
CITIZENS'
ASSEMBLY
ON BREXIT

INTRODUCTION TO THE EU AND BREXIT

WHAT WE'LL COVER

What is the European Union (EU)?

What does Brexit involve?

What are we talking about when we talk about trade?

What are we talking about when we talk about immigration?

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THE EU BREXIT

Anand Menon

WHAT IS THE EU?



THE BREXIT PROCESS

- June last year: voters decided in the **referendum** that the UK will leave the EU
- March this year: the government gave formal notice to the EU that the UK intends to leave; this triggered the start of a **two-year negotiation period**
- negotiations are now taking place between representatives of the UK and the EU



THE BREXIT PROCESS

- the negotiations cover:
 - the **'divorce deal'**: the terms on which the UK leaves the EU
 - **'future relations'**: the terms on which the UK and the EU will work with each other in the future
- this is a **negotiation**, so neither side is likely to get everything it wants

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TRADE

Meg Russell

TRADE: BASICS

- **what is trade?**
 - imports and exports
 - goods and services
- **why do countries trade?**
- **types of barriers to trade**
 - tariffs (i.e. taxes)
 - 'non-tariff barriers' (other rules and procedures)

UK TRADE TODAY

- **as a member of the EU, the UK is part of**
 - the **Single Market**: governs how EU countries trade with each other
 - the **Customs Union**: governs how EU countries trade with countries outside the EU

SINGLE MARKET

- members: all EU countries plus three others
- core principle: **free movement** of goods, services, labour, and capital
- not complete, especially in services
- no **tariffs** on trade between member states
- aims to reduce **non-tariff barriers** through:
 - **harmonisation** (e.g. of labour and environmental standards)
 - **mutual recognition** (e.g. of work qualifications)
- rules are decided by EU members

CUSTOMS UNION

- **members: all EU countries plus Turkey**
- **sets rules on how countries inside the Customs Union trade with countries outside**
 - sets **tariffs** on imports from outside the Customs Union
 - negotiates **free trade deals** with countries outside the Customs Union
 - allows goods imported from outside the Customs Union to go through customs controls only once, so that goods can cross borders between member states easily
- **rules are decided by EU members**

