Immigration and the EU Referendum
10.05.2016
Over half believe the Govt. should have total control over immigration even if it means coming out of the EU

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

- Don’t know
- 12%
- 33%
- 55%

The Government should have total control over who comes into Britain, even if this means coming out of the EU to achieve it

It is beneficial for Britain to remain in the EU, even if this means the Government does not have total control over the number of people who come into Britain

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
Opinion is more divided on whether we should accept free movement of peoples in return for access to the EU single market.

And now thinking if Britain votes to leave the European Union on 23 June which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

- Britain should continue to allow European Union citizens to come and live and work in Britain in return for access to the EU single market: 42%
- Britain should stop European Union citizens coming to live and work in Britain with new immigration rules even if that restricted Britain’s access to the EU single market: 39%
- Don’t know: 19%

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016.
EU immigration will be one of the key issues that decides how people will vote in the EU referendum. Looking ahead to the referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union on 23 June, which, if any, issues do you think will be very important to you in helping you decide which way to vote?

The impact on Britain’s economy (57%)
- The number of immigrants coming into Britain (48%)
- Britain’s ability to make its own laws (50%)
- Britain’s ability to trade with countries in the European Union (40%)
- The impact on British jobs (46%)
- The impact on the rights of British workers (37%)
- The ability to travel in the European Union (26%)
- The cost of EU immigration on Britain’s welfare system (47%)
- Britain’s relationship with other countries (36%)
- Britain’s status in the world (26%)
- The ability of British citizens to live and work in other European Union countries (24%)
- The impact on funding for British universities and scientists (17%)
- The impact on me personally (25%)
- Regulations by the European Union on British businesses (32%)
- The impact on British national security (46%)
- The number of refugees coming to Britain to claim asylum (42%)

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016.
For others, Immigration is seen as important as the economy

And which of these issues, if any, do you think will be the most important for the British public overall on how they will vote in the EU referendum on 23 June?

The impact on Britain’s economy: 24%

The number of immigrants coming into Britain: 24%

Britain’s ability to make its own laws: 9%

Britain’s ability to trade with countries in the European Union: 2%

The impact on British jobs: 4%

The impact on the rights of British workers: 1%

The ability to travel in the European Union: 1%

The cost of EU immigration on Britain’s welfare system: 8%

Britain’s relationship with other countries: 2%

Britain’s status in the world: 1%

The ability of British citizens to live and work in other European Union countries: 1%

The impact on funding for British universities and scientists: *

The impact on me personally: 2%

Regulations by the European Union on British businesses: 1%

The impact on British national security: 3%

The number of refugees coming to Britain to claim asylum: 5%

Other: 1%

None of the above: 1%

Don’t know: 10%

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
Two-thirds think that number of EU immigrants will decrease if Britain leaves the EU

Please tell me whether you think that the number of EU immigrants coming into the UK would increase, decrease or stay the same over the next five years if Britain were to leave the EU?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GB Total</th>
<th>Remain voters</th>
<th>Leave voters</th>
<th>May change mind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase a lot</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase a little</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay about the same</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease a little</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease a lot</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
But no clear agreement on whether net migration targets will be met if Britain leaves EU

If Britain leaves the EU, net migration (the number of people coming into Britain minus the number of migrants leaving Britain) can be reduced to the government’s target of ‘tens of thousands’ per year by 2020

Base: 2,001 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016

GB Total
-Strongly agree: 14%
-Tend to agree: 30%
-Neither agree nor disagree: 22%
-Tend to disagree: 15%
-Strongly disagree: 7%
-Don’t know: 13%

Remain voters
-Strongly agree: 12%
-Tend to agree: 25%
-Neither agree nor disagree: 25%
-Tend to disagree: 12%
-Strongly disagree: 12%
-Don’t know: 13%

Leave voters
-Strongly agree: 29%
-Tend to agree: 40%
-Neither agree nor disagree: 16%
-Tend to disagree: 8%
-Strongly disagree: 6%
-Don’t know: 2%

May change mind
-Strongly agree: 10%
-Tend to agree: 42%
-Neither agree nor disagree: 21%
-Tend to disagree: 14%
-Strongly disagree: 10%
-Don’t know: 2%
Brexit voters more stable than remain voters even when it comes to more favourable immigration numbers

Would you still vote to remain in/leave the European Union, or not?

### Remain voters
- **Current level of 260,000**
  - Still vote remain: 82%
  - Switch to leave: 5%
  - Unsure: 3%

- **Increase in EU immigration**
  - +100,000: 46% (Still vote remain), 10% (Switch to leave), 44% (Unsure)
  - +50,000: 57% (Still vote remain), 8% (Switch to leave), 35% (Unsure)
  - +10,000: 72% (Still vote remain), 5% (Switch to leave), 23% (Unsure)

### Leave voters
- **Current level of 260,000**
  - Still vote to leave: 91%
  - Switch to remain: 1%
  - Unsure: 8%

- **Decrease in EU immigration**
  - -100,000: 70% (Still vote to leave), 6% (Switch to remain), 24% (Unsure)
  - -50,000: 77% (Still vote to leave), 4% (Switch to remain), 19% (Unsure)
  - -10,000: 84% (Still vote to leave), 3% (Switch to remain), 13% (Unsure)

Base: 1,808 remain voters

Base: 1,651 leave voters

Ipsos MORI
Social Research Institute

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
There has been a move in the number of people saying we are getting the conversation on immigration right, but we’re still polarised on the issue.

Generally speaking, do you think that the issue of immigration has been discussed in Britain too much, too little or about the right amount over the last few months?

- It has been discussed too much
  - 2011: 11%, 2015: 27%, 2016: 25%
- It has been discussed about the right amount
  - 2011: 20%, 2015: 28%, 2016: 31%
- It has been discussed too little
  - 2011: 62%, 2015: 37%, 2016: 36%
- Don't know
  - 2011: 7%, 2015: 8%, 2016: 8%
The majority think that even if Britain stays in the EU, we should campaign for tighter immigration controls

If Britain votes to remain in the EU on 23 June, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

- Britain should continue to campaign for greater controls on European Union citizens coming to live and work in Britain: 68%
- Britain should accept the current rights of European Union citizens to come and live and work in Britain: 24%
- Don’t know: 9%

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
There is still majority support for reducing immigration levels

Do you think that the number of immigrants to Britain nowadays should be increased a lot, increased a little, remain the same as it is, reduced a little or reduced a lot?

**2015**
- Increased a lot: 40%
- Increased a little: 5%
- Remain the same: 6%
- Reduced a little: 23%
- Reduced a lot: 22%
- Don't know: 4%

**2016**
- Increased a lot: 42%
- Increased a little: 5%
- Remain the same: 6%
- Reduced a little: 20%
- Reduced a lot: 24%
- Don't know: 3%

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
And six in ten people remain dissatisfied with government on how it is dealing with immigration

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the current government is dealing with immigration?

**2015**
- 28% Very satisfied
- 32% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 25% Fairly satisfied
- 10% Fairly dissatisfied
- 2% Very dissatisfied
- 3% Don’t know

**2016**
- 34% Very satisfied
- 28% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 25% Fairly satisfied
- 8% Fairly dissatisfied
- 4% Very dissatisfied
- 1% Don’t know

Base: 4,002 British adults, aged 18+, surveyed online between 14-25 April 2016
For more information

Bobby Duffy
Managing Director, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute
✉️ bobby.duffy@ipsos.com

Kully Kaur-Ballagan
Research Director
✉️ kully.kaur-ballagan@ipsos.com

Glenn Gottfried
Research Manager
✉️ glenn.gottfried@ipsos.com