



Home Office

COMPAS Breakfast Briefing

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What do we know about the reasons for migration and the social and economic characteristics of migrants in the UK?

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Three important publications on migration from Home Office analysts published in 2014

1. [Employment and occupational skill levels among UK and foreign nationals](#) (Home Office, Feb 2014)
2. [The reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad](#) (Home Office, Sept 2014)
3. [Social and Economic Characteristics by Length of Residence of Migrant Populations in England and Wales](#) (ONS, Nov 2014)

Employment and occupational skill levels among UK and foreign nationals

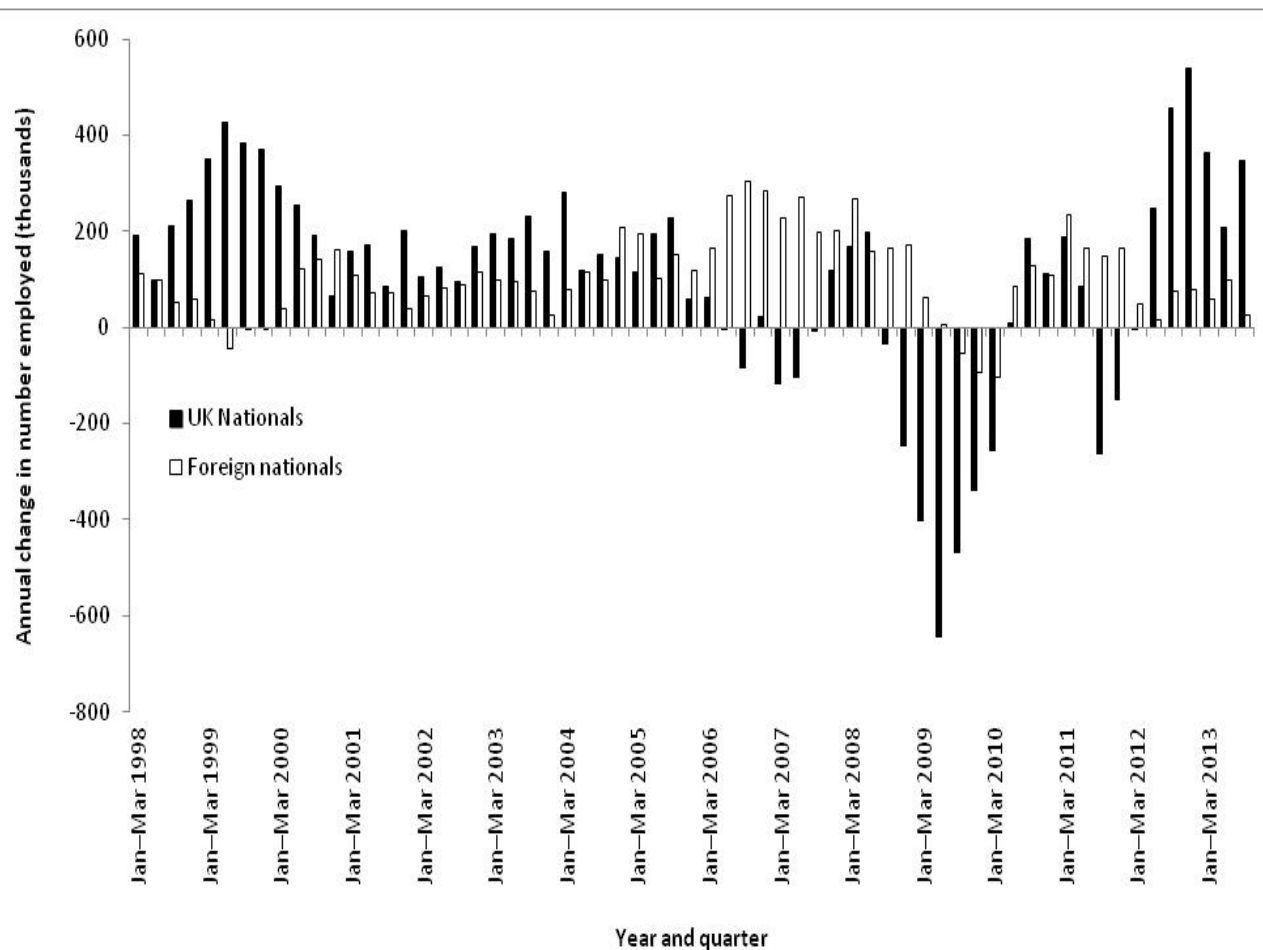
This report looks at the trends over the last decade in levels of employment and skills amongst UK national and foreign workers.

It uses published Labour Force Survey (LFS) data to provide new insights into labour market trends. It also groups occupations into higher and lower skilled jobs using the ONS Standard Occupational Classification to look at the changes in the composition of types of jobs held by UK and foreign nationals.

The report specifically uses foreign nationality rather than country of birth, given that the immigration rules governing employment rights differ according to nationality and not country of birth.

