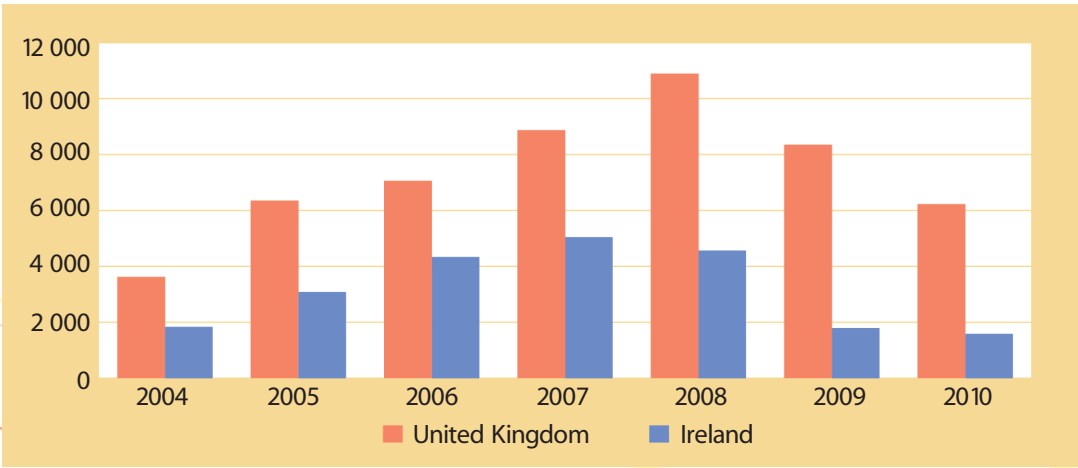


# Working abroad after the EU accession

Joining the EU in 2004 has strengthened the emigration from Hungary, which started to develop at the change of regime (losing its former strictly controlled and restricted character). Mainly labour force migration has increased, in spite of the fact that only three old Member States – United Kingdom, Ireland and Sweden – opened their labour markets immediately. Especially the first two countries have become a major new target of Hungarians who wanted to work abroad (while Germany preserved its top position as the most important target country of Hungarians), due to their high income levels, high work force demand and language. More than 51,000 Hungarian citizens were registered in the United Kingdom between the beginning of May 2004 and the end of September 2010, and the corresponding figure was about 22,000 in Ireland. The number of registrations grew year by year from 2004 and it started the decline after 2008, probably due to the economic recession.

Newly registered workers with Hungarian citizenship in the United Kingdom and Ireland after the EU accession



Source: Home Office UK Border Agency: WRS (Working Registration Scheme)  
Department of Social and Family Affairs (Ireland): PPSN (Personal Public Service Number)

However, compared to most of the Member States that joined the EU in 2004, Hungarian labour force migration has remained modest. During the previously mentioned period, the proportion of Hungarian citizens among workers who arrived from the new EU-8 Member States to Ireland and the United Kingdom was only 4.2-4.4%. If we compare the number of migrants to the population of the country of origin, all Member States except for Slovenia and the Czech Republic precede Hungary regarding labour force migration to the above mentioned target countries.

Number of registered workers in the United Kingdom and Ireland from the EU-8 Member States and their ratio within the population of origin

The 8 Member States joining in 2004	Population in 2004 (million)	Registered workers in Ireland 2004–2010		Registered workers in the United Kingdom 2004–2010	
		N	Ratio compared to the population of origin (‰)	N	Ratio compared to the population of origin (‰)
Czech Republic	10.2	20 474	2.0	48 435	4.7
Estonia	1.3	7 061	5.4	9 850	7.6
Hungary	10.1	22 241	2.2	51 400	5.1
Latvia	2.3	38 999	17.0	73 660	32.0
Lithuania	3.4	72 865	21.4	116 860	34.4
Poland	38.6	330 718	8.6	707 357	18.3
Slovakia	5.4	41 573	7.7	110 675	20.5
Slovenia	2.0	468	0.2	1 155	0.6
Total	73.3	534 399	7.3	1 119 392	15.3