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Migrant Access to Benefit

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Migrant Access to Benefit

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2015 Analytical Services Unit (ASU) were commissioned by the Social Security Agency (SSA) to conduct research on the behaviour of non-UK Nationals living in Northern Ireland, specifically with regard to their current and historical interaction with the Social Security Benefit system. This is particularly important given the need to understand the potential impact of planned changes to immigration requirements within the Social Security system.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this report the term migrants is used to refer to non-UK Nationals who are resident in Northern Ireland and registered with a National Insurance Number (NINO).
- 1.3 Information on benefit claims made by migrants is published on a yearly basis by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in Great Britain (GB). The first iteration of an equivalent report for Northern Ireland was published in 2015. This report represents an update of that original report.
- 1.4 The data within the GB publication is sourced from the National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS) that is maintained by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on a quarterly basis.
- 1.5 ASU have secured agreement from HMRC to supply the same quarterly data to the Department for Communities (DfC). The scan used to produce the analysis in this report refers to July 2018. It includes all **migrants recorded as living in Northern Ireland, who have been registered with a National Insurance Number (NINO)**. The dataset at July 2018 contained a total of 170,920 records where each record represents a single individual. In order to gain an insight into migrant interaction with the benefit system the NPS dataset was merged with data scans that detail claimants of all Social Security Benefits (from 2005 up to present) and Housing Benefit.
- 1.6 It should be noted if an individual registered for a NINO using an address in England, Scotland or Wales, but now resides in Northern Ireland, their details will be included in the Northern Ireland NPS dataset. With regard to the converse scenario (i.e. if an individual registered in Northern Ireland but then subsequently moved outside of Northern Ireland), the record will be removed from the Northern Ireland NPS dataset but only if DWP have been able to confirm that the individual has left Northern Ireland. This may not happen in all cases given the difficulty associated with tracking changes of address at an individual level.
- 1.7 Migrants can apply for a NINO upon arrival in the United Kingdom (UK) if they have the right to work or study in the UK but it is also important to note that not all migrants may have registered for a NINO. **As a result, this document should not be taken as a full count of all migrants in Northern Ireland.**
- 1.8 This document provides detailed information on the number of migrants registered as residing in Northern Ireland, the number currently claiming benefits and those who have previously claimed benefits.

- 1.9 Universal Credit (UC) is being introduced on a phased geographical basis in Northern Ireland. In areas where UC has been introduced there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA and Income Support. Statistics on UC are not counted in this publication, but will be included in future iterations once they become available.
- 1.10 The fall in DLA claimants is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) on 20th June 2016. The PIP statistics that are included in this publication, are currently published separately as Experimental Statistics.

2. Headline Statistics

- These headline statistics were produced using a Northern Ireland extract of the NPS dataset extracted for July 2018.
- Figures from DWP show that there were **10,180 new NINO registrations** in the 2018 calendar year by migrants living in Northern Ireland; this is less than the 10,850 registrations in 2017.
- Of the 170,920 migrants who are resident and registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland at July 2018, **39,610 (23.2%) have at some time (since 2005) claimed at least one Social Security Benefit.**
- In total **14,750 migrants are currently in receipt of a benefit** administered by the Social Security Agency (SSA) and/or Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). This represents under a tenth (8.6%) of all migrants registered with a NINO and resident in Northern Ireland at July 2018.
- For those who are **currently** in receipt of a benefit, Housing Benefit (HB) is the most common benefit that is claimed (47.8%), followed by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) (27.9%), Retirement Pension (RP) (19.6%) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (15.5%).

Benefit Type	Percentage of All Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits at July 2018
Housing Benefit (HB)	47.8%
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)	27.9%
Retirement Pension (RP)	19.6%
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	15.5%
Invalid Carer's Allowance (ICA)	13.5%
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	10.5%
Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)	10.0%
Pension Credit (PC)	7.7%
Income Support (IS)	7.0%
Attendance Allowance (AA)	2.0%
Maternity Allowance (MA)	1.4%
Industrial Injuries Benefit (IIB)	0.8%
Bereavement Benefit (BB)	0.7%
Incapacity Benefit (IB)	0.6%
Widow's Benefit (WB)	0.2%
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)	<0.1%

