



Talking about migration

A Trades Union Congress guide for trade unions

2015

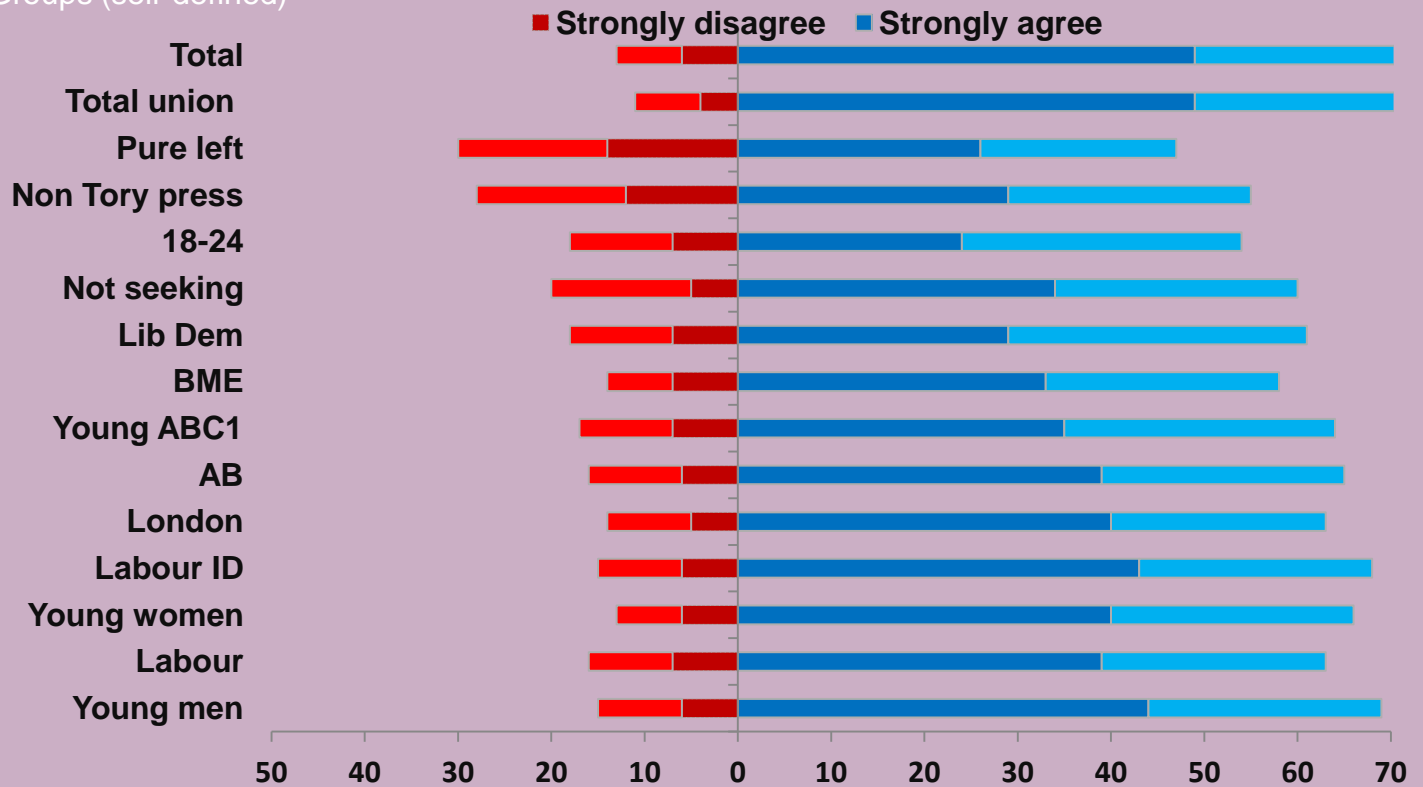
Part 1: Understanding concerns

A cross-section of the public feel that we need to reduce the number of migrants coming to Britain

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree:

It is essential for the immigration system to reduce the number of migrants coming to Britain

Groups (self-defined)

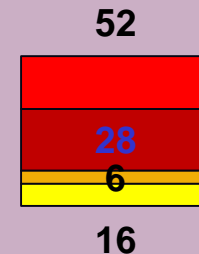
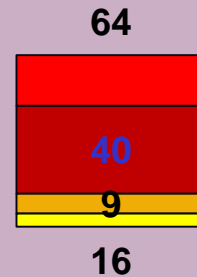
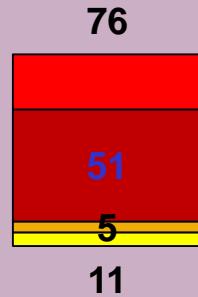


First and second generation migrants also feel we need to reduce the number of migrants coming to Britain

Below is a list of statements. For each indicate whether you agree or disagree.

