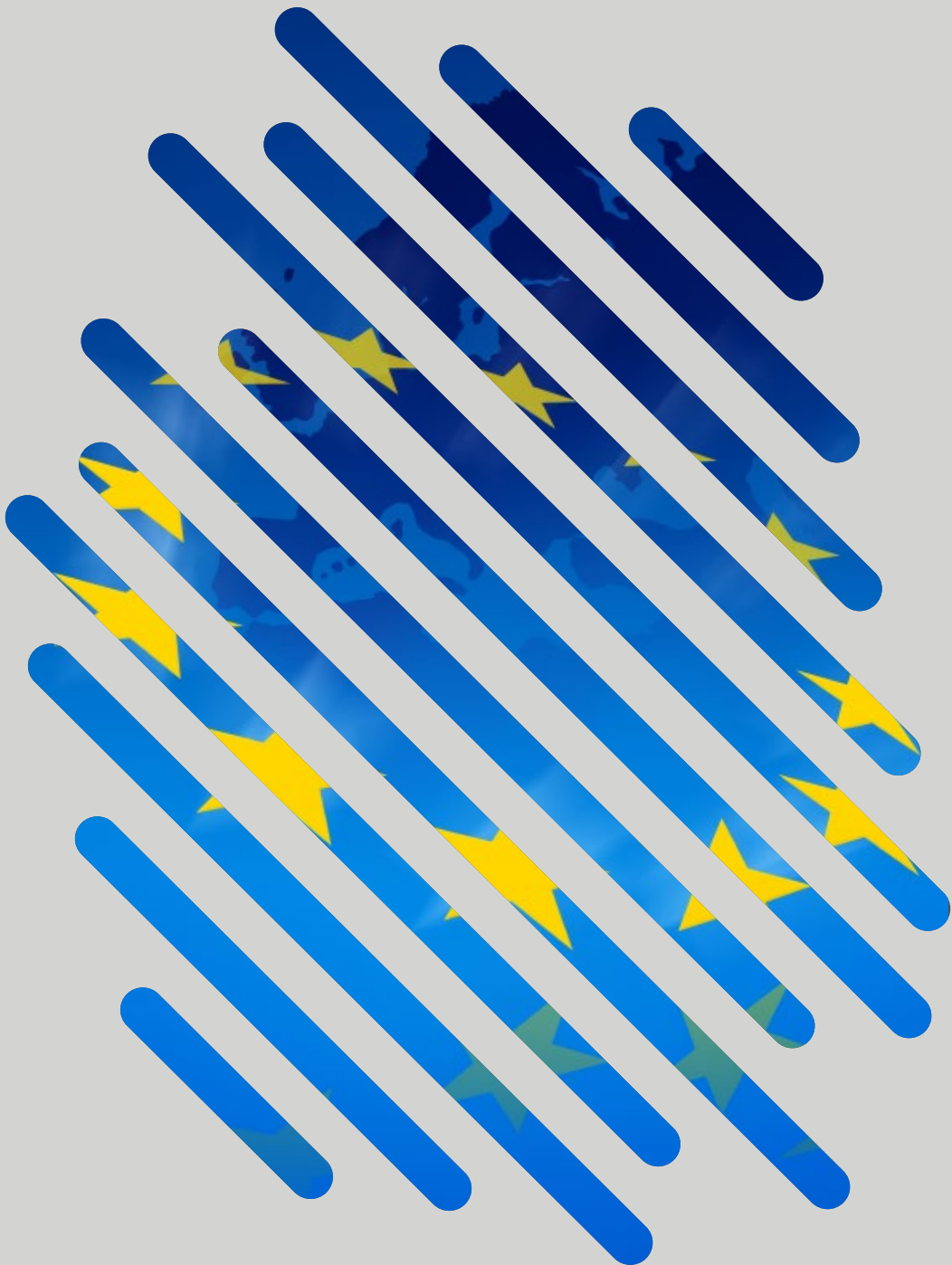


EU Referendum
23rd June 2016

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**Read and learn the facts to help you to make an
informed decision on 23rd June 2016**

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EU Referendum

HEADLINES

- Voting **23rd June 2016**.
- This vote is potentially more important than any general election vote.
- The UK is the **2nd largest economy** of the **28** member states of the EU. Germany is the largest.
- The UK is the **5th** largest economy in the World.
- The UK is a NET contributor to the EU at £8.5 billion per annum or **£24m** per day - 2nd only to Germany
- The UK is a NET Importer from Non-EU Countries
 - Exports £172bn
 - Imports £192bn
 - Balance **-£20bn**
- The UK is a NET Importer from EU Countries
 - Exports £133bn
 - Imports £219bn
 - Balance **-£86bn**
- The UK purchased a surplus of £86 billion more than we sold to the EU in 2015*, so we are a significantly bigger customer than we are a supplier

*source HMRC

“This document is intended to inform the reader of the facts of the upcoming EU referendum, to encourage the reader to understand the issues and challenge the statements from both sides of the campaign”

- NET migration into the UK has been on average 242,000 per annum over the last 10 years
- The Prime Minister is campaigning to remain, his colleague Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) is campaigning to exit
- 36 FTSE100 CEOs signed a letter backing the Remain campaign to stay in
- 64 didn't.
- EU Membership allows free movement of citizens to live and work in any other member state
- EU Members cannot close their borders to other EU members
- EU Membership allows each member state free trade without tariffs with each other
- EU member states are forbidden from having their own Free Trade Agreements with other non EU Countries

There are positives and negatives to each side's opinions. The choice is not black or white but the decision is: Remain or Exit

The following data is factual information to help the reader make an informed decision.

What will the referendum question be?

The way a question is worded is crucial in any referendum. The Electoral Commission proposed the wording which has been accepted by MPs as: “Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?”

The options for voters will be ‘Remain a member of the European Union’ or ‘Leave the European Union’.

What does Brexit mean?

Brexit is a word that is now used as a shorthand way of saying the UK leaving the EU - merging the words Britain and exit to get Brexit, in the same way a Greek exit from the EU was dubbed Grexit.

Who will be able to vote?

British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens who are over 18 and resident in the UK will be eligible to vote, alongside UK nationals who have lived overseas for less than 15 years. Members of the House of Lords and Commonwealth citizens in Gibraltar will also be eligible unlike in a general election. Citizens from EU countries, apart from Ireland, Malta and Cyprus, will not get a vote.

How will you vote?

It will be a similar system to that during other elections. Firstly, if you have registered to vote, you'll be sent a card to inform you when voting takes place and where you should go to vote on 23 June 2016. When you go to the polling station, you will be given a piece of paper with the referendum question on it. You then go to a booth which will have a pencil in it for you to put an X in the box which reflects your choice, and you then put the paper into a ballot box. Alternatively, you will be able to opt to vote by post if it is more convenient for you.

What are the main changes David Cameron has agreed if we stay?

Mr Cameron agreed a package of changes to the UK's membership of the EU in February after two days of intensive talks with other member states' leaders in Brussels. The agreement, which will take effect immediately if the UK votes to remain in the EU, includes changes to:



- **Child benefit** - Child benefit payments to migrant workers for children living overseas will be recalculated to reflect the cost of living in their home countries.
- **Migrant welfare payments** - The UK can decide to limit in-work benefits for EU migrants during their first four years in the UK. This so-called “emergency brake” can be applied in the event of “exceptional” levels of migration, but must be released within seven years without exception.
- **Eurozone** - Britain can keep the pound while being in Europe and its business trade with the bloc, without fear of discrimination. Any British money spent on bailing out Eurozone nations will be reimbursed.
- **Protection for the City of London** - Safeguards for Britain's large financial services industry to prevent Eurozone regulations being imposed on it.
- **Sovereignty** - There is an explicit commitment that the UK will not be part of an “ever closer union” with other EU member states. This will be incorporated in an EU treaty change.
- **‘Red card’ for national parliaments** - It will be easier for governments to band together to block unwanted legislation. If 55% of national EU parliaments object to a piece of EU legislation it will be rethought.
- **Competitiveness** - The settlement calls on all EU institutions and member states to “make all efforts to fully implement and strengthen the internal market” and to take “concrete steps towards better regulation” by also cutting red tape.
- **Some limits on free movement** - Denying automatic free movement rights to nationals of a country outside the EU who marry an EU national, as part of measures to tackle “sham” marriages. There are also new powers to exclude people believed to be a security risk - even if they have no previous convictions.

How does that differ from what he wanted?

Mr Cameron originally wanted a complete ban on migrants sending child benefit abroad, but he had to compromise after some eastern European states rejected the ban and insisted that existing claimants should continue to receive the full payment.

It differs on how long the UK would be able to have a four-year curb on in-work benefits for new arrivals. Mr Cameron had to give way on hopes of it being in place for 13 years, settling for seven instead.

On financial regulation, it differs as a clause was inserted “to ensure the level-playing field within the internal market”. This was in response to French fears that Britain was seeking special protection for the City of London that would have given it a competitive advantage.

Critics argue that the final deal falls well short of what Mr Cameron originally promised when he announced his plan for a referendum, particularly when it comes to returning powers from Brussels. It is not clear, for example, if the “red card” for national parliaments would ever be triggered in practice.

However, most of the points in the draft agreement (with the exception of those mentioned above) have survived unchanged into the final deal.

Why is a referendum being held?

Britain held a referendum in 1975 shortly after it had joined the EU, or the Common Market as it was then called. The country voted to stay in then but there have been growing calls since from the public and politicians for another vote.

The reason for this is because they argue that the EU has changed a lot over the past 40 years, with many more countries joining and the organisation extending its control over more aspects of our daily lives.

David Cameron initially resisted these calls but in 2013 he changed his mind.

Who wants the UK to Leave the EU?

The British public are fairly evenly split, according to the latest opinion polls. The UK Independence Party, which won the last European elections and received nearly four million votes (13% of those cast) in May's general election, campaigns for Britain's exit from the EU.

Around half of Conservative MPs (including five cabinet ministers), several Labour MPs and the DUP are also in favour of leaving.



Boris Johnson, Mayor of London



Nigel Farage, UKIP Leader



Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



Lord Bamford, JCB Chairman



Tim Martin, Chairman of Wetherspoons



John Mills, Chairman of JML and Leader of Labour Leave Campaign

Why do they want the UK to leave?

They believe Britain is being held back by the EU, which they say imposes too many rules on business and charges billions of pounds a year in membership fees for little in return. They also want Britain to take back full control of its borders and reduce the number of people coming to the Country to work. One of the main principles of EU membership is "free movement", which means you don't need to obtain a visa to migrate to another EU country. They also object to the idea of an "ever closer union" and any ultimate goal to create a "United States of Europe".

Who wants the UK to Stay in the EU?

David Cameron wants Britain to stay in the EU now he has got some powers back from it.

Sixteen on his cabinet also back staying in. The Conservative Party has pledged to be neutral in the campaign, but the Labour Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Lib Dems are all in favour of staying in. As mentioned previously, according to polls, the public seems pretty evenly split on the issue.



