



Migration and the West Country

A South West TUC guide to
population and migration



South West people

5.4

million people live in the South West
a rise of 7% from 2001

South West population
5.4 million

Non-UK
EU-born
population in
the South West
160k

source: Oxford University Migration Observatory 2015

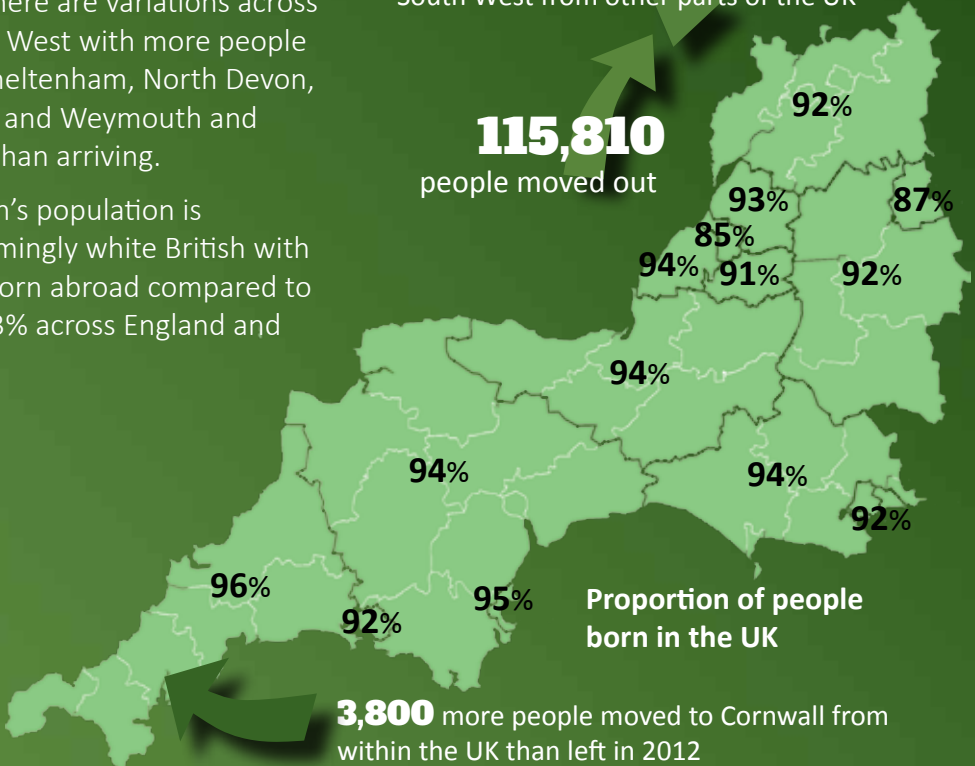
POPULATION in the South West has been rising although not as fast as many people believe.

The increase is due mainly to people living longer and moving into the region from elsewhere in the UK. There are variations across the South West with more people leaving Cheltenham, North Devon, Plymouth and Weymouth and Portland than arriving.

The region's population is overwhelmingly white British with only 8% born abroad compared to around 13% across England and Wales.

In 2013 **136,830** people moved to the South West from other parts of the UK

115,810
people moved out



3,800 more people moved to Cornwall from within the UK than left in 2012

source: ONS Census

Population concerns

People move for all sorts of reasons and have always done so. But the issues of immigration and population change cause alarm as well as joy. This guide looks at the facts and figures behind the emotional headlines.



photo: Jess Hurd

Nigel Costley
South West TUC
Regional Secretary

The issues of immigration and population are rarely out of the news and are hotly debated. They can affect how people are treated at work and in communities. Trade unions speak up for working people, including protecting wages and conditions from being undercut. This also means supporting workers when they are being exploited by employers and gang masters. So we have a duty to arm trade union representatives with the facts on population and migration.

