

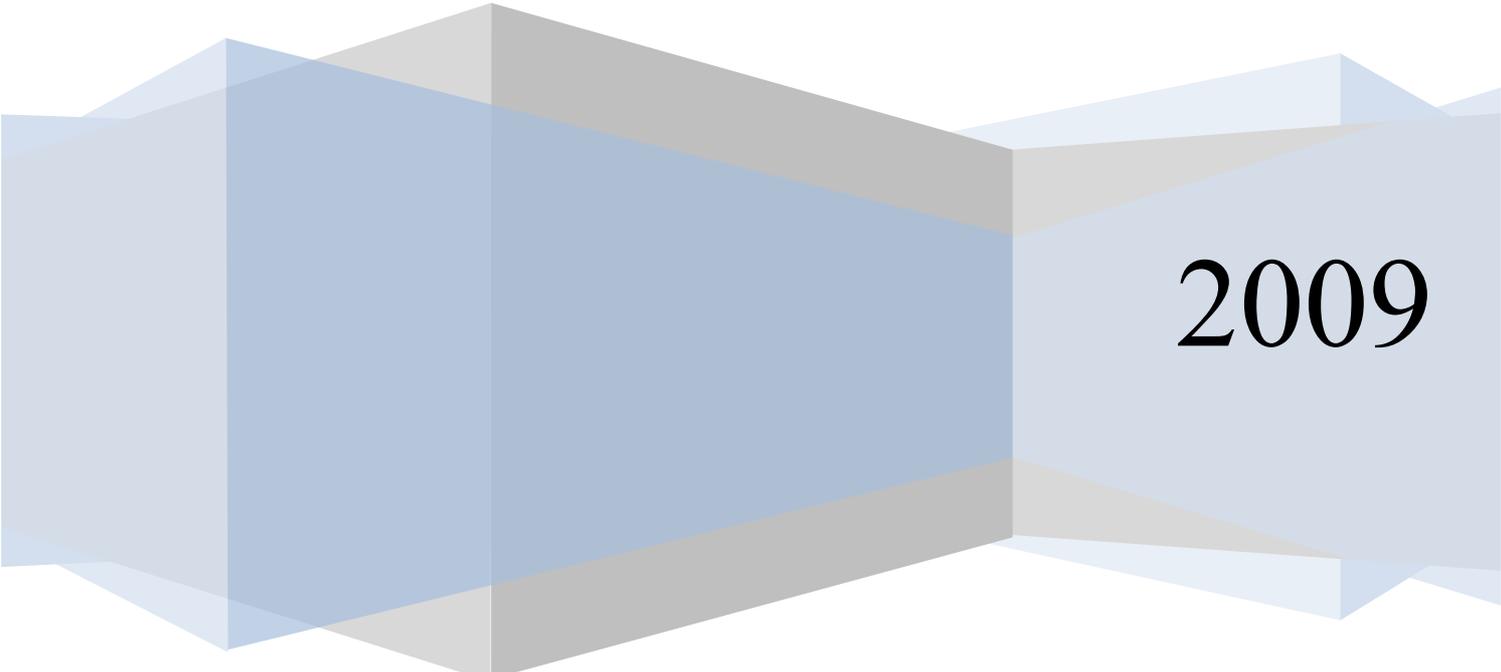
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# **How has the European Union's amendments to the United Kingdom's immigration laws effect the UK's immigration?**

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# Acknowledgements

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## Abstract

I originally started to write this essay to address the U.K. as a whole and I was then told that this was a considerable amount of work which was more suited to a whole government department appose to a sixth form student. I then focus my attention on writing this essay that required a little less work. Within this essay I explore the effects from the GDP and the labour market. Both produced results which changed my perspective completely with the current situation of immigration and what people really think of immigration.

## Search Words

European Union

Economics

Public's Opinions

Immigration

Gross Domestic Product

Sources of Immigrants

United Kingdom

Labour Market

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## Introduction

Labour is having allegations thrown at them a lot recently. One which captured my imagination was “Why won’t labour listen to its own immigration boss?” (Clark, 2008). The article spits out phrases like “migrants...remain here by hiring taxpayer-

funded lawyers...” and questions whether enforcing the immigration laws can be classified as actions that would belong to a racist. However, more recently there has been a lot of focus on the economy and as the country is in a recession I wanted to see if there was anything that could be correlated between them. This is what I hope to find out within this essay.

