

Classification of the quality of estimates (see also WP1)

I. High quality	II. Medium quality	III. Low quality	IV. Low quality with plausibility warning
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Abbreviations

IFR: Irregular Foreign Residents	IFW: Irregular Foreign Workers	Incl. EU: Estimate includes EU-citizens	FTE: Full-time equivalents	Abs.: Estimate of absolute numbers	Rel.: Estimate of subgroup in % of total
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<u>Groups</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimate</u>			<u>Main data source</u>	<u>Short explanation</u>	<u>Reference</u>
			minimum	central	maximum			
Total stocks of irregular foreign residents								
IFR – estimate 1	IFR	2000		200 000		unknown	Academic expert estimate: mentioned in a study by Djajic without explanation	Djajic 2001
IFR – estimate 2	IFR	2001	310 000	430 000	570 000	multiple sources	Scientific study estimate: Residual method - Census data from 2001 for total foreign-born population minus number of regularly residing foreign-born population	Woodbridge 2005
IFR – estimate 3	IFR	2003			1 000 000	unknown	International expert estimate: allegedly stems from the UK Immigration Service Union (not confirmed)	IOM 2003
IFR – estimate 4	IFR/ working	2004		216 850		multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: age composition plus labour market participation rates of recently arrived regular migrants applied to IFR 2	IPPR 2006
IFR – estimate 5	IFR	2005	515 000	670 000	870 000	multiple sources	NGO expert estimate: adjustment of IFR 2 from 2001 adding alternative plausibility calculations for children born in UK; updating with assumptions of irregularly staying rejected asylum seekers	Migration Watch UK 2005
IFR – estimate 6	IFR	2005	120 000	240 000	380 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: adjustment and updating of residual estimate of IFR 2, subtracting legalisation estimate of EU-accession 2004	Düvell 2007
IFR – estimate 7	IFR	2008	417 000	618 000	863 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: comprehensive adjustment and updating of residual estimate of IFR 2 from 2001	Gordon et al. 2009
Total stocks of irregular foreign workers								
/								
Total stocks for specific cities or regions								
abs./ rel.	/							

Groups	Definition	Year	Estimate			Main data source	Short explanation	Reference	
			minimum	central	maximum				
Gender composition									
abs.	/								
rel.	m	IFR	2006	54%		94%	enforcement data	CLANDESTINO country expert presented Her Majesty's Stationery Office data on detained persons and non-representative survey with Eastern European immigrants, assessment as min/ max by HWWI	CLANDESTINO United Kingdom 2008 WP1 2008
	f			6%		46%			
Age composition									
abs. 1	Children – estimate 1	IFR UK-born	2001	15 000	43 000	85 000	multiple sources	NGO expert estimate: in the frame of IFR 5; assumed ratio of UK-born children to irregular migrants; 5% for minimum and 10% for maximum applied to IFR 2 estimate from 2001	Migration Watch UK 2005
abs. 2	Children – estimate 2	IFR UK-born	2007	44 000	85 000	144 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: in the frame of IFR 7; number of children born in UK to irregular migrant couples from 2001 to 2007, based on women-children ratio for main sending countries of irregular migration derived from Labour Force Survey data	Gordon et al. 2009
rel.									
Nationality composition									
abs.	/								
rel.	/								
Economic sector composition									
abs./ rel.	/								
Other subgroups									
Former asylum seekers and refugees – estimate 1	IFR	2004	155 000		283 500	unknown	Home office expert estimate: without explanation	Official Papers HC 602	
Former asylum seekers and refugees – estimate 2	IFR	2005	190 000	205 000	218 000	multiple sources	NGO expert estimate: in the frame of IFR 5; assumed number of irregularly staying rejected asylum seekers	Migration Watch UK 2005	
Failed asylum seekers – estimate 3	IFR	2007		219 000		multiple source	Academic expert estimate: stock of failed asylum seekers staying irregularly from 2001 to 2007, including dependants	Gordon et al. 2009	

References

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- Gordon, Ian, Scanlon, Kathleen, Travers, Toni, and Christine Whitehead (2009): Economic impact on the London and UK economy of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants to the UK, London, London School of Economics.
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- Woodbridge, Jo (2005): Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001, London: Home Office. #
- WP1 (2008): Vogel, Dita and Vesela Kovacheva, Classification report: Quality assessment of estimates on stocks of irregular migrants, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), Database on Irregular Migration, Working paper No.1, http://www.irregular-migration.hwwi.net/Working_papers.6113.0.html.

Annotations

Total stocks of irregular foreign residents: [back to table](#)

IFR – estimate 1: Low quality due to a lack of documentation (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: page 31).

IFR – estimate 2: Careful estimate; medium quality due to arguments concerning the participation rates of the census, failed subtraction of US armed forces, and rejected asylum seekers (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 8).

IFR – estimate 3: Low quality mainly due to a lack of documentation. Warning: There are indications that the estimate is implausibly high in comparison to other estimates on irregular foreign population (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 35).

IFR – estimate 4: Low quality as IFR2 for 2001 is taken as a basis without adjustments; problematic assumptions about age and labour force participation rates of irregular migrants (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 30).

IFR – estimate 5: Low quality due to a lack of empirical foundation: Extrapolation of IFR 2: Adjustment only for irregularly staying rejected asylum seekers and no other groups, particularly no adjustment for EU accession (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 33).

IFR – estimate 6: Low quality due to a lack of empirical foundation; Extrapolation of IFR 2 with plausibility assumptions about legalisation effect of 2004 EU accession. No other adjustments (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 36).

IFR – estimate 7: Medium quality due to comprehensive effort to update the residual estimate of 2001. Authors added data-based estimations of the number UK-born children of irregular residents, failed asylum seekers assumed to stay in the UK, and new net inflows of irregular entrants and overstayers. They considered the estimated legalisation effect of the EU enlargement (Gordon et al. 2009). The estimate was made for the end of 2007, but it is inserted here as 2008 because as a rule as we aim at having estimates for the beginning of a year.

Gender composition: [back to table](#)

Relative estimate: Low quality compositional estimates; minimum and maximum assessment by HWWI (for logic, see WP1); low quality due to weak empirical data: detention probability is highly gender selective; data from a non-representative survey that focuses on Eastern Europeans and a large proportion of the sample was drawn from two sectors that are highly dominated by females (hospitality and au-pairs (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 34, 35).

Age composition: [back to table](#)

Children – estimate 1: Low quality due to weak empirical basis of plausibility calculations, no clear explanation of derived percentages of UK-born children to irregular migrants (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 30).

Children – estimate 2: Careful estimate; medium quality due to lack of empirical foundation for crucial assumptions (Gordon et al. 2009: 46-48).



Other subgroups: [back to table](#)

Former asylum seekers – estimate 1: Low quality due to a lack of documentation, mainly on applied method (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 42).

Former asylum seekers – estimate 2: Low quality, mainly as assumed indicator relies on weak empirical foundations and assumptions; (CLANDESTINO United Kingdom Report: 42).

Failed asylum seekers – estimate 3: Careful estimate; medium quality due to lack of empirical foundation for crucial assumptions: there is a unknown number of rejected asylum seekers who left the country unregistered (Gordon et al. 2009: 38-42).

Comments on the table are welcomed by the HWWI-team: [Dita Vogel](#) and [Vesela Kovacheva](#).

Suggested quotation: HWWI (2009): Stocks of Irregular Migrants: Estimates for the United Kingdom, last change November 2009, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), Database on Irregular Migration.

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