



The whole story on immigration, DeSantis takes on Trump and the wacky world of record breakers

In a surprise to almost no one, official figures confirmed that net immigration levels into the UK reached a record high in 2022. As our big story explores, perhaps the main talking point is not so much why the numbers are so high but why, when migration is a dynamic and enduring reality of the modern world, successive Conservative governments have perpetuated a simplistic notion that UK immigration could easily be reduced.

Home affairs editor Rajeev Syal breaks down the figures, while South Asia correspondent Hannah Ellis-Petersen finds out why Indians studying abroad are so keen on British universities. Finally, Daniel Trilling outlines how the UK's controversial policy to stop small migrant boats crossing the Channel is partly inspired by Greece's hardline crackdown, one area in which post-Brexit Britain seems happy to emulate its European neighbours.

The big story *Page 10* →

In the US, Ron DeSantis finally confirmed his run for the Republican presidential nomination,

despite a nightmare launch on social media platform Twitter. The Florida governor is already playing catch-up with his arch-rival Donald Trump in the battle for the hearts and minds of America's hard right. Can he really topple Trump? David Smith reports from Washington.

Spotlight *Page 30* →

If you've wondered what inspires people to stand on one leg blindfolded for hours, or to attempt the loudest burp, don't miss Imogen West-Knights' long read on how the weird and wonderful Guinness World Records is still thriving in the digital age.

On the record *Page 34* →

In Culture, as the TV series Succession ended this week, writer Jesse Armstrong discusses the show's genesis and the real-life characters who inspired its fearsome media mogul protagonist, Logan Roy.

The secret of my Succession *Page 51* →

On the cover

For years, Britain's ruling Conservatives have pushed the view that migration to the country is uniquely high, that it can be purged from an interconnected world, and that it is opposed by the British public in a way echoed by some newspapers and politicians. But, in analysing the 2022 figures, where is the evidence that any of this is actually true?

Illustration: Guardian Design



4-14	GLOBAL REPORT <i>Headlines from the last seven days</i>
10	UK Truths and myths around immigration
15-33	SPOTLIGHT <i>In-depth reporting and analysis</i>
15	Turkey Erdoğan's victory
18	Sudan Civilians pay a high price for fighting
24	Environment Insects move upwards to survive
26	Spain Football star tackles the real problem of racism
28	Sri Lanka Tea pickers are left with a nasty taste
33	Colombia Spray painters and the paving rebellion
34-44	FEATURES <i>Long reads, interviews and essays</i>
34	☛ The strange business of Guinness World Records <i>By Imogen West-Knights</i>
40	Solar farms swamp California's desert <i>By Oliver Wainwright</i>
45-50	OPINION
45	Jonathan Freedland The chilling battle with AI
47	Charlotte Higgins Why museums matter
48	George Monbiot Tackling the food crisis
51-59	CULTURE <i>TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture & more</i>
51	Screen Goodbye to the Roys
55	Exhibition Visions of China
58	Books Martin Luther King Jr, flaws and all
60-61	LIFESTYLE
60	Tim Dowling In caffeine shock



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