

# Registered Migrant Workers

## Forth Valley Area

Briefing paper for

**RAHMAS**



### 1. Summary

This briefing paper summarises information collected on registered migrant workers in the Forth Valley area, collected as they apply for National Insurance (NI) numbers.

- Numbers of migrant workers registering in Forth Valley has recently increased faster than Scottish or UK levels.
- A total of 1310 registered for NI numbers in 2005/06. Stirling attracts the greatest numbers, Clackmannanshire the least.
- In 2005/06, a third of migrant workers were from Poland, whilst another quarter are from other new EU member states.
- Falkirk and Clackmannanshire attracts higher proportions of migrant workers from the Indian subcontinent. Stirling has a greater diversity, possibly related to the University.
- There is a trend for an increasingly young male proportion of migrant workers, with over a third being aged 18-24.
- The Forth Valley attracts a lower proportion of migrants relative to its total resident population than other parts of Scotland.
- The main issues raised by migrant workers relate to English language and communication problems, accommodation, banking and social opportunities.

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### 2. Introduction & Background

National Insurance (NI) numbers are required for employment / self-employment purposes (including students working part-time) and for claiming welfare benefits and tax credits. The Department for Work & Pensions<sup>1</sup> has responsibility for allocating NI numbers to overseas nationals.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004, ten new countries joined the European Union, with the UK allowing access to work and residence to all of them, unlike most existing European states. The increase in migrant workers from eight of these countries (the so-called 'A8': Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) is the subject of most recent interest, building on existing migrant workers from other countries. Malta and Cyprus also joined the EU at this time, but are not considered important for migration issues.

Points to note about use of these data<sup>2</sup>:

- For overseas nationals, the date of their arrival in the UK is recorded as is the date they register.

- The registration process is limited in the information it can provide, as it cannot indicate the actual final place of residence or employment, or the duration of any stay.
- Short-term migrants are not included in population estimates as an international migrant is defined as someone who changes their country of residence for 12 months or more.
- Registering for an NI number is required only for those wanting to work. The (non-working) family of any working individual is therefore not counted in these figures.
- Students working part-time or during holidays will also be included in these counts. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

### 3. Overall Numbers and Gender/ Age

As shown in Table 1, a total of 1,310 migrant workers resident in the Forth Valley area received an NI number in 2005/2006, and a total of around 2600 since 2002/03. Of course, registration may not lead to actual work or prolonged residence, but overall numbers are a useful trend to be aware of.

**Table 1 - Number of Migrants Receiving NI Numbers 2002-2006, Forth Valley, Scotland and GB**

	Year	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	Total 2002-2006 (% change)
Forth Valley	No.	400	420	530	1,310	2,660
	% change by year		5%	26%	147%	(228%)
Scotland	No.	14,520	15,500	22,070	40,710	92,800
	% change by year		7%	42%	84%	(180%)
GB	No.	349,240	370,750	439,730	662,390	1,822,110
	% change by year		6%	19%	51%	(90%)

Table 2 shows how these numbers are shared across the Forth Valley Authorities. Stirling Council area attracts the greatest number of registrants, although large increases are evident across all three authorities.

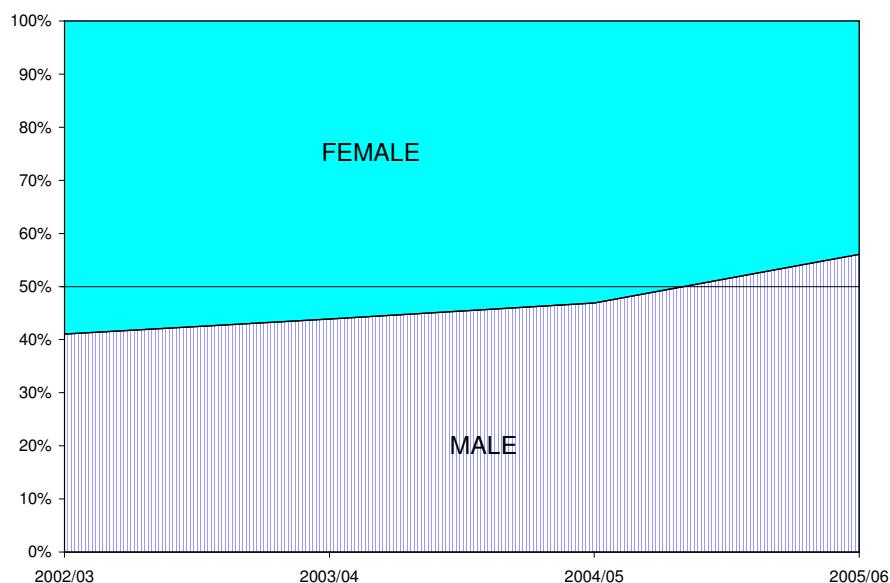
**Table 2 - Number of Migrants Receiving NI Numbers 2002-2006, Forth Valley Authorities**

	Year	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	Total 2002-2006 (% change)
Clackmannanshire	No.	40	40	50	130	260
	% change by year		0%	25%	160%	(225%)
Falkirk	No.	150	140	180	460	930
	% change by year		-7%	29%	156%	(207%)
Stirling	No.	210	240	300	720	1,470
	% change by year		14%	25%	140%	(243%)

### Gender

Figure 1 illustrates the number of migrants receiving National Insurance numbers broken down by gender. There is a trend for an increasingly male proportion of migrant workers, and they now comprise the majority for the first time since 2002. This is also the case at Scotland and UK levels.

