

MIGRANT WORKERS REPORT: 2024

Produced by the Policy and Insight Team

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Introduction

Over the last 20 years, migration has been a strong driver of population growth in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. Census data shows that between 2001 and 2021 Cambridgeshire has grown by almost 125,000 residents, 22.4%, whilst Peterborough has grown by almost 60,000 residents, 38.2%. At the time of Census 2021, the number of residents born outside the UK totalled just over 127,000 in Cambridgeshire, representing 18.7% of the population. This compares to 48,500 residents, 8.8% of the population, at Census 2001. In Peterborough just over 60,000 residents were born outside the UK at Census 2021, representing 28.2% of the population. This compares to 15,250 residents, 9.8% of the population, at Census 2001.

Table 1: Census 2001 and Census 2021 population estimates for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

| Area | Census 2001 | Census 2021 | Change | % change |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Cambridge | 108,865 | 145,675 | 36,810 | 33.8% |
| East Cambridgeshire | 73,215 | 87,760 | 14,545 | 19.9% |
| Fenland | 83,520 | 102,460 | 18,940 | 22.7% |
| Huntingdonshire | 156,955 | 180,830 | 23,875 | 15.2% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 130,110 | 162,120 | 32,010 | 24.6% |
| Cambridgeshire | 554,660 | 678,850 | 124,190 | 22.4% |
| Peterborough | 156,060 | 215,670 | 59,610 | 38.2% |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 710,720 | 894,520 | 183,800 | 25.9% |

This report presents data from 2002 to 2024, with a particular focus on data from 2011, to provide insight in to migration trends in to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over this period. This includes an overview of Census data in the first section, followed by an analysis of trends in National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations by migrant workers, split into two sections. The first of these sections covers the period between mid-2011 and mid-2021 and the second of these sections covers the period between mid-2017 and mid-2024. There is also a brief summary of the number of applications under the EU Settlement Scheme and a summary of NINo registration activity during the COVID-19 pandemic period at the end of the report.

In the period since 2011 there have been significant national policy changes that have directly influenced migration patterns. These include the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) followed by immigration policy liberalisations that have enabled entry for more non EU migrants through visas for work and international students, and for their associated dependants. There have also been economic and global factors that have impacted migration patterns over this time, notably including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the humanitarian visa routes opened up for Ukrainians and Hong Kongers, for example.

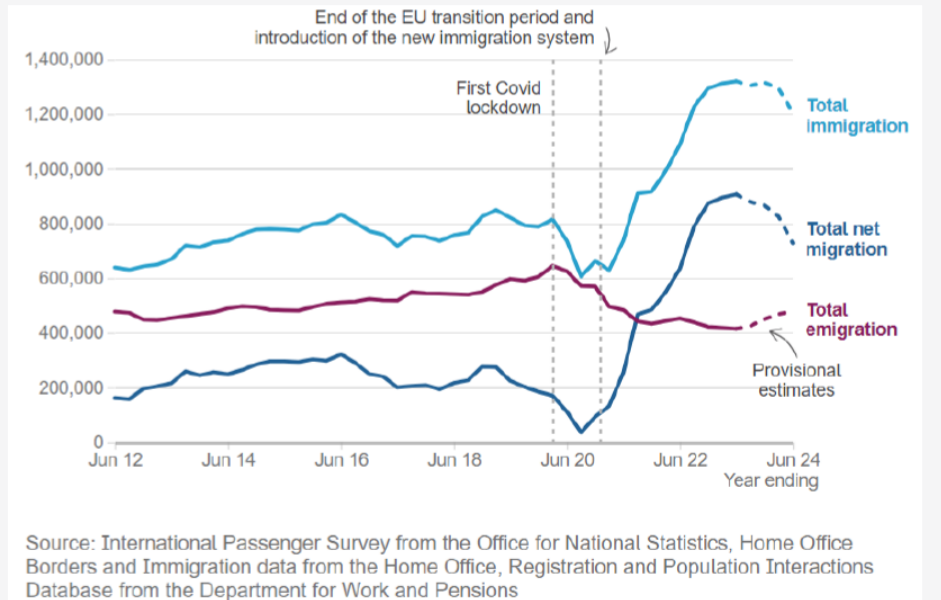
National migration data

Migration is challenging to measure and estimate. Migration in the UK is not measured by one single instrument, rather administrative data sources, such as Home Office visa data, are analysed alongside the application of modelling techniques. At UK level the ONS (Office for National

Statistics) produces estimates of migration. It is working through a programme of research to improve the quality of migration statistics as part of its [Transformation of population and migration statistics programme](#), and this development work is still ongoing. The chart below shows the ONS' latest set of provisional long term international estimates, published on 28 November 2024, for the year ending June 2024.

Figure 1: ONS provisional long term international migration estimates for year ending June 2024

Total long-term net migration, immigration and emigration in the UK, year ending (YE) June 2012 to YE June 2024



Source: Office for National Statistics, [ONS provisional long term international migration estimates for year ending June 2024 \(published 28 November 2024\)](#)

Since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ONS' national estimates show soaring net migration (the difference between people coming to live in the UK and those leaving to live elsewhere) in the years to 2023. In 2023 net migration was estimated to be at unprecedented levels at just over 900,000. Whilst the provisional estimates for 2024 indicate a fall in long-term net migration of around a fifth, to 728,000, these levels are still unprecedentedly high, and these provisional estimates are subject to revision next year. New national policy measures to limit migration were implemented in early 2024, and it is expected that this has resulted in declining numbers of dependants arriving on study visas and decreases in the number of migrants arriving for work-related reasons during 2024.

Datasets used to provide insight into the local picture

Global events and national policy developments, as outlined above have resulted in very different patterns of migration emerging both nationally and across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area over the last 15 years.

This report presents Census data and National Insurance Number Registrations (NINo) data (published by the [Department for Work and Pensions](#)) as a means of providing insights into international migration trends in to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. There are limitations with both data sources, but they can provide insight into the sense of trend of migration into the area.

Census data provides some insight into migration to the UK, such as which country people were born in and when they arrived in the UK. However, Census data can only provide a snapshot on the day of the Census and does not record the migration pattern of residents over the period of time before and after the Census takes place. For example, it only records when someone arrived in the UK, not how they have moved around the UK since they arrived. Also of note is that Census 2021 took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period during which international movement and migration activity was suppressed by national lockdowns.

All people coming to the UK and who take up employment for the first time must obtain a National Insurance Number (NINo). NINo data is not specifically designed to monitor migration, and it is not able to provide information on total migrant populations at any point in time. The NINo system takes no account of subsequent migration out of a particular area, and NINOs are not de-registered even if a migrant subsequently leaves the UK. NINO data can be used, though, to provide a sense of trend of migration into an area.

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, county/unitary council area, district council areas and England as a whole. The Census 2021 population estimates for the six districts within the Combined Authority area in Table 1 above highlight the significant variation in population size across the area, from the smallest district of East Cambridgeshire (87,750) to the largest district of Peterborough (215,670). This variation in population size across the districts should be borne in mind when considering migration numbers and when interpreting percentage changes over time.

All data presented in this report is rounded to the nearest 5.

Census data

The Census takes place every 10 years and provides a detailed overview of the population and households living in England and Wales.

Census data provides some insight into migration to the UK, such as which country people were born in and when they arrived in the UK. However, it is important to note that Census data can only provide a snapshot on the day of the Census and does not record the migration pattern of residents over the period of time before and after the Census takes place. For example, it only records when someone arrived in the UK, not how they have moved around the UK since they arrived. Also of note is that Census 2021 took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period during which international and internal movement and migration activity was suppressed by national lockdowns.

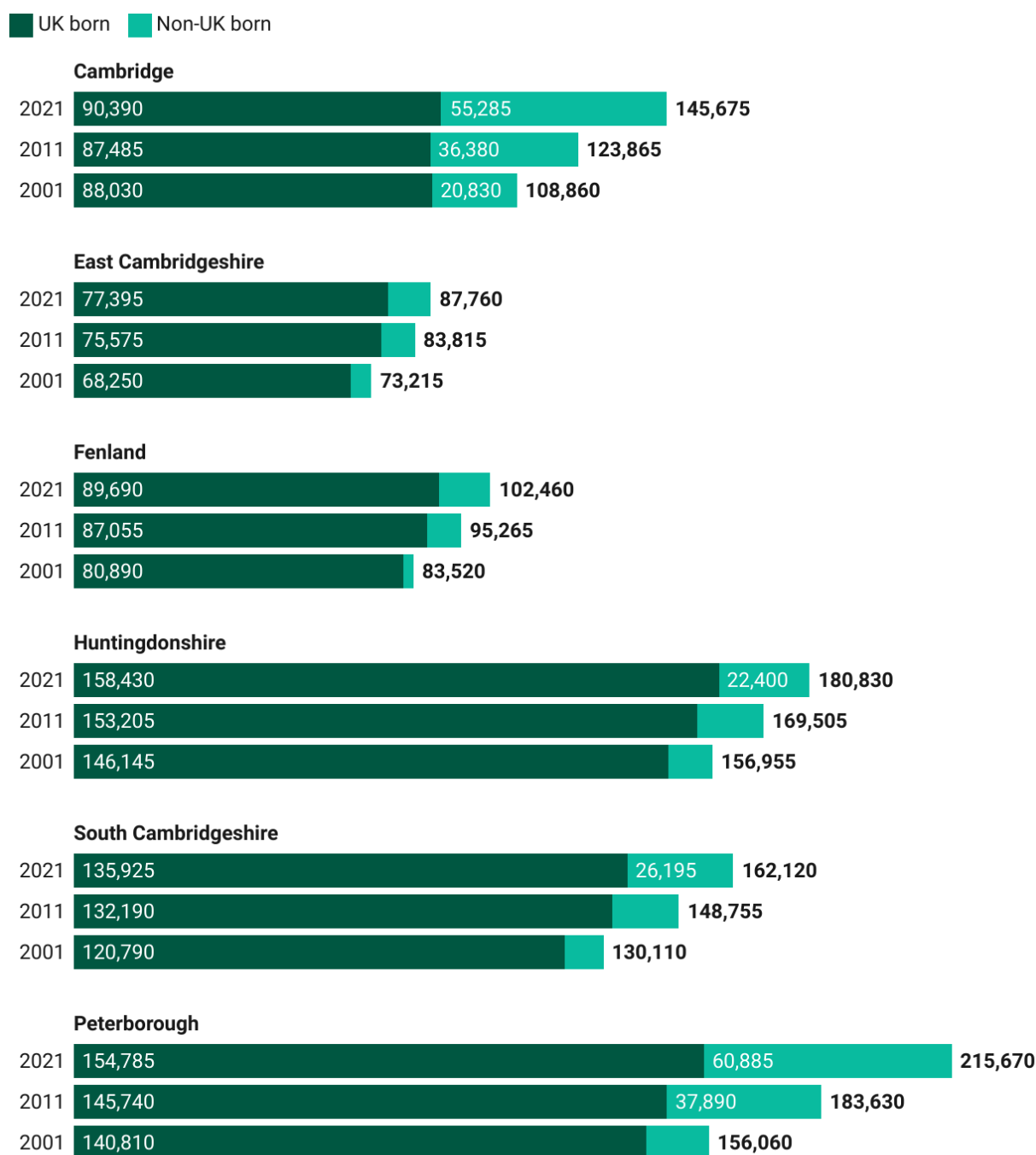
The census data used in this report is based on estimates of the usual resident population. A usual resident is defined as anyone who, on census day (which was 21 March 2021 for the 2021 census), is in the UK and has stayed, or intends to stay, in the UK for 12 months or more or has a permanent UK address and is outside the UK and intends to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.

A note on the Census 2021 data presented in this report – for data protection purposes the ONS applies a statistical disclosure control process which includes targeted record swapping and cell key perturbation to Census 2021 data. Targeted record swapping involves swapping records, for example, if a household was likely to be identified in datasets because it has unusual characteristics, the record is swapped with a similar one from a nearby small area. Cell key perturbation involves making small changes to some counts, for example, a count of four may be changed to a three or a five. This process makes small negative or positive adjustments to values, but it does not affect the interpretation of the data. It does, however, mean that the totals presented across the charts and tables in this report may not completely match. They may also not completely match with totals presented in Census 2021 data elsewhere.

Population born outside the UK

Between Census 2001 and Census 2021 the number of residents born outside the UK has increased notably in all Cambridgeshire districts as well as in Peterborough. Out of these, Peterborough is the district with the largest number of residents born outside the UK, with over 60,000 residents at Census 2021 compared to just over 15,000 at Census 2001. Within Cambridgeshire, Cambridge has the largest number, with over 55,000 residents born outside the UK at Census 2021 compared to almost 21,000 at Census 2001. In East Cambridgeshire and Fenland there are more than 10,000 usual residents born outside the UK at Census 2021, whilst numbers are higher in Huntingdonshire, 22,400, and South Cambridgeshire, 26,195.

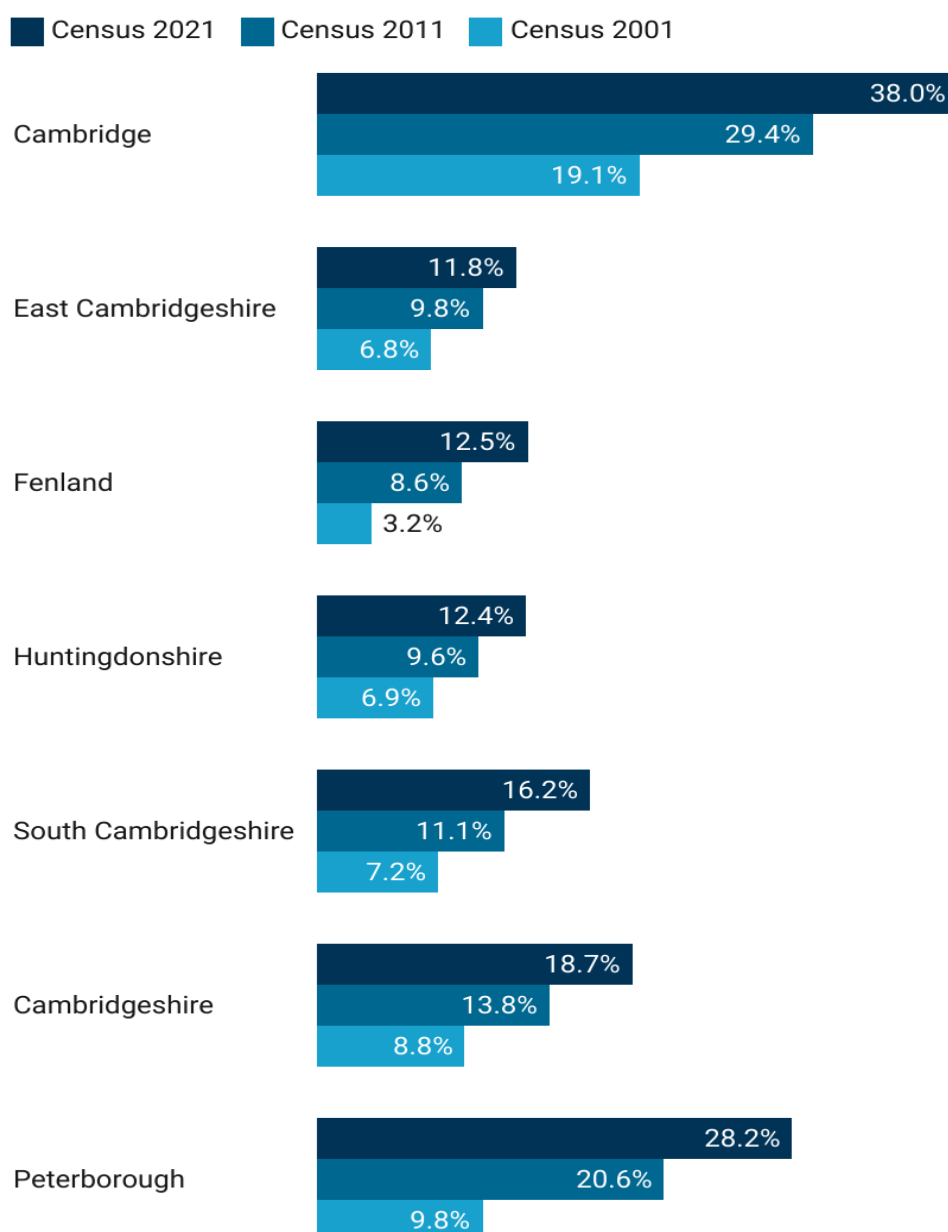
Figure 2: Number of usual residents born in the UK and born outside the UK by district, Census 2001 to Census 2021



Residents born outside the UK also represent a higher proportion of the total usual resident population in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at Census 2021 compared to Census 2001. In Cambridgeshire, the proportion has increased from 8.8% of the total population in 2001 to 18.7% in 2021, while Peterborough has seen a larger increase from 9.8% to 28.2% of the total population.

At district level, every district in Cambridgeshire has seen an increase in the proportion of residents who were born outside the UK. Cambridge has the highest proportion, almost doubling from 19.1% of the total population at Census 2001 to 38.0% at Census 2021. Amongst the more rural districts, the proportion of the total population at Census 2021 born outside the UK ranges between 11.8% in East Cambridgeshire and 16.2% in South Cambridgeshire.

Figure 3: Proportion of usual resident population born outside the UK by district, Census 2001 to Census 2021



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Year of arrival

Of those residents who were born outside the UK, in Cambridgeshire just over half (51.7%) arrived in the UK between 2011 and 2021. Within Cambridgeshire, Cambridge has the highest proportion of the non UK born population arriving between 2011 and 2021 at 62.5%, with the more rural districts ranging between 42.8% in Huntingdonshire to 45.2% in Fenland. In Peterborough 46.3% of those residents who were born outside the UK arrived between 2011 and 2021.

Figure 4: Proportion of non-UK born residents by year of arrival in the UK by district, Census 2021



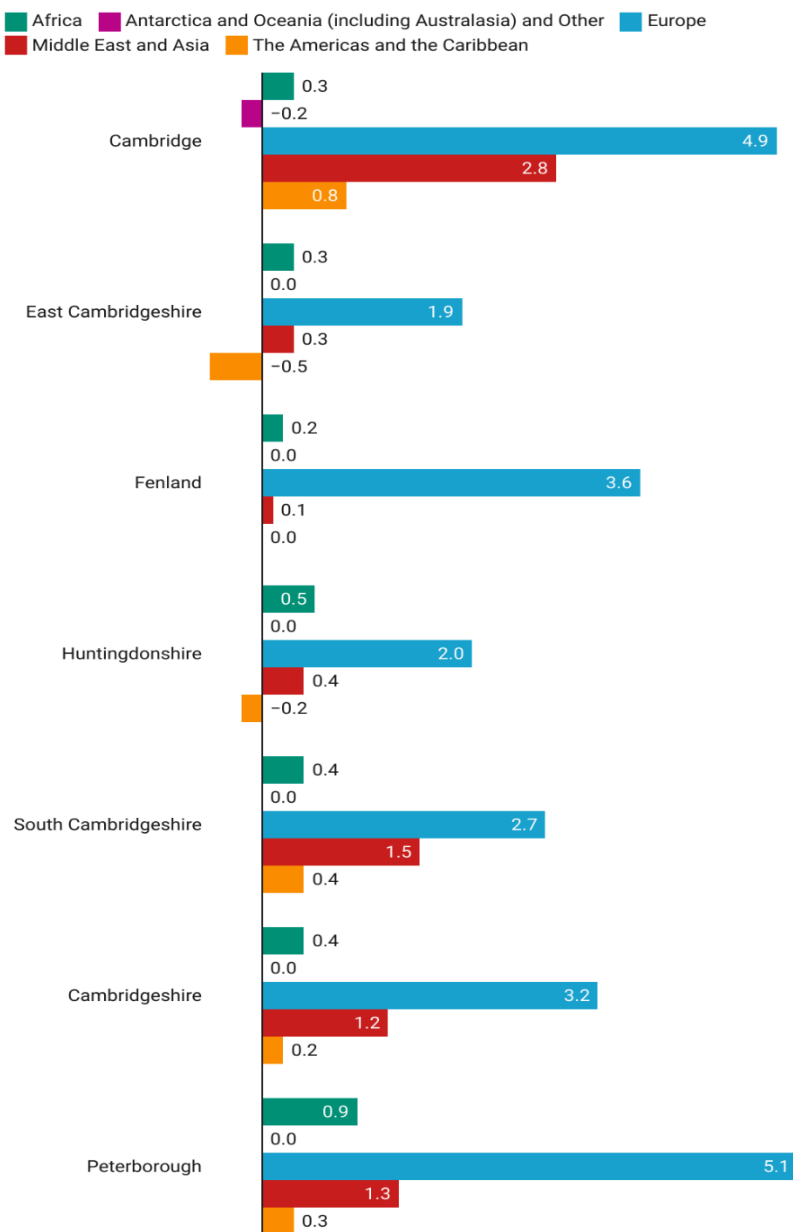
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Country of birth

Census 2021 data on the country of birth of residents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough shows that the change in the proportion of residents born outside the UK has been highest for those who were born in countries in Europe. This has particularly been the case in Cambridge and Peterborough, with percentage point increases of 4.9 and 5.1 respectively between Census 2011 and 2021. Across all the other districts the proportion of residents born in Europe has increased by at least 1.9 percentage points over the ten year period.

Cambridge, Peterborough and South Cambridgeshire have also seen more notable percentage point increases in the proportion of residents from Middle East and Asia over that period, this being most marked in Cambridge. There have been small percentage point decreases in the proportion of residents born in the Americas and the Caribbean in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.

Figure 5: Percentage point change in the proportion of residents by world area of birth (excluding those born in the UK) by district, Census 2011 to Census 2021



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At Census 2021 the number of residents born in Europe accounted for the largest number of non-UK born residents across all districts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. There were more than 66,000 residents born in Europe residing in Cambridgeshire, with 39.9% of these in Cambridge. Just over 35,000 of Peterborough's residents were born in Europe.

Those born in the Middle East and Asia accounted for the second largest number of non UK born residents in all districts apart from in East Cambridgeshire where there were slightly higher numbers of those born in the Americas and the Caribbean (1,605) than those born in the Middle East and Asia (1,540). More than 30,000 of Cambridgeshire's usual residents at Census 2021 were born in the Middle East and Asia, with more than half of these living in Cambridge, whilst in Peterborough, there were more than 16,000 residents born in the Middle East and Asia.

