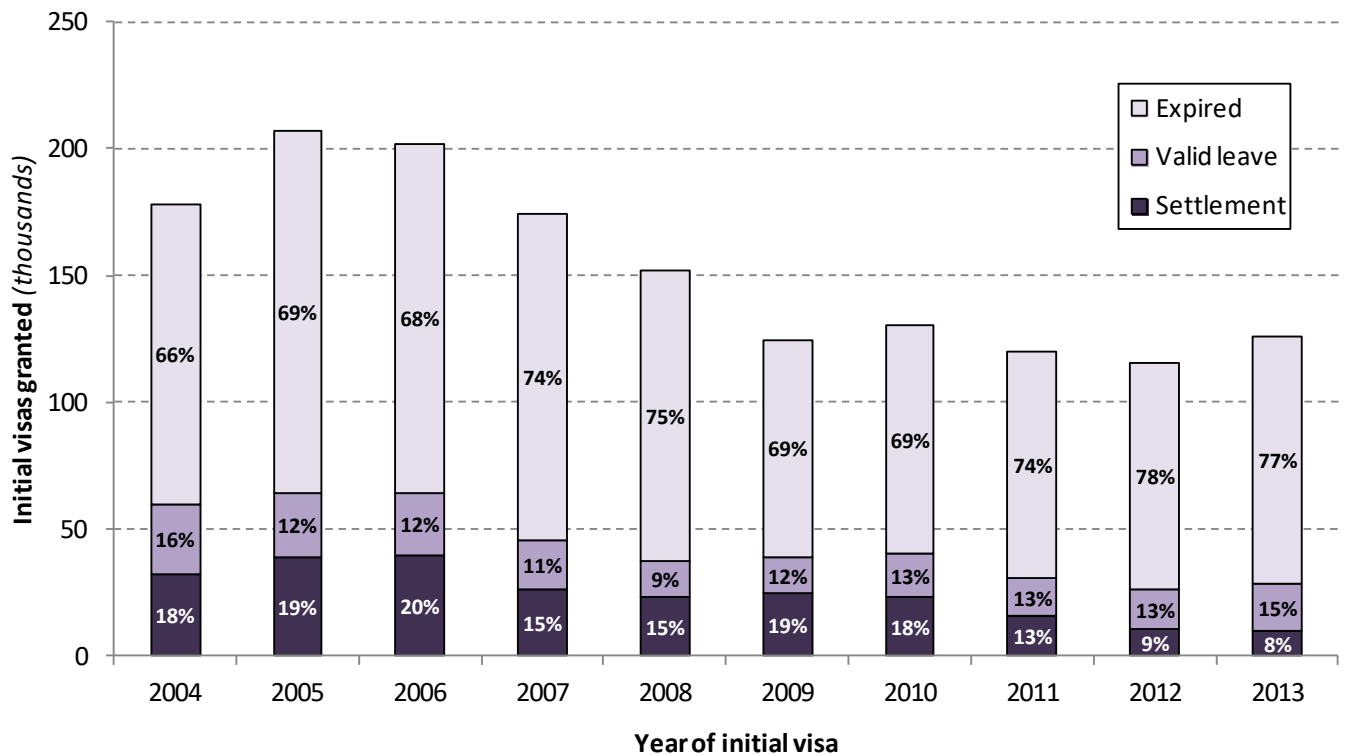
Nationality	Migrants in 2013 cohort	Immigration status after 5 years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
All nationalities	25,882	15%	41%	44%
Of which:				
Pakistan	3,759	11%	47%	42%
India	2,472	12%	44%	45%
United States	1,618	31%	40%	29%
Sri Lanka	1,135	11%	42%	47%
Bangladesh	1,034	7%	40%	52%

Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

3.3. Work visas

For migrants issued an initial Work visa in 2013, 23% held valid leave or had been granted settlement (15% and 8% respectively) after 5 years.

Figure 6: Number of migrants issued an initial Work visa in 2004 to 2013, broken down by their immigration status after 5 years



Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

In 2013, Tier 2 skilled work visas (and their pre-PBS equivalents) accounted for over half (55%) of all initial work visas issued. This was followed by:

- Tier 5 (Youth mobility and temporary work) visas, accounting for 29% of the total.
- Non-PBS visas, accounting for 9% of the total.
- Tier 1 (High value) visas, accounting for 7% of the total.