The best way to protect jobs and wages is to crack down on

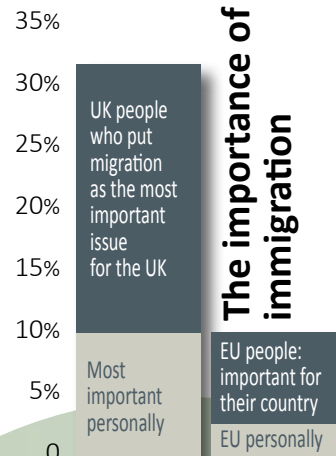
employers who exploit migrants for cheap labour. The best way to integrate new arrivals is to make sure they receive the same pay and conditions as other workers and help them to improve their English and knowledge of British life. Bad employers must not be allowed to divide the workforce. All workers need more power to speak out for decent treatment and fair pay for all, no matter where they come from.

The dramatic and sometimes harrowing scenes of refugees fleeing Syria and other conflict zones have challenged us to open our hearts and our doors.

We take for granted our freedom to travel. The British have been the great migrants around the world and tighter border controls work both ways. Migration brings economic benefits and the richness of diversity but it can unsettle people. People least likely to meet a migrant are most likely to believe the scare stories. We need to address the fears with facts and the problems with solutions. I hope this booklet helps do that.

Nigel Costley

A very British concern



The British are more concerned by immigration for the country than they are for themselves. It is an issue that concerns them more than people in other EU countries.

Views are formed by what people are told rather than from their own experience.



Most migrants are young, fit and healthy and so pay more in taxes than they receive in services.

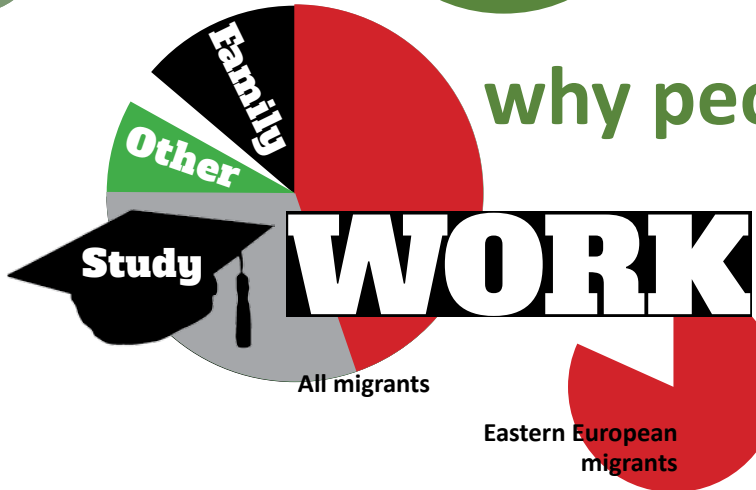
Sport is global and British teams search the world for the best players. Britons play around the world.

23,910 foreign students paid around double the UK fees to study in the South West in 2011-12.

Hospitals such as Gloucester Royal are recruiting nurses from Portugal and Spain because Britain has not trained enough to meet demand.

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why people come



Most migrants from Eastern European come for work with high rates of employment at more than **80%**

and why people go

More UK students are taking up one of the **1,800** or so English-taught courses on offer across Europe, partly to avoid the high British tuition fees.

UK medical graduates working in Australia have risen **60%** from 2008 to 2012.

More British people work abroad than foreign migrants work here.

sources: ONS, Labour Force Survey, UKCISA Australian College of Emergency Medicine, *The Guardian* 2015





West Country agriculture has long relied on migrant labour because local people do not want such work.

The West Country plays host to around 39,000 armed personnel.

Britain is seen as a tolerant, free society and is attractive for those who speak or want to improve their English.



Visits

In 2014

34.4 million foreign visits were made to the UK – worth **£22** billion spending.

The top countries were: France, Germany, US and Ireland.

60 million

visits abroad were made by UK residents in 2014.

The top destinations were: Spain, France, US and Ireland.



