

Produced by the Cambridgeshire Research Group



MIGRANT WORKERS REPORT: 2018

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Produced by:	Harriet Ludford, Research Analyst, Cambridgeshire County Council Harriet.Ludford@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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INTRODUCTION

The Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group (CCCRG) report, *The Demographic Impact of International Migration in Cambridgeshire (2008)*, estimated that approximately 13,100 non-UK nationals may have become residents in Cambridgeshire between 2001 and 2006, and that the county had a non-UK born population of approximately 61,500. Since this time, monitoring reports have been produced by the Research team to track the ongoing situation. Following on from the 2013 monitoring report, this report presents data from 2002 with a particular focus on data between 2014 and 2018 to assess trends in migration for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the past five years.

On 23rd June 2016, the UK held a membership referendum and voted to leave the European Union (EU). Article 50 which initiated the withdrawal was triggered on 29th March 2017, however the two-year negotiation period was extended until 31st October 2019 and, at the time of writing, the UK remains part of the EU. Whilst the UK has remained a member of the EU during the time period following the referendum, it is likely that uncertainty surrounding the future of migrant worker rights and potential changes to free movement will have influenced patterns of migration from Europe into the UK. This report examines trends in numbers of registrations of migrant workers and numbers of GP migrant records, particularly between 2016 and 2018, to explore the potential impact of Brexit on migration trends in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Data is presented at different geographical levels throughout the report to enable comparisons to be made, these levels include: the Combined Authority area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, local authority, district and the UK as a whole. Table 1 displays the population estimates for the six districts within the Combined Authority area and highlights significant variation in size from the smallest district of East Cambridgeshire (86,580) to the largest district of Peterborough (198,130). This variation in population size across the districts should be borne in mind when interpreting percentage changes in migrant worker registrations over time.

Table 1: Cambridgeshire County Council's 2015-based population forecasts for 2016, by district

District	Population forecast for 2016
Cambridge	134,080
East Cambridgeshire	86,580
Fenland	99,200
Huntingdonshire	176,590
South Cambridgeshire	155,660
Peterborough	198,130

MONITORING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

International migration in the UK is not measured by one single instrument, rather administrative data sources are analysed alongside the application of modelling techniques. At UK level the ONS (Office for National Statistics) collects data on international migration, but there is wide acknowledgement that current methods for measuring migration are not robust enough. The ONS is working through a programme of research to improve the quality of migration statistics.

The ONS international migration data is currently assessed using a variety of sources including the IPS (International Passenger Survey) data. The IPS is based on interviewing a sample of passengers travelling into UK airports. Cross-checking of past data with the results of the 2011 Census led to some significant revisions to the ONS' international migration data. Since then the ONS has initiated a migration statistics improvement programme and, whilst reforms to the IPS have been instigated, work is ongoing in this area.

This report presents National Insurance Number Registrations (NINOs) and Flag 4 (new migrant GP registrations) data as a means of monitoring international migration trends on a regular basis. These are however by-products of national administrative procedures (as the Data Source Definition inset below explains) and as such are not specifically designed to monitor migration. These data sources are not able to provide information on total migrant populations at any point in time, but can be used to provide a sense of trend of migration into an area. They take no account of subsequent migration out of a particular area. NINOs are not de-registered even if a migrant subsequently leaves the UK. There are often delays in migrants registering with GPs in their new location (Flag 4 data) in the UK, whilst if they have left the UK altogether there will be no record of this at all in the Flag 4 data, or if they have subsequently moved within the UK and registered with a different GP the Flag 4 status will be lost.

Data Source Definition

NINOs: All people coming to the UK to take up employment for the first time must obtain a National Insurance Number (NINO), as must those wishing to claim benefits or tax credits. NINO data shows registration by nationality, and residential location by district. We assume that all those registering within Cambridgeshire are also resident in the County. Statistics for NINO allocations to adult overseas nationals are provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The data records non-UK nationals who are legally employed (including the self-employed and students working part-time) and those wanting to claim benefits or tax credits. Data are released quarterly. We take the calendar year of registration as our data period. NINO data is available for download from the DWP: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>

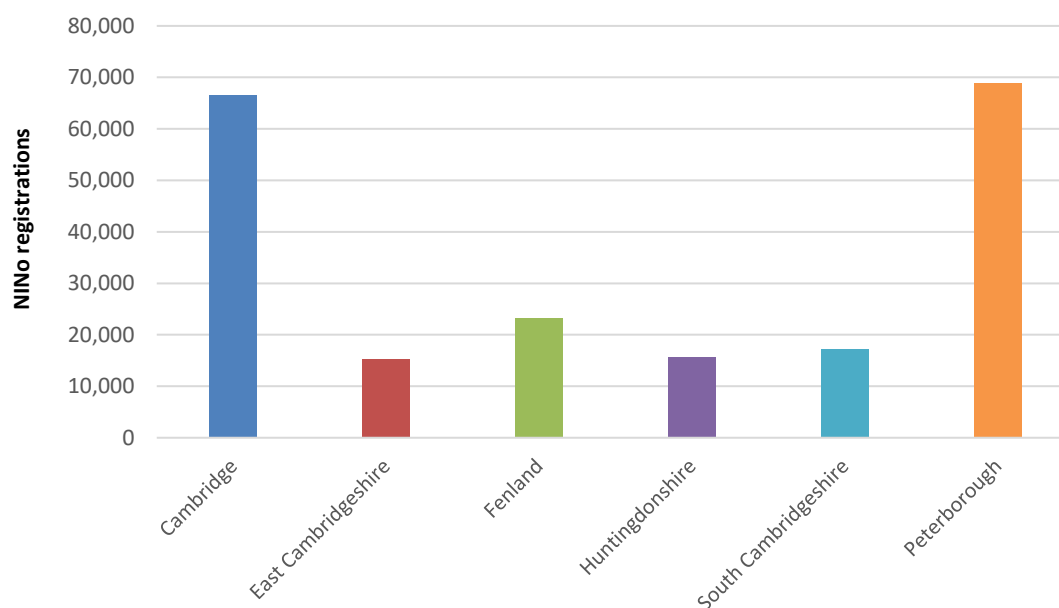
New migrant GP registrations (Flag 4): Each year the ONS receives a demographic snapshot of Patient Register (PR) data held by NHS Digital. Flag 4s are codes within the PR data that indicate that an individual's last address (as registered with an NHS GP – General Practitioner) was overseas. A Flag 4 is generated when a person registers with a GP if that person was either a) born outside the UK and is registering for the first time, or b) whose previous address was outside the UK. New migrant GP registrations (Flag 4) data is available for download from the Office for National Statistics: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwiththeuk/datasets/localareamigrationindicatorsunitedkingdom>

NOTE ON TIME PERIODS: The time period for NINO data in this report covers the calendar year whilst Flag 4 data is based on a mid-year to mid-year snapshot. Within this report each data set will be referred to as a single year, in the case of Flag 4 data this will refer to the second mid-year point, for example, mid 2017-mid 2018 will be referred to as 2018.