Migrants on the Tier 1 route had the highest proportion of individuals with valid leave or settlement (67%) after 5 years, though this category also represents the smallest proportion of work visas issued. By comparison, there were much lower numbers of valid leave or settlement for migrants on the Tier 2 route (24%), and even lower numbers for migrants on the Tier 5 route (9%), of which unsurprisingly, given its temporary nature, there were very small numbers of settlement cases.

Table 3: Migrants issued an initial Work visa in 2013, broken down by work category

Visa category	Migrants in 2013 cohort	Immigration status after 5 years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
All categories	125,918	77%	15%	8%
Of which:				
High value (Tier 1)	9,210	33%	38%	29%
Skilled (Tier 2)	68,825	76%	16%	9%
Youth mobility & temporary work (Tier 5)	35,944	91%	9%	0%
Non-PBS / Other	11,939	82%	10%	8%

Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

3.3.1 Tier 2 (Skilled) work

Around 1 in 10 (9%) migrants on the Tier 2 (Skilled) work route had been granted settlement within 5 years. Since 2009, the first full year of the Tier 2 route's implementation, there have been year-on-year decreases in the proportion

of people who had been granted settlement after 5 years, from 23% of those issued a Tier 2 (or pre-PBS equivalent) visa in 2009, down to 9% in 2012 and 2013.

The proportion who had been granted settlement within 5 years differs by nationality. Of the top 10 nationalities, the proportion was lower for Japanese (2%) than Pakistani nationals (35%).

The table below indicates that lower gross domestic product (GDP) per head in a country of origin was associated with higher rates of settlement after 5 years (and lower rates of expired leave) - the notable exception being Indian nationals, who also represent over half (57%) of Tier 2 migrants arriving in 2013. This may be related to the number of Indian migrants applying under the Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) route, which does not have a direct route to settlement. [Data on entry clearance visas](#) issued show that 85% of Tier 2 grants for Indian migrants were Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) visas.

The **Intra-Company Transfer** route enables multinational employers to transfer their existing employees from outside the EEA to their UK branch for training purposes or to fill a specific vacancy that cannot be filled by a British or EEA worker.

The rules were changed from 6 April 2010, meaning that the Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer) category no longer leads to settlement.

Japanese nationals had the highest percentage of Tier 2 visas issued which were ICTs (88%), along with the lowest proportion of migrants granted settlement after 5 years (2%) of the top 10 nationalities.

Table 4: Top 10 nationalities (by volume) issued an initial Tier 2 (Skilled) work visa in 2013, ordered by proportion granted settlement

Nationality	Migrants in 2013 cohort	Proportion of Tier 2 visas issued which were ICTs ¹	Immigration status after 5 years			GDP per capita in country of origin (<i>thousands</i>), 2018 ²
			% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement	
All nationalities	68,825	69%	76%	16%	9%	:
Of which:						
Pakistan	965	15%	31%	34%	35%	5.7
Philippines	952	15%	42%	31%	27%	8.9
Russia	833	36%	50%	29%	21%	29.0
China	1,870	43%	65%	18%	18%	18.1
Canada	1,261	35%	65%	26%	10%	49.8
Australia	1,557	31%	66%	25%	9%	52.2
Korea (South)	901	57%	80%	12%	8%	41.4
India	39,326	85%	83%	11%	6%	7.8
United States	9,375	57%	75%	19%	6%	62.2
Japan	2,978	88%	77%	21%	2%	44.4

Sources:

[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

[Home Office 'Immigration Statistics'](#)

[International Monetary Fund - April 2018 edition](#)

Table note(s):

1. Figures sourced from the quarterly Home Office 'Immigration Statistics' publication.
2. Purchasing power parity in International dollars (Int'l\$).

3.4. Study visas

For migrants issued an initial Study visa in 2013, 16% held valid leave after 5 years, continuing the general year-on-year decrease in the proportion seen since the 2004 cohort. The proportion who had been granted settlement after 5 years has also declined from 4% to negligible figures (just over 0%) over the same period.

