

# An Analysis of the North East Worker Registration Scheme Data:

A briefing paper for the Regional migrant worker steering group

Ian Fitzgerald

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

It has recently been stated that the opening up of the UK labour market to the new accession countries (A8s) has initiated the largest ever in-migration to these shores<sup>1</sup>. Whilst there are no accurate figures of the precise number of migrants involved in this, there are a number of statistical sources that provide data on it. One of these is the Worker Registration Scheme<sup>2</sup>, which whilst carrying a number of ‘health warnings’<sup>3</sup> as to accuracy of flows is useful for labour market data. For the North East, though, the publicly available accession reports include Yorkshire and Humber in their overall totals. However, the author has obtained, through freedom of information, the full North East data set<sup>4</sup>. What follows are the key regional headlines and then three more in-depth sections on (1) the nationality of North East A8 workers (2) their age and gender and (3) their occupation.

The key regional headlines are:

- Between May 2004 and September 2006, 4,934 A8 workers registered to the Scheme in the North East. This is by far the lowest number of registered A8 workers of any UK region;
- Sixty-six per cent of these workers were Polish. This is slightly higher than the overall UK proportion of sixty-three per cent. With the only other notable group regionally being Lithuanians (13%) again slightly higher than the UK proportion (11%);
- The male:female ratio of registered workers was 64:36. This is a higher male proportion than at a national level where the ratio was 57:43.
- Seventy-four per cent of registered workers were aged 18-34. This, though, is lower than the UK proportion of eighty-two per cent;

---

<sup>1</sup> John Salt and Jane Millar (2006) ‘Foreign Labour in the United Kingdom: Current patterns and trends’, *Labour Market Trends*, ONS, October 2006.

<sup>2</sup> The WRS gives employer postcode data of registered workers.

<sup>3</sup> For example the data (a) is based on gross flows (b) only includes the employed (c) figures are based on the A8 workers first employer (d) there is growing evidence that A8 workers either do not register due to the cost of the scheme or are simply not aware of its existence.

<sup>4</sup> The data set is stated as covering the May 2004 to September 2006 period.

- The most frequent occupation of A8 registered workers was factory process operative (1,660). A third of all regional registered workers were classified as undertaking this occupation.

### *The location and nationality of A8 workers*

Newcastle had the highest number of A8 registered workers (1,108), which was higher than each of the three other individual sub-regional totals. Given this Tyne and Wear had the highest number of A8 workers sub-regionally (2,129). Interestingly, the lowest numbers of A8 registered workers were to be found in South Tyneside (52), Teesdale (51), Hartlepool (49), Wansbeck (34) and Chester-le-Street (23). Poles, not surprisingly, dominated at a sub-regional level, apart from in Northumberland where there were an equal proportion of Lithuanians and Poles (46% of A8 workers in each case). What follows gives a more detailed account of this at a sub-regional and local level:

As noted above **Tyne and Wear** had by far the largest numbers of A8 registered workers (2,129 – 43% of the regional total). Of these sixty-eight per cent were Polish (1,448). At the local level, as noted above, **Newcastle** accounted for the bulk of these workers (1,108 – 52% of Tyne and Wear A8 workers). It also had the highest single regional groupings of Czechs (87 – 28% of regional Czechs), Estonians (9 – 21% of regional Estonians), Hungarians (51 – 41% of regional Hungarians), Poles (751 – 23% of regional Poles) and Slovaks (118 – 34% of regional Slovaks). The Poles accounted for sixty-eight per cent of Newcastle A8 workers. The second highest number of A8 workers were working for **Sunderland** employers (408 – 19% of Tyne and Wear A8 workers), of these seventy-one per cent were Polish (288). The two other main groupings were Slovaks (39 – 10% of Sunderland A8 workers) and Latvians (35 – 9% of Sunderland A8 workers). Sunderland was closely followed by **Gateshead** (383 – 18% of Tyne and Wear A8 workers) where seventy per cent of A8 workers were Polish (268). **North Tyneside** had eight per cent of Tyne and Wear A8 workers (178) of which sixty-six per cent were Polish (118). It also had the equal highest regional grouping of Estonians (9). Finally, **South Tyneside** (52 – 2%) had by far the lowest numbers of Tyne and Wear A8 workers and the lowest number of Poles (23).

