Migration Observatory Regional Profile | Yorkshire and the Humber

How many foreign-born people live in Yorkshire and the Humber?

A total of 535,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 10.0% of Yorkshire and Humber's population of 5,375,000 in 2017, which is lower than the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Bradford (15.8%) and Sheffield (13.6%) with much lower shares in other areas such as North East Lincolnshire (5.1%) and East Riding (5.7%).

Most migrants in Yorkshire and the Humber are from non-EU countries: 56% in 2017, compared to a UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:
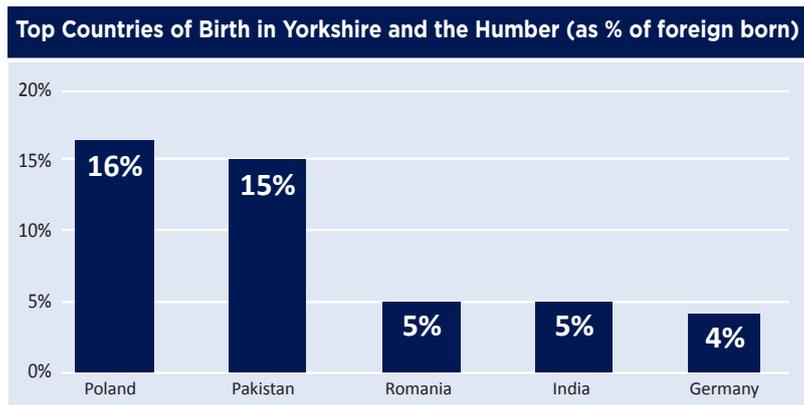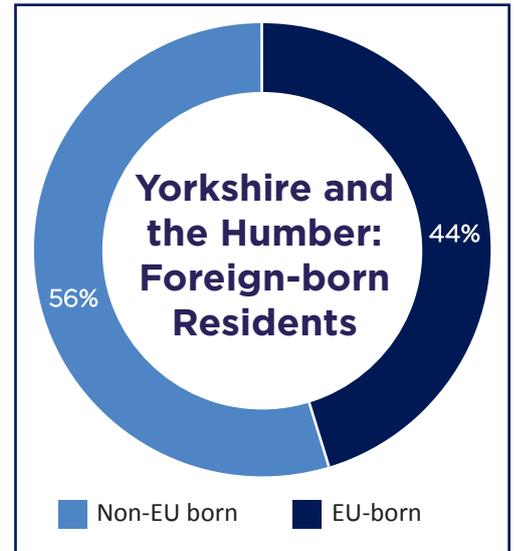
- **236,000 EU-born residents** (4% of the region's population; 44% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **299,000 non-EU born residents** (6% of the region's population; 56% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **4,839,000 UK-born residents** (90% of the region's population)

What are the top countries of birth for migrants in Yorkshire and the Humber?

The top countries of birth in Yorkshire and the Humber in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 83,000 or 16% of the region's foreign born
- **Pakistan:** 80,000 or 15%
- **Romania:** 29,000 or 5%
- **India:** 26,00 or 5%
- **Germany:** 21,000 or 4%

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

Yorkshire and the Humber: Foreign-born Residents

- Non-EU born 56%
- EU-born 44%

Top Countries of Birth in Yorkshire and the Humber (as % of foreign born)

Poland	16%
Pakistan	15%
Romania	5%
India	5%
Germany	4%

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 Yorkshire and the Humber work in?

Approximately 12% of people working in Yorkshire and Humber are foreign born, lower than the UK average of 18%. This includes 6% from EU countries (154,000 workers) and 6% from non-EU countries (56,000 workers).

The top industry grouping employing EU migrants in 2017 was retail (38,000 EU-born workers), and the top industry grouping employing non-EU migrants was health, education and public administration (49,000 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	26,000 (3%)	49,000 (6%)	75,000 (10%)	710,000 (90%)	785,000 (100%)
Retail	38,000 (10%)	23,000 (6%)	61,000 (16%)	326,000 (84%)	387,000 (100%)
Manufacturing	34,000 (11%)	14,000 (5%)	48,000 (16%)	249,000 (84%)	297,000 (100%)
Hospitality	15,000 (10%)	20,000 (13%)	34,000 (23%)	117,000 (77%)	151,000 (100%)
Professional services, finance and admin	12,000 (4%)	17,000 (5%)	29,000 (8%)	319,000 (92%)	348,000 (100%)
Transport and storage	12,000 (9%)	14,000 (10%)	25,000 (19%)	105,000 (81%)	130,000 (100%)
Other industries	17,000 (4%)	20,000 (4%)	37,000 (8%)	409,000 (91%)	446,000 (100%)
All industries	154,000 (6%)	156,000 (6%)	309,000 (12%)	2,236,000 (88%)	2,545,000 (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.