www.migrationwatchuk.com

The British in Europe – and Vice Versa

Summary

1. There are around 1.3 million British born people living in another EU country around 900,000 of whom will be workers and their dependants. This is about half the 2.7 million people born in another EU country who now live in the UK, of which 1.8 million are working.

The British in Europe

2. According to the United Nations Population Division, the most reliable source of data on global migrant stocks, the number of British people living in the EU is 1.3 million. The largest communities are in Spain – 381,000, Ireland – 254,000, France – 173,000 and Germany – 97,000. See Annex A.

3. Many of the British emigrants to Europe, especially Ireland, Italy, Germany, Cyprus, France and Spain, are self-sufficient retirees so the numbers in employment are fewer than the total number of residents. The data on the total number of British workers in EU countries is however unavailable since many countries do not collect this. We do know that there are at least 418,000 pensioners in receipt of a DWP pension living in Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Germany and we can therefore assume that these people are not working.[1] From this we can estimate that of the 1.3 million British people living in in another EU country, around 910,000 will be workers and their dependants.

4. In 2013/14 the UK spent £1.3 billion on state pension payments to recipients living elsewhere in the European Union.

5. EU partners charge the NHS for the costs of treating British pensioners. In 2013/14 the UK paid £580 million to other EEA countries for the treatment of British pensioners resident in the EEA while it received just £12 million from other EEA countries in the same year for the treatment of EEA pensioners in the UK.[2]

European Union citizens in the UK

6. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates for 2013, there are 2.67 million EU citizens in the UK – 1.36 million from the EU14, 1.077 million from the A8 and the remaining 230,000 or so from the other EU

---

1   In Ireland 52% or 131,140 of British born residents are in receipt of a UK state pension as are 38,050 or 53% of British born residents in Italy. In Cyprus the number of British in receipt of a pension is 43%, in Germany 42%, In France 35%, in Spain 28%, in the Netherlands 24% and in Switzerland that figure is 23%. See House of Commons Library, 'Frozen Overseas Pensions', Standard Note 1457, 6 May 2014, URL: http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01457.pdf

2   Parliamentary Question (HL3430) Lord Laird, 16 December 2014, Hansard WA61-63, URL: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141216w0001.htm

countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Malta, Cyprus and Croatia.

7. The Labour Force Survey, also published by the ONS, shows that, in mid-2014, there were 1.82 million EU workers in the UK.   Of these an estimated 740,000 were from the EU14, 850,000 from the A8, 189,000 from Romania and Bulgaria; the remaining 38,000 or so were from Malta, Cyprus and Croatia.

18th February 2015

Annex A: EU born residents in the UK and British Born Residents in the EU (UN)

EU Citizens in UK - 2013		UK Citizens in EU - 2013	
Belgium	32 767	Belgium	27 835
Bulgaria	58 366	Bulgaria	3 206
Czech Repub	40 959	Czech Repub	4 456
Denmark	21 933	Denmark	18 047
Germany	311 286	Germany	96 938
Estonia	9 354	Estonia	54
Ireland	412 658	Ireland	253 605
Greece	38 911	Greece	8 445
Spain	84 989	Spain	381 025
France	139 259	France	172 806
Croatia	9 078	Croatia	290
Italy	136 187	Italy	72 234
Cyprus	66 845	Cyprus	42 854
Latvia	70 654	Latvia	1 423
Lithuania	133 116	Lithuania	2 187
Luxembourg	-	Luxembourg	5 927
Hungary	51 198	Hungary	5 829
Malta	29 101	Malta	11 429
Netherlands	60 414	Netherlands	48 977
Austria	15 666	Austria	9 843
Poland	661 482	Poland	37 020
Portugal	90 314	Portugal	18 989
Romania	103 421	Romania	3 846
Slovenia	-	Slovenia	577
Slovakia	62 462	Slovakia	4 276
Finland	14 623	Finland	5 570
Sweden	32 378	Sweden	23 129
UK	-	UK	-
Iceland	-	Iceland	1 184
Liechtenstei	-	Liechtenstei	48
Norway	17 059	Norway	20 322
Switzerland	17 146	Switzerland	47 327
Total	2 721 626	Total	1 329 698