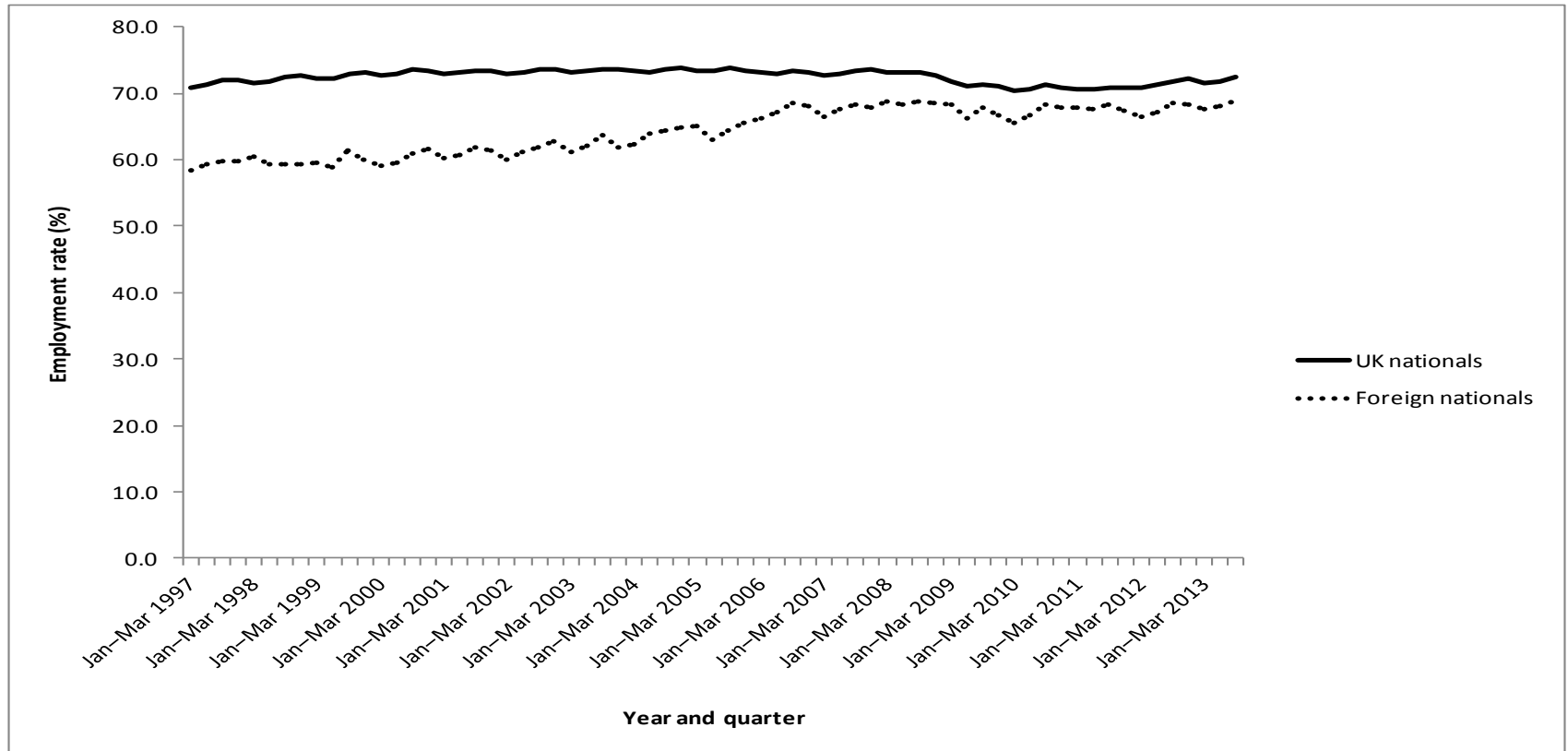
The trends in the changing levels of employment

Annual change in number employed, UK nationals and foreign nationals, by quarter, 1998-2013



- ❑ Strong growth in employment for both UK and foreign nationals from the late 1990s until the start of 2006
- ❑ UK nationals accounted for around 77 per cent of the rise in employment from late 1990s until 2004.
- ❑ Between EU8 accession and the recession this reversed and foreign nationals account for 78 per cent of the rise in employment.
- ❑ Post-recession UK nationals have accounted for between two thirds and three quarters of the employment growth.

Employment rates for foreign nationals were considerably lower than those for UK nationals, but have risen rapidly over the past decade

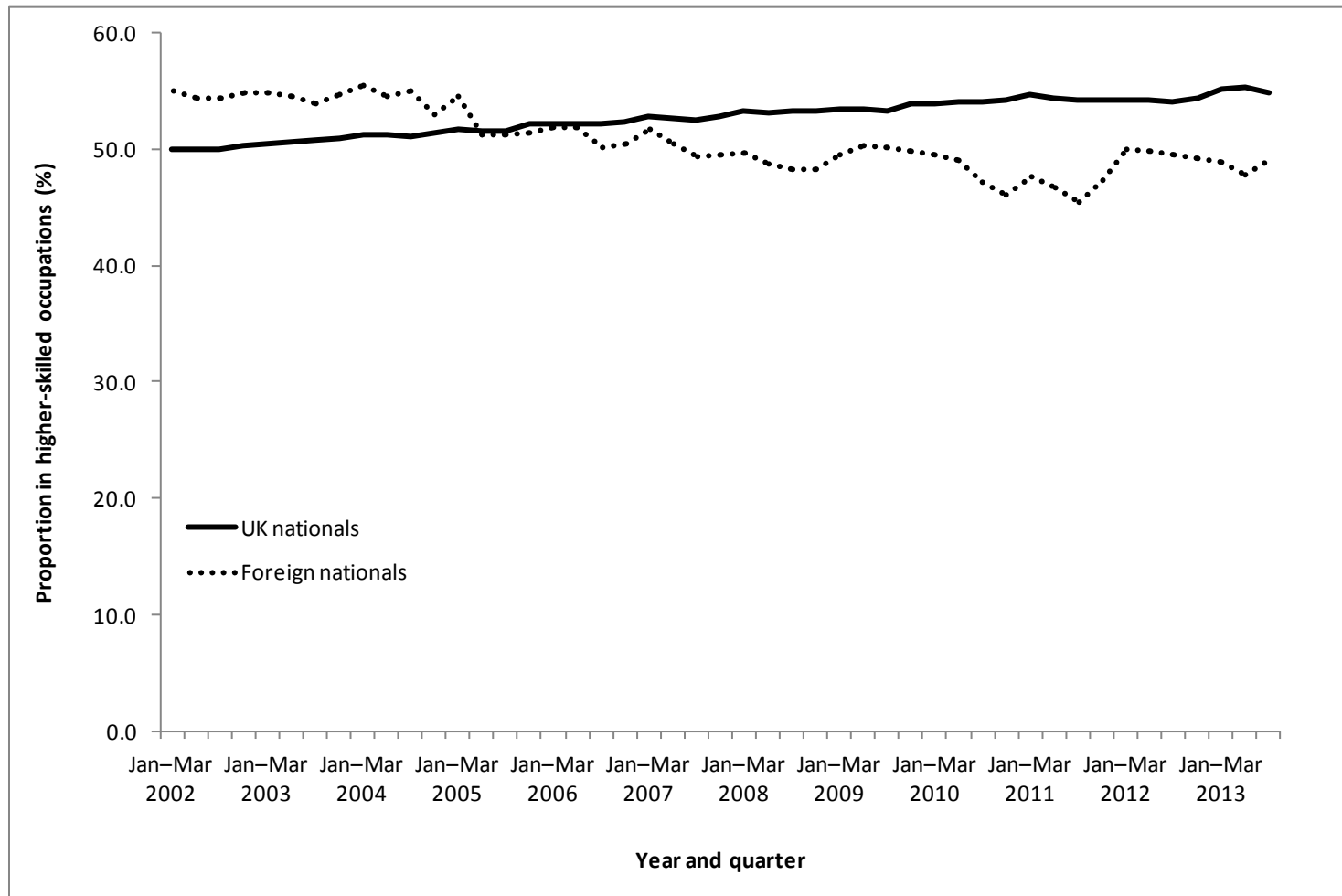


- From 2004 on, EU accession changes the composition of the foreign workforce
- Non-EU migrants become British citizens
- Non-EU immigration policy focuses on 'the brightest and the best'