In Cambridgeshire those born in the Americas and the Caribbean accounted for the next largest group of non UK born residents, with just over 14,000 residents. Almost half (44.1%) of these residents were in Cambridge, and another 41.0% in Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire together.

Almost 12,000 of Cambridgeshire's residents at Census 2021 were born in Africa, with numbers highest in Cambridge (3,740), South Cambridgeshire (3,270) and Huntingdonshire (2,945).

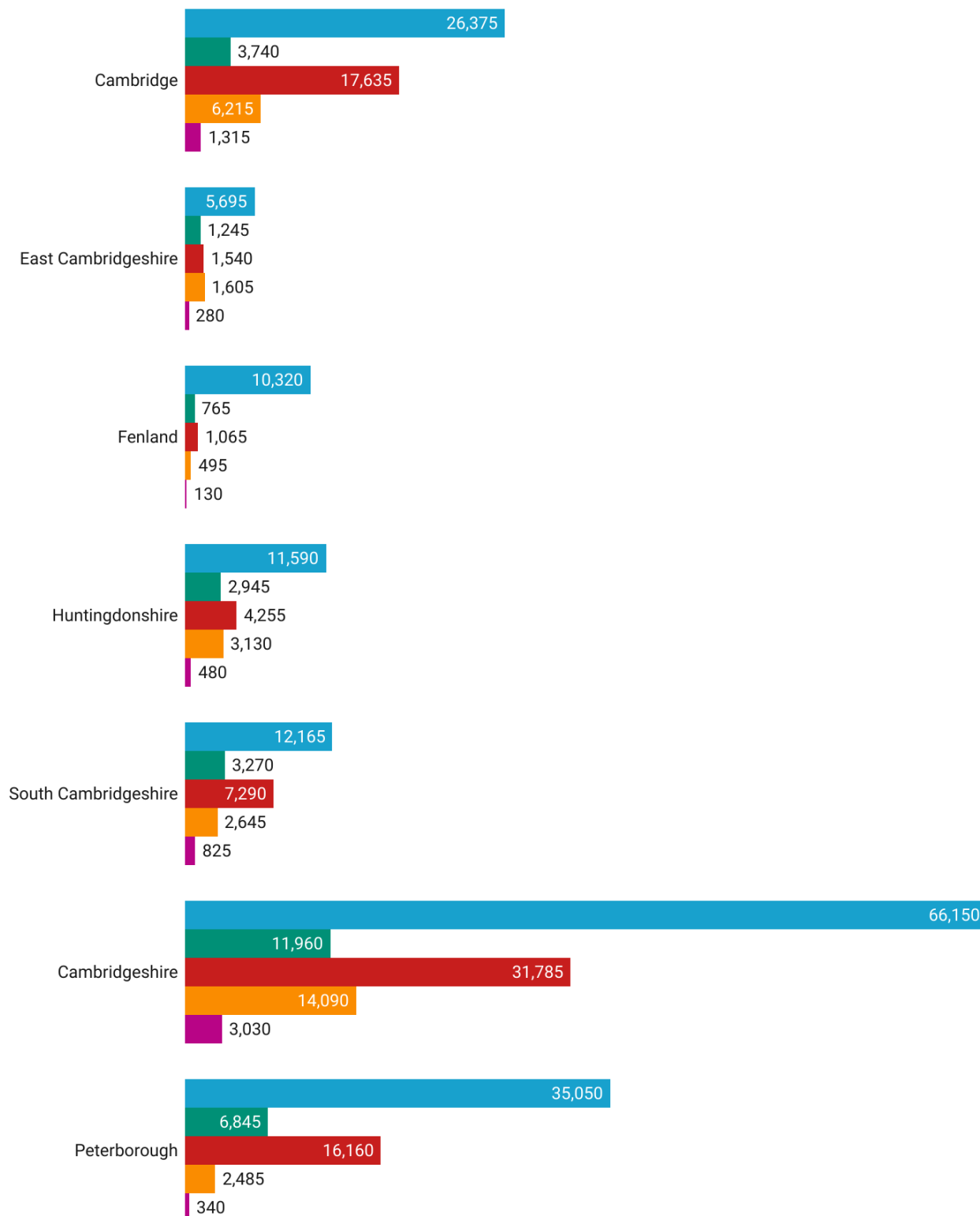
In Peterborough, those born in Africa accounted for the third largest group of non UK born residents by world area, totalling 6,845 residents, whilst almost 2,500 residents were born in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Numbers of those born in Australasia and Oceania and other areas are smaller, totalling just over 3,000 in Cambridgeshire and almost 350 in Peterborough.

Electoral ward level data and comparisons of usual resident population by country of birth for Census 2011 and Census 2021 are available in the [County Council's Ward Demography Dashboard](#) on [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Insight](#).

Figure 6: Number of residents by country of birth (excluding those born in the UK) by district, Census 2011 to Census 2021

■ Europe
 ■ Africa
 ■ Middle East and Asia
 ■ The Americas and the Caribbean
 ■ Antarctica and Oceania (including Australasia) and Other

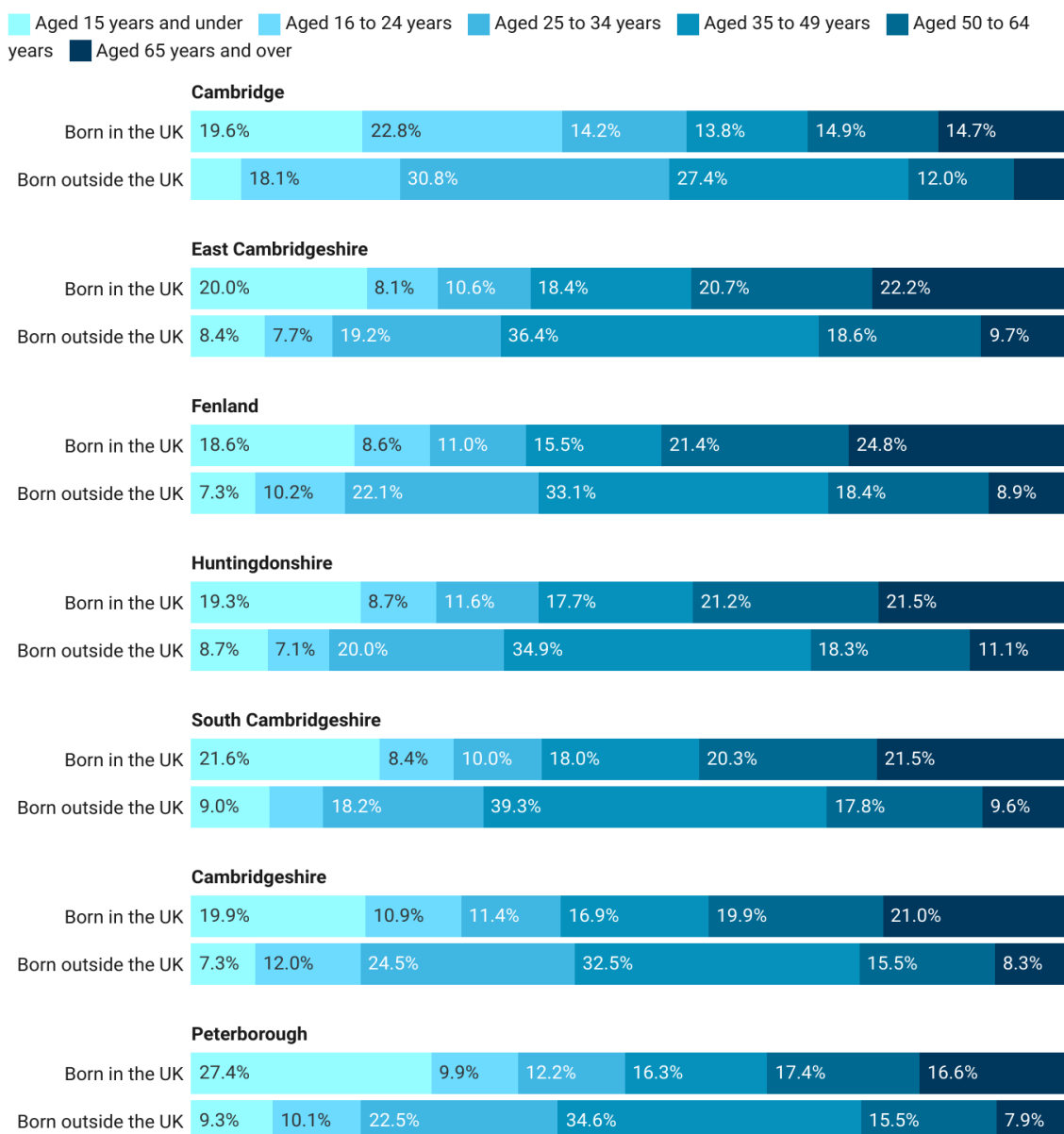


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Age profile

The age profile of the population born outside the UK is younger than the population born in the UK. In all districts the proportion aged 25 to 49 years is higher for the population born outside the UK compared to those born in the UK, with smaller proportions for those aged 15 years and under as well as 50 years and over. Cambridge is notable for the larger proportions of the total non UK born population within the student aged 16-24 years (18.1% of total non UK born population) and 25 to 34 years (30.8%) age groups. Fenland is also notable for the higher proportion of total non UK born population within these same younger age groups. The 16-24 years accounts for 10.2% of the total non UK born population compared to 8.6% for the UK born population, and the 25-34 years age group accounts for 22.1% of the total non UK born population compared to 11.0% for the UK born population. In South Cambridgeshire there is a higher proportion of non UK born population in the age group 35-49 years (39.3%) compared to the other districts.

Figure 7: Proportion of population by country of birth, age group and district, Census 2021



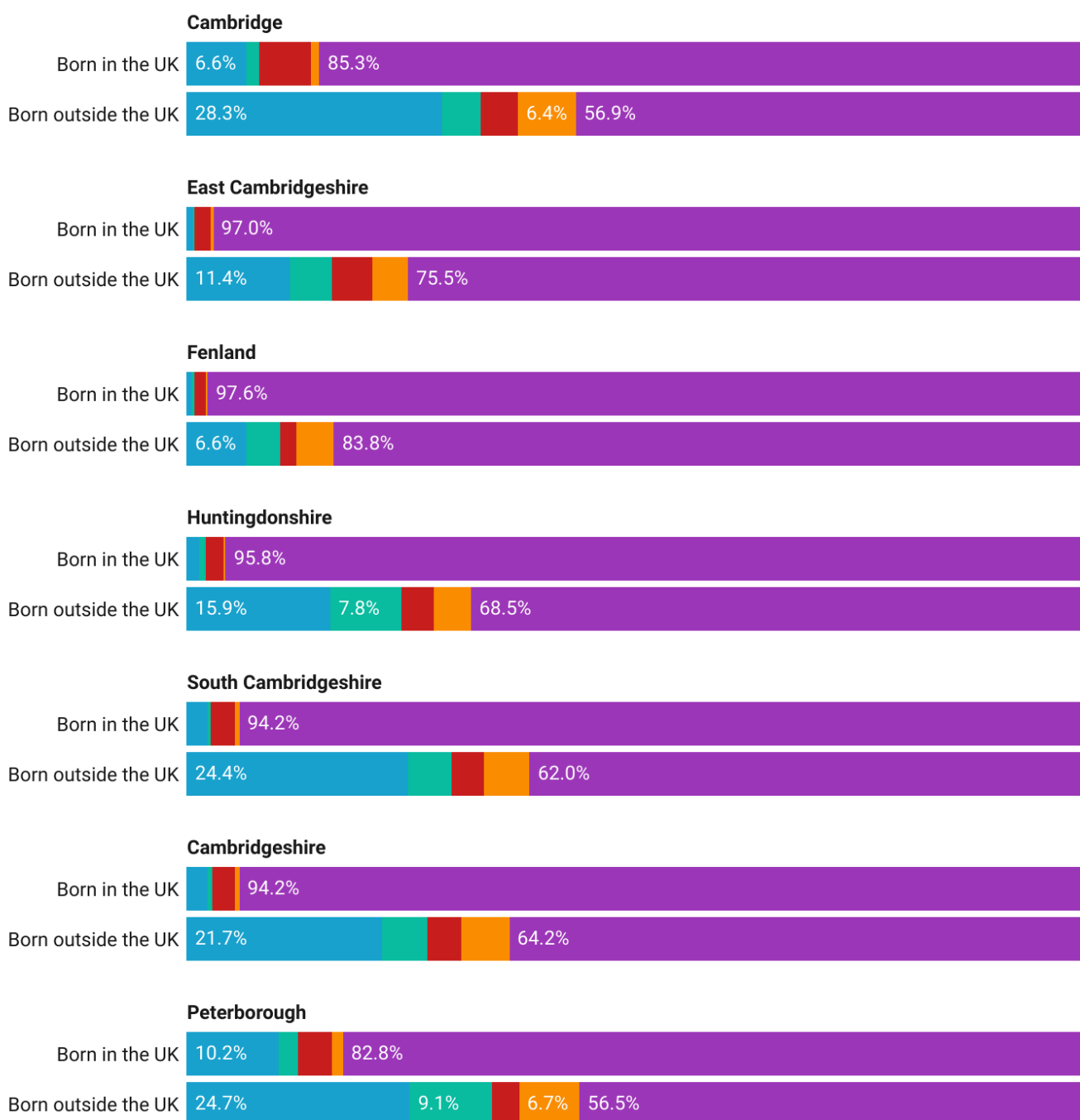
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Ethnicity

The population born outside the UK in each district is more ethnically diverse compared to the population born in the UK. There are lower proportions who are White in all districts and notably higher proportions for those who are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh. This diversity is highest in Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. In both Cambridge and Peterborough 43% of the non UK born population is in ethnic groups other than White, with more than half of these in the Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic group,

Figure 8: Proportion of the UK born and non UK born populations by ethnic group and district, Census 2021

■ Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh
 ■ Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African
 ■ Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
 ■ Other ethnic group
 ■ White

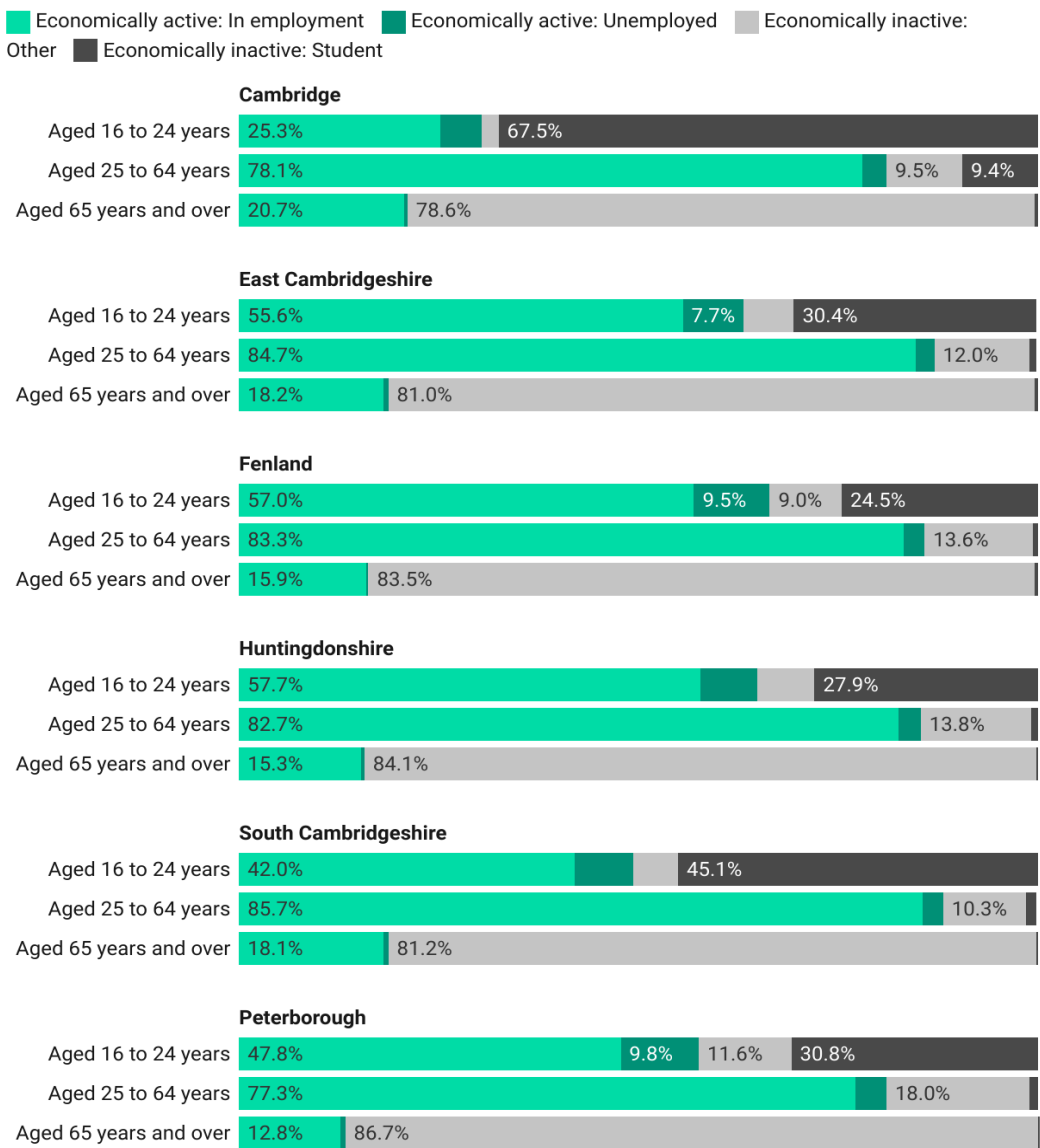


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Economic activity

The economic activity of residents born outside the UK differs considerably based on their age. For those aged 16 to 24 years a notable proportion are economically inactive students. Highest proportions of 16 to 24 year olds who are economically inactive students are in Cambridge (67.5%) and South Cambridgeshire (45.1%), whilst in other districts the range is between 24.5% (Fenland) and 30.8% (Peterborough). In contrast, most residents born outside the UK aged 25 to 64 years are economically active and in employment, accounting for between 77.3% (Peterborough) and 85.7% (South Cambridgeshire) of this age group. There is also a notable proportion of the 25 to 64 years age group in Cambridge who are economically inactive students (9.4%). For those aged 65 years and over, most are economically inactive (excluding full time students), accounting for at least 78.6% of this age group (Cambridge) and with levels highest in Peterborough (86.7%).

Figure 9: Proportion of population born outside the UK by economic activity status, age group and district, Census 2021



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Full time students are included in both “Economically active: In employment” and “Economically active: Unemployed”. Population aged 15 years and under not included.

Migration in the year prior to Census 2021

The Census also provides detailed information on the migration patterns of residents in an area the year prior to Census day, which was 21 March 2021.

While this data is effective in capturing those who have moved into an area from elsewhere in the UK or outside the UK, it does not capture those who had moved out of England and Wales in the year prior to the Census. For that reason, this analysis focuses on just the inward migration to each district.

Note that the migration data for Census 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to the disruption the COVID-19 pandemic caused to internal and international migration in the year prior to the Census.

The Table below shows that around 1% of the population (aged 1 year and over) had moved into the area from outside the UK in the year before census day in 2011 for all districts apart from Cambridge, where 3.9% had done so. The Census 2021 data shows lower numbers compared to Census 2011, and so lower proportions of the population for all districts with the exception of Cambridge.

Table 2: Number of migrants from outside the UK in the year before census day, Census 2011 and Census 2021

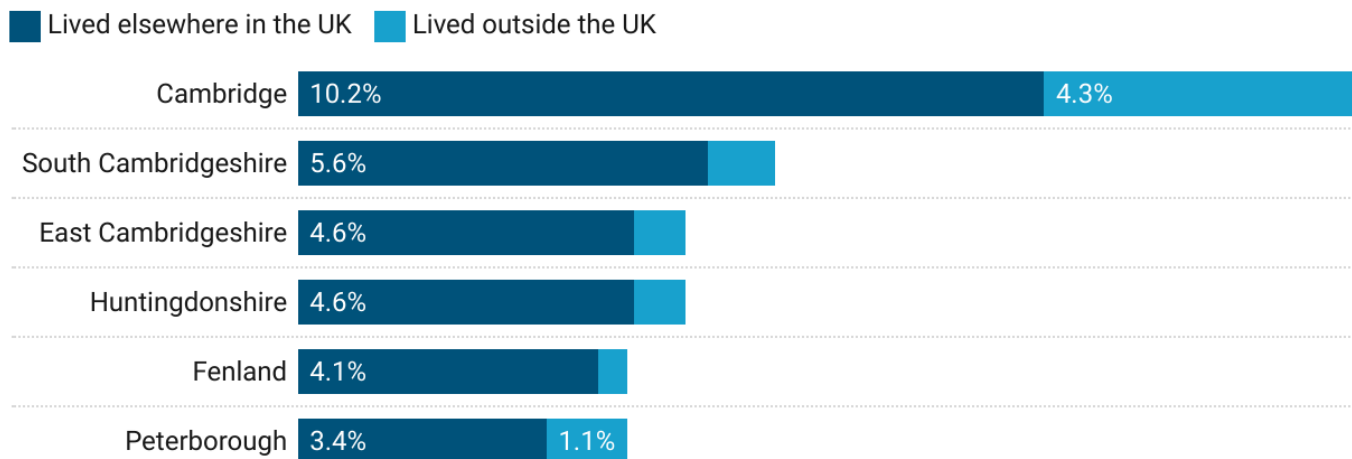
| District | Census 2011, Number | Census 2011, % of population (aged 1 year and over) | Census 2021, Number | Census 2021, % of population (aged 1 year and over) |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Cambridge | 5,670 | 3.9% | 6,195 | 4.3% |
| East Cambridgeshire | 1,085 | 1.2% | 630 | 0.7% |
| Fenland | 885 | 0.9% | 435 | 0.4% |
| Huntingdonshire | 1,805 | 1.0% | 1,265 | 0.7% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 1,640 | 1.0% | 1,400 | 0.9% |
| Cambridgeshire | 11,085 | 1.6% | 9,925 | 1.5% |
| Peterborough | 2,740 | 1.3% | 2,315 | 1.1% |

Caution is advised with this data due to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Census 2021 estimates.

Cambridge had the highest percentage of total residents aged 1 years and over who had moved there in the year prior to the Census from elsewhere in the UK or outside the UK, at 14.5% of the population. This is followed by South Cambridgeshire (6.5%), East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire (5.3%), then Fenland and Peterborough (4.5%).