Tourism

The South West is the most popular region for tourists with **75 million** overnight stays in 2012-13 and **2 million** foreign tourists spending £971m

Spain is the most popular destination for British visitors and up to a million stay.

Australia, America, Canada and France host significant numbers of British migrants

sources: ONS International Passenger Survey, Military population in Wiltshire and the South West Region Oct 2012



In search of a safe haven

Recent scenes of thousands of people fleeing war have brought back memories of when Jews sought refuge from Hitler's Germany. Thirteen-year-old Harry Grenville arrived in the UK after fleeing the Nazis in 1939. Along with his sister, he was helped by the Kindertransport system from his home in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, to a new life with a foster family in Camelford, north Cornwall.

"I wasn't scared to be in a foreign country because my new family were so friendly, I felt at home straight away," he says. "We were pretty convinced at that time that we would see our parents again because they planned to emigrate to the United States." Tragically, his parents never made it across the Atlantic. Instead they were rounded up and taken to Auschwitz where they were murdered in the gas chambers.

Harry started a job in the biochemistry laboratory of Hammersmith Hospital. Later he joined the Army and spent the next four years working as an interpreter in prisoner of war camps, including Cattistock in west Dorset.

Harry achieved a science degree, which led him to teach chemistry and biology at schools in Gloucestershire before moving to Dorset to retire. "I married a Dorset



Harry with his sister in Germany in 1939 just before they fled to Cornwall

girl," he says, "so we came back here." Harry now lives in Dorchester, where he is very much involved in the community, playing a prominent role in the town's Stop the Drop anti-litter campaign.

He returned to Germany last year, where he was invited to speak at the dedication of a memorial placed on the site of his old synagogue torched by the Nazis. "The contrast being kicked out in 1939 and being welcomed back 76 years later was very impressive," he says, "but I would never want to go back to live in Germany because I have made my life here."

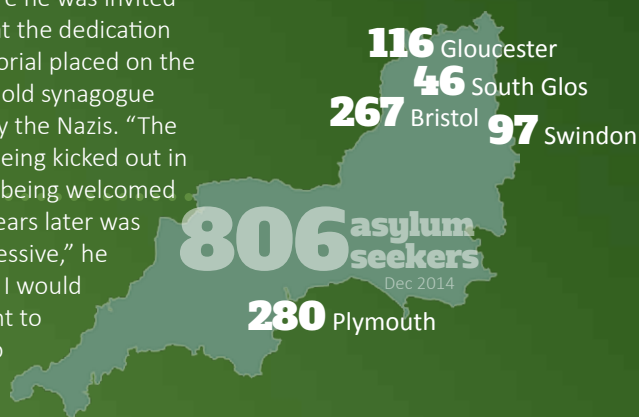
0.2%

The proportion of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in the UK.

Asylum seekers are dispersed around the country while their cases are heard. The private accommodation used is 'hard-to-let' and has sometimes been criticised as being of poor standard.

Asylum seekers are not

entitled to social housing or housing benefit and they get no housing from local councils



Asylum seekers are not allowed to work

£36.62
per week benefit payable to asylum seekers

Migrants and benefits

The issue of most concern has been foreign migrants arriving in Britain to claim benefits. Work and study are the main attractions for migrants and they draw less from our welfare system than their UK counterparts. European migrants to the UK pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits, helping to relieve the deficit and contribute to public services.

It is unlawful to discriminate against people and the same rules must apply to all. There are, however, stringent tests that require migrants to prove they 'habitually' live in the UK and have done so for a period of time.

Government reports have found migrants are often reluctant to claim benefits due to language barriers and lack of advice.

The UK does not have a generous benefit system compared to most EU countries. Germans, for example, in paid employment for at least a year before, receive unemployment benefit worth 60% of their net salary for a year and 67% for a family.