**Figure 1 - Number of Migrants Receiving National Insurance Numbers By Gender 2002-2006, Forth Valley**



### Age

The proportion of migrant workers who are young (18-34) is high, especially those from new EU member states (A8). In 2005/06, 36% were aged 18-24 and 45% were aged 25-34.

### 4. Origin of Migrant Workers

Table 3 illustrates a breakdown of the origin of the foreign migrants for 2005/2006 and comparisons with the whole of Scotland and the UK. The highest percentages of migrant residents in the Forth Valley are from EU new member states (64%), followed by EU15 countries, Africa (mostly South Africa), and Indian Subcontinent (all 8%). Compared to Scotland and UK, the figures show a higher concentration of individuals from the new EU member states.

**Table 3 - Origin of Foreign Migrants 2005/2006, Sorted by FV Proportions**

Origin	GB %	Scotland %	Forth Valley %	Forth Valley Number
EU New Member States	41%	52%	64%	750
EU 15	15%	15%	8%	90
Africa	11%	6%	8%	90
India subcontinent, Sri Lanka	13%	9%	8%	90
Australasia	5%	6%	4%	50
China & Taiwan	2%	3%	3%	40
North America	2%	4%	3%	30
South East Asia	3%	2%	3%	30
Balkans	1%	1%	1%	10
Others	7%	1%	0%	0

Considering the three local authority areas in 2005/06 (Table 4), the greatest differences arise from a lower level of diversity (and indeed in-migration) in Clackmannanshire, and higher numbers of individuals from the Indian sub-continent registering in Clackmannanshire and Falkirk, compared to Stirling. Stirling attracts a greater diversity of individuals, due possibly to the presence of the University which attracts large numbers of overseas students who may register for work.

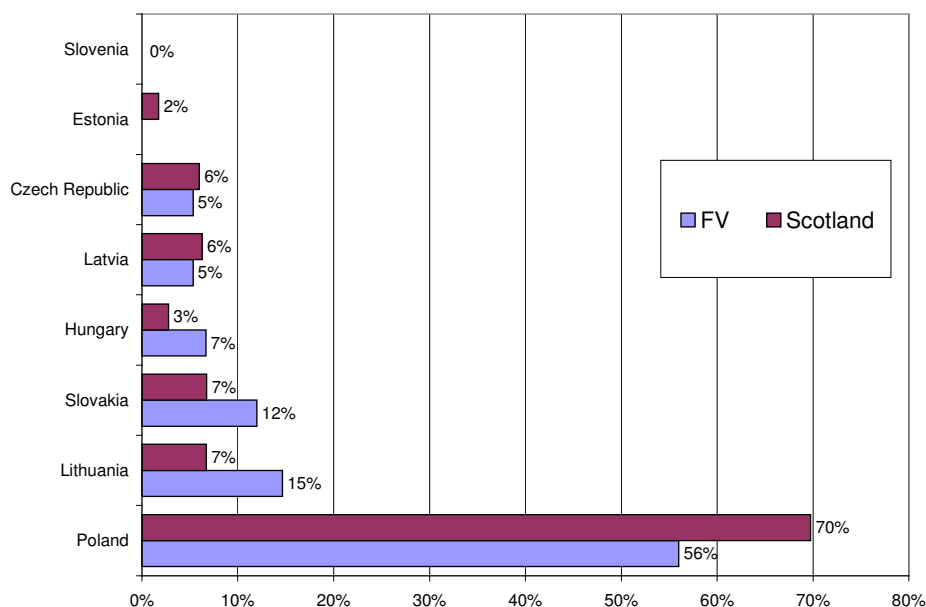
**Table 4 - Origin of Foreign Migrants 2005/2006, Forth Valley Authorities**

Origin	Clackmannanshire	Falkirk	Stirling
EU New Member States	89%	65%	59%
EU15		4%	11%
Africa		7%	10%
China & Taiwan			6%
Australasia		4%	5%
North America		2%	3%
India subcontinent, Sri Lanka	11%	13%	3%
Balkans			2%
South East Asia		4%	2%
Others			0%

The new EU member states (or so called 'A8' eight accession states) are of particular interest due to the current upward trend in numbers. Figure 2 gives a breakdown of these, by country, showing that the majority (56%) are from Poland, with Lithuania and Slovakia also figuring strongly, being above the Scottish average. Recent accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU (January 2007) is likely affect future figures.