Across all districts, the highest proportion of those who had moved there in the year prior to the Census were those who had moved from elsewhere in the UK (which excludes those who moved within the district itself in the past year). This ranges from 10.2% of the population in Cambridge to 3.4% of the population in Peterborough. Proportions of those moving there that had previously lived outside the UK were much lower for all districts, with the only exception being Cambridge where 4.3% of the population had lived outside the UK a year prior to Census 2021. For other districts, this percentage ranges from 0.4% in Fenland to 1.1% in Peterborough. Cautionary interpretation is advised given the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the data.

Figure 10: Percentage of residents who moved to each district within the year prior to Census 2021 by where they previously lived



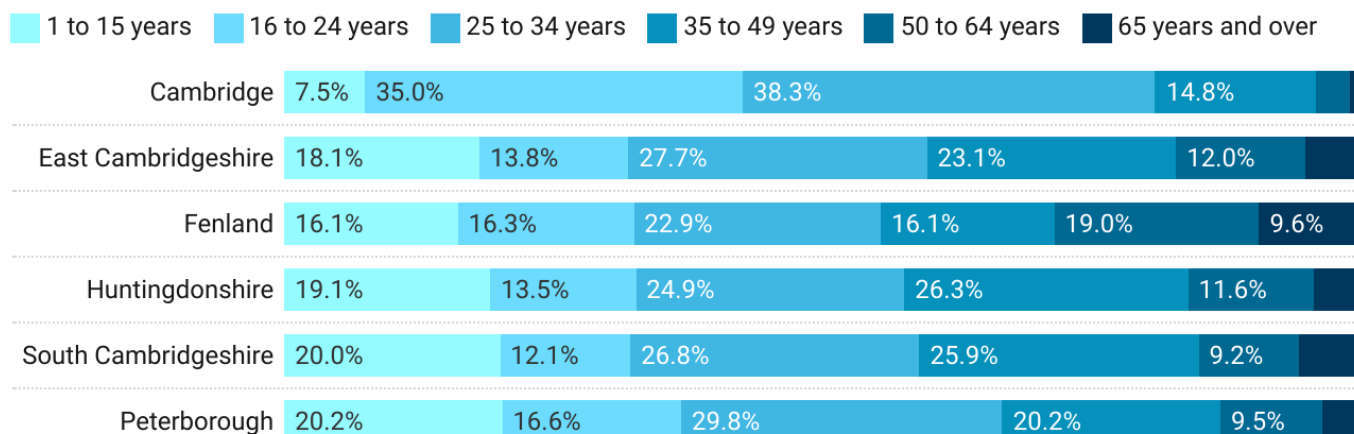
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Lived elsewhere in the UK excludes those who moved within the district.

Readers are reminded that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the Census 2021 data

Looking specifically at residents who moved to each district from outside the UK a year prior to Census 2021, the age profile of residents moving to Cambridge is notably different to the age profile in other districts. Residents in Cambridge who lived outside the UK a year prior to Census 2021 are predominantly aged 16 to 34 years (73.3% of all residents who lived outside the UK a year prior to Census). In comparison, other districts have lower proportions for these age groups, with higher proportions for both the younger (aged 1 to 15 years) and older (aged 35 years and over) residents who lived outside the UK. Notable for Fenland is the relatively high proportion of those aged 50 to 64 years at 19.0% of residents moving into the district from outside the UK, compared to the other districts where this age group accounts for between 3.2% (Cambridge) and 12.0% (East Cambridgeshire). Although as Table 2 showed a relatively small number of residents, at 435 in total, had moved to Fenland from outside the UK in the year prior to the census.

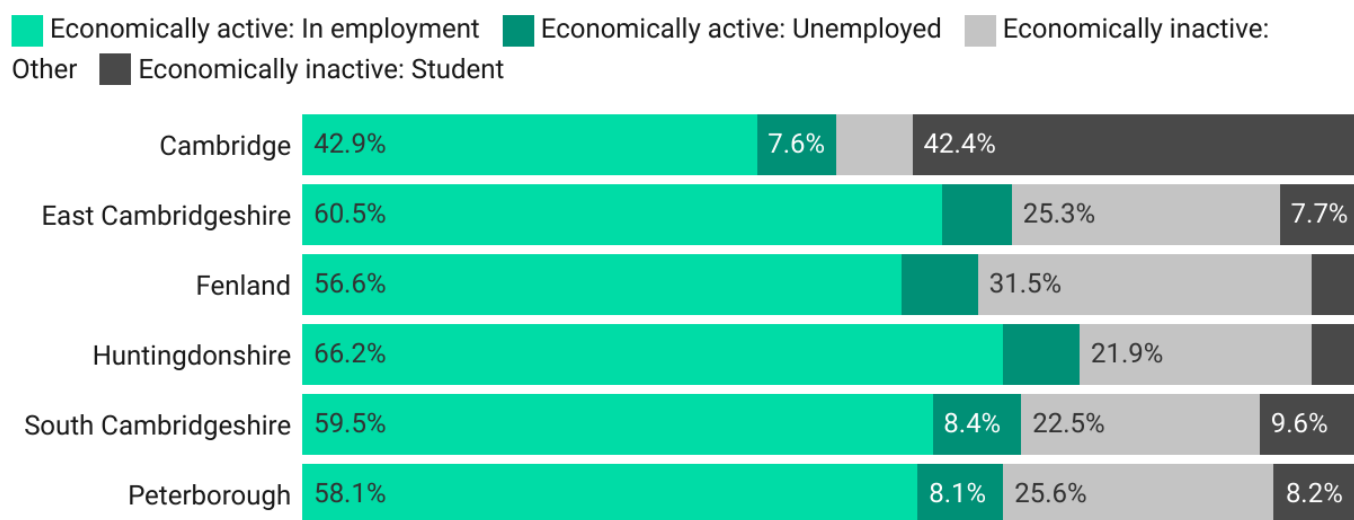
Figure 11: Proportion of residents who moved to each district from outside the UK a year prior to Census 2021 by age group



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The economic activity of residents who moved from outside the UK to Cambridge a year prior to Census 2021 is also notably different to other Cambridgeshire districts and Peterborough, with a much higher proportion who are economically inactive students.

Figure 12: Proportion of residents who moved to each district from outside the UK a year prior to Census 2021 by economic activity



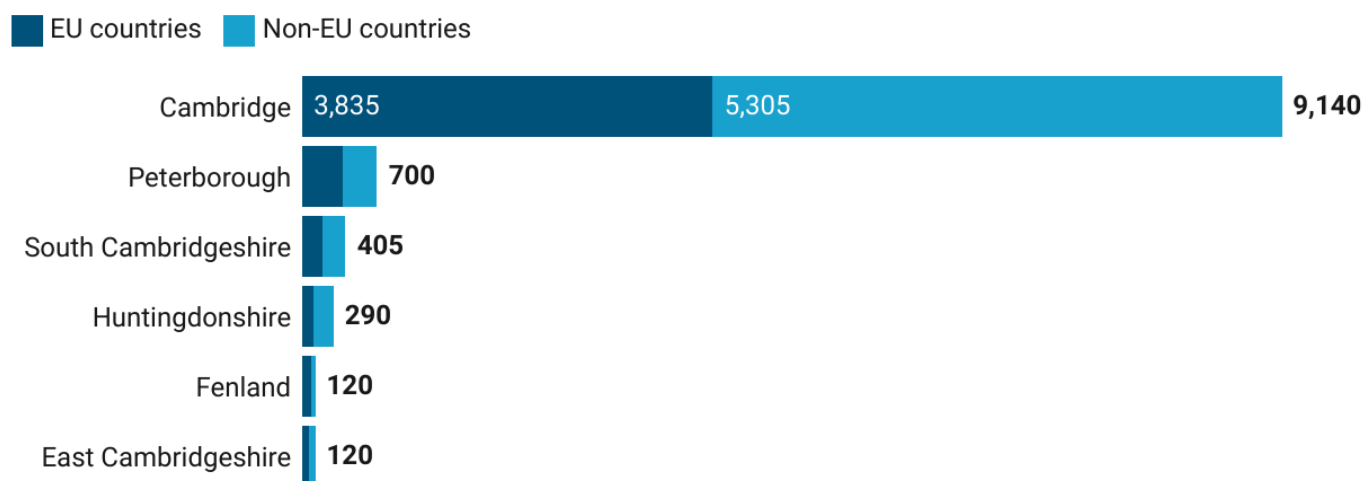
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Full time students are included in “Economically active: In employment” and “Economically active: Unemployed”.

International students

Census data is also able to provide a snapshot of international students living in the UK at the time of Census 2021. The highest number of international students were in Cambridge with over 9,000, representing 6.3% of Cambridge's usual resident population. Over half of these students were born in non EU countries. All other districts had far fewer international students, ranging from 700 in Peterborough to 120 in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.

Figure 13: Number of international students by country of birth and district, Census 2021



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Non EU countries includes British Overseas Territories

Non UK passport holders

Census 2021 data on the usual resident population by passport held can also provide some insight into the diversity within the communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This data classifies a person according to the passport or passports they held at the time of the census. This analysis included expired passports or travel documents people were entitled to renew. Where a person recorded having more than one passport, they were counted only once, categorised in the following priority order: 1. UK passport, 2. Irish passport, 3. Other passport.

The Table overleaf provides a summary of the Census 2021 data on the proportions of the usual resident population by world area of passport held and by district for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and compared to the England average. Districts where the proportions of passports held by world area exceed the England average have been shaded in the table.

Cambridge has a notably high share, at 28.3%, of the population holding non UK passports. Across England, Cambridge ranks as 8th out of the 309 local authorities for the highest proportion of the population holding non UK passports. In the top 15 of local authorities with the highest proportions of non UK passport holders only Cambridge and Slough (15th) are located outside London. City of London, Westminster, Newham, and Kensington and Chelsea have the highest proportion of non UK passport holders, at around one-third of their total populations. Peterborough also has a high proportion of non UK passport holders at 21.4%, (ranking 32nd) which is just over twice the England average of 10.4%. The proportion of non UK passport holders in Fenland, 10.7%, is marginally above the England average.

For the proportions of the population holding UK passports, East Cambridgeshire (77.3%), Huntingdonshire (78.3%) and South Cambridgeshire (80.0%) all exceed the England average of 76.6%.

The next largest category is for no passport held, with the England average at 13.2%. All districts apart from Cambridge (7.8%) and South Cambridgeshire (10.3%) are above the England average, with the highest proportion in Fenland (22.1%).

7.0% of the population of England held European passports, with Peterborough (17.6%), Cambridge (17.4%) and Fenland (10.0%) all notably above the England average.

- For Peterborough, those holding Lithuanian and Polish passports account for just over 4% of the population each, with Portuguese (2.0%) and Romanian (1.7%) and Italian (0.8%) passport holders following.
- For Cambridge, those holding Italian and Polish passports account for just over 2% of the population each, with Spanish (1.7%), Portuguese (1.5%), French and German (both 1.1%), and Romanian (1.0%) passport holders following.
- For Fenland, those holding Lithuanian passports account for almost 4% of the population, with Polish (2.0%) passport holders following.

Both Cambridge (6.7%) and Peterborough (2.3%) sit above the England average (1.9%) for the proportion of passports held from the Middle East and Asia.

- For Cambridge, those holding Chinese passports account for 1.8% of the population, and those holding Indian passports account for 1.6% of the population.
- For Peterborough, those holding Indian passports account for 1.0% of the population, and those holding Pakistani passports account for 0.7% of the population.

Cambridge and Peterborough (both at 0.9% of the population) are also slightly above the England average (0.7%) for the proportion of the population holding passports from Africa.

All districts apart from Fenland have proportions of the population holding passports from the Americas and the Caribbean which are above the England average of 0.5%. Proportions are highest in Cambridge (2.7%), East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire (both at 1.3%).

Table 3: Usual resident population by world area of passport held and district, percentage of total, Census 2021

| Passport held, % of total population | Africa | Antarctica and Oceania, including Australasia | Europe | Middle East and Asia | No passport held | The Americas and the Caribbean | UK | Total non UK passports |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---|--------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------|------------------------|
| Cambridge | 0.9 | 0.6 | 17.4 | 6.7 | 7.8 | 2.7 | 63.9 | 28.3 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 0.3 | 0.1 | 5.9 | 0.6 | 14.5 | 1.3 | 77.3 | 8.2 |
| Fenland | 0.2 | 0 | 10.0 | 0.3 | 22.1 | 0.2 | 67.2 | 10.7 |
| Huntingdonshire | 0.4 | 0.1 | 5.8 | 0.7 | 13.5 | 1.3 | 78.3 | 8.2 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 0.5 | 0.2 | 6.5 | 1.7 | 10.3 | 0.8 | 80 | 9.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.5 | 0.2 | 9.1 | 2.2 | 12.9 | 1.3 | 73.8 | 13.3 |
| Peterborough | 0.9 | 0 | 17.6 | 2.3 | 15.1 | 0.6 | 63.5 | 21.4 |
| England | 0.7 | 0.1 | 7.0 | 1.9 | 13.2 | 0.5 | 76.6 | 10.2 |

National Insurance Number registrations

All people coming to the UK and who take up employment for the first time must obtain a National Insurance Number (NINo).

NINo figures are a useful indication of inwards migration to an area, but it is important to note that this is not a data source that has been specifically designed to monitor migration. It is not able to provide information on total migrant populations at any point in time. This data source takes no account of subsequent migration out of a particular area. It does not account for:

- People who may have since left the area to move elsewhere either within or outside the UK (and NINos are not de-registered even if a migrant subsequently leaves the UK),
- Inwards migration from other parts of the UK, as the NINo data records residence at the time of registration,
- Migrants who move to the area but do not take up employment (for example, young children and people who are retired).

Even so, the data source gives useful insight providing a sense of trend of migration into an area. NINo data provides information on registrations by nationality, age group and residential location at the time of registration.

Data 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, age group, gender and residential location at the time of registration by district and by Medium Super Output Area (MSOA). These 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 mid-year of registration as our data period. NINo data is available for download from the DWP: [NINo data download](#)

Overall trends in NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Between 2002 and 2024 there have been 256,870 NINo registrations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to adult overseas nationals entering the UK. Over this period, just over one-third, almost 88,000, of these registrations have been in Cambridge, and almost a third, almost 84,000, have been in Peterborough. Fenland accounts for 10.1% of these registrations, followed by South Cambridgeshire, 9.1%. Huntingdonshire, 7.6% and East Cambridgeshire, 6.4%.

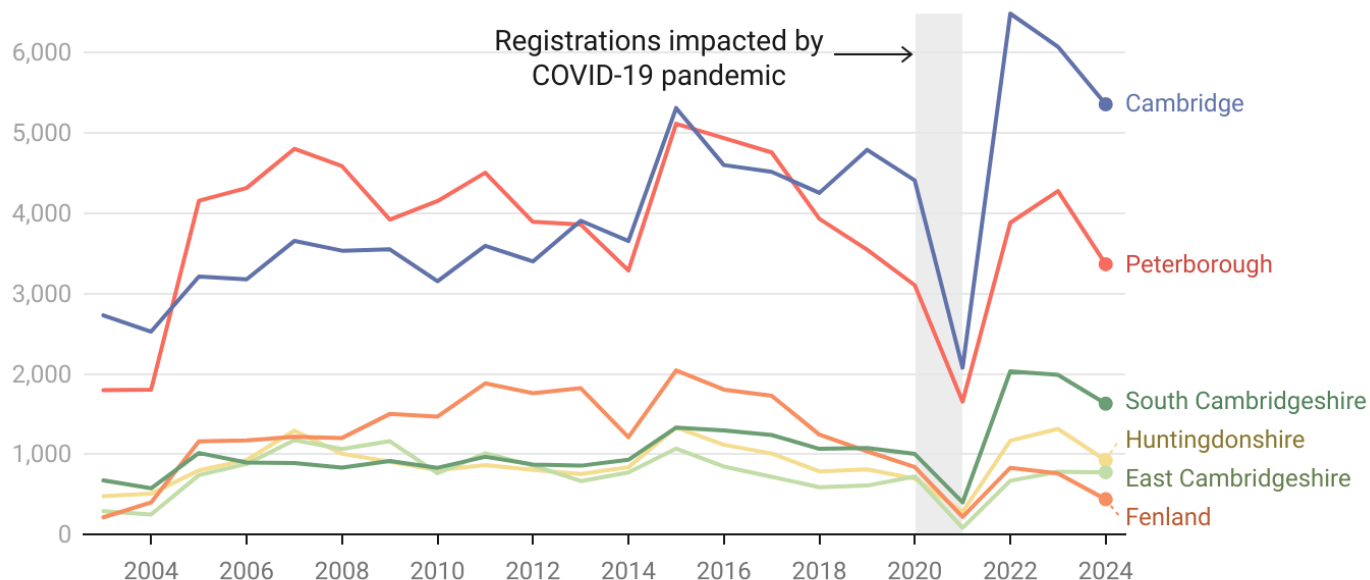
Table 4: Number of NINo registrations by district, 2002-24

| District | 2002-2011 | 2011-2021 | 2021-2024 | 2011-2024 | 2002-2024 | % of total 2002-2024 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Cambridge | 29,120 | 40,890 | 17,900 | 58,785 | 87,905 | 34.2% |
| East Cambridgeshire | 7,355 | 6,960 | 2,230 | 9,195 | 16,550 | 6.4% |
| Fenland | 10,230 | 13,725 | 2,035 | 15,760 | 25,995 | 10.1% |
| Huntingdonshire | 7,605 | 8,455 | 3,415 | 11,865 | 19,475 | 7.6% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 7,615 | 10,095 | 5,650 | 15,745 | 23,360 | 9.1% |
| Cambridgeshire | 61,925 | 80,125 | 31,230 | 111,350 | 173,285 | 67.5% |
| Peterborough | 34,015 | 38,060 | 11,515 | 49,575 | 83,590 | 32.5% |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 95,945 | 118,180 | 42,745 | 160,925 | 256,870 | 100.0% |

Following the expansion of the European Union (EU) on 1 May 2004 to include 10 more countries, (Cyprus, Malta and the A8 countries of Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia), the number of NINo registrations rose notably across all districts between 2004 and 2005. After this and up until 2014, the annual number of NINo registrations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough generally remained relatively stable fluctuating between a range of 10,700 for the year to mid-2014 and 13,000 in the year to mid-2007 (which followed the further expansion of the EU to include the A2 countries of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007). Despite Croatia joining the EU on 1 July 2013, there was a fall in registrations between 2013 and 2014 before a notable rise, of 5,500 to peak at 16,200, in annual registrations between 2014 and 2015. This peak immediately preceded the start of formal consideration of Brexit in the UK, with the European Union Referendum Act receiving royal ascent (providing for a referendum which then took place on 23 June 2016) on 17 December 2015.

From mid-2015, the number of NINo registrations began to decrease. This trend generally continued until mid-2020 and mid-2021, when registrations fell away notably due to the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions and the temporary suspension of processing new NINo applications. A more detailed look at NINo activity during the COVID-10 pandemic is provided in [Appendix A COVID-19 Impacts](#). Since then, most districts have seen the number of registrations recover to at or above levels seen before the pandemic, though Fenland is a notable exception to this trend.

Figure 14: Number of NINO registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK by district, mid-year 2003 to 2024



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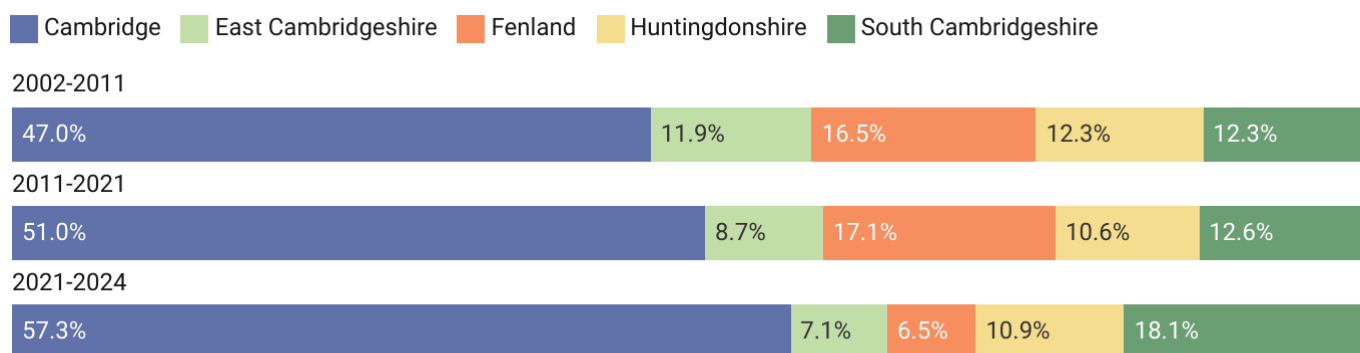
Cambridge City and Peterborough have higher numbers of registrations compared to the more rural districts. Cambridge, in particular, has seen a notably higher number of registrations for mid-2022 to mid-2024 compared to the pre-pandemic period. While the number of registrations has increased in Peterborough, they are still below the peak of registrations seen in mid-2015.

Of the rural districts, South Cambridgeshire has the highest number of registrations between mid-2022 and mid-2024. The number of registrations has notably increased compared to the pre-pandemic period. In contrast, Fenland has seen the opposite trend, with numbers of registrations that are lower in mid-2022 to mid-2024 than the pre-pandemic period.

The number of registrations appears to have slowed for all districts in mid-2024. For most districts the number of registrations is now below the peak in the pre-pandemic period, however Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are notable exceptions. These two districts still have higher numbers of registrations in mid-2024 compared to the peak number of registrations seen before the pandemic.

Comparing the proportion of total NINO registrations represented by each district in Cambridgeshire shows that Cambridge accounts for by far the highest number of registrations. Whilst the proportion of total registrations for Cambridge rose fairly gradually between 2011 and 2021, between 2021 and 2024 there has been a particularly notable rise in Cambridge's share of NINO registrations, when they accounted for 57.3% of total registrations in Cambridgeshire. South Cambridgeshire has also seen a notable rise in its share of total registrations in the period 2021 to 2024, increasing from 12.6% in 2011 to 2021 to 18.1% for the period 2021 to 2024. Whilst Huntingdonshire's share of total registrations has remained fairly consistent, falling only marginally from 12.3% in 2002 to 2011 to 10.9% for 2021 to 2024, the proportion represented by East Cambridgeshire has fallen from 11.9% for the period 2002 to 2011 to 7.1% in 2021 to 2024. It is the change in Fenland's share of total registrations that is most striking, falling notably from accounting for 16.5% of registrations between 2002 and 2021 to 6.5% for the period 2021 to 2024.