30,000

Britons claim more generous benefits in the EU

The Guardian Jan 2015

Disability benefits

Proportion of claimants

3% of migrants claim
7% of UK nationals claim

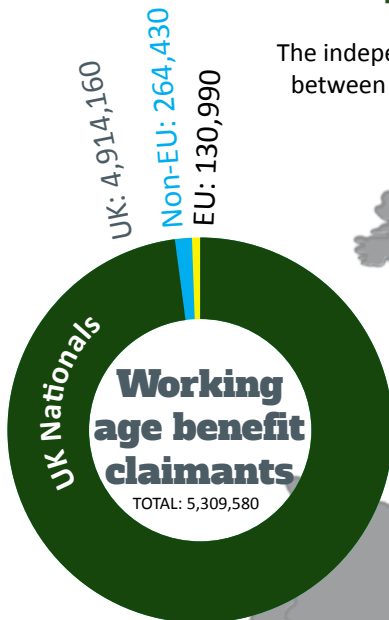
Out-of-work benefits

Proportion of claimants

1% of migrants claim
4% of UK nationals claim

Taking out or putting in

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility has calculated the balance between taxes EU migrants give and what they take in public services and benefits.



sources: *Daily Telegraph*
Nov 2014, DWP

Pre-2004 European Union migrants (EU-15)



Post-2004 European Union migrants (EU-10)



Migrant benefits

Most migrants who come to Britain are young, fit and in work and are far less likely to claim benefits than local people. If they do claim, they must pass the **Right to Reside** and **Habitual Residence** tests. In 2011 **26,786** claims for tax-funded, income-related benefits were made by non-UK nationals.

67% were disallowed under the tests. Since then the requirements have been tightened to prevent more recent migrants from claiming benefits.

European migrants who came to the UK 2000 to 2011 paid more than

£20 billion to our public finances

source: OECD Report

EU migrants brought **SKILLS** worth **£6.8m**

source: University College London 2014

Saving lives and building communities



"I have never claimed benefits in my life," asserts **Mona Elkomy**. The cardiologist arrived in the UK from Egypt in 1981 and works at the Dorset County Hospital taking ECGs and fitting heart monitors. Her husband, Anwar, is a consultant at the same hospital.

"I have always worked," she says. "Even when my children were little, I worked. I used to volunteer for Help The Aged, driving people from their home to their club and, when the children grew up, I had more free time and began voluntary work for Citizens' Advice. I also joined the prison monitoring board and I'm a volunteer at the county museum."

Iwo Domeracki came to England when he was 18 to work night-shifts in Tesco. He now works in Yeovil District Hospital as a domestic assistant. Iwo has been elected a UNISON steward and actively campaigns to keep the NHS public. He said: "I have worked constantly since coming to UK, never actually sent money abroad, never been on benefits or in social housing. I have not even been on vacation abroad, so from an economical point of view, I'm even healthier for the economy than some British people." Although the UK has paid for none of Iwo's education he is pleased to be able to work for the NHS and contribute to the country.



Migrants boost the economy

Without current levels of migration UK taxes would need to rise or public services be cut even more. This is the view of the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (March 2015).

Migrants are more likely to be of working age and in employment so they push up economic growth. The OBR forecasts that output growth of the British economy will gain 0.5 per cent due to current migration.

Work and pay

Most EU migrants come to the UK to work. But does this mean they are stopping local people getting into work and keeping pay down?

There is a record number of people in work but the TUC has campaigned against the poor quality of many jobs. Wages have been squeezed with West Country workers losing some £2,000 a year since 2010. But if we stopped people from moving for work the situation would be a lot worse.

Some foreign workers take highly-skilled jobs such as computer specialists and health professionals. A few come as senior managers in foreign-owned companies that invest here.

Migrants tend to take jobs locals don't want to do especially in agriculture and food production.

Many are often over-qualified and quickly move on to better paid work or return home when the season ends.

