

Who is Brexit going to affect?

EU nationals?

By
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The UK is home to 3.6 million EU nationals and their children. One of the biggest issues is immigration control. The Prime Minister, Theresa May, wants more control over our borders to limit the number of people coming to live in the UK from overseas. She agreed (as part of the Brexit deal) that EU nationals arriving before March 2019 will have the right to live here, but anyone arriving after March 30th 2019 will only have a “temporary status”, allowing them to stay in the UK until December 2020. After that, in 2021, people will not be allowed to stay as residents without a working visa or other documentation. Anyone living here for 5 years or more has a ‘settled status’.



"I couldn't be clearer: EU citizens living lawfully in the UK today will be able to stay," Theresa May reassured EU citizens. Mrs Jewell (teacher from The Laurels School, South London) said: "I think the temporary status offers them some security at least, and hopefully they will eventually be granted permanent status."

Since the Brexit vote, the UK's migration levels have drastically fallen by about 100,000 people as fewer EU nationals are coming to or staying in the UK. This is because they don't feel welcome anymore and are scared of being sent out, which is possible, if they arrive after the start of the 'temporary status'. Brexit is very bad news for ambitious EU citizens who want to work in a successful place with many opportunities, such as the UK, because they are no longer guaranteed stability. Many workers in the health, building, cleaning and other industries are foreigners, as Mrs Jewell pointed out: "I think it impacts the labour market - jobs such as restaurant staff, builders, cleaners and lots from the service industry generally are affected." Likewise, Theresa May commented: "We hugely value the contributions that EU nationals make to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the UK. And I know that member states value equally UK nationals living in their communities." She realises that having many of these foreign nationals leave or stay away may have a big impact on the UK.

The scary thing about Brexit is that so many aspects of it are uncertain. For a period of time after 29 March 2019, there will be a 'transition period', giving businesses and people time to prepare for the changes and new rules of Brexit. It is almost certain that costs will rise for the majority of businesses as a lot of materials come from European countries, meaning that the tax on trade will quite probably increase. States Mrs Jewell: "I think this may impact financial services - a lot of it is unknown. I am hoping that businesses will survive and that the government will eventually produce a secure plan for the future. They certainly have to figure out our involvement in the Single Market".

Let's not forget the positive side of leaving the EU: the UK is hoping to trade with the USA and Australia, meaning there will be new trade deals and possibly even a greater variety in products. Also, not being part of the EU could make the UK more competitive which might improve its economy. Additionally, there will be better security and stronger borders, meaning the UK is in a safer position as people go about their everyday lives.

In conclusion, there are pros and cons to Brexit but, after considering all the facts, there are many reasons to have another referendum. From our point of view, as young people living in the UK today and observing the things happening, we think that leaving the EU is definitely not the right decision, especially after looking and thinking about the points we have made in this article. We hope the people in charge will read our report and will resolve the problems for the future of the UK and its people.