Employment Rate (Age 16-64)	UK Nationals	UK Born	Foreign Nationals	Foreign Born
Jan-Mar 1997	70.9	71.3	58.4	61.1
Jan-Mar 2013	71.3	71.7	67.3	67.1

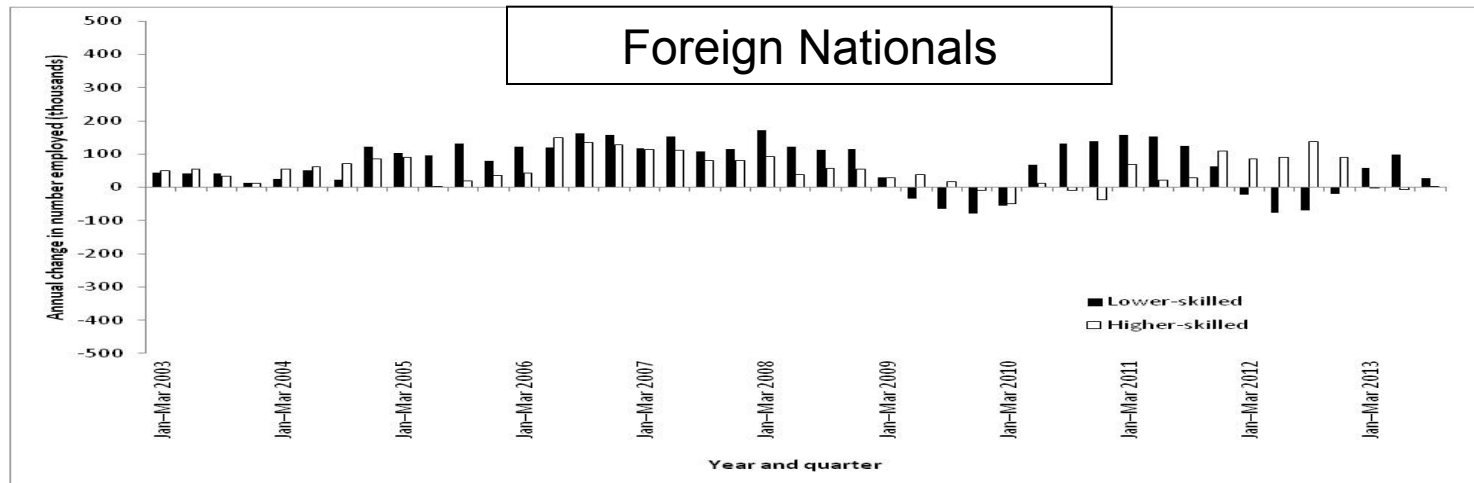
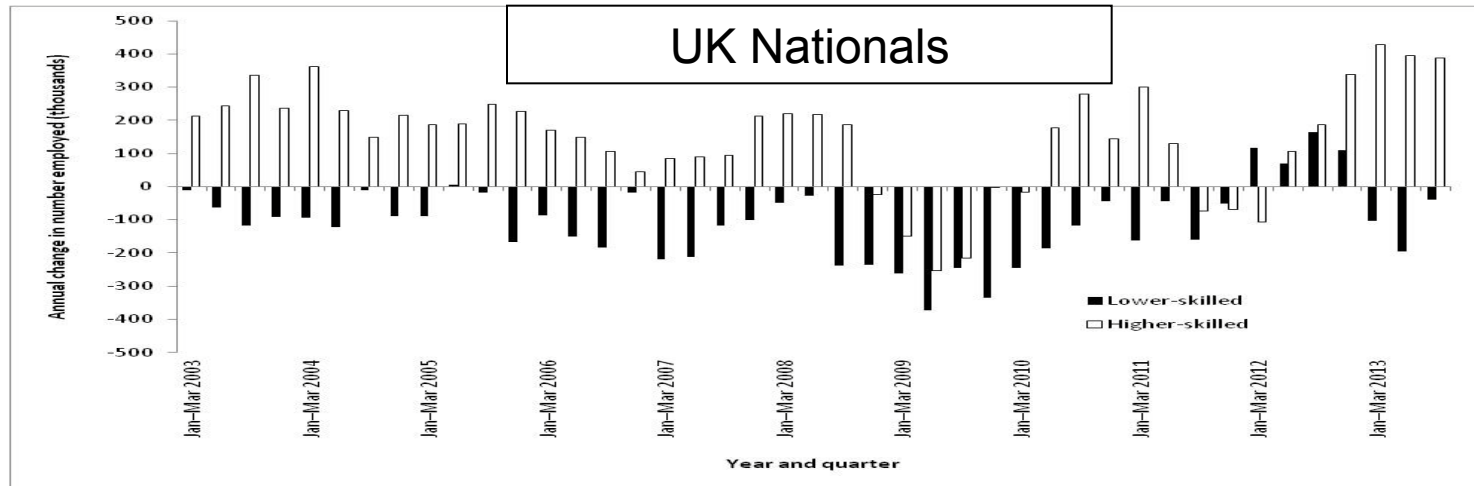
The proportion of UK nationals in higher-skilled employment has been rising as foreign nationals have increasingly been used to fill lower-skilled jobs

Proportion of employed UK and foreign nationals in higher-skilled occupations, by quarter, 2002-2013



2003-13 UK nationals working in skilled jobs; low-skilled work increasingly taken by foreign workers

Annual change in number employed in lower- and higher-skilled occupations for UK and foreign nationals by quarter, 2003-2013



The reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad

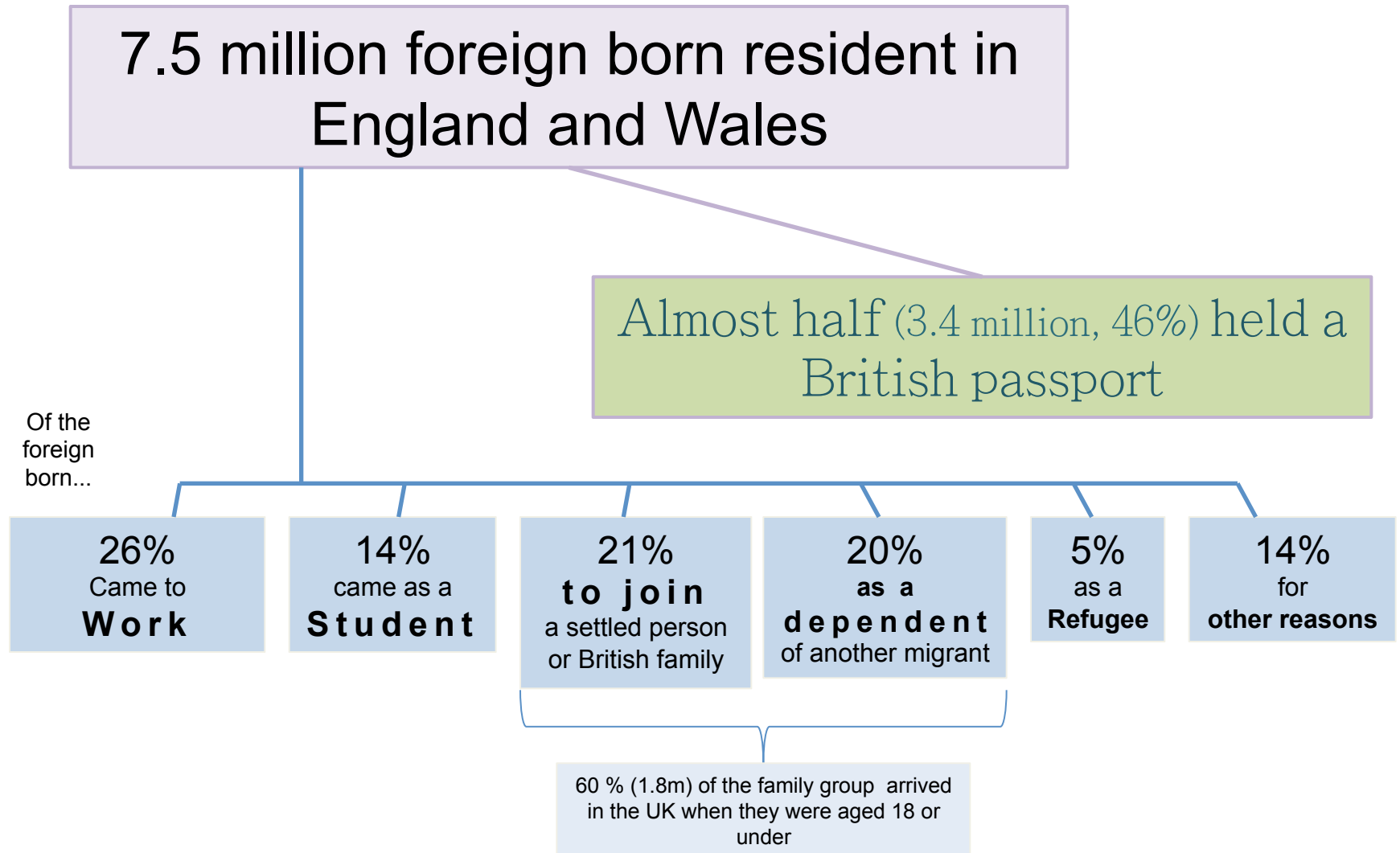
Labour market analysis of migrants has not previously been able to ascertain why people came to the UK. In 2010 the Home Office sponsored a new question (WHYUK) in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which asked adults who were born abroad to give their main reason for originally coming to the UK.

The response options are:

1. *Employment*
2. *Study*
3. *To conduct a marriage ceremony in the UK (short-term visit only)*
4. *As a spouse/dependant of a UK citizen or person settled in the UK*
5. *As a spouse/dependant of someone coming to the UK*
6. *Seeking asylum*
7. *As a visitor*
8. *Other reason.*

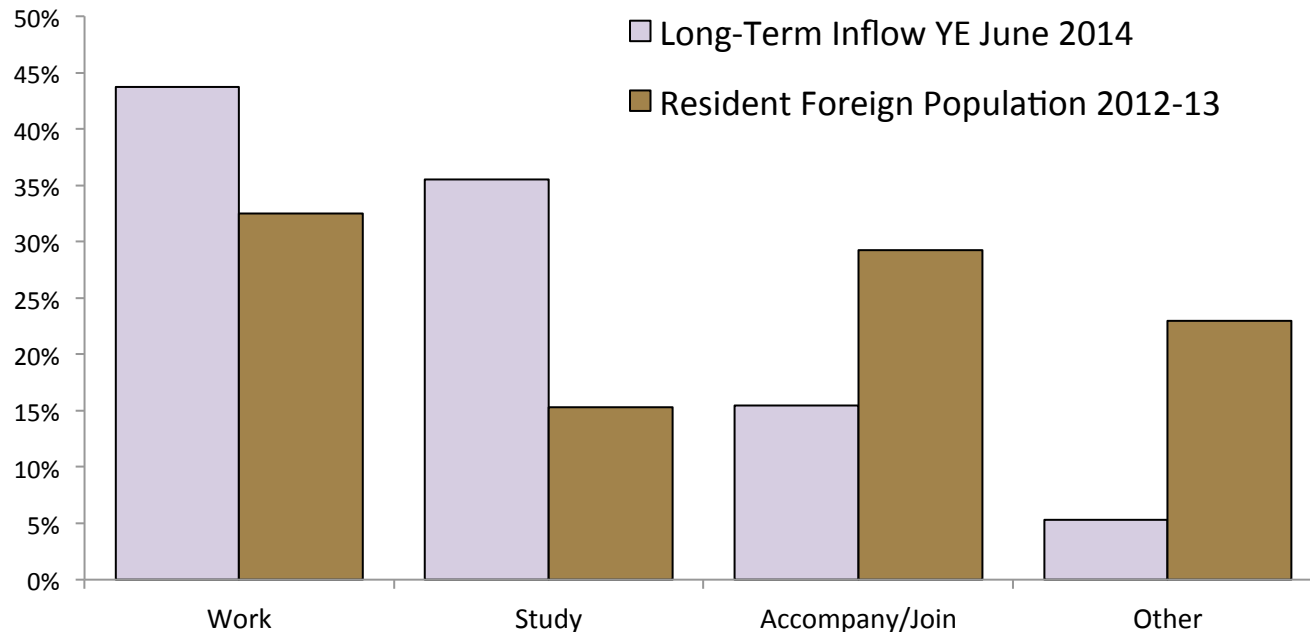
Alongside the demographic and labour market information available in the LFS and the APS, the responses to this question allow the comparison of the characteristics of migrants who originally came to the UK for different purposes.

The reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad



Immigration inflow measured by the IPS is dominated by work and study. The resident foreign population is influenced more by family links and other factors.

The composition of total foreign immigration inflow (IPS, YE June 2014) and the resident foreign national population (APS, 2012-13), United Kingdom



Source: ONS Long-term International Migration (LTIM) and HO research report 'The Reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad' (2014)

Long-term international migration inflows are based on the international passenger survey. From a new variable in the Labour Force Survey we have also been able to look at the numbers of residents according to their original reason for coming to the UK. Around 30% of resident foreign nationals (and 40% of the foreign born) came for family reasons.