'It is essential for the immigration system to reduce the number of migrants coming to Britain'

■ Very warm (75-100) ■ Warm (51-74) ■ Very cool (0-25) ■ Cool (26-49)



People without
migrant history

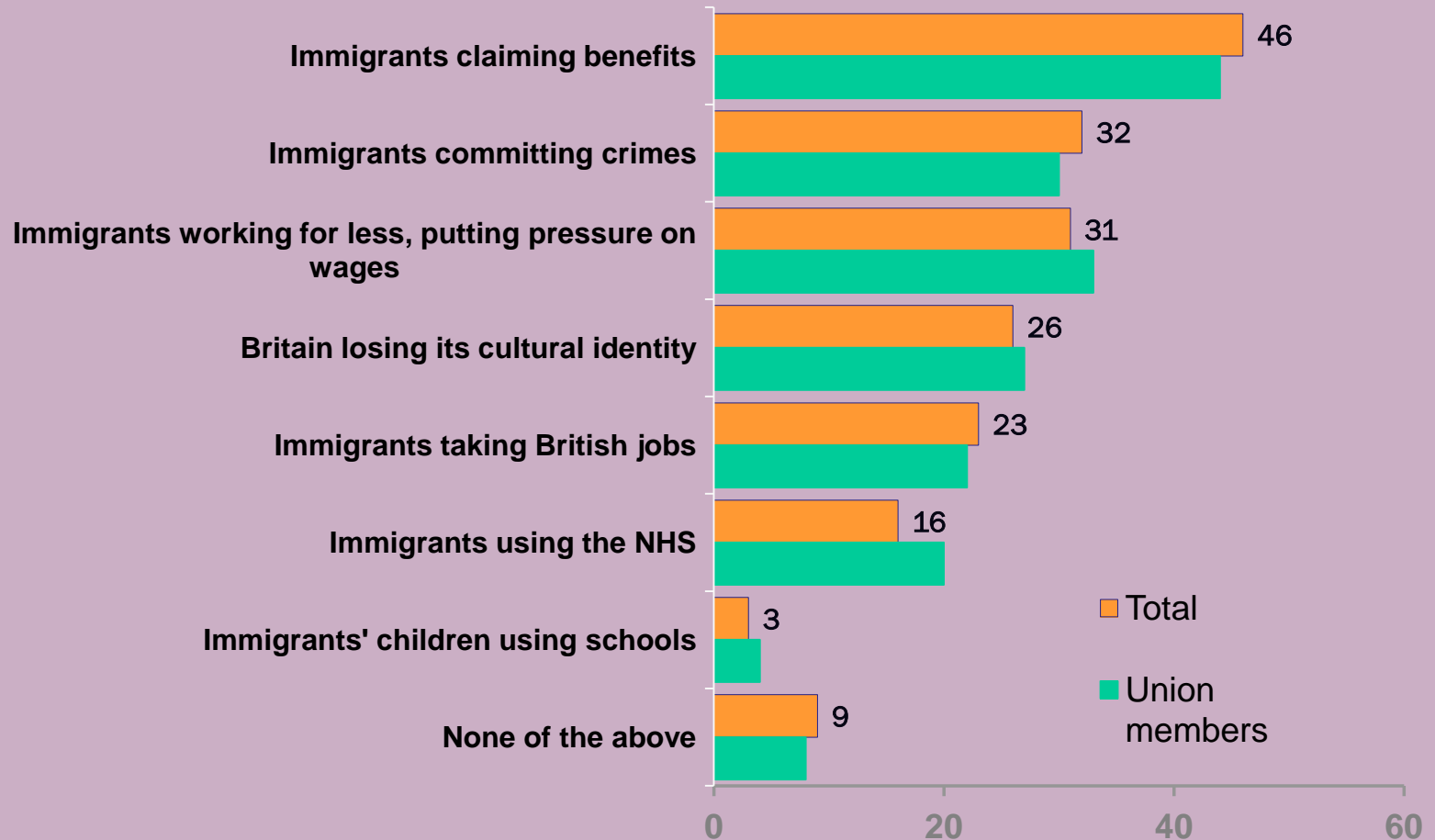
2nd
Generation

1st
Generation

What are people's biggest concerns with immigration?