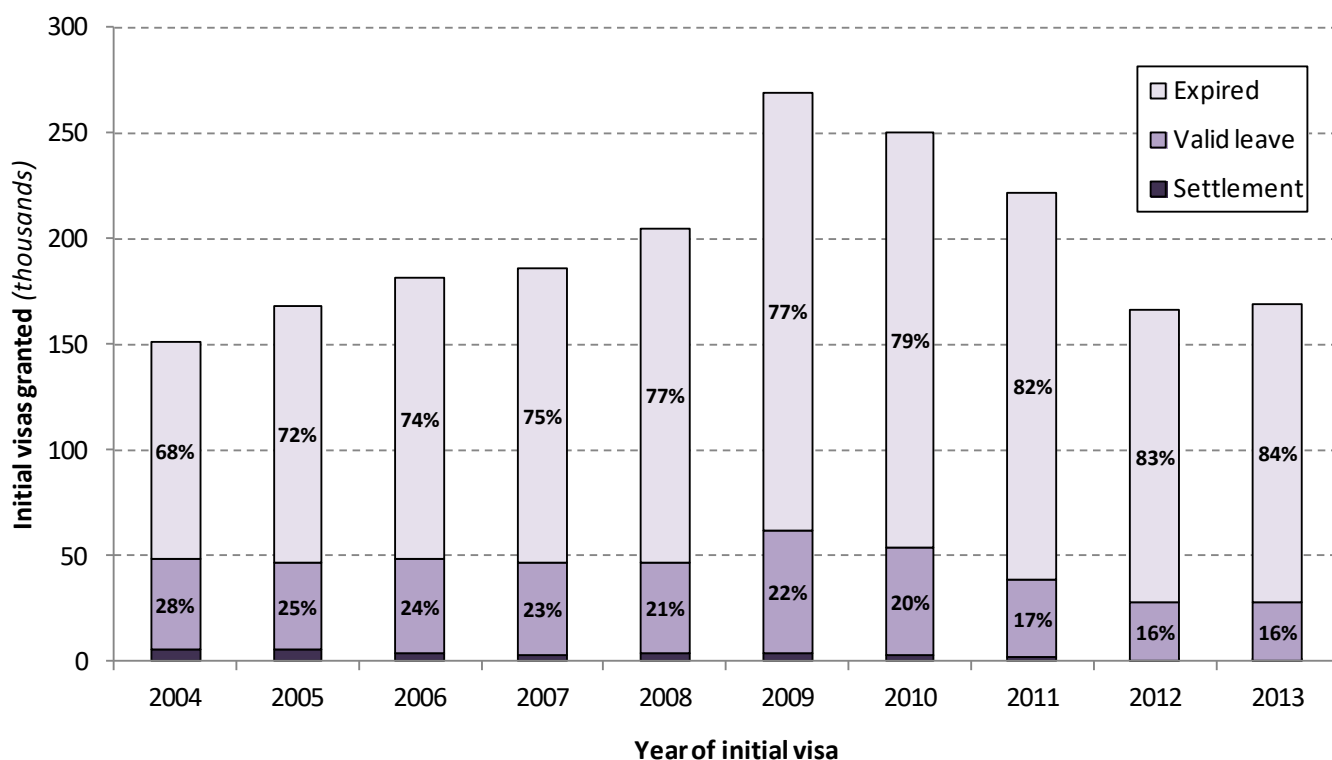
The proportion of migrants arriving on an initial Study visa who held a Work visa after 5 years has decreased from 14% of those granted a Study visa in the 2004 cohort, to 3% of for the 2012 cohort, and 4% for the 2013 cohort.

These changes are consistent with the tightening of the Immigration Rules for students since September 2007. They also reflect changes in the composition of student migrants coming to the UK. For example, Chinese students accounted for 13% of initial Study visa grants in 2004 and 27% for the 2013 study cohort.

Further details on changes to the Immigration Rules for Study can be found at '[Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK](#)'.

However, it is also worth noting that those initially granted Study visas comprise large proportions of the numbers eventually granted settlement (see chapter 4, 'Backward analysis'). Those who are coming to the UK for Study purposes tend to be on a 10 year route to settlement, rather than a 5 year route.

Figure 7: Number of migrants issued an initial Study visa in 2004 to 2013, broken down by their immigration status after 5 years¹



Source:
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

Chart note(s):

- Categories less than 5% are not labelled on the chart.