For non-EEA born family dominates (23% came as a family member, 21% as dependents); for EEA born migrants work is more important but was only the main reason for 44% of usually resident, for the non-EEA born that figure is 17%.

Work was the most common reason for coming to the UK for EU migrants but still accounted for less than half of all EU migrants. It is far less important for migrants overall.

Table 2: Proportion of foreign born residents, by original reason for coming to the UK, 2012–13

	EEA born (%)	Non-EEA born (%)	All foreign born (%)
Economic	44	17	26
Study	10	15	14
Family	15	23	21
Dependant	18	21	20
Refugee	0	7	5
Other	12	15	14
Total	100	100	100

Source: Annual Population Survey, 2012–13 average – Home Office calculations. Notes: Males and females, all ages.

A majority of Pakistani born (58%) and Bangladeshi born (66%), and almost half of Indian born (47%) residents came to the UK originally for family reasons;

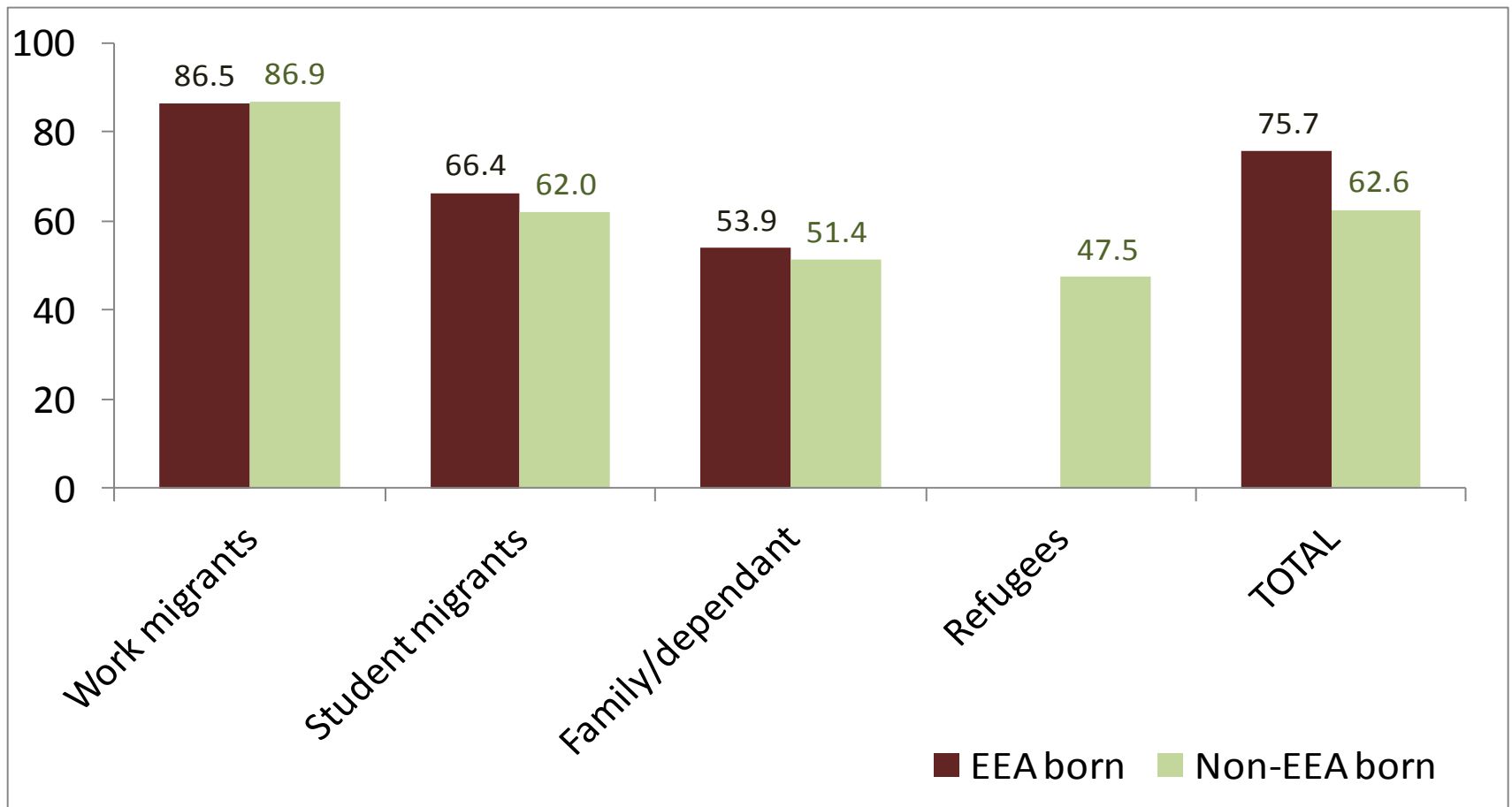
Student immigration was relatively common for migrants from India (12%) and USA (13%), but was most prevalent among Nigerian born (30%) migrants;

The majority of Polish born (60%), Lithuanian born (55%) and Latvian born (61%) residents came to the UK to seek employment;

One-third of Irish born (31%) and a larger proportion of German born (64%) residents were either family or dependant migrants.