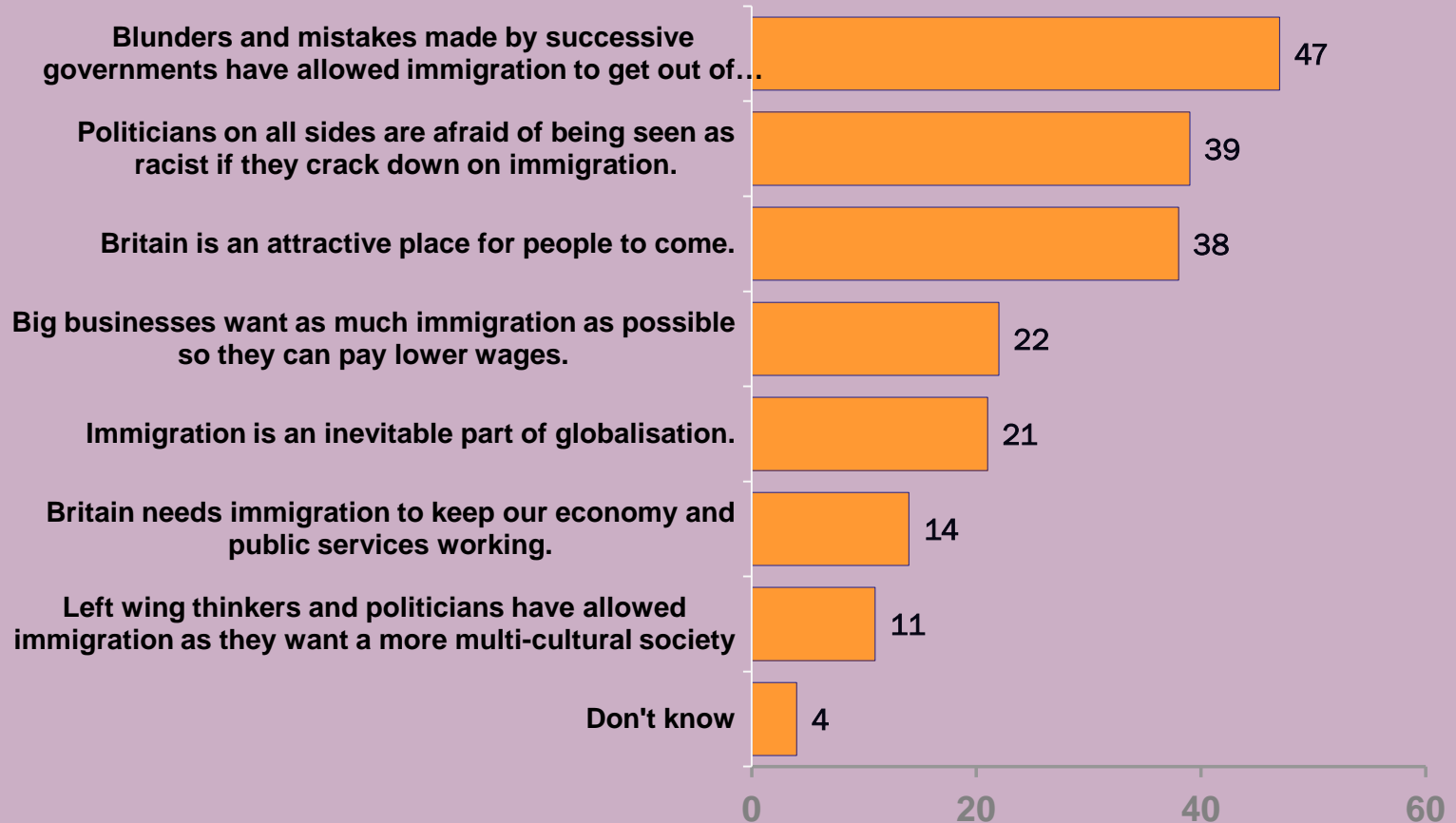
Benefits, crime and pressure on wages

Which TWO of the following are your biggest CONCERNS about immigration?