Of migrants issued an initial Study visa in 2013, 54% had expired leave after just 2 years, indicating that many people on Student visas will come to study shorter courses, including both postgraduate studies and further education courses. After 5 years, this proportion with expired leave had increased to 84%, with less than 1% of the 2013 study migrants having been granted settlement.

In the 2013 cohort, the top 5 nationalities (China, United States, India, Nigeria, Malaysia) accounted for over half (53%) of people who initially entered the UK on a Study visa.

Just over a fifth of Nigerian (21%) students had valid leave to remain or settlement after 5 years, the highest proportion among the top 5 and higher than the proportion for non-EU students as a whole (16%). American students had the lowest proportion (10%) with valid leave remaining after 5 years of the top 5 nationalities.

Table 5: Top 5 nationalities issued an initial Study visa in 2013

Nationality	Migrants in 2013 cohort	Immigration status after 5 years		
		% with expired leave	% with valid leave	% granted settlement
All nationalities	169,286	84%	16%	0%
Of which:				
China	46,635	88%	12%	0%
United States	13,051	90%	10%	0%
India	11,995	86%	14%	0%
Nigeria	10,149	79%	21%	0%
Malaysia	8,315	86%	14%	0%

Source:

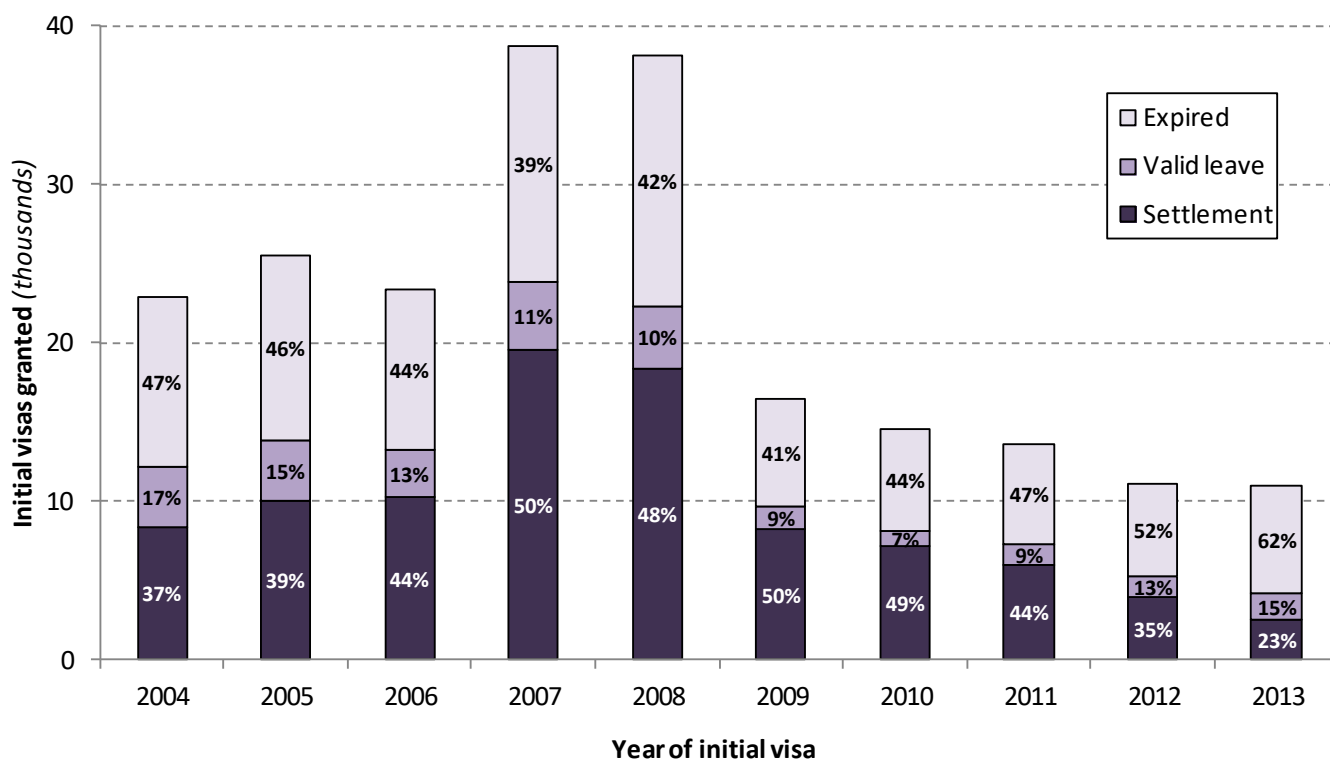
[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

