

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
EU REFERENDUM BRIEFINGS

# LABOUR, SKILLS, AND MIGRATION

In focus groups held across the country over Q4 2015 - Q1 2016, Chamber members identified access to skills - both from inside and outside the EU - as a key issue. Firms want greater clarity on the impact of the referendum on both their existing workforce and the future hiring needs.



Effective labour markets and access to talent is crucial for businesses to thrive. The impact of leaving or remaining in the EU on British jobs and wages depends on the interplay between a number of factors including trade, investment and immigration.



## \*The official Leave campaign says:

“If the UK left the EU, nobody from other EU countries would be removed from the UK and no UK citizens would be forced to leave other European countries. The EU’s own Charter of Fundamental Rights would prevent the collective expulsion of British citizens from the EU.

We will have a sensible regime for the movement of people that allows us to replace the immigration policy we have now - a combination of an open door for low-skilled labour while simultaneously stopping highly-skilled people from outside the EU coming to the UK to contribute. Criminals could be banned and we could explicitly fast-track those with skills to come to Britain and work here.

Outside the EU, the UK Government could introduce an immigration system that is fair and works for the UK’s economic interests.”

## \*The official Remain campaign says:

“Being in the EU makes it easier for businesses to employ people with the skills they need to be competitive. European funding helps deliver apprenticeships and skills programmes. It also allows employees to move between offices for companies based in several EU countries.

It’s vital, however, that immigration is controlled. That’s why we have kept out of the Schengen area, keeping control of our borders. And it’s why the Government’s renegotiation took action to limit in-work benefits access. That ensures the system is fair, and welcomes people who come here to work hard, pay their taxes and contribute to our economy, public services and society. Ending free movement would mean we would lose access to the single market meaning prices would rise and jobs would be lost, according to HM Treasury’s research. It would also mean that Brits looking to travel to the continent could need to apply for visas.”

For more information on the official Remain and Leave campaign positions on this and other issues please visit:

Vote Leave: [www.voteleavetakecontrol.org](http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org)

Britain Stronger In Europe: [www.strongerin.co.uk](http://www.strongerin.co.uk)