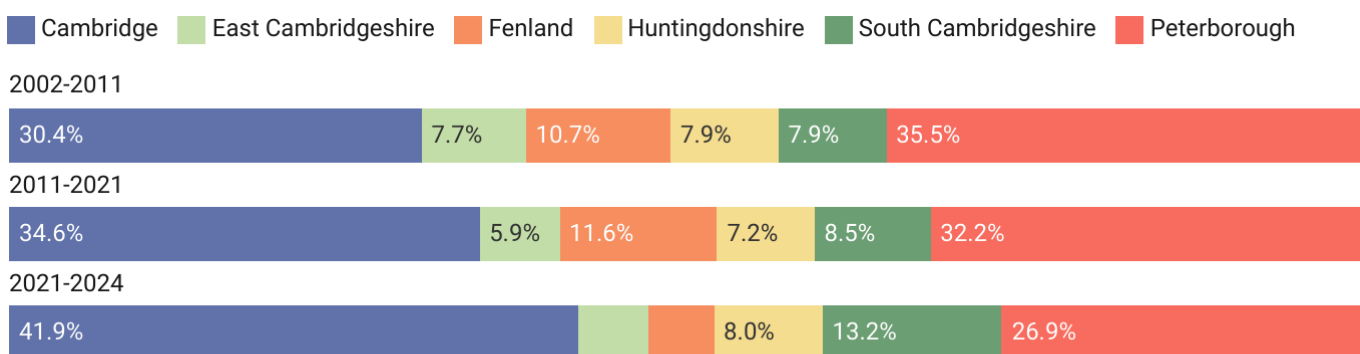
Figure 15: Proportion of total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire by district



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The same trends can be seen when comparing the proportions of total registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by district. Notable here is the fall in the share of registrations that are accounted for by Peterborough, falling from representing just over a third of total registrations in 2002 to 2011 to just over a quarter in 2021 to 2024.

Figure 16: Proportion of total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by district



Created with Datawrapper

To capture the detail of these developments this report focuses on trends since 2011, considering the periods 2011 to 2021 and then 2017 to 2024 separately. During this latter period, the impact of Brexit, the implementation of national policy measures on migration and the COVID-19 pandemic have all played a part in seeing the characteristics of migrant workers changing compared to trends that were seen in earlier years.

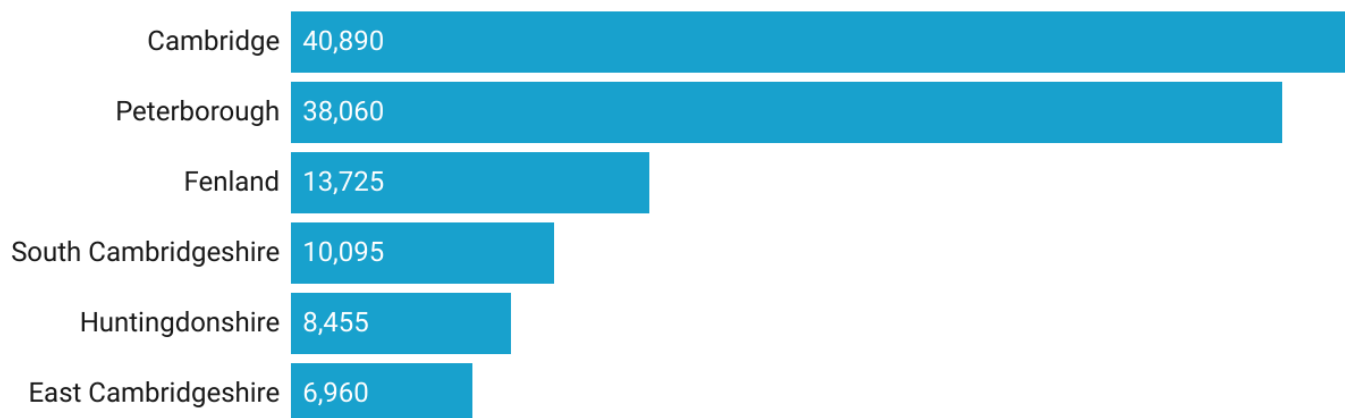
NINo trends 2011 to 2021

Between mid-2011 and mid-2021, a total of 118,180 foreign nationals registered for a national insurance number (NINo) in one of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's six districts:

Cambridge saw the highest number of NINo registrations with 40,890 (34.8% of total registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) recorded between mid-2011 and mid-2021, whilst East Cambridgeshire saw the lowest number with 6,960 (5.9%). Cambridge and Peterborough collectively accounted for 66.8% of total NINo registrations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This is expected as Cambridge and Peterborough are the largest urban conurbations in the region, with the total estimated population at Census 2021 145,690 and 215,660 residents respectively. However, it is notable that, despite its smaller size, Cambridge sees the larger proportion of NINo registrations. Fenland is also notable for having the third highest number of

registrations over this period at 13,725, with an estimated Census 2021 population of 102,475 residents; smaller than both Huntingdonshire (180,815) and South Cambridgeshire (162,145). East Cambridgeshire had the lowest total number of NINo registrations during this period, at 6,960, and is also the smallest of the districts with a Census 2021 population of 87,760.

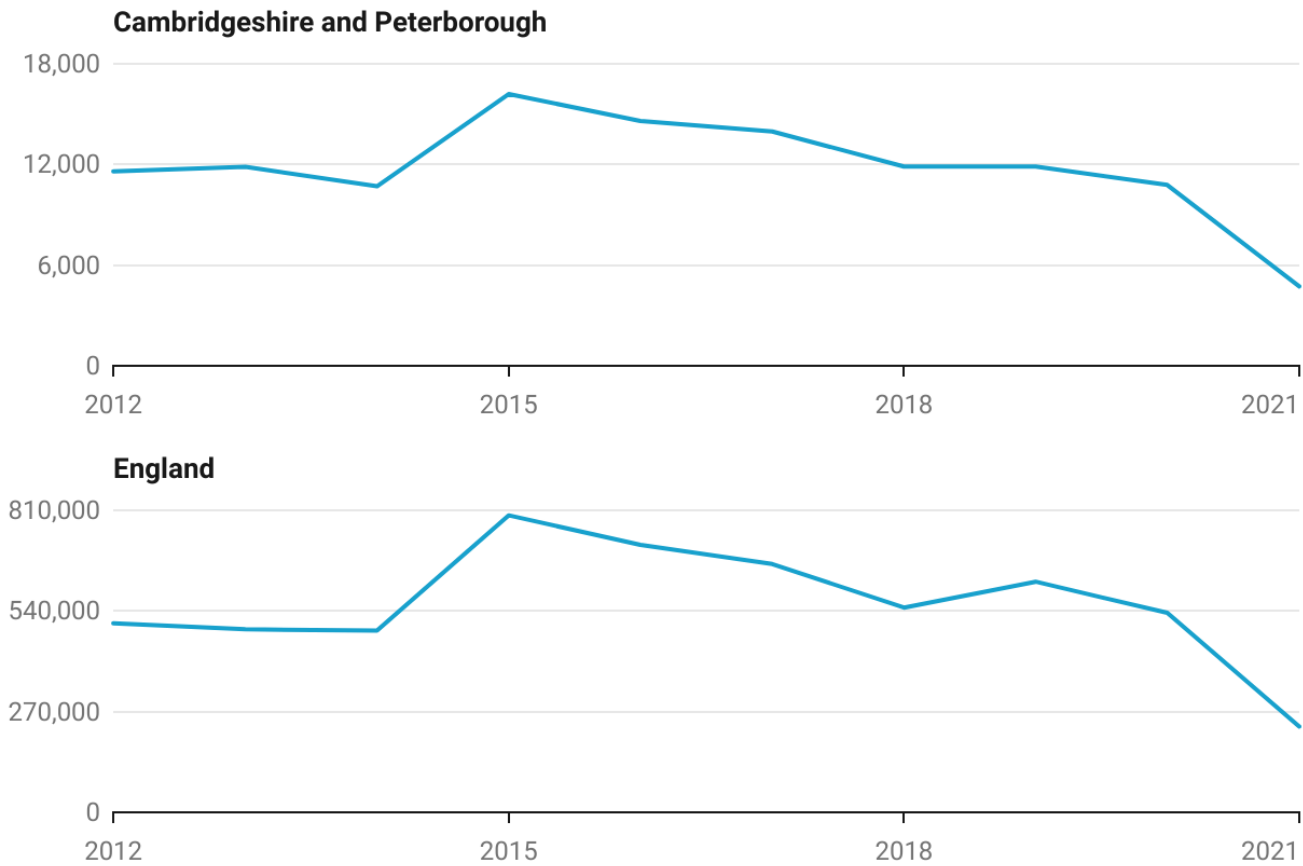
Figure 17: Total count of NINo registrations by district , mid-2011 to mid-2021



Created with Datawrapper

The annual mid-year (July-June) counts of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough show a similar trend to England over the period. After a slight decrease in registrations between mid-2011 and mid-2014, a significant peak can be seen in the year to mid-2015 in both areas. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough saw a 51.4% increase in registrations between mid-2014 and mid-2015 whilst England saw a 63.5% increase. After mid-2015, both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and England saw year-on-year reductions in NINo registrations to mid-2018. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough registrations continued to decline to mid-2020, whilst England saw a small increase between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough saw a significant decrease in registrations between mid-2020 and mid-2021, with just 4,730 registrations in the year to mid-2021. This trend was in line with the figures for England as a whole, and can be explained by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is further discussed in [Appendix A COVID-19 Impacts](#).

Figure 18: Total NINo registrations for England and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between mid-2011 and mid-2021. Please note the graphs are on different axes.

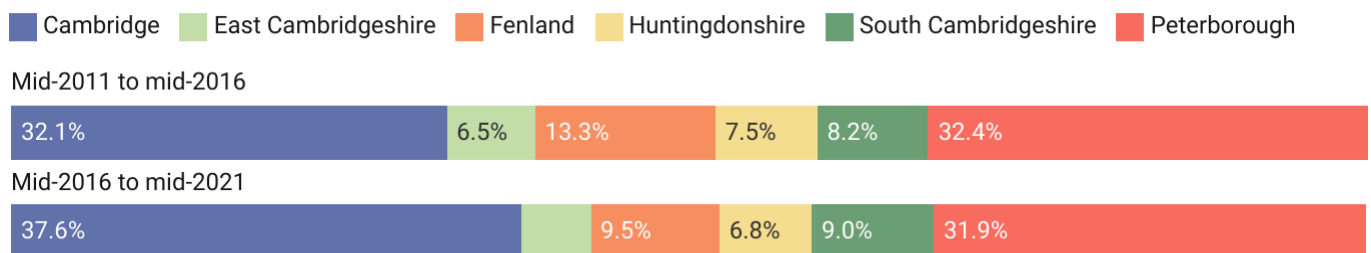


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District Variations

Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the number of NINo registrations each year varies by district. The proportion of NINo registrations is highest in Cambridge and Peterborough, collectively accounting for 64.5% of all registrations between mid-2011 and mid-2016 and 69.5% between mid-2016 and mid-2021. The proportion of NINo registrations accounted for by Cambridge has increased from 32.1% of all NINOs to 37.6% in mid-2016 to mid-2021, whilst there have been reductions in the proportions accounted for by East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and Peterborough.

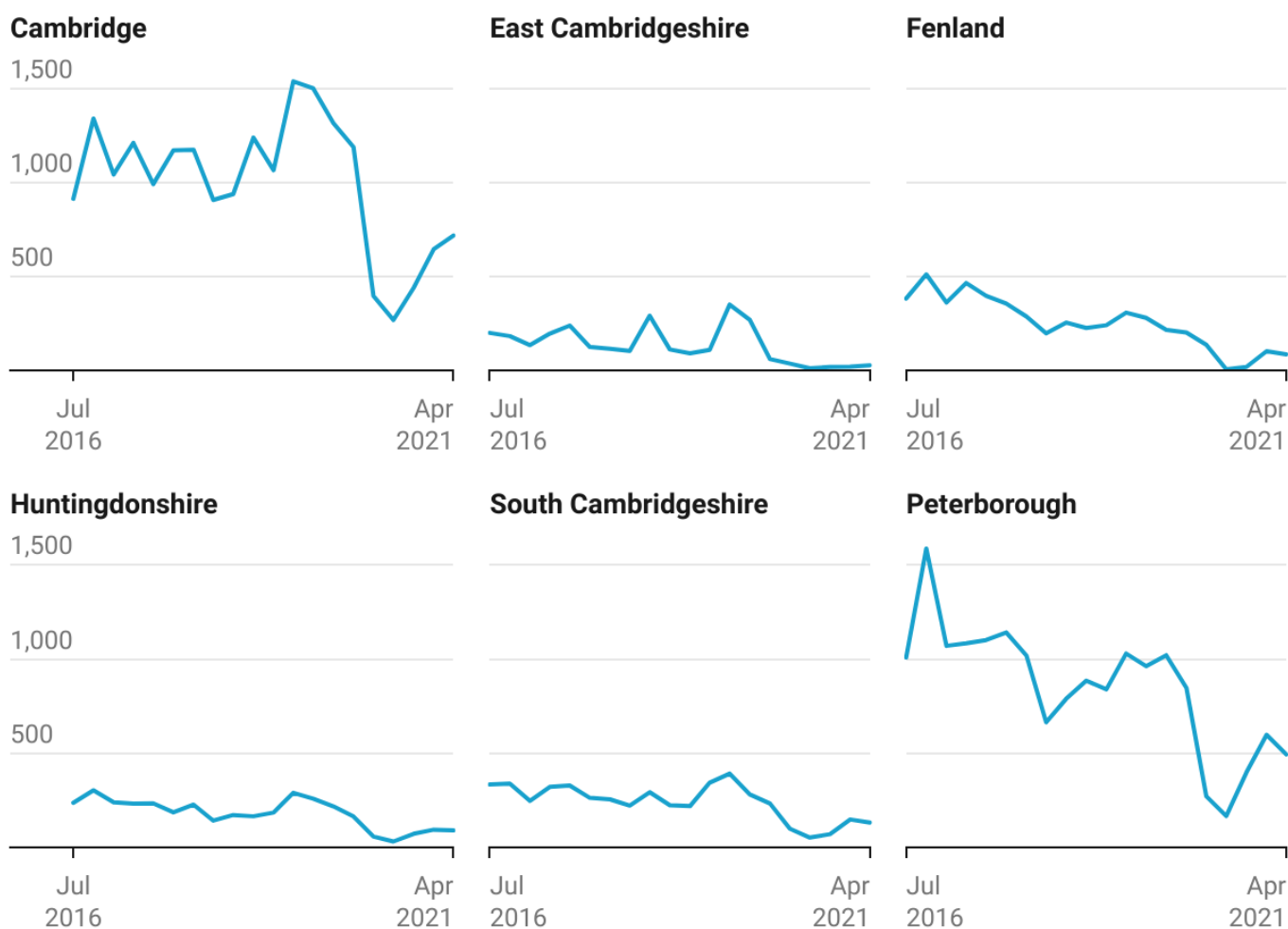
Figure 19: Proportion of NINo registrations between mid-2012 and mid-2016, and mid-2016 and mid-2021 in each district



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Long-term trends by district show Cambridge and Peterborough consistently have the highest number of NINo registrations between mid-2016 and mid-2021, with five-year annual average counts of 4,005 and 3,400 respectively. Cambridge registrations have been higher than Peterborough for every quarter since October 2017. Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire have lower five-year annual average counts of 1,015; 720; and 1,096 respectively. East Cambridgeshire has the lowest five-year annual average count at 550 and shows a more fluctuating trend with peaks in registrations in the quarters beginning July 2017, July 2018 and July 2019. This seasonal trend could be attributed to influxes of temporary workers in sectors such as agriculture, horticulture and manufacturing. All districts show a significant decrease in NINo registrations in April 2020 which can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cessation of NINo application processing, which is discussed further in [Appendix A COVID-19 Impacts](#).

Figure 20: NINo registrations by district for each quarter between mid-2016 and mid-2021

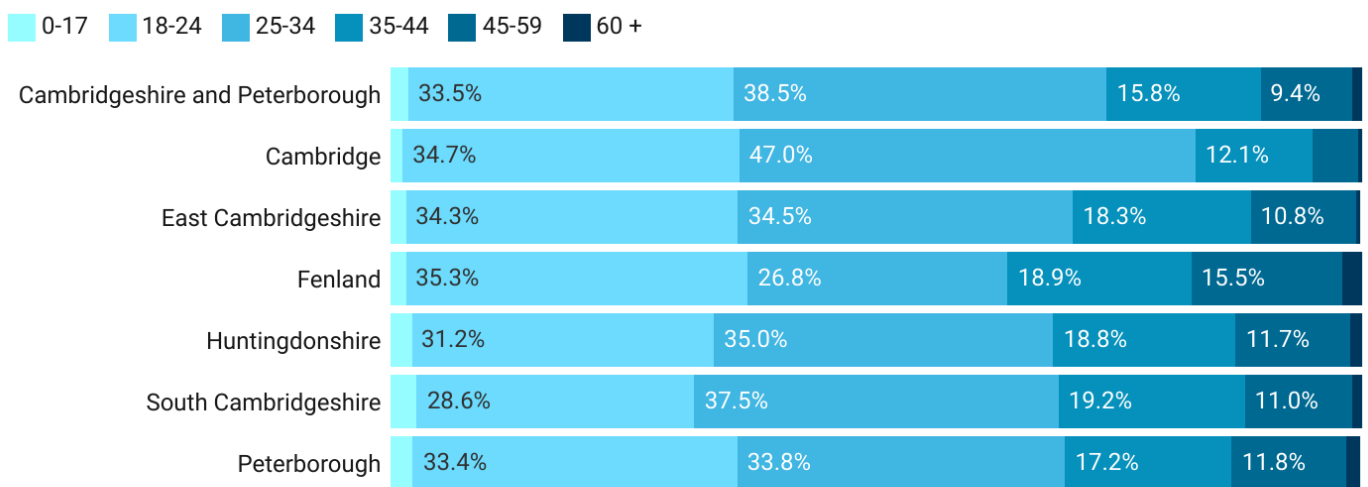


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Registrations by age group

Age group analysis shows that NINo registrants in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are predominantly young. Across the area, 18 to 34 years olds account for 72.1% of NINo registrations. At the district level, Cambridge has the youngest NINo registration population, with 82.8% of registrants aged 34 and under. In every district the largest proportion of registrations is in the 25 to 34 age group, accounting for between 33.8% (Peterborough) and 47.0% (Cambridge) of NINo registrations. Fenland is the exception, where the 18 to 24 age group accounts for 35.3%, and the 25 to 34 age group accounts for 26.8% of registrations. Fenland also has the largest proportion accounted for by the 45 to 59 age group at 15.5%, and the largest proportion of 60 years and over registrations at 2.0%. South Cambridgeshire has the largest proportion of registrations for under 18 year olds at 2.7%.

Figure 21: Proportion of NINo registrations by age band in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, mid-2016 to mid-2021

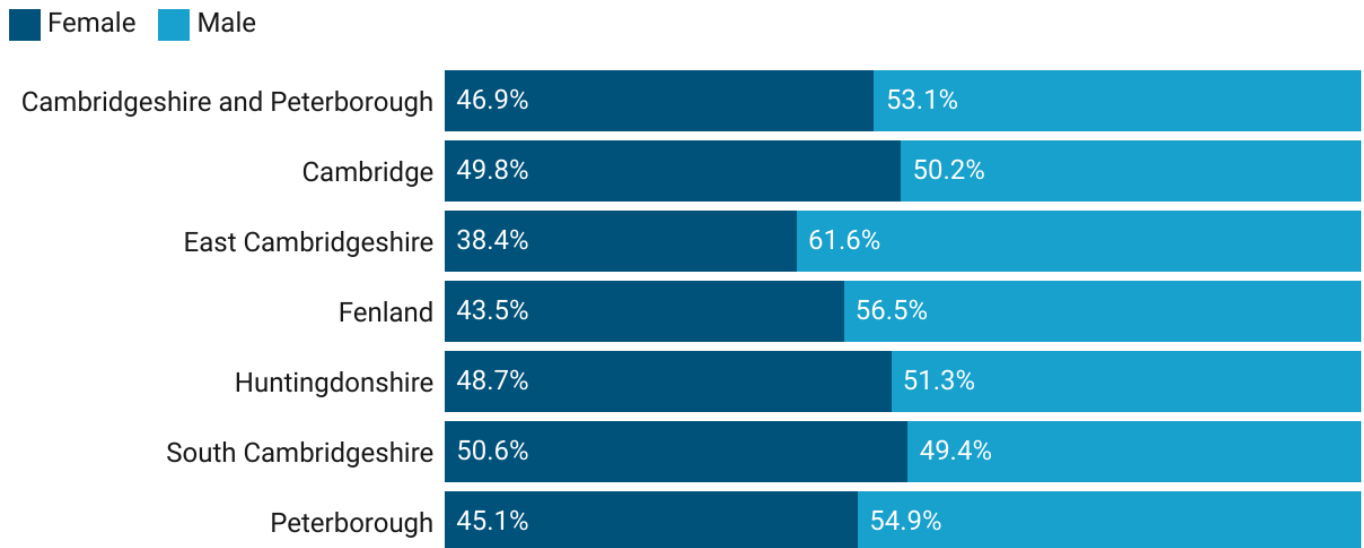


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Registrations by gender

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 46.9% of NINo registrants were female and 53.1% were male between mid-2016 and mid-2021. In all districts the proportion of male registrants is higher, except in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire where there is an even split. East Cambridgeshire has the largest difference between the genders, with 61.6% of NINo applications registered as male. Fenland and Peterborough also have higher proportions of registrations by males, at 56.5% and 54.9% respectively.