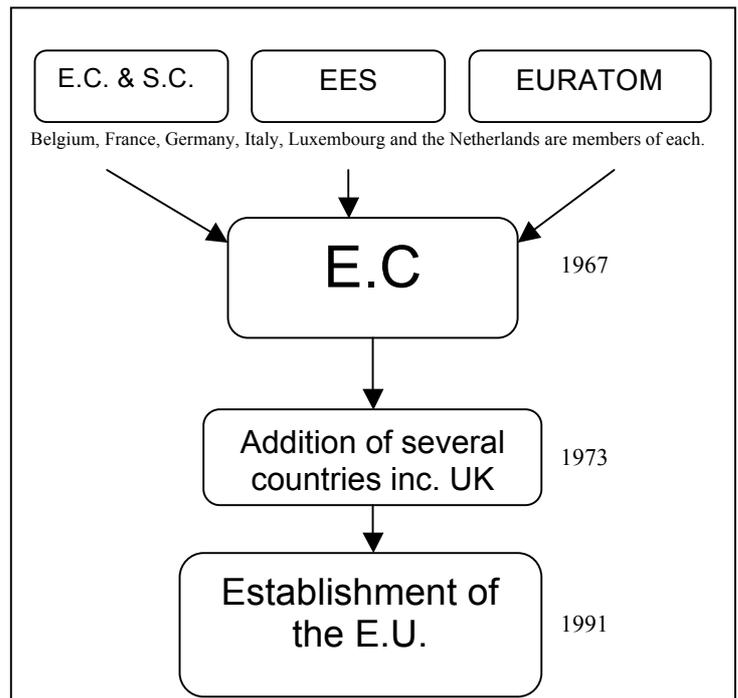
I wanted to write this essay because I have a genuine interest within law and politics. I know that immigration can turn into a very heated debate within in my own household let alone with national politics. I wanted to get the facts with this essay; I wanted to see what the facts behinds journalists reasoning and form my own opinions, which I do not think I would be able to do without this much research. I will also look into peoples opinions of immigration to see why the journalists think it will sell papers to write about this particular topic so much. I also wanted to see whether I could tie in my interests with something new and this is why I decided to look at economics. My knowledge of economics and the technicalities of law have grown in at least triplicate and I have had a lot of pleasure into looking at such a fascinating topic.



Figure 1 British road sign written in polish to accommodate for high level of polish residents within Cheshire County.

**A brief history E.U.**

The European Community was formed in 1967 as a result of combining three other communities; the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Society and the European Atomic Energy Economic Community (EURATOM) with the members being Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. All of these societies were formed after the Second World War to bring about economic and political stability to a war-ridden continent. The



The U.K. had not been allowed to join the E.U. because the rule was if a single country objected to a proposal, the proposal could not pass. The UK's request to join was being objected to by Charles de Guelle of France, however, when he died the request was excepted and the U.K. joined the E.C. in 1973 (Manson, 2005), which was the catalyst for the Immigration Act 1971 which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1973. This has undergone several changes over the past 30 years especially with the forming of the European Union in 1991 and the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) order in 1993(HMSO).

All of these reformations established the system we have today. The current system enables people to move freely between the states of the E.U. and reside in said state without being subjected to the possibility of being rejected. This is because of the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens Act (Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens, 2004).

## *Economic Effects*

The economic effects of immigration are hard to measure as with some things there could be many more variables, which perhaps would have a stronger effect. Therefore the first area I have chosen to concentrate on is the effect immigration has on the labour market. This has been in the media particularly as there has been great dispute over British citizens losing their jobs to foreign workers as foreign labour can be provided cheaply in comparison to that of the latter. As well as this I will look into how the supply and demand of labour has an effect. I am interested to see whether causing saturations in one particular trade and a need in another has any serious effects on the economy.