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERS (NINOs)

Over 200,000 (206, 803) foreign nationals registered for a NINo in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018 (this total takes no account of migrants who have since left the region). Of these, at the time of registration the majority resided in the districts of Peterborough (33%) and Cambridge (32%), with smaller proportions residing in Fenland (11%), Huntingdonshire (8%), South Cambridgeshire (8%) and East Cambridgeshire (7%).

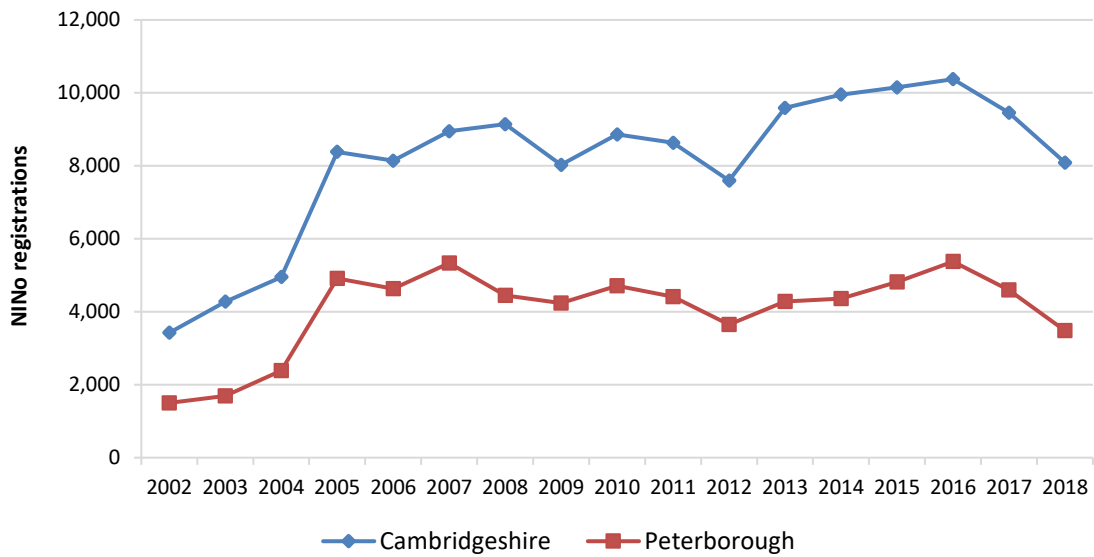
Figure 1: Total NINo registrations by district, 2002 to 2018



As depicted in Figure 1, after a decline in NINo registrations in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2010 and 2012 there was subsequently a sustained increase to 2016. New highs in NINo registrations were recorded in Cambridgeshire in consecutive years from 2014 to 2016, up to a peak total of 10,375 registrations. Cambridgeshire saw a sharp increase of 26% in NINo registrations in 2013, followed by slower year-on-year growth of between 2% and 4% to 2016. In Peterborough registrations hit their highest level in 2016, with 5,375 registrations, surpassing the previous peak of 5,331 registrations seen in 2007. There was a 17% increase in registrations in Peterborough in 2013, followed by a much smaller increase of 2% in 2014, whilst registrations rose by 11% and 12% in 2015 and 2016 respectively. In 2016, NINo registrations for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough together amounted to 15,750.

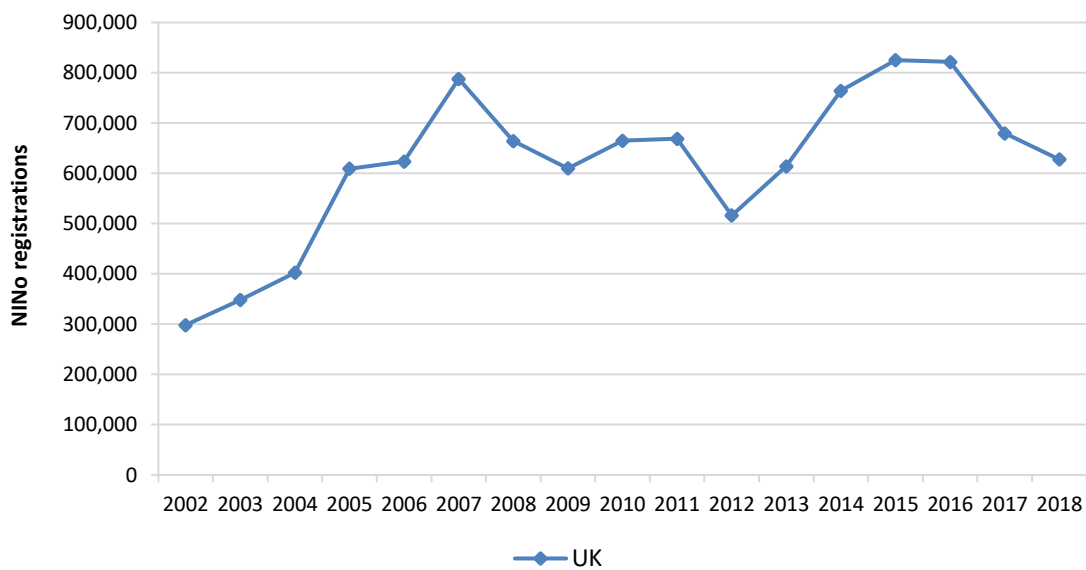
From 2016, after the UK voted to leave the EU in the membership referendum, there was a sharp fall in NINo registrations - in 2018 there were 11,573 registrations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 27% lower than in 2016. This represents the lowest number of annual NINo registrations seen since 2012, and previously to that since before 2005, when NINo registrations rose sharply – more than doubling in Peterborough - following the expansion of the EU in 2004. Figure 2 shows that the proportional decline was sharpest in Peterborough, particularly between 2017 and 2018 where the number of NINo registrations fell by nearly a quarter (24%), compared to 14% in Cambridgeshire.

Figure 2: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NINo registrations, 2002 to 2018



Fluctuations in the number of NINo registrations year-on-year in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough broadly mirror those seen for the UK as a whole since 2002. Comparison between Figure 2 and Figure 3 shows a slight variation between 2015 to 2016, when UK-wide registrations plateaued, whilst those in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough continued to increase. Registrations fell by a similar margin between 2016 and 2018 in the UK (24%) and in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined (27%), however, Peterborough saw a greater decline of 35% compared to 22% in Cambridgeshire. The number of NINo registrations for the UK as a whole fell more sharply in 2017, dropping by 17%, and then by a further 8% in 2018. Notably, in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the number of NINo registrations fell more steeply in 2018 – registrations fell by 11% between 2016 and 2017 and by a further 18% between 2017 and 2018 - indicative of a more delayed impact from Brexit.