What do people think is the cause of the number of migrants? *Incompetence and political correctness*

Which TWO of the following best explain why Britain has high levels of immigration?



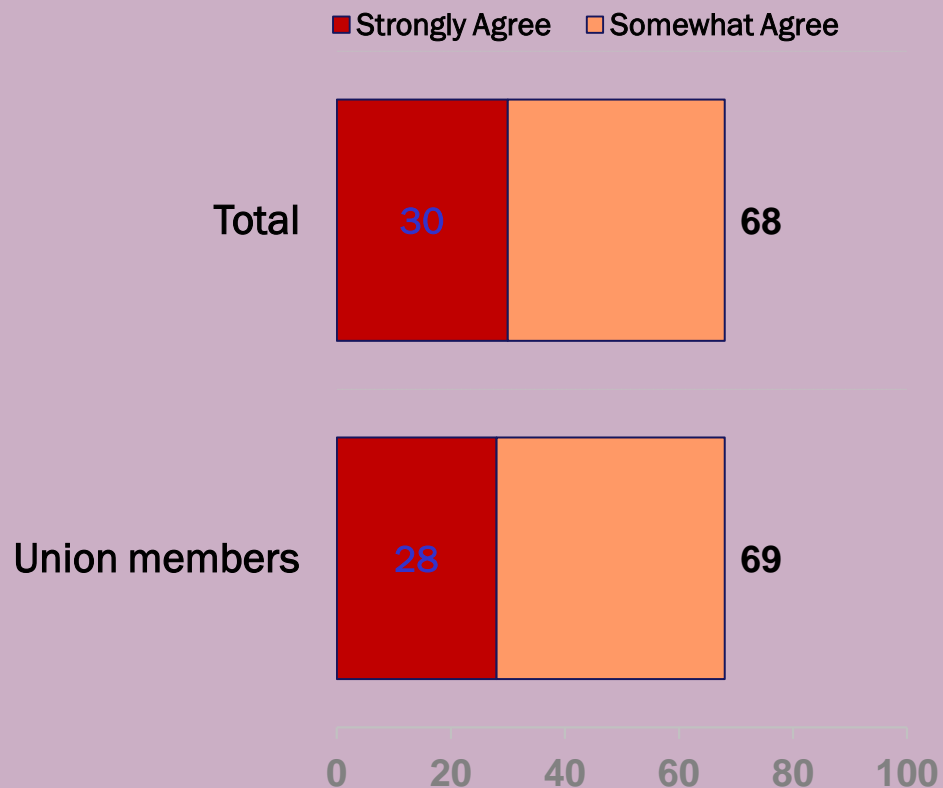
Part 2: Messages that make a difference

Strongest message

We need to target bosses not migrants and demand decent pay and conditions for all

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about immigration?

Everyone's got a right to a decent job. Too many employers are taking on workers cheaply, some of them from abroad. If all workers had stable contracts and wages they could live on, employers wouldn't be able to use migrants to undercut local workers. This is what the government should focus on, not keeping migrants out of the country

