Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Changing faces, shaping places – 'geography explained' fact sheet

	Key ideas	Key facts
Key definitions for the unit		Migration: The permanent or semi-permanent change of a person's place of residence, or simply, the movement of people from one place to another.
		Immigration: The movement of a person (the immigrant) into a foreign country for the purpose of settlement, or simply, the arrival of new people into a population.
		Emigration: The departure of a person (the emigrant) from one country (usually their native country) to another for the purpose of settlement, or simply, the departure of people from a population.
		Net migration: The balance between immigration and emigration numbers for a particular country, giving an idea of whether more people are entering or leaving that country. It is usually shown as a figure per 1,000 inhabitants. A positive value shows that more people are entering the country than leaving it, while a negative value shows that more people are leaving the country than entering it.
Lesson 1: Have I got news for you?	Migration is reported in different ways in the media.	The issue of migration has become one of the most contested areas of the political landscape in the UK. The economic contribution that migrants make to the UK has become particularly controversial and has been one of the biggest areas of debate for researchers, policymakers and the media. Researchers produce often contradictory evidence on the impacts of immigration, political parties argue about how best to manage migration and its impacts, and the media is full of stories about various aspects of immigration.
		Most commentators agree that UK "business needs managed migration" (CBI, 2005). There are job vacancies at all levels of the economy. There is also recognition that migrants, in filling these vacancies, bring a number of benefits:
		Keeping inflation down
		Increasing productivity
		Stimulating economic growth
		Facilitating employment growth
		Reducing the average age of the workforce
		Filling vacancies in unskilled or low paid employment.
		Unfortunately, many people still tend to think of supply-side factors when they hear the word 'immigrant': they think of migrants as parasites who come to the UK for their own personal benefit, moving as a result of socio-economic and political conditions at home. The reality is very different: the UK economy has benefited from Eastern European migration and British citizens now rely on migrant workers to do jobs they themselves prefer to ignore.

Should borders be open to all	The media play an important role in the public perception of migration.
migrants?	The UK only became a net recipient of migrants in the 1980s – prior to that, more people left the UK than arrived here. The rate of immigration started to rise markedly in the mid-1990s, reaching a peak in 2004 (222,600). This is due to a number of factors:
	• The emergence of a 'global migration market', mainly for highly skilled workers, resulted in an increase in the number of work permits issued.
	• A rise in the number of asylum applications to a peak of 84,130 in 2002 (Home Office figures, 2006). Applications have since fallen (23,520 in 2006).
	Significant inflows of foreign students coming to study at British universities.
	Migrants moving to join their families in the UK.
	• With the enlargement of the EU in May 2004, citizens of the eight new member states gained the right to work in the UK, just as UK citizens can work elsewhere in the EU.
	• The UK, along with Ireland and Sweden, decided not to place any restrictions on the number of people who could migrate from the new member states.
	• A further category that needs to be considered, but which is harder to quantify, is the number of irregular migrants. A study conducted by the Home Office estimates that there were around 430,000 unauthorised migrants in the UK at the time of the 2001 census.
	Migration is a varied experience and immigrant groups themselves are incredibly diverse so it is difficult to make generalisations about them. For example, the public perception of the Indian community may be that it is composed largely of Commonwealth immigrants who arrived in the 1950s and 1960s. The community in fact includes large numbers of recently-arrived work permit holders working in sectors such as IT. Likewise, while the Somali community may be largely composed of refugees and asylum seekers who have come to the UK as a result of violence in their country since the early 1990s, Somalis have been arriving in the UK since the mid-nineteenth century. At that time, many came to work on ships and in the docks. There are also small numbers of Somalis who have come to the UK as work permit holders in recent years.
What strategies can be employed to promote community cohesion?	Increasing diversity in the UK has led to the debate about how to balance two apparently opposing demands between recognizing difference and establishing a common identity. Many argue that it is time that integration policies went beyond the broad ethnic categories they have traditionally relied on and that achieving greater community cohesion will require policies that take into account the many differences between and within communities. It is a complex debate which should go beyond the common misconception about immigrants that they are a drain on society, or that they all belong to ethnic minorities. Community cohesion is measured by how many people believe that those from different backgrounds get along. <i>Opinion: Beyond black and white</i> (07/09/05) is an article from the BBC News website that provides more information on this topic.
	A recent survey by the Department for Communities and Local Government has identified places where social