Figure 3: UK NINo registrations, 2002 to 2018



District variations

Cambridge City and Peterborough accounted for over two-thirds (69%) of NINo registrations in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area in 2018, with 4,534 and 3,486 registrations recorded respectively. Fenland and South Cambridgeshire each accounted for 9% of NINo registrations and East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire each accounted for 6%, with 729 and 748 registrations recorded respectively. Table 2 shows the number of registrations by district between 2014 and 2018.

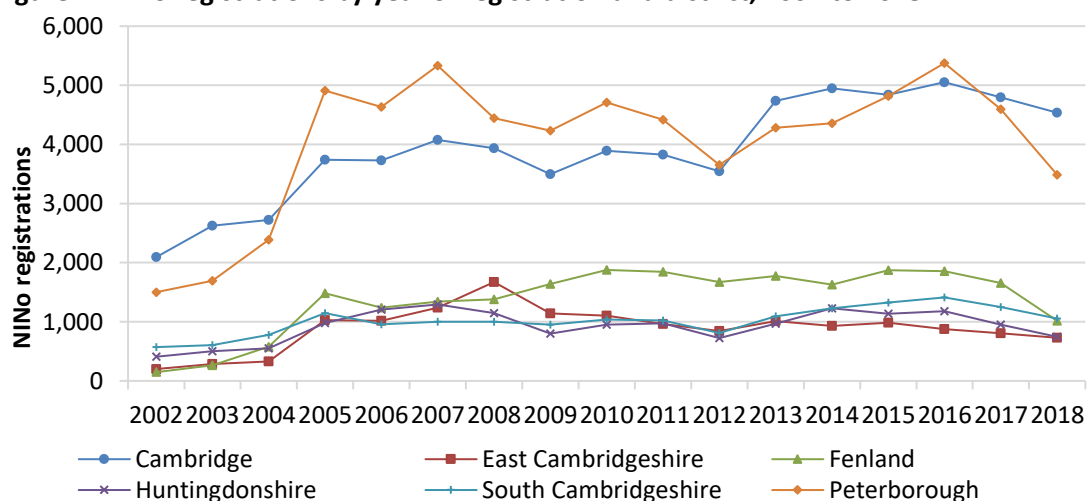
Table 2: NINo registrations (1,000s) by year of registration and district, 2014 to 2018

Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cambridge	4.95	4.84	5.05	4.80	4.53
East Cambridgeshire	0.93	0.99	0.88	0.80	0.73
Fenland	1.63	1.87	1.86	1.65	1.02
Huntingdonshire	1.23	1.14	1.18	0.95	0.75
South Cambridgeshire	1.23	1.33	1.41	1.25	1.06
Peterborough	4.36	4.82	5.38	4.60	3.49
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Total	14.32	14.98	15.75	14.05	11.57

Numbers of NINo registrations fell in all districts between 2016 and 2018, with the highest proportional reductions seen in Fenland (45%), Huntingdonshire (37%) and Peterborough (35%). The number of registrations in 2018 in Peterborough (3,486) and Fenland (1,055) are the lowest seen since 2004. The other districts saw slightly smaller but still significant reductions between 2016 and 2018 - 25% in South Cambridgeshire, 17% in East Cambridgeshire and 10% in Cambridge City.

Figure 4 shows trends in NINo registrations by district from 2002 to 2018. As a result of these trends, the proportion of total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that were recorded in Cambridge City rose from 32% of the total in 2016 to 39% in 2018, whilst Peterborough and Fenland both saw their share of the total fall.

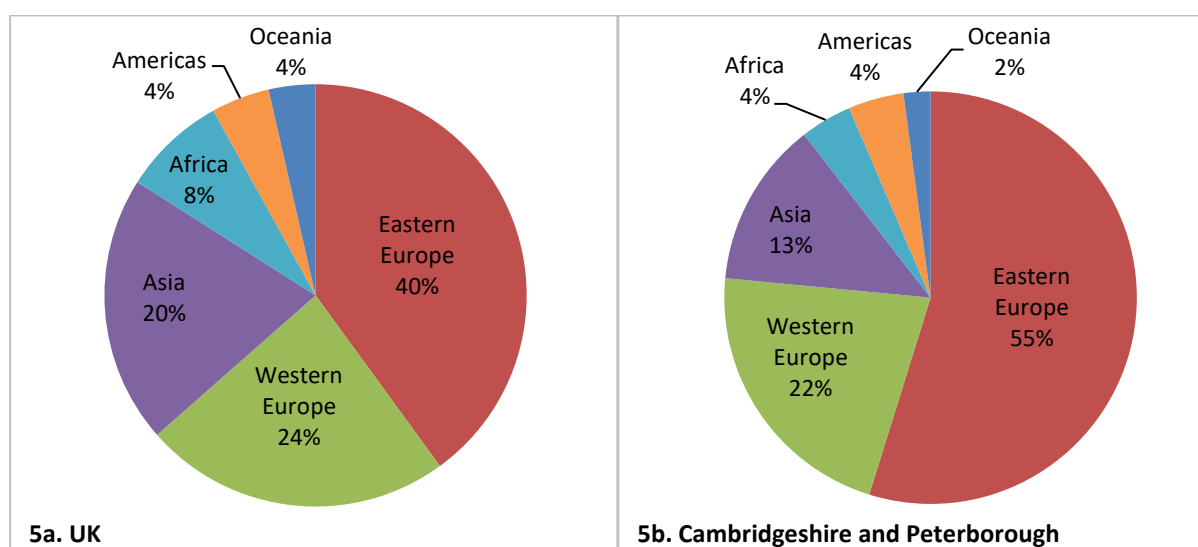
Figure 4: NINo registrations by year of registration and district, 2002 to 2018



World area of origin

Analysis of the country of origin of workers who registered for a NINo in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018 (displayed in Figure 5b) shows that over three quarters (77%) were from Europe. Workers from Eastern Europe (in this report defined as including EU8, EU2 and other countries¹) accounted for more than half of NINo registrations (55%) and workers from Western Europe (in this report defined as including EU15 and other countries²) accounted for just under a quarter (22%). Asian workers accounted for 13% of all NINo registrations, with workers from Africa, the Americas and Oceania accounting for between 2% and 4%. Comparison with UK figures, displayed in Figure 5a, shows that a greater proportion of migrant workers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are Eastern European, whilst the UK as a whole has a higher proportion of Asian workers and a marginally higher proportion of Western European workers.

