How many foreign-born people live in London?

A total of 3,354,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 37.7% of London's population of 8,888,000 in 2017. This is more than double the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Newham (56.9%) and Brent (53.5%) with much lower shares in other areas such as Bromley (15.5%) and Havering (13.8%).

The majority of the foreign born in London are from non-EU countries: 68% in 2017, compared to a UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

- 1,066,000 EU-born residents (12% of the population of London; 32% of London's foreign-born residents)
- 2,288,000 non-EU born residents (26% of the population of London, 68% of London's foreign-born residents)
- 5,529,000 UK-born residents (62% of London's population)

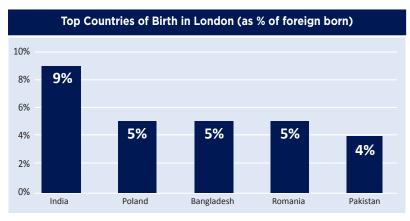
What are the top countries of birth for migrants in London?

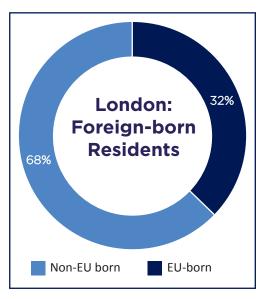
Top countries of birth in London in 2017 were:

• India: 300,000 or 9% of London's foreign born

Poland: 177,000 or 5%
Bangladesh: 154,000 or 5%
Romania: 153,000 or 5%
Pakistan: 127,000 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 London work in?

Approximately 45% of people working in London were foreign born in 2017, compared to a UK average of 18%. Around 16% were from EU countries (736,000 workers) and 29% from non-EU countries (1,349,000 workers).

The top industry employing foreign-born workers was retail (245,000 foreign-born workers). The top industry employing EU migrants was construction (124,000 EU-born workers) and the top industry employing non-EU migrants was health and social work (183,000 non-EU born workers).

Industry in 2017	EU born	Non-EU born	Non-UK born	UK born	Total
Retail	73,000 (15%)	172,000 (34%)	245,000 (49%)	255,000 (51%)	500,000 (100%)
Health and social work	54,000 (11%)	183,000 (36%)	237,000 (47%)	266,000 (53%)	503,000 (100%)
Professional, scientific and technical activities	80,000 (14%)	145,000 (25%)	224,000 (39%)	349,000 (61%)	573,000 (100%)
Hospitality	73,000 (29%)	110,000 (43%)	183,000 (72%)	72,000 (28%)	255,000 (100%)
Construction	124,000 (39%)	49,000 (15%)	173,000 (54%)	145,000 (46%)	318,000 (100%)
Education	53,000 (12%)	113,000 (25%)	166,000 (36%)	291,000 (64%)	457,000 (100%)
Admin and support	55,000 (20%)	88,000 (33%)	143,000 (53%)	127,000 (47%)	269,000 (100%)
Information and communication	46,000 (13%)	87,000 (25%)	133,000 (39%)	211,000 (61%)	344,000 (100%)
Finance	41,000 (14%)	90,000 (30%)	131,000 (44%)	167,000 (56%)	299,000 (100%)
Transport and storage	28,000 (13%)	98,000 (45%)	126,000 (59%)	89,000 (41%)	215,000 (100%)
Manufacturing	32,000 (19%)	58,000 (34%)	89,000 (53%)	80,000 (47%)	169,000 (100%)
Public administration and defense	18,000 (7%)	67,000 (25%)	84,000 (32%)	178,000 (68%)	263,000 (100%)
Arts, entertainment and recreation	19,000 (13%)	23,000 (15%)	42,000 (28%)	108,000 (72%)	151,000 (100%)
Other industries	41,000 (14%)	68,000 (23%)	109,000 (37%)	182,000 (63%)	291,000 (100%)
All industries	736,000 (16%)	1,349,000 (29%)	2,085,000 (45%)	2,521,000 (55%)	4,607,000 (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.