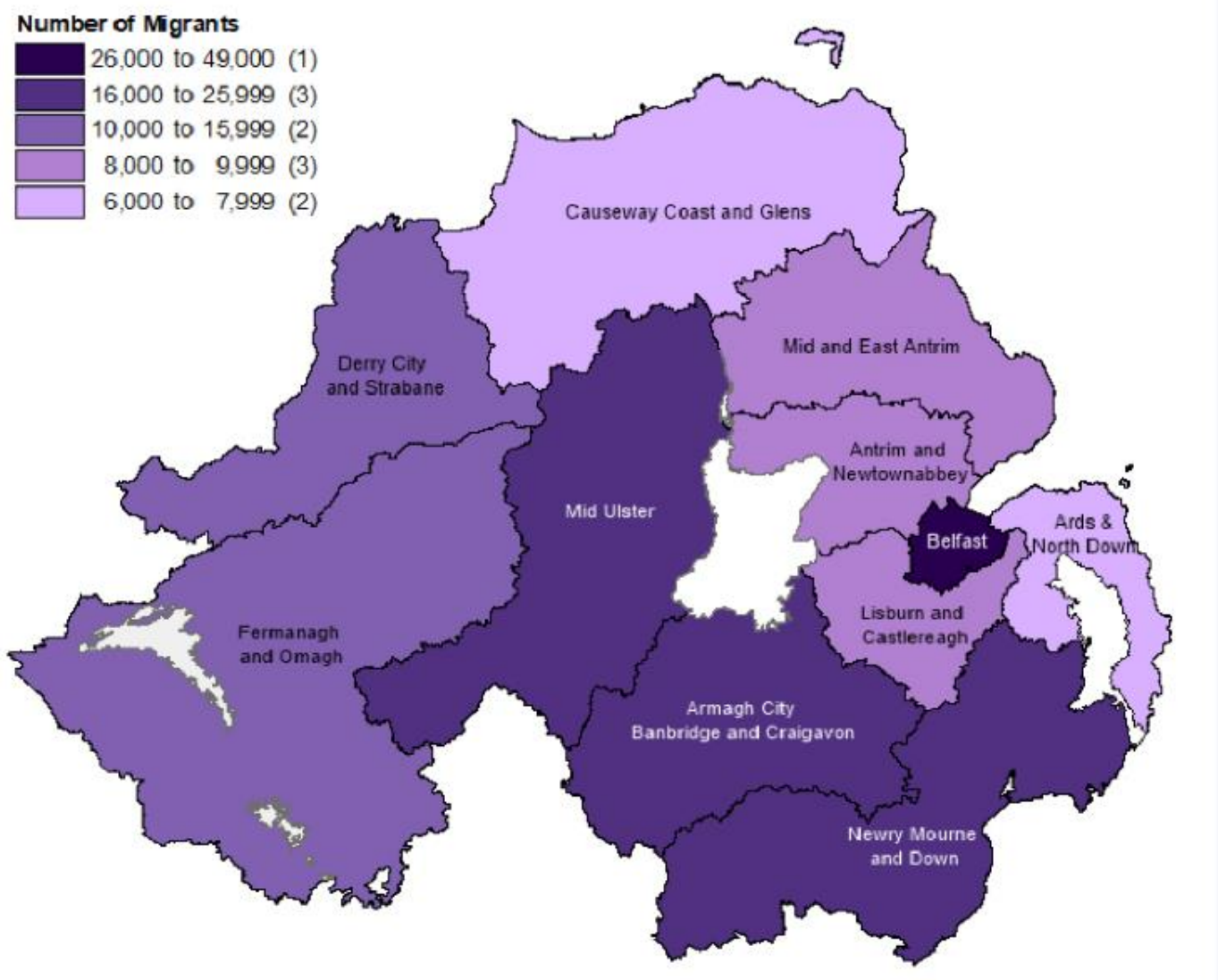
- **Belfast Local Government District (LGD) has the highest number of resident migrants (48,550).** It also has the highest number of migrants currently claiming a benefit (3,450) (23.4% of the 14,750 migrants currently receiving benefits), this compares with Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (640) (4.4%).
- **Of those migrants currently claiming at least one benefit, over a quarter (29.2%) are from the Republic of Ireland,** followed by migrants from Poland (15.6%) and the Republic of Lithuania (6.8%).