Figure 5a and 5b: Total NINo registrations in the United Kingdom and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by world area*, 2002 to 2018



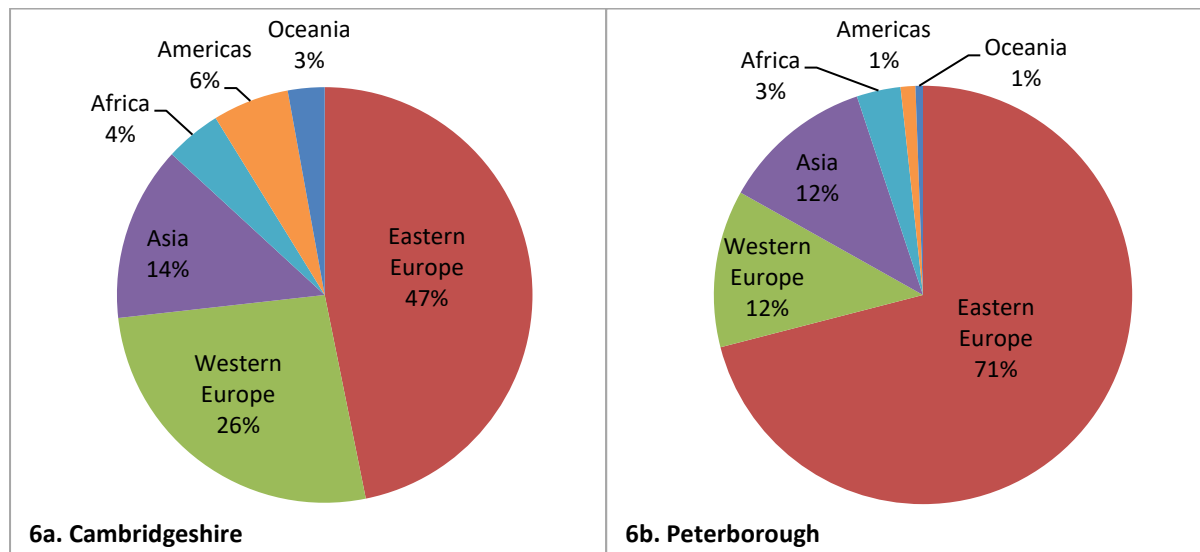
*Excludes those classified by DWP as originating from 'Other / Unknown'

Figures 6a and 6b show the country of origin by world area for migrants registering for NINos in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The charts highlight notable differences in the numbers of workers originating from Eastern and Western Europe registering for NINos. In Peterborough, Eastern European workers account for 71% of all NINo registrations for the period 2002 to 2018, 31% higher than the proportion for the UK and 24% higher than for Cambridgeshire. Conversely, a smaller proportion of migrant workers in Peterborough were from Western Europe, just 12% compared to 24% for the UK and 26% for Cambridgeshire. The breakdown by world area shows that trends in Cambridgeshire more closely reflect those seen across the UK, with a slightly higher proportion of Eastern and Western European workers and lower proportions of Asian and African workers.

¹ For the purposes of this Report, Eastern Europe includes the EU8 countries of Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the EU2 countries of Bulgaria and Romania. In addition, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, In addition, Turkey and Ukraine are also included, and together account for less than 2% of all NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018.

² For the purposes of this Report, Western Europe includes the EU15 countries of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. In addition, Cyprus, Iceland, Malta, Norway and Switzerland are also included, and together account for less than 0.5% of all NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018.

Figures 6a and 6b: Total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by world area*, 2002 to 2018



*Excludes those classified by DWP as originating from 'Other / Unknown'

Figure 7 shows that Eastern Europe accounted for the largest number of migrant workers registering for NINOs in all districts apart from Cambridge, where most workers originated from Western Europe. Fenland and East Cambridgeshire had the highest proportion of Eastern European workers accounting for 89% and 77% of total NINo registrations respectively. Cambridge has the highest proportion of Asian workers in the region, accounting for a fifth of NINo registrations between 2002 and 2018, followed by South Cambridgeshire where 15% of those registering for a NINo were Asian.

Figure 7: NINo registration by world area by district, 2002 to 2018

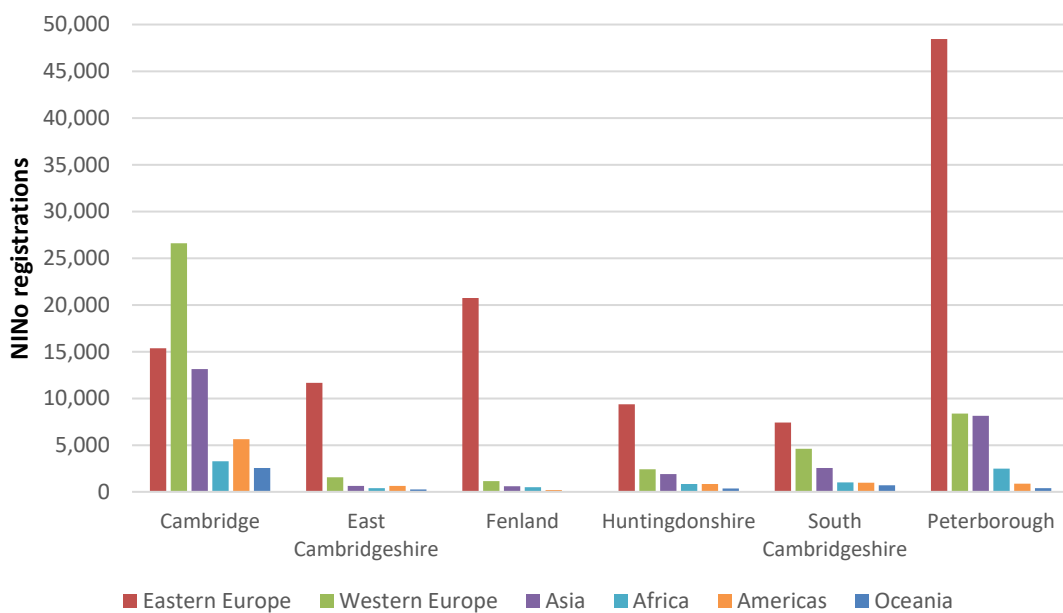


Figure 8 and Figure 9 show trends in NINo registrations by world area of origin for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018. Since 2004 migrant workers from Eastern Europe across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have consistently accounted for the highest proportion of NINo registrations, ranging from a high of accounting for 65% of all NINo registrations in 2007 to a low of 47% in 2018. After falls in the numbers of registrations by Eastern European workers in 2011 and 2012, they then rebounded with steady year-on-year growth taking the total number of NINo registrations from Eastern European workers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from 6,589 in 2012 to 8,929 in 2016, close to the highest previous level of 9,249 recorded in 2007, prior to the economic crash. Between 2016 and 2018 the number of Eastern European workers registering for a NINo fell by a notable 42% in Peterborough and 38% in Cambridgeshire, down to 5,382 NINo registrations in total.