David Cameron, UK Prime Minister



Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party



Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland



Lord Rose, ex M&S CEO and Leader of the Stronger IN campaign



Sir Roger Carrs, Chairman of BAE Systems



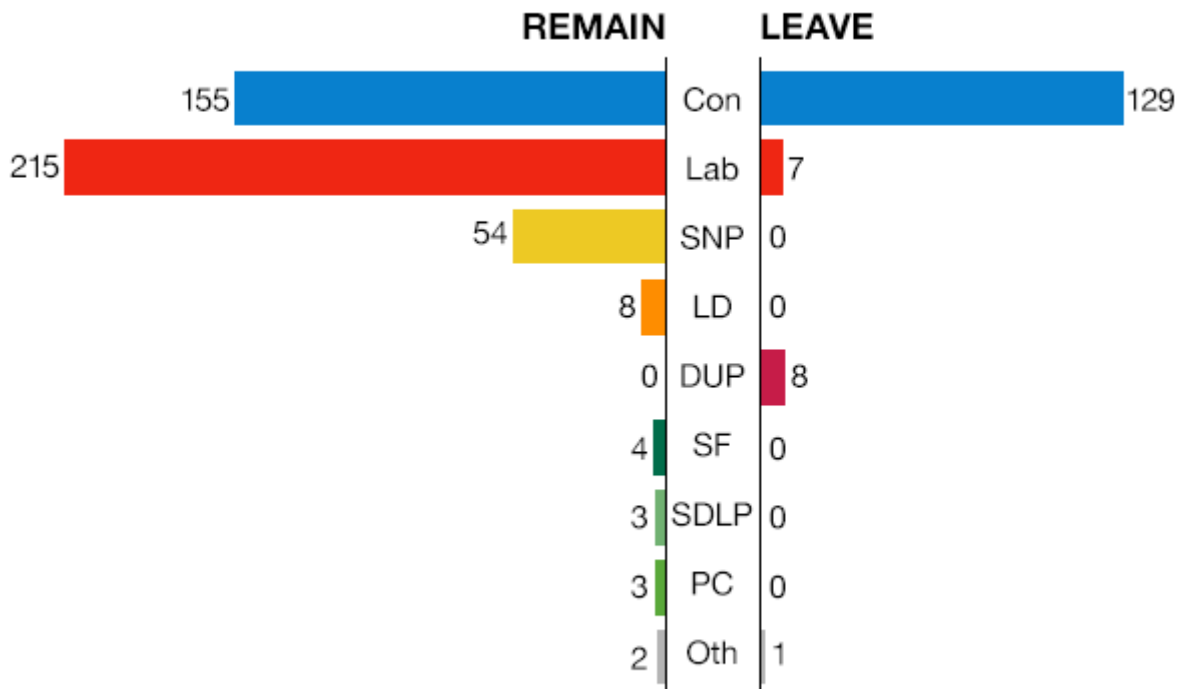
Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group

Why do they want the UK to stay?

Those who want the UK to stay believe Britain gets a big boost from EU membership - it makes selling to other EU countries easier and, they argue, the flow of immigrants, most of whom are young and keen to work. They also believe the EU fuels economic growth and helps pay for public services.

In addition, they argue Britain's world status would be damaged by leaving, and that we are more secure as part of the bloc.

MPs' declared EU referendum stances

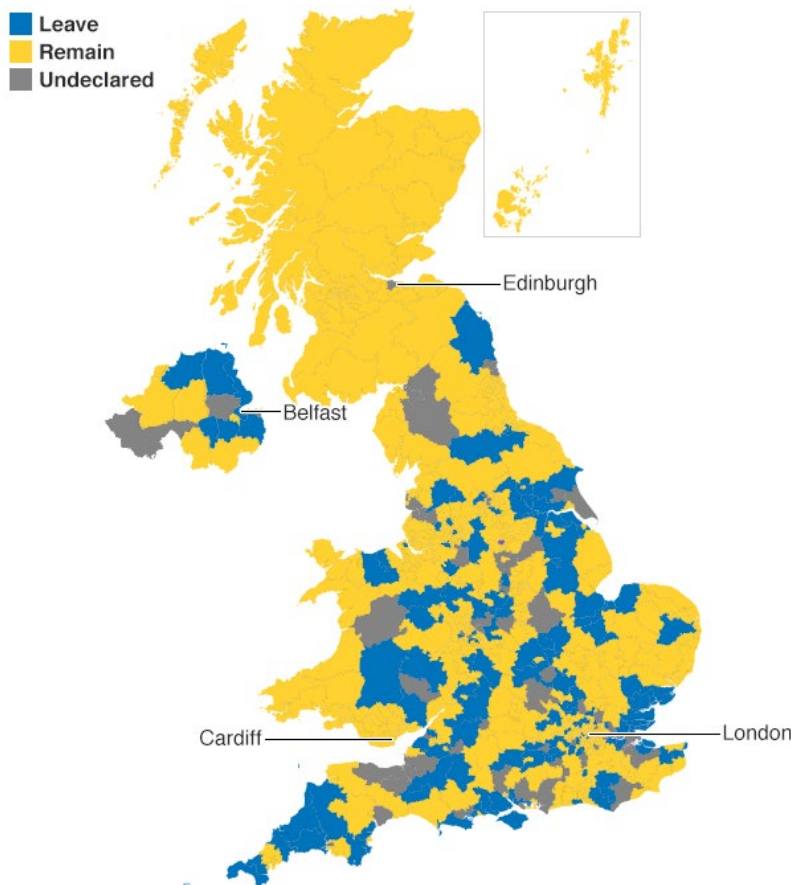


As of 26 Feb 2016. Does not include those who have not declared their position



MPs backing the Leave or Remain campaigns

Declared intentions of MPs as of 26 February 2016



So would Britain be better in or out?

It depends which way you look at it, or what you believe is important. Leaving the EU would be a big step, arguably far more important than who wins the next general election, but would it set the nation free or condemn it to economic ruin?

What about Businesses?

Big businesses - with a few exceptions - tend to be in favour of Britain staying in the EU as it makes it easier for them to move money, people and products around the world.

BT Chairman Sir Mike Rake, a recent CBI president, says there are “no credible alternatives” to staying in the EU.

However others disagree, including Lord Bamford, the Chairman of JCB, who says an EU exit would allow the UK to negotiate trade deals as a country “rather than being one of 28 nations”. Many small and medium-sized firms would welcome a cut in red tape and what they see as petty regulations. The British Chambers of Commerce say 55% of members back staying in a reformed EU.

Business for Britain wants big changes to the UK’s relations with the EU and says the UK should be prepared to vote leave if the changes are not achieved.

Business for New Europe is a coalition of business leaders who support the UK’s membership of the EU and “oppose withdrawal to the margins”.

So who is going to be leading the rival sides in the campaign?

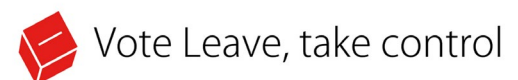
This has yet to be decided, but these are the main groups of either side of the argument:

Britain Stronger in Europe - the main cross-party group campaigning for Britain to remain in the EU headed by former Marks and Spencer Chairman, Lord Rose. It is seen as certain to get the official Electoral Commission designation to head the Remain campaign.



Vote Leave campaign - A cross-party campaign that grew out of Business for Britain, headed by former Conservative Chancellor Lord Lawson.

Key figures include former Conservative adviser Dominic Cummings as well as Matthew Elliott, who ran the successful No2AV campaign. It also has the backing of five cabinet ministers and other Conservatives such as Boris Johnson and Priti Patel. In addition, Vote Leave has the backing of Labour Leave, which is headed by Labour donor John Mills.



Grassroots Out Movement - An umbrella group including the relatively new Grassroots Out group - founded by Conservative MPs Peter Bone and Tom Pursglove as well as Labour MP Kate Hoey and Leave EU in January. Funded by UKIP donor Arron Banks and other business people, it has the backing of longstanding Eurosceptic groups, some Conservative MPs and UKIP, plus others such as the former Respect MP George Galloway.



The Electoral Commission is expected to make its decision on which group will head the Leave campaign within weeks of the referendum date being announced. It will judge each applicant's merits on the basis of a range of criteria, such as level of cross-party support, campaign tactics and organisational capacity.

Will it simply be the case of all votes being counted to give two totals?

Yes, all votes will be counted and then added up, with a straight majority needed to provide the result. In answer to some people's questions, there is no minimum turnout needed. So if, for example, only three people voted on the day and two of them voted to leave, then leave would be the result.

I'm away on holiday for the week of 23 June - can I still vote?

You will be able to vote by post, just as you can in local and general elections.

#EUREF

23

JUNE

When and how will the results be announced?

Official counts will begin when polls close at 22:00 GMT Thursday, 23 June at 382 local centres around the UK. Local results will be declared once the counts are completed, before being collated at 12 regional centres which will also declare the totals for each side.

A chief counting officer will then announce the overall result at Manchester Town Hall.

If the UK left the EU, would UK citizens need special permits to work in the EU?

This would depend on the kind of deal the UK agreed with the EU after exit. If it remained within the single market, it would almost certainly retain free movement rights allowing UK citizens to work in the EU and vice versa. If the government opted to impose work permit restrictions, as UKIP wants, then other countries could reciprocate, meaning Britons would have to apply for visas to work.

What about EU nationals who want to work in the UK?

As explained in the answer above, it would depend on whether the UK government decided to introduce a work permit system of the kind that currently applies to non-EU citizens, limiting entry to skilled workers in professions where there are shortages.



Would leaving the EU mean we wouldn't have to abide by the European Court of Human Rights?

The UK could deport terror suspects to their own countries to face charges without being overruled by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg.

The ECHR is not a European Union institution. It was set up by the Council of Europe, which has 47 members including Russia and Ukraine, so leaving the EU would not exempt the UK from its decisions.

The UK government is, however, committed to repealing the Human Rights Act which requires UK courts to treat the ECHR as setting legal precedents for the UK, in favour of a British Bill of Rights. As part of that, David Cameron is expected to announce measures which will boost the powers of courts in England and Wales to over-rule judgements handed down by the ECHR.



Has any member state ever left the EU, or would the UK be the first?

No member has ever left the EU. However, Greenland (one of Denmark's overseas territories) held a referendum in 1982 after gaining a greater degree of self-government and voted by 52% to 48% to leave. Greenland then left the EU after a period of negotiation.

If we stay in, do we keep the pound forever?

It is a decision made by the UK government to determine whether or not to keep the Great British Pound or switch to the Euro. The deal David Cameron struck with the EU included recognition that the UK has no plans to switch to the euro currency.

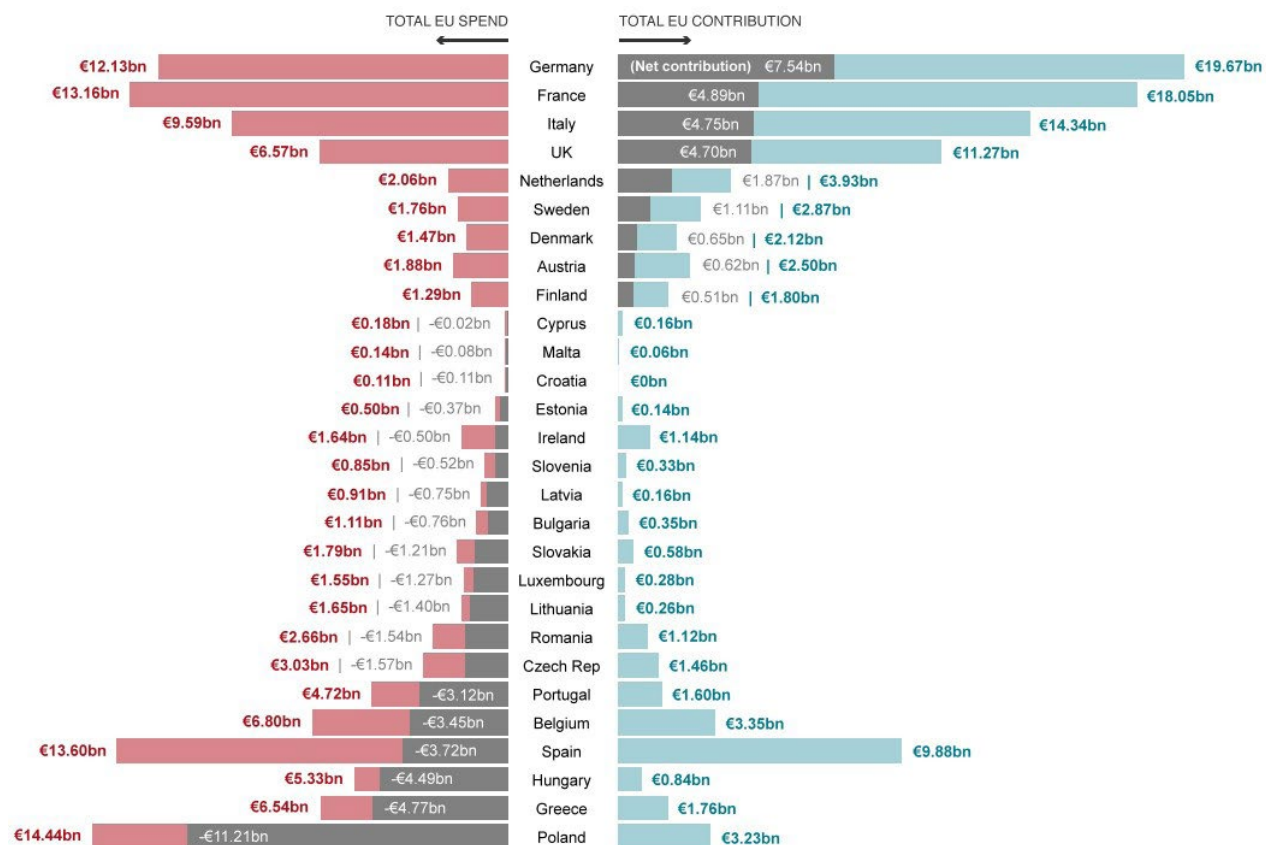
How much does the UK contribute to the EU and how much do we get in return?