The second thing I will be concentrating on will be the Gross Domestic Product in comparison to migration to whether this has any correlation. A higher gross domestic product would suggest a high level of industry and it would be interesting to see whether higher levels of migration bring higher levels of industry.

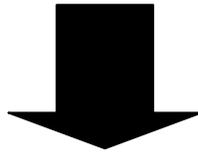
And finally I hope to conclude whether the E.U. legislation is the cause of the disputes and whether the majority of immigrants are actually coming from the E.U. or from outside. If the majority of immigrants are coming from the E.U. then it may be prudent to act upon that by amending our policy for immigrants from other continents.

## Immigrations effects on the labour market

It is Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 and it has been reported that 5,320 jobs are to be cut. This seems to be hardly surprising seeing that when this article was written Britain was on the verge of entering a recession. But still this article is causing great uproar, it is not the job cuts that caused the controversy, it is the fact that despite over 5,000 are jobs going when another 800,000 migrants could be offered work in skills for professions such as sheep Shearer's, doctors, ballet dancers, vets etc. The gaps in the labour market could spike another surge within immigration because foreigners will spot the opportunity to work within a skill they are capable of (O'Grady, 2008).

The labour market is essentially a collection of the skills needed within all the industries. Gaps within the labour market are when there is a lack of people with the ability to do a trade to meet the demand for that trade within an economy. The reason they exist and the effects they may have is as follows:

If we assume that there is a sudden surge within the interest of ballet, it is seen to make financial sense to open more professional ballet performances. Therefore there is an increase in the amount of ballet dancers needed.



Casting calls start for ballet dancers, there are not enough skilled people.



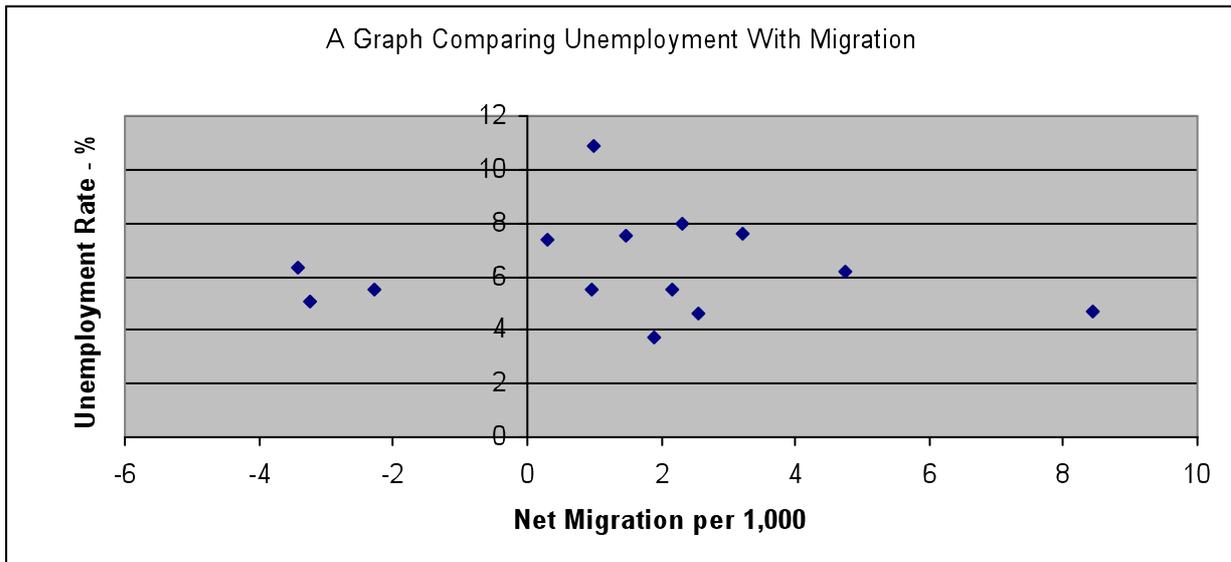
As a result a lower quality performances may be produced or shows may be cancelled. This could cause a collapse in the interest, as consumers may feel dissatisfied that their interest is not being met and turn their interest to other things.

