



- The simplified formula for calculating net migration is: **net migration = immigration - emigration**
- Home Office visas data for 2022 gives us have a good idea of the upper limit for the immigration part of the equation: around 1.33 million.¹
- This 1.33 million number includes visas for Ukrainian refugees and BN(O) visas issued to people migrating from Hong Kong, as well as student, worker and family visas. But it excludes visitor visas and temporary work/study visas.
- We do not yet know the number for emigration. However, we can use historical data to make a range of reasonable assumptions about the likely level of emigration in 2022:²
 - **Assumption 1:** emigration surged to match the record level of 623,000 caused by an exodus of migrants during the Covid pandemic.
 - **Assumption 2:** emigration was 609,000, equating to around 57% of underlying (i.e. excluding Ukraine and Hong Kong) immigration in 2022 – the average relationship between immigration and emigration over the 2010-19 period.
 - **Assumption 3:** emigration in 2022 remained at 2021 levels of around 498,000.
 - **Assumption 4:** underlying emigration (i.e. excluding Ukraine and Hong Kong) was broadly in line with historical trends except for students (and their dependents), for whom it was lower, yielding a total emigration figure of 427,000.
 - **Assumption 5:** emigration reverted to the 2010-19, pre-pandemic/Brexit average of 336,000 per annum.
- We can then plug these numbers into the net migration equation, alongside immigration of 1.333 million, to get a range of very rough but plausible estimates for net migration in 2022.

2022 net migration = 1.333 million immigrants - A_x emigrants

Emigration Scenario	Net Migration Estimate
Assumption 1 (623,000)	710,000
Assumption 2 (609,000)	724,000
Assumption 3 (498,000)	835,000
Assumption 4 (427,000)	906,000
Assumption 5 (336,000)	997,000

¹ Home Office, 'Vis_D02: Outcomes of entry clearance visa applications, by nationality, visa type, and outcome', *Managed migration datasets* (February 2023). [Link](#). However, not all visas issued will actually be used, so outturn data from the Home Office Borders System is likely to be lower than the number of visas issued. But at the same time, EU nationals with settled status are not subject to immigration control and do not show up in visas number, hence why in 2021, immigration actually exceeded the number of visas issued by 83,000 (10%).

² ONS, 'Long-term international migration 2.00, citizenship, UK (Discontinued after 2019)' (November 2020); ONS, 'Long-term international immigration, emigration and net migration flows, provisional YE June 2020 to YE June 2022', (November 2022). [Link](#). [Link](#).