The UK is one of 10 member states who pay more into the EU budget than they get out, with only France and Germany contributing more. In 2014/15, Poland was the largest beneficiary, followed by Hungary and Greece.

The UK also gets an annual rebate, which was negotiated by Margaret Thatcher, in the form of regional development grants and payments to farmers which added up to £4.6bn in 2014/15. According to the latest Treasury figures, the UK's net contribution for 2014/15 was £8.8bn - nearly double what it was in 2009/10.

To put that into context, it is about **£24m a day** or approximately 1.4% of total public annual spending - slightly less than the energy and climate change department's annual budget. Some leave campaigners say the UK sends £55m a day to the EU, but that is based on gross figures - a fair approximation of the UK's "membership fee" without taking rebates and money back into account.

The National Audit Office use a different formula which takes into account EU money paid directly to private sector companies and universities to fund research. Measured over the EU's financial year, it shows the UK's net contribution as £5.7bn for 2014.



If I retire to Spain or another EU country will my healthcare costs still be covered?

At this moment it is not possible to definitively say what would happen with regards to healthcare costs.

As it stands, the large British expat community in Spain gets free access to Spanish GP's and their hospital treatment which is paid for by the NHS. Once they become permanent residents, Spain pays for their hospital treatment. Similar arrangements are in place with other EU countries.

If Britain leaves the EU but remains in the single market, or the European Economic Area as it is known, it may be possible to continue with this arrangement. If Britain has to negotiate trade deals with individual member states, it may opt to continue paying for expats' healthcare through the NHS or decide that they would have to cover their own costs if the country they live in declines to do so.

Will the opinion polls get it wrong again?

The short answer is that we'll find out on 24 June!

Are we in for a repeat of the general election when the opinion polls underestimated support for one side (Conservatives) and overstated support for the other (Labour).

As Mr Wilkinson points out, research suggests younger people are more likely to vote to remain in the EU, while older voters tend to favour out. As a general rule, older people are more likely to vote in elections than younger people, and the "don't knows" are running between 17% and 20%.

Prof John Curtice, who supervised the general election exit poll, has also noticed a difference between polls conducted online which suggest the race is close, to the ones conducted via telephone which put the remain campaign ahead.

Opinion polling is not an exact science - for more information on the latest referendum polls and analysis by Prof Curtice, visit the National Centre for Social Research's What UK thinks site.

How long will it take for Britain to leave the EU?

The minimum period after a vote to leave would be two years. During that time, Britain would continue to abide by EU treaties and laws but would not take part in any decision-making, as it previously negotiated a withdrawal agreement and the terms of its relationship with the now 27 nation bloc. In practice, it may take longer than two years, depending on how the negotiations go.

Could MPs block an EU exit if Britain votes for it?

Could the necessary legislation pass the Commons if all SNP and Lib Dems, nearly all Labour and many Conservative MPs were in favour of staying?

The answer is that technically yes, MPs could block an EU exit. However, it would be seen as political suicide to go against the will of the people as expressed in a referendum. The referendum result is not legally binding as Parliament still has to pass the laws which will get Britain out of the 28 nation bloc, starting with the repeal of the 1972 European Communities Act.

The withdrawal agreement would also have to be ratified by Parliament - the House of Lords and/or the Commons could potentially vote against ratification

In practice, Conservative MPs who voted to remain in the EU would be whipped to vote with the government. Any who defied the whip would have to face the wrath of voters at the next general election.

One scenario that could see the referendum result overturned is if MPs forced a general election, and the party which got elected campaigned on a promise to keep Britain in the EU and then claimed that the election mandate topped the referendum one.

Two thirds of MPs would have to vote for a general election to be held before the next scheduled one in 2020.

How much money will the UK save through changes to migrant child benefits and welfare payments?

We don't know for certain what taxpayers are likely to get back from the benefit curbs negotiated by David Cameron in Brussels because the details have not yet been worked out. HM Revenue and Customs have suggested about 20,000 EU nationals receive child benefit payments in respect of 34,000 children in their country of origin at an estimated cost of about £30m.

However, the total saving is likely to be significantly less than that because Mr Cameron did not get the blanket ban he wanted. Instead, payments will be linked to the cost of living in the countries where the children live.

David Cameron has said that as many as 40% of EU migrant families who come to Britain could lose an average of £6,000 a year of in-work benefits when his "emergency brake" is applied. The DWP estimates between 128,700 and 155,100 people would be affected.

The cuts will be phased in and new arrivals will not get tax credits and other in-work benefits straight away, but will gradually gain access to them over a four year period at a rate yet to be decided.

Can EU citizens living in the UK vote in the referendum??

No. The rules are the same as at last year's general election, when EU citizens were also barred from taking part.

*source www.bbc.co.uk

The debate

The debate

Arguments for and against Brexit, according to the main campaigns

IN



TRADE

Britain avoids exporter tariffs and red tape, important as 45% of British exports go to the EU. As a member, Britain can obtain better trade terms because of the EU's size.



OUT

Britain will negotiate a new EU relationship without being bound by EU law. It can secure trade deals with other important countries such as China, India and America.

EU BUDGET

Britain pays the EU £340 a year per household, compared with an estimated £3,000 yearly benefit of membership. In or out, payment is needed to access the single market.



Britain can stop sending £350m, equivalent to half England's schools budget, to Brussels every week. This money could be spent on scientific research and new industries.

REGULATION

Most EU regulation collapses 28 national standards into one European standard, reducing red tape and benefiting business. In, Britain can fight for better regulation.



Leaving will return control over areas like employment law and health and safety, measures that a recent Business for Britain poll found businesses favoured.

IMMIGRATION

Leaving doesn't mean reduced immigration. Countries that trade with the EU from outside have higher rates of immigration, including from EU countries, than Britain.



Britain can change the "expensive and out-of-control" system that offers an open door to the EU and blocks non-EU immigrants who could contribute to the UK.

INFLUENCE

At international summits, Britain is represented twice – by the foreign secretary and the EU high representative. Co-operation has helped fight Ebola and piracy in Africa.

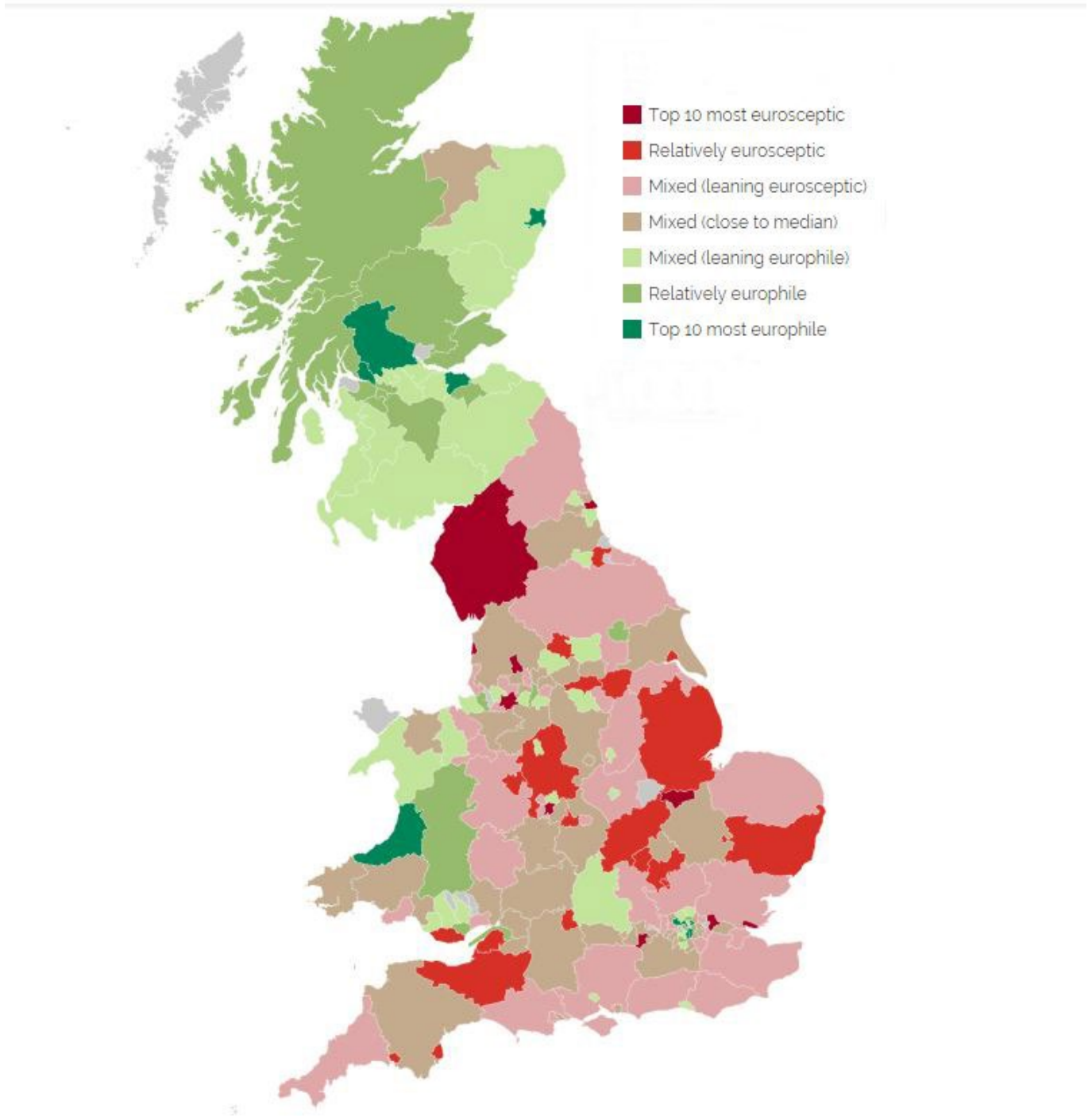


Britain has little influence within the EU. From outside, it can retake seats on international institutions and be a stronger influence for free trade and co-operation.

Sources: Britain Stronger in Europe; Vote Leave

The Eurosceptic map of Britain

New YouGov Profiles research of over 80,000 people reveals the most and least Eurosceptic areas of Britain



*source www.yougov.co.uk

The Eurosceptic map of Britain (continued)

New YouGov research using the profiles data of over 80,000 British people on the YouGov panel reveals the most and least Eurosceptic areas of Britain, down to the finest detail the data will allow. There are 206 local education authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, 188 of which have large enough samples to report a position on the EU.