3. Migrants Living in Northern Ireland

3.1 This section of the report presents analysis of the geographic location of migrants at the point of registration for a NINO. While the data suggests that these migrants are still living in Northern Ireland, it is possible that they are currently residing in an area different from where they were living at point of registration. In total, 170,920 migrants living in Northern Ireland at July 2018 were registered with a NINO.

3.2 **Figure 1** shows the geographical spread of these registrations across Northern Ireland by Local Government District (LGD). The district with the highest number of migrants registered with a NINO is the Belfast LGD (48,550 migrants). This is followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD (24,440) and the Mid Ulster LGD (18,210). The district with the smallest number of migrants is Ards and North Down LGD (6,960); this is followed by the Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (7,080).

Figure 1. Migrants registered with a NINO by Local Government District



3.3 **Table 1** provides a breakdown of the number of new migrant registrations in Northern Ireland over the last five years. Figures from DWP indicated that there were 10,180 new registrations in the 2018 calendar year by migrants. This is less than the 10,850 registrations in 2017. In the quarter April-June 2014 there was a change to the process of recording NINOs. This could in part explain the increase between the years 2013 and 2014. Further information can be found in the Annex.

Table 1. New migrant registrations in Northern Ireland per annum

Year	New Registrations	Percentage Increase from Previous Year
2018	10,180	-6.2%
2017	10,850	9.7%
2016	9,890	-4.4%
2015	10,350	1.6%
2014	10,180	34.6%
2013	7,570	15.1%

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures.

3.4 **Table 2** shows the region of origin of migrants who are resident and registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland. Of the 170,920 migrants registered at July 2018, the majority of migrants are from within the European Union (78.2%). Looking at this more closely, over two-fifths are from European Union (EU) Accession countries (45.4%) and just under one third are from EU (Excluding Accession) countries (32.8%). Outside of Europe, Asia and the Middle East account for the highest proportion of registered migrants (9.9%).

Table 2. Migrants registered with a NINO by region of origin

Region Of Origin	Number of Migrants Resident in Northern Ireland	Percentage of Total Migrants
European Union Accession ¹	77,560	45.4%
European Union (Excluding Accession) ²	56,020	32.8%
Asia and Middle East	16,910	9.9%
The Americas	5,750	3.4%
Others and Unknown	4,540	2.7%
Africa	4,380	2.6%
Australasia and Oceania	3,440	2.0%
Other European (Europe non EU) ³	2,330	1.4%
Total	170,920	100.0%

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ European Union Accession refers to countries acceding to the EU from May 2004 and includes Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Republic of Slovenia.

² European Union (Excluding Accession) includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain and Sweden.

³ Other European includes all other European countries that are not members of the EU at 1st April 2014.

3.5 More specifically, **Table 3** shows the top 20 nationalities of migrants who are currently resident and registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland. Just under one fifth (19.9%) of migrants residing in Northern Ireland are from Poland. This is closely followed by migrants from the Republic of Ireland (19.3%), with a significant drop to migrants from the Republic of Lithuania (8.4%).

Table 3. Top 20 nationalities of migrants registered with a NINO

Nationality	Number of Migrants Resident in Northern Ireland	Percentage of Total Migrants
Poland	33,930	19.9%
Rep of Ireland	32,930	19.3%
Rep of Lithuania	14,430	8.4%
Romania	9,080	5.3%
Portugal	8,360	4.9%
Slovak Rep	5,750	3.4%
India	5,220	3.1%
Bulgaria	4,790	2.8%
Rep of Latvia	4,190	2.5%
France	3,630	2.1%
Spain	3,600	2.1%
Hungary	3,390	2.0%
China Peoples Rep	3,300	1.9%
USA	2,810	1.6%
Philippines	2,760	1.6%
Australia	2,370	1.4%
Germany	2,250	1.3%
Italy	2,140	1.3%
Canada	1,680	1.0%
Czech Rep	1,470	0.9%