Obviously this would cause damage to the Entertainment industry, which may not seem important, but if you apply the principle to industries to agriculture, medicine, police etc. there could be some very devastating effects within society.

However, if we assume the spots are filled by people providing the skills from another economy i.e. immigrants, then it may ensure that the ballet industry within Britain can actually exist as a sustainable industry, providing of course the demand for it remains constant.

As mentioned within the article these jobs tend to be filled by immigrants looking for work. This causes great aggravation within the British public as it is seen that, what are termed as, British jobs are going to immigrants. This is because the migrants can offer skills and trades that authentic British citizens cannot! However this can also lead to saturation within the labour market. This is when you have far more people trained in a trade than is needed. This means you are likely to have a high level of unemployment; this also causes problems as it can mean a rise in poverty that again can affect every industry.

Therefore, the question would be whether countries with high levels of immigration have high numbers of unemployment, indicating a saturation of the labour market. To do this I will compare levels of immigration and unemployment from a random selection of countries within the E.U. This will be measured by plotting the net migration per 1,000 against unemployment rate (%), this will enable me to see whether there is any correlation between the two, if there is a correlation then this would suggest that one has effect on the other.



It is quite obvious to see that there is no correlation as far as this is concerned however this is not to say that there is no link. The net migration is calculated by subtracting the number of migrants leaving the country from the number of people coming into the country. In the situations where there is a negative is when there is more people leaving the country than there is coming in. A positive number would suggest more people coming into the country then leaving. To put it simply a negative number would suggest a loss of citizens and a positive shows a gain of citizens. However, within in this situation there is no correlation between the two, which would show that one does not have effect on the other.

My resources, I feel, were reliable as they were produced by an external E.U. organisation (CIA) and the opinion seems to be consistent with other similar papers. *'The local labour market effects of immigration in the UK'* mentions how "if there is an impact of immigration on unemployment then it is statistically poorly determined and probably small in size," (Dustmann, Fabbri, Preston, & Wadsworth, 2003). This conforms to my findings that in fact it is immeasurable to see whether the number of immigrants has an effect on the number people who become unemployed. This therefore suggests that there isn't an economical impact due to immigration as far as the labour market is concerned. This shows therefore that it would be a pointless exercise to find out whether the majority of these immigrants are coming from the E.U. or not.

However, this being said, there is some information we can take from this. If we were to put ourselves in the hypothetical extreme situation where we put a complete lock down on the country's immigration it would be logical to suggest that actually the situation of unemployment would not necessarily change. This is evident from the situations where there are countries from within the E.U. because if we observe the graph and see that some of the countries have a negative migration rate but they do not necessarily have the highest percentage of unemployment.

So if we apply this to the theory of the UK's immigration laws being changed by the E.U. legislation then I think it would be very fair to say that actually it wouldn't make much of a difference to unemployment levels. Although, this may be viewed as a disappointing result to some I feel actually it is very reassuring as it shows that the United Kingdom as a state has independence.

In conclusion, it can be deduced that immigration has little or no effects on the labour market in terms of immigration and therefore the E.U. amendment to the UK's immigration laws really does not effect the UK's unemployment situation.

However, this obviously isn't the only way in which it can be measured. I think it is vital that one looks at other forms of measurement of the economy and this is why I next plan to look at the Gross Domestic Product.

## Immigrations effects on the Gross Domestic Product

The Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, is a way of calculating the value of output produced within a certain economy. It does not take into account where the ownership of the profits falls, however, instead it looks at the value of the goods being produced. There is a case study that I feel describes it very well. “Suppose Nissan or Peugeot builds a car factory in the UK. They employ UK workers and use machines made in the UK. Their output is part of GDP for the UK. However, the company’s profits are owned by shareholders in Japan and France,” (Begg, Fischer, & Dornbusch, 1994).