Taking the average net support for leaving the EU in each region and ranking these from most to least Eurosceptic, The top ten most Eurosceptic and top ten Europhile have been grouped together, with the next 20 and then 40 on either side and the 48 which fall in the median range.

The top ten most Eurosceptic areas in the table below are dotted all over England, with three around the South East: Havering, Peterborough and Southend on Sea. London contains five of the top 10 most Europhile areas, but none of the rest are in England.

The most eurosceptic and europhile areas of Britain

YouGov Profiles data of 80,552 adults reveals the top 10 most eurosceptic and europhile areas of Britain, measured by net support for leaving or remaining in the European Union

Top 10 most eurosceptic

1. Havering	
2. Peterborough	
3. Bracknell Forest	
4. Blackpool	
5. Blackburn with Darwen	
6. Southend on Sea	
7. Warrington	
8. South Tyneside	
9. Sandwell	
10. Cumbria	

Top 10 most europhile

1. Ceredigion	
2. Aberdeen City	
3. Stirling	
4. Lambeth	
5. Camden	
6. West Dunbartonshire	
7. Southwark	
8. Hackney	
9. City of Edinburgh	
10. Brent	

Some Northern, traditionally Labour areas fall into the second tier of Euro scepticism (Hull, Doncaster, Barnsley) while the larger group of mixed but predominantly leaning Eurosceptic regions extends noticeably around the coastal south and east of England.

UK and the EU: Better off out or in?

Are there any viable options for Britain leaving the EU?

If Britain votes to leave the EU, it will have to negotiate a new trading relationship with what would now be a 27 member organisation, to allow British firms to sell goods and services to EU countries without being hit by excessive tariffs and other restrictions.

Leave campaigners say: Britain could negotiate an “amicable divorce”, but retain strong trading links with EU nations.

Some potential models:

- **The Norwegian model:** Britain leaves the EU and joins the European Economic Area, giving it access to the single market, with the exception of some financial services but freeing it from EU rules on agriculture, fisheries, justice and home affairs



- **The Swiss model:** Britain emulates Switzerland, which is not a member of the EU but negotiates trade treaties on a sector-by-sector basis



- **The Turkish model:** The UK could enter into a customs union with the EU, allowing access to the free market in manufactured goods but not financial services



- The UK could seek to negotiate a comprehensive **Free Trade Agreement** with the EU, similar to the Swiss model but with better access for financial services and more say over how rules and standards are implemented

- The UK could make a **clean break** with the EU, relying on its membership of the World Trade Organisation as a basis for trade

Many of those campaigning for exit argue that none of the above country-based models would work for the UK.

Leave campaigners want a **Free Trade Agreement** which would not involve the UK accepting the supremacy of EU law, the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, the free movement of people or the requirement to pay significant amounts into the EU budget.

Given the fact that there is already full regulatory compliance between the UK and EU, they say it would be easier to negotiate than past trade deals.

They point to **Canada**, which recently signed a **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement** with the EU, which is set to eliminate trade barriers in most areas but does not require free movement or budgetary contributions, as an example of what is possible.

Remain campaigners say: An “amicable divorce” is a pipe dream. France, Germany and other leading EU nations would never allow Britain a “pick and mix” approach to the bloc’s rules.

Norway and Switzerland have to abide by many EU rules without any influence over how they are formed and have to pay to access the single market. Negotiating a comprehensive free trade agreement could take years and would have an uncertain outcome.

If Britain went for a completely clean break with the EU, its exports would be subject to tariffs and would still have to meet EU production standards, harming the competitiveness of British business. The end result could be a trade war between Britain and the EU, some have warned, which could cripple Britain’s export industries.



What would be the impact on British jobs?



The run-up to the EU referendum is likely to be dominated by competing claims about how many millions of jobs will be lost or gained by Britain's exit. All such claims come with a health warning. Coming up with a precise figure is difficult, as there is no way of knowing if threats by foreign companies to scale back their operations in the UK would come to pass or, indeed, how many jobs would be created by the reshaped economy that might emerge in the wake of an exit.

Leave campaigners say: There would be a jobs boom as firms are freed from EU regulations and red tape, with small and medium-sized companies who don't trade with the EU benefiting the most. In its recent paper, the EU Jobs Myth, the free market Institute for Economic Affairs seeks to debunk the claim that 3-4 million jobs would be lost if Britain left. "Jobs are associated with trade, not membership of a political union, and there is little evidence to suggest that trade would substantially fall between British businesses and European consumers in the event the UK were outside the EU," it argues. "The UK labour market is incredibly dynamic, and would adapt quickly to changed relationships with the EU."



Remain campaigners say: Millions of jobs would be lost as global manufacturers moved to lower-cost EU countries. Britain's large, foreign-owned car industry would be particularly at risk. "The attractiveness of the UK as a place to invest and do automotive business is clearly underpinned by the UK's influential membership of the EU," said a KPMG report on the car industry. The financial services sector, which employs about 2.1 million people in the UK, also has concerns about a British exit. "The success of the UK financial services industry is to a large extent built on EU Internal Market legislation. To abandon this for some untried, unknown and unpredictable alternative would carry very significant risks," said global law firm Clifford Chance in a report by think tank TheCityUK.



What about the impact on the economy as a whole?



This would depend on the trade deals Britain managed to negotiate with the EU and the rest of the world after its exit.

The best-case scenario, according to Think Tank Open Europe, is that the UK would be better off by 1.6% of GDP a year by 2030. That is assuming the UK carried out widespread deregulation after its exit and managed to strike favourable trade deals. The Think Tank adds: “A far more realistic range is between a 0.8% permanent loss to GDP in 2030 and a 0.6% permanent gain in GDP in 2030, in scenarios where Britain mixes policy approaches”.

The Centre for Economic Performance, at the London School of Economics says the worst-case scenario is a 6.3% to 9.5% reduction in GDP: “A loss of a similar size to that resulting from the global financial crisis of 2008/09”. The best case, according to their analysis, is a loss of 2.2% of GDP, although it does not take into account as wide a range of factors as the Open Europe study.

What about immigration?



Leave campaigners say: Britain would regain full control of its borders if we left the EU. UKIP wants to see a work permit system introduced, so that EU nationals would face the same visa restrictions as those from outside the EU, which it says would reduce migration numbers.



They say this would create job opportunities for British workers which would boost wages, as well as easing pressure on schools, hospitals and other public services.

Remain campaigners say: Britain might have to agree to allow free movement of EU migrants as the price of being allowed access to the free market. In any case, pro-EU campaigners argue, immigration from the rest of the EU has been good for Britain's economy.



The UK's growth forecasts are based, in part, on continued high levels of net migration. The Office for Budget Responsibility says the economy relies on migrant labour and taxes paid by immigrants to keep funding public services.

Would Britain save money in membership fees?



The UK is one of 10 member states who pay more into the EU budget than they get out - only France and Germany contribute more. In 2014/15, Poland was the largest beneficiary, followed by Hungary and Greece.

Calculating how much EU membership costs the UK is not straightforward. The EU financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December, whereas the UK's runs from 1 April to 31 March, meaning there are different figures in circulation.

The UK also gets an annual rebate and money back, in the form of regional development grants and payments to farmers among other things.

According to the latest Treasury figures the UK's net contribution for 2014/15 was £8.8bn - nearly double what it was in 2009/10. That is about 1.4% of total public spending, slightly less than the energy and climate change department's annual budget.

The National Audit Office is using a different formula which takes into account EU money paid directly to private sector companies and universities to fund research. Measured over the EU's financial year, this shows the UK's net contribution for 2014 was £5.7bn.

Leave campaigners say: The UK would save billions in membership fees and end the "hidden tariff" paid by UK taxpayers when goods are exported to the EU, which is caused by red tape, waste, fraud and other factors.

Remain campaigners say: The UK's contribution to the EU budget is a drop in the ocean compared with the benefits to business of being in the single market.



What would be the effect on trade?



Leave campaigners say: The EU is not as important to British trade as it used to be, and continuing turmoil in the Eurozone will make it even less so. Even if Britain did not manage to negotiate a free trade deal with the EU, it would not be as disastrous as EU-enthusiasts claim, argues economist Roger Bootle in his book *The Trouble with Europe*: “It would place the UK in the same position as the US is currently in, along with India, China and Japan, all of which manage to export to the EU relatively easily.”



The UK would be free to establish bilateral trade agreements with fast-growing export markets such as China, Singapore, Brazil, Russia and India through the World Trade Organisation.

Remain campaigners say: The EU is the UK’s main trading partner, worth more than £400bn a year or 52% of the total trade in goods and services. Complete withdrawal from the EU would see trade barriers erected, with car exports to the EU, for example, facing a 15% tariff and imports a tariff of 10%.



“The idea that the UK would be freer outside the EU is based on a series of misconceptions, that a medium-sized, open economy could hold sway in an increasingly fractured trading system dominated by the US, the EU and China; that the EU makes it harder for Britain to penetrate emerging markets; and that foreign capital would be more attracted to Britain’s economy if it were no longer part of the single market,” the pro-EU Centre for European Reform said in a recent report.

Would the UK's influence in the world change?



Leave campaigners say: The UK would remain a key part of Nato, the UN Security Council and a nuclear power, with a powerful global voice in its own right. The Eurosceptic Bruges Group wants an end to the “discredited” principle that Britain acts as a transatlantic bridge between the US and Europe, saying the country should make self-reliance its guiding principle



Remain campaigners say: Stripped of influence in Brussels, Berlin and Paris, Britain would find itself increasingly ignored by Washington and side-lined on big transnational issues such as the environment, security and trade. America and other allies want Britain to remain in the EU. The UK risks becoming a maverick, isolated state if it leaves.



What would happen to Britons working in Europe, and EU citizens working in the UK?



Leave campaigners say: Britain would gain full control of its own borders, with migration in and out of the country regulated solely by British law. That means it would be possible to impose the same entry restrictions on EU citizens as those currently faced by people from outside the EU. But leave campaigners say that citizens of other EU countries already living in the UK would not be deported and could be given “indefinite leave to remain”.



They cite a 1969 treaty signed by the UK which says rights built up over time by individuals cannot be revoked by new treaties. This also means that British expats living in EU countries would not be forced to return to the UK, they say, dismissing claims to the contrary as “scaremongering”.

Remain campaigners say: One of the major advantages of EU membership is the ability to live and work in other member states without having to apply for work permits or visas. About 2.2 million British citizens live in other EU nations, with Spain playing host to the highest number of British expats, followed by France and Ireland. If Britain left it could become harder to do this.



Britons may have to apply for visas to enter EU countries and those already living there may face integration rules, such as proving they can speak the language before gaining long-term residency rights. Former attorney general **Dominic Grieve has warned** that British expats in the EU would be regarded as “illegal immigrants” if Britain left both the EU and the European Convention on Human Rights, without keeping free movement as part of a new trade agreement.

Would taxes change?



Leave campaigners say: The EU has limited power over tax, which is largely a matter for national governments. The exception is VAT, which has bands agreed at the EU level. Outside the EU, the UK would potentially have more flexibility.

Remain campaigners say: The UK's contribution to the EU budget is a drop in the ocean compared with the benefits to businesses of being in the single market.

Would Britain's legal system, democratic institutions and law-making process change?

Leave campaigners say: It would be a major shot in the arm for British democracy as the Westminster parliament regained its sovereignty and reconnected with voters. The country would be free from the European Arrest Warrant and other law and order measures.