Trade unions have worked hard to protect established pay rates. It has been the recession and bad employers that have squeezed wages, not competition from migrant workers. A government report that studied the impact on jobs, found "little evidence of displacement" caused by migrants.

Migrants tend to raise productivity levels as they have skills, high motivation and fresh ideas. 17.2% of migrants set up their own firms compared to 10.4% of UK nationals.

Some employers will try to rip off migrants and unions fight exploitation to protect all workers. The TUC believes strong unions, effective enforcement of the Minimum

Migrants the world over tend to be enterprising and hard working. They have to be to brave the journey and cope in a new life.

14% of all new jobs are created by migrant start-up firms.

Wage and protection for established pay rates will stop migrants being blamed for the actions of bad employers.

Unions want fair pay for all workers. For more information on joining a union visit:

www.worksmart.org.uk



Population density



South West
226
people per sq km



England
413
people per sq km

Is Britain full?

Government has a responsibility to provide services to meet population demand but is there a limit on space? Horse-grazing takes up as much land as half of all built-up areas. There is twice as much land given up to golf courses as for houses. There are 200,000 long-term vacant dwellings (homes unoccupied for over six months) in England and over 610,000 empty homes.

sources: ONS, Colin Wiles *Inside Housing* 2013, Empty Homes 2015

Ageing population

A key reason for population growth is that people are living longer. The West Country has the oldest population of any region in the UK. It is a popular destination for people wishing to retire but the region also loses

young people in search of good careers elsewhere.

In 2012

3,200
more
16-24
year olds

left the South West than came

34%
2008

48%
2033



In 1981, there were **2,420** people aged 100 and over. By 2014 the figure was

13,290

Even with anticipated migration, Europe's population is in long-term decline and getting older due to low birth rates. In 2020 the ratio of working people to pensioners in the EU will be 3:1. By 2050 it will be 2:1. Countries such as Germany recognise the need to attract foreign migrants to address this population imbalance.

The proportion of over-65s in West Somerset

sources: Oxford University Migration Observatory 2015, *Financial Times* 2014, ONS flows by age, ONS, Eurostat and European Central Bank

Lebanon, shown in scale, has taken 2 million refugees

Lebanon
Beirut



Britain has offered to take 20,000 in five years

Space

The small country of Lebanon has taken some two million people fleeing war in neighbouring Syria. Compare this with the British offer to take 20,000 over five years.

British migrants



5.5 million Britons live abroad compared to **4.2** million non-UK born people in England and Wales

Foreign-born in the South West

Almost half of people living in Britain but born abroad are British citizens. This is often due to British connections and military postings abroad.



Boris Johnson, Joanna Lumley and the Duke of Edinburgh are classed as foreigners when the media use this definition.

The most common non-UK born residents in the South West are:



Polish 36k

German 31k

Irish 23k

96.7% speak **ENGLISH** as first language

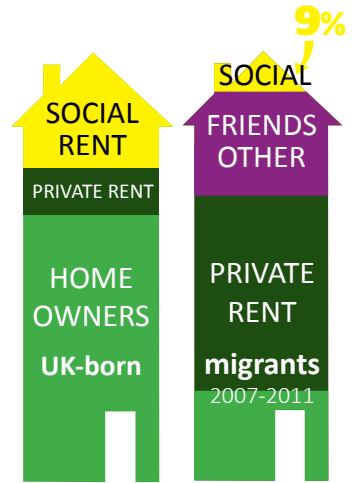
0.1% cannot speak **ENGLISH**

The Government has recently tightened the rules requiring public sector workers to have a higher standard of English. At the same time it has cut English courses for speakers of other languages.