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

3.6 Interestingly, the top 10 nationalities are dominated by European countries, with the exception of India ranked 7th.

4 Current Claimants

- 4.1 This section of the report presents analysis of the migrants who are **recorded on the July 2018 NPS data scan** claiming at least one benefit previously administered by the Social Security Agency (SSA) and now under the remit of the Department for Communities (DfC) as well as Housing Benefit which is administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).
- 4.2 In total 14,750 migrants on the July 2018 NPS dataset are in receipt of a benefit, which equates to under a tenth (8.6%) of the **total number** of 170,920 registered migrants in Northern Ireland.
- 4.3 **Table 4** shows the type of benefit those migrants are currently claiming. Of the 14,750 migrants currently in receipt of at least one benefit, just under half are receiving Housing Benefit (HB) (47.8%). This is followed by just over a quarter in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) (27.9%), just under a fifth in receipt of Retirement Pension (RP) (19.6%) and 15.5% in receipt of Personal Independence Payments.
- 4.4 Less than 1% of migrants registered with a NINO are currently in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) (<0.1%), Widow's Benefit (WB) (0.2%), Incapacity Benefit (IB) (0.6%), Bereavement Benefit (BB) (0.7%) and Industrial Injuries Benefit (IIB) (0.8%).

Table 4. Migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit by benefit type¹

Benefit Type ¹	Number of Migrants Claiming Benefits	Percentage of All Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits at July 2018
Housing Benefit (HB)	7,060	47.8%
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)	4,110	27.9%
Retirement Pension (RP)	2,900	19.6%
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	2,290	15.5%
Invalid Carer's Allowance (ICA)	1,990	13.5%
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	1,550	10.5%
Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)	1,470	10.0%
Pension Credit (PC)	1,140	7.7%
Income Support (IS)	1,030	7.0%
Attendance Allowance (AA)	300	2.0%
Maternity Allowance (MA)	210	1.4%
Industrial Injuries Benefit (IIB)	120	0.8%
Bereavement Benefit (BB)	100	0.7%
Incapacity Benefit (IB)	90	0.6%
Widow's Benefit (WB)	20	0.2%
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)	10	<0.1%

Base = 14,750

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures.

¹ It is possible for claimants to be in receipt of more than one benefit, therefore this breakdown does not sum to the total number of migrants currently claiming a benefit.

4.5 **Table 5** shows the Local Government District (LGD) where migrants currently claiming at least one benefit live. Consistent with having the most migrants' resident, Belfast is also the LGD with the highest number of migrants in receipt of at least one benefit (23.4%). This is followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD (13.8%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (12.6%).

4.6 The district with the smallest number of migrants currently claiming a benefit is Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (4.4%), closely followed by Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD (4.5%).

Table 5. Migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit by LGD

District	Total Number Of Migrants	Number of Migrants Claiming Benefits at July 2018	Percentage of All Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits at July 2018
Antrim and Newtownabbey	9,390	760	5.2%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	24,440	2,040	13.8%
Belfast	48,550	3,450	23.4%
Causeway Coast and Glens	7,080	640	4.4%
Derry City and Strabane	10,940	1,430	9.7%
Fermanagh and Omagh	10,460	1,240	8.4%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8,190	660	4.5%
Mid and East Antrim	9,050	730	4.9%
Mid Ulster	18,210	1,220	8.3%
Newry, Mourne and Down	17,010	1,860	12.6%
Ards and North Down	6,960	680	4.6%
Unknown ¹	630	50	0.4%

