

What impact is Brexit having on Irish migration?

RESULTS FROM A BRIEF ONLINE SURVEY WITH IRISH CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS

APRIL 2019

Impact of Brexit on Irish Migration

April 2019

Since the outcome of the Brexit referendum, media coverage and politics has been dominated by the impending removal of the UK from Europe. The British and Irish governments, and all relevant stakeholders across trade, legal systems, immigration services, travel, health, etc, are engaged in responding to the potential impact. All of the information available to residents that may be affected by Brexit is being drip-fed and despite an agreement to maintain the bilateral agreements under the Common Travel Area, many more areas of uncertainty will continue to be dealt with for the following two years transition period after the official removal date .

Whilst this uncertainty remains, and sentiments are strained under the potential impact, frontline services have limited information to offer prospective and current Irish emigrants. The UK has the largest Irish population amongst all other countries, therefore Brexit will be to the forefront of the minds of people making a decision to emigrate to the UK or to return from the UK. It is therefore timely and important to gather a sense of what impact Brexit is having in terms of Irish migration to and from the UK from the emigrant perspective. CSO statistics will be generated and estimated yearly, however, these statistics will not identify reasons for emigration or return, and often cannot identify travel in terms of temporary or long-term emigration.

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Objectives of the survey on the impact of Brexit on Irish migration are:

- To generate an understanding of the impact of Brexit on Irish migration to and from the UK at the onset of the removal of the UK from the EU and the two year transition period.
- To gain a sense of the affect of Brexit on decisions to emigrate to the UK/ return from the UK
- To understand if Brexit has delayed current and prospective emigrants' move to the UK or if Brexit is the reason they are leaving the UK
- To understand some of their concerns about the impact of Brexit on their move and if they plan on a long term stay

Benefits of the research are:

- To offer Irish emigrants an opportunity to have their say on the the impact of Brexit on their lives and migration choices
- Generation of primary data