

2.2.1 Hungarian immigrants in the United Kingdom

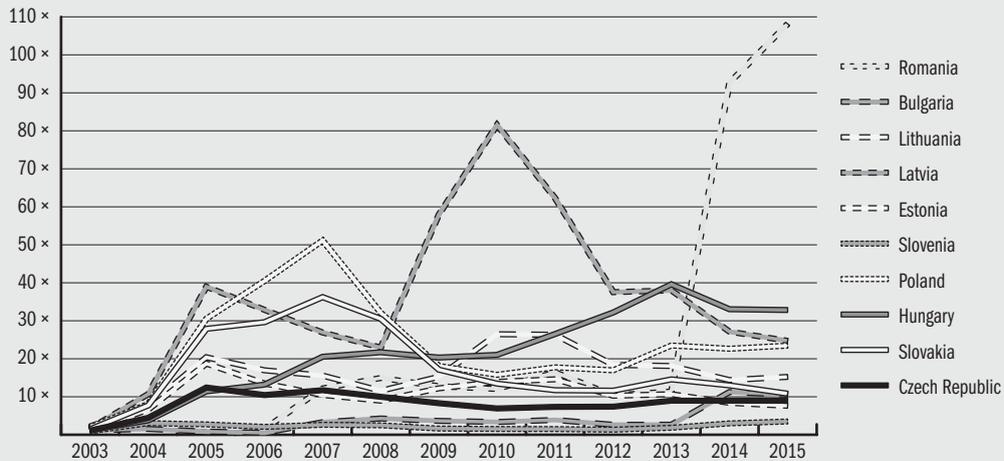
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For Hungarian citizens working abroad the United Kingdom is currently the second most important country of destination after Germany. In the seven years following the 2004 European Union accession – the period when the British labour market, in contrast to that of most other Western European countries, fully opened up for Hungarian workers – the number of immigrants originating from Hungary rose by 39,400. However, the greatest increase was registered in the following years: the number of Hungarian immigrants entering the National Insurance (NI) system between January 2011 and December 2015 was 48 percent higher than the number of those registering in the 2004–2011 period (DWP, 2016).

Hungarian migration trends differ from that of citizens of other countries in the region (*Figure 2.2.1.1*). Compared to pre-EU-accession levels,

since 2003, migration from the Baltic States has followed a “double-humped” trajectory, while migration from the Central-Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 mainly developed along a “single-humped” pattern peaking in 2007. From this pattern the mobility of those originating from Hungary has begun to deviate during 2008. In this year the relative rate of immigration from the other countries began to decline, while the immigration of Hungarian workers stabilised at 14,000 per year (twentyfold the pre-Accession annual levels), then began visibly increasing between 2010 and 2013, while since 2014 we witness a slight moderation. Today the immigration rate of Hungarians is the highest among those who became EU citizens at the same time as them, overtaken only by that of Romanian citizens who have had unrestricted access to the labour market since January 2014.

Figure 2.2.1.1: Patterns of Central-Eastern European migration in the United Kingdom (annual increments, 2002 = 100 percent)

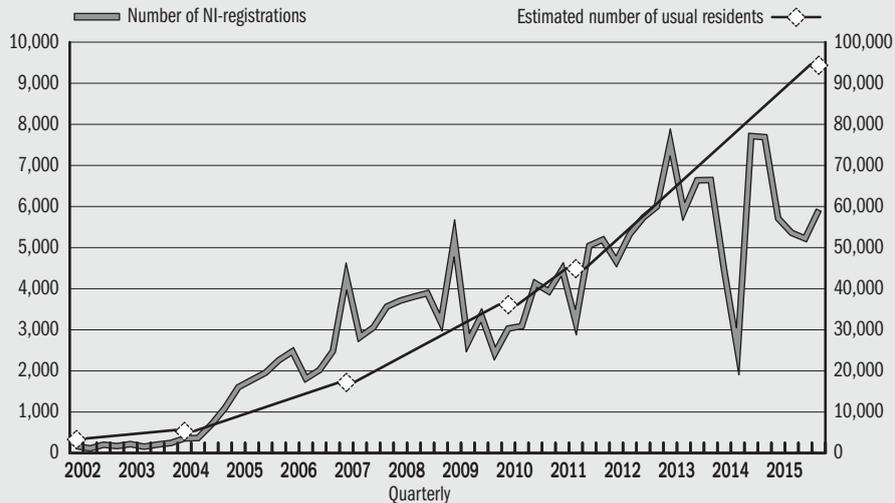


Source: Own elaboration based on DWP (2016) data.

According to our estimates – the methodology of which relies on an inferential procedure based on contrasting a Census 2011 dataset with NI data (for details see *Moreh*, 2014: 147–150) – at the begin-

ning of 2016 the number of usually resident Hungarians in the United Kingdom exceeded 94,000, which is more than double of the 44,877 Hungarian citizens registered in the Census (*Figure 2.2.1.2*).

Figure 2.2.1.2: Development of the number of Hungarian migrants in the United Kingdom (all NI registrations since 2002: 190 775)



Note: The dip in numbers in the April-June 2014 quarter is not an actual decrease, but, according to the DWP, it was caused by a change to the process of recording registrations. This, however, does not influence the yearly data.

Source: Own calculations based on different national data sources (see *Moreh*, 2014).

