Brexit: The Long-Term Impacts

Immigration

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UK Migration Has Risen A Lot Since Mid-1990s

Source: ONS
UK Net Migration From The EU Has Also Risen

Source: ONS
A Myth That The UK Has Been “Disproportionally Hit”

Percent of Total Population

Source: OECD
UK Has Greatly Benefitted From EU Migration

Source: OECD
If No Brexit – What Will Happen to Migration?

• The status quo likely to overwhelmingly apply – large EU and non-EU immigration to UK to continue

• Continuing increase in EU member states’ ability to restrict social benefit eligibility for also other EU residents

• February 2016 agreement between EU and UK includes;
  • “Overriding reasons of public interest” can restrict Article 45
  • Child benefit portability restricted
  • Means testing residency right for non-active persons

• High levels of immigration will continue to fuel a degree of populist anger against EU/globalization in UK
If Brexit – What Will Happen to Migration?

• No access to IM or any EU economic deal without “free movement of labor”…. Just ask the Swiss!

• Unlikely that the French government will continue to “protect UK borders in Calais”

• Existing EU migrants in UK/EU likely able to legally stay, but without social/health benefits

• Open question what kind of immigration policy a post-Brexit UK government might implement

• Border issue in Northern Ireland acute and in the longer run – if the UK itself breaks up – also elsewhere
In the end though populism unlikely to prevail in the UK either.......