OPTIONS

stay in the
Single Market

seek a detailed
trade deal with
the EU on tariffs
and non-tariff
barriers

seek a limited
trade deal with
the EU covering
tariffs only

leave the Single
Market and
Customs Union
and don't do
trade deal with
the EU

stay in the
Customs Union



**stay close to
the EU**

**cut loose
from the EU**

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IMMIGRATION

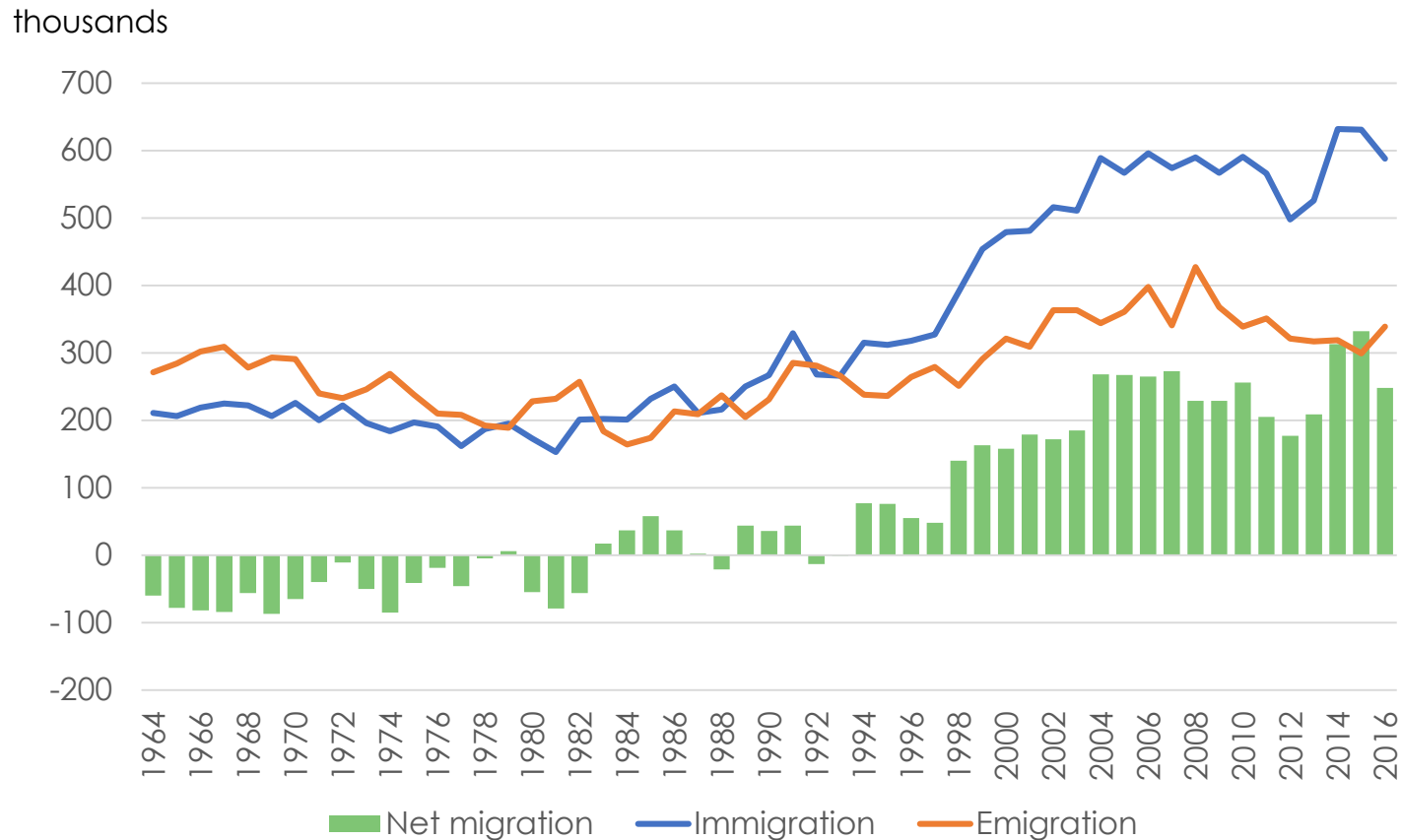
Graham Smith

IMMIGRATION: BASICS

- **definitions:**
 - immigration
 - emigration
 - net migration
- **what we're not dealing with: refugees or asylum seekers**
- **how it works in the UK today:**
 - **free movement** of people within the EU
 - **controlled immigration** of people from outside the EU, with visas for work, study, or family members

IMMIGRATION TODAY

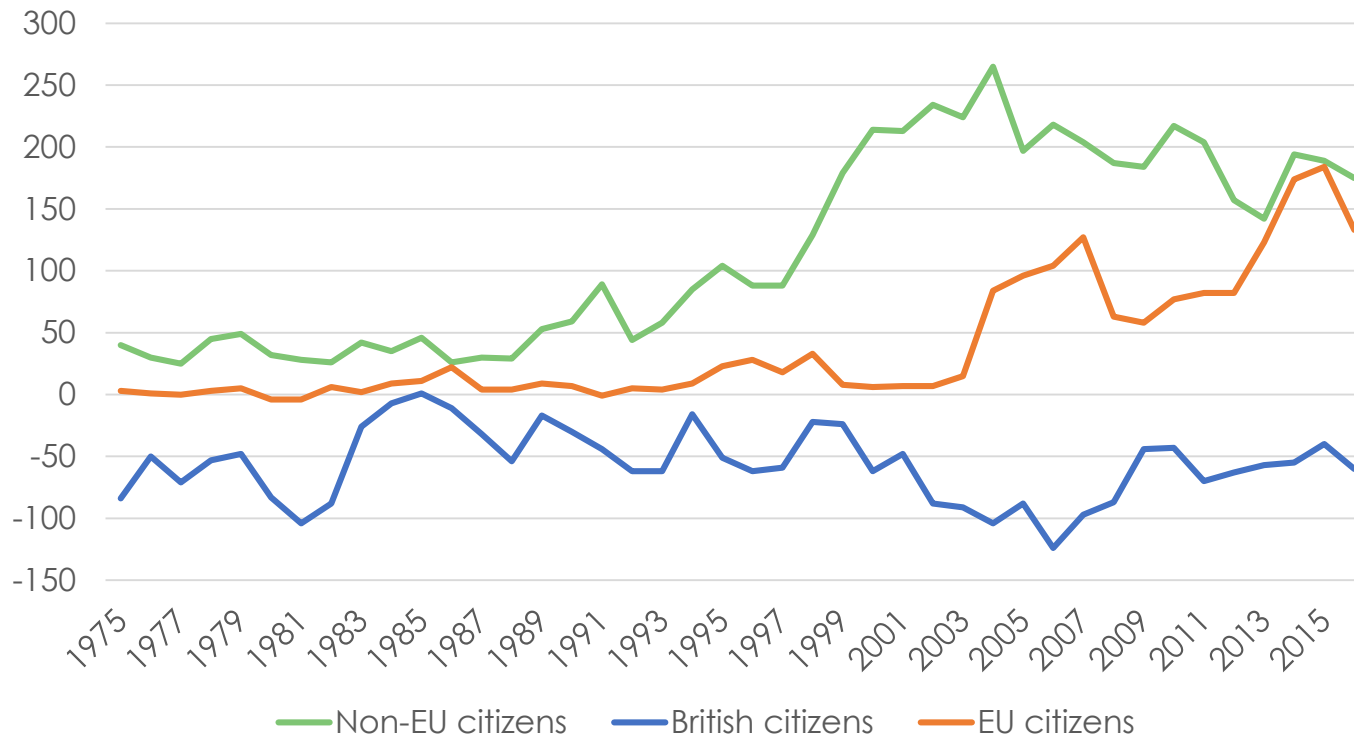
Immigration to and emigration from the UK since 1964