Although the British statistical sources do not permit the measurement of migration *flows*, (since there is no reliable data on the number of those leaving the country), the method used for estimating the number of Hungarian immigrants also allows us to make some inferences in this respect. Accordingly, if we compare the number of those who arrived after January 2004 and were still present on Census day with the number of NI numbers issued during the same period, we find that overall 50 percent of those issued with a National Insurance number were still present in 2011 at the time of the Census. However, 63 percent of those who obtained a NI number between 2004 and 2007 were still present, while of those who were registered during 2007–2010 and after 2010 only 45 and 47 percent (respectively) were present on the day of the Census. We can think of the proportion of those who had left in the meantime as the ‘onward migration rate’ or ‘mobility rate’, although other factors must have also contributed to the disparity noted above.

It is possible that among those who obtained a National Insurance Number during the three years following EU Accession there were many who had arrived earlier with plans of long-term settlement, but did not qualify to apply for a NINo before. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that a similar disparity also characterises the development of the ‘mobility rate’ of Polish migrants. In the case of Poles, 80 percent of those who arrived between 2004 and 2007 were present in 2011, compared to only 45 percent of those who arrived during 2007–2010, and 58 percent of those arriving between January 2010 and the day of the Census. Overall, however, as we can see, Hungarian migrants are more ‘mobile’ than the Poles.

There is a lack of reliable statistical data regarding Hungarian immigrants’ labour-market incorporation. However, the comparative analysis of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (UK–LFS) data series containing unique household data for the years 2008–2015 highlights some important character-

istics.¹ It is noteworthy, first of all, that among the Hungarians included in the sample the ratio of under-16s is 14 percent, which is similar to that observed among ‘old-EU’ national groups (EU-15),

¹ Since the number of Hungarians in each quarterly dataset is very low, in order to maximise the number of cases in our sample we have decided to aggregate data for the 2008–2015 period. However, aggregating data from each quarter is limited by the rotational panel sampling design of the LFS by which each selected household remains in the survey over five consecutive quarterly waves, while at the same time new households are introduced so that between any consecutive quarters there is an overlap of about 80 percent. Consequently, in order to work with unique cases, only every fifth quarter was included in the analysis, proceeding backwards from the latest available survey (July–September 2015). This method yielded a total of 527 unique cases (Hungarian national respondents).

but lower than in other ‘new-EU’ groups (EU-11) among whom the rate of those younger than 16 is 22 percent.

Restricting our sample to those aged 16 to 64 we find that the economic activity rate of immigrants originating from Hungary is somewhat higher than that of those from other ‘new’ member states, which is due mostly to the difference in the number of those economically ‘inactive’ who are ‘looking after the family home’ (*Table 2.2.1.1*). At the same time, among the economically active, the percentage of those self-employed is lower, which can be accounted for by the higher rates observed among Romanian and Bulgarian workers for whom it was difficult to obtain employee status before 2014. Furthermore, the unemployment rate – according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition – is also the lowest in the case of Hungarian migrants in our sample.

Table 2.2.1.1: Economic activity between 2008 and 2015 among the 16–64 year olds (percentage)

	Hungarian	UK	EU-15	EU-11*	Other foreign nationals	Total
Active	82.5	71.7	72.6	80.5	61.0	71.5
- Employee	73.3	61.7	61.8	67.6	52.8	61.4
- Self-employed	9.2	9.6	10.5	12.7	7.7	9.6
ILO unemployed	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.0	6.9	5.1
Inactive	12.8	23.2	22.0	14.5	32.1	23.4
- Inactive (student)	4.0	4.9	6.3	3.9	10.6	5.2
- Inactive (looking after family home)	5.8	5.5	6.4	7.7	12.6	5.9
- Inactive (retired)	0.2	4.4	2.6	0.3	1.1	4.2
- Inactive (other)	2.7	8.4	6.7	2.6	7.8	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
N	446	422,526	8,559	9,270	19,766	460,567

* EU-11 refers to the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007, without Hungary.
Source: *UK-LFS*.

Looking at employment broken down by main industries we find that more than one quarter of Hungarians in the UK are employed in one of the subdivisions of the ‘hotels and restaurants’ sector, a rate more than twice higher than in the case of those from EU-11 countries (*Table 2.2.1.2*). The ratio of health and social workers is also notably high-

er among Hungarians compared to other migrants from Central-Eastern Europe, while the percentage of those employed in manufacturing and construction is considerably lower. In respect to the latter industries, as we can see, Hungarian migrants in our sample are rather following the patterns of those from ‘old-EU’ member states.

Table 2.2.1.2: Active workers by main industry sectors between 2008 and 2015 (percentage)

	Hungarian	UK	EU-15	EU-11*	Other foreign nationals	Total
Hotels and restaurants	26.5	4.3	8.3	11.2	10.3	4.8
Wholesale, retail and motor trade	13.4	14.0	10.2	14.5	12.3	13.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	13.1	12.9	17.1	12.4	16.9	13.1
Health and social work	12.3	13.7	14.0	7.6	18.9	13.8
Manufacturing	11.5	10.8	9.3	23.2	8.2	10.9
Transport, storage and communication	6.3	6.2	6.2	8.5	5.9	6.3
Other community, social and personal	5.5	6.1	5.8	3.6	4.6	5.9
Construction	4.9	7.4	5.2	10.3	3.3	7.3
Education	3.8	10.6	12.3	2.8	7.8	10.3
Other	2.7	14.1	11.6	5.9	11.7	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
N	366	312,660	6,337	7,430	12,077	338,870

* EU-11 refers to the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007, discounting Hungary.

Source: UK-LFS.

References

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