

In Reality: EU immigrants are not a large proportion of UK population

Fake news has become a universal phenomenon. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, “fake news is false stories that appear to be news and spread on the internet or via other media, and they usually created to influence political views or as a joke.” Britain First claim that there are too many immigrants in Britain, however the reality is, before the referendum in 2016, EU migrants make up only 6% of the UK population. Net migration fell by up to 100,000 after Brexit vote.

From 2016 to September 2017, the estimated number of EU nationals immigrating to the UK fell from 284,000 to 223,000, which is the lowest level recorded since 2012 (Office for National Statistics, 2017). Put in another way, EU migrants have not over taken that 6% of the UK population.



[Photo Credit: Getty, BBC]

For most EU national immigrants, they come to UK for work and study. Therefore, on the basis of Brexit, the UK immigration policy will become more complex than before. UK Human Rights organisation, Liberty (2016) reports: “Theresa May has made 45,000 changes to the Immigration Rules (as Home Secretary)”. Migrants will be affected in various aspects of life, especially work.



[Photo Credit: Alamy Stock]

Tej Parikh, Senior Economist at the Institute of Directors, pointed out that the falling rate of migration from the EU has become the significant reason that conglomerations find it more difficult to employ professionals consistent with business need. In addition, the economic effects and the falling value of the pound might also be a factor in decreasing immigration from the EU. As stated by The Home Office (2018), lower-skilled European migrants may lose the right to settle. Beyond that, a stronger resident labour market test for vacancies will ensure priority for British workers, ban EU migrants

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who come to Britain without a job offer and want to look for work, and impose a cap or a salary threshold on the numbers of lower-skilled workers.

Furthermore, a report from Migration Observatory (2018) states that a system to give EU citizens who are already living in the UK ('settled status') will be opened. According to migration experts, hundreds of thousands of EU nationals could find themselves ineligible, even though they may have lived in the country for several years. First, many EU nationals



[Photo Credit: Daniel Leal-Olivas/AFP/Getty Image]

are likely to find they are excluded after Brexit, because they cannot provide that they have lawfully lived in Britain for five years. Second, some people do not apply within the time limit. Also, there are complicated cases, for example, people with significant but justified absences from the UK. As pointed out by Migration Observatory, if these people fail to apply by the deadline, they will become unlawful residents after it expires. Eventually, they will face enforcement action under the Home Office's "compliant environment" measures, such as detention and deportation. Therefore, it will decrease the number of EU immigrants.

With already fake claims by Britain First that there are too many immigrants in Britain, under tougher immigrant policy, EU migrant numbers in the UK are likely to further decline.

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