Base = 14,750

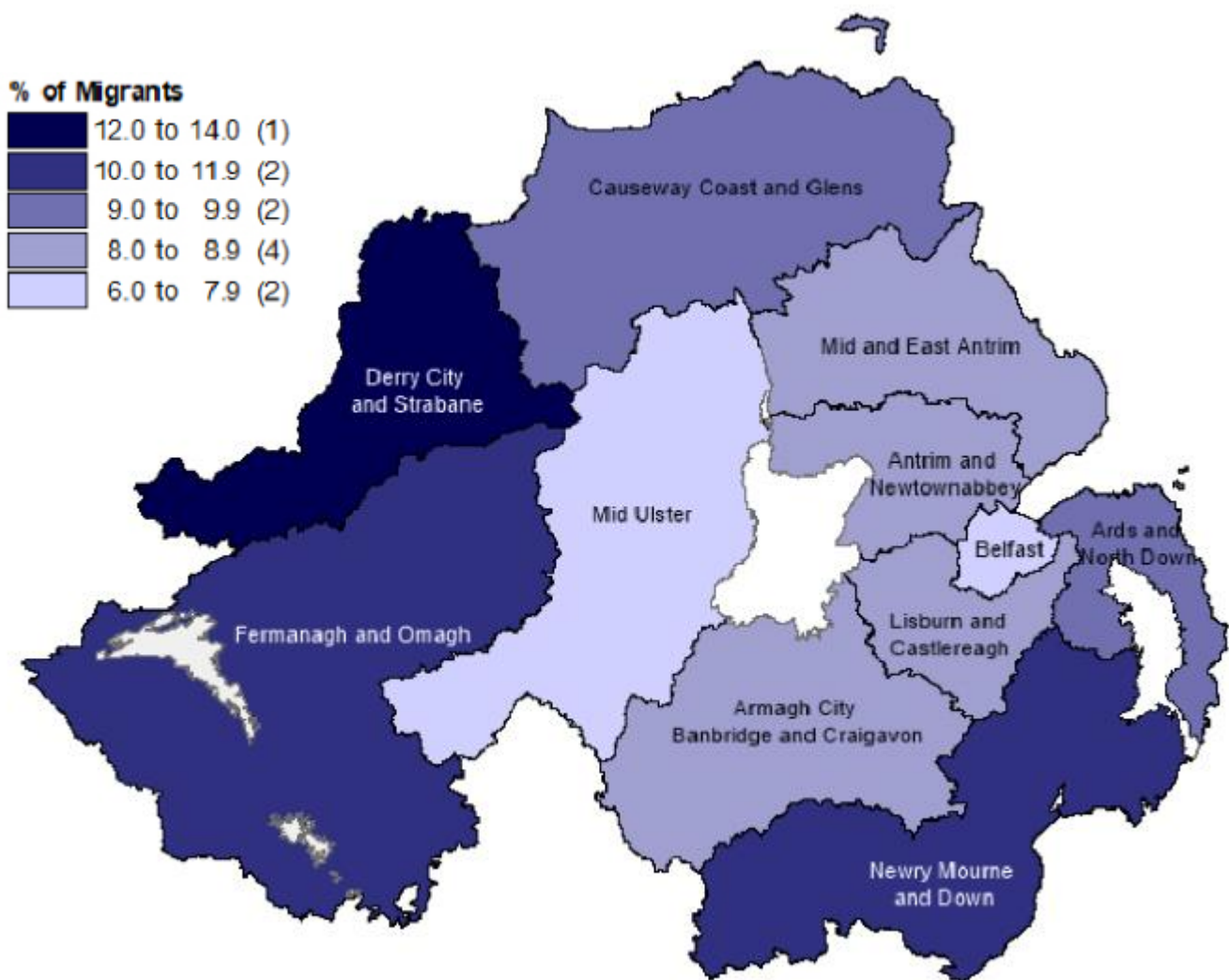
Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ Unknown includes those claimants for whom postcode cannot be mapped to LGD.

4.7 **Figure 2** shows the percentage of resident migrants living in each LGD currently claiming at least one benefit. Belfast LGD has the highest number of migrants' resident and the highest number in receipt of at least one benefit. However, when we look at the proportion of migrants registered and claiming benefit in each LGD it is the Derry City and Strabane LGD which has the highest percentage of resident migrants claiming benefit (13.0%). This is followed by Fermanagh and Omagh LGD (11.8%).

4.8 A smaller percentage of those living in the Mid Ulster (6.7%) and Belfast (7.1%) LGDs are currently claiming a benefit.

Figure 2. The percentage of resident migrants living in each LGD currently in receipt of at least one benefit



4.9 **Table 6** shows the region of origin of the 14,750 migrants registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland who are currently in receipt of at least one benefit. The majority of these migrants are from countries within the European Union, accounting for almost three quarters (71.1%) of the total. This is consistent with the origin breakdown for all migrants registered with a NINO. Over a third of migrants currently claiming at least one benefit are from European Union (EU) Excluding Accession countries (37.4%) and European Union (EU) Accession countries (33.7%). Outside of Europe, Asia and the Middle East account for the highest proportion of migrants in Northern Ireland who are currently claiming at least one benefit (8.4%).