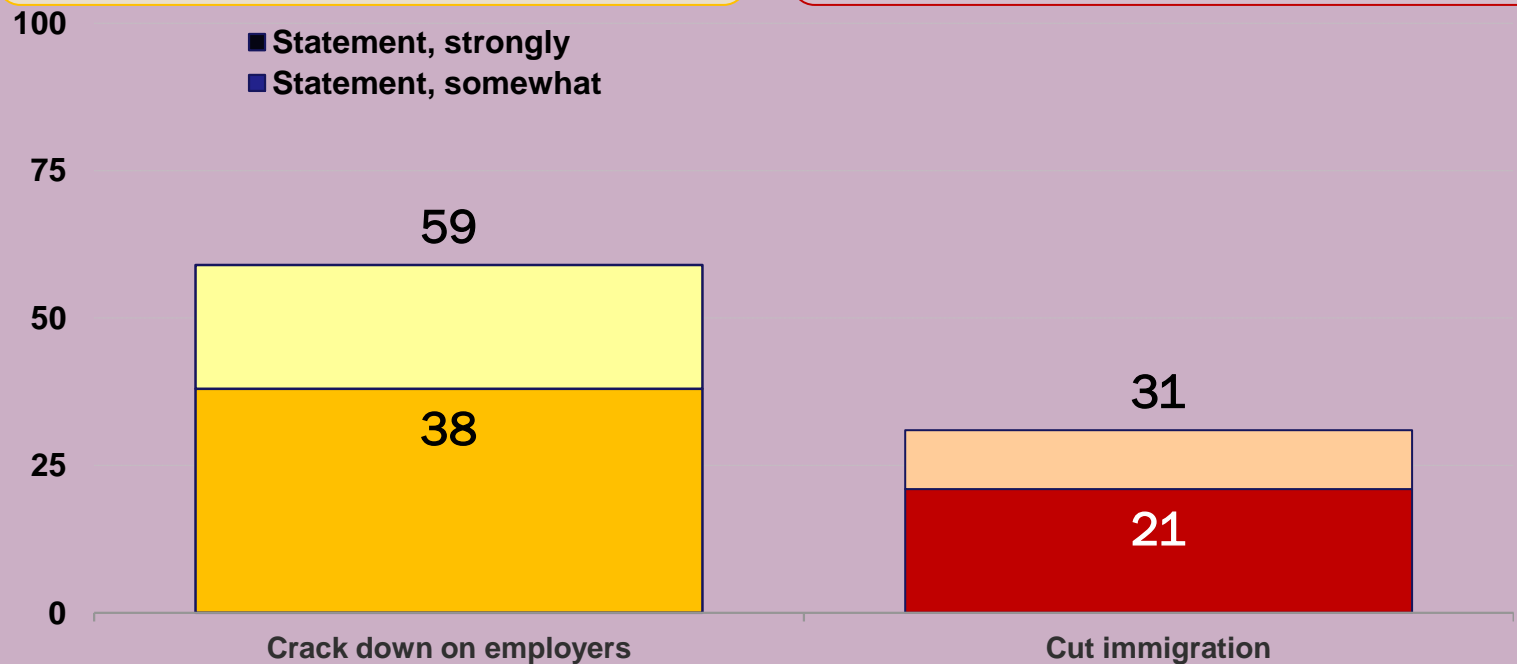


In fact, the public believe that cracking down on exploitation would do more for jobs and wages than cutting immigration

Below are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

The best way to protect jobs and wages is to crack down on employers who exploit migrants for cheap labour.

The best way to protect jobs and wages is to cut immigration.

