

		<p>cohesion appears fragile. Six of the ten areas with the worst community relations have recently received large numbers of Eastern European migrants.</p> <p>Peterborough, Burnley and Barking and Dagenham are three such areas in the UK with high levels of immigration and where community cohesion is reported to be amongst the lowest in the country. Local residents have voiced concerns about overcrowded accommodation and pressure on public services. The BBC News article Immigration 'harming communities' (16/07/08) provides more information on this topic. Immigration and race relations are at the top of voter's concerns and such tensions have prompted ministers to try to restrict numbers coming to live and work in the UK.</p> <p>Some proposed strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Government Association has recommended that a £250 million contingency fund be set up to assist councils under pressure from high levels of immigration. • The Conservatives have argued that annual limits on economic migration are required. • The Department for Communities and Local Government has pledged a £50 million "cohesion fund" to support councils and £10 million for schools with increasing pupil numbers.
<p>Lesson 2: Moving for money</p>	<p>Over time there have been many economic migrations.</p>	<p>Economic Migrants Report, IPPR 2007: the immigration status of communities in the UK according to their countries of birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees, working holidaymakers plus a large number of students. • Republic of Ireland: Have never been subject to UK immigration controls so free to live and work in the UK. Now enjoy EU national rights in the UK. • Poland: New EU nationals, free to come to the UK if they register on the Worker Registration Scheme, or are self-employed, or can prove they can support themselves without recourse to state benefits; settled community of Second World War refugees and European Volunteer Workers. • Pakistan: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees, plus students. • Bangladesh: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees. • South Africa: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, and working holidaymakers. • USA: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, and students. • Jamaica: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and a small number of asylum seekers and refugees. • Nigeria: Work permit holders, students, refugees and asylum seekers.

Economic migrations create issues for both the origin and destination countries.

- **China (including SARS):** Former Hong Kong residents, work permit holders, students, refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Kenya:** Older flows of settled migrants (including white Britons and Asians born in Kenya), recent work permit flows and a small number of asylum seekers.
- **Australia:** Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, students and working holidaymakers.
- **France:** EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
- **Zimbabwe:** Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Sri Lanka:** Commonwealth immigrants, students, refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Philippines:** Largely composed of work permit holders.
- **Italy:** EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
- **Ghana:** Largely composed of work permit holders.
- **Somalia:** Largely refugees and asylum seekers, with a small number of work permit holders.
- **Canada:** Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, students and working holidaymakers.
- **Turkey:** Some labour migrants and more recent flows of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Cyprus:** New EU nationals free to live and work in the UK; relatively large settled community.
- **Portugal:** EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
- **Iran:** Settled community of refugees from the Iranian Revolution, more recently arrived asylum seekers and refugees, and work permit holders.
- **Uganda:** Older flows of settled migrants (including Asians born in Uganda); recent work permit flows and some refugees and asylum seekers.

In May 2004, eight new countries joined the EU. They were: Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The government predicted that between 5,000 and 13,000 migrant workers would take advantage of the opportunity to come to the UK, but this was a significant underestimate. Since 2004, a reported 1 million migrant workers have come to the UK from these countries (IPPR report April 2008 – summary available in the BBC News article [EU migrants 'settling across UK'](#) 30/04/08).

Between May 2004 and December 2006, migrants from the 8 new EU countries filled gaps in the labour market, particularly in near minimum wage industries such as food, catering, agriculture or manufacturing and production. Factory workers comprised 37% of the total numbers of workers over the first two years, but many workers have now gone into administrative, business and clerical jobs, as well as catering and hospitality.

Transport has seen some substantial numbers – 16,000 workers over three years. Some 21,000 workers have gone into construction. Some 97% of registered workers were found to be working full time and the majority, as expected, were earning on the lower end of the scale between minimum wage (currently £5.73 an hour for workers over the age of 22) and £6 an hour. The BBC News website has produced a [map](#) to show levels of immigration from the new EU countries to different regions of the UK.

Poles are now the largest foreign national group in the UK, overtaking people born in India (many of whom are now British citizens). Before the EU expansion, Poles were the 13th largest group.

When Poland became a member of the European Union in 2004, its citizens won the freedom to work in Britain. There are really two reasons that explain why so many are choosing to exercise that freedom. First, the average annual income in Poland is £4,000 a year. Second, Poland has the highest unemployment rate in Europe.

Since Poland joined the EU in 2004, 274,065 Poles have signed up for work permits. They make up 66 per cent of all applications from Eastern European countries.

Poland represents the classic migration model in that it is work driven.

However, many of the migrants from the new EU member countries come to the UK on a temporary or seasonal basis, and about half of the 1 million have already returned home. In addition, the number of arrivals has now fallen to its lowest level since 2004, with only 40,000 applications between April and June 2008 – a drop of 14,000 on the same period in 2007 (see BBC News article [Drop in East European migration](#) – 21/08/08 – for more information on this topic). This may be because the Polish zloty has strengthened against the pound since 2004 so there is less money to send home. The current recession in the UK is another factor.