Remain campaigners say: Britons benefit from EU employment laws and social protections, which would be stripped away. Withdrawal from the European Arrest Warrant could mean delays for the UK in extraditing suspects from other European countries; and the UK already has some opt-outs from EU labour law, including the Working Time Directive.

*source www.bbc.co.uk

Immigration



UK Visas and Immigration



- Mass migration is the major cause of the UK's rapid population increase
- It is estimated that net migration plus births to foreign-born parents has accounted for 85% of UK population growth since 2000
- The population is officially projected to rise by almost ten million over the next 25 years
- 68% of this increase will be down to future migrants and their children
- If net migration continues at around the recent higher levels experienced, the UK's population is expected to rise even faster, by 8 million over the next fifteen years and by over 12 million in next 25 years.

Table 1: The impact of future net migration on the UK population

Projection	net migration assumption	UK Population in 2039 (millions)	Population increase (millions)	% of increase down to future migration
Zero net	Zero	67.7	3.1	0
Low	105,000	71.8	7.2	57%
Principal	185,000	74.3	9.7	68%
High	265,000	76.8	12.2	75%

*source: 2014 based Population Projections, Office for National Statistics.

Population Projections at Different Levels of Net Migration

Source: 2014 based Population Projections, Office for National Statistics.

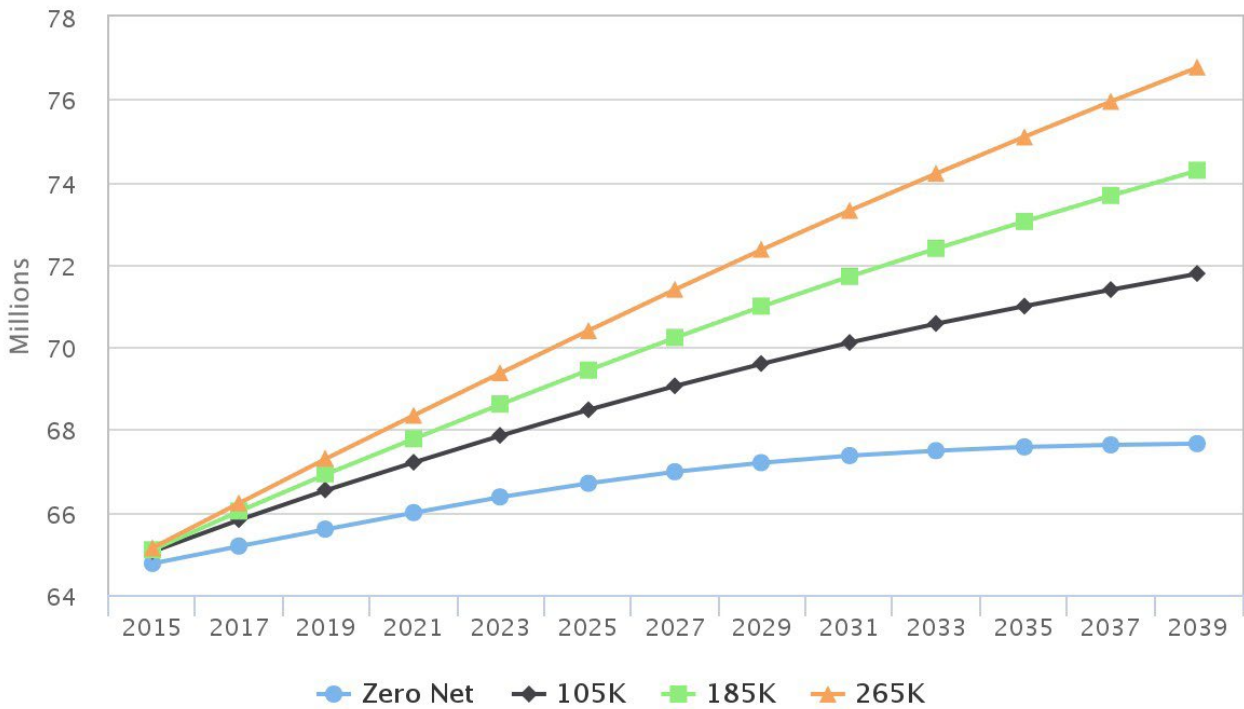
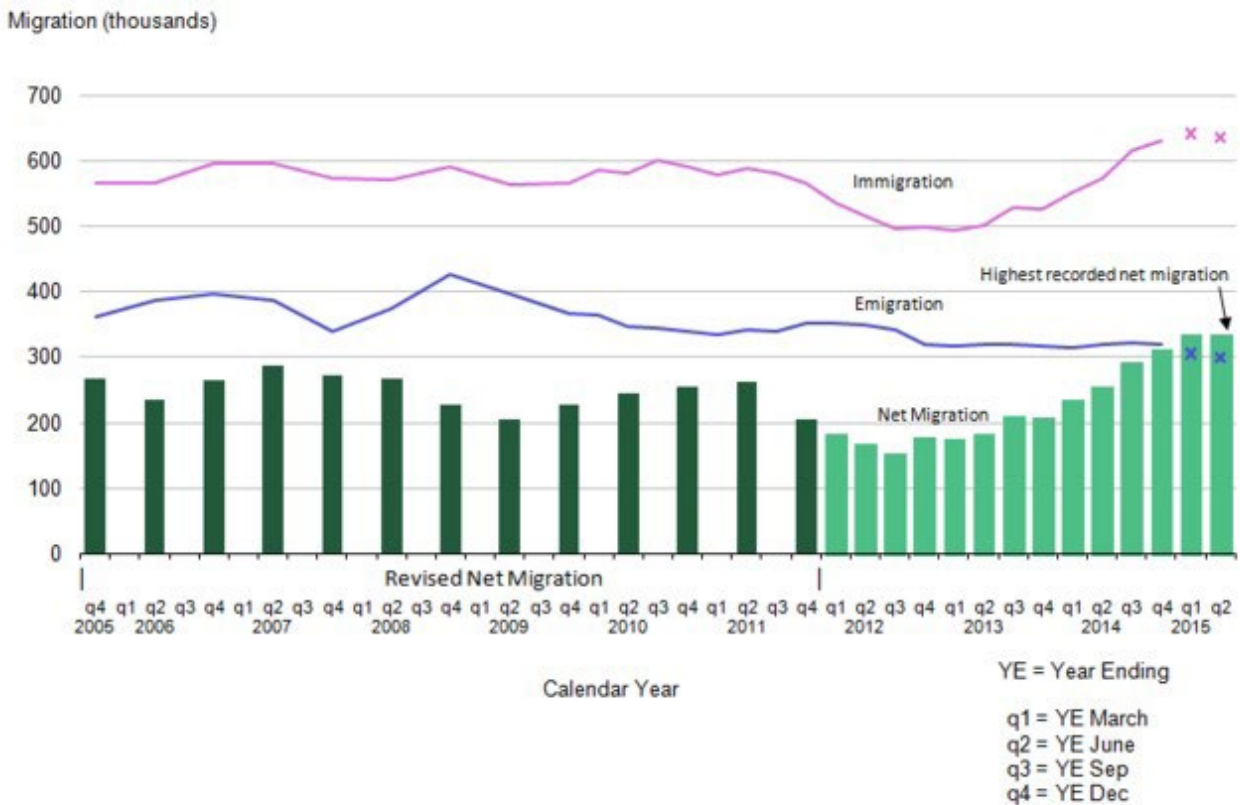


Figure 1: Total Long-Term International Migration estimates, UK, 2005 to 2015



Source: Long-term International Migration - Office for National Statistics

In mid-2015, the UK population was estimated at around 65 million and net migration had averaged 242,000 over the previous ten years.

Illegal Immigration

Accurate numbers are not possible to obtain, but there could be as many as one million illegal immigrants in the UK.

Removals of immigration offenders are very low and a significant increase in resources for this purpose is essential.

By its nature, illegal immigration is very difficult to measure. The Census does not record the immigration status of respondents and the removal of the remaining exit checks in 1998 has meant that, since then, it has been impossible to determine who is still in the country.

The Government has long shied away from attempting to estimate the illegal immigrant population of the UK. However, in 2005 the Home Office commissioned a report which estimated that in 2001 the population of illegal immigrants in the UK was approximately 430,000, excluding UK born children of illegal immigrants.

In 2009, London School of Economics produced an estimate of the illegal immigrant population in 2007 and they suggested a central figure of 670,000 using a similar methodology to the 2005 estimate. They suggested that three factors would have affected the size of the illegal immigrant population between 2005 and 2007:

- 1.** Some of the continued inflow of asylum seekers would have been refused asylum and therefore become illegal immigrants
- 2.** More immigrants would have overstayed their visas. These two factors would have increased the size of the illegal population
- 3.** Meanwhile, the regularisation of some previously illegal immigrants would have reduced the total.

In 2010 Migration Watch UK estimated the illegal immigrant population at 1.1million. It is very likely that, in the five years since that estimate was produced, the number has continued to increase.

**Source - www.migrationwatchuk.org/*

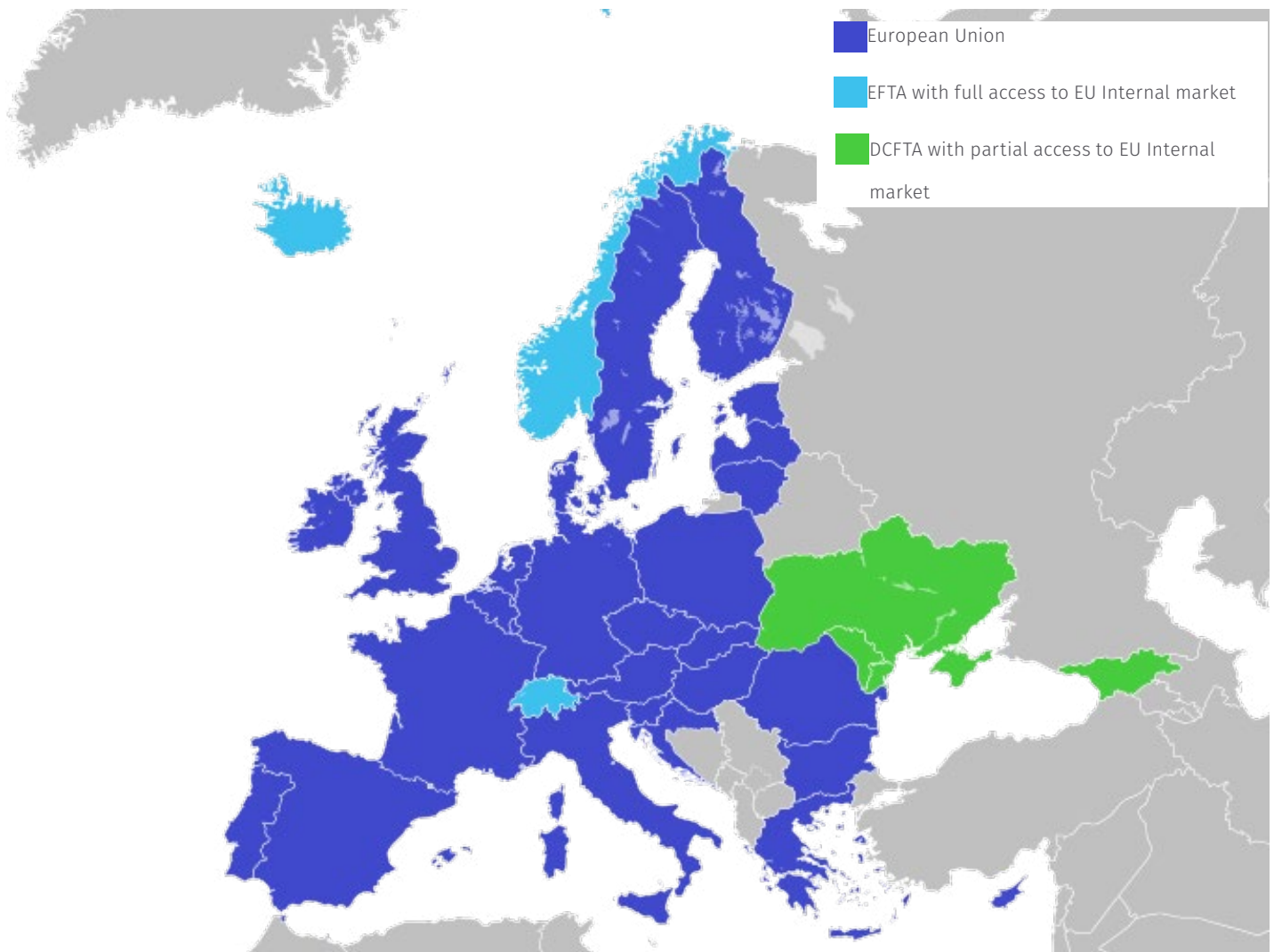
The development of the European Union

The European Union began in the 1950s as an economic project consisting of just six European countries (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) within which trade could take place with no barriers. By the 1970s, the UK, Denmark and Ireland had joined and in the 1980s the Community had grown again to encompass Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Known originally as the European Community, it became the European Union in 1993 with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty. This treaty also established the single currency (which came into circulation in 2002) and marked a major extension of the European project.