The labour market outcomes of different groups vary considerably

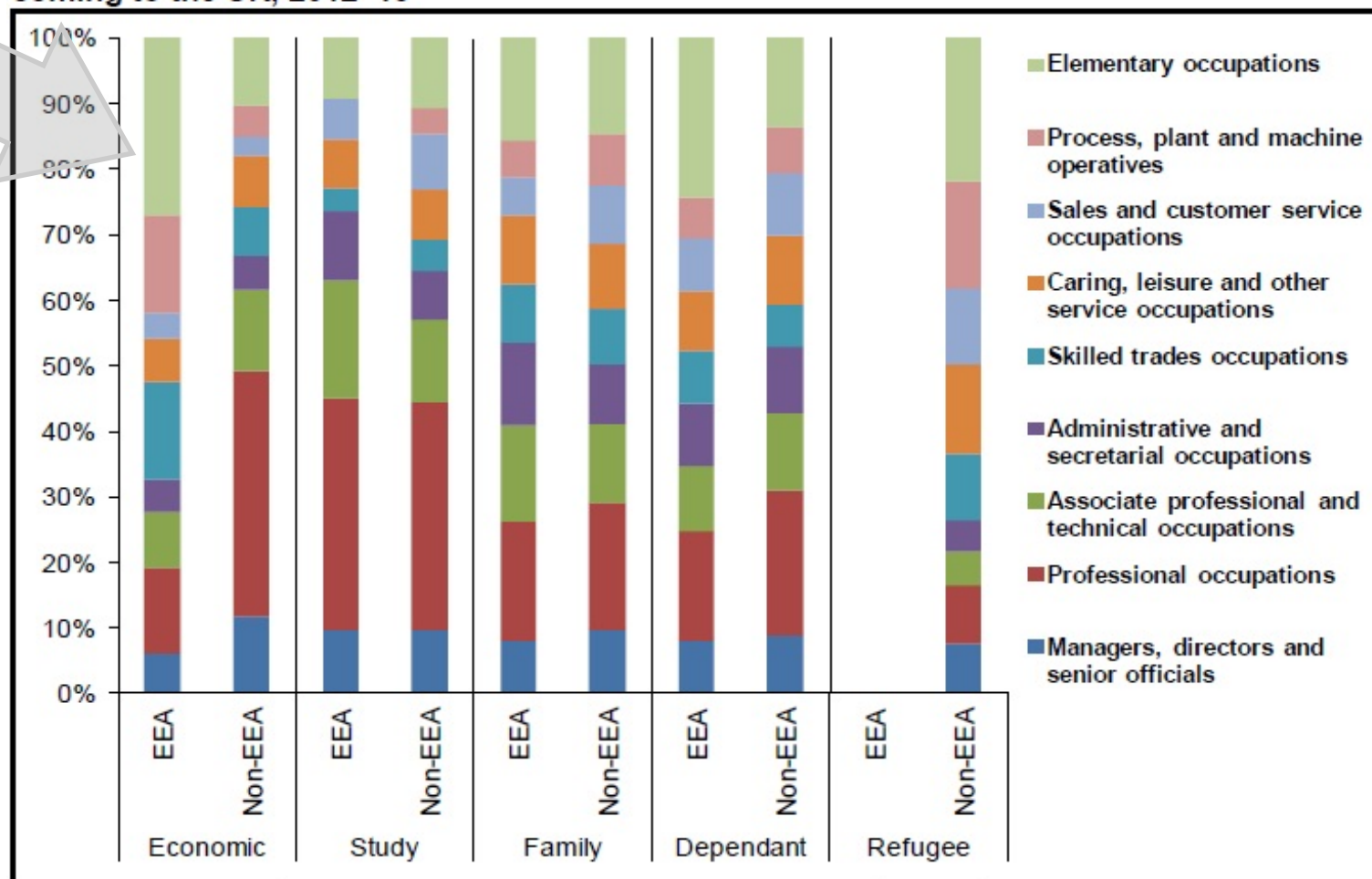
Employment rates (%) for foreign born residents aged 16 and over, by original reason for coming to the UK



Source: HO report 'The Reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad' (2014)

Employed EEA and non-EEA born migrants have a similar occupational mix for former students and dependents, but work migrants differ considerably

Figure 1: Occupational mix of employed EEA and non-EEA born migrants, by reasons for coming to the UK, 2012–13



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2012–13 average – Home Office calculations. Notes: Men and women, aged 16–64. Estimates for 'Refugee EEA' are suppressed as they are not considered statistically reliable.

Social and economic characteristics of migrant populations in England and Wales

Some things we already half-knew:

- Half (50% or 3.8 million) of the usually resident foreign-born population in England and Wales in 2011 came to the UK in the ten years prior to the 2011 Census; however, around a quarter had been resident in the UK for over 30 years.
- Almost half (46%) of the total foreign-born population who were resident at the time of the 2011 Census held a UK passport; this increased to more than three quarters (77%) among those who had been resident in the UK for 30 years or more.
- Of the 6 million foreign-born population aged 16 to 64, 63% were in employment, a slightly lower level than the UK-born population (69%). Those born within the rest of the EU were more likely to be in employment (73%) than UK-born or those born outside the EU (59%).
- Recent arrivals (2007-2011) were more highly qualified than those who had been in the UK for longer, with only 11% reporting no qualifications compared to 32% of those who had lived in the UK for more than 30 years. This is likely to reflect high number of students amongst recent arrivals (2007-2011).
- **Key question: what happens to people who migrate? Do they become more like the original population over time or do differences/inequalities remain?**

Economic activity

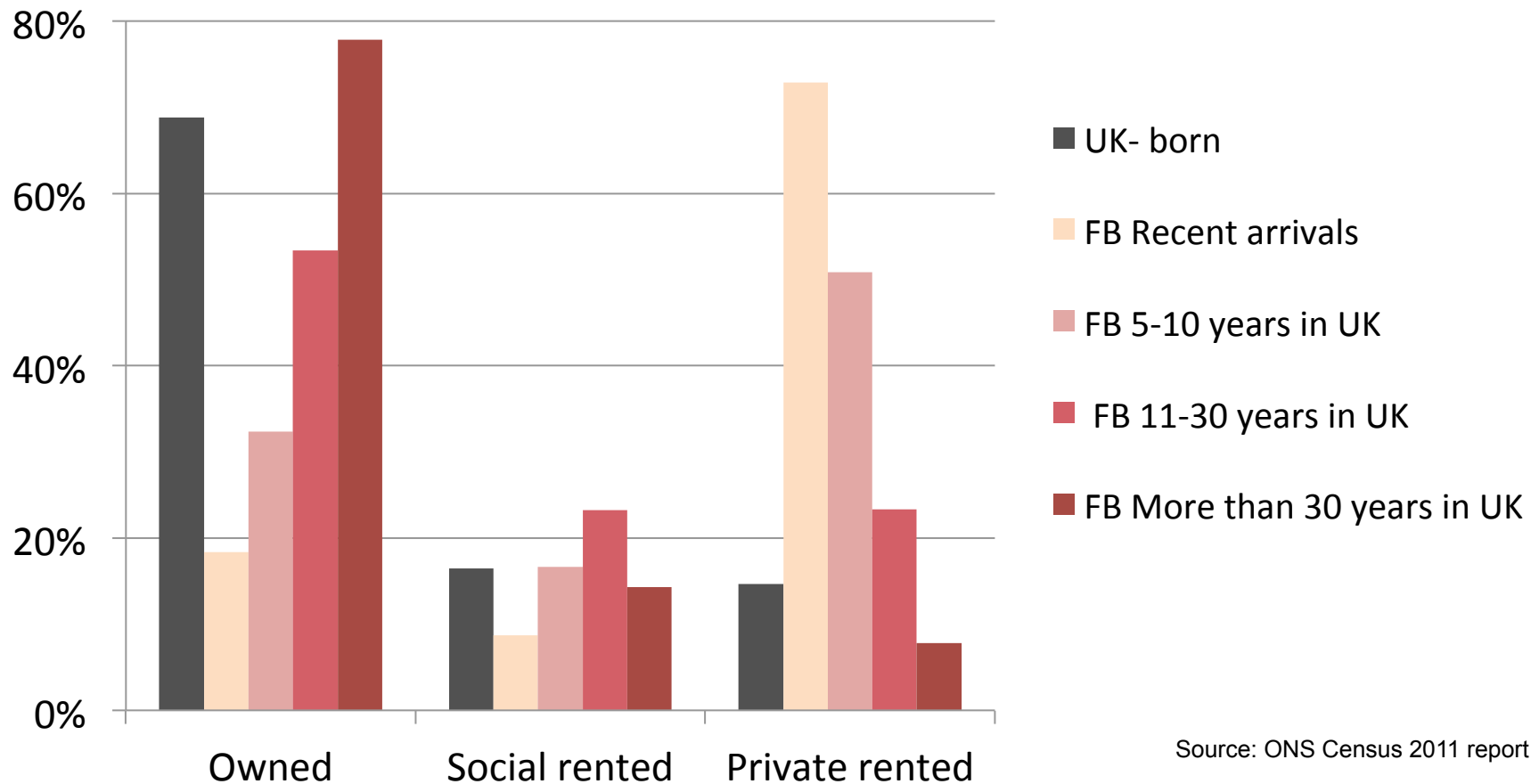
Table 3: Economic activity of UK-born and non-UK born aged 16-64 populations by length of residence and region of birth