**County Durham** had the second highest number of A8 registered workers (1,055 – 21% of the regional total) of which seventy-five per cent were Polish (787). At a local level the highest number of A8 workers were working in *Derwentside* (423 – 40% of County Durham A8 workers), which also had the second highest number of A8 workers in the region. Poles (311 – 39% of County Durham Poles) again dominated accounting for seventy-three per cent of Derwentside A8 workers, with Lithuanians (53 – 12% of Derwentside A8 workers) the other noticeable group. The second highest number of A8 workers in County Durham were working for *Durham* employers (193 – 18% of County Durham A8 workers), of which eighty-seven per cent were Polish (168). This was closely followed by *Easington* (155 – 15% of County Durham A8 workers) where fifty-six per cent of A8 workers were Polish (87). The other main groups in Easington were Slovaks (40 – 26% of Easington A8 workers) and Czechs (24 – 15% of Easington A8 workers). Easington had the second highest number of Slovaks, second only to Newcastle. *Sedgefield* had eleven per cent of County Durham A8 workers (118) of which eighty-nine per cent were Polish (105). *Wear Valley* had nine per cent of County Durham A8 workers (92) of which sixty-five per cent were Polish (60). Finally, *Teesdale* (51 – 5% of County Durham A8 workers) and *Chester-le-Street* (23 – 2% of County Durham A8 workers) had the lowest numbers of County Durham A8 workers and the lowest numbers of Poles (37 and 19 respectively).

**Northumberland** closely followed County Durham with their number of A8 registered workers (928 – 19% of the regional total), interestingly the highest numbers of these workers were Lithuanians (424 – 46% of Northumberland A8 workers) and Polish (423 – 46% of Northumberland A8 workers). These groups accounted for over ninety-one per cent of Northumberland A8 workers. At the local level the highest number of A8 workers were working in *Castle Morpeth* (367 – 39% of Northumberland A8 workers), which also had the second highest number of any single A8 grouping in the Region (319 Lithuanians – second only to Newcastle’s 751 Poles). This was by far the highest grouping of Lithuanians (50% of the regional Lithuanians) and they accounted for eighty-seven per cent of A8 workers in Castle Morpeth. The second highest proportions of A8 workers in Northumberland were working in *Blyth Valley* (17% – 155) and *Berwick-upon-Tweed* (17% – 154). Here again Poles were in the majority (91 – 59% of Blyth Valley A8 workers and 122 – 79% of Berwick-upon-Tweed A8

workers). Although, in Blyth Valley Lithuanians held a notable presence (56 – 36% of Blyth valley A8 workers). *Tynedale* had thirteen per cent of Northumberland A8 workers (122) of which seventy-six per cent were Polish (93). *Alnwick* followed with ten per cent of Northumberland A8 workers (96) of which seventy-seven per cent were Polish (74). Finally, *Wansbeck* had by far the lowest number and proportion of Northumberland A8 workers (34 – 4%), of which sixty-eight per cent were Lithuanian (23). It also had the lowest number of registered Poles anywhere in the region (7).

Finally, **Tees Valley** had the lowest number of A8 registered workers in the region (822 – 17% of the regional total) of which seventy-three per cent were Polish (603). At a local level the highest number of A8 workers were working in *Darlington* (330 – 40% of Tees Valley A8 workers), which also had the highest number of Poles in Tees Valley (259 – 43% of Tees Valley Poles and 78% of Darlington’s A8 workers). The second highest number of A8 workers were working for *Stockton-on-Tees* employers (205 – 25% of Tees Valley A8 workers) and again Poles were dominant (162 – 79%). This was followed by *Middlesbrough* (161 – 20% of Tees Valley A8 workers), where Poles made up the largest proportion of A8 workers (47% – 76). Middlesbrough also had two other main groupings, Latvians (40 – 25% of Middlesbrough A8 workers) and Czechs (31 – 19% of Middlesbrough A8 workers). Finally, *Redcar and Cleveland* (77 – 9% of Tees Valley A8 workers) and *Hartlepool* (49 – 6% of Tees Valley A8 workers) had the lowest numbers of Tees Valley A8 workers and the lowest numbers of Poles (65 and 41 respectively).