In 2004, the EU experienced a major enlargement with the accession of eight new East European states as well as Malta and Cyprus. In 2007, it grew larger still with the accession of Romania, Bulgaria and then Croatia in 2013.

The EU is now a political and economic union of 28 member states with a population of over 500 million citizens which covers an area larger than India.



European Union | Key Topics

- **The number of Eastern Europeans in the UK has increased by nearly one million since 2004**
- **Net migration from the EU15 doubled since 2012 to nearly 180,000 per year**
- **The economic benefit of EU migration has been greatly exaggerated, especially in respect of Eastern Europeans who are mostly in low paid employment**
- **EU migration is now a key issue for renegotiation.**

What is the right to free movement and how many people are exercising that right?

Citizenship of the EU (by way of citizenship of a member state) now gives the holder the right to live, work and study in another member state. Around 11 million EU citizens currently live in another member state.

This figure includes about 2.7 million citizens of another EU country who live in the UK, and 1.3 million British citizens who live elsewhere in Europe.

Free movement was originally designed for workers and the self-employed to take up work in another EU country. This was gradually expanded to include job seekers, students and those of independent means. Meanwhile, case law has removed the requirement to be economically active.

This systematic removal of restrictions on EU migration coincided with an expansion of the EU to less wealthy countries, resulting in a growing number of people migrating.

The development of EU Migration

Net migration to the EU has historically been quite low. In almost 30 years between 1975 and 2003, the figure was only at around 8,000 per year. The countries that constituted the EU in 2003 were the 15 countries of Western Europe and, while Southern European countries were not as wealthy as some of the Northern European ones, there were not huge wage disparities that encouraged massive flows of people.

In 2004, the EU expanded to encompass eight East European countries (known as the A8). These countries were considerably poorer than Western Europe; the UK's level of GDP was five times higher than that of Poland when the accession took place. This was a watershed moment for European migration since, for the first time, there was a massive economic incentive for EU citizens to move to other parts of the Union. The decision by the then Labour government not to impose transitional controls on new workers while most other countries did (only Ireland and Sweden opened up their labour markets to the new 70 million citizens) meant that the majority of those that moved from East to West came to the UK during the seven year transitional period.

In 2004, the A8 population in the UK was 167,000 which increased by around 100,000 per year until 2013. Similarly, when Romania and Bulgaria (the A2) joined the EU in 2007, there was a massive wealth gap between these two countries and the UK. The government did impose transitional controls on workers but when these controls were lifted in 2014 the UK's GDP was almost five times higher than that of Romania and Bulgaria. What followed was a significant net flow that is expected to continue at around 50,000 people a year.

Meanwhile, the economic crisis which has engulfed the Eurozone area has resulted in very high levels of unemployment across Southern Europe and has created the conditions whereby for the first time there is a significant net inflow of migrants from the old member states such as Greece, Spain and Italy.

Who are the UK's EU residents, why do they come and what do they do?

The UK is home to around 2.7 million EU residents, half of whom are from the old Western European nations and half from the newer states of East Europe.

The majority of EU migrants have moved to the UK for work and 1.8 million are in employment. The remaining 900,000 are either students, retired or perhaps working in the home.

The average economic profile of EU migrants varies according to whether they are from the EU14 or the EU10. Workers from the EU14 perform better than their UK born counterparts in terms of their employment rate, earnings and rate of benefit claim. Meanwhile the EU10 are more likely to be in work than the UK born, but fare worse in terms of their earnings and their rate of benefit claims. The fiscal contribution of all EU migrants is estimated to be around zero, meaning that EU migrants pay about as much in tax as they take in benefits.

It is often claimed that between 2000 and 2011 recent migrants from the EEA have contributed £20 billion to the Exchequer. This is based on a UCL paper published in 2013 which made very favourable assumptions. More realistic assumptions reduce this contribution significantly.

What about the future?

EU migration is now more than double what it was in 2010 and almost half of all net foreign born migration to the UK. It is therefore part of the wider debate about reducing immigration. The government has sought to deter new migrants and make the UK less attractive to those without work by restricting access to benefits such as jobseekers allowance, child benefit and child tax credit for the first three months, as well as introducing tighter rules for those not in work after six months. However, these measures are not likely to make any substantial difference to the overall level of migration.

Looking to the future, it is clear that reducing overall net migration will require concessions from Europe on free movement. David Cameron has stated that he wishes to see benefits withheld until EU migrants have contributed for four years. The efficacy of such a policy is not clear since the push factors of unemployment and low wages in home countries will remain, and these conditions show little sign of abating.

Housing

- **Immigration is a major factor in the demand for housing. Official data shows that in the last twenty years, over 60% of the additional households created in the UK were headed by a person born abroad. Over the past five years, that figure was 90%**
- **To meet overall demand it is estimated that the UK needs to build 240,000 homes a year, that is nearly one every two minutes**
- **In the short term, the UK needs to build more homes. In the longer term any housing strategy must also address demand. Reducing net migration will reduce the demand for housing**

The UK has a housing crisis. Put simply, there are too many people chasing too few homes. It is estimated that around 240,000 additional homes need to be built every year to cope with demand. In the last ten years, an average of 175,000 homes have been built.

The demand for housing is closely related to the number of households in the UK (a household can vary from one person living alone to a family with children or a group of unrelated people sharing a common space like a kitchen or living room).

Household formation depends on changes in the age-structure, social changes including trends in cohabitation, marriage and divorce, birth and death rates. It is also influenced by the availability and cost of housing. For much of the 20th century the number of households rose faster than the population grew and the average household size fell. However recently, the average household size has changed little and population growth is now the key factor driving household growth.

One way of measuring the impact of immigration on housing is to look at the additional number of households formed that are headed by an immigrant. There is wide variation in the size of immigrant households but, on average, household size tends to be greater and they are also more likely to live in overcrowded conditions. So, person for person, immigrants have required less housing than the UK born. Official data shows that in the last twenty years, over 60% of the additional households created in the UK were headed by a person aboard. Over the last five years that figure was 90%.

That is not to imply that most newly built housing is occupied by immigrants as many immigrant households move into existing urban areas. The majority of new immigrants to the UK live in the private rented sector, and that sector has grown alongside the immigrant population. Over time the pattern of accommodation has changed and immigrants who have been in the UK for a long time are likely to have similar levels of home ownership to the UK born.

There is a long standing controversy over the granting of social housing to immigrants.

This has not been helped by local authorities' reluctance to publish the relevant information. Some immigrant groups have very low use of social housing, whereas others are more likely to be in social housing than the UK born. There is absolutely nothing in the rules which states that immigrants should get preferential treatment. However, priority for social housing is largely determined by need and so some 'high need' immigrant families will gain access to housing over longer standing local residents deemed to be of lower need. This can be contentious.

*Source - www.migrationwatchuk.org/

Economy

The UK pays more into the EU budget than it gets back.

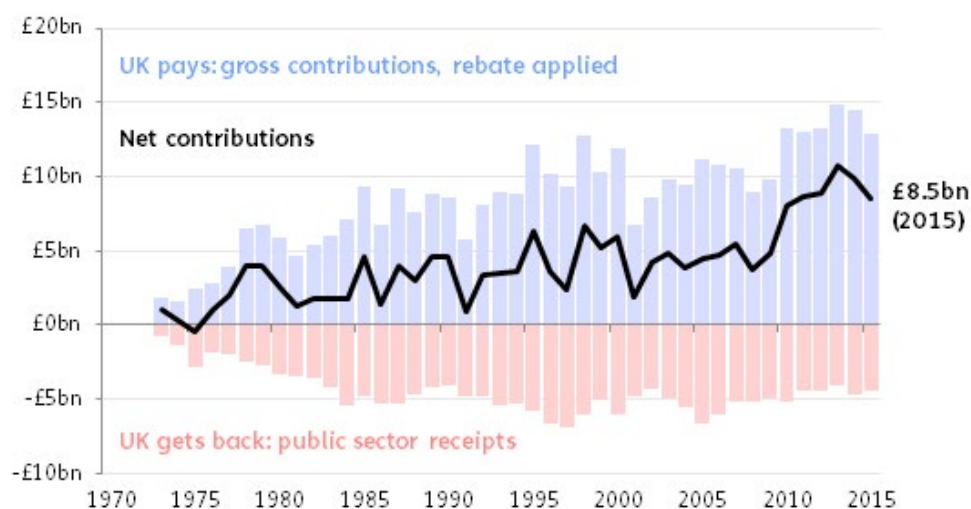
In 2015, the UK government paid £13 billion to the EU budget, and EU spending on the UK was £4.5 billion. So the UK's 'net contribution' was estimated at about £8.5 billion.

Each year the UK gets an instant discount on its contributions to the EU—the 'rebate'—worth almost £5 billion last year. Without it the UK would have been liable for £18 billion in contributions.

The UK's contributions to the budget vary from year to year. They've been larger recently than in previous decades.

UK payments to EU budget

Balance of UK contributions to and public sector receipts from the EU budget, adjusted for inflation, calendar years



A membership fee isn't the same as the economic cost or benefit

Being in the EU costs money, but does it also create trade, jobs and investment that are worth more?

We can be sure about how much cash we put in, but it's far harder to be sure about how much is returned as economic benefits: "There is no definitive study of the economic impact of the UK's EU membership or the costs and benefits of withdrawal", as the House of Commons Library says.

The UK gets money back

The government then gets some of that money back, mainly through payments to farmers and for poorer areas of the country such as Wales and Cornwall.

In 2015, the UK's 'public sector receipts' amounted to £4.5 billion. So overall, we paid in £8.5 billion more than we got back, or £23 million a day.