There is evidence to suggest a high turnover of individuals from these countries, with workers returning to their country of origin rather than staying in the UK.

**Figure 2 - Origin of Forth Valley In-Migrants from EU New Member States (A8) - 2005-2006.**



## 5. Forth Valley's Share of Scottish Total

Table 5 illustrates the share of Scottish migrant worker registrations for all Scottish local authorities. Stirling's share has gradually risen and now its level of 1.7% is in line with its overall share of total population relative to Scotland, perhaps reflecting the hospitality and agriculture opportunities that exist (see following section). Another explanation is the greater numbers of students who may choose to stay in Stirling (or Scotland) after graduation from the University as a result of the Fresh Talent initiative (which allows students to apply to stay and work in Scotland for two years after the end of their course without the need for a work permit). Both Falkirk and Clackmannanshire receive fewer migrants relative to their total populations. The larger cities and larger rural regions of Highland and Perthshire attract the greatest share of in-migrants.

**Table 5 – Local Authority shares of Scottish Migrant Worker Registrations**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>
City of Edinburgh	31.2%	31.5%	26.4%	28.2%
City of Glasgow	20.9%	18.3%	17.5%	16.1%
City of Aberdeen	9.9%	9.9%	9.7%	9.3%
Highland	4.1%	4.5%	6.3%	6.4%
Perth & Kinross	2.3%	3.3%	4.2%	3.9%
Aberdeenshire	2.3%	2.9%	4.1%	3.8%
Fife	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	3.7%
City of Dundee	3.6%	4.2%	4.1%	3.5%
West Lothian	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	2.8%
North Lanarkshire	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%
South Lanarkshire	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Angus	0.6%	0.6%	2.1%	1.8%
<b>Stirling</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Renfrewshire	1.7%	1.7%	1.4%	1.7%
Argyll & Bute	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%
Scottish Borders	1.0%	1.3%	1.7%	1.6%
Dumfries & Galloway	0.8%	0.9%	1.5%	1.4%
Moray	0.6%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%
<b>Falkirk</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
South Ayrshire	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%
Inverclyde	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%
East Lothian	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
North Ayrshire	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%	0.7%
Midlothian	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
East Dunbartonshire	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
West Dunbartonshire	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%
East Ayrshire	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
<b>Clackmannanshire</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
East Renfrewshire	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%
Western Isles	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Shetland Islands	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Orkney Islands	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%

## 6. Employment Sectors

Many migrant workers, especially those from EU accession states (A8), work in manufacturing, distribution, construction hospitality, tourism, agriculture and food production. Non-A8 migrants are more likely to be in the public sector, especially as nurses or carers. Work for the Bank of England<sup>3</sup> has indicated little or no evidence of this trend having significant impacts on wages or unemployment.

## 7. Other Issues

A recent study of migrant worker issues in Tayside<sup>4</sup> highlighted the following points. Many of these are translatable to the Forth Valley area:

- While migrant workers tend to be employed in elementary occupations nearly 60 per cent of them have University qualifications and a further 16 per cent possess a trade or professional qualification.
- Employers take on migrant workers because there is an under-supply of workers locally, there is an under-supply of certain skills locally and because they feel that migrant workers are more flexible and productive.
- There is no evidence to indicate that the increase in the migrant worker population has led to reduced employment opportunities among the local population. It is likely that the overall impact on the Tayside economy and demographic profile is positive overall.
- Migrant workers are generally well integrated into local communities. Employers and recruitment agencies often assist migrant workers in accessing accommodation and other services.
- The main support requirements for migrant workers relate to overcoming language barriers.

A similar study in the Highlands and Islands<sup>5</sup> highlighted the following:

- The main drivers for migration were earning an income, creating a better life for themselves and their families, as well as high unemployment and low wages in their own countries.
- The main challenges experienced by migrant workers were poor English language and communications skills, lack of interpretation and translation facilities, lack of appropriate accommodation, difficulties in banking and lack of information and advice. Migrants reported limited opportunities for social interaction outside work, especially for young people.

Again, most of these issues would be expected to apply to migrant workers in the Forth Valley area.

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### Sources:

1. Department of Work and Pensions, National Insurance Number Registrations.
2. Scotland's New Migrant Workers – where do they go? (2007) SLIMS
3. The impact of recent migration from Eastern Europe on the UK Economy, (2007). Blanchflower et al.
4. The Tayside migrant labour population: scale, impacts and experiences (2006) Communities Scotland
5. Migrant workers in the Highlands and Islands (2005). On behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise

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