Economic activity		Total in thousands (%)	Recent arrivals %	5-10 years %	11-30 years %	More than 30 years %
Economically active: employed	UK born	20,861 (69.0)				
	Non-UK born	3,812 (63.2)	53.2	67.3	64.8	67.9
	EU born	1,361 (73.3)	69.3	79.8	73.0	69.0
	Non-EU born	2,451 (58.7)	42.9	60.6	62.6	67.5
Economically active: unemployed	UK born	1,466 (4.8)				
	Non-UK born	319 (5.3)	5.2	5.2	6.1	4.2
	EU born	76 (4.1)	4.6	3.6	4.6	3.6
	Non-EU born	243 (5.8)	5.7	6.1	6.5	4.4

Source: ONS Census 2011 report

- Those aged 16 to 64 years born outside the UK were less likely to be in employment (63%) than the UK-born population (69%), largely due to the larger proportion that were studying. However those born in the EU were more likely to be employed (73%) than the UK-born population.
- Of foreign-born residents who had been in the UK for 5-10 years and 11-30 years, those born in Bangladesh (43% and 46% respectively) and Pakistan (50% and 48% respectively) had the lowest proportions in employment. This is largely due to the high proportions of women who were looking after home or family in these groups (62-63%), compared to the total non-UK-born population (26% for those resident 11-30 years; 21% of those resident 30 years or more).

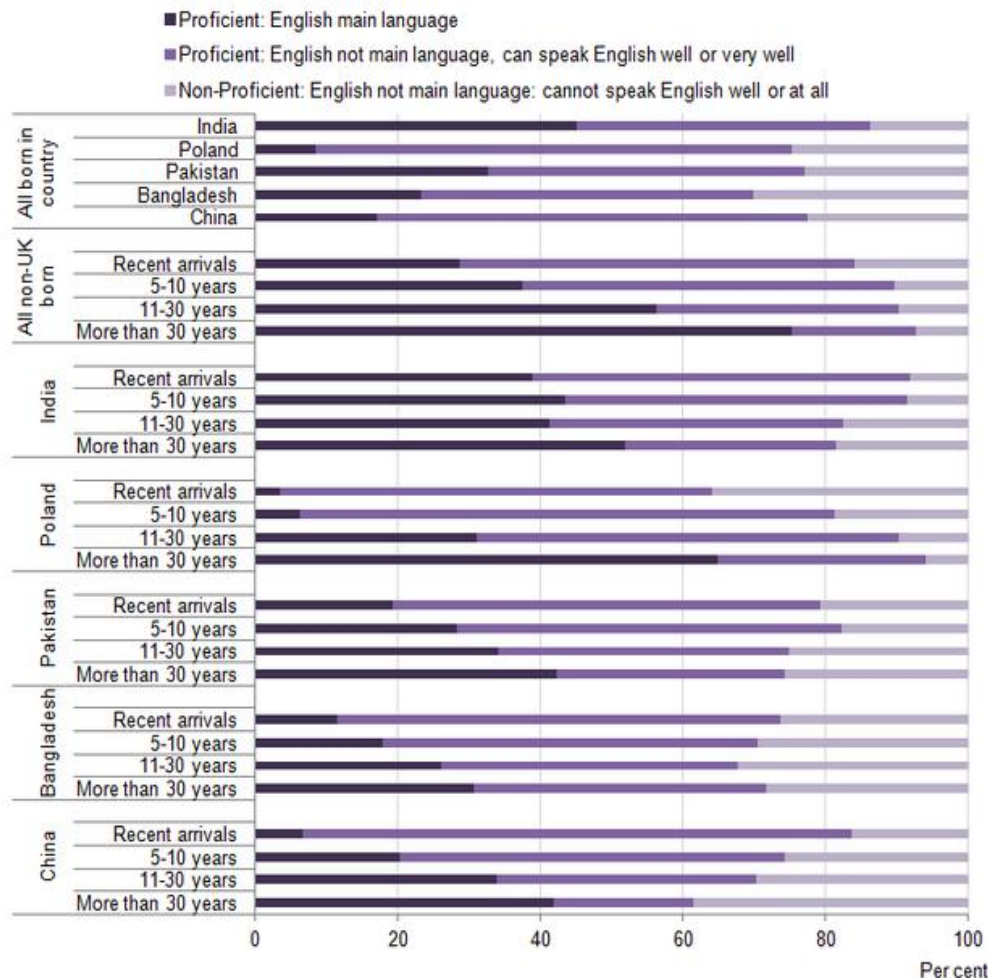
Housing tenure



- Of all the non-UK born populations examined, Pakistani-born (64%), Indian-born (64%) and Irish-born (63%) residents had the highest proportions living in owner occupied properties
- Social housing occupancy was highest for populations born in Jamaica (35%), Bangladesh (33%), and Nigeria (24%). Length of residence did not have a clear association with the level of social renting for these populations