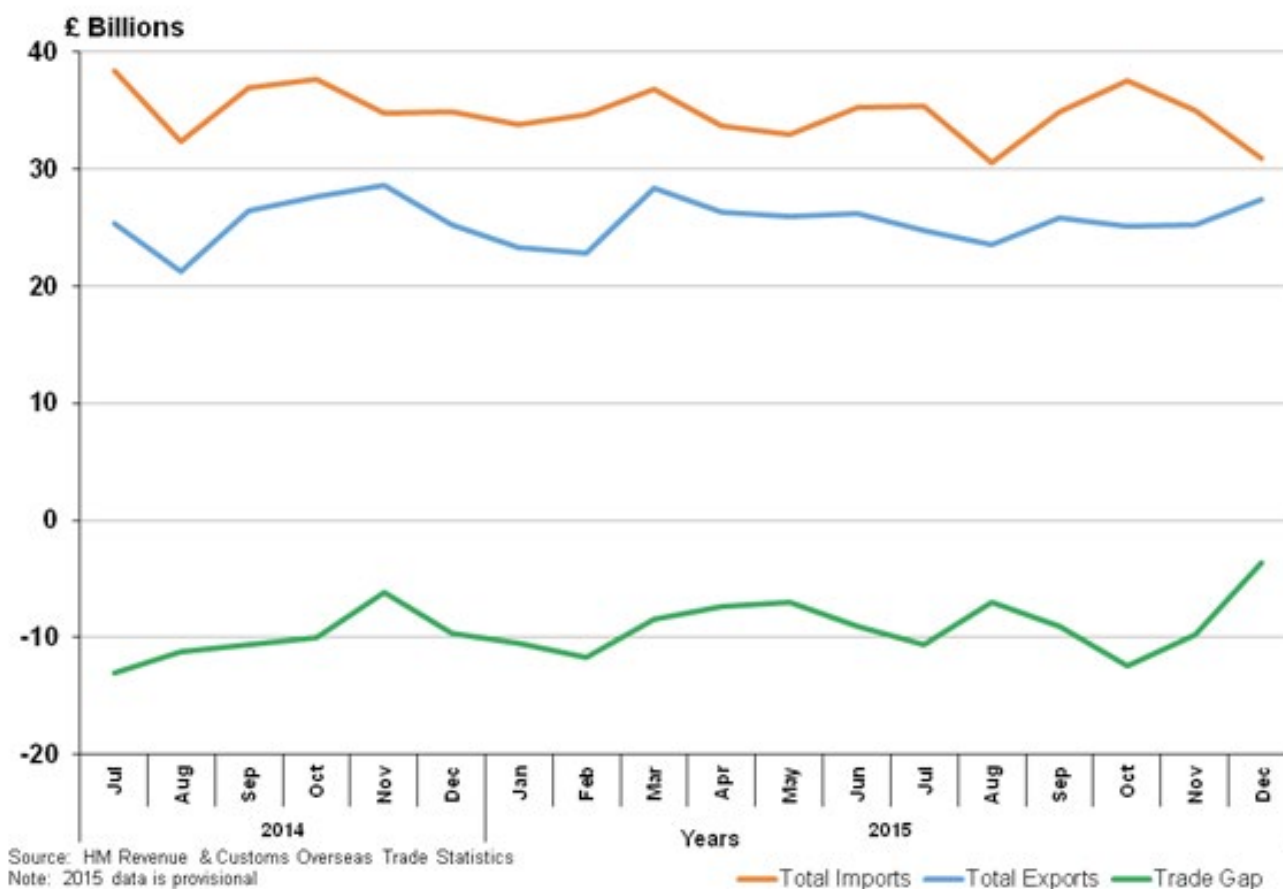
The Treasury figures note payments the EU makes directly to the private sector, such as research grants. In 2013, these were worth an estimated £1.4 billion, therefore including them could reduce our net contribution further still.

The money we get back will be spent on things the government may or may not choose to fund if we left the EU. It's not enough to look at the net contribution in isolation because what we get back isn't fully under our control.

*Source <https://fullfact.org>

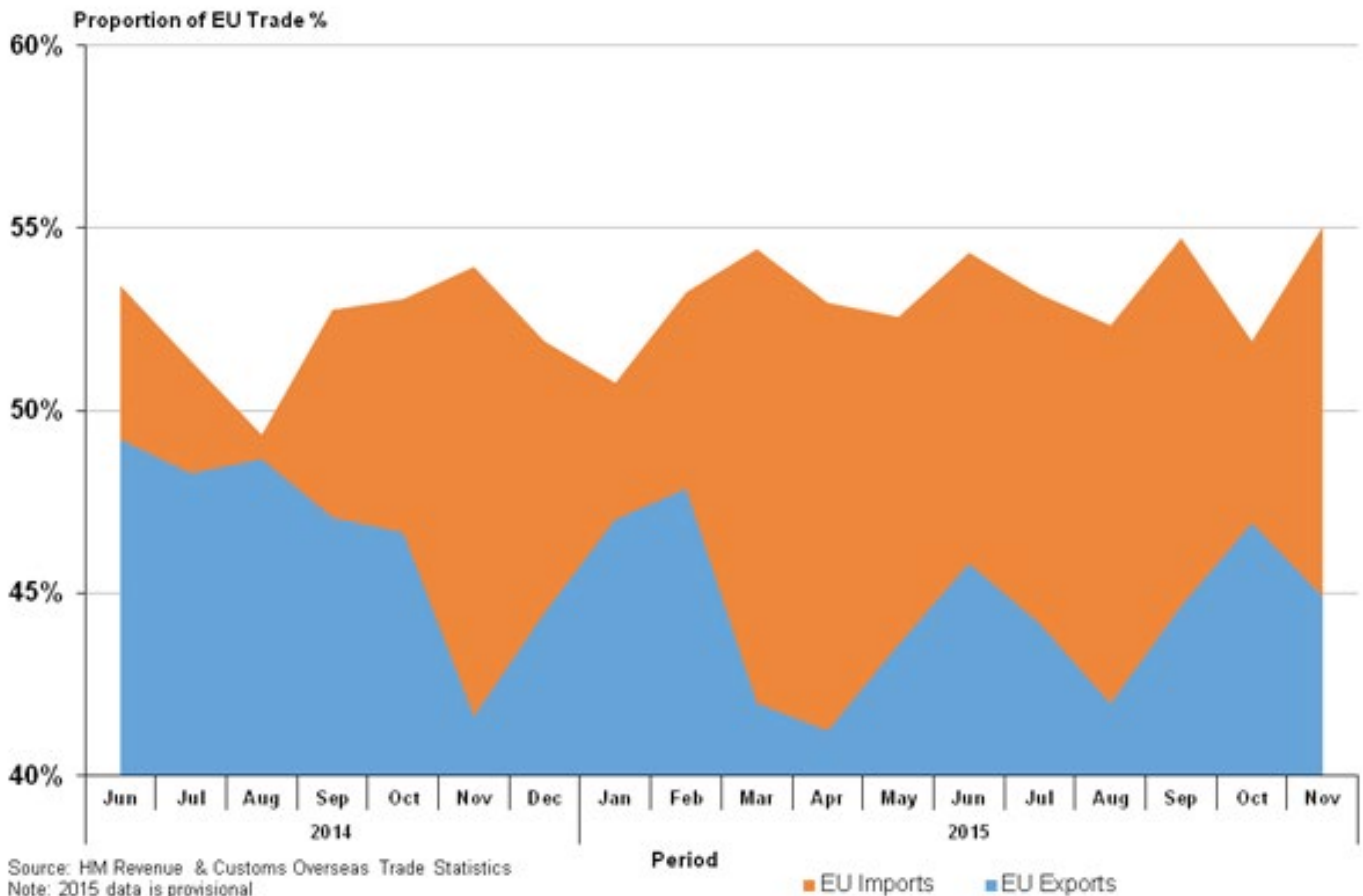
Overseas Trade Statistics

In December 2015 the value of exports (EU and Non-EU) increased to £27.4 billion, and imports (EU and Non-EU) decreased to £31.0 billion, compared with last month. Consequently the UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £3.6 billion.



Key Points

- Total trade exports for December 2015 are £27.4 billion. This is an increase of £2.1 billion (8.4 per cent compared with last month and an increase of £2.2 million (8.6 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- Total trade imports for December 2015 are £31.0 billion. This is a decrease of £4.0 billion (11.5 per cent compared with last month and a decrease of £3.9 billion (11.2 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £3.6 billion.



- Non-EU Exports for December 2015 are £17.1 billion. This is an increase of £3.1 billion (22 per cent) compared with last month and an increase of £3.0 billion (22 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- Non-EU Imports for December 2015 are £14.0 billion. This is a decrease of £1.8 billion (11 per cent) compared with last month, and a decrease of £2.8 billion (17 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- In Non-EU trade the UK is a net exporter this month, with exports exceeding imports by £3.0 billion.
- EU Exports for December 2015 are £10.4 billion. This is a decrease of £1.0 billion (8.8 per cent) compared with last month, and a fall of £0.9 billion (7.7 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- EU Imports for December 2015 are £17.0 billion. This is a decrease of £2.3 billion (12 per cent) compared with last month, and a fall of £1.1 billion (6.3 per cent) compared with December 2014.
- In EU trade the UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.6 billion.
- The proportion of total exports to the EU is 38 per cent in December 2015. Over the past 18 months, this has ranged from 38 per cent to 49 per cent. The proportion of total imports from the EU is 55 per cent in December 2015. Over the same period, this has ranged between 49 per cent and 55 per cent.

Exports

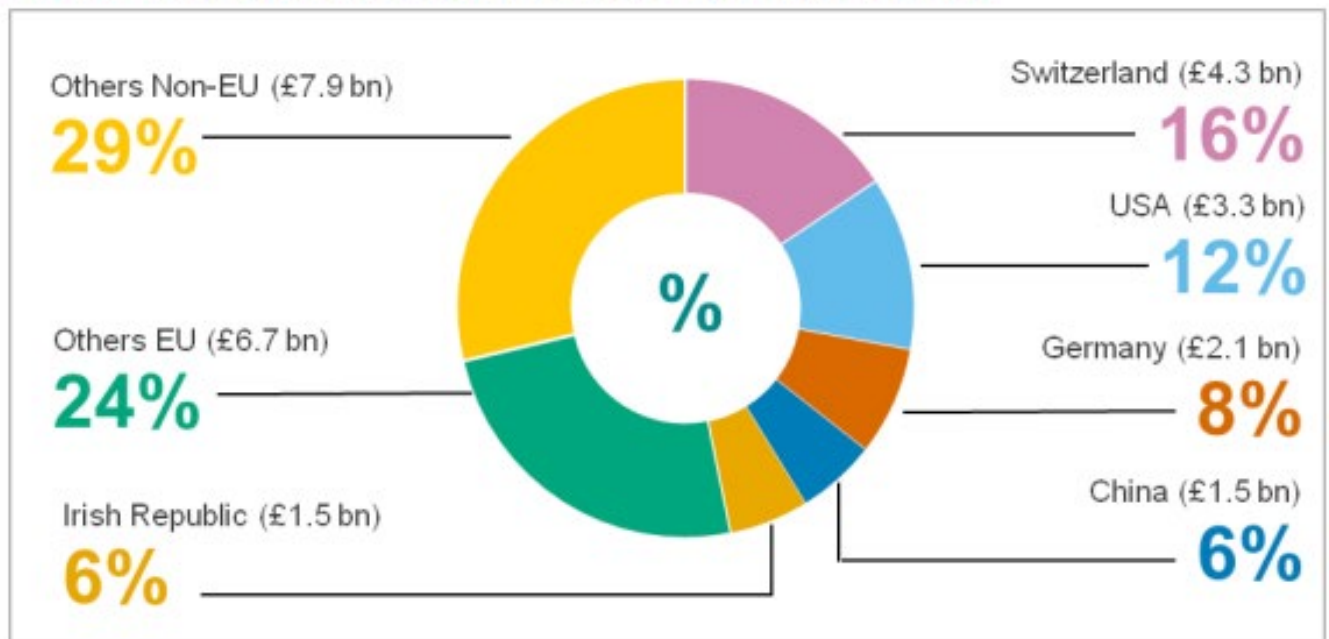
Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports to top 10 partner countries, December 2015