Table 6. Migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit by Region of Origin

Region of Origin	Number of Migrants Claiming Benefits	Percentage Of All Migrants Currently Claiming Benefit at July 2018
European Union (Excluding Accession) ²	5,520	37.4%
European Union (Accession) ¹	4,970	33.7%
Others and Unknown	1,680	11.4%
Asia and Middle East	1,240	8.4%
Africa	730	4.9%
The Americas	420	2.8%
Other European (Europe non EU) ³	140	1.0%
Australasia and Oceania	70	0.4%
Total	14,750	100.0%

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ European Union Accession refers to countries acceding to the EU from May 2004 and includes Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Republic of Slovenia.

² European Union (Excluding Accession) includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain and Sweden.

³Other European includes all other European countries that are not members of the EU at 1st April 2014.

4.10 More specifically, **Table 7** shows the top 20 nationalities of migrants currently claiming at least one benefit. Over one quarter (29.2%) of migrants currently claiming at least one benefit, are from the Republic of Ireland. This is followed by migrants from Poland (15.6%) and the Republic of Lithuania (6.8%).

Table 7. Top 20 nationalities of migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit

Nationality	Number Of Migrants Claiming Benefits	Percentage of Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits
Rep of Ireland	4,310	29.2%
Poland	2,300	15.6%
Rep of Lithuania	1,000	6.8%
Portugal	680	4.6%
Slovak Rep	460	3.1%
Romania	450	3.0%
Syria	400	2.7%
Rep of Latvia	330	2.2%
USA	220	1.5%
China Peoples Rep	180	1.2%
Hungary	180	1.2%
Somalia	130	0.9%
Sudan	130	0.9%
South Africa	130	0.9%
Bulgaria	130	0.9%
India	130	0.8%
Philippines	120	0.8%
Italy	120	0.8%
Germany	110	0.8%
Canada	100	0.7%

Base = 14,750

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

4.11 **Table 8** provides the gender breakdown of migrants currently claiming at least one benefit with just over half being female (55.4%).

Table 8. Gender Breakdown of migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit

Gender	Number of Migrants Claiming Benefits	Percentage of Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits
Male	6,530	44.3%
Female	8,170	55.4%
Missing/Unknown	50	0.4%
Total	14,750	100.0%

Base = 14,750

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

4.12 **Table 9** provides a breakdown by age group for migrants currently claiming at least one benefit. The largest proportion of registered migrants are aged between 35 and 49 (32.9%). This is followed by 50 to 64 year olds who account for over a quarter of total migrant claimants (26.7%).

Table 9. Age Breakdown of migrants registered with a NINO currently in receipt of at least one benefit

Age	Number of Migrants Claiming Benefits	Percentage of Migrants Currently Claiming Benefits
16-34	2,580	17.5%
35-49	4,860	32.9%
50-64	3,940	26.7%
65+	3,380	22.9%
All	14,750	100%

Base = 14,750

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

5 Historical Analysis of Social Security Claims by Migrants

- 5.1 The Social Security benefit claim history for all migrants currently residing in Northern Ireland was analysed over the last thirteen years. The analysis related to only those benefits previously administered by the Social Security Agency (SSA) and now under the remit of the Department for Communities (DfC). This analysis does not include Housing Benefit, Personal Independence Payment and Universal Credit.
- 5.2 This was achieved by merging the July 2018 NPS dataset with the Social Security Longitudinal database using the unique identifier National Insurance Number (NINO). The Longitudinal database tracks the history of any benefit claimant since 2005, identifying when they came on and off a benefit, as well as changes in address, name etc.
- 5.3 Of the 170,920 migrants currently living in Northern Ireland, 39,610 had records on the longitudinal database. This indicated that just under a quarter of migrants (23.2%) registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland have at some stage since 2005, claimed at least one of the Social Security benefits administered by DfC.
- 5.4 **Table 10** shows the region of origin of these individuals. Of the 39,610 migrants to have claimed a benefit since 2005, the majority are from within the European Union; with these countries accounting for over four-fifths (80.1%) of the total. Looking at this more closely, over two-fifths are from European Union (EU) Accession countries (44.8%) and over a third are from EU (Excluding Accession) countries (35.4%). Outside of Europe, Asia and the Middle East account for the highest proportion of migrants in Northern Ireland to have claimed a benefit since 2005 (5.9%).