3.5. Dependants joining or accompanying

For migrants issued an initial Dependants joining or accompanying visa in 2013, 38% held valid leave or had been granted settlement (15% and 23% respectively) after 5 years.

In the 2013 cohort, 10,993 migrants were granted a Dependants joining or accompanying visa. There was a notable decrease of 57% in the migrants granted a Dependants joining or accompanying visa between 2008 and 2009 cohorts. This coincides with the roll-out of the PBS for Work and Study visas across 2008 and 2009. Before this, all dependants of migrants on Work or Study visas would be provided with a 'joining or accompanying' visa, which acts as a catch-all for dependants in non-PBS categories, aside from the Family category.

Figure 8: Number of migrants issued an initial Dependants joining and accompanying visa in 2004 to 2013, broken down by immigration status after 5 years



Source:

[Volume 1, table MJ 01](#)

In the 2013 cohort, the top 5 nationalities (United States, China, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa) accounted for just over half (56%) of Dependants joining or accompanying visas issued. South African nationals were most likely to have been granted settlement after 5 years (52%). Americans were by far the largest group of any nationality in this category, accounting for over a third (36%) of the total in the 2013 cohort, but had a very low proportion of dependants granted settlement after 5 years (3%) which may in part reflect use of these visas by dependants of American armed forces personnel temporarily stationed in the UK.

4. Backward analysis

The Migrant Journey analysis also considers those whose entry to the UK ultimately results in them applying for settlement (permission to stay permanently in the UK) and which visas they used initially to come to the UK.

Limitations of data matching and the rules for settlement mean that it was not always possible to trace every case back to the first visa record. In addition, some original entry records will pre-date the electronic databases used for this analysis, meaning that the migrants could not be linked to an initial visa record.

The underlying data used to calculate the number of migrants granted settlement is derived from a different administrative source than the published settlement figures in the quarterly 'Immigration Statistics' release, so figures are not identical.

The numbers of cases granted settlement in different years can also reflect casework management decisions as well as policy changes. The high volume of cases granted settlement in 2010 reflects more grants given on a discretionary basis. This resulted from a review of the backlog of cases involving unsuccessful asylum applications announced in July 2006 by the then Home Secretary.