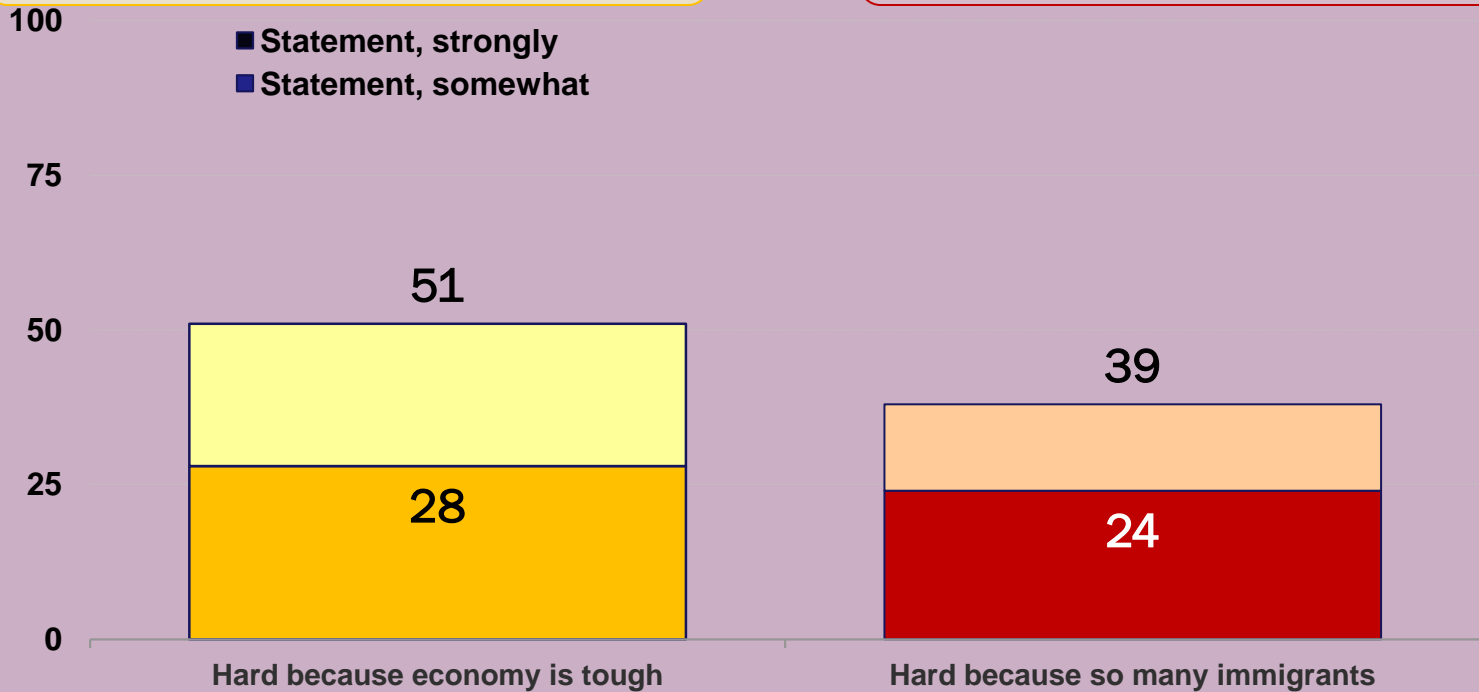


People also feel that it is the economic climate more than migrants which is causing youth unemployment

Below are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

It's hard for young people to find work because the economy is so tough at the moment.

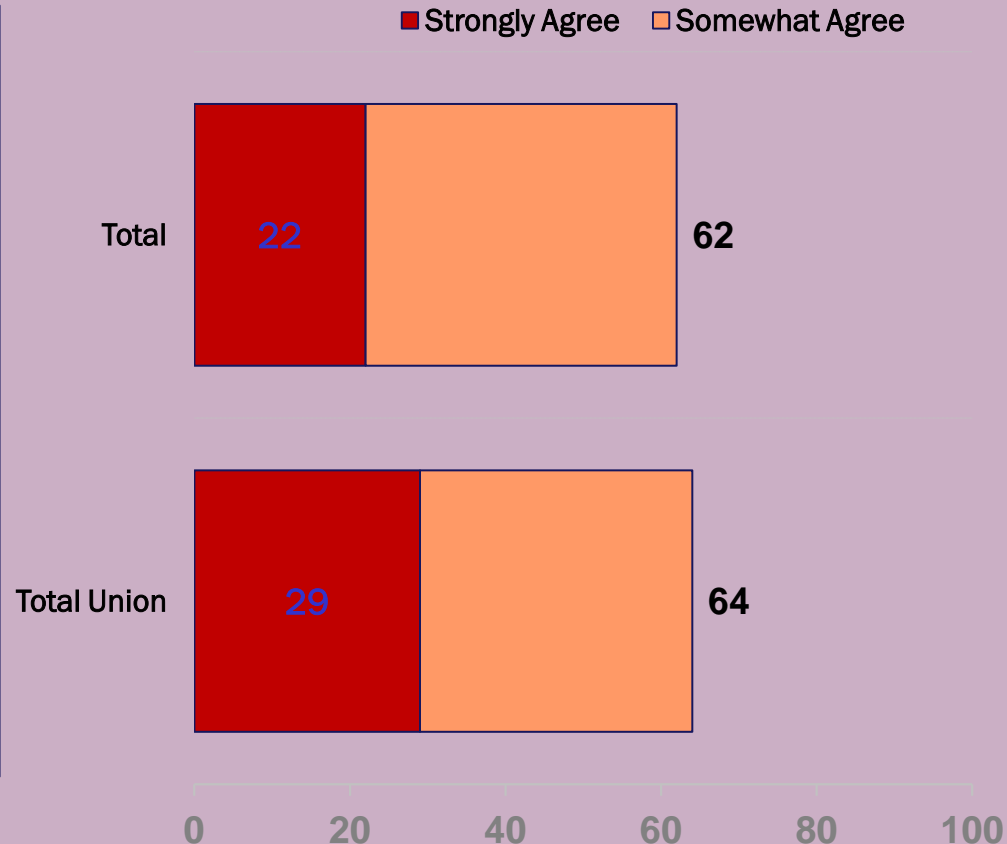
It's hard for young people to find work because there are so many immigrants competing for jobs.



Second strongest message: migrants contribute skills, taxes and labour to the economy

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about immigration?