These falls in registrations from Eastern European workers have primarily accounted for the overall reductions in the numbers of migrant workers registering for a NINo in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough seen since the Brexit referendum. Whilst Eastern Europe overwhelmingly remains the prominent world area of origin of migrant workers registering for a NINo in Peterborough, the comparatively lesser reduction in registrations by Western European workers in Cambridgeshire (following sharp growth in 2013) means that only a slightly higher percentage of NINo registrations in 2018 were from Eastern European workers (38%) than from Western European workers (31%) for Cambridgeshire. Between 2016 and 2018 registrations by migrant workers from Western Europe fell by 18% in Cambridgeshire, from 3,108 to 2,534 registrations, and by 44% in Peterborough, from 744 to 417 registrations.

Numbers of NINo registrations from migrant workers originating from Africa, the Americas and Oceania have remained relatively stable over the past five years. There was a slight increase in registrations from migrant workers from the Americas in 2016, but they fell again in 2017 and plateaued in 2018. After falling away between 2011 and 2012, the number of registrations from African workers in Peterborough increased between 2013 and 2015 before falling back again to 2017 and then rebounding in 2018, to 131 registrations.

Asia is the only world area of origin that has seen numbers of registrations rise across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough since the Brexit referendum, with levels rising by 23% from 1,663 registrations in 2016 to 2,052 in 2018. Asia overtook Western Europe as the second most prevalent world area of origin for NINo registrations in Peterborough in 2018, for the first time since 2012.

Figure 8: NINo registrations for Cambridgeshire by world area, 2002 to 2018

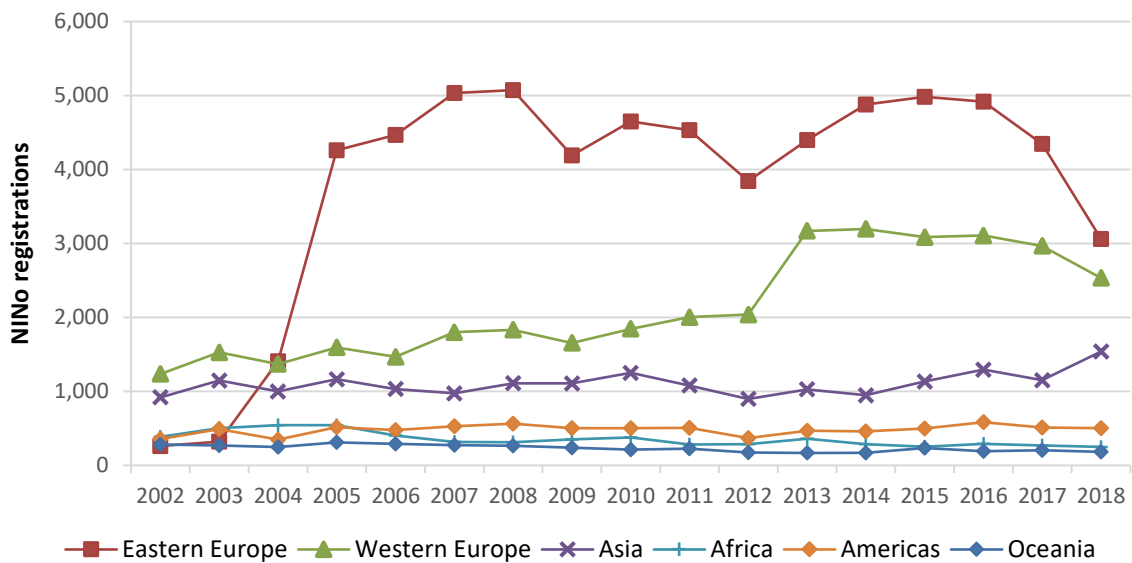
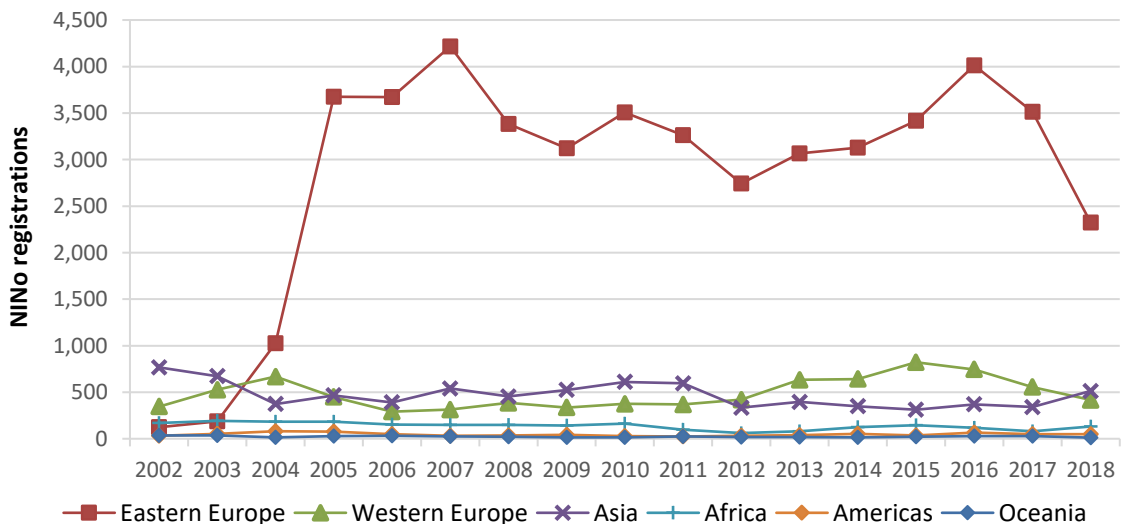
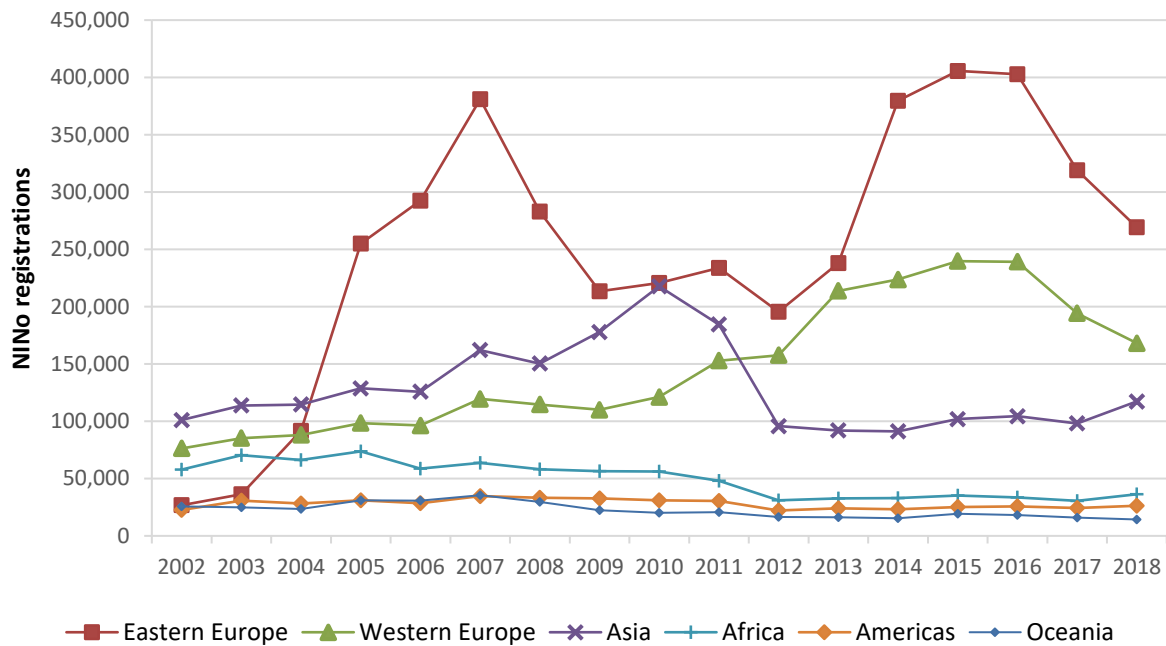