		cohesion appears fragile. Six of the ten areas with the worst community relations have recently received large numbers of Eastern European migrants.
		Peterborough, Burnley and Barking and Dagenham are three such areas in the UK with high levels of immigration and where community cohesion is reported to be amongst the lowest in the country. Local residents have voiced concerns about overcrowded accommodation and pressure on public services. The BBC News article <u>Immigration 'harming communities'</u> (16/07/08) provides more information on this topic. Immigration and race relations are at the top of voter's concerns and such tensions have prompted ministers to try to restrict numbers coming to live and work in the UK.
		Some proposed strategies:
		• The Local Government Association has recommended that a £250 million contingency fund be set up to assist councils under pressure from high levels of immigration.
		The Conservatives have argued that annual limits on economic migration are required.
		• The Department for Communities and Local Government has pledged a £50 million "cohesion fund" to support councils and £10 million for schools with increasing pupil numbers.
Lesson 2: Moving for money	Over time there have been many economic migrations.	Economic Migrants Report, IPPR 2007: the immigration status of communities in the UK according to their countries of birth:
		• India: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees, working holidaymakers plus a large number of students.
		• Republic of Ireland: Have never been subject to UK immigration controls so free to live and work in the UK. Now enjoy EU national rights in the UK.
		• Poland: New EU nationals, free to come to the UK if they register on the Worker Registration Scheme, or are self-employed, or can prove they can support themselves without recourse to state benefits; settled community of Second World War refugees and European Volunteer Workers.
		Pakistan: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees, plus students.
		Bangladesh: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and some asylum seekers and refugees.
		• South Africa: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, and working holidaymakers.
		• USA: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, and students.
		• Jamaica: Commonwealth immigrants, recent work permit holders and a small number of asylum seekers and refugees.
		Nigeria: Work permit holders, students, refugees and asylum seekers.

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	China (including SARS): Former Hong Kong residents, work permit holders, students, refugees and asylum seekers.
	• Kenya: Older flows of settled migrants (including white Britons and Asians born in Kenya), recent work permit flows and a small number of asylum seekers.
	• Australia: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, students and working holidaymakers.
	France: EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
	• Zimbabwe: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, refugees and asylum seekers.
	Sri Lanka: Commonwealth immigrants, students, refugees and asylum seekers.
	Philippines: Largely composed of work permit holders.
	• Italy: EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
	Ghana: Largely composed of work permit holders.
	• Somalia: Largely refugees and asylum seekers, with a small number of work permit holders.
	• Canada: Work permit holders, people with rights to settle in the UK on the basis of ancestry, students and working holidaymakers.
	• Turkey: Some labour migrants and more recent flows of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers.
	• Cyprus: New EU nationals free to live and work in the UK; relatively large settled community.
	Portugal: EU nationals free to live and work in the UK.
	• Iran: Settled community of refugees from the Iranian Revolution, more recently arrived asylum seekers and refugees, and work permit holders.
	• Uganda: Older flows of settled migrants (including Asians born in Uganda); recent work permit flows and some refugees and asylum seekers.
Economic migrations create issues for both the origin and destination countries.	In May 2004, eight new countries joined the EU. They were: Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The government predicted that between 5,000 and 13,000 migrant workers would take advantage of the opportunity to come to the UK, but this was a significant underestimate. Since 2004, a reported 1 million migrant workers have come to the UK from these countries (IPPR report April 2008 – summary available in the BBC News article <i>EU migrants 'settling across UK'</i> 30/04/08).
	Between May 2004 and December 2006, migrants from the 8 new EU countries filled gaps in the labour market, particularly in near minimum wage industries such as food, catering, agriculture or manufacturing and production. Factory workers comprised 37% if the total numbers of workers over the first two years, but many workers have now gone into administrative, business and clerical jobs, as well as catering and hospitality.