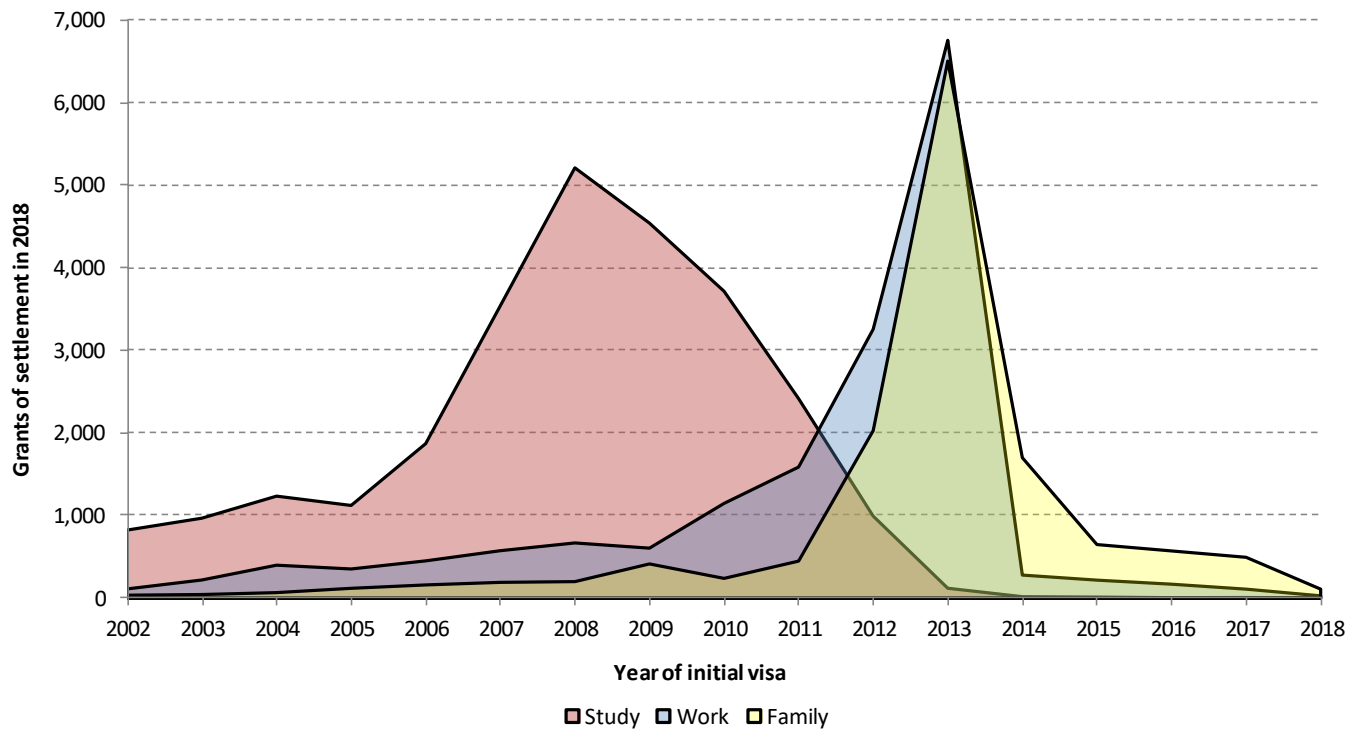
Of those migrants granted settlement in 2018:

- 29% had originally entered the UK on a Study visa;
- 18% on a Work visa;
- 15% on a Family visa;
- 7% on an entry clearance visa for immediate settlement;
- 3% on a Dependant joining or accompanying visa;
- 28% came to the UK for other reasons.

The 'Other' category contains migrants where there had previously been grants related to asylum, but does not indicate the category that these individuals originally entered the UK under. The category also contains cases relating to grants of leave outside the immigration rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life, and other small miscellaneous categories.

The speediest non-asylum pathways to settlement are the Family and some Work categories – the direct routes to settlement allowed under the Immigration Rules. Both Family and Work categories allow a grant of settlement without the migrant switching to another immigration category. For individuals granted settlement in 2018, who originally were granted a Family or Work visa, the majority initially were granted in 2013. This is a result of Family and Work migrants taking up the option for settlement as soon as they become eligible after 5 years. The majority of student migrants that were granted settlement in 2018 were initially granted Study visas in 2008. As this is a temporary route, these student migrants will, in most cases, have subsequently switched into another route to permanent settlement or applied for settlement under the 10 year long-term residency rule.

Figure 9: Grants of settlement in 2018, by year of initial visa since 2002, for selected common categories of entry to the UK¹



Source:
[Volume 2, table MJ 02](#)

Chart note(s):

1. A small number of grants of settlement where an initial record was found prior to 2002 have been excluded from the chart.