### *The age and gender of A8 workers*

This section discusses the age and gender of the North East A8 registered workers. As with the publicly available accession reports, the data released for age and gender is not broken down into country of origin. As noted above sixty-four per cent of regional registered A8 workers were male. Although, this proportion varied in the four sub-regions from fifty-nine to seventy per cent. For example, males dominated the **Tees Valley** (70% male) and local area A8 workforces apart from in *Middlesbrough* (44% female). They also made-up a high proportion of the overall **County Durham** (68% male) and local area A8 workforces. This was further the case in **Tyne and Wear** (62% male) apart from in *Newcastle* (41% female) and *North Tyneside* (48% female). Finally, only in **Northumberland** (59% males) did the male:female ratio approach the national

figure. With *Berwick-upon-Tweed* (42% female), *Castle Morpeth* (43% female) and in particular *Tynedale* (57% female) having high proportions of female A8 workers.

Again as highlighted above nearly three-quarters (74%) of A8 registered workers are young (18-34), with males dominating (62% males). There are an equal proportion of 18-24 year olds as there are of 25-34 year olds (37% of registered A8 workers respectively). Although, the proportion of females rises amongst this young 18-24 grouping (46% female). But moves down substantially again within the 25-34 group (31% female). This young 18-34 year old workforce is discussed in more detail below:

Perhaps not surprisingly, as it has the highest number of registered A8 workers in the region, **Tyne and Wear** had the highest number of 18-34 year olds (1,599). These represented three-quarters of its overall registered workers. At a local level the highest number of A8 workers of this age were working for *Newcastle* employers (892 – 80% of the Newcastle A8 workforce). With *South Tyneside* (38 – 73% the South Tyneside A8 workforce), *Gateshead* (277 – 72% the Gateshead A8 workforce) and *North Tyneside* (126 – 71% the North Tyneside A8 workforce) having close to the regional proportion. *Sunderland* (266 – 65% the Sunderland A8 workforce) had the lowest proportion of A8 18-34 year olds in Tyne and Wear.

The proportion of 18-34 year olds in the A8 workforce in **County Durham** was the same as in Tyne and Wear (75% - 793). Although, at a local level the pattern moved from those close, or just above, the regional proportion of 18-34 year olds in the A8 workforce (*Durham* 70%, *Easington* 75% and *Sedgefield* 78%), through to those some way below (*Chester-le-Street* 56%, *Teesdale* 59% and *Wear Valley* 65%), to finally *Derwentside* (82%) which had the highest proportion.

**Tees Valley** had a slightly lower proportion of 18-34 year olds in its A8 workforce (73% - 597), which in fact dropped to lower proportions in all local areas (*Middlesbrough* 70%; *Hartlepool* 69%; *Stockton-on-Tees* 66%; *Redcar and Cleveland* 65%) apart from in *Darlington* (80%).

Finally, **Northumberland** had the lowest proportion of 18-34 year olds in its A8 workforce (70% – 647). At a local level the pattern was distinct with three local areas below this proportion (*Alnwick* 57%; *Blyth Valley* 64%; and *Castle Morpeth* 65%) and three above (*Wansbeck* 79%;

*Berwick-upon-Tweed* 82%; and *Tynedale* 83%). Tynedale had in fact, proportionately the youngest A8 registered workforce in the Region.

### *The occupations of A8 workers*

This final section discusses A8 registered workers occupations, as with the age and gender data it is not broken down into separate national groups. For this briefing the occupations have been mapped to the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000)<sup>5</sup> for ease of use with other available regional information. Table 1 lists the SOC2000 classifications and the numbers of A8 registered workers in them, all occupations with 100 or more A8 workers undertaking them are listed separately in the table. As can be seen at a regional level over eighty per cent (3,961) of registered A8 workers were employed in occupational classifications 8 (process, plant and machine operatives) and 9 (elementary occupations). With only three per cent (150) working in the higher level occupational classifications 1 (managers), 2 (professionals) and 3 (associate professionals). A further eight per cent (411) were working in occupational classification 5 (skilled trades).