Figure 22: Proportion of NINo registrations classed as female or male in each district mid-2016 to mid-2021



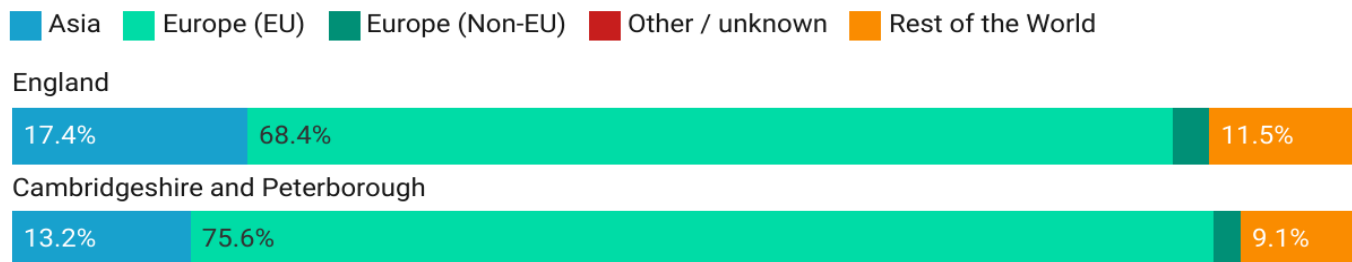
Source: Department for Work and Pensions • Created with Datawrapper

World area of origin

World area of origin analysis for NINo registrations categorises every country of the world into one of following groups: Asia, European Union (EU), Europe non EU, Rest of the world and Other/Unknown. The Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

Between mid-2011 and mid-2021, EU countries accounted for three quarters (75.6%) of all NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, slightly higher than the proportion of 68.4% for England. This is not unexpected due to the freedom of movement laws within the EU. During the second half of this period, the impact of Brexit begins to be seen in terms of changing proportions of total registrations accounted for by the EU across districts, and this is discussed in more detail in the sections below. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and in England, Asia accounts for the next largest proportion of registrations between mid-2011 and mid-2021, accounting for 13.2% and 17.4% respectively.

Figure 23: Proportion of total NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and in England by world area, mid-2011 to mid-2021

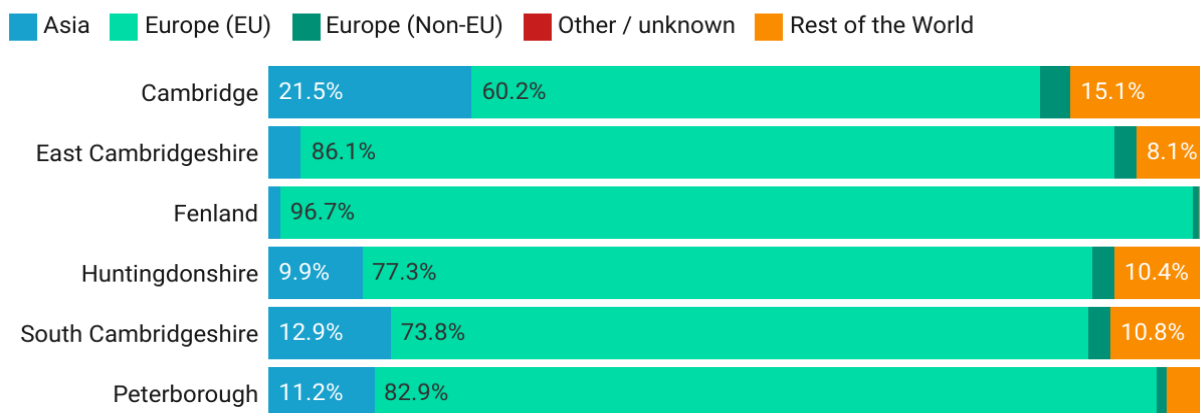


Source: Department for Work and Pensions • Created with Datawrapper

Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

There are distinct differences in the world area of origin between the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts. Cambridge is the most markedly different from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough average distribution, with its proportion of registrations from Asia (21.5%) and the Rest of the World (15.1%) higher than for any other district. The EU accounts for 60.2% of Cambridge's registrations, whilst in all other districts, the EU accounts for at least 73.8% (in South Cambridgeshire) of registrations. Fenland is notable, as 96.7% of registrations there were from EU countries. The proportion of Europe non EU registrations is 3.2% in Cambridge, and lower than this in all other districts.

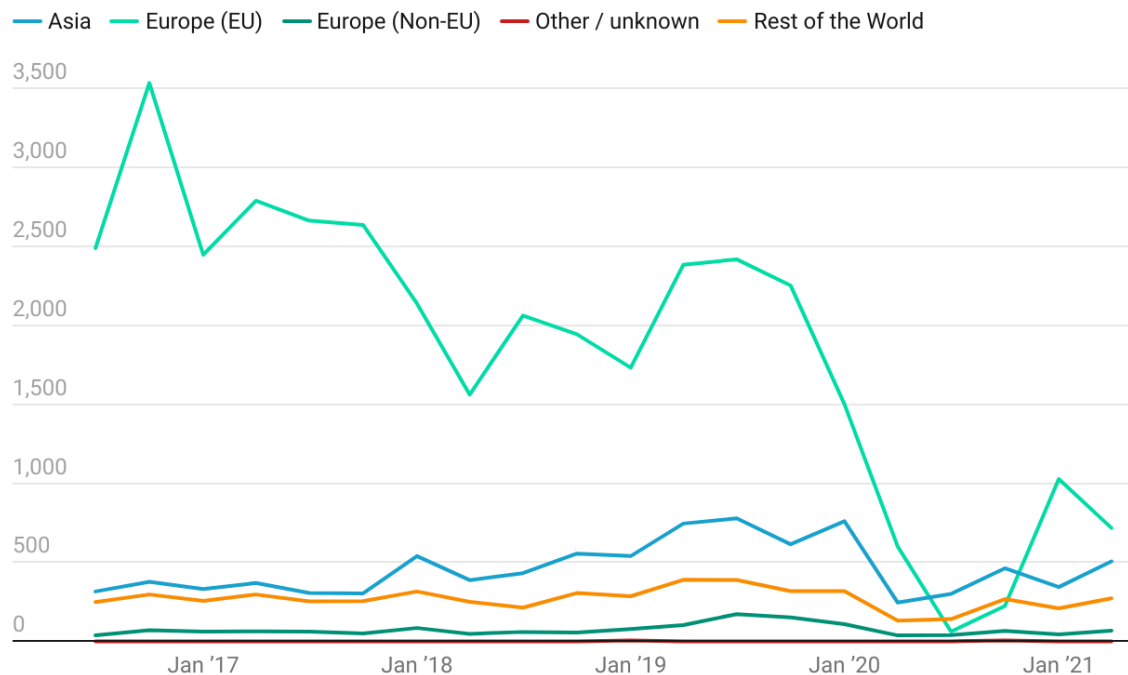
Figure 24: Proportion of total NINo applications in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by district by world area, mid-2011 to mid-2021



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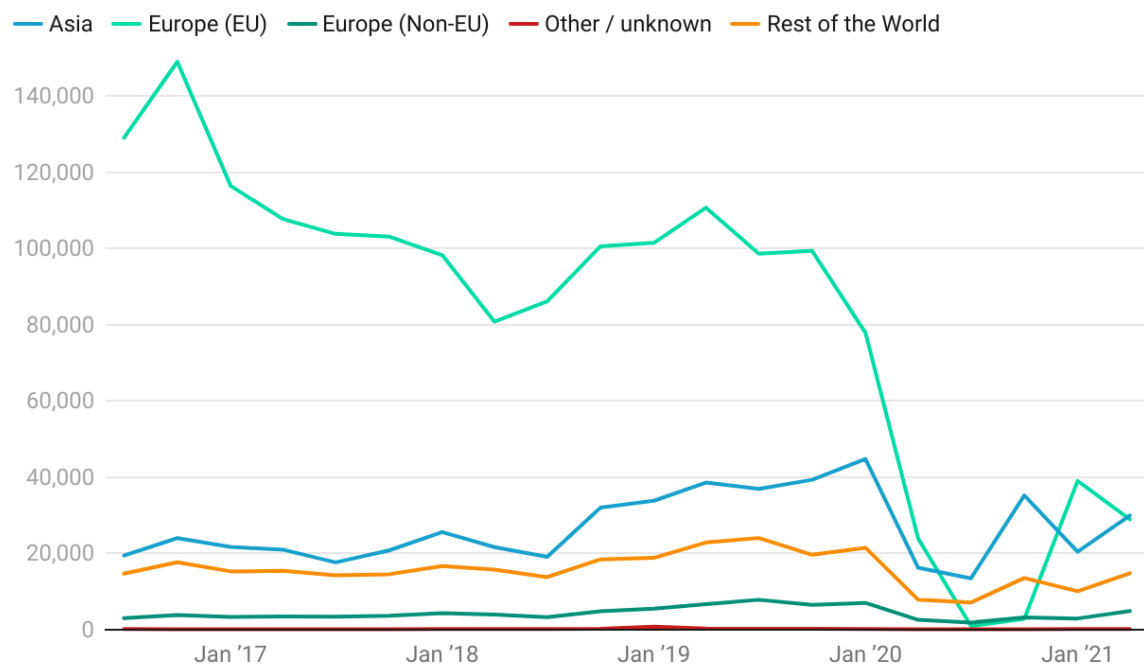
Between mid-2016 and mid-2021 registrations from the EU began to decline from a peak in October 2016 - by October 2019 falling by 28.7% in Cambridgeshire, 48.0% in Peterborough and by one-third in England. This decline in EU registrations after 2016 is linked to the UK's decision to leave the EU, triggered by the referendum which took place on 23 June 2016. Meanwhile, registrations from Asia increased, with a 63.3% rise to 615 registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough comparing the number of registrations in the quarter to October 2019 to the quarter to October 2016. For England, the increase was very similar at 63.6%. From April 2020 onwards, the COVID-19 pandemic results in reductions in registrations from all regions.

Figure 25: NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, mid-2016 to mid-2021 by world area of origin



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Figure 26: NINo registrations in England, mid-2016 to mid-2021 by world area of origin



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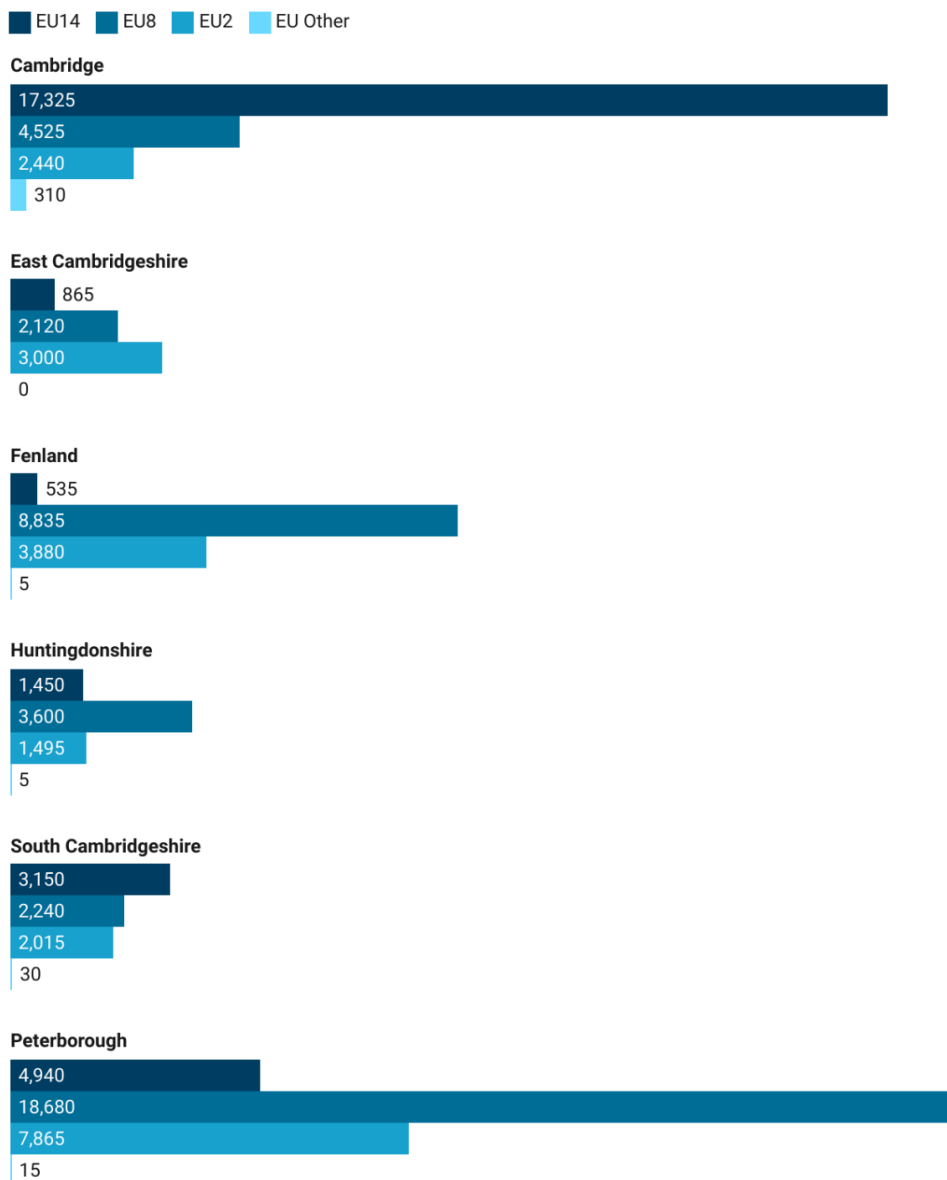
European Union area of origin

European Union (EU) countries are split into four groupings: EU 14, EU 8, EU 2 and EU other:

- EU 14: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Sweden (and was the EU15 before the UK left the EU in 2020).
- EU 8: Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia.
- EU 2: Bulgaria and Romania.
- EU Other: Malta, Cyprus, Croatia.

Between mid-2011 and mid-2021, there were 89,315 NINo registrations from those from EU countries across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. 40,000 (44.8%) of these were from migrants from EU 8 countries, 28,265 (31.6%) from EU 14 countries, 20,690 (23.2%) from EU 2 countries and 354 (0.4%) from EU Other countries. The number of registrations from each of these EU groupings has varied by district. Most notably, Cambridge has seen 17,325 registrations by migrants from EU 14 countries, whilst Peterborough has seen 18,680 registrations from EU 8 countries.

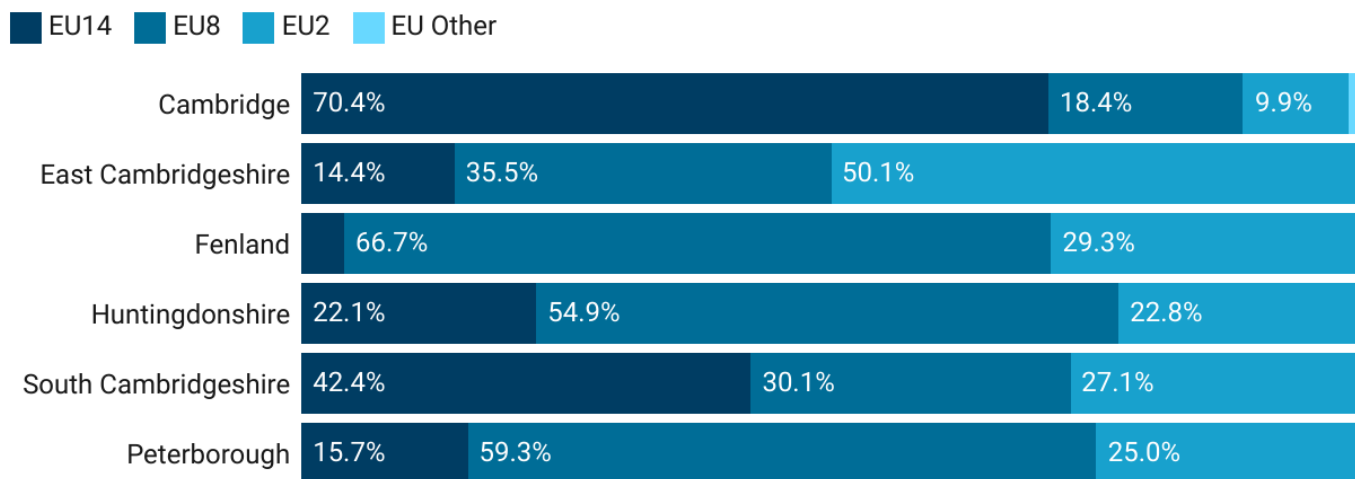
Figure 27: Number of EU NINo registrations by district by EU group, mid-2011 to mid-2021



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The proportion of registrations from each EU group similarly varied markedly across the districts when looking just at the latter half of the decade, between mid-2016 and mid-2021. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire saw the largest proportion of their registrations from EU 14 countries at 70.4% and 42.4% respectively. Fenland (66.7%), Huntingdonshire (54.9%), and Peterborough (59.3%) had the largest proportion of registrations from EU 8 countries. EU 2 countries accounted for the largest proportion of EU registrations in East Cambridgeshire (50.1%). Very few EU Other registrations were registered.

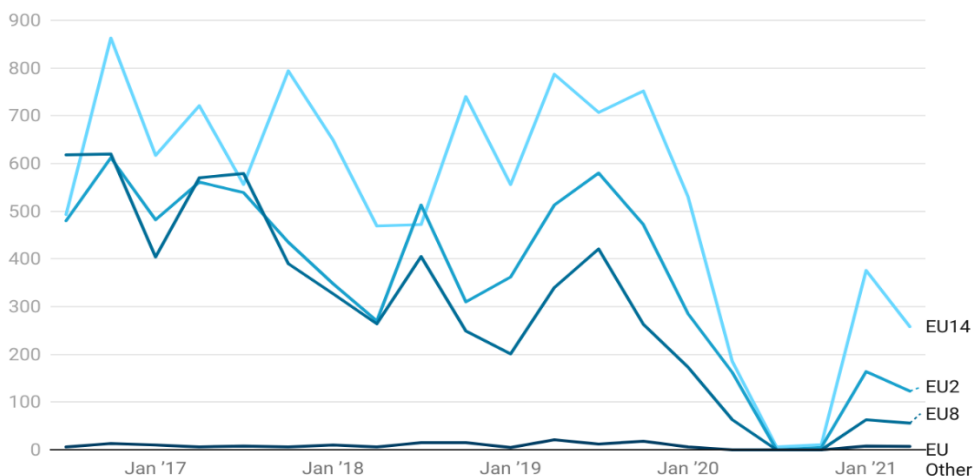
Figure 28: Proportion of NINo registrations in each EU group by district mid-2011 to mid-2021



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For Cambridgeshire, EU 14 countries account for the highest number of registrations out of the four EU groups between mid-2016 and mid-2021. There were regular, Autumn registration peaks for those from EU 14 countries, which could have been in part linked to the arrival of university students who were also working, as well as to the arrival of seasonal workers. Summer peaks in EU 2 and EU 8 registrations in July 2017, July 2018 and July 2019 are also likely to reflect the arrival of seasonal workers to work in sectors such as agriculture and horticulture. Since mid-2016, registrations from all EU groups have been in decline, in response to Brexit related migrant worker visa changes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, EU group registrations decline to almost zero for several months.

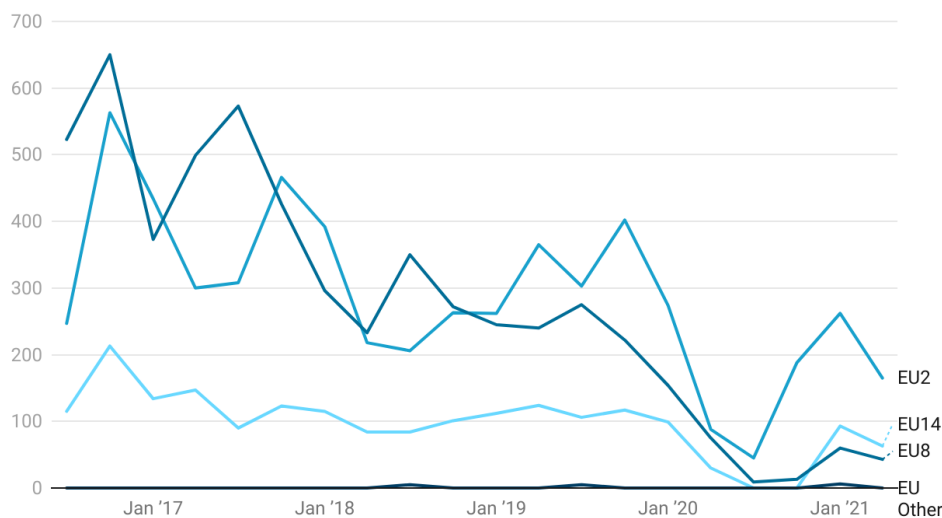
Figure 29: Quarterly NINo registrations for the four EU groups, Cambridgeshire, mid-2016 to mid-2021



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In Peterborough, registrations from EU 8 and EU 2 countries dominated between mid-2016 and mid-2021. Like Cambridgeshire, registrations from all EU groups declined between July 2016 and January 2020, after which the effects of the pandemic caused much more significant decreases. Registrations in Peterborough did not decline as much as in Cambridgeshire during the pandemic with EU 2 countries still seeing around 100 registrations in the quarter beginning July 2020.

Figure 30: Quarterly NINo registrations for the four EU groups, Peterborough mid-2016 to mid-2021



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Most common countries of origin

Whilst there have been changes in the nationalities of NINo registrants over time in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, some countries have always been in the top 10 of the most common countries of origin. Comparing the periods 2002 to mid-2011 and mid-2011 to mid-2021 shows Poland (EU 8), Lithuania (EU 8), Latvia (EU 8), Portugal (EU 14), India (Asia) and Spain (EU 14) consistently appearing in the top 10 nationalities list. Poland and Lithuania were in the top 3 for both periods.

The dominance of EU countries is unsurprising as the UK was part of the EU until 2020, which allowed EU citizens free movement to live and work in any EU member state. In 2007, Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU, leading to substantial increases in migrants from these countries. In the year to mid-2007, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough saw just 125 registrations from Bulgaria and 35 from Romania. Ten years later in the year to mid-2017, this had increased to 800 registrations from Bulgaria and 2,880 registrations from Romania.