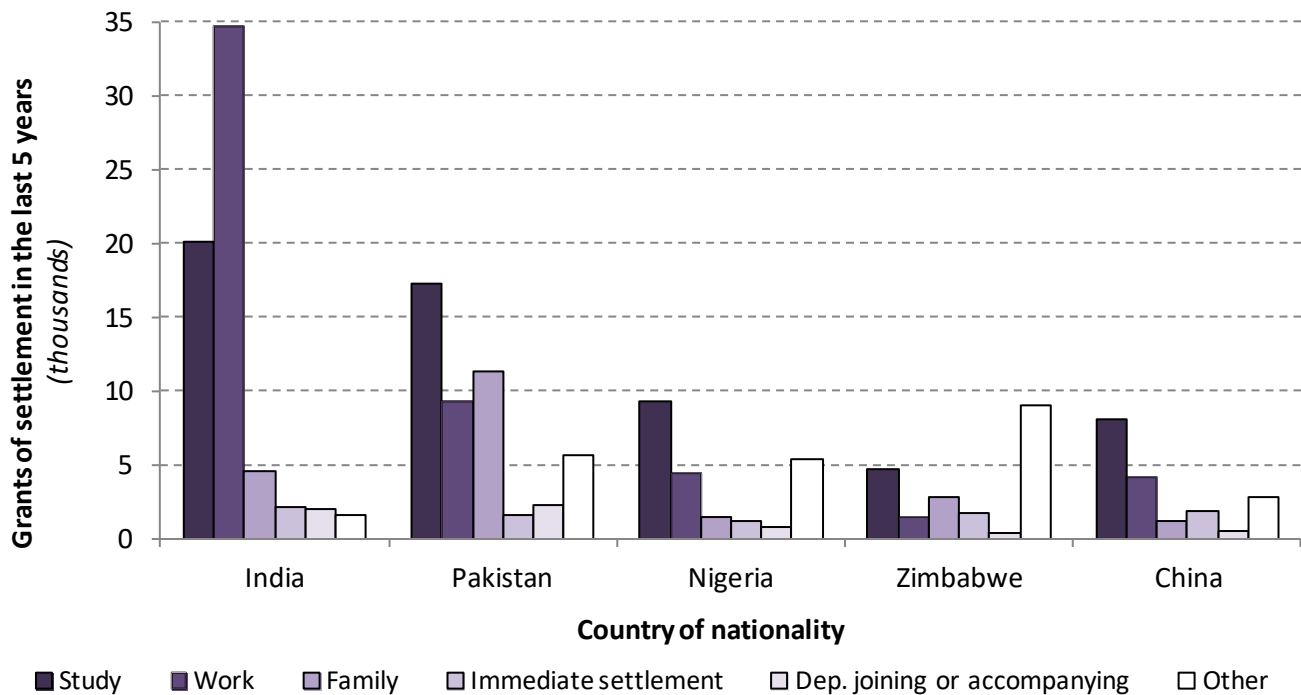
In 2018, 92,909 migrants were granted settlement, 40% higher than the number of migrants who were granted settlement in 2017 (66,412), but 62% lower than in 2010 (244,797). This reflects the numbers of visas and extensions granted in previous years and changes to the Immigration Rules over time.

Over a quarter (29%) of those granted settlement in 2018 were initially granted visas to study or were dependants of a student. This proportion has remained steady since 2015, but has increased overall since 2010 (12%).

28% of migrants granted settlement in 2018 came to the UK for ‘Other’ reasons. This route contains cases related to asylum, as well as grants of leave outside the immigration rules, discretionary leave and private life.

A further 7% of migrants in the 2018 cohort had settlement as their first record. This means that they had either been granted settlement on arrival – indefinite leave to enter the UK (ILE) – or had a grant of settlement in the UK (ILR) as their earliest record identified in the electronic sources used to create this analysis. As noted above, limitations of data matching and the rules for settlement mean that it was not always possible to trace every case back electronically to the first visa record.

Figure 10: Top 5 nationalities granted settlement (ordered by number of grants) in 2014 to 2018, by initial route of entry to the UK^{1,2}



Source:
[Volume 2, table MJ 02](#)

Chart note(s):

1. The chart displays the most common categories of immigration, and excludes EEA family permits.
2. The 'Other' category in the chart contains migrants where there had previously been grants related to asylum, cases relating to grants of leave outside the immigration rules, grants of discretionary leave, grants of private life, and other small miscellaneous categories.

The top 5 nationalities granted settlement between 2014 and 2018 (India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and China) accounted for 41% of the total number of settlement grants in this period, with Indian migrants making up the largest proportion (15% of the total). The numbers of migrants from particular nationalities will reflect the make-up of migrants on a path to settlement (entering some years earlier) and may not reflect the pattern among those migrants being granted initial visas in more recent cohorts.