Figure 9: NINo registrations for Peterborough by world area, 2002 to 2018



Comparison with UK-wide registrations (displayed in Figure 10), shows the most notable difference to be registrations by Eastern European workers accounting for a relatively higher proportion of total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over time. For the past 5 years, trends in registrations by world area observed in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been similar to those seen in the UK as a whole. There has been a slightly lesser fall in registrations from Western European workers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough since 2016 and a lower proportion of workers from Africa than seen UK-wide.

Figure 10: NINo registrations for the United Kingdom by world area, 2002 to 2018



Whilst the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has seen a reduction in the numbers of European workers registering for a NINo between 2016 and 2018, there are some notable variations between districts, as displayed in Figure 11 and Figure 12. The greatest reductions in registrations by Eastern European workers have occurred in Huntingdonshire (49%) and Fenland (48%) where levels have almost halved. Peterborough accounted for 45% of all Eastern European workers registering within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area in 2016, and as such the subsequent 42% reduction in Eastern European workers registering for a NINo in Peterborough between 2016 and 2018 represents a substantial decrease from 4,013 to 2,325 registrations.

Figure 11: NINo registrations by Eastern European workers by district, 2016 to 2018

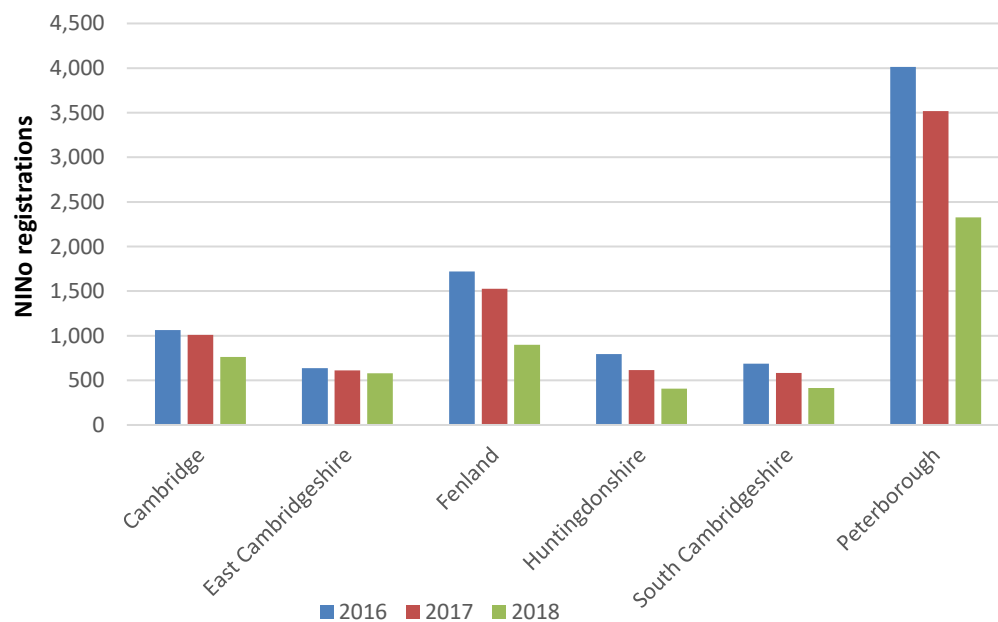
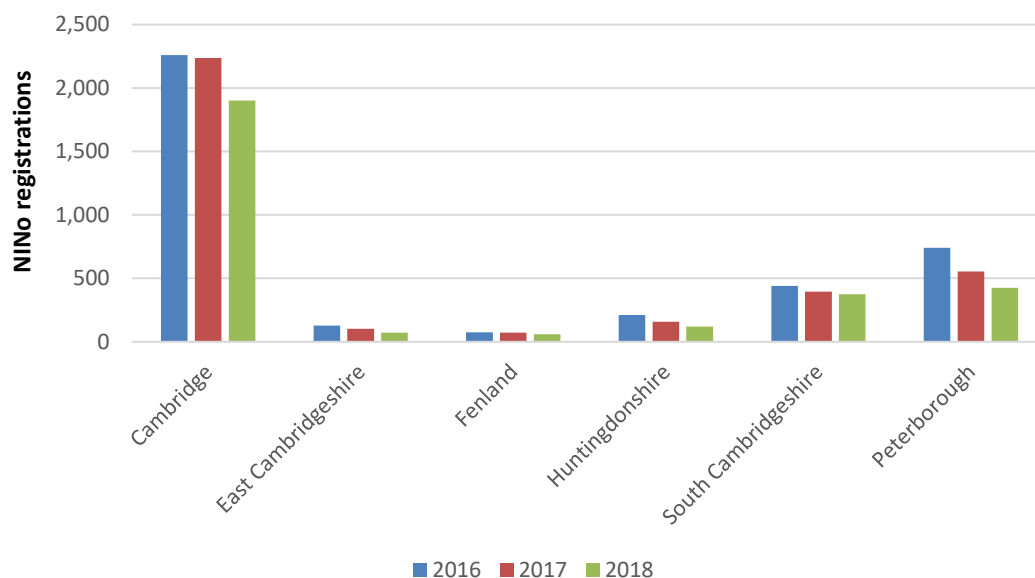


Figure 12 highlights that the largest reductions in registrations from Western European workers have occurred in Cambridge City and Peterborough. The number of Western Europeans registering for a NINo in Cambridge City in 2018, at 1,902, was 358 lower than seen in 2016, representing a 16% reduction over the two-year period. In Peterborough, although registrations in 2018 were 315 lower than in 2016, this represents a 43% reduction due to the smaller numbers of overall registrations. East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire also recorded a more than 40% fall in registrations between 2016 and 2018, but also based on smaller numbers.