Our country needs highly skilled people to work hard, contribute and grow our economy. That means we should welcome people from abroad who are willing to invest, spend money, study and work in key industries. We will all lose out if the immigration system stops people who contribute to our economy from coming here.



By reassuring listeners we do not think they are racist, support for our message grows, particularly among union members

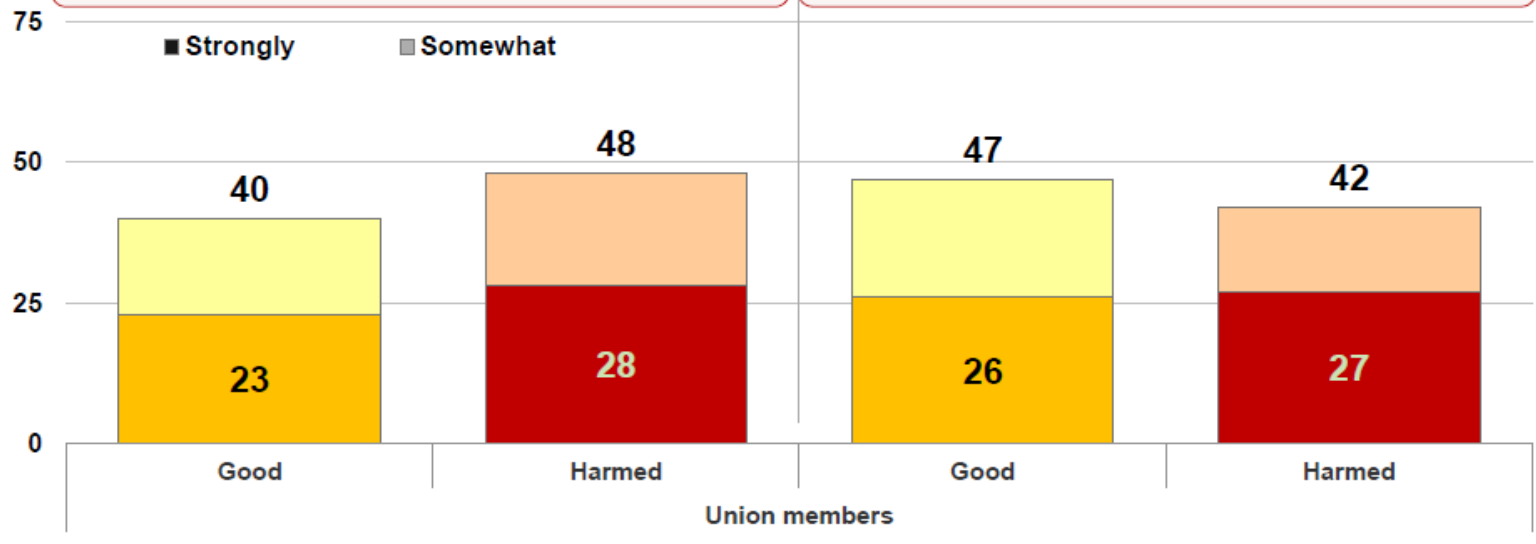
Below are some pairs of statements. For each, please indicate whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

On balance, immigration has been good for our national culture

Of course, it's wrong to accuse someone of racism just because they have concerns about immigration. But on balance, immigration has been good for our national culture.