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Transport has seen some substantial numbers – 16,000 workers over three years. Some 21,000 workers have gone into construction. Some 97% of registered workers were found to be working full time and the majority, as expected, were earning on the lower end of the scale between minimum wage (currently £5.73 an hour for workers over the age of 22) and £6 an hour. The BBC News website has produced a <u>map</u> to show levels of immigration from the new EU countries to different regions of the UK. Poles are now the largest foreign national group in the UK, overtaking people born in India (many of whom are now British citizens). Before the EU expansion, Poles were the 13 th largest group.
When Poland became a member of the European Union in 2004, its citizens won the freedom to work in Britain. There are really two reasons that explain why so many are choosing to exercise that freedom. First, the average annual income in Poland is \pounds 4,000 a year. Second, Poland has the highest unemployment rate in Europe.
Since Poland joined the EU in 2004, 274,065 Poles have signed up for work permits. They make up 66 per cent of all applications from Eastern European countries.
Poland represents the classic migration model in that it is work driven.
However, many of the migrants from the new EU member countries come to the UK on a temporary or seasonal basis, and about half of the 1 million have already returned home. In addition, the number of arrivals has now fallen to its lowest level since 2004, with only 40,000 applications between April and June 2008 – a drop of 14,000 on the same period in 2007 (see BBC News article <i>Drop in East European migration</i> – 21/08/08 – for more information on this topic). This may be because the Polish zloty has strengthened against the pound since 2004 so there is less money to send home. The current recession in the UK is another factor.
Low pay, long hours, lack of adequate accommodation, language barriers and a lack of knowledge about basic rights are all problems that migrants may face when moving to another country.
In the UK, there have been reports of employers exploiting migrant workers. This may involve paying workers below the minimum wage, not giving statutory sick pay or holidays, or providing substandard accommodation. (See BBC News article <u>Migrant workers 'facing problems'</u> – 11/06/06).
Workers may also face difficulties opening bank accounts, obtaining National Insurance numbers or getting work permits. Tensions between local and migrant populations may mean that it is not easy to make friends, join clubs or courses, or seek advice. International qualifications may not be recognised in the UK so some workers may be unable to find work in their particular area of expertise.
Some parts of the country, for example Scotland and Devon, now provide welcome packs for migrant workers

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		including important information to help them settle in the country.
		A report published by the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee in August 2008 entitled "Community Cohesion and Migration" found that many migrants make a significant contribution to their local community by working in public services such as the NHS. (Again, the BBC News article <u>Immigration 'harming communities'</u> (16/07/08) provides more information on this topic.)
		 More facts: Three-quarters of the migrants from the new EU member countries are aged 16-39 years. The employment rate amongst these migrants is 84%, among the highest of all immigrant groups and 9% higher than for the UK-born population. Very few post enlargement migrants claim state benefits. Eastern European migrants work on average 4 hours per week longer than UK-born workers. 44 million pints of Polish beer (Lech and Tyskie) are sold each year in the UK!
	Economic migrations can	What if all the Poles went home? (BBC News website, 27/03/08)
	shape places both now and in the future.	Reports that the numbers of Polish economic migrants are in decline will have implications for industry in the UK: particularly the construction and agricultural industries. Plumbers and carpenters are being tempted back to Poland as a result of construction programmes linked to the country's co-hosting of the 2012 European Championships. Construction linked to the London 2012 Olympics will require an estimated 87,500 builders each year, and a lack of available labour may prove to be a problem. In some parts of the country, expensive fruit crops have been left unpicked as migrant worker numbers are down on previous years. The decline in Eastern European economic migration is uncovering a major problem of a lack of a skilled local labour force in the UK.
Lesson 3: Leaving for lifestyle	Many retirees from the UK have migrated to Southern Spain.	Figures show that more people are leaving Britain than at any time for more than a century. Between July 2005 and July 2006, 385,000 people left the country, 200,000 of whom were British citizens. The rest were foreign nationals returning home. Retirement, work opportunities and quality of life are thought to be the three main reasons that people choose to leave the UK. Australia and Spain are the most popular destinations, although there are 41 countries with more than 10,000 British people living there are a further 71 with more than 1,000. (See <u>Exodus as 1.8m Britons leave the country</u> – Daily Telegraph 22/08/07).
	There are many reasons for this migration.	At the moment, over 1 million UK pensioners live abroad. In 1981, the figure was just 250,000. It is estimated that by 2050, more than three million British pensioners will be living abroad. This trend has been called "silver flight". The biggest reason for this type of migration is the sunshine, but many migrants also mentioned the idea of retirement providing them with a "new start" in life. The cheaper cost of living is another draw.
		Australia is the most popular destination for UK migrants of pension age (245,000), followed by North America (190,000), Ireland (105,000) and Spain (75,000). In La Cala de Mijas, a town on the Costa del Sol in Spain,

