Consultation on International Migration Statistical Outputs

April - July 2012
To: Users of ONS international migration statistics

Body/bodies responsible for the consultation: Migration Statistics Unit, Population and Demography Division, Office for National Statistics

Duration: 5th April 2012 to 5th July 2012

Enquiries: Migration Statistics Unit. Email migstatsunit@ons.gov.uk or telephone 01329 444097

How to respond: Please email responses to migstatsunit@ons.gov.uk or send paper responses to Migration Statistics Unit, Room 2300, Office for National Statistics, Segensworth Road, Titchfield, PO15 5RR

After the consultation: ONS will collate the responses and will make an announcement on the ONS website of future changes to international migration outputs. This will be in July/August 2012. This consultation complies with the Code of Practice on Consultation.

1. Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is reviewing its migration outputs to ensure they are coherent and continue to meet user requirements. Comments are requested on the proposed changes outlined in this document. Please email responses to: migstatsunit@ons.gov.uk by 5th July 2012. All the responses received will be used to help ONS determine the timing and content of future statistical outputs on international migration.

A wide-ranging ONS Work Programme Consultation, which was carried out in the light of the Government’s 2010 Spending Review, was published on 1 November 2010 and ended on 24 December 2010. Responses relevant to migration received as part of the Work Programme Consultation will be considered alongside responses to this review. A response to this consultation, key findings and planned changes to migration related outputs will be published on the ONS website in July/August 2012.

2. Topics for Consultation

ONS would like your views on several aspects of international migration outputs:

- Migration flows
- Population stocks
- Local Area Migration Indicators
- Migration Reporting
- Data Explorer Tool
2.1 Migration flows

Migration flows data are available from two data sources, the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and Long Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates. LTIM consists of IPS estimates with adjustments for migration to and from Northern Ireland, asylum seekers and for people who change their intentions. LTIM is considered the most comprehensive estimate, but detail is limited to what is available from the additional data sources. IPS data is available at greater detail and for some cross tabulations, but totals will not match LTIM. Final tables from both data sources are published in November each year, while reduced detail is available on a provisional basis updated quarterly.

In November 2011, a new LTIM production system was implemented that enables improved timeliness of LTIM tables (that were previously supplied in November and February releases) and additional detail for quarterly provisional LTIM.

2.1.1 Long Term International Migration (LTIM) ‘1 series tables’

The LTIM 1 series tables contain data on the components of LTIM, margins of error and non-response to the International Passenger Survey. They are published annually. We would like to know:

Have you ever used these tables? How do you think they could be improved? Are there any other ways that you think this information could be better presented?

2.1.2 Long Term International Migration (LTIM) ‘2 series tables’

The LTIM 2 series tables are available annually and consist of 12 tables. We would like to know:

Which tables do you find most useful and why? Are there any other variables or groupings of variables that would be useful to you?

If any of these tables were removed from regular production, would you have any concerns?

Estimates are produced by calendar year and some by mid year. Which are the most useful to you?

2.1.3 IPS Estimates of Long Term International Migration ‘3 series’ tables

The IPS 3 series tables contain detailed information on the characteristics of migrants. These tables cross tabulate two or more variables and are derived from IPS data only. We would like to know:

Which tables do you find most useful and why? Are there any other variables or groupings of variables that would be useful to you? Is the time series provided appropriate?

If any of these tables were removed from regular production, would you have any concerns, if so, why?

Are the quality indicators clear? Do you have any other suggestions for changes to these migration outputs?
2.1.4 Provisional Estimates of Long Term International Migration

The three provisional rolling annual tables are updated quarterly and provide an early indication of migration trends and are based on both LTIM and IPS data. We would like to know:

*Are these provisional tables produced on a quarterly basis important to you? Would you like further quarterly provisional LTIM data? If so please provide reasons specifying which figures you require.*

*Would you like further quarterly provisional IPS data? If so please provide reasons specifying which figures you require.*

*Are the existing charts helpful to you? Which charts do you use?*

2.2 Population by Nationality and Country of Birth

Estimates of the UK resident population by country of birth and nationality are derived from the Annual Population Survey. Eight tables are currently produced which are updated quarterly with each table containing 12 months of data. These data change little from quarter to quarter and nine months of data will be identical for two consecutive publications.

We propose that from August 2012, these tables are published annually in August each year. We would like to know:

*Do you have any objections to this proposal? If so, what use do you make of the data published quarterly?*

*Are the groupings useful to you? Would you like alternative groupings of the variables provided?*

*Would you prefer a data series for each variable, or would you rather see several variables for a particular year? Are the quality indicators clear?*

*Do you have any other suggestions for changes to these population tables? eg other variables, presentation of tables etc?*

2.3 Local Area Migration Indicators

The Local Area Migration Indicators is an interactive product that brings together different migration related data sources to allow users to compare indicators of migration at local authority level.

The data that are included in this product are available from their sources. Some of the data are potentially changing to become an annual output. There is little change from quarter to quarter of these data.

We propose that from August 2012 the Local Area Migration Indicators are updated annually in August each year. We would like to know:

*Do you have any objections to this proposal? Which indicators are the most useful to you? Are there any data sources you are aware of that would make a useful addition to the product?*
If we were to remove some of the data relating to older time periods, what is the minimum time period that would be useful to you? (For example, the last five years). Are the charts helpful to you? Are there any improvements you suggest are made to this product?

2.4 Migration Reporting

Our main reporting on migration statistics is in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR). The MSQR brings together the latest available statistics on international migration from ONS, the Home Office and DWP. It was restructured in August 2011 following some feedback that it was becoming too long and it was difficult for some people to identify the statistics that were most relevant to them. In addition to the MSQR, some quarters we publish additional analysis on a particular aspect of migration. For example, see the Emigration – A short story that was published in November 2011. We would like to know:

Have you used the MSQR? How regularly do you refer to it? Is there any content that is not useful to you that could be removed? Is there anything currently missing that could be added? Have you used the MSQR User Information? Was it useful to you?

Are there any further topics for analysis of migration that would be useful to you?

2.5 Data Explorer Tool

We are considering developing a data explorer tool which would enable you to access the IPS data set and select your own variables for tabulation. We would like to know:

Do you think you would use a data explorer tool to access IPS data? What data would be useful to you? What would you use these data for?
## 3. Summary of Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic of consultation</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migration flows : 1 series tables</td>
<td>Have you ever used these tables? How do you think they could be improved? Are there any other ways that you think this information could be better presented?</td>
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<td><strong>Consultation Response</strong></td>
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<td>Would you be happy for your response to be made public?</td>
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Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

**Confidentiality and data protection**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you would like the information, including personal data, that you submit to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, among other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. Before disclosing any information that is personal to you, we will inform you of this in advance of any disclosure. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Office for National Statistics.

Please ensure that your response is clearly marked on the last question of the table if you wish your response and your name to be kept confidential. Confidential responses will be included in any summary of numbers of comments received and views expressed.

**Consultation timetable**

This consultation will run from 5th April 2012 to 5th July 2012 (13 weeks)

**After the consultation**

We will publish a summary of the comments made approximately six weeks after the consultation closes.
How to comment on the consultation process
If you would like to make any comments about the consultation process we have followed, please contact:

Darran Tucker, Consultations Co-ordinator
Office for National Statistics
Room 1.101
Government Buildings
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Newport
NP10 8XG

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