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Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)

Due for answer on: 22 January 2009

AQW No: 4034/09

Put Down By: David Simpson
Political Party: DUP
Constituency: Upper Bann

Question:

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many (i) EU; and (ii) non EU foreign national have been residents in Northern Ireland, in each of the last five years.

Answer:

Labour Force Survey estimates for the number of persons of EU and non EU nationality who were resident in Northern Ireland between 2004 and 2008 are shown in the table below.

Residents in Northern Ireland by EU and non-EU nationality¹, 2004-2008.

Year	EU Nationality	Non-EU Nationality
2004	1,666,000	18,000
2005	1,687,000	11,000
2006	1,691,000	24,000
2007	1,709,000	20,000
2008	1,721,000	25,000

¹ EU Nationality -- Figures for 2004-2006 refer to EU25 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
Figures for 2007-2008 refer to EU27 countries: EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania.

Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling error.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2 (April-June) of each year.

Arlene Foster MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Date: 21/1/09

From the Office of the Minister



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3/07 January 2009

Dear David,

You tabled Written Question 4034/09 on Wednesday, 14 January 2009. The question related to the number of EU and Non EU foreign nationals resident in Northern Ireland.

The answer provided interpreted EU nationals to include Northern Ireland and the UK; however we understand from the Business Office that you required the EU national figures to exclude Northern Ireland and UK residents.

The figures in my original response have been amended to include all nationalities other than UK/British or Irish residents.

Amended Answer

Supplementary Information for AQW 4034/09

Labour Force Survey estimates for the number of 'foreign nationals' of EU and non EU nationality who were resident in Northern Ireland between 2004 and 2008 are shown in the table below.

Foreign nationals¹ in Northern Ireland by EU and non-EU nationality, 2004-2008

Year	EU Nationality ²	Non-EU Nationality
2004	4,000 ³	18,000
2005	4,000 ³	11,000
2006	12,000	24,000
2007	24,000	20,000
2008	24,000	25,000

¹ For the purpose of this analysis the term 'foreign national' includes all nationalities other than UK/British or Irish.

² EU Nationality – Figures for 2004-2006 refer to the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
Figures for 2007 and 2008 refer to the above countries plus Bulgaria and Romania.

³ Estimates are based on relatively small sample sizes and are subject to a high degree of sampling variability. They should therefore be treated with caution and, in particular, changes from year to year should not be used in isolation from the figures for a run of years

Source: Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2 (April-June) of each year.

Notes:

1. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a voluntary sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals in private households and is the most comprehensive source of information on their circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in Northern Ireland, providing a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.
2. Figures taken from the LFS are subject to an associated sampling error that decreases as the sample size increases. The sampling error can only be reduced if the sample size is increased and this is dictated by cost and practicality. It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is.

I have arranged for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Assembly Library.

*Yours ever,
Arlene*

ARLENE FOSTER MLA