

International Migrant Workers Update

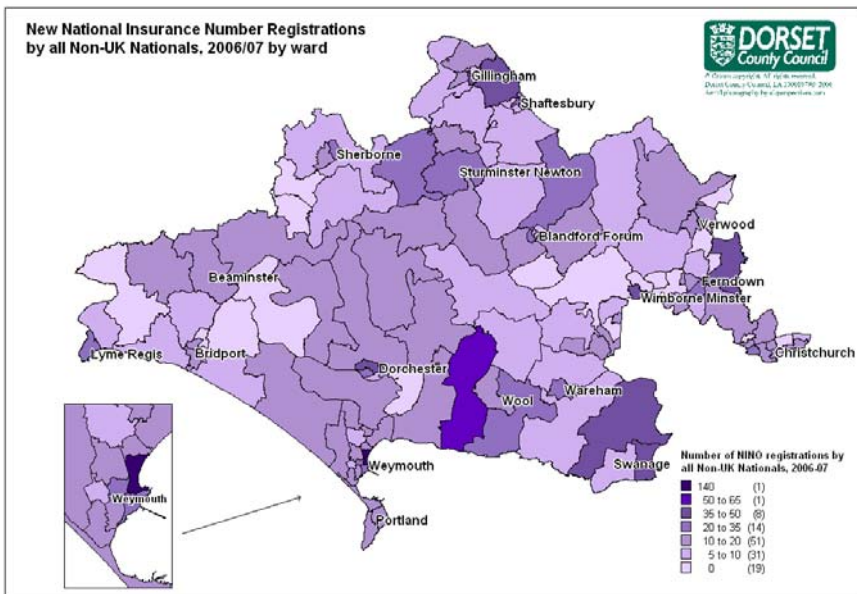
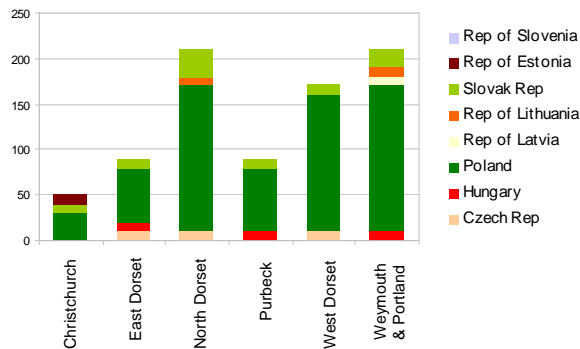
There is no actual count of the number of international migrant workers currently living in Dorset but, according to two key datasets: (**National Insurance number registrations (NINO)**) and the **Workers Registration Scheme (WRS)**) the numbers coming to Dorset to live and work has continued to increase during the past 12 months. The datasets indicate the number of workers who registered in each year, but do not record whether they have moved or left.

National Insurance Data*

The total new National Insurance number registrations from overseas in Dorset has risen from 1,280 in 2005/06 to 1,650 in 2006/07, a 22% increase. The map below shows where most new registrations have occurred.

Migrants from the Accession Countries** accounted for over half of the new registrations, rising from 590 last year to 820 this year.

NI registration & A8 country of origin 2006/7



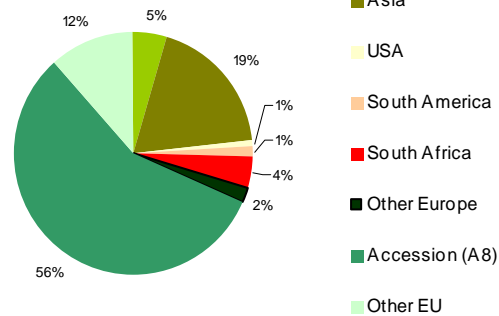
The majority originate from Poland, locally contributing 77% of A8 registrations and 38% of the total.

Registrations from Polish nationals in Dorset has increased by 32% from last year, with the highest numbers registering in North Dorset and Weymouth & Portland, and the lowest numbers in Christchurch.

The number of registrations from Asia have also increased from last year. In 2005/06 the total was 110, and this has risen to 270 in 2006/07.

Nearly half of those registering from Asia are from the Philippines, with 50% registering in Purbeck. Registrations from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have dropped from last year.

Country of origin of all new NI registrations, 2006/07



Due to the increase in migration, the Department for Communities and Local Government have recently produced a publication on how Local Authorities can combat misinformation surrounding new migrants***. The document lists a number of key facts regarding the impact of migration, stating that migrants are coming to the UK to work not claim benefits and are filling low-skilled vacancies which locals do not want to do.

***National Insurance number registrations (NINO)** - records all new registrations of non-UK nationals in each LA area, normally recording where they live.