Partner Country	December 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Change from December 2014 (%)	Rank November 2015	Rank December 2014
Switzerland	4,293	111.8	179.0	3	6
USA	3,349	-4.4	-9.8	1	1
Germany	2,109	-23.6	-7.8	2	2
China	1,541	3.9	27.2	4	7
Irish Republic	1,538	5.1	-0.5	6	5
France	1,463	-0.5	-12.0	5	3
Netherlands	1,339	1.3	-17.5	7	4
Hong Kong	1,098	109.7	139.2	12	14
Belgium	822	-12.5	-8.6	8	8
Spain	723	-3.8	9.6	9	10
Others	9,141	1.1	-5.2	-	-
Total Non-EU	17,054	22.4	21.7	-	-
Total EU	10,361	-8.8	-7.7	-	-
Total Exports	27,415	8.4	8.6	-	-

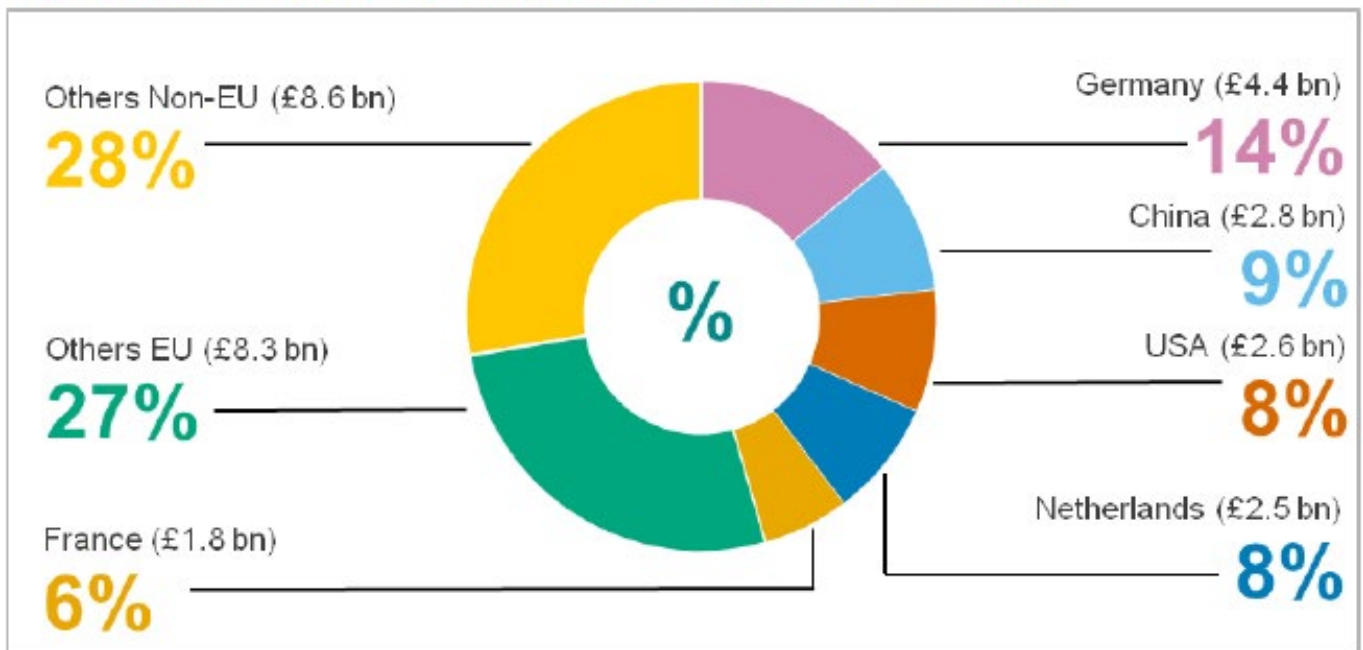
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

Figure 4: UK exports to top 5 countries, December 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade
Note: 2015 data is provisional

Figure 6: UK imports from top 5 countries, December 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade
Note: 2015 data is provisional

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 10 countries, December 2015

Partner Country	December 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Change from December 2014 (%)	Rank November 2015	Rank December 2014
Germany	4,360	-15.8	-9.5	1	1
China	2,821	-9.7	1.8	2	3
USA	2,617	-12.8	-10.0	3	2
Netherlands	2,487	-0.4	-6.5	4	4
France	1,842	-21.2	-3.3	5	5
Belgium	1,640	-10.8	3.5	6	7
Irish Republic	1,268	10.3	13.8	9	9
Italy	1,261	-7.4	-19.0	7	8
Spain	1,044	-16.1	1.4	8	10
Norway	948	-13.2	-48.7	10	6
Others	10,704	-12.4	-15.8	-	-
Total Non-EU	14,010	-11.1	-16.6	-	-
Total EU	16,980	-11.9	-6.3	-	-
Total Imports	30,990	-11.5	-11.2	-	-

Conclusion - Personal Views

The referendum vote is a **ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY**. It could be considered as more important than any general election vote as then at least you get the opportunity to change your mind the next time, this is very likely the only vote we will get on an In/Out EU choice.

I have studied the arguments and cases for both sides and I will be voting to **LEAVE** the EU, the main bullet point reasons as follows:-

- Our NET EU contribution of **£8,400,000,000 per annum** could be better used to fund public services, hospitals/schools/transport, reduce the dramatic local government cuts to local services and grants/loans directly to UK businesses
- The immigration levels must be controlled. Our public services cannot cope with the large numbers of uncontrolled migrants. The government expressed a desire for “tens of thousands” 5 years ago and the level is still “hundreds of thousands”. Under EU rules it is impossible to control this free movement of 500m European citizens. This figure will increase if the 75m population of Turkey is allowed to join as a full member.
- We need a points based migration system similar to many other countries that will allow the necessary migration levels for economic and social reasons. We cannot do this under EU directives
- Our housing system is crumbling under the pressure of demand. Rents are exceptionally high and first time buyers cannot afford the first rung on the ladder. Despite government targets we are not able to build as fast as the population is rising
- The original reason for joining the EEC was to have access to a free European market. This is no longer the case. Whilst having free trade with another 27 EU members states we have been controlled more and more with EU Parliament and Laws.
- David Cameron’s reform was a poor return from the negotiations. There was no wholesale changes and no real reform
- Upon an exit vote there would be a period of uncertainty and probably a dip in exchange rates, FTSE100 levels and weak confidence. However once we have begun to negotiate our own trade deals I’m convinced we would see a return to balance and then gain from stronger deals for the benefit of the whole UK

- The UK is the 5th strongest economy in the world and the 2nd strongest in the EU. We buy **£86,000,000,000** more goods and services than we sell **every year** to the EU. We sell twice as much than we buy from Germany every year. Clearly we are in a very good negotiating position for free trade agreements WITHOUT free movement of people or the EU restrictive burdens.
- We can negotiate our own trade agreements with the developing countries of the world, something we are currently forbidden to do. As it stands, these agreements are negotiated by an EU Commission of which less than 4% are British.
- In December, The UK's biggest export partner in the world was Switzerland and they are not even a member of the EU.
- We will still have access to the EU market. The terms will be different but I still believe they will be under free trade agreements. It's as much for the benefit of the EU countries that it is for us.
- Sovereignty. Our Parliament would make the laws that we would live by, not unelected officers of the EU.
- We will still be able to live and work in other EU countries and we will negotiate terms with them that are to the benefit of all
- UK citizens currently living in the EU would not be forced to return, again terms would be negotiated to the benefit of both negotiating partners.
- We will still be members of NATO. This is the security force that ultimately decides policy and strategy.
- The EU record of intervention into conflict is not a successful one.
- The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has backed Brexit, which is a very difficult decision considering he has had to challenge his own party leader and friend. He has been unfairly vilified in the commons for making his views and comments known
- The chairman of JCB says the UK should not fear an exit from the European Union: "We are the fifth or sixth largest economy in the world. We could exist on our own - peacefully and sensibly". Lord Bamford said an exit would enable the UK to "negotiate as our country rather than being one of 28 nations". JCB are one of the biggest privately owned family businesses in the UK, employing more than 10,000 people and exporting >75% of their goods

- Our company, WEC Group, applied for a grant from an £80bn EU Horizon 2020 Fund along with 6 EU consortium partners to build and supply the machinery. It took 4 months to compile a 90 page technical submission at a cost of c£150k. We waited 5 months for an answer and then received a 1 page document with a refusal. No explanation, no reasons and no one to speak directly to.

We reapplied under the same scheme 3 months later with the same outcome. This resulted in us not being able to progress our £15m “Factory of the Future” and new Training Academy.

2 years of wasted job opportunities and giving our local area a Showroom Production Factory to welcome the world’s trade. Despite a number of meetings in Downing Street and at the head offices of local government, their hands were tied to help. It was against state aid rules.

There is £80bn of funding for this project spread across Europe.

How much has come to the UK or the North?

Difficult to know as there’s no one to ask!

- This referendum should be led by the leaders of the UK’s biggest companies and employers. Politicians will play party politics and follow party direction. They are only in office for fixed lengths of time. UK employers and employees should lead the debates.
- The decision for most voters is not simple as there are convincing arguments from both sides. Having weighed up these arguments, I will be backing the LEAVE campaign. I believe the UK will have a brighter future when we have full control again of our laws, our economy and our borders. There will be some pain at first, but I believe the future will be brighter in the medium and longer term.

About Wayne Wild

Experience

- BSc Degree in Building Surveying at UCLAN
- WEC Group Commercial Director and Shareholder
- NWSCA Entrepreneur/Business Person of the Year 2010
- Co-Founder of FairQuid (Employee Benefit Loans)
- Co-Chairman of the RoversTrust



After spending 12 years working as the Sales Manager of Outokumpu, an international stainless steel company based in Sheffield, Wayne joined the WEC Group in August 2005 as the General Manager of the WEC Laser Division, when the company had a turnover of £8m and 135 employees.

In just over 10 years, Wayne has worked his way to Group Commercial Director and Shareholder and helped the company reach new heights with turnover forecast of £60m for 2016 and current headcount of 645 staff.

Wayne is now also heading some of the Group's other most lucrative businesses including the CCTV Camera Mounting division, and is also the Director of 4 of the Group's subsidiaries including 5750 Components Ltd in Liverpool, Sherburn Metalwork Ltd in Leeds, WECJet Ltd in Blackburn, and most recently MTL Advanced in Rotherham, following a large acquisition deal which Wayne spearheaded in 2015.

Wayne is an avid Blackburn Rovers supporter and is currently Co Chairman of the Rovers Trust, a Supporters Trust which aims at taking ownership of the club for the local community.

Wayne was Chairman of rising local Football Club AFC Darwen last season, helping guide them to promotion and win the league cup

In the meantime, Wayne is also the Co-Founder of FairQuid, an award winning Employment Benefit Scheme which aims at reducing staff debt in collaboration with local Credit Unions.

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/wayne-wild/48/b71/918>

About WEC Group

Key Facts

- Fast Growing Manufacturing & Contract Engineering Company
- Founded in 1979
- 8 Manufacturing sites in Lancashire, Merseyside, and Yorkshire
- 645 staff and £60m Turnover forecast for 2016
- Exporting to 14+ countries



KEY FACTS & FIGURES

645
Staff



£60M
2016
TURNOVER
FORECAST



Established 37 years and still family-owned, WEC Group has experienced rapid growth over the past 10 years and is now one of the UK's largest manufacturing companies

Contact us to share your views!



Whilst this report was compiled by someone backing the Leave Campaign, the main aim is to inform the readers to the facts surrounding the upcoming EU Referendum and share views from both Remain and Leave campaign.

If you would like to contribute to this report with additional content in favour of the Stonger In or Leave campaigns, we will gladly add your comments to the report as long as they add constructive arguments to the debate.

If you would like to share your views, please contact us at the address below:

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Tel: 01254 773718

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EU Referendum Report

23rd June 2016

Disclaimer:

This report has been compiled from information available on major news websites, official referendum campaign websites, official national statistics, and Governmental bodies data to inform people about the forthcoming EU referendum.

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Main Sources :

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<http://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<https://fullfact.org>

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