

How many foreign-born people live in Wales?

A total of 193,000 people born outside the UK made up an estimated 6.3% of Wales's population of 3,081,000 in 2017, which is significantly lower than the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Cardiff (15.5%) and Swansea (10.3%) with much lower shares in other areas such as Rhondda Cynon Taf (2.1%) and Caerphilly (2.3%).

A majority of the foreign born in Wales are from non-EU countries, although at 53% in 2017 this was lower than the UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

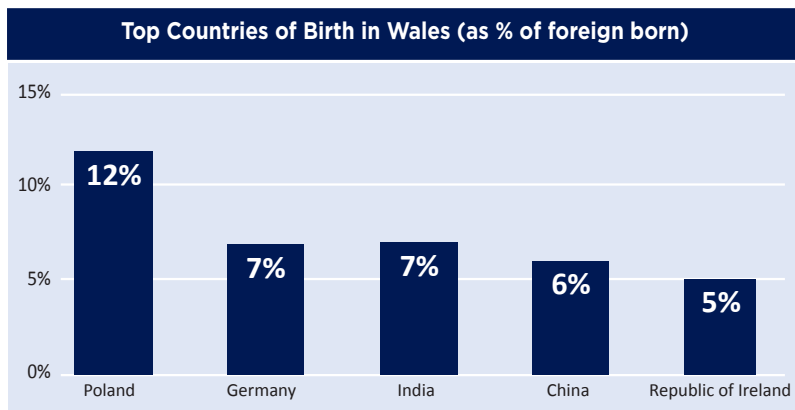
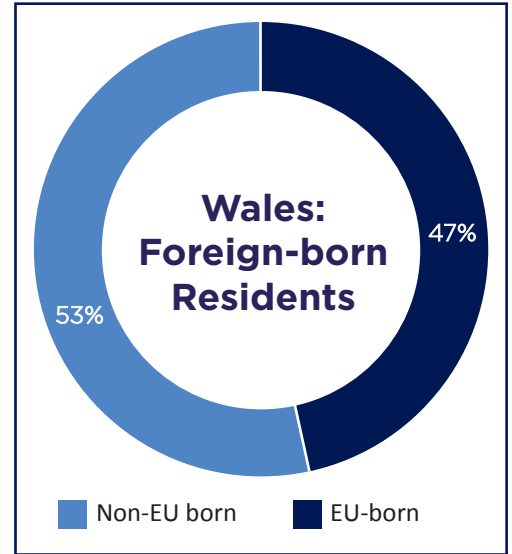
- **90,000 EU-born residents** (3% of the population of Wales; 47% of Wales' foreign-born residents)
- **103,000 non-EU born residents** (3% of the population of Wales, 53% of Wales' foreign-born residents)
- **2,887,000 UK-born residents** (94% of Wales' population)

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

Top countries of birth in Wales in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 24,000 or 12% of Wales' foreign-born
- **Germany:** 13,000 or 7%
- **India:** 13,000 or 7%
- **China:** 11,000 or 6%
- **Ireland:** 9,000 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 Wales work in?

Approximately 7% of people working in Wales in 2017 were foreign born, compared to a UK average of 18%. About 4% were born in EU countries (52,000 workers) and 4% in non-EU countries (54,000 workers).

The top industry employing both EU and non-EU born workers was health, education and public administration (12,000 EU-born workers and 21,000 non-EU born workers).

Industry in 2017	EU born	Non-EU born	Non-UK born	UK born	Total
Health, education and public administration	13,000 (3%)	21,000 (4%)	34,000 (7%)	451,000 (93%)	485,000 (100%)
Retail and hospitality	11,000 (4%)	13,000 (5%)	24,000 (9%)	256,000 (91%)	280,000 (100%)
Other industries	28,000 (4%)	20,000 (3%)	48,000 (7%)	609,000 (93%)	658,000 (100%)
All industries	52,000 (4%)	54,000 (4%)	106,000 (7%)	1,316,000 (92%)	1,423,000 (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.