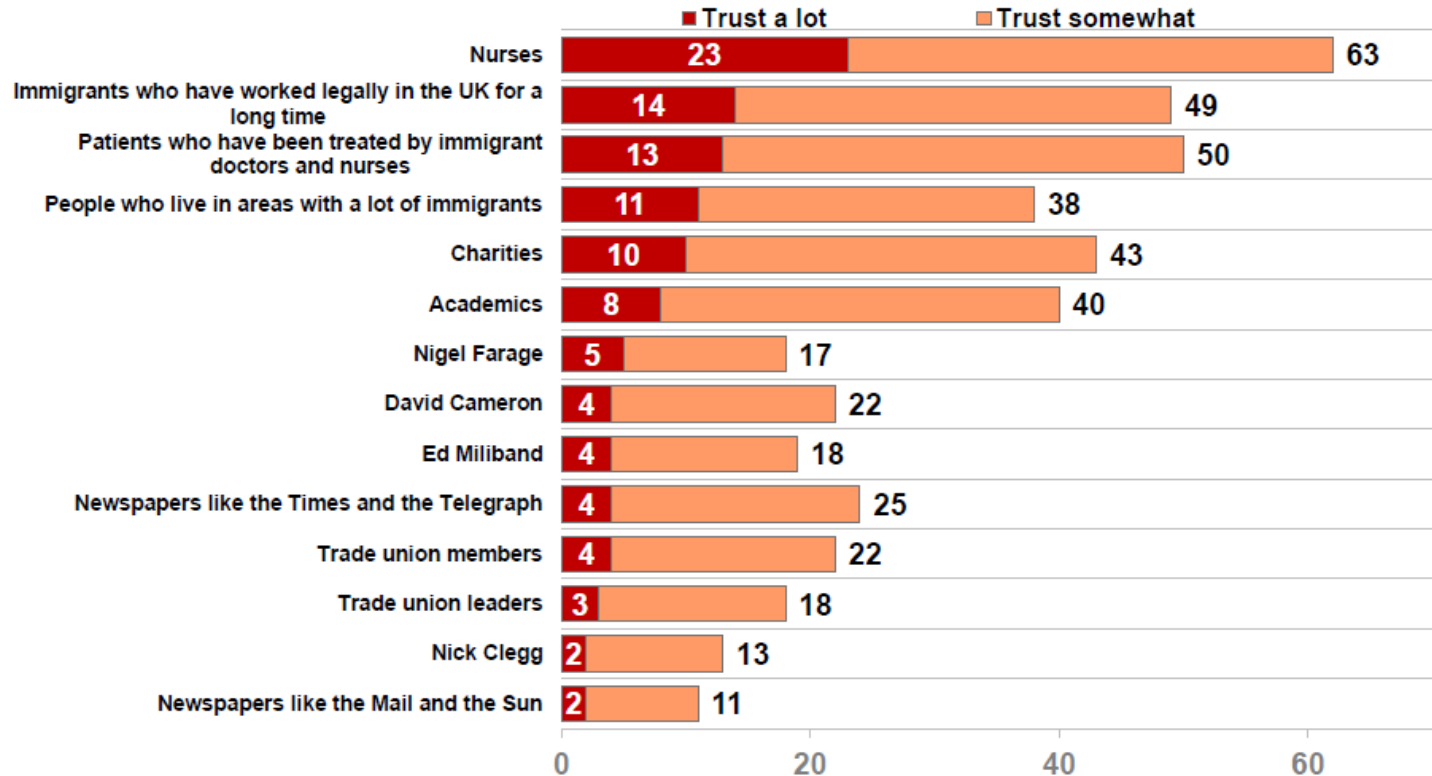
On balance, immigration has harmed our national culture.

On balance, immigration has harmed our national culture.



Who is trusted to deliver messages on migration?

Below is a list of people and organisations. For each, please indicate how much you trust them when they talk about immigration issues.



Example messages to use

- Everyone's got a right to a decent job. Too many employers are taking on workers cheaply, some of them from abroad. If all workers had stable contracts and wages they could live on, employers wouldn't be able to use migrants to undercut local workers. This is what the government should focus on, not keeping migrants out of the country.
- Our country needs highly skilled people to work hard, contribute and grow our economy. That means we should welcome people from abroad who are willing to invest, spend money, study and work in key industries. We will all lose out if the immigration system stops people who contribute to our economy from coming here.

Example messages to use

- We need to target bosses not migrants and demand decent pay and conditions for all.
- Employers must not be allowed to divide the workforce so they can use migrants to undercut local workers.
- Exploitation is the problem, not migrants. Too many employers have become addicted to insecure jobs and hiring migrants they know they can get cheaply. They need to create better job opportunities for everyone.
- While the government is slashing spending, migrants help pay for our public services through their taxes and we see them contribute every day as nurses, teaching assistants and care workers.

Example messages to use

- The best way for migrants to be integrated into the workforce is for employers to give them the same pay and employment contracts as other workers.
- The best way to protect jobs and wages is to crack down on employers who exploit migrants for cheap labour and make workers compete with each other in a race to the bottom. We need employers to pay fair wages and we need fair pay machinery in those industries that can afford to pay more.
- Solving the housing crisis requires an expansion of council house building, not cutting back on migrant numbers. And similar points apply to other services like health, education and transport.

Example messages to use

- Of course, it's wrong to accuse someone of racism just because they have concerns about immigration. But on balance, migrants are good for our country – they pay their taxes and help keep our hospitals, schools and care homes going.