IMMIGRATION TODAY

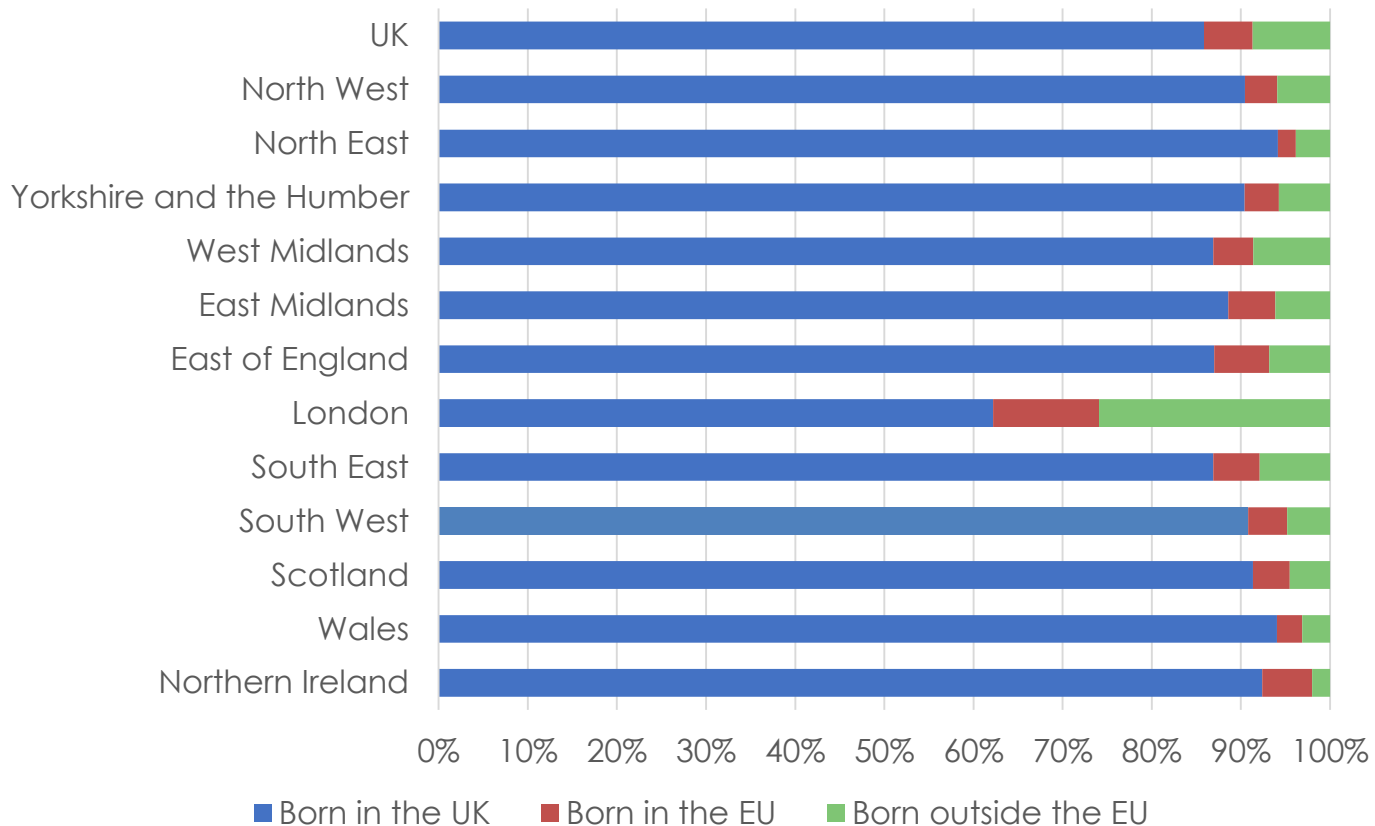
Net migration to/from the UK since 1975

thousands



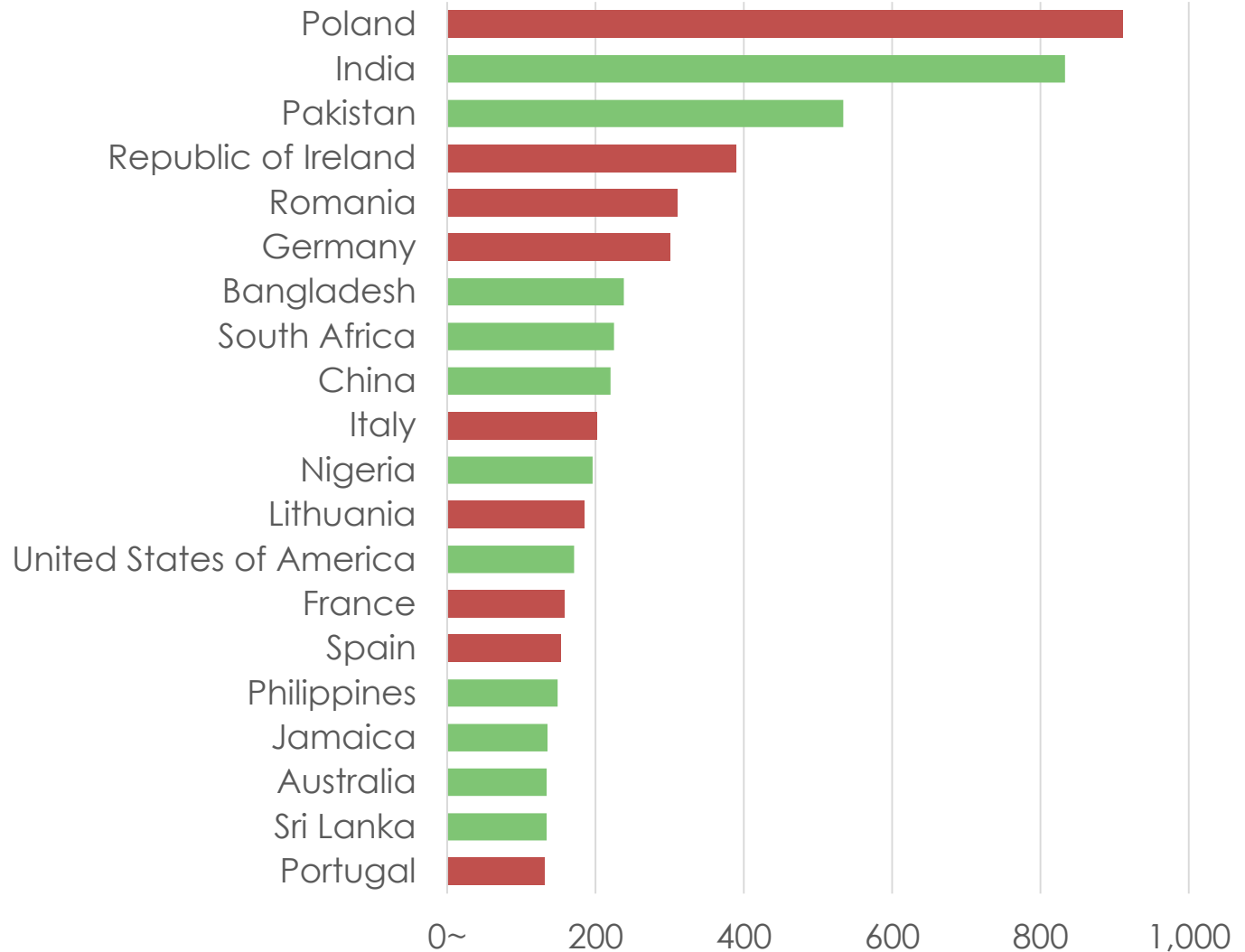
IMMIGRATION TODAY

Where people living in the UK (in 2016) were born



IMMIGRATION TODAY

**Where
immigrants
living in the
UK (in 2016)
are from, in
thousands**



- **immigration from the EU:**
 - maintain free movement for EU citizens
 - have the same rules for EU citizens and non-EU citizens
 - something in between
- **immigration in general:**
 - try to reduce it overall
 - keep it about the same overall
 - target some sectors of the economy where there is a shortage of workers
 - different rules in different parts of the UK

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