Table 5: Top 10 nationalities of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, January 2002 to mid-2011 and mid-2011 to mid-2021. Countries appearing in both are highlighted.

| Period | January 2002- June 2011 | January 2002- June 2011 | July 2011-June 2021 | July 2011-June 2021 |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rank | Country | Total registrations | Country | Total registrations |
| 1 | Poland | 22,570 | Romania | 15,485 |
| 2 | Lithuania | 12,090 | Lithuania | 15,165 |
| 3 | Latvia | 4,700 | Poland | 14,455 |
| 4 | Slovakia | 4,525 | Portugal | 5,945 |
| 5 | Portugal | 4,140 | India | 5,940 |
| 6 | India | 3,500 | Italy | 5,805 |
| 7 | Spain | 2,405 | Spain | 5,610 |
| 8 | Germany | 2,395 | Bulgaria | 5,235 |
| 9 | France | 2,395 | Latvia | 4,450 |
| 10 | United States | 2,265 | Hungary | 2,770 |

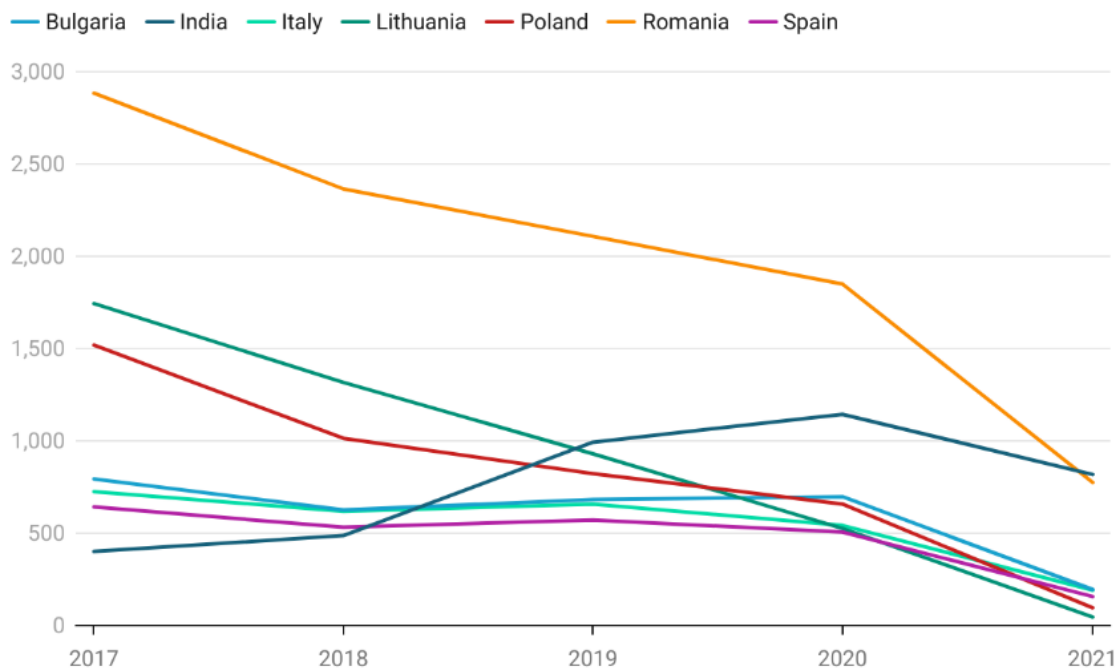
The Table below shows the top 3 nationalities of NINo registrations in each Cambridgeshire and Peterborough district and in England since mid-2016. The nationalities in all regions comprise of just 8 countries. Romania appears in the top 3 for England and every local district except for Cambridge. Meanwhile, EU 8 countries including Poland, Bulgaria and Lithuania make the top 3 countries in several districts. For EU 14 countries, Italy and Spain appear in the listings. India is the only non-European country to appear in the top 3 listings.

Table 6: Top 3 nationalities of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts and England, mid-2016 to mid-2021. Countries in more than one district/region are highlighted.

| Rank | Cambridge | East Cambridgeshire | Fenland | Huntingdonshire | South Cambridgeshire | Peterborough | England |
|------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | India | Romania | Lithuania | Romania | Romania | Romania | Romania |
| 2 | Italy | Poland | Bulgaria | Poland | India | Lithuania | India |
| 3 | Spain | Bulgaria | Romania | India | Poland | Poland | Italy |

Long-term trends for the countries which appear in the top 3 nationalities listing show that the number of NINo applications from European migrants (Bulgaria, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain) decreased between mid-2017 and mid-2021. Only the number of registrations from India shows an upward trend, from below 500 in mid-2017 to a peak of more than 1,200 in mid-2020.

Figure 31: Trends in the countries which appear in the top 3 listing for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts, mid-2017 to mid-2021



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Recent Changes in NINo activity – 2017-2024

This section looks at trends in NINo registrations in more detail for the period spanning Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on the period mid-2017 to mid-2024, to highlight the changing patterns in NINo registrations that have occurred.

Overall, by mid-2024 NINo registrations for Cambridgeshire have recovered from the very low levels seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Total registrations in the year to mid-2024 were 9,100, very similar to levels seen in the year to mid-2017, 9,210. The changing trend in the origin by world area of migrants over this period is evident. Total EU registrations fell from 7,050 in the year to mid-2017 to 1,050 in the year to mid-2024. For all other world areas, the total number of registrations has risen: registrations from Asia increasing from 1,045 in mid-2017 to 4,980 in mid-2024, from the rest of the world from 925 to 2,170, from Europe non EU from 195 to 660, and from other / unknown from negligible numbers to 235, by mid-2024.

Table 7: Annual counts of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire by world area, mid-2017 to mid-2024

| Year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|-------|-------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Mid-2017 | 1,045 | 7,045 | 195 | - | 925 | 9,210 |
| Mid-2018 | 1,160 | 5,655 | 190 | - | 910 | 7,910 |
| Mid-2019 | 1,640 | 5,490 | 245 | 5 | 960 | 8,335 |
| Mid-2020 | 1,730 | 4,620 | 405 | - | 925 | 7,680 |
| Mid-2021 | 1,190 | 1,080 | 170 | 5 | 645 | 3,095 |
| Mid-2022 | 4,290 | 2,995 | 1,470 | 540 | 1,910 | 11,205 |
| Mid-2023 | 4,980 | 1,755 | 1,510 | 285 | 2,385 | 10,925 |
| Mid-2024 | 4,980 | 1,050 | 660 | 235 | 2,170 | 9,100 |

Totals may not sum due to rounding. Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

Overall NINo registrations for Peterborough remain at lower levels than seen before the COVID-19 pandemic. Total registrations in the year to mid-2024 were 3,370, lower than numbers seen in each of the years to mid-2017, mid-2018 and mid-2019. The changing trend in the origin by world area of migrants over this period is evident, with total EU registrations falling from 4,240 in the year to mid-2017 to 370 in the year to mid-2024. For all other world areas, the total number of registrations has risen: registrations from Asia increasing from 345 in mid-2017 to 1,730 in mid-2024, from the rest of the world from 175 to 1,080, from Europe non EU from 35 to 170, and from other / unknown from negligible numbers to 25 by mid-2024.

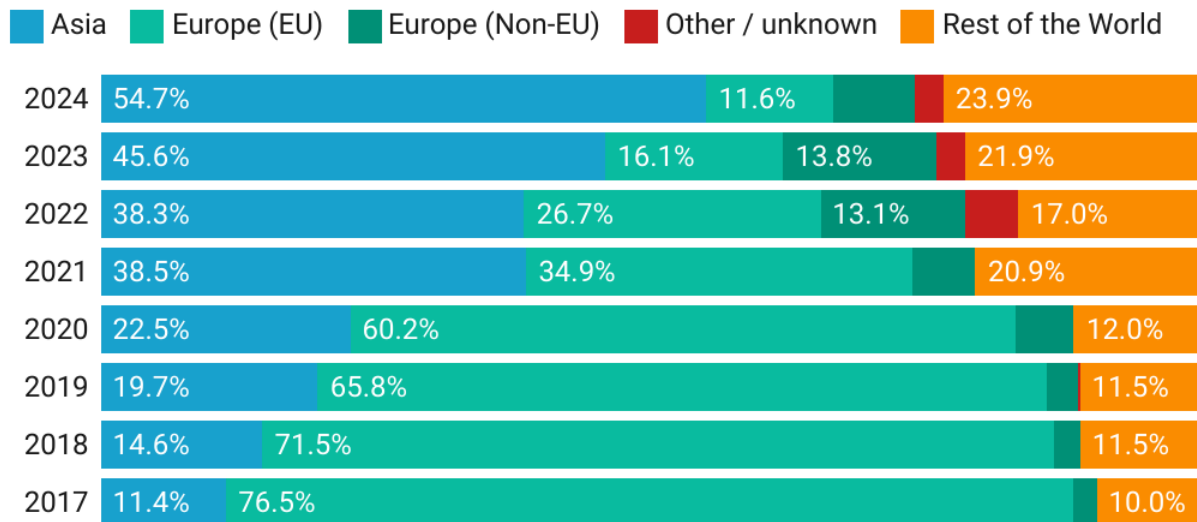
Table 8: Annual counts of NINo registrations in Peterborough by world area, mid-2017 to mid-2024

| Year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|-------|-------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Mid-2017 | 345 | 4,210 | 35 | - | 175 | 4,760 |
| Mid-2018 | 375 | 3,340 | 50 | - | 160 | 3,930 |
| Mid-2019 | 630 | 2,630 | 50 | - | 230 | 3,545 |
| Mid-2020 | 665 | 2,145 | 65 | - | 230 | 3,110 |
| Mid-2021 | 420 | 950 | 45 | - | 240 | 1,655 |
| Mid-2022 | 1,315 | 1,440 | 260 | 40 | 835 | 3,885 |
| Mid-2023 | 1,450 | 1,135 | 310 | 10 | 1,370 | 4,280 |
| Mid-2024 | 1,730 | 370 | 170 | 25 | 1,080 | 3,370 |

Totals may not sum due to rounding. Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

The charts below show the notable changes in the proportions of total registrations accounted for by the different world areas as a result. In the year to mid-2017, 76.5% of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and 88.4% in Peterborough were from EU nationals. By mid-2024, that proportion was just 11.6% in Cambridgeshire and 10.9% in Peterborough. Instead, the proportion of registrations for nationals from Asia, Europe non EU countries and from the Rest of the world has increased. Registrations by nationals from Asia accounted for more than half of registrations in Cambridgeshire, at 54.7%, and in Peterborough, at 51.4%, in mid-2024. Registrations from nationals from the rest of the world accounted for almost one-quarter of total registrations, at 23.9% in Cambridgeshire, and for almost one-third, 32.0%, in Peterborough.

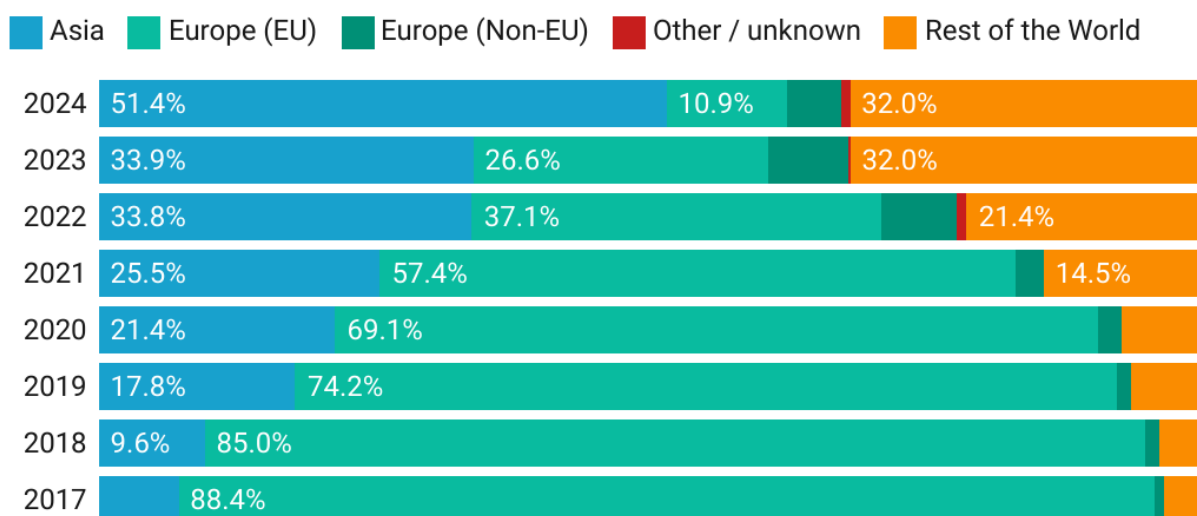
Figure 32: Annual proportions of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire by world area, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

Figure 33: Proportion of NINo registrations in Peterborough by world area, mid-year 2017 to 2024



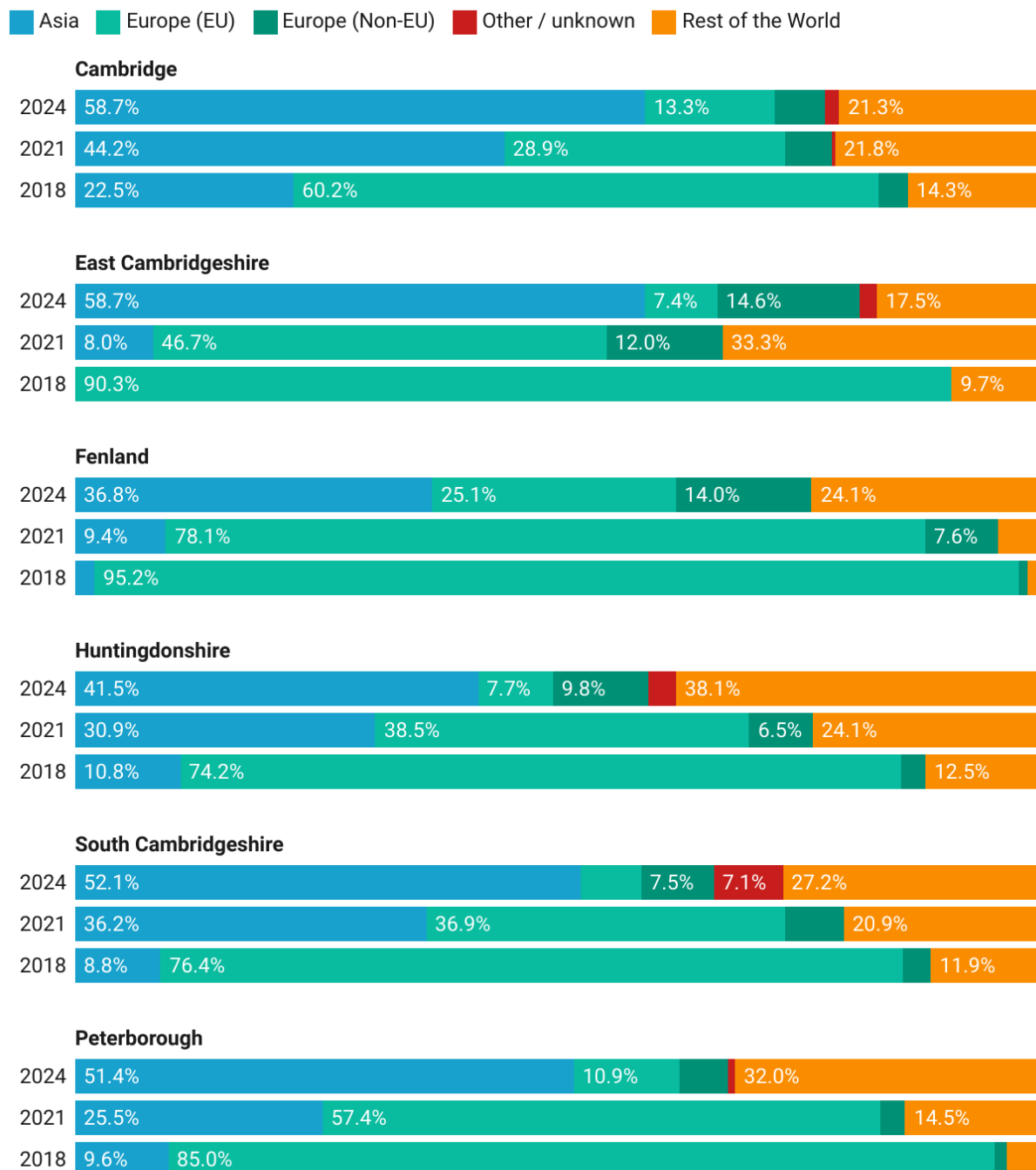
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Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

In the year to mid-2024, there were some clear differences between districts in the number of registrations by nationals from different world areas:

- Nationals from Asia account for more than half of total registrations in Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire (both 58.7% of total registrations), South Cambridgeshire (52.1%) and Peterborough (51.4%).
- Nationals from Europe non EU countries in East Cambridgeshire (14.6%) and Fenland (14.0%) are higher than elsewhere.
- Nationals from the rest of the world in Huntingdonshire (38.1%) and Peterborough (32.0%) are higher than elsewhere.

Figure 34: Proportion of NINo registrations by world area and district, mid-2018, 2021 and 2024



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Rest of the world includes Africa, North America, Canada South America and Oceania.

The Tables below show how the numbers of NINo registrations have changed, comparing registrations in the year to mid-2018 with those in the year to mid-2024, by district. For Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire the total number of NINo registrations was higher in the year to mid-2024 than it was in the year to mid-2018, ranging between an increase of 15.7% in Huntingdonshire, and 52.1% in South Cambridgeshire. In Fenland and Peterborough total registrations were lower in the year to mid-2024 than they were in the year to mid-2018, by 65.1% and 14.0% respectively.

Table 9: Total NINo registrations by world area for Cambridge, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2018 | 955 | 2,555 | 130 | - | 605 | 4,245 |
| 2024 | 3,145 | 715 | 275 | 80 | 1,140 | 5,355 |
| % change | 229.3% | -72.0% | 111.5% | NA | 88.4% | 26.1% |

Table 10: Total NINo registrations by world area for East Cambridgeshire, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2018 | - | 520 | - | - | 55 | 575 |
| 2024 | 455 | 60 | 115 | 15 | 135 | 780 |
| % change | NA | -88.5% | NA | NA | 145.5% | 35.7% |

Table 11: Total NINo registrations by world area for Fenland, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| 2018 | 25 | 1,185 | 10 | - | 25 | 1,245 |
| 2024 | 160 | 110 | 60 | 0 | 105 | 435 |
| % change | 540.0% | -90.7% | 500.0% | NA | 320.0% | -65.1% |

Table 12: Total NINo registrations by world area for Huntingdonshire, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2018 | 85 | 590 | 20 | - | 100 | 795 |
| 2024 | 385 | 70 | 90 | 25 | 350 | 920 |
| % change | 352.9% | -88.1% | 350.0% | NA | 250.0% | 15.7% |

Table 13: Total NINo registrations by world area for South Cambridgeshire, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2018 | 95 | 805 | 30 | - | 125 | 1,055 |
| 2024 | 835 | 100 | 120 | 115 | 435 | 1,605 |
| % change | 778.9% | -87.6% | 300.0% | NA | 248.0% | 52.1% |

Table 14: Total NINo registrations by world area for Peterborough, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Mid-year | Asia | EU | Europe non EU | Other / unknown | Rest of the World | Total |
|----------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| 2018 | 375 | 3,340 | 50 | - | 160 | 3,925 |
| 2024 | 1,730 | 370 | 170 | 25 | 1,080 | 3,375 |
| % change | 361.3% | -88.9% | 240.0% | NA | 575.0% | -14.0% |

Asia

Between mid-2018 and mid-2024 in Cambridgeshire there was a notable increase in NINo registrations for nationals from countries in Asia, and notably South East Asia. In mid-2018 registrations from nationals from within South East Asia accounted for 27.9% (305) of 1,135 registrations, and in mid-2024 they accounted for 54.8% (2,730) of 4,985 registrations.

Table 15: Total NINo registrations for Asia, Cambridgeshire, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Area | Mid-2018 | Mid-2024 | Change | % change |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| East Asia | 340 | 960 | 620 | 182.4% |
| South Asia | 430 | 750 | 320 | 74.4% |
| South East Asia | 305 | 2,730 | 2,425 | 795.1% |
| Middle East and Central Asia | 60 | 545 | 485 | 808.3% |
| Total Asia | 1,135 | 4,985 | 3,850 | 339.2% |

Within these sub groups of Asia, a handful of nationalities account for the majority of registrations. In Cambridgeshire in mid-2018, 31.1% (370) of the 1,135 registrations from Asia were from nationals of India, 21.1% (250) from China and 13.5% from the Philippines (160). In mid-2024, 41.8% (2,085 registrations) were for nationals from India, 13.3% (665) from China, and 6.2% (310) from Pakistan. There were also more than 100 registrations each for the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan and Hong Kong.

Between mid-2018 and mid-2024 in Peterborough there was a notable increase in NINo registrations for nationals from countries in South Asia. In mid-2018 they accounted for 58.2% (220) of 375 registrations from Asia, and in mid-2024 they accounted for 77.3% (1,330) of 1,740 registrations.

Table 16: Total NINo registrations for Asia, Peterborough, mid-2018 and mid-2024

| Area | Mid-2018 | Mid-2024 | Change | % change |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| East Asia | 15 | 30 | 15 | 100.0% |
| Middle East and Central Asia | 100 | 320 | 220 | 220.0% |
| South Asia | 220 | 1,330 | 1,110 | 504.5% |
| South East Asia | 40 | 60 | 20 | 50.0% |
| Total Asia | 375 | 1,740 | 1,365 | 364.0% |

In Peterborough, in mid-2018 just over half (205) of the 375 registrations for Asia were for nationals from India and Pakistan. In mid-2024, just under two-thirds of the registrations for Asia were for nationals from India and Pakistan, and there were also more than 100 registrations for nationals from each of Afghanistan and Nepal.

Rest of the world

The number of NINo registrations from migrants originating from the Rest of the world have increased notably between mid-2018 and mid-2024. The Tables below provide a more detailed breakdown of the areas that are covered in the Rest of the world category, and the number of registrations by district.

In the year to mid-2018 there were 1,075 registrations from migrant workers originating from areas categorised within the data as Rest of the world. In the year to mid-2024, there were 3,260

registrations, an increase of 203.3%. Most of this increase is due to higher numbers of registrations from migrant workers originating from sub-Saharan Africa. In mid-2018 there were 250 registrations from this area, accounting for 23.3% of total registrations that year. In mid-2024 there were 2,130 registrations, an increase of 752.0%, and they accounted for 65.3% of total registrations from the Rest of the world. All districts have seen a rise in registrations from nationals from sub-Saharan Africa over this period.

Registrations from migrant workers originating from North America accounted for the second largest group categorised within the Rest of the world. In the year to mid-2018 this group accounted for 36.7% of registrations from the Rest of the world, 395 registrations in total. In the year to mid-2024 there were 490 registrations from North American nationals, but accounting for a smaller proportion of total registrations at 15.0%.