Many things can affect the GDP; my hometown of Keynsham, for example, is still in protest over the closure of Cadbury Schweppes’ factory, which was announced in 2007 to move it to Poland. This had an effect on the local area certainly with employment as

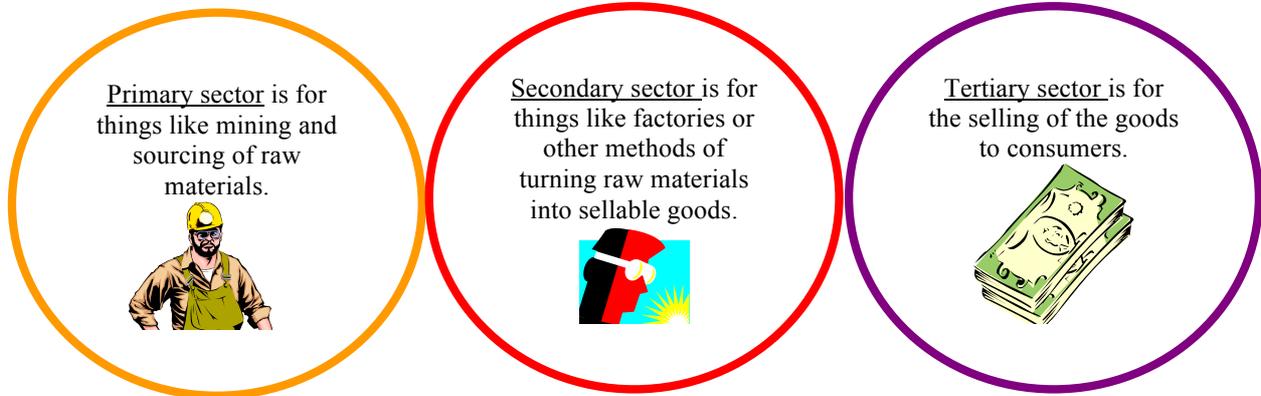


Figure 2

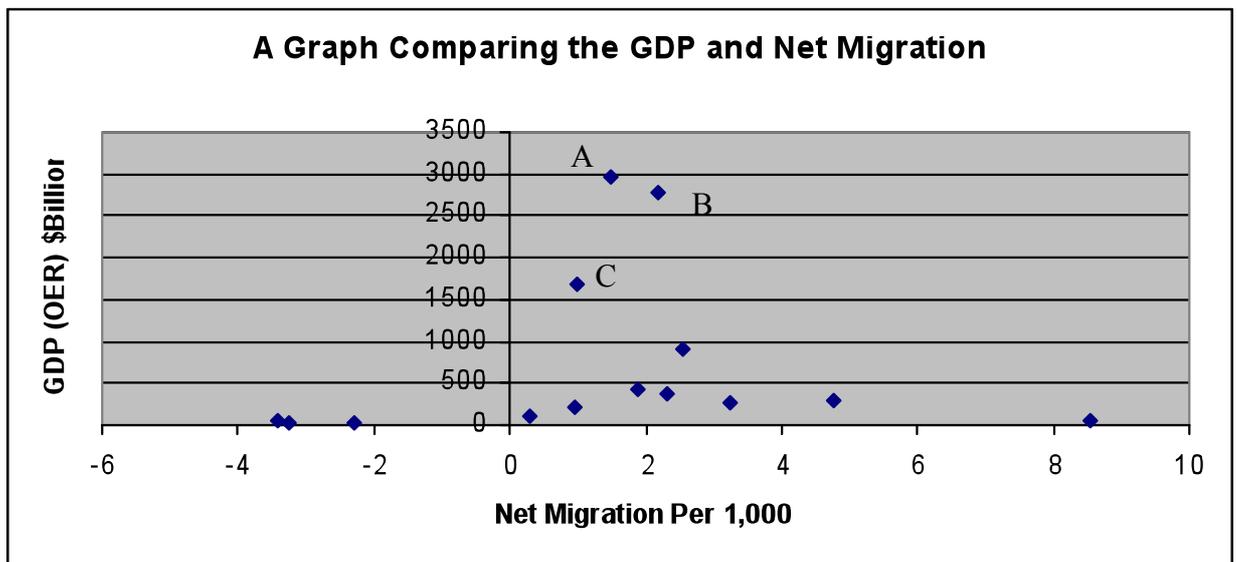
700 jobs were cut within the local area in one swoop (Cadbury's Factories shed 700 jobs, 2007), but for the benefit of increasing ones understanding of the idea of GDP it would have had a big effect on the country’s Gross Domestic Product as all the products they were making would have added value to the GDP. However, the only thing that won’t change with the closure and movement of the factory would be the ownership of the profits. If we assume the owners are UK citizens then the profits would still be within the UK’s economy, but as previously mentioned the profits do not affect the GDP.

