

How many foreign-born people live in the East Midlands?

A total of 599,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 12.8% of the East Midlands's population of 4,673,000 in 2017, which is lower than the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Leicester (37.0%) and Boston (29.4%) with much lower shares in other areas such as Ashfield (2.4%) and Amber Valley (3.2%).

A majority of the foreign born in the East Midlands are from non-EU countries: 54% in 2017, which is lower than the UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

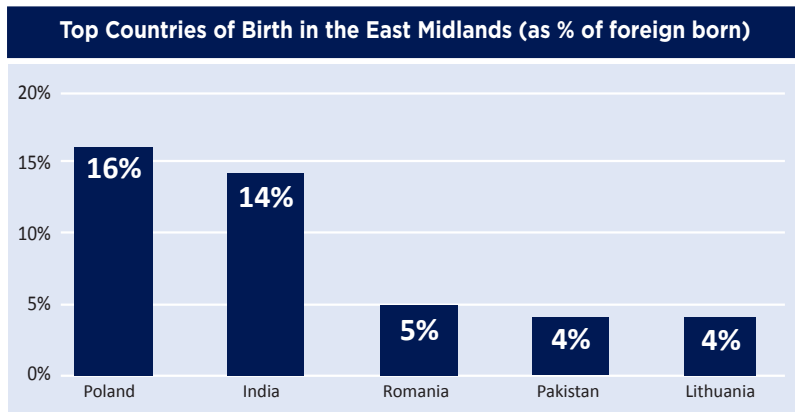
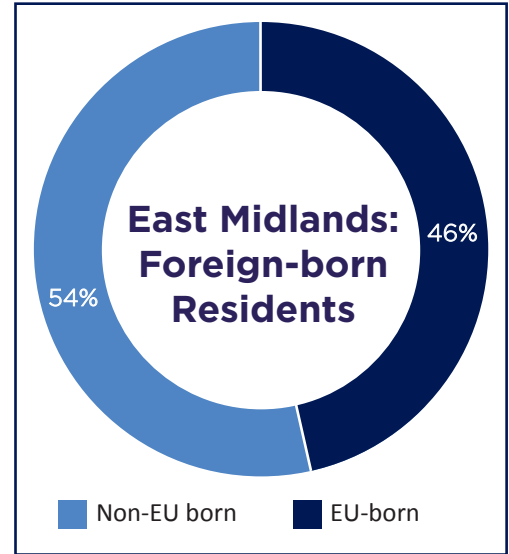
- **273,000 EU born residents** (6% of the population of East Midlands; 46% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **326,000 non-EU born residents** (7% of the population of East Midlands; 54% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **4,072,000 UK-born residents** (87% of the region's population)

What are the top countries of birth for migrants in the East Midlands?

Top countries of birth in the East Midlands in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 97,000 or 16% of foreign-born residents
- **India:** 84,000 or 14%
- **Romania:** 29,000 or 5%
- **Pakistan:** 25,000 or 4%
- **Lithuania:** 24,000 or 4%

All these countries are also among the top countries of origin for the UK as a whole.



UK's top 10 countries of birth	Percent of UK's foreign born
Poland	10%
India	9%
Pakistan	6%
Romania	4%
Republic of Ireland	4%
Germany	3%
Bangladesh	3%
Italy	2%
South Africa	2%
China	2%

What industries do foreign-born workers in the East Midlands work in?

Approximately 15% of people working in the East Midlands were foreign born in 2017, compared to a UK average of 18%. About 8% were born in EU countries (171,000 workers) and 7% in non-EU countries (165,000 workers).

The top industry employing EU migrants was manufacturing (43,000 EU-born workers), and the top industry employing non-EU migrants was retail and hospitality (36,000 non-EU born workers). These figures exclude seasonal agricultural work, which is not captured in the official data.

Industry in 2017	EU born	Non-EU born	Non-UK born	UK born	Total
Retail and hospitality	39,000 (9%)	36,000 (8%)	74,000 (17%)	368,000 (83%)	443,000 (100%)
Manufacturing	43,000 (14%)	25,000 (8%)	68,000 (22%)	237,000 (78%)	305,000 (100%)
Health and social work	13,000 (5%)	32,000 (12%)	46,000 (16%)	234,000 (84%)	280,000 (100%)
Transport and storage	30,000 (22%)	12,000 (9%)	42,000 (30%)	97,000 (70%)	139,000 (100%)
Professional services, finance and admin	14,000 (5%)	21,000 (7%)	35,000 (12%)	265,000 (88%)	301,000 (100%)
Other industries	32,000 (4%)	38,000 (5%)	70,000 (9%)	701,000 (91%)	772,000 (100%)
All industries	171,000 (8%)	165,000 (7%)	336,000 (15%)	1,903,000 (85%)	2,239,000 (100%)

All data in these profiles come from Migration Observatory analysis of the Office of National Statistics' Annual Population Survey (APS) for 2017. The APS is a survey of private households has important limitations. The estimates come with margins of error, which means that small differences between figures presented may not be statistically significant – especially where the estimate itself is relatively small. The APS excludes some people, such as residents of communal establishments like hostels, and other groups may be undercounted due to survey non-response. The data do not include seasonal workers, and therefore do not provide reliable figures for agriculture in particular. Note on industry definitions: the 'retail' industry includes wholesale and repair of motor vehicles.