

‘National Conversation’ research for British Future Topline results (25-06-18)

- This topline presents the findings from the National Conversation research conducted by ICM Unlimited.
- ICM interviewed a sample of 3,267 UK adults aged 18+ online, between 13th and 18th June 2018.
- The samples in Scotland and Northern Ireland were boosted to ensure a robust sample in each nation (700 and 250 respectively). In addition, the total sample contains booster interviews with black, Asian and minority ethnic respondents (BAMEs).
- To ensure a representative sample, at the analysis stage data has been weighted to the profile of all UK adults aged 18+. Booster interviews have been weighted back into the overall population profile.
- A sample size of 3,267 produces data accurate to plus or minus (+/-) 2 percentage points at the 95 per cent confidence level.
- An asterisk (*) denotes a value that is greater than zero but less than one.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Conducted in accordance with ISO 20252 and ISO 27001, the international standards for market research and information security management.

S3. Do you have friends, neighbours or work colleagues of a different ethnic background to yourself?

	%
Yes	75
No	24
Don't know	2

S4. Do you have friends, neighbours or work colleagues who are migrants or refugees?

	%
Yes	29
No	61
Don't know	11

General Views

Q1. On a scale of 1-10, do you feel that immigration had a positive or negative impact on the UK, including your local community?

	%
Very Negative - 1	8
2	4
3	7
4	8
5	20
6	11
7	16
8	13
9	5
Very Positive - 10	7
NET Negative: 1-3	19
NET Neutral: 4-7	56
NET Positive: 8-10	25

Q2. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

%	Migrant workers support the British economy by doing jobs British people don't want to do	Diversity is a good thing for British culture	Immigrants have preferential access to housing and public services	Public services are under strain because of immigration	Migrants bring valuable skills for our economy and public services like the NHS	Migrants are willing to work for less money so put jobs at risk and lower wages
Strongly agree	20	23	16	24	25	16
Tend to agree	41	34	26	31	39	38
Neither / nor	20	24	24	19	23	25
Tend to disagree	10	11	16	14	7	13
Strongly Disagree	6	6	11	9	4	4
Don't know	3	2	7	4	2	4
NET: Agree	61	58	41	55	64	54
NET: Disagree	15	17	27	23	11	17

Q3. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

%	The public should be consulted more on important national issues, like immigration	Migrants face discrimination in the media and on social media	Politicians have shown strong leadership on immigration	Migrants do not integrate into their local communities
Strongly agree	25	17	4	16
Tend to agree	38	36	9	30
Neither / nor	22	25	25	30
Tend to disagree	8	11	30	15
Strongly disagree	3	6	27	5
Don't know	4	5	5	5
NET: Agree	63	53	13	46
NET: Disagree	11	17	57	20

Numbers

Q4. For each of the following groups, please tell us whether or not you would prefer the number of people coming to live in the UK to be increased, reduced, or to remain about the same.

%	High skilled workers from the EU	Low-skilled workers from the EU	Seasonal workers employed in farms, food factories and hotels	High-skilled workers from outside the EU	Asylum-seekers and refugees	Non-British immediate family members (e.g. spouses, children under 18)	Overseas students coming to UK universities
Increased	38	11	16	38	16	14	22
Reduced	14	48	24	15	44	30	22
Remain about the same	38	30	46	36	28	40	45
Don't know	10	11	13	11	11	16	11

Q5. The Government has a target to reduce net migration to 'tens of thousands'. Net migration is the numbers of all immigrants entering the UK in a given time period (migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees, family members, foreign students), minus the numbers of emigrants leaving in the same period, this includes British citizens leaving and returning to the UK. Which one of the following do you most agree with?

	%
The government should have different targets and approaches for dealing with different kinds of immigrants i.e different for higher skilled and lower- skilled migrants workers, overseas students etc	57
The Government should keep the net migration target	21
The Government should not set targets for immigration	10
Don't know	11

Restoring Trust

Q6. For each of the following sources of information about immigration, how much do you trust each to tell the truth?