My interest with GDP is whether is affected or can be affected by immigration. To do this I will apply the same method as before and plot a graph on comparison of the Net migration rate per 1,000 against the GDP. With the interest of continuity and fairness I will use the same countries that I used before and with the same source of information. My expectations with this, is that in fact immigration would have some effect as with new citizens are brought who possess trades, skills, and the ability to start business. However, I can predict that there might be some issues with this as there bound to be differences within which sector of the economy is dominant in each

country. The Economy is broken up into three main sectors, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary. The Diagram below explains which is which.



Depending on which is more dominant it could have effects on the GDP, however I do not feel there would be significant problems to totally corrupt the data.



Within this graph it refers to GDP OER, the OER is an abbreviation for Official Exchange Rate. This is simply the type of GDP I have chosen to use and it is calculated by dividing the amount of all final goods in the local currency by the average exchange rate of that year for US dollars (\$). This appears to have no correlation, however I feel this is because of points A, B and C, which are France, United Kingdom and Spain (in that order).

GDP is important because it is a way of measuring the economy and therefore if you had a strong correlation then it would suggest that migration is vital to the growth of a country's economy. So the next step would be to measure the strength of the correlation. To do this I will be using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient is a way of testing how strong a correlation is between two sets

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2] \times [n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

of data. The way it is measured is through a scale of -1 to 1; -1 being a strong negative correlation and 1 being a strong positive correlation. This is useful because although we can see that there is a positive correlation we cannot accurately judge how strong it is by looking at it thus it is important to have a numerical value that can give a 'grading' of its correlation.

In the formula there is the symbol of sigma (circled in red) this simply means 'sum'.  $x$  in our example would be the net migration rate per 1,000 and  $y$  would be the GDP.  $n$  in this number of data sets, so in this occasion it would be the number of countries which we have included. In this occasion the correlation between the two is 0.1 (1 decimal place), which shows that it does not have that strong an influence. Although, I do believe that it does still have some influence. However the nature of the economy is complex and I think, therefore that there are too many variables for these two data sets to come out with a correlation anyway near one for example. The level of industry not being affected by the levels of However I think it is now important to analyse where the majority of immigrants are coming from.

Naturally, the EU's amendment to the immigration laws can only be held mainly responsible for any effects within the U.K. if the majority of immigrants are coming from the E.U. and this is what I think vitally needs to be addressed before any final conclusions can be drawn together.

## **Where are the immigrants coming from?**

My initial inclination at the start of this project was that the majority of immigrants were from the European Union. The reason for this is the ‘General Movement for EU Citizens Act’, which applies to the countries within the E.U., enabling citizens to move around freely between the states. My presumptions however were shaken slightly when I read an article which stated “Whilst we cannot restrict inward E.U migration, this would allow us to control migration from outside the E.U., which is around two-thirds of the foreign nationals arriving in the U.K. each year,” (Whitehead, 2008). At once I discovered that my research perhaps would change my views of immigration and the action that I thought it was prudent to take.

According to the National Statistics in 2007 it is estimated that 577,000 people entered the U.K. and lived here for a year and this was down from the 591,000 estimation in 2006. These 577,000 migrants, however, were not all foreign; 13% of these immigrants were British citizens, which already means that over 1/10 migrants coming into the country were already British Citizens! Of the remaining 502,000 entrants 96,000 were Polish. That is roughly around 19% of the non-British citizens who entered this country to live. This must have particular attention drawn to it, as the Polish are responsible for the highest inflow of any individual citizenship (Migration, 2007). However, the issue is, is that the number of Polish migrants entering the country cannot be ‘capped’ as they are from within the E.U. However, if you add up the amount of migrants which are mentioned on the National Statistics it comes to 32%, which is roughly one-third of the immigrants. The remains of the immigrants are not accounted for on this particular web page however, curiously, this ties in with the statement from the *Daily Express* article that “two-thirds” of the migrants are from outside the E.U.