Table 10. Migrants registered with a NINO who have claimed a benefit since 2005 by Region of Origin

Region of Origin	Number of Migrants who have Claimed a Benefit	Percentage of Total Claimants
European Union Accession ¹	17,730	44.8%
European Union (Excluding Accession) ²	14,010	35.4%
Others and Unknown	2,480	6.3%
Asia and Middle East	2,350	5.9%
Africa	1,430	3.6%
The Americas	940	2.4%
Other European (Europe non EU) ³	430	1.1%
Australasia and Oceania	240	0.6%
Total	39,610	100.0%

Base = 39,610

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ European Union Accession refers to countries acceding to the EU from May 2004 and includes Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Republic of Slovenia.

² European Union (Excluding Accession) includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain and Sweden.

³ Other European includes all other European countries that are not members of the EU at 1st April 2014.

5.5 **Table 11** shows the top 20 nationalities of migrants who have registered with a NINO and have claimed a benefit since 2005. The Republic of Ireland accounts for the highest number of migrants currently resident in Northern Ireland to have claimed a benefit since 2005 (21.8%). This is followed by Poland which accounts for just over one fifth (20.4%) and the Republic of Lithuania which accounts for just over a tenth (11.2%).

Table 11. Top 20 nationalities of migrants registered with a NINO to have claimed a benefit since 2005

Nationality	Number of Migrants who have claimed a benefit	Percentage of Total Claimants
Rep of Ireland	8,640	21.8%
Poland	8,070	20.4%
Rep of Lithuania	4,430	11.2%
Portugal	3,210	8.1%
Slovak Rep	1,300	3.3%
Rep of Latvia	1,240	3.1%
Romania	1,010	2.5%
Hungary	800	2.0%
Spain	640	1.6%
USA	450	1.1%
Bulgaria	430	1.1%
Syria	420	1.1%
Italy	390	1.0%
China Peoples Rep	390	1.0%
India	380	0.9%
France	360	0.9%
Philippines	350	0.9%
Czech Rep	340	0.8%
Germany	310	0.8%
South Africa	270	0.7%

Base = 39,610

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

- 5.6 Of those migrants who have claimed benefits, **Table 12** shows the length of time between a migrant having registered with a NINO until being in receipt of benefit. It should be noted that this is not the length of time after having arrived in Northern Ireland, but after being registered with a NINO – this may be a number of weeks or months (or in some cases years) after arriving in Northern Ireland.
- 5.7 Of the 39,610 migrants in receipt of a benefit since 2005, over a quarter (27.2%) claimed a benefit prior to registering for a NINO or within the first twelve months of registration. On the other end of the scale, 15.3% of these migrants were registered for more than 10 years before claiming benefits.

Table 12. Length of time between being registered with a NINO to a migrant being in receipt of a benefit

Length of Time	Number of Migrants who have claimed a benefit	Percentage of Total Claimants
Pre-Registration ¹	1,300	3.3%
0 to<1 year	9,480	23.9%
1 to<5 years	12,660	32.0%
5 to<10 years	6,910	17.4%
10 Years or more	6,060	15.3%
Missing ²	3,200	8.1%
Total	39,610	100.0%

Base = 39,610

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ Some migrants were in receipt of a benefit before recorded as being registered for a NINO.

² For some records the date that a migrant registered for a NINO is not available; therefore the length of time between being registered to being in receipt of a benefit cannot be calculated.

- 5.8 **Table 13** shows the duration on benefits of those migrants who were living in Northern Ireland at July 2018, and who were both registered with a NINO and have claimed a benefit at any time since 2005. It should be noted that for cases where an individual may have multiple spells on benefit these flows have not been factored into the analysis. Instead multiple spells have been treated as one overall spell on benefit. Therefore for these cases the length of time the individual is actually on benefit is likely to be less than that presented in the table. A spell on benefit refers to the time an individual has been on benefit but has subsequently gone off.
- 5.9 Of the 39,610 individuals to have claimed benefit since 2005, just under two-fifths have been on benefit for less than 1 year (37.9%).
- 5.10 14.6% of migrant claimants who have claimed a benefit since 2005 have claimed for more than ten years.