** **Accession Countries (A8)** - Ten accession countries joined the EU in May 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta & Cyprus. Those from Malta & Cyprus were already allowed to work in the UK, hence the data refers to the A8, for which the rules changed May 2004

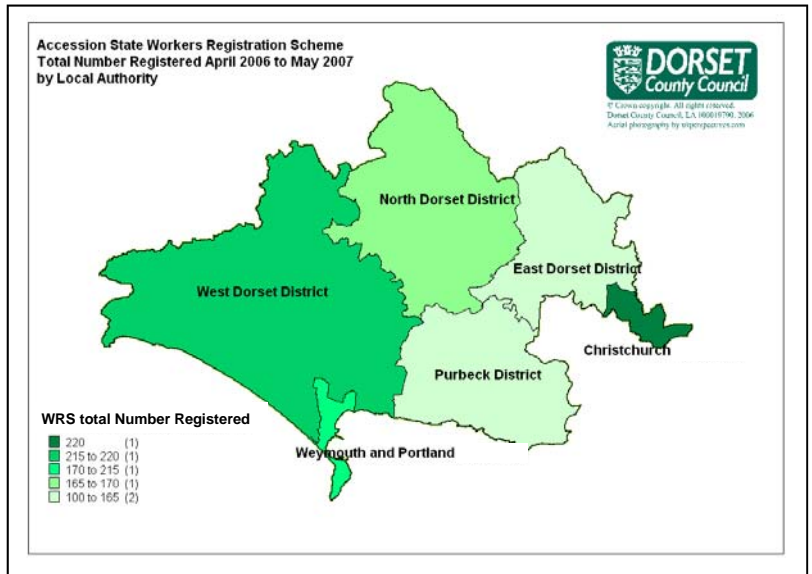
*** This publication can be found online www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/communitycohesion/combatingmisinformationabout/



Accession State Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) data*

The WRS provides further information on migrant workers from the A8 countries, recording where individuals work whereas the NINO records where they live. It includes gender, age, occupation, length of stay, hourly rate and more, and data is available at local authority level.

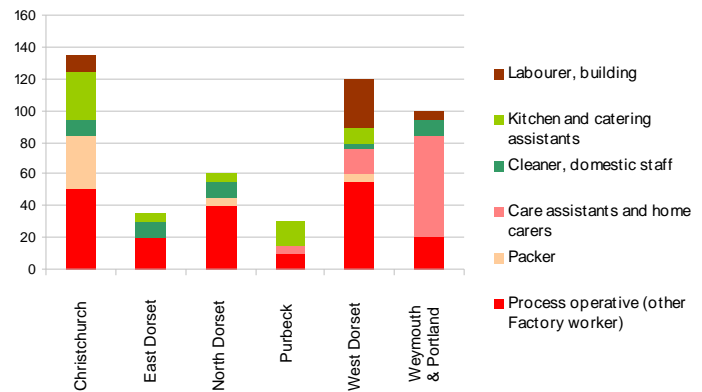
In 2006/07 80% of workers who registered on the WRS were from Poland, rising from 60% last year. The map illustrates that the highest registrations were in Christchurch, followed by West Dorset.



The majority of workers are aged 18-34 (83%) with a male/ female split of 57 and 43% respectively. Just over half of workers indicate that they intend staying in the UK less than 3 months when registering, whilst 13% of workers in Dorset state they will be staying more than 2 years, higher than the national figure of 9%.

The most common occupation for migrant workers in Dorset is "Process Operative (other factory worker)". 20% of migrant workers in Dorset, based mainly in West Dorset and Christchurch, are in this category. "Care Assistant and Home Carer" follows, with 76% of these based in Weymouth.

WRS—most common occupations, April 06 – March 07



Hourly rate data indicates that the majority of workers registered are paid £5.35-£5.99. Prior to the minimum wage increase in October 2006 (from £5.05 to £5.35) most workers were in the lower hourly rate bracket of £4.50-£5.34. Since October, 6% of workers registered in Dorset have listed their hourly rate as below minimum wage, whilst nationally this figure is much higher at 14%.

Whilst there is evidence to show migrants working and contributing to the economy, their impact on local authorities is yet to be considered. Due to the transience of the migrant population they are excluded from resident population estimates which are used to calculate local authority Government funding.

As the number of migrants moving to the UK continues to increase, the Government is considering a reform on its 'open door' policy. The preferred option is a points scheme, where highly skilled workers will have more chance of settling in the UK than those with fewer skills.

Note: Romania & Bulgaria joined the EU in January 2007 but as yet no data has been released to assess the migration impact
Note: Dorset in this bulletin always relates to DCC Dorset - the Dorset County Council area & excludes Poole and B/mouth

***Accession state workers registration scheme (WRS)** - provides information by LA area for workers from the A8 countries, normally recording where they work. Migrants from the A8 Countries who wish to work longer than one month in the UK are required to register on the scheme, excluding the self-employed. Following 12 months of legally working, without break, the worker is then entitled to apply for a residence permit, full benefits and no longer required to register on the WRS.

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