

# UK EMPLOYERS' PERSPECTIVE

## EU-INDIA MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

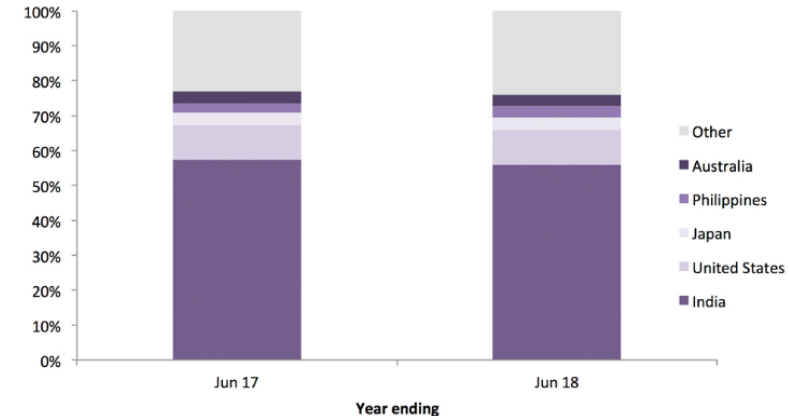


# 1) UK UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

- UK opt out of EU immigration laws
  - 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam
  - No participation in Blue Card Directive or Intra-Company Transfers
- Indians take up the majority of UK work visas
  - YE June 2018 Indians accounted for the majority of visa grants (56%), next most common nationality being the US nationals (10%)
  - IT and communications sector accounts for two out of every five (39%) non-EEA skilled work visas
  - Migration from South Asia to the UK is increasing, up 44% from YE March 2017 to 2018 (54,000 to 78,000)



Tier 2 (Skilled) work visas granted, by nationality (top 5), year ending June 2018 compared to the year ending June 2017



## 2) KEY IMMIGRATION POLICY ISSUES

1. Net migration target – reduce below 100,000
  - Core pledge of Theresa May to reduce net migration to “tens of thousands”. Damages perception of UK and drives harmful policy.
2. Tier 2 (General) visa cap of 20,700
  - Hit earlier this year increasing effective salary thresholds from £30,000 to £55,000
3. Immigration skills and health charges
  - Skills charge of £1,000 per year, per migrant, for both General and ICT routes. Doesn't go on skills training.
  - Health surcharge of £200 per year, per person, including for dependents and international students. Increasing to £400 soon.
4. International students (Tier 4 visas)



# 3) IMPACT OF BREXIT

- End of free movement of people
  - Concern for Indian companies with European HQ in the UK
- Potential ‘silver lining’ for non-EU immigration rules
  - Restricting EU migration balanced with easing non-EU visa rules
  - Scrapping 20,700 cap and 28 day Resident Labour Market Test
- CBI – migration and link to trade
  - November 2016 – PM Theresa May visit to India
  - CBI: “UK should put both migration and mobility on the table in trade talks, first with the EU and then other countries around the world” (including India)
  - Conservative Party Conference 2018 – migration off the table, language very clear distinction between ‘mobility’ and ‘migration’



## Tom Barrett

Senior Policy Adviser, Immigration

e: [tom.barrett@cbi.org.uk](mailto:tom.barrett@cbi.org.uk)

t: +44 (0)20 7395 8036

m: +44 (0)7990 004 514