Figure 12: NINo registrations by Western European workers by district, 2016 to 2018



Country of origin

Romania was the top country of origin of migrant workers registering for a NINo in 2018 for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and the UK, with Romania accounting for almost a fifth (18%) of all migrant workers applying for a NINo in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Overall Eastern European countries featured more heavily in the top ten countries of origin of migrant workers registering for a NINo for Peterborough than for Cambridgeshire or the UK. Western European countries were slightly less prevalent in Peterborough (accounting for two of the top ten) compared to Cambridgeshire, where they accounted for four of the top ten, and the UK as a whole. Also of note, the United States was the ninth most common country of origin in Cambridgeshire whilst it did not feature in the top ten for Peterborough or the UK. Table 3 displays the top ten countries of origin for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and the UK in 2018.

Table 3: Top ten countries of origin of migrant workers registering for a NINo in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and the UK, 2018

Ranking	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough	UK
1	Romania	Romania	Romania
2	India	Lithuania	Poland
3	Poland	Poland	India
4	Italy	India	Italy
5	Spain	Latvia	Bulgaria
6	Lithuania	Portugal	Spain
7	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	France
8	Portugal	Pakistan	Portugal
9	United States	Italy	Pakistan
10	France	Slovakia	Greece

Figure 13 looks at the top five countries of origin for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area in 2018 (Romania, Lithuania, Poland, India and Italy) and displays the total number of NINo registrations for migrant workers from each country over the past five years. It shows that following the removal of UK labour market restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian workers in December 2013, the number of Romanian workers registering for a NINo increased significantly from 1,575 in 2014 to 2,965 in 2016. Registrations from Bulgarian workers similarly increased from 632 in 2014 to 814 in 2016. Since 2016 there has been an overall downward trajectory, particularly of registrations by workers from Eastern European countries, with numbers for Poland and Lithuania falling by the greatest degree (52% and 49% respectively). Latvia and Hungary fell out of the top 10 during this time period, being replaced by France and the United States. In contrast to the downward trend in registrations by migrant workers from Eastern European countries, those from workers originating from India have increased since 2016, rising by over 50% from 515 in 2016 to 790 registrations in 2018, and taking India from the 8th to the 4th most common country of origin. This rise in registrations by workers from India has been a key driving force in the increase in the proportion of NINo registrations from workers from Asia observed in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2016 and 2018.

Figure 13: Number of NINo registrations for the 2018 top 5 countries of origin, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2014 to 2018

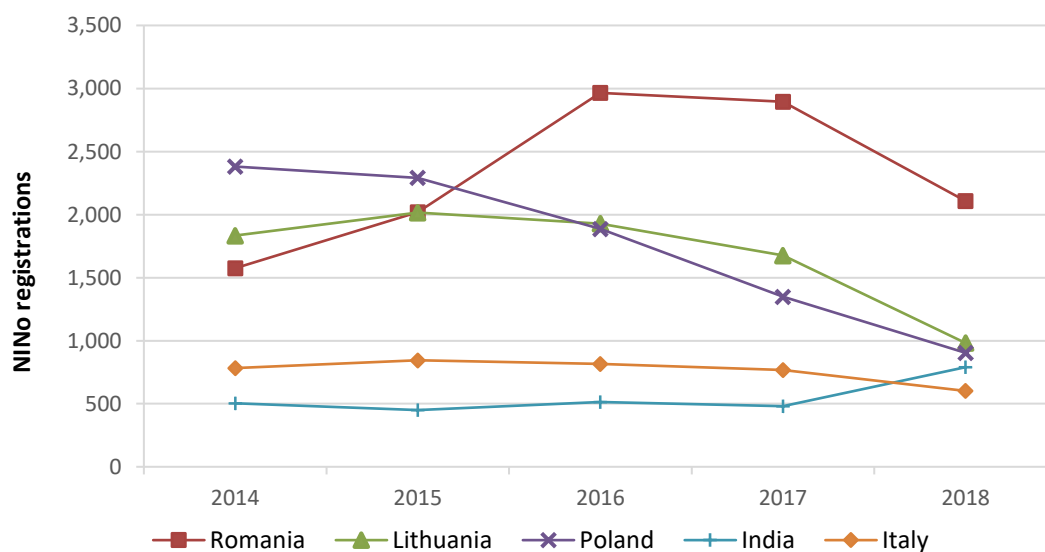


Table 4 shows that there is some variation in the most prevalent country of origin of migrant workers registering for a NINo between districts. Romania is the top country of origin for all of the districts apart from Fenland, which has the highest number of Lithuanian workers, and Cambridge, where India is the top country of origin, closely followed by Italy.

Table 4: Top three countries of origin for NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2018 by district

District	Rank	Country	NINos
Cambridge	1	India	402
	2	Italy	400
	3	Spain	373
Fenland	1	Lithuania	336
	2	Bulgaria	208
	3	Romania	197
East Cambridgeshire	1	Romania	345
	2	Poland	101
	3	Bulgaria	86
Huntingdonshire	1	Romania	177
	2	Poland	112
	3	India	59
South Cambridgeshire	1	Romania	175
	2	India	84
	3	Italy	79
Peterborough	1	Romania	976
	2	Lithuania	531
	3	Poland	366