Table 13. Migrants registered with a NINO in Northern Ireland who have claimed a benefit since 2005 by length of time on benefit

Length of Time ^{1,2}	Number of Migrants who have claimed a benefit	Percentage of total claimants
0 to <1 year	15,000	37.9%
1 to <5 years	9,880	24.9%
5 to <10 years	8,940	22.6%
10 years or more	5,790	14.6%
Total	39,610	100%

Base = 39,610

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

¹ Length of time on benefit is calculated by subtracting an individual's 'Benefit off date' from their 'Benefit on date'. Some individuals are still on benefit and therefore don't have a 'Benefit off date' recorded; for the purposes of this analysis they have been given a 'Benefit off date' of 20st July 2018.

² Some individuals may be on a benefit, break for a while, and then return to benefit – the break time in between benefits has not been taken into consideration for these individuals, instead it has been treated as one continuous period on benefit.

6 Annex: Data Sources & Methodology

Migrant data

Extracted from the National Insurance Recording Pay as you Earn System (NPS) maintained by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at July 2018. It relates to non-UK nationals recorded as being resident in Northern Ireland at time of extract.

The following fields are included in the dataset;

- National Insurance Number
- Title
- Surname
- Forename
- Address
- Postcode
- Date of Birth
- Nationality
- Date of registration

Data on the number of number of National Insurance Numbers allocated to adult overseas nationals are obtained from .gov.uk.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-insurance-numbers-allocated-to-adult-overseas-nationals-to-december-2018>

Housing Benefit

Data received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive via the Belfast City Council. Data used in this analysis was extracted at July 2018.

Central Postcode Directory

Information from the Central Postcode Directory (CPD) was used for geographical analysis. The CPD has been compiled for users by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Demography Branch. It relates both current and terminated postcodes in Northern Ireland to a range of statutory, administrative, electoral and other area geographies.

Longitudinal Database

The longitudinal database is developed by ASU. It includes details of claimants on benefits since 2005 and is created using the Social Security Agency (SSA) benefit scans received from DWP. The Benefit scans are 100% extracts from the benefit administrative systems. Data is extracted at 2 weekly, 4 weekly or 6 weekly intervals. The database includes claimants on Attendance Allowance (AA), Bereavement Allowance (BB), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB), Industrial Injuries Benefit (IIB), Invalid Carer's Allowance (ICA), Income Support (IS), Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Maternity Allowance (MA), Pension Credit (PC), Retirement Pension (RP), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) and Widow's Benefit (WB). The longitudinal database tracks an individual's history on benefits since 2005, identifying when they came on and off benefit, as well as changes in address, name etc.

The longitudinal database does not contain records for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) nor Universal Credit (UC). It is planned to add PIP and UC to the longitudinal database in the future.

Historical Claims

The longitudinal database developed by ASU consists of benefit scans previously administered by the Social Security Agency (SSA) and now under the remit of the Department for Communities (DfC), therefore historic claims can only be identified for these benefits and not Housing Benefit.

Duration on benefits does not factor in multiple spells on benefit. Multiple spells have been treated as one overall spell on benefit. For these cases the length of time on benefit is less than that shown.

Length of time on benefit is calculated by subtracting an individual's 'Benefit off date' from their 'Benefit on date'. Some individuals are still on benefit and therefore do not have a 'Benefit off date' recorded; for the purposes of this analysis and to calculate benefit duration they have been given a 'Benefit off date' of 20th July 2018.

Matching

Migrant's data, the longitudinal database and Housing Benefit data were matched using the unique identifier National Insurance Number (NINO).

Non-UK nationals can apply for a NINO upon arrival in the United Kingdom (UK). They must have the right to work or study in the UK.

Data Quality

Although figures do accurately reflect the number of NINOs registered over time, a change to the process of recording NINOs in 2014, means that the volume of NINO registrations was lower in the year to June 2014 and then higher in the year to June 2015 than would otherwise be the case. **Therefore, comparisons of NINO registrations over time between these periods should be viewed with caution.**

The registration date referred to in this report represents the date the information on the individual was processed on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' National Insurance Recording and Pay as you Earn System (NPS) i.e. after the NINO application and allocation process has been completed. This may be a number of weeks or months after arriving in the UK.

These statistics provide an estimate of the number of people currently claiming benefit who, **when they first registered for a NINO, were migrants.** It should be noted that people may have moved since this registration, therefore, the numbers should not be used as a definitive count of all migrants in Northern Ireland.