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or	ne third of the residents are British.
	ase study: Living the expat life (See <u>Three million will flee Britain to retire abroad</u> – Daily Telegraph 0/12/06).
re wi	ay and Pat Mitchell, originally from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, moved to the Costa del Sol following their etirement five years ago. They are among the increasing number of retired people choosing to live overseas here the climate is better for their health, the cost of living is cheaper and a new culture provides a sense of dventure:
re ale Th	I visited England recentlyand everywhere I went people were moaning about how difficult it was to afford a easonable lifestyle there. We have lots of friends here and we indulge ourselves by taking lots of long walks long the beach and eating out. Of course, it's easy to do that here because everything is so much cheaper. he healthcare is good, and it is free once you become a resident here. I am sitting in my garden, the sun is hining and I can't imagine ever moving back."
w	/illiam and Mazzirha Stead retired from Northampton to Motril, in Southern Spain:
	The UK is becoming too expensive I receive a state pension and a small private pension, and my money oes 30% further here because everything is so much cheaper."
be	Northampton used to be a nice town. But it reaches the stage where we had to be careful where we went, ecause of young people causing trouble. Where we live now, the sun shines every day. We spend a lot of me visiting friends and the time flies."

Lesson 4: Is there	Asylum seekers are an	It is important to understand the different types of migrants that come to the UK as words such as 'refugee',
a choice?	example of those who have been forced to migrate	'asylum seeker', 'migrant', are often used in the media without a common understanding of the terms. International law defines a 'refugee' as a person who has fled from and/or cannot return to their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution, including war or civil conflict. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) distinguishes between a refugee and other immigrants:
		"Immigrants normally leave a country voluntarily to seek a better life. Should immigrants decide to return home, they would continue to receive the protection of their government and be safe from persecution. However, refugees flee because of the threat of persecution and cannot return safely because of dangerous circumstances in their home countries."
		The <u>Refugee Council</u> provides the following definitions:
		Asylum Seeker: A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been decided.
		Refugee: Someone whose asylum application has been successful and who is allowed to stay in another country having been proved they would face persecution back home.
		'Failed' Asylum Seeker: A person whose asylum application has failed and who has no other protection claim awaiting a decision. Some refused asylum seekers voluntarily return home, others are forcibly returned and for some it is not safe or practical for them to return until conditions in their country change.
		Illegal immigrant: Someone whose entry into or presence in a country contravenes immigration laws.
		Economic migrant: Someone who has moved to another country to work.
		Other useful multimedia resources which may be used in this section and show the challenges faced by different types of migrants moving to another country:
		UNHCR interactive game Against All Odds
		Teachers TV programme <u>Migrant Stories</u> . This programme shows moving stories about refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants. The personal accounts bring these labels to life in the classroom, showing the pupils what it's like to be a foreigner trying to make the best of living your life in another country.
	Darfur is an example of mass migration due to war	The ongoing war in Darfur began on 2 nd February 2003 between the Sudanese military and Janjaweed on one side and rebel non-Arab ethnic groups on the other. The UN estimate that over 400,000 deaths have occurred due to violence and disease and that 2 million have been displaced. These have largely been a result of

	villages being destroyed and burned and many have fled to refugee camps in both Darfur and Chad. See the Wikipedia entries for the <u>War in Darfur</u> and the <u>History of Darfur</u> for more information.
Migrants may change the places they migrate to	This section illustrates the ways that migration has influenced the UK economically and socially. Since 2004, migration from the new member states of the EU has been one of the most important trends shaping the UK today. In addition, in recent years, and for the first time since records began in the 1970s, immigrants from outside the Commonwealth and Europe have made up the largest group of new arrivals. While immigration to Britain in the past has been overwhelmingly the story of just a small number of nations, recent immigrants have also come from a much wider range of countries. The numbers of people born in regions such as the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and South America have increased sharply, while the numbers of people born in the Caribbean or Ireland (traditionally key immigrant groups) have actually fallen. The <u>BBC's Born Abroad pages</u> provide further details of diversity and immigration in the UK and a case study of Wembley.
People migrate for many different reasons which create different patterns of migration	There are many different reasons why people migrate and hopefully this unit will have drawn attention to many of them – particularly economic, voluntary and forced examples. The patterns of migration created by the class will vary greatly depending on whether the local area has experienced large or small amounts of immigration.
Migration patterns have changed over time	For a list of migration figures from new EU countries by UK local authority, see this BBC News map. Voluntary migration patterns have broadly changed in the last century as a result of modern methods of transportation and the availability of information about far flung places around the globe. Prior to the 1950s, few people owned a car and many people travelled no further than 50 – 100km within their lifetime. During the 1950s and 1960s car ownership increased and other forms of travel became more affordable so that people were more likely to migrate slightly further distances but usually within their country of origin. Today, with the internet and cheap air travel, many choose to migrate to other countries for a `better' lifestyle or to
	places they migrate to People migrate for many different reasons which create different patterns of migration Migration patterns have