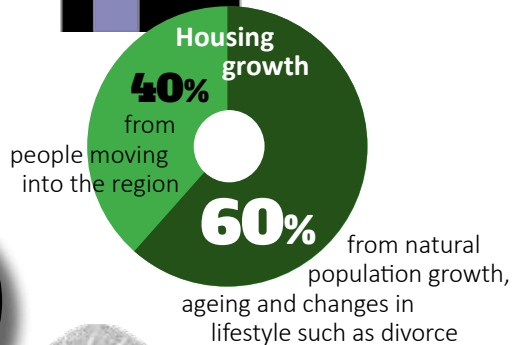
photo: Carlos Guarita

Housing pressures

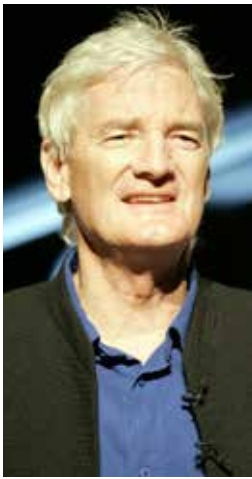
Britain has a housing crisis. House building has been well short of growing demand for years and migration is not the main cause. A key barrier to house building is the shortage of skilled labour. Unions want better pay and conditions for all construction workers.



Most new arrivals to the UK rely on private renting, friends and family for accommodation.



Polish cheese worker in Devon



Boosting business

Sir James Dyson is one of the West Country's best known business leaders. His company's research and development centre at Malmesbury in Wiltshire has designed many innovative products thanks to highly skilled engineers from the UK and abroad. Dyson told Sky News that Britain's immigration rules are "sheer madness" and counter-productive to the country's economic ambitions.

He was particularly critical of the government's moves to expel international students once they have graduated. He told Eamonn Holmes: "It is true that nearly 90% of our researchers at British universities in engineering and science come from overseas and we ought to make them more welcome." Dyson believes that such students will help Britain create interesting products that the country can export, rather than forcing them to go home where they become competitors.

Hundreds of Britain's most successful technology firms have warned the Prime Minister that their sector will suffer from a further clamp-down on international migration. Alex Depredge, who submitted a letter signed by 237 entrepreneurs told the *Daily Telegraph*: "The only way we can continue to prosper is by hiring the world's best technologists. Reducing the amount of skilled migration could hinder our growth."

source: *Daily Telegraph* 9.11.15

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17.2% migrants have launched their own business compared to 10.4% UK born

One in seven UK firms are created by migrants: creating 14% of UK jobs

source *Financial Times* 2014

“The crux of the issue is straightforward: international students benefit the UK, universities want them and businesses need them.”

Institute of Directors 2015

Tackle bad bosses

The best way to protect jobs and wages is to crack down on employers who exploit migrants for cheap labour.

59%
of people somewhat or strongly support this view.

The TUC believes that people would be less alarmed by migration if effective controls against exploitation were enforced.



source:TUC 2014

I AM AN IMMIGRANT

Immigrants in the South West



Torbjorn Dahl from Norway is a lecturer in Software Engineering teaching Plymouth students computer science and undertaking world-leading robotics research.



David Galbreath came from the US and is Professor of International Security in Bath. He has taught thousands of British students and has worked for the FCO, MoD and No 10.



Joanna Bryson is a Reader in Artificial Intelligence from the US. She paid to do her first degree in the UK and now teaches and researches artificial intelligence in Bath.



Olga Vaychule from Russia, now in Minehead, says: "I am a mom, a full-time working pharmacist, a community activist, a Homestart volunteer and yes, I am an immigrant."



Amber Fensham-Smith from South Africa is a Bristol Doctoral Researcher. She has conducted research on engaging Gypsy and Traveller Families in education.

It is not racist to have concerns about immigration but racists often stir up people's fears. The most trusted people to talk about immigration are immigrants themselves. **'I am an Immigrant'** is a successful campaign giving a voice to people who have come to the UK. The initiative is led by the Movement Against

Xenophobia, a network of organisations, groups and individuals working to oppose anti-immigrant agendas in the UK. It is run by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants with the support of the Trades Union Congress.



www.iamanimmigrant.net

If you have an
AFRICAN or **ASIAN**
sounding name
you will need to send almost

TWICE

as many
JOB APPLICATIONS
just to get an
INTERVIEW

source: Runnymede Trust

Terms explained

Terms used can sometimes confuse and are often mixed up to mislead. So here is a brief glossary:

Migrants

Those who come to the UK mainly for work, most stay less than two years.