Table 17: Total NINo registrations for areas within Rest of the world by district, mid-2018

| Mid-2018 | Sub-Saharan Africa | North Africa | North America | Central and South America | Oceania | Total |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Cambridge | 105 | 40 | 255 | 70 | 120 | 610 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 10 | 5 | 35 | 0 | 5 | 55 |
| Fenland | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| Huntingdonshire | 25 | 0 | 45 | 5 | 30 | 100 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 35 | 10 | 45 | 20 | 30 | 130 |
| Cambridgeshire | 190 | 55 | 380 | 95 | 190 | 920 |
| Peterborough | 60 | 25 | 15 | 35 | 30 | 155 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 250 | 80 | 395 | 130 | 215 | 1,075 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough % of total | 23.3% | 7.4% | 36.7% | 12.1% | 20.0% | 100.0% |

Table 18: Total NINo registrations for areas within Rest of the world by district, mid-2024

| Mid-2024 | Sub-Saharan Africa | North Africa | North America | Central and South America | Oceania | Total |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Cambridge | 455 | 60 | 340 | 145 | 145 | 1,130 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 80 | 0 | 35 | 10 | 5 | 140 |
| Fenland | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105 |
| Huntingdonshire | 270 | 5 | 50 | 20 | 5 | 355 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 315 | 15 | 40 | 40 | 35 | 445 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,215 | 80 | 465 | 220 | 195 | 2,180 |
| Peterborough | 915 | 95 | 25 | 40 | 10 | 1,085 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough total | 2,130 | 180 | 490 | 260 | 205 | 3,260 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough % of total | 65.3% | 5.5% | 15.0% | 8.0% | 6.3% | 100.0% |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough change, 2018 to 2024 | 1,880 | 100 | 95 | 130 | -10 | 2,185 |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough % change, 2018 to 2024 | 752.0% | 125.0% | 24.1% | 100.0% | -4.7% | 203.3% |

Within the sub groups in the Rest of the world, a handful of nationalities account for the majority of registrations. In Cambridgeshire in mid-2018, 32.4% (300) of the 925 registrations from the Rest of the world were from nationals of the United States, 14.5% (135) from Australia and 9.7% from Canada (90). There were also registrations of between 40 and 60 each from nationals of Nigeria, South Africa and New Zealand. In mid-2024, nationals from Nigeria, with 420 registrations, accounted for 19.2% of registrations. There were similar numbers of registration for nationals of the United States (360) as seen in mid-2018. There were more than 200 registrations for nationals from Zimbabwe, and more than 100 registrations each for nationals from Ghana, Kenya and Australia.

In Peterborough, there was a notable increase in registrations from the Rest of the world, from just 155 in mid-2018 to 1,085 in mid-2024. 40.2% (440) of these registrations in mid-2024 were for nationals from Nigeria. Another 27.0% were for nationals from Ghana and Zimbabwe.

Registrations by country

Looking at the top 10 countries by the number of NINo registrations between mid-2017 and mid-2024 shows the decrease in registrations by nationals from EU countries and the increase in registrations from nationals from Asia, Europe non EU, and Rest of the world countries.

In Cambridgeshire, India was the country with the highest number of nationals registering for a NINo in the year to mid-2024. The number of registrations from Indian nationals has been generally trending upwards since mid-2017, with a noticeable increase in the year to mid-2022. China and the United States have the second and third highest numbers of nationals registering for a NINo in Cambridgeshire. Ukraine is fourth, though with fewer registrations in the year to mid-2024 compared to the years to mid-2022 and mid-2023. This is likely due to the introduction of asylum schemes following the war in Ukraine. In contrast, the six EU countries in the top 10 – Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Poland and Lithuania – have all seen the number of registrations generally decreasing since 2017.

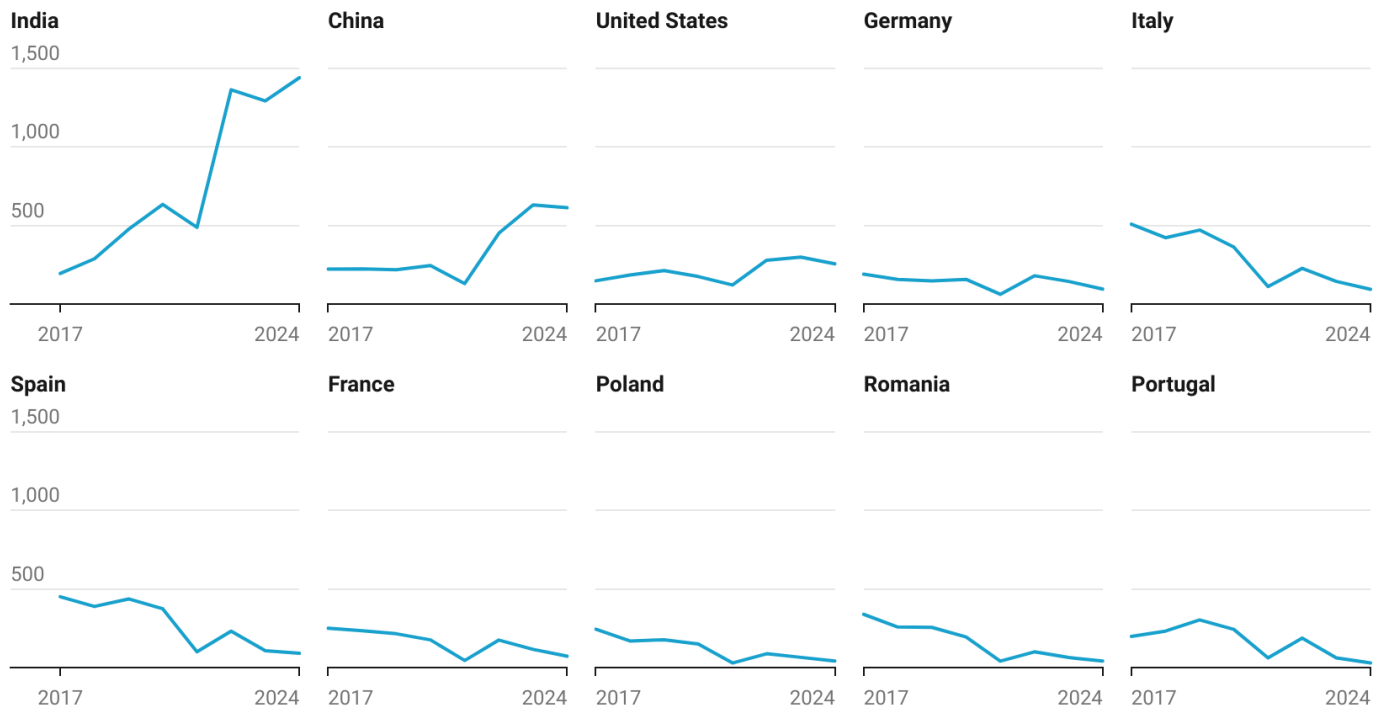
Figure 35: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Whilst a variety of countries feature in the top 10 for each of the Cambridgeshire districts, each shows the same trend of decreasing registrations by nationals from EU countries and increasing registrations from non EU countries, with the most common being India, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Figure 36: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in Cambridge, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Figure 37: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in East Cambridgeshire, mid-2017 to mid-2024



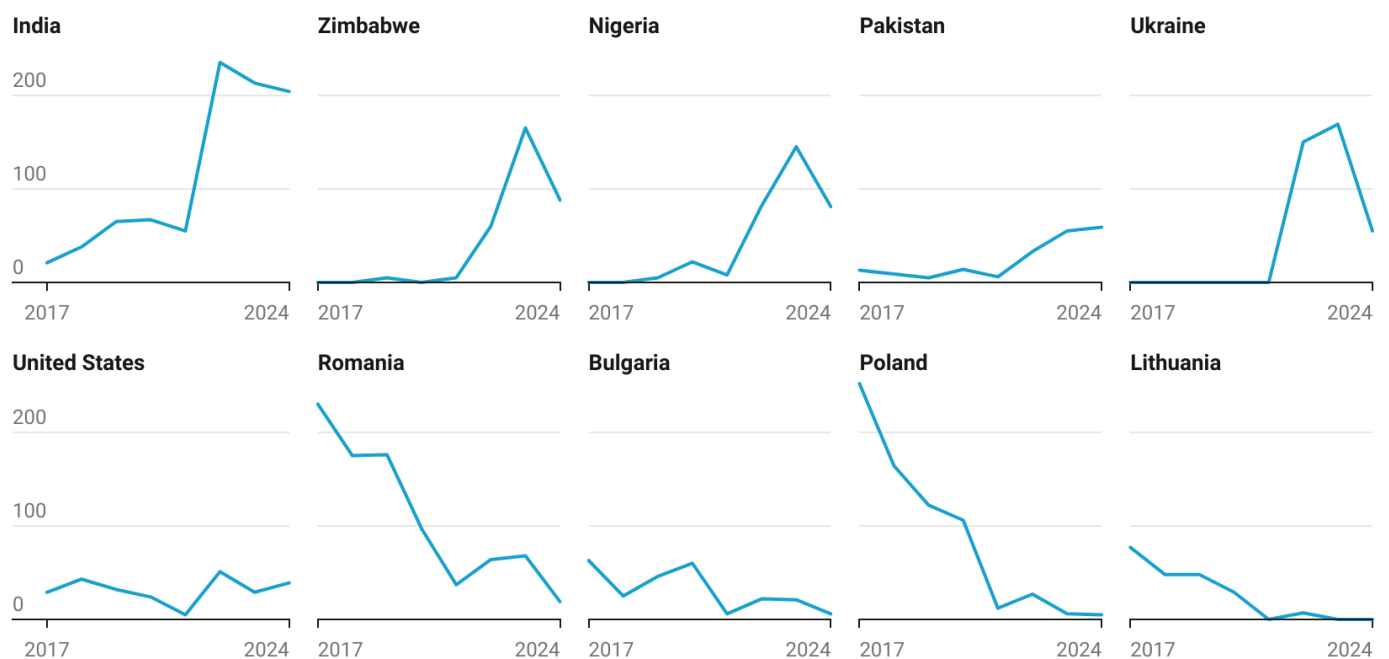
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Figure 38: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in Fenland, mid-2017 to mid-2024



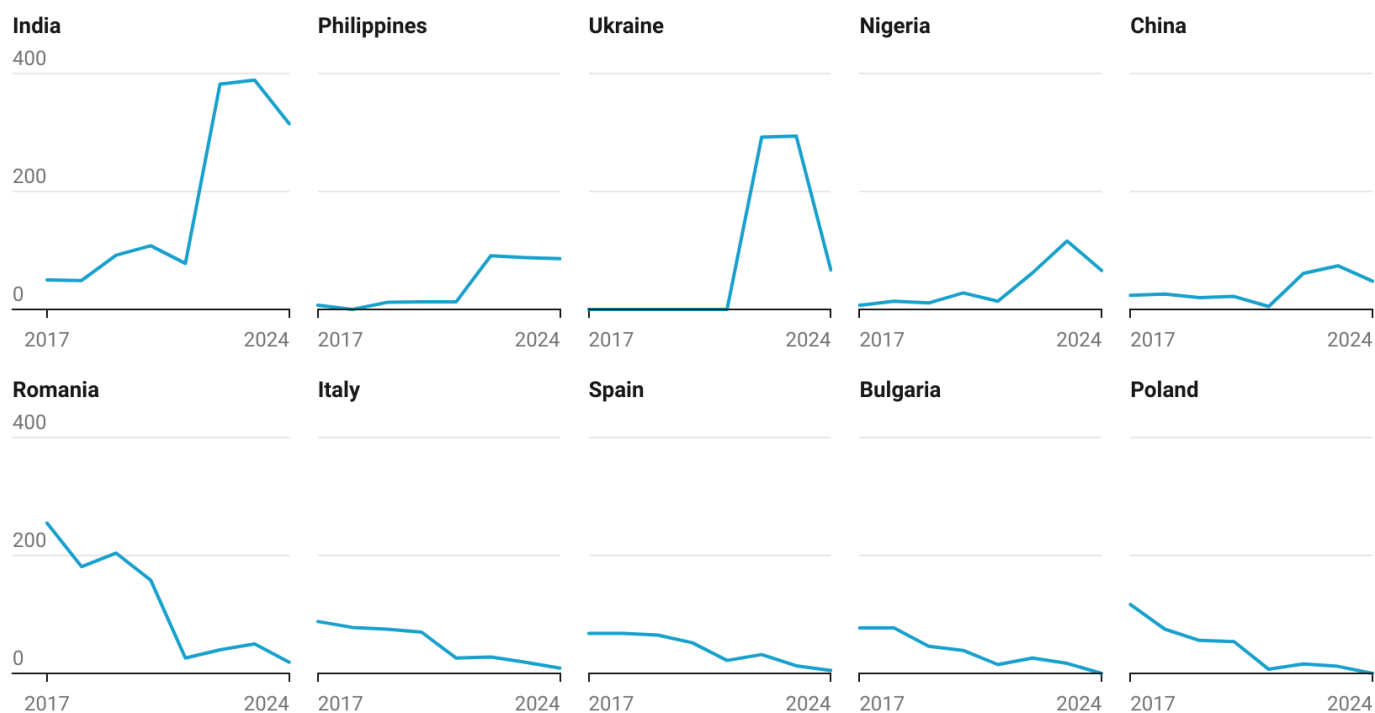
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Figure 39: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in Huntingdonshire, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Figure 40: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in South Cambridgeshire, mid-2017 to mid-2024

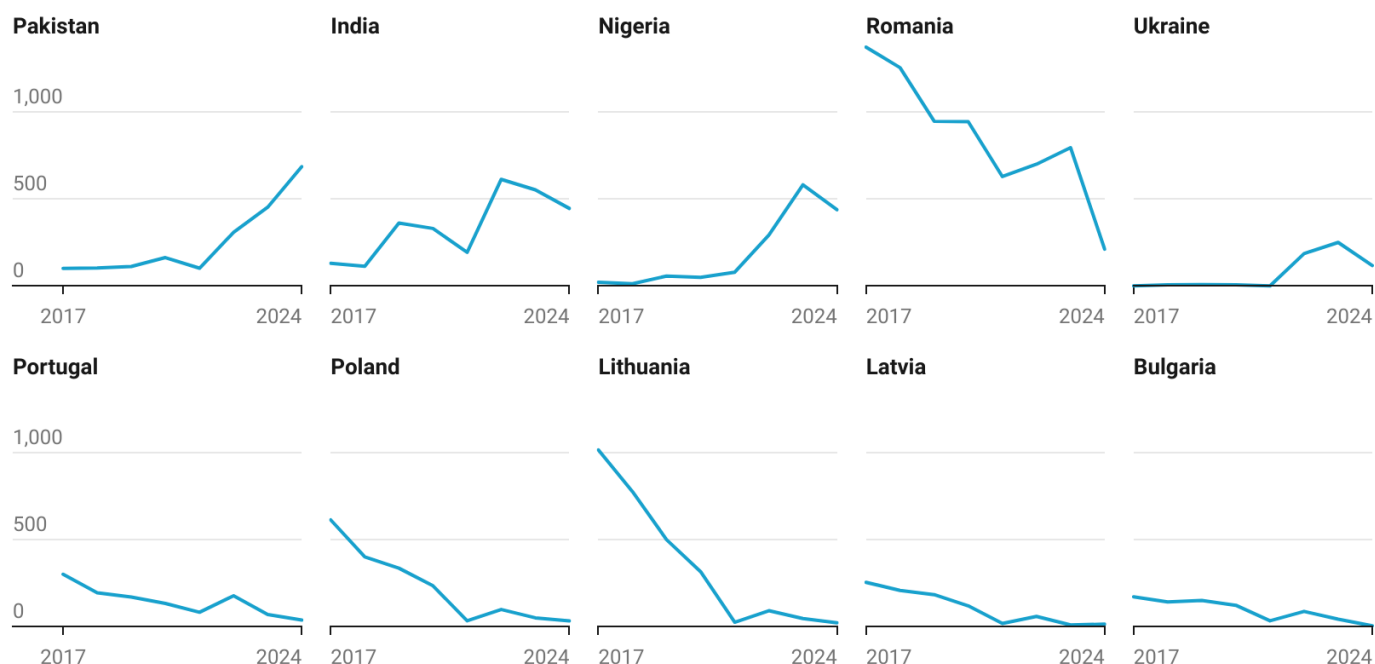


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Peterborough shows mostly the same trends as Cambridgeshire, though some different countries feature in the top 10. Pakistan is the country with the highest number of nationals registering for a NINo in the year to mid-2024, and has seen the number of registrations trend upwards since mid-2021. There have also been increases in registrations from nationals from India and Nigeria since mid-2021.

The EU countries in Peterborough's top 10 – Romania, Portugal, Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Italy - have all seen registrations trend downwards since mid-2017 and remain low in mid-2024, though Romania still has the fourth highest number of registrations for mid-2024.

Figure 41: Top 10 countries by NINo registrations in Peterborough, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Looking at the top 5 countries by the number of NINo registrations in each district for the year to mid-2024 shows some similarities across districts. India features in the top 5 for every district, having the most registrations in Cambridge, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire, the second most in Peterborough and the fourth most in East Cambridgeshire. Nigeria features in the top 5 for all districts except for East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire, and Pakistan features in the top 5 for Cambridge, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

There are some unique countries in the top 5 for most districts:

- China and the United States in Cambridge,
- Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan in East Cambridgeshire,
- Bulgaria and Turkey in Fenland,
- Kenya and the Philippines in South Cambridgeshire,
- Romania in Peterborough.

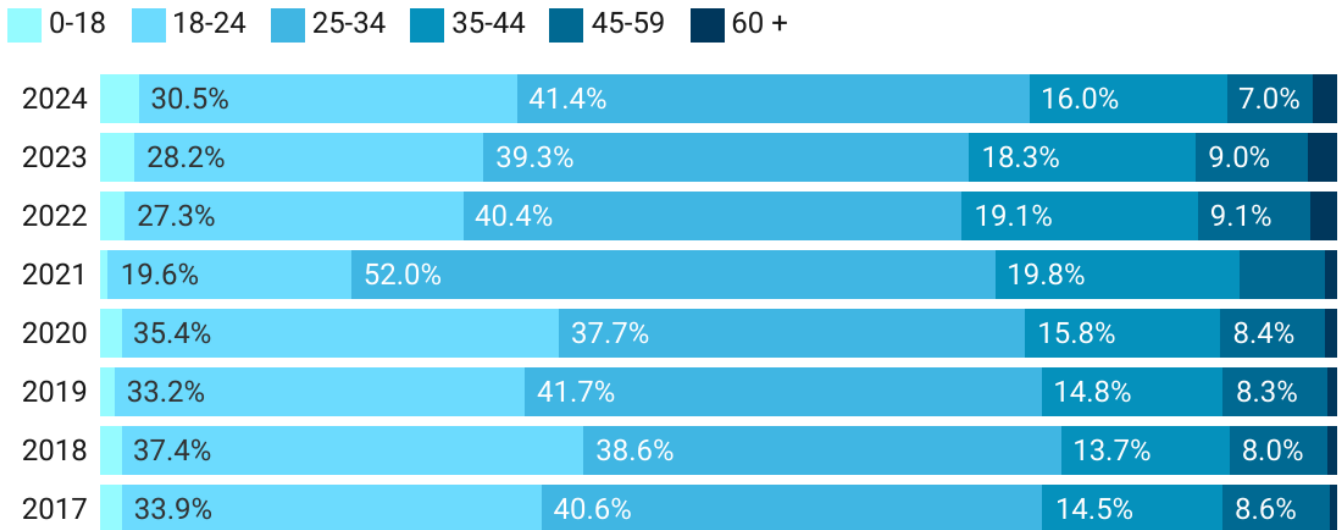
Table 19: Top 5 countries by number of NINo registrations by district, year to mid-2024

| District | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Cambridge | India | China | United States | Nigeria | Pakistan |
| East Cambridgeshire | Kyrgyzstan | Tajikistan | Ukraine | India | Uzbekistan |
| Fenland | India | Bulgaria | Nigeria | Turkey | Zimbabwe |
| Huntingdonshire | India | Zimbabwe | Nigeria | Ghana | Pakistan |
| South Cambridgeshire | India | Kenya | Other / unknown | Philippines | Kyrgyzstan |
| Peterborough | Pakistan | India | Nigeria | Romania | Ghana |

Registrations by age group

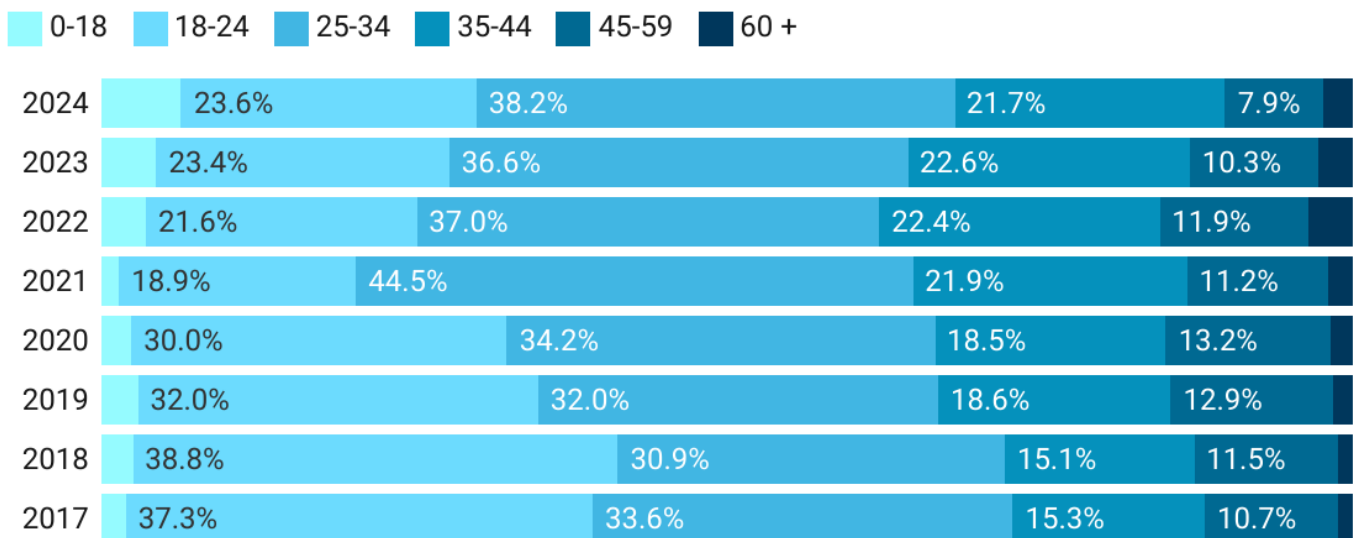
The age profile of nationals registering for a NINo has also shown some change since mid-2017. The proportion of registrations from those aged 18 to 24 years decreased between mid-2017 and mid-2021, from 33.9% to 19.6% in Cambridgeshire and from 37.3% to 18.9% in Peterborough. However, since then this proportion has gradually increased, although in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in mid-2024 it remained below the proportions seen prior to mid-2021.