This is of course a mesh-mash of statistics from different sources that maybe slightly biased on either improving the overall appearance of the government or trying to tarnish the government’s reputation. But they do seem to come to the same consensus that the majority of migrants are coming from outside the E.U. which means that the majority of the immigrants can actually be put through procedures that will lessen the

number people finally entering the country. But the question is why should Britain do this? Is there need to cap the number of immigrants entering the country? Admittedly, there is an obvious link between population growth and immigration and with lengthening life expectancy the population is bound to grow a lot quicker if you allow more people into the country. However, I feel that there is more than statistics to be taken into consideration when deciding appropriate immigration laws. There seems to be a negative view towards immigration within the mass media. Headlines such as “Now more migrants will head over here” (Hall, 2008) and “300,000 are wrongly let into Britain each year” (Hall, 2008) make it popular among the readers to believe that immigration is a detriment. However, from an economic perspective there is no big detriment as far as I have explored; the growth of the economy has not been effected by immigration, nor has the state of unemployment. These are issues which would be expected to affect British citizens the most as they would be the most noticeable if either of them were to change. I think therefore the ‘problem’ of immigration, which these two newspaper articles outline, is merely social problems and perhaps problems of intolerance of other cultures. However, one does have to ask the question what are the alternatives if the intolerance of immigration is down to social reasons?

There are systems available which would perhaps change the attitude towards immigration. There are points systems, which have been adopted in countries such as Canada and Australia. This would be when each candidate has to get 600 points for example to enter the UK and points are awarded if you meet certain criteria. For example, if you are fluent in the language then you receive 60 points and if you have qualifications you receive 10 points for each. More importantly, the Australian government look for things such as whether you can offer work for their citizens or fill gaps within the labour market. These things are obvious benefits for them, and seems to send the message that all immigrants are useful and if adopted within the UK could dispel some stereo-types observed in another article where a Nigerian immigrant was living in a £1 million home which was paid for by benefits (Flanagan, 2008). I think it is more important that these issues addressed by changing the immigration system.

However, this being said I do feel being labelled as an immigrant does seem to be done derogatively and I feel that the media and negative press largely contribute this

to. Even though, this project was aimed to find the economic effects from the E.U. legislation I think it is important to look at how the public feel in regards to immigration and this is what I would like to find out next.

## **The Public's Opinions of Immigration**

As discovered in the previous sections there seem to be very little effect from immigration on the economy. So I now want to know whether perhaps, the view that immigration is being viewed as detriment, is me choosing to read more into news paper publications how I wish or whether the message and opinion is being spread thick and fast throughout the rest of the nation.

The first poll I looked at was in response to the question “Should Polish kids get UK benefits?” to which there was a landslide vote of 97% yes and 3% no (Telephone Polls). I think that this shows the unity of the opinions throughout the UK. I previously mentioned how immigrants were being viewed as a detriment and this truly shows how it is rubbing off. There seems to be lot of resentment about the high number of polish migrants entering the country to the extent that the public are willing to segregate them from born British citizens.

Another question was asked; “Do we let too many immigrants into this country?” the response completely to the same opinion that everyone polled responded yes. Directly after this result there was another to the question “Does Europe have too much control over Britain?” to which 99% voted yes (Telephone Polls). I cant help feel that the two are linked, due to their similar results it seems to suggest that in fact Great Britain feel that one of the reasons we let too many immigrants in is because of the EU. But as we have discovered within this essay this simply is not the case.

However, these statistics are not all that's been asked there is also evidence showing that, 84% of the population believe it is immigrations fault that the schools standards are dropping (Telephone Polls) as well as another 98% wanting to put a lockdown on immigration all together (Telephone Polls)! I think that the source that I got them from is anti-labour as and so there for I think there is some bias language within in the questions. But I do feel that the results do show up a lot of the resentment from the British public in regards to the current situation!