Economic migrants

Those seeking a better life abroad including Britons emigrating to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and almost every part of the world!

Immigrants

Those who come in order to settle.

Asylum seekers

Those who apply for protection under the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

Refugees

People fleeing persecution who have been granted asylum are refugees. The definition under the 1951 United Nations Convention is: "A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his/her former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

Foreign students

The British education system has long attracted many students from abroad. They pay fees and must be able to support themselves including having the fare to return home.

Posted workers

Workers posted temporarily by their employer to work in another country.

Work permits

An old system to allow migrants to work in the UK. These are now replaced by Certificates of Sponsorship.

Points-based system

Migrants from outside Europe must have a sponsor and pass a points test before they can enter the UK. Points are awarded for ability, experience, age and the level of need within the sector the migrant will be working. They must speak English and have sufficient funds to survive without public funds. Employers must show that no suitably-qualified settled worker can fill the job.

European nationals

Workers in the European Union have freedom to travel between countries. This has been one of the founding principles of the Union. Roughly, the same number of UK citizens work across Europe as EU-workers work here.

Accession countries

In 2004 the European Union expanded to take in eight new countries (A8): Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and

Slovenia. People from Bulgaria and Romania have been free to enter the UK since 2007. For people from these two countries, the restrictions on working were lifted by all EU countries in January 2014. Recent migration has come mainly from 'old' EU nations.

Net migration

This measure is the difference between those arriving in the UK and those leaving. Controversially, the Government has failed to meet a promise to cut this to: "tens of thousands". This a difficult measure to control as it is affected by the economy, European and international law as well as the number of people leaving the country.

ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages is a term used for courses at different levels often organised through unions and the community.

No recourse to public funds

This is a term used to describe migrants who need assistance but have no right to receive it from public bodies.

Right to Reside

To gain access to benefits EU nationals must pass this test by providing "compelling evidence" they have a "genuine chance of being engaged".

Habitual Residency Test

European nationals must also pass this test to claim benefits. It requires evidence of living in the UK for at least three months and that the claimant is a "habitual resident".

Working in the UK

The TUC has produced a guide to working in the UK - as a handy notebook or on-line - in seventeen different languages.

www.tuc.org.uk/workingintheUK or contact southwest@tuc.org.uk



This guide was produced with financial support from the European Commission as part of the project 'Developing information for migrant workers through transnational cooperation' with trade union partners LIGA in Hungary and Cartel-ALFA in Romania.

Migration and the European Union

A fundamental right of all EU citizens is the freedom to move from one country to another. A condition of EU membership is that nations treat EU citizens equally. Countries also have laws banning discrimination on the grounds of race. This includes pay, tax and benefits.

Most migrants to the UK are from outside the EU but some people argue that the UK cannot control its borders whilst it remains in the EU. If the UK left the EU it could impose the sort of points-based system it has for non-EU migrants. This, however, would devastate sectors that depend upon EU migrants such as health, social care, agriculture, manufacturing and transport. Manufacturing businesses could re-locate abroad to be able to recruit the labour needed but others such as care homes and farming cannot move.

Leaving the EU would mean the British would give up the right to free movement and those living on the Continent could be forced to return, including the near one million British people in Spain. As most are retired, such an outcome would put considerable strain on the NHS.

The status of EU-migrants now in the UK would be unclear and in any transitional period there could be a new wave of migration, such as family members, coming to beat any proposed restrictions.

Some point to Norway and Switzerland who are not in the EU, as models the UK should adopt. These countries, however, have agreed to the free movement principles of the EU in return for travel freedoms for their own citizens and trading rights with their neighbours.



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