Figure 42: Proportion of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire by age group, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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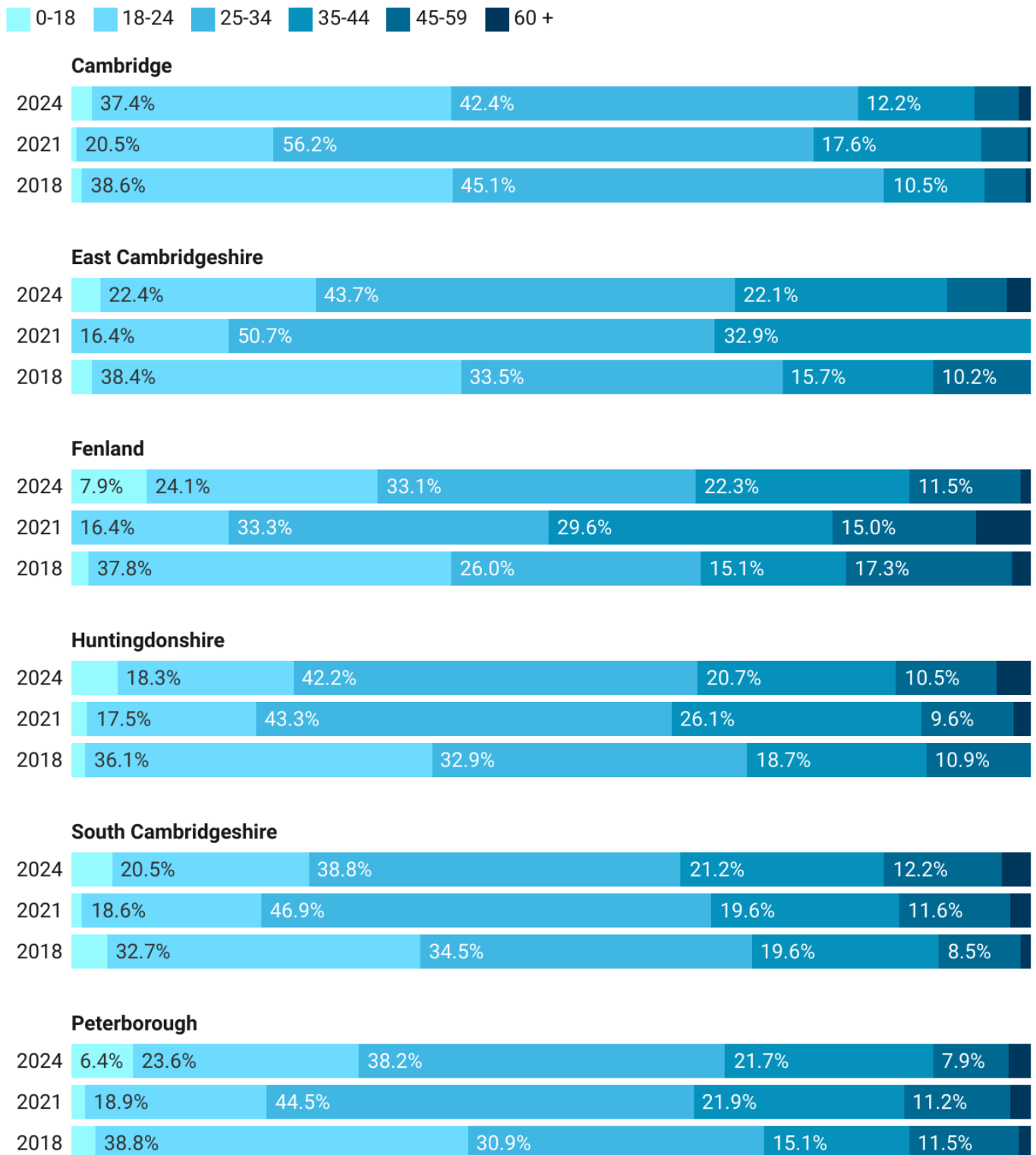
Figure 43: Proportion of NINo registrations in Peterborough by age group, mid-2017 to mid-2024



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Similar trends can be observed at district level, with notably higher proportions aged 25 to 44 at mid-2021 compared to mid-2018 and lower proportions aged 18 to 24. This trend has then reversed from mid-2021 to mid-2024 with the proportion aged 18 to 24 increasing, though in all districts this proportion is still lower than in mid-2018.

Figure 44: proportions of NINo registrations by age group and district, mid-2018, 2021 and 2024



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Registrations by location

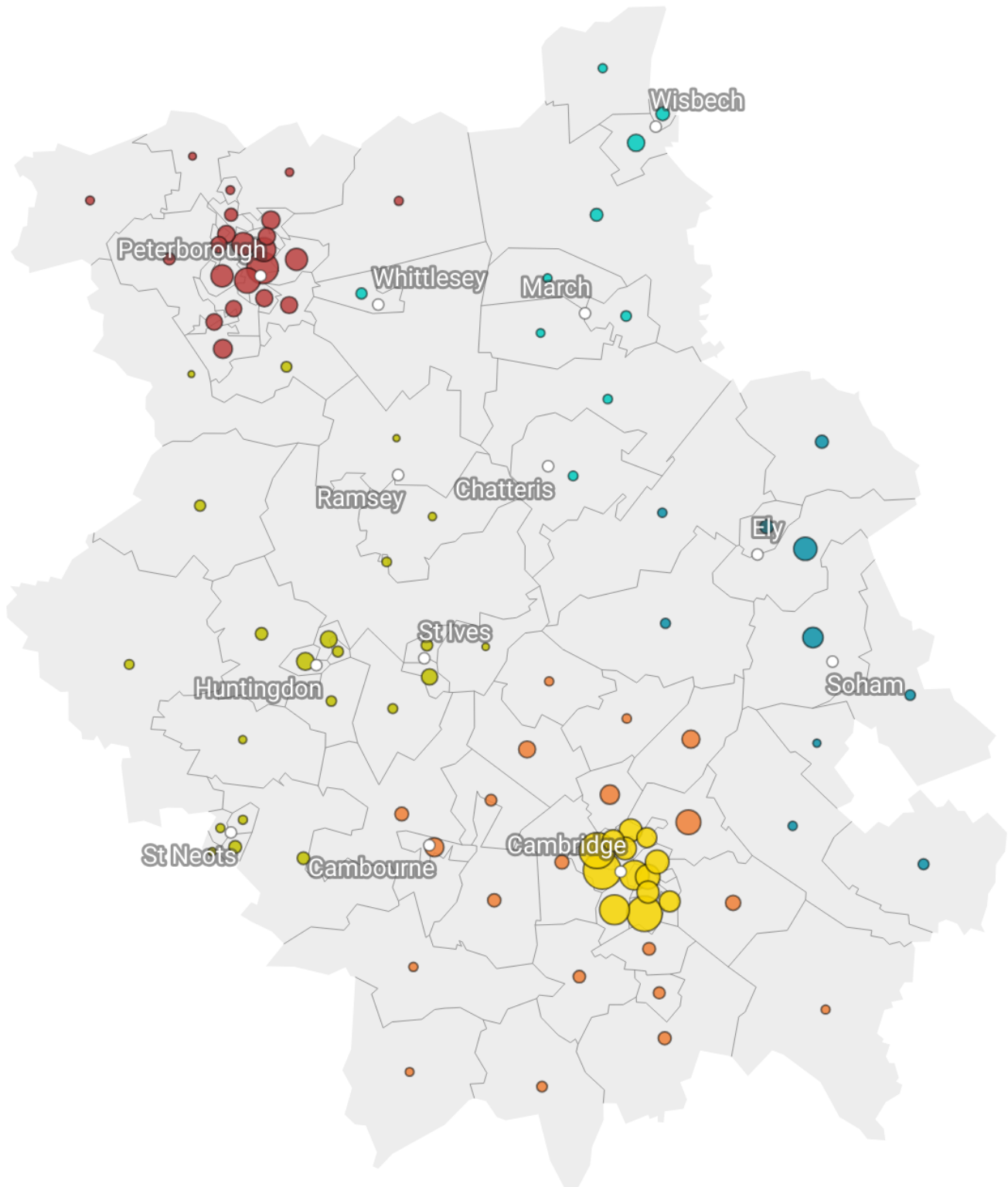
No registrations are recorded according to the applicants' address of residence at the time of the application. Data is available by district and by Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA).

The number of registrations by MSOA for mid-2024 are shown on the map. The highest number of registrations are centred on Cambridge City and the urban area of Peterborough. MSOAs in Cambridge with particularly high numbers of registrations are Central and West Cambridge, Eddington and Castle, and Addenbrooke's and Queen Edith's. In Peterborough, the higher numbers of registrations tend to be concentrated in the centre, such as Peterborough Central, West Town and Woodston, and Millfield and Bourges Boulevard.

For the more rural districts, the highest numbers of registrations are concentrated in MSOAs located adjacent to Cambridge – such as Milton, Fen Ditton and Quy, and Histon, Impington and Orchard Park – as well as in the market towns. This includes MSOAs located in St Ives and Huntingdon in Huntingdonshire, Ely and Soham in East Cambridgeshire, and Wisbech in Fenland.

Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) is an ONS statistical geography, MSOAs are made up of groups of Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), usually four or five. They comprise between 2,000 and 6,000 households and have a usually resident population between 5,000 and 15,000 persons.

Figure 45: Number of NINo registrations for mid-2024 by Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) (2011 boundaries)



EUSS Registration Trends

The European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) was introduced after the UK determined to leave the European Union. It was designed to support migrants living in the UK to gain immigration status, thus allowing them to stay in the UK after its departure from the EU. The scheme is open for applications from individuals from the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals.

Overall, there have been 96,645 EUSS applications in Cambridgeshire between 28 August 2018 and 30 September 2024, with 37.7% of these in Cambridge, 22.3% in Fenland, 15.5% in South Cambridgeshire, 15.3% in Huntingdonshire and 9.3% in East Cambridgeshire. In Peterborough there have been 79,310 applications in total. It is important to note, however, that these applications will include some that were invalid or withdrawn, and that in these instances applicants can make more than one application.

The nationalities with the largest number of EUSS applications for Cambridgeshire are Poland, Romania and Lithuania with 15,335, 12,150 and 10,070 applications for immigration status between 28 August 2018 and 30 September 2024 respectively. The Table below lists all nationalities for which there have been more than one thousand applications.

There are many common countries in the top 3 when looking at the number of applications by district:

- In Cambridge, the top 3 countries are Italy, Spain and Poland,
- In East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, Poland, Lithuania and Romania are all in the top 3,
- In Fenland, the top 3 countries are Lithuania, Bulgaria and Poland,
- In South Cambridgeshire, the top 3 countries are Romania, Poland and Italy.

Table 20: List of the EU Settlement Scheme nationalities with more than 1,000 applications between 28 August 2018 and 30 September 2024, Cambridgeshire

| | Top 10 application nationalities | Number of applications |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Poland | 15,335 |
| 2 | Romania | 12,150 |
| 3 | Lithuania | 10,070 |
| 4 | Bulgaria | 9,310 |
| 5 | Italy | 8,170 |
| 6 | Portugal | 6,855 |
| 7 | Spain | 5,895 |
| 8 | Non-EEA | 4,060 |
| 9 | France | 3,795 |
| 10 | Germany | 3,755 |
| 11 | Latvia | 3,245 |
| 12 | Greece | 2,775 |
| 13 | Hungary | 2,695 |
| 14 | Netherlands | 1,630 |

Non-EEA nationalities, which have the 8th highest rate of applications, are defined by the government as “a person who is not an EEA citizen and is not a British citizen”, where an EEA citizen is from a country which is part of the European Economic Area and includes countries such as Iceland which are not part of the European Union.

The nationalities with the largest number of EUSS applications for Peterborough are Romania, Lithuania and Poland with 20,705, 14,025 and 12,590 applications respectively for immigration status between 28 August 2018 and 30 September 2024. The Table below lists all nationalities for which there have been more than one thousand applications.

Table 21: List of the EU Settlement Scheme nationalities with more than 1,000 applications between 28 August 2018 and 30 September 2024, Peterborough

| Rank | Top 10 application nationalities | Number of applications |
|------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Romania | 20,705 |
| 2 | Lithuania | 14,025 |
| 3 | Poland | 12,590 |
| 4 | Portugal | 8,065 |
| 5 | Latvia | 5,460 |
| 6 | Non-EEA | 4,395 |
| 7 | Slovakia | 3,715 |
| 8 | Italy | 2,515 |
| 9 | Bulgaria | 2,065 |
| 10 | Czechia | 1,745 |

Applicants to the EUSS are given either ‘Settled’ or ‘Pre-settled’ status. Settled status is usually for those who can prove continuous residence for 5 years or more or are eligible for another reason, for example they are the child of a settled migrant.

For Cambridgeshire, 54.6% (52,030) of concluded applications have settled status. Yet this varies between district, being around 50% in Cambridge and Fenland, but higher in East Cambridgeshire (57.8%), Huntingdonshire (63.6%) and South Cambridgeshire (61.6%). Meanwhile, 35.0% (33,330) of concluded applications received pre settled status, being within the range of 27-32% in East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire. In Cambridge, 44.4% of concluded applications were for pre settled status.

In Peterborough 39,520 (51.2%) of concluded applications have settled status. 23,020 concluded applications have pre settled status (29.8% of concluded applications).

The majority of people applying for the EUSS scheme fall within the 18 – 64 years age band, accounting for 84.1% of applications in Cambridgeshire. The proportion of applications for those aged under 18 years is 13.6% for Cambridgeshire. However, at district level under 18 years account for slightly more than the Cambridgeshire average, at around 16% of applications, in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire.

The 65 years and over age band makes up less than 3.5% of total EUSS applications in every district.

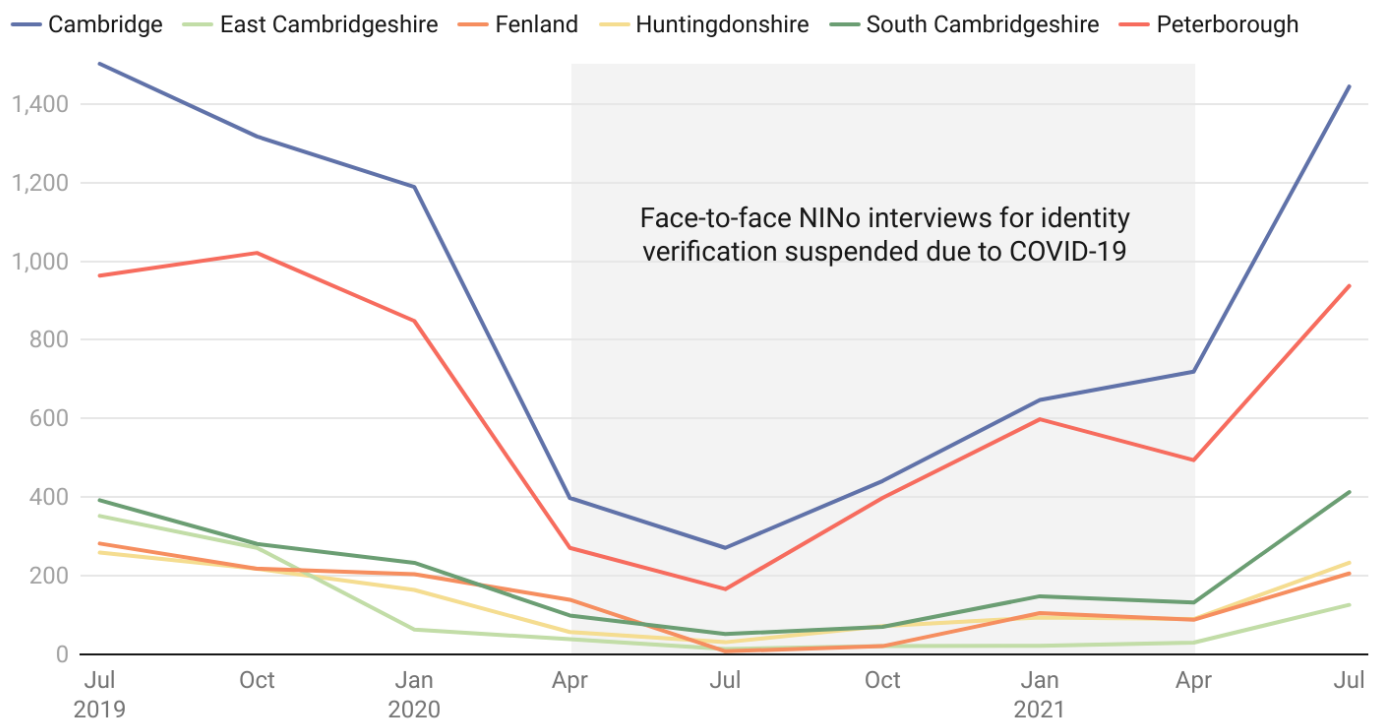
The proportion of applications for 0–17-year-olds is highest in Peterborough at 21.5%. In Peterborough 76.1% of applications are from those in the 18-64 years age group.

Appendix A COVID-19 Impacts

The number of NINo registrations was significantly impacted during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Restrictions on global travel and movement directly impacted the demand for NINos from migrant workers coming to the UK. NINo registration services were also temporarily suspended from 25 March 2020 as staff were deployed to other key sectors. From 1 June 2020, an online NINo application service was set up. However, this could not be used by applicants who required a face-to-face interview to verify their identity (primarily UK, European Union and European Economic Area nationals). Face-to-face interviews only re-commenced in April 2021, at which time there was a high demand for applications and significant delays. The effects of the pandemic mean that data for the period January 2020 to at least June 2021 must be compared to previous data with caution.

A decrease in NINo counts began in the quarter beginning January 2020 but the most significant decreases in NINo registrations in all districts occurred in the quarters beginning April 2020 and July 2020. These quarters correspond to the UK-wide COVID-19 lockdowns and the suspension of NINo registration services. NINo registrations increased in Cambridge and Peterborough from October 2020 but in other districts there was no notable increases until January 2021.

Figure 46: Count of quarterly NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between July 2019 and June 2021



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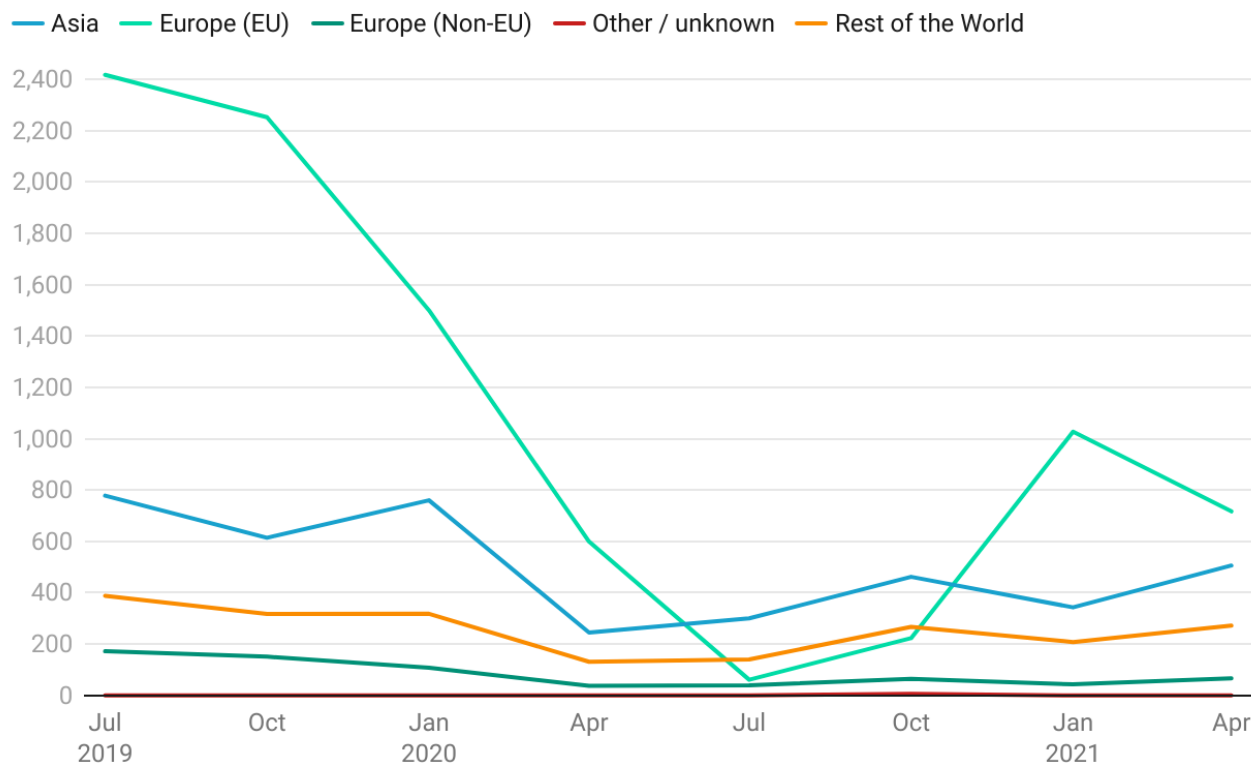
A comparison between the quarters July-September 2019 and July-September 2020 shows the scale at which NINo registrations decreased during the pandemic. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough overall, NINo registrations decreased by 85.5% from 3,755 in 2019 to 545 in 2020. East Cambridgeshire saw the largest decrease in registrations with a fall of 97.2% and Cambridge saw the smallest decrease with an 81.7% fall.

Table 22: NINo counts for July-September 2019 and July-September 2020 and the percentage change from 2019 to 2020

| | July 2019 to September 2019 count | July 2020 to September 2020 count | % change from 2019 to 2020 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cambridge | 1,505 | 275 | -81.7% |
| East Cambridgeshire | 355 | 10 | -97.2% |
| Fenland | 280 | 10 | -96.4% |
| Huntingdonshire | 260 | 30 | -88.5% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 395 | 55 | -86.1% |
| Peterborough | 965 | 165 | -82.9% |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 3,755 | 545 | -85.5% |

The effects of the pandemic are clear on world area of origin data. Whilst all NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough decreased between January 2020 and October 2020, EU registrations dropped the most significantly. EU registrations fell, for the first time since 2002, below registrations from both Asia and the Rest of the World.

Figure 47: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NINo registrations by world area for the period July 2019 to June 2021



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