Table 1: WRS A8 registrations mapped to SOC200 classifications

SOC2000 classification		North East	Tyne & Wear	County Durham	Northumberland	Tees Valley
<b>1. Managers</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>
<b>2. Professionals</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>21</i>
<b>3. Associate Professionals</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>4. Administrative</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>21</i>
<b>5. Skilled trades</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>76</i>
<b>6. Personal services</b>						
care assistants & home carers		<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>sub-totals</i>		<i>206</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>7. Sales</b>	<i>sub-totals</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>
<b>8. Process, plant and machine operatives</b>						

<sup>5</sup> The SOC2000 consists of the following major groupings: 1. Managers and senior officials; 2. Professional occupations; 3. Associate professional and technical occupations; 4. Administrative and secretarial occupations; 5. Skilled trades occupations; 6. Personal service occupations; 7. Sales and customer service occupations; 8. Process, plant and machine operatives; and 9. Elementary occupations.

process operative (factory)	1,660	541	442	356	321
process operative (fruit & veg)	108	13	75	11	9
sub-totals	2,224	784	618	396	426

---

**9. Elementary occupations**

cleaner, domestic staff	349	274	24	31	20
kitchen & catering assistants	290	179	28	56	27
packer	254	43	102	72	37
labourer, building	208	80	19	73	36
waiter, waitress	158	87	11	42	18
warehouse operative	115	23	28	17	47
sub-totals	1,737	833	272	396	236

---

<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>822</b>
---------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	------------	------------

---

What now follows is a brief discussion of the separate SOC2000 A8 classifications and their significance at a local level.

**SOC2000 classification 1 (Managers)** – As can be seen from Table 1 only thirty-four A8 registered workers were employed under this category. The majority of whom were working in Tyne and Wear (53% of this category) and in particular in Newcastle (nine of Tyne and Wear’s eighteen). The three main A8 occupations in this category were *Director/Senior executive* (five in total – three were working in Newcastle, and one each in Gateshead and Sedgefield); *Warehouse manager* (five in total – four were working in Sunderland and one in Blyth Valley); and finally *Restaurant manager* (five in total – three were working in Newcastle, and one each in Castle Morpeth and Stockton-on-Tees).

**SOC2000 classification 2 (Professionals)** – As seen in Table 1 eighty-three A8 registered workers were employed under this category. Again the majority worked in Tyne and Wear (59% of this category) and again in particular Newcastle (twenty-four of Tyne and Wear’s forty-nine Professionals). Although, Sunderland (twelve) and Stockton-on-Tees (eleven) also had notable numbers. There were two main A8 occupations here *Hospital consultant* (twelve in total – seven were working in Sunderland, two in Newcastle, and one each in North Tyneside, Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees); and *Mechanical engineer* (eleven in total – four were working in Newcastle, three in Darlington, two in Stockton-on-Tees, and one each in Blyth Valley and Gateshead).

**SOC2000 classification 3 (Associate professionals)** – There were thirty-three A8 registered workers employed under this category. The majority were employed in Tyne and Wear (54% of this category) and in particular in Newcastle (twelve of Tyne and Wear’s eighteen Associate professionals). County Durham also had over a third of this category (36% - twelve), with seven

working in Easington. There were three main A8 occupations here *Entertainer* (seven in total – six working in Newcastle and one in Sunderland); Social worker (seven in total – six working in Easington and one in Sunderland); and *Architectural technician* (five in total – two working in Newcastle and one each in Easington, South Tyneside and Sunderland).

**SOC2000 classification 4 (Administrative and secretarial)** – As Table 1 shows one-hundred and twelve A8 registered workers were employed under this category. Again Tyne and Wear had the bulk of these workers (60% of this category) with again Newcastle accounting for forty-five of Tyne and Wear's sixty-seven workers in this category. The main A8 occupation here was *General administrator* (forty-five in total – twenty were working in Newcastle, four in Stockton-on-Tees, three each in Castle Morpeth, Darlington and Gateshead, two each in Derwentside, Durham, North Tyneside, Sunderland, and Wear Valley, and one each in South Tyneside and Teesdale).

