Numbers and Public Policy

Sir Andrew Dilnot
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority

@sheffeconomics #knoop14
Numbers and public policy

Andrew Dilnot
UK Statistics Authority

Promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics ‘that serve the public good’
UK income distribution

Net equivalised household income (£ per week, 2010–11 prices)
GDP 1948-2011
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Chris Leslie MP
Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

3 October 2014

Dear Mr Leslie

PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCES STATISTICS – DEBT AND DEFICIT

Thank you for your letter dated 1 October 2014 regarding the statement made by the Prime Minister during his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham in which he said that the country “is paying down its debts”.

As you note in your letter, this is a similar matter to that about which I replied to your predecessor, Rachel Reeves MP, in February 2013. As I said in that letter, it is necessary for all parties to public debate in this area to understand the relevant statistical definitions and to distinguish changes in the level of debt outstanding from changes in borrowing per period, and to reflect these in their communication of the statistical trends involved.

Public sector net debt is a measure of how much the UK public sector owes at a given time. Public sector net borrowing is the difference between total accrued receipts and total accrued (current and capital) expenditure over a specified period; the measure of net borrowing is frequently used by commentators to summarise the extent of any public sector ‘deficit’.

The latest National Statistics on Public Sector Finances, published by the Office for National Statistics on 30 September 2014, show that Public Sector Net Debt (excluding public sector banks) as at the end of June 2014 was estimated to be £197.4 billion (equivalent to 64.0 per cent of Gross Domestic Product) and £1,432.3 billion at the end of August 2014 (79.1 per cent of GDP), an estimated increase of £434.9 billion over the period. Public Sector Net Borrowing (excluding public sector banks) was estimated to be £133.9 billion in the 2010/11 financial year and £90.3 billion in 2013/14, an estimated fall of £43.7 billion. The chart overleaf show the trends in more detail.


Public Sector Net Debt
excluding public sector banks
Dear Mr Wilson,

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter dated 8 July about an article written by Chuka Umunna MP on 7 July 2014 on the website of the New Statesman in which it was said that “the number of young people claiming Jobseekers’ Allowance nationally has increased by 60 per cent since May 2010, in the North East that figure is 205 per cent.” As you correctly observe, the published National Statistics on claimants of Jobseekers’ Allowance (JSA), produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at the time the article was published, showed that this statement is factually incorrect. After having made representations to Mr Umunna’s staff, my office has been told that arrangements have now been made to correct the article. This was a necessary step which the Statistics Authority welcomes.

The published official statistics show that the number of young people claiming JSA in the UK fell in the period between May 2010 and May 2014 by 163,700 (38 per cent), and by 6,310 (27 per cent) in the North East. The figures that were quoted in the article appeared to be those for all people aged 16 to 24 who claimed JSA for 12 months or more, in the UK as a whole and in the North East region, rather than for all people in that age group who had claimed JSA. This difference is an important distinction. The relevant published official statistics are reproduced in the table below.

Jobseekers’ Allowance: claimant count by age and duration, seasonally adjusted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All aged 16-24</th>
<th>All aged 16-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Claiming over 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>428,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>266,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>-161,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change</td>
<td>-38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>28,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>45,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2 http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/emploi-market-statistics/june-2014/table-s2a02.htm, and
3 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/tergbd7125atf2111/a/2201852(reports/2013/20130211/reports/pad_jobtime_seriesreport.aspx)
Annual GDP

Chained volume measure

£ billion

CVM previously published
CVM Bluebook 14
Revisions to the Household Savings Ratio
The Households Savings Ratio

International comparisons

Graph showing the savings ratio for different countries over a period from 1997 to 2012.
Migration
Population in the North
as a percentage of total population in England
Internal migration (2013)
Long-term international migration estimates since 1997

Source: Data from ONS Long-term International Migration figures, table 1, 28 August 2014.

1. Data for 2013 and 2014 are provisional.
2. Estimates of net migration between 2001 and 2011 have been revised in light of the results of the 2011 Census. Estimates are generally available quarterly but only the mid-year and calendar year figures were revised in light of the 2011 Census so figures for year ending March and September are not available between 2001 and 2011.
3. Confidence intervals prior to 2012 are not available on a consistent basis.
Dear Mr Hanson,

MIGRATION STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter dated 5 September 2014 regarding the statement below made within an article in the Daily Telegraph published on 6 September and written by the Minister for Immigration James Brokenshire MP.