Low pay, long hours, lack of adequate accommodation, language barriers and a lack of knowledge about basic rights are all problems that migrants may face when moving to another country.

In the UK, there have been reports of employers exploiting migrant workers. This may involve paying workers below the minimum wage, not giving statutory sick pay or holidays, or providing substandard accommodation. (See BBC News article [Migrant workers 'facing problems'](#) – 11/06/06).

Workers may also face difficulties opening bank accounts, obtaining National Insurance numbers or getting work permits. Tensions between local and migrant populations may mean that it is not easy to make friends, join clubs or courses, or seek advice. International qualifications may not be recognised in the UK so some workers may be unable to find work in their particular area of expertise.

Some parts of the country, for example Scotland and Devon, now provide welcome packs for migrant workers

	<p>Economic migrations can shape places both now and in the future.</p>	<p>including important information to help them settle in the country.</p> <p>A report published by the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee in August 2008 entitled "Community Cohesion and Migration" found that many migrants make a significant contribution to their local community by working in public services such as the NHS. (Again, the BBC News article Immigration 'harming communities' (16/07/08) provides more information on this topic.)</p> <p>More facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-quarters of the migrants from the new EU member countries are aged 16-39 years. • The employment rate amongst these migrants is 84%, among the highest of all immigrant groups and 9% higher than for the UK-born population. • Very few post enlargement migrants claim state benefits. • Eastern European migrants work on average 4 hours per week longer than UK-born workers. • 44 million pints of Polish beer (Lech and Tyskie) are sold each year in the UK! <p>What if all the Poles went home? (BBC News website, 27/03/08)</p> <p>Reports that the numbers of Polish economic migrants are in decline will have implications for industry in the UK: particularly the construction and agricultural industries. Plumbers and carpenters are being tempted back to Poland as a result of construction programmes linked to the country's co-hosting of the 2012 European Championships. Construction linked to the London 2012 Olympics will require an estimated 87,500 builders each year, and a lack of available labour may prove to be a problem. In some parts of the country, expensive fruit crops have been left unpicked as migrant worker numbers are down on previous years. The decline in Eastern European economic migration is uncovering a major problem of a lack of a skilled local labour force in the UK.</p>
<p>Lesson 3: Leaving for lifestyle</p>	<p>Many retirees from the UK have migrated to Southern Spain.</p> <p>There are many reasons for this migration.</p>	<p>Figures show that more people are leaving Britain than at any time for more than a century. Between July 2005 and July 2006, 385,000 people left the country, 200,000 of whom were British citizens. The rest were foreign nationals returning home. Retirement, work opportunities and quality of life are thought to be the three main reasons that people choose to leave the UK. Australia and Spain are the most popular destinations, although there are 41 countries with more than 10,000 British people living there are a further 71 with more than 1,000. (See Exodus as 1.8m Britons leave the country – Daily Telegraph 22/08/07).</p> <p>At the moment, over 1 million UK pensioners live abroad. In 1981, the figure was just 250,000. It is estimated that by 2050, more than three million British pensioners will be living abroad. This trend has been called "silver flight". The biggest reason for this type of migration is the sunshine, but many migrants also mentioned the idea of retirement providing them with a "new start" in life. The cheaper cost of living is another draw.</p> <p>Australia is the most popular destination for UK migrants of pension age (245,000), followed by North America (190,000), Ireland (105,000) and Spain (75,000). In La Cala de Mijas, a town on the Costa del Sol in Spain,</p>

There are many issues which occur due to this migration.

one third of the residents are British.

Case study: Living the expat life (See [Three million will flee Britain to retire abroad](#) – Daily Telegraph 10/12/06).

Ray and Pat Mitchell, originally from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, moved to the Costa del Sol following their retirement five years ago. They are among the increasing number of retired people choosing to live overseas where the climate is better for their health, the cost of living is cheaper and a new culture provides a sense of adventure:

“I visited England recently...and everywhere I went people were moaning about how difficult it was to afford a reasonable lifestyle there. We have lots of friends here and we indulge ourselves by taking lots of long walks along the beach and eating out. Of course, it’s easy to do that here because everything is so much cheaper. The healthcare is good, and it is free once you become a resident here. I am sitting in my garden, the sun is shining and I can’t imagine ever moving back.”

William and Mazzirha Stead retired from Northampton to Motril, in Southern Spain:

“The UK is becoming too expensive... I receive a state pension and a small private pension, and my money goes 30% further here because everything is so much cheaper.”

“Northampton used to be a nice town. But it reaches the stage where we had to be careful where we went, because of young people causing trouble. Where we live now, the sun shines every day. We spend a lot of time visiting friends and the time flies.”