Of the Indian migrants granted settlement in the last 5 years:

- 53% (34,770) were granted an initial Work visa
- 31% (20,101) were granted an initial Study visa

Of the corresponding Pakistani migrants:

- 36% (17,243) were granted an initial Study visa
- 24% (11,364) were granted an initial Family visa
- 19% (9,225) were granted an initial Work visa
- 12% (5,645) were granted leave for 'Other' reasons

Of the Nigerian migrants:

- 41% (9,274) were granted an initial Study visa
- 24% (5,328) were granted leave for 'Other' reasons
- 19% (4,381) were granted an initial Work visa

Of the corresponding Zimbabwean migrants:

- 45% (9,034) were granted leave for 'Other' reasons
- 23% (4,678) were granted an initial Study visa
- 14% (2,860) were granted an initial Family visa

Of the corresponding Chinese migrants:

- 44% (8,125) were granted an initial Study visa
- 22% (4,096) were granted an initial Work visa
- 15% (2,768) were granted leave for 'Other' reasons
- 10% (1,829) were granted settlement as their first record

5. Data tables

Further data on the 'Migrant Journey' are available in:

- [Volume 1, Table MJ 01.](#)
- [Volume 2, Table MJ 02.](#)

6. About the figures

This is the ninth in a series of reports based on the 'Migrant Journey'; it is published annually by the Home Office and complements data on the number of visas already published as part of the quarterly National Statistics release of ["Immigration Statistics"](#). If as a user you have any comments on this report please email MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk.

The findings presented here are based on data collected from Home Office administrative databases. These databases hold records of individuals granted entry clearance visas and any subsequent grants of extensions of stay in the UK. As these are sourced from operational systems, numbers may change and may not precisely reflect other published statistics, if those are produced and published at a different time. While EEA nationals do not require visas, records suggest that some apply and are granted visas, and therefore small numbers may be included in this analysis. Nationals from countries that became part of the EEA over the time period of this analysis are also likely to be included in earlier cohorts.

The ['Migrant Journey: user guide'](#) provides further details on this topic including definitions used, how figures are compiled, data quality, and issues arising from figures based on data sourced from an administrative database.

The numbers of applications and decisions made reflect changes in the levels of immigration over time, as well as policy and legislative changes, including changes to immigration legislation. Details of these policy changes, together with information on changes to immigration legislation affecting the statistics, can be found in ['Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline'](#) published alongside this report.

7. Other related data

In September 2010, the Home Office published ['The Migrant Journey: Research Report 43'](#), which presented data on the cohort of migrants who came to the UK in 2004. The findings reported the immigration status of these migrants over the subsequent 5 years, where migrants changed their category of leave to remain in the UK, and how migrants in temporary and permanent immigration categories were granted settlement.

In August 2011, a second report, ['Migrant Journey: Research Report 57'](#), extended the September 2010 analysis by reporting on specific migrant nationalities that were issued visas in 2004.

In February 2013, a third report, ['Migrant Journey: Third Report'](#), extended the August 2011 analysis by providing updates for two later cohorts of migrants, namely 2005 and 2006 for the forward-view analysis, and 2010 and 2011 for the backward-view analysis.

In February 2014, a fourth report, ['Migrant Journey: fourth report'](#), extended the February 2013 analysis by providing updates for the 2007 cohort of migrants for the forward-view analysis and 2012 for the backward-view analysis.

In February 2015, a fifth report, ['Migrant Journey: fifth report'](#), extended the February 2014 analysis by providing updates for the 2008 cohort of migrants for the forward-view analysis and 2013 for the backward-view analysis. For the first time, this report provided an extended analysis of the immigration status of migrants at the end of the seventh year after their visa was issued.

In February 2016, a sixth report, ['Migrant Journey: sixth report'](#), extended the February 2015 analysis by providing updates for the 2009 cohort of migrants for forward-view analysis and 2014 for the backward-view analysis.

In February 2017, a seventh report, ['Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2015'](#), extended the February 2016 analysis by providing updates for the 2010 cohort of migrants for forward-view analysis and 2015 for the backward-view analysis.

In February 2018, an eighth report, ['Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2016'](#), extended the February 2017 analysis by providing updates for 2011 cohort of migrant for forward-view analysis and 2016 for the backward-view analysis.

In August 2013, a short statistical article on [‘Extensions of stay by previous category’](#) was published alongside ‘Immigration Statistics April to June 2013’ to provide further detailed information.

In August 2018, the Home Office published the [‘Third report on the statistics being collected under the exit checks programme’](#), which includes some discussion on compliance and change in Immigration Rules.

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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