English language proficiency

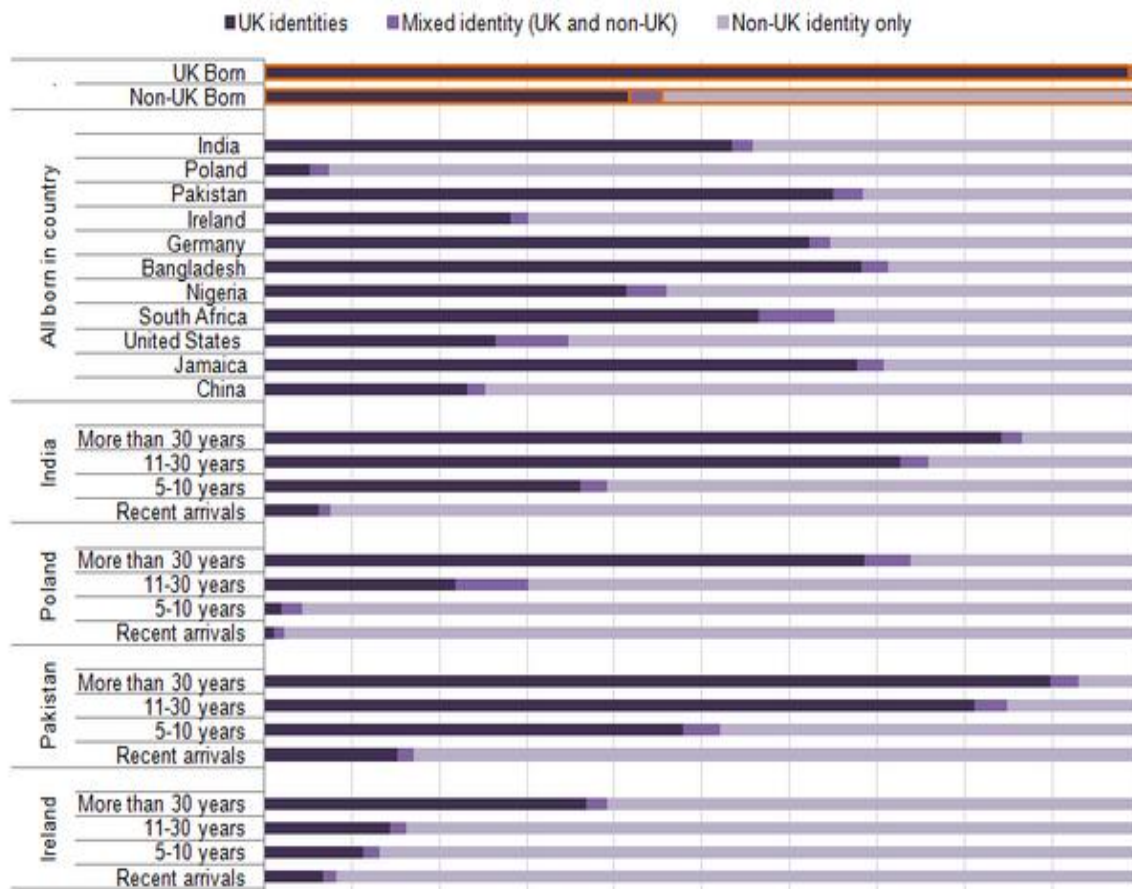
Figure 8: Language proficiency by country of birth and length of residence



- For the total non-UK born population, 89% were proficient in English (49.4% had English as a main language, 39.8% did not but spoke it well)
- This was a self-defined subjective answer based upon a respondent's own view of their language skills, asked of everyone 3 years plus*
- In 2011, recent arrivals were less likely to be proficient in English (84%) than those who had been in the UK for longer (5-10 years, 90%; 11-30 years, 90%; more than 30 years, 93%)
- There are pockets of language-disadvantage –
 - Chinese-born who had been resident in the UK for more than 30 years were the least proficient of any of the larger country of birth groups studied (only 62% Engl-Lang proficient). However this was only slightly less than recently arrived resident Poles.
 - Older Bangladeshi-born residents were more likely to be non-proficient irrespective of how long they had been in the UK. Bangladeshi-born females were less likely to speak English well than males. Of Bangladeshi-born females over the age of 65 who had been resident in the UK 30 years or more, three quarters were still non-proficient in English. For more recent elderly arrivals the figure was even higher.

National Identity

Figure 10: National identity by country of birth and length of residence



- Of 7.5 million non-UK born residents, 42% reported only a UK identity and 4% a mixed identity (identifying with at least one UK identity and a non-UK identity).
- Over half (55%) of those born outside the UK described themselves as having a non-UK identity only
- *This was a self defined answer based on a respondent's own view of their national identity. Respondents could select multiple identities, including more than one UK identity*
- More than three quarters (77%) of those who had been resident more than 30 years reported at least one UK identity (UK only or mixed)
- The vast majority (90%) of recent arrivals describe themselves as having a non-UK identity only (eg Poland)
- Of the top 11 countries of birth, the Bangladeshi and Jamaican-born had highest proportions identifying with at least one UK identity (both 71%),

Nationality

Table 2: Percentage of non-UK born population who were UK passport holders, by region of birth and length of residence

	Total in thousands (%)	Recent arrivals %	5 -10 years %	11- 30 years %	More than 30 years %
Non-UK born	3,424				
	(45.6)	9.1	29.6	67.3	76.8
Non-EU born	2,914				
	(57.6)	12.8	42.6	77.4	89.8
EU-born	510				
	(20.9)	3.4	5.4	31.1	51.3
EU member countries in 2001	369				
	(27.8)	7.9	11.4	28.8	44.1
Countries joining EU after 2001	141				
	(12.6)	1.0	2.6	42.2	85.3

Source: ONS Census 2011 report

- A higher proportion of the population born in Commonwealth countries held a UK passport compared with those born in other non-EU countries.
- The majority (94%) of those born in China who had been in the UK for more than 30 years held a UK passport, but a relatively small proportion of the total Chinese-born population (6.5%) had been resident in the UK for this length of time

Find out more:

Research at the Home Office

➡ www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-research-and-analysis

Employment and occupational skill levels among UK and foreign nationals_
(Home Office, Feb 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employment-and-occupational-skill-levels-among-uk-and-foreign-nationals>

The reason for migration and labour market characteristics of UK residents born abroad_ (Home Office, Sept 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-reason-for-migration-and-labour-market-characteristics-of-uk-residents-born-abroad>

ONS Census releases on migration

➡ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/analysis/migration-and-demography/index.html

Social and Economic Characteristics by Length of Residence of Migrant Populations in England and Wales (ONS, Nov 2014)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census-analysis/social-and-economic-characteristics-by-length-of-residence-of-migrant-populations-in-england-and-wales/characteristics-by-length-of-residence-of-migrant-populations.html>