# UK Records 10% Drop in Net Migration for 2023, ONS Data Shows



Net migration to the UK fell by 10% in 2023, according to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The net migration figure, which represents the difference between arrivals and departures, was 685,000 as of December 2023, down from 764,000 in 2022. This previous estimate was revised upward by 19,000 due to more complete data.

The ONS reported that around 1.22 million people migrated to the UK last year, while 532,000 left the country. The organization cautioned that it's too early to determine if this decline marks the beginning of a new trend.

The primary driver for migration in 2023 was work-related reasons, with a significant increase in non-EU migrants, particularly from India and Nigeria, mainly in the health and social care sectors. Non-EU immigration for work purposes rose from 277,000 in 2022 to 423,000 in 2023.

The number of people arriving for humanitarian reasons, such as from Ukraine and Hong Kong, dropped substantially from 160,000 in 2022 to 50,000 in 2023. Additionally, there was a noted increase in emigration, especially among non-EU nationals who initially entered on study visas.

These statistics are significant in the political landscape, as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has called for a general election on July 4, making immigration a key issue. The Home Office noted that recent policy changes aimed at reducing legal migration are beginning to take effect, although these measures started in early 2024 and are not reflected in the 2023 figures.