

How many foreign-born people live in Scotland?

A total of 477,000 people born outside of the UK made up an estimated 9.0% of Scotland's population of 5,311,000 in 2017, which is lower than the UK average of 14.4%.

Approximately 50% of the foreign-born population is from EU countries, which is considerably higher than the UK average of 39.5%. In 2017 there were:

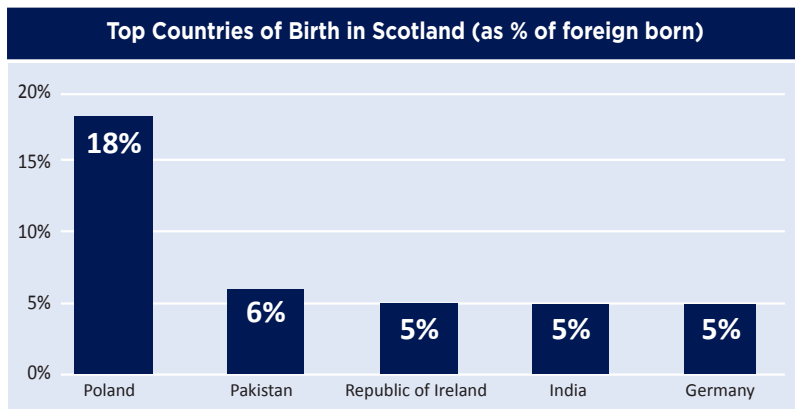
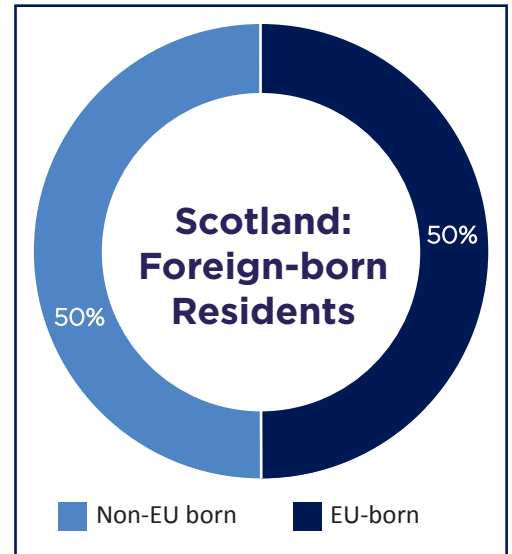
- **239,000 EU-born residents** (5% of the population of Scotland; 50% of Scotland's foreign-born residents)
- **238,000 non-EU born residents** (5% of the population of Scotland 50% of Scotland's foreign-born residents)
- **4,839,000 UK-born residents** (91% of Scotland's population)

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

Top countries of birth in Scotland in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 84,000 or 18% of the region's foreign born
- **Pakistan:** 28,000 or 6%
- **Ireland:** 25,000 or 5%
- **India:** 24,000 or 5%
- **Germany:** 23,000 or 5%

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 Scotland work in?

Approximately 11% of people working in Scotland were foreign born in 2017, lower than the UK average of 18%. About 6% were born in EU countries (162,000 workers) and 5% in non-EU countries (130,000 workers).

The industry employing both EU and non-EU born workers was public administration, health and education (29,000 EU-born workers and 38,000 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
Health, education and public administration	29,000 (4%)	38,000 (5%)	67,000 (8%)	738,000 (92%)	804,000 (100%)
Professional services, finance and admin	28,000 (7%)	23,000 (5%)	50,000 (12%)	363,000 (88%)	414,000 (100%)
Hospitality	25,000 (15%)	17,000 (10%)	41,000 (25%)	121,000 (75%)	163,000 (100%)
Retail	23,000 (7%)	15,000 (4%)	38,000 (11%)	296,000 (89%)	334,000 (100%)
Other industries	57,000 (6%)	38,000 (4%)	95,000 (11%)	798,000 (89%)	893,000 (100%)
All industries	162,000 (6%)	130,000 (5%)	291,000 (11%)	2,317,000 (89%)	2,608,000 (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.