“Our reforms are building an immigration system that works in the national interest.

By reforming family and work visa routes, cracking down on abuse in the student sector, and cutting access to benefits for migrants we have cut net migration by a quarter since its peak under Labour.”

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate that net migration between April 2013 and March 2014 was 243,505. This is 77,000 (24 per cent) lower than the recent peak of 320,000 which occurred in the year ending June 2013. These may be the figures to which Mr Brokenshire was referring.

While it is estimated that net migration has fallen by about a quarter since the peak in the year ending June 2013, this reduction did not occur solely during the term of the present Government. As the chart below illustrates, estimated net migration decreased from 320,000 in the year ending June 2005 to 244,000 in the year ending June 2013. Since then, estimated net migration fell further to 154,000 in the year ending September 2012, but has since increased to 243,000 in the year ending March 2014.

It should be noted that statistical estimates derived from survey sources such as those used to produce ONS’s Long-term International Migration series are subject to sampling variability, and estimates have confidence intervals around them which will vary year-on-year. The ONS

During this year...

- The British Nationality Act 1965 allows wives of British subjects to obtain British nationality.

### Immigration
206

### Emigration
284

### Net migration
-78

GDP (% change)
2.6

Unemployment (%)
no data

Mid-year population estimate (millions)
54.3

**Source:** International Migration Data - ONS
Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

During this year...
- Conservatives win the General Election
- It is estimated that the number of "non-white" residents in the UK is approximately 1.4 million (compared to low thousands in 1945)

IN Top Countries of last residence
- no data until 1975
- no data until 1975
- no data until 1975

OUT Top Countries of next residence
- no data until 1975
- no data until 1975
- no data until 1975

Source: International Migration Data - ONS
During this year...

- Mid 1970s UK recession
- Political unrest and the end of the Vietnam war in South-East Asia results in many seeking a new life in Britain
- It is estimated that 83 thousand immigrants from the Commonwealth have settled in the UK since 1968
- Intergovernmental cooperation establishes immigration and rights to asylum agreement

Source: International Migration Data - ONS
During this year...

- Early 1980s UK recession
- The Conservative Government introduces the "Primary Purpose Rule" requiring proof that the primary purpose of marriage is not to obtain British residency
- Rhodesia achieves legal independence as Zimbabwe under the leadership of Robert Mugabe

**Immigration**: 173

**Emigration**: 228

**Net migration**: -55

GDP (% change): -2.0

Unemployment (%): 6.8

Mid-year population estimate (millions): 56.3

Source: International Migration Data - ONS
Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

All figures in thousands, unless stated

**Immigration** 232

**Emigration** 174

**Net migration** 58

GDP (% change) 3.9

Unemployment (%) 11.4

Mid-year population estimate (millions) 56.6

During this year...

- UK miners strike ends
- The Schengen Agreement introduces a passport control free travel area which does not include the UK

**IN Top Countries of last residence**

- Germany 25
- USA 23
- South Africa 18

**OUT Top Countries of next residence**

- USA 24
- Australia 20
- Germany 12

Source: International Migration Data - ONS

ONS Data Visualisation Centre
During this year...

- German unification and an enlarged Germany becomes a European Economic Community member
- Beginning of early 1990s UK recession
- Abolition of Inner London Education Authority
- The Dublin Convention 1990 is designed to prevent multiple asylum claims across member states
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All citizens</th>
<th>British citizens</th>
<th>Non-British citizens</th>
<th>EU (excl. British) citizens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

**During this year...**

- Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the European Union.
- End of Yugoslav civil wars following Dayton Ohio Agreement. Six new countries replace former Yugoslavia.

**Immigration** 312

**Emigration** 236

**Net migration** 76

- GDP (% change) 3.5
- Unemployment (%) 8.6
- Mid-year population estimate (millions) 58.0

Source: International Migration Data - ONS

IN Top Countries of last residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>In</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUT Top Countries of next residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

All figures in thousands, unless stated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigration</th>
<th>479</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emigration</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GDP (% change) 4.4
Unemployment (%) 5.4
Mid-year population estimate (millions) 58.9

During this year...

- The Immigration Order 2000 allows for clearance of low risk groups (such as tour parties) and new ways of transmitting permission to enter to applicants. It also takes account of biometric developments.
- In the Immigration Rules and Regulations 2000 the UK declares that most citizens of EEA member states and their family members should be treated as having only a conditional right to reside in the UK.
- Race Relations Act 2000 is amended to include police and public authorities.