**SOC2000 classification 5 (Skilled trades)** – As Table 1 shows four-hundred and eleven A8 registered workers were employed under this category. The majority worked in Tyne and Wear (41% – 168 workers from this category) and in particular in Newcastle (seventy-three) and Sunderland (forty-five). Durham (forty) and Blyth Valley (thirty-six) also had notable numbers of A8 workers in this category. There were four main A8 occupations here *Welder* (eighty-six in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were twenty-two working in Durham, nineteen in Newcastle, sixteen in Teesdale and twelve in Blyth Valley); *Bricklayer/mason* (sixty-three in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were twenty-nine working in Sunderland and thirteen working in Redcar and Cleveland); *Other chef* (fifty-eight in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were all in Tyne and Wear, twenty-six in Newcastle, seven each in Gateshead and North Tyneside and five in Sunderland); finally *Carpenter/joiner* (forty-seven in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were nine each in Newcastle and Darlington and six each in Gateshead and North Tyneside).

**SOC2000 classification 6 (Personal services)** – There were two-hundred and six A8 registered workers employed under this category. Again the majority of A8 workers in this category worked in Tyne and Wear (61% – 126) with fifty-three working in Newcastle. The only other notable area was Tynedale which had thirty-one of these workers. As stated in Table 1 there was one main occupation, *Care assistant and home carer* (142 in total – the main locations for these

A8 workers were thirty-one in Tynedale, twenty-seven were working in Newcastle, twenty-one in Sunderland, seventeen in Gateshead, fourteen in North Tyneside and eleven in Darlington).

**SOC2000 classification 7 (Sales)** – As Table 1 indicates there were ninety-four A8 registered workers employed under this category. Again the vast majority worked in Tyne and Wear (70% – sixty-six A8 workers in this category), with forty-three working in Newcastle. There was one main occupation here *Sales and retail assistant* (seventy-three in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were thirty-four working in Newcastle, twelve in Gateshead and eight in Berwick-upon-Tweed).

**SOC2000 classification 8 (Process, plant and machine operatives)** – There were 2,224 A8 registered workers employed under this category. Again Tyne and Wear had the majority of workers (35% – 784 A8 workers), with 356 working in Newcastle and 205 in Gateshead. Other notable locations in the region with workers in this category were Darlington (330), Castle Morpeth (291), Derwentside (284) and Stockton-on-Tees (205). As indicated in Table 1 there were two main occupations in the category, *Factory process operative* (1,660 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were 311 in Newcastle, 280 in Castle Morpeth, 179 in Derwentside, 163 in Darlington, 116 in Gateshead and 100 in Durham); and *Fruit and vegetable process operative* (108 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were fifty-six in Derwentside and fourteen in Easington).

**SOC2000 classification 9 (Elementary occupations)** – As Table 1 shows there were 1,737 A8 registered workers in this category. Tyne and Wear again had the majority of these (48% – 833) with Newcastle employers having the bulk of workers (493). Sunderland (141) and Gateshead (102) also had large numbers of A8 workers in this category. Other notable locations in the region with workers in this category were Derwentside (119) and Darlington (104). As indicated in Table 1 there were six main occupations, *Cleaner, domestic staff* (349 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were all in Tyne and Wear, there were a 125 workers in Newcastle, eighty-two in Sunderland, thirty-three in North Tyneside and twenty-eight in Gateshead); *Kitchen and catering assistants* (290 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were 129 in Newcastle and twenty-three in Berwick-upon-Tweed); *Packer* (254 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were ninety in Derwentside, forty-five in Blyth Valley, twenty-six in Middlesbrough and twenty-two in Wansbeck); *Building labourer* (208 in total –

the main locations for these A8 workers were forty-one in Alnwick, thirty-nine in Newcastle and twenty-four in Berwick-upon-Tweed); **Waiter/waitress** (158 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were sixty-five in Newcastle and fourteen in each of Castle Morpeth and Tynedale); finally **Warehouse operative** (115 in total – the main locations for these A8 workers were forty in Darlington and twenty-two in Sedgefield).