%	MPs	The Government	Your local council	Television	National newspapers	Local news	Social media	Business leaders	Academics/experts
Tell the truth all the time	2	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	7
Tell the truth most of the time	11	15	20	24	17	31	8	16	40
Tell the truth sometimes	51	47	47	55	55	48	51	52	36
Never tell the truth	28	29	18	11	19	9	26	17	6
Don't know	8	7	12	7	6	9	13	12	10

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

%	On the whole, I feel that the government has managed immigration into the UK competently and fairly	The government's performance on migration should be reviewed every year, through an annual migration day in Parliament which should involve consulting members of the public
Strongly agree	2	22
Tend to agree	11	39
Neither agree nor disagree	25	18
Tend to disagree	30	8
Strongly disagree	25	4
Don't know	7	8
NET: Agree	13	61
NET: Disagree	55	13

Q8. For each of the following, please tell us whether it would make you more or less confident, or would make no difference, in the ability of the Government to manage migration into the UK?

	A simple and independent website that sets out statistics, government policy, and its performance	A system where the UK government had more control over the numbers of migrants coming to the UK	Increasing the Home Office budget so it can employ more immigration officers and make better use of technology	Better ways of dealing with the local impacts of migration on housing and public services	Better support to help migrants integrate and become part of their local communities	Government ministers held to account and were forced to resign if they make serious mistakes
A lot more confident	15	26	14	18	13	28
A little more confident	34	33	35	40	32	34
No difference	35	23	32	26	35	23
A little less confident	5	7	7	5	7	5
A lot less confident	2	3	3	3	4	2
Don't know	10	8	10	8	8	8
NET: More confident	49	59	49	57	46	62
NET: Less confident	6	10	10	8	11	7

Q9. How long should migrants, excluding asylum seekers and refugees, be working and paying tax in the UK before they are eligible for benefits and social housing?

	%
12 months or less	11
1-3 years	30
3-5 years	29
6-10 years	9
Longer than 10 years	5
Only UK Citizens should be eligible for benefits and social housing	17

Migration and Business

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following questions?

%	Businesses should be able to recruit the highly skilled workers they need	The NHS should be able to recruit health professionals from abroad to fill vacancies	Employers should <u>not</u> be able to take on migrant workers, even if they can't find British staff	Businesses that employ migrants should be obliged to pay into a training fund that is used to develop skills in UK workers	Farmers should be able to recruit seasonal migrants from the EU that they need	Wage regulations should be enforced better, so migrant workers do not undercut British workers
Strongly agree	31	36	6	20	22	31
Tend to agree	44	35	9	36	40	41
Neither agree nor disagree	16	17	22	25	22	16
Tend to disagree	4	5	31	9	8	5
Strongly disagree	1	3	27	4	4	1
Don't know	4	4	5	8	5	5
NET: Agree	75	72	15	56	62	72
NET: Disagree	5	7	57	12	12	7

Migration from the EU

Q11. Leaving the EU may mean changes to immigration policies for EU nationals. Please indicate which option you prefer if you had to pick one.

	%
The government should apply the same restrictions on immigration for EU migrants and those coming from outside the EU, even if this would mean more restrictions on the UK nationals who might want to live and work in the EU	30
The Government should keep free movement rules for EU migrants in the UK and UK migrants living in the EU after Britain leaves the EU	27
The government should set an annual cap covering EU migrants in low-skilled jobs, but not for EU migrants coming to do highly-skilled work	26
EU nationals coming to fill high-skilled jobs should only be offered temporary visas lasting a maximum of three years	16

Q12. When migrants do come to Britain, which of the following options, if you had to pick one, do you think is better?

	%
"It is better when migrants commit to stay in Britain, put roots down and intergrate"	61
"It is better when migrants come here to work after a few years without putting roots down and then return home"	39

Q13. If you had to pick one, please indicate which approach you would like the UK Government to take in the Brexit negotiations.