Source: International Migration Data - ONS
### Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All citizens</th>
<th>British citizens</th>
<th>Non-British citizens</th>
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</table>

**Thousands**

- **2005**

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**All figures in thousands, unless stated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Immigration</strong></th>
<th>567</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emigration</strong></td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net migration</strong></td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP (% change)** 3.2

**Unemployment (%)** 4.9

**Mid-year population estimate (millions)** 60.2

**During this year...**

- Labour wins the General Election
- The Government announces a 5 year strategy for asylum and immigration "Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain"
- Refugees granted 5 year's limited leave as opposed to indefinite leave
- The e-Borders project is set up to tackle illegal immigration terrorism and other crimes

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**Top Countries of last residence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>IN</strong></th>
<th><strong>Top Countries of last residence</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top Countries of next residence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OUT</strong></th>
<th><strong>Top Countries of next residence</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Source: International Migration Data - ONS
### Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All citizens</th>
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<tr>
<td>thousands</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### All figures in thousands, unless stated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### During this year...

- Conservatives form coalition government with the Liberal Democrats following indecisive General Election
- New coalition government announces plan to "cut net migration to tens of thousands" by 2015
- Tier 1 of the "highly skilled" Points Based System closed to new applicants for entry clearance
- UK Border Agency publishes "The Migrant Journey" report

#### IN Top Countries of last residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OUT Top Countries of next residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: International Migration Data - ONS
### Long-term Migration into and out of the United Kingdom, 1964-2012

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<table>
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<th>thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (% change)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment (%)</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-year population estimate (millions)</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During this year...
- Changes to immigration rules tightened family migration requirements from July 2012
- London hosts the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games
- UN declares that Syria is effectively in civil war
- Tier 1 of the Points Based System (the post-study work route) closes
- Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 60 years on the throne

**IN Top Countries of last residence**
- China: 40
- India: 37
- Poland: 29

**OUT Top Countries of next residence**
- Australia: 48
- USA: 19
- India: 17

Source: International Migration Data - ONS

ONS Data Visualisation Centre
Crime
Trends in police recorded crime and the Crime Survey for England and Wales
Ratio between CSEW incidents and crime recorded by the police
Trends in police recorded crime and the Crime Survey for England and Wales

Number of offences (000s)

- Police recorded crime - old counting rules
- Police recorded crime - new counting rules
- Police recorded crime - post NCRS
- CSEW estimate

Graph showing trends in police recorded crime and the Crime Survey for England and Wales from 1981 to 2013/14.
Ratio between CSEW incidents and crime recorded by the police
NHS population register + DWP Customer Information System
NHS population register + DWP Customer Information System + HESA student records
The number of older people is increasing

Growth in the number of older people in England 2010-2030
Percentage of UK population aged 85+, 1901-2011
National Infrastructure Plan: Pipeline Value by sector

Chart 2.A: Pipeline value by sector

Source: HM Treasury Major Infrastructure Tracking Unit
National Infrastructure Plan: Pipeline Value by sector

Pipeline value by sector

- Communications
- Energy
- Flood
- Intellectual Capital
- Transport
- Waste
- Water

Capital Value £ million

Communications: 50,000
Energy: 250,000
Flood: 150,000
Intellectual Capital: 200,000
Transport: 100,000
Waste: 50,000
Water: 50,000
Deaths per story (newspapers)

- Smoking: 4444
- Alcohol: 2538
- Obesity: 846
- Measles: 0.375
- CJD: 1.5
- HIV: 22.5
- Mental Health: 1375
Britain in grip of norovirus as cases hit 3m

By Rebecca Smith, Medical Editor
Last Updated: 2:47am GMT 13/01/2008

Three million people have been struck down by the winter vomiting bug - with experts fearing that cases could rise through this month and next.

- **Norovirus symptoms**

The norovirus season began a month earlier than normal this winter. Cases of the bug increased rapidly, with more than 200,000 people a week now catching the infection, official figures claim.
Norovirus lab reports

Figure Laboratory reports of norovirus 2000-2007 (England and Wales)

Source: Health Protection Agency
Norovirus confidence intervals

• 1:1500  (1 lab case = 1500 in community).
• 2000 lab cases = 3 million in community

• But maybe  1:140
• (=280,000 cases)

• Or maybe  1:17,000
• (=34 million cases)

• Community study lab cases…
• =1
Speed camera