I think that perhaps the effects which immigration has on the public could perhaps be more of a detriment. However, the only way that this can be tackled is if the government change their policy to adjust slightly to the beliefs of the nation. This could then provide a platform for which people could start trusting the system again and see its benefits as well as the detriments. The statistics that I have shown within in this paper shows that there is nothing wrong with immigration, in that it does not harm our economy. But I feel that the dislikes for immigration go further then worries about the state as a whole, I think it is a personal opinion which, at the moment seems to be of 'hot topic'.

## **Conclusion**

I set about this project to see whether there was any direct correlation between immigration and the UK's economy, and although the strongest bit of correlation was only a little bit above not correlating at all I feel that this was not a waste of research. On a personal level, my knowledge of economics, politics and law has greatly grown. But I feel this can apply to everyone. I feel some people are slightly ignorant to the real facts about immigration.

This essay optimistically starts about banishing preconceived ideas about the state of the current immigration state, and I do not think that this essay has necessarily failed to do this. I feel that actually it provides the reader with the knowledge that immigration isn't as big of a problem as the newspaper articles make it out to be. I believe that in fact it shows the strength of the economies on their own and shows that although immigrants can contribute to it, it is such a vast structure that in fact it does not make a dramatic difference.

As discovered within this essay, the economy is complicated and changes constantly and therefore it would have been a monumental thing to do to prove that immigration has a power of persuasion in any aspect of the economy. It just simply doesn't happen on a national scale. I believe it can have more of a say perhaps within a small village or town. There are simply too many businesses and different markets within a country like the UK labour and trade does not always happen within its borders, with high numbers of imports and exports to and from countries like china and other providers of cheap labour and manufacturing this globalisation seems to make the economic effects less significant.

As for the EU amendment making a major difference in terms of the number of immigrants entering the country I have seen no evidence which suggests that actually the main source of inflow of immigrants is coming from the EU. Admittedly, I have mentioned how a country within the EU is responsible for the largest individual nationality inflow, Poland, and I do feel this is taking advantage of the fact that they can literally walk into the country but I do think that it certainly isn't the crux of the

problem. As we have seen that there still are a large proportion of immigrants who do not come from the EU and it seems important that this is addressed within the law.

Overall, the summery answer to the question “How has the EU’s amendment to the UK’s immigration laws affected the UK’s economy?” is that it has had little effect. I doubt highly, that it has no effect at all, but I do not feel that the economy is the thing which immigration affects the most severely.

The thing I have seen immigration have the biggest effect on is the mood of people and their views to foreigners. Indeed, most of my statistics would say that the majority of people are very unhappy with the current immigration system as well as the number of people coming into the country. It seems that perhaps the future for immigration will not be as smooth as one will hope, after all there will always be conflict when it comes to a situation such as immigration as people will have different views as to how this country should be run and because of this I think immigration will remain to be a timeless household debate.

Roy Hattersley made a very good point regarding immigration “The proposition that Muslims are welcome in Britain if, and only if, they stop behaving like Muslims is a doctrine which is incompatible with the principles that guide a free society.” I feel this summarises the conflicts with immigration highlighted. But I think it also can link to my title because at the moment immigration in comparison to the economy is like very small cog in a giant machine, however, if we see a break down within globalisation, I feel it would have a bigger part to play and this understanding I think is sometimes understated in that people take for granted the society in which we live in. As far as social issues of people are concerned I think the hypocrisy which Hattersley highlights sums up the situation.

The future of the economy does not rest in the hands of immigration and it would be short sighted to think so. Equally, I think it is also short sighted to blame the EU for the high number of immigrants entering the country. A substantial amount are entering from outside the EU and it is these immigrants that we can vet and cap if we so feel the need and I’m sure the system will change as we see changes within

parliamentary power, but one thing we can be sure of is that it will not have that much of a dramatic effect on the economy.

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Figure 1:

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Figure 2:

Data Sourced from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