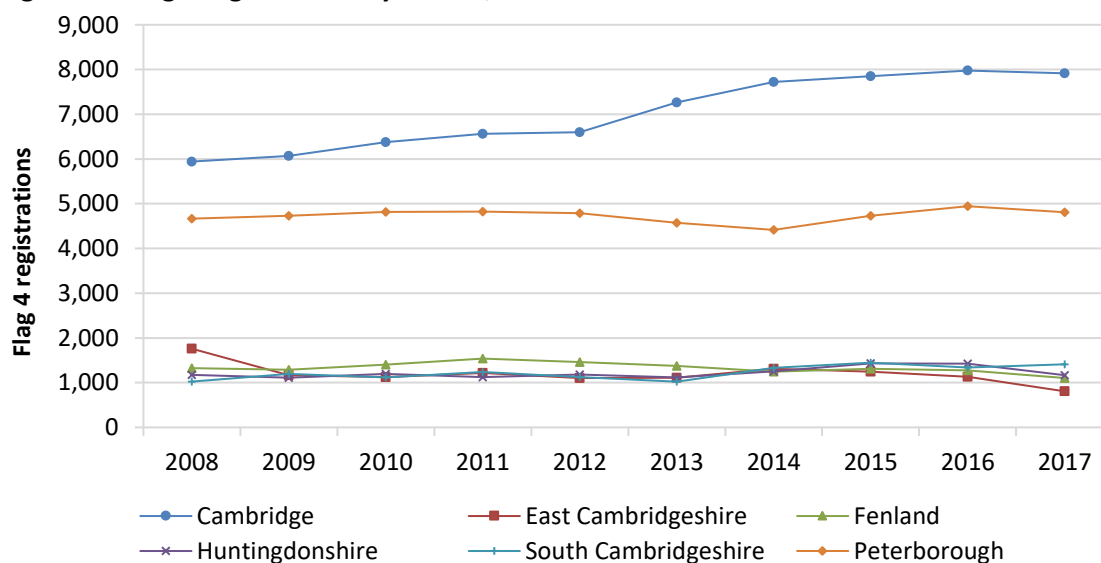
FLAG 4 GP REGISTRATIONS

Each year the ONS receives a demographic snapshot of Patient Register (PR) data held by NHS Digital. Flag 4s are codes within the PR data that indicate that an individual's last address (as registered with an NHS GP – General Practitioner) was overseas. A Flag 4 is generated when a person registers with a GP if that person was either a) born outside the UK and is registering for the first time, or b) whose previous address was outside the UK. International in-migration records may not be retained on the patient register records through the person's subsequent migration within the UK. As the patient register dataset is a "snapshot" taken annually, if an international in-migrant subsequently moves internally within the UK, and re-registers with a second GP, the Flag 4 demarcation is not retained as the individual's last residence is now within the UK. If this internal migration occurs within the year of international in-migration, i.e. before the next mid-year "snapshot", the international in-migration will not be recorded. Flag 4s are not, therefore, precise indicators of international migrants but can provide another means of tracking migrant movements.

The total number of Flag 4 registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for 2017³ was 17,215 which represents a 5% reduction from the 18,092 recorded in 2016. Prior to this fall in 2017 there had been year-on-year increases in the number of Flag 4 records since 2013. In 2017 Cambridge accounted for 46% of all Flag 4 records across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and Peterborough accounted for 28%.

Figure 14 illustrates some variation in trends between the districts in the number of Flag 4 records. Cambridge saw yearly increases in Flag 4 records between 2012 and 2016, before falling marginally in 2017. In Peterborough the number of Flag 4 records fell between 2012 and 2014 before rising to 2016, and then falling in 2017. East Cambridgeshire recorded the greatest proportional decline in the number of Flag 4 records between 2016 and 2017, falling by 29% from 1,129 to 807. Huntingdonshire and Fenland also saw reductions (18% and 14% respectively) between 2016 and 2017. In contrast to all the other districts, South Cambridgeshire recorded an increase in the number of Flag 4 records from 1,341 in 2016 to 1,441 in 2017, a 5% rise.

Figure 14: Flag 4 registrations by district, 2008 to 2017



³ Flag 4 data covers a mid-year to mid-year time period. In this report the data is referred to as a single year which is the second year in the time period, for example, mid-2016 to mid-2017 is referred to simply as 2017.

COMPARING NINO AND FLAG 4 DATA SOURCES

NINO and Flag 4 data sets assist in identifying migration trends. However, there are significant differences in the method of data collection that needs to be considered when making a comparison between the two sources:

- NINO data only captures data on migrants who access the UK for work. Those groups not covered by migrant NINO data include children, those who work illegally and adult migrants who neither work nor claim benefits (often students or spouses of employed migrants). Asylum seekers are also generally excluded. Flag 4 data includes migrants who are not necessarily working (e.g. a spouse) and migrants of all ages.
- NINO data is typically generated at the onset of migration, whereas a Flag 4 registration may not be generated at this time, if at all. GP registration is not compulsory and some migrants will only register with a GP if and when they require medical attention. GP registration patterns also vary by sex and age group. In particular, young adult males are known to be less likely to register than other groups.

Analysis of the 2016 and 2017 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough data shows that NINO registrations have decreased by 11% (from 15,750 in 2016 to 14,053 in 2017), whilst Flag 4 registrations have seen a smaller decrease of 5% based on mid-year figures (from 18,902 in 2016 to 17,215 in 2017). Across the districts between 2016 and 2017 there was a greater proportional reduction in NINO registrations than Flag 4 registrations for all districts apart from in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland where the Flag 4 reduction was higher. Differences between NINO and Flag 4 registration activity are not unusual, as highlighted above a time lag in registering with a GP after migration is common, and there are also distinct differences in the way the data for NINO and Flag 4 registrations are collected. Furthermore, the NINO figures presented represent the calendar year whilst the Flag 4 figures represent mid-year to mid-year thus limiting the comparability.

NINO and Flag 4 data are not specifically designed to monitor migration and are not able to provide information on migrant populations at any point in time, however, they are considered a useful indicator as they are able to provide a sense of trend of migration into Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on an annual basis.

SUMMARY

In 2018 there were 11,573 NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, representing a 27% fall from 2016 levels. This reduction mirrors patterns seen for the UK as a whole following the 2016 referendum in which the UK voted to leave the European Union, although there was more of a time lag in these falls in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Reductions in annual NINo registrations were recorded in all districts between 2016 and 2018, with the most significant occurring in Fenland (45%), Huntingdonshire (37%) and Peterborough (35%).

Analysis of the country of origin for all migrant workers registering in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between 2002 and 2018 showed that over three-quarters have originated from Europe, with 55% Eastern European and 22% Western European. The proportion of Eastern European workers registering for a NINo is significantly higher in Peterborough. The proportion of Western European workers registering for a NINo is higher in Cambridgeshire, and notably in Cambridge. Cambridge differs from the other districts by having a higher proportion of registrations from Western European workers compared to Eastern European workers, and also having the highest proportion of Asian workers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Time series analysis shows that between 2016 and 2018 Eastern Europe was the world area of origin which saw the greatest decline in number of workers registering for a NINo, down by 40%.

Romania remains the top country of origin for migrant workers registering for a NINo across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2018 (accounting for 18% of NINo registrations), despite seeing significant decreases since 2016, along with most other countries in the top 10. India has bucked this downward trend with the number of migrant workers registering in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough growing by over 50% since 2016 to 790 registrations in 2018, and consequently driving an increase in Asia's world area share of NINo registrations in the region.