	%
If it means a better deal for British business, the UK Government should keep the free movement of EU citizens in and out of the UK and stay in the single market	39
The UK Government should end free movement with no preferential immigration deal with the EU, even if this limits the trade deal Britain can strike	33
If it means a better deal for British business, the UK government should end free movement but offer the EU an immigration deal where EU nationals get preferential treatments to migrants outside the EU.	28

Migration from outside the EU

Q14. In recent years about half of immigration has come from outside the EU, with migrants arriving through work visa routes, as students, to join their family or as asylum-seekers and refugees. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with these policies.

%	The devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should have the powers to decide how many visas are issued for people who want to work in these parts of the UK	Government policy should be to encourage international students to study at UK universities, rather than having policies that discourage students from overseas	UK citizens should be allowed to bring immediate family (e.g. spouse/partner, children under 18) irrespective of their income, as long as they can support them and provide housing
Strongly agree	18	18	20
Tend to agree	37	32	42
Neither / nor	20	30	20
Tend to disagree	10	8	7
Strongly disagree	7	4	5
Don't know	8	8	5
NET: Agree	55	50	62
NET: Disagree	17	13	12

Q15. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? 'Children born in the UK should be eligible for British citizenship'

	%
Strongly agree	31
Tend to agree	36
Neither agree nor disagree	18
Tend to disagree	8
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	4
NET: Agree	67
NET: Disagree	12

Refugees

Q16. Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

%	Britain should protect refugees fleeing war and persecution	When people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process
Strongly agree	21	28
Tend to agree	34	41
Neither agree or disagree	26	17
Tend to disagree	8	6
Strongly disagree	6	3
Don't know	5	6
NET: Agree	55	69
NET: Disagree	13	9

Integration

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

%	People get along best when there is two-way tolerance and respect for each other	It takes effort from both UK citizens and new migrants to build integrated communities	Discrimination and hate crime divide communities	When communities live apart from each other, this causes problems	Integration is showing respect for British traditions and values
Strongly agree	45	36	49	36	38
Tend to agree	39	44	34	40	37
Neither / nor	11	12	11	14	16
Tend to disagree	2	3	2	4	4
Strongly disagree	*	2	1	1	2
Don't know	3	3	3	4	3
NET: Agree	83	81	83	76	75
NET: Disagree	2	5	3	5	6

Q18. What do you think migrants should do in order to integrate and become successful members of our society? Please indicate if you agree or disagree whether these are important.

%	Learn English	Observe our shared values (e.g. democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance)	Contribute to the economy and pay taxes	Be active members of the community (e.g. by volunteering)	Take up UK citizenship	Attend a course to find out about British customs and everyday life	Mix and build relationships with others in the community where they live.
Strongly agree	66	53	62	23	22	34	37
Tend to agree	23	33	27	39	32	37	45
Neither /nor	7	9	8	28	31	19	13
Tend to disagree	1	2	1	4	6	5	1
Strongly disagree	*	1	*	1	4	2	1
Don't know	2	3	2	4	5	4	3
NET: Agree	88	86	88	63	54	71	82
NET: Disagree	2	2	2	5	10	7	2

Q19. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents

%	Councils should take firm action against landlords who accommodate migrants in overcrowded and/or squalid conditions	If businesses employ lots of migrant workers they should be required to take more responsibility for integration, such as making sure there are English language classes and enough housing	The Government should provide English lessons for those that need them	Schools should make sure that pupils get the opportunity to meet children from different backgrounds
Strongly agree	58	34	31	28
Tend to agree	26	40	34	37
Neither agree nor disagree	10	16	17	23
Tend to disagree	2	4	8	5
Strongly disagree	1	1	6	3
Don't know	3	4	3	4
NET: Agree	84	74	65	65
NET: Disagree	2	6	14	7

Q20. Please say which statement in each of these pairs you most agree with, even if you don't agree with either entirely.

	%
Statement A: "Having a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures is part of British culture"	60
Statement B: "Having a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures has undermined British culture"	40

	%
Statement A: "How well I do in life is first and foremost down to me"	76
Statement B: "How well I do in life is primarily decided by forces outside of my control"	24

	%
Statement A: "I am pessimistic about the future"	46
Statement B: "I am optimistic about the future"	54

	%
Statement A: "My local community is peaceful and friendly"	81
Statement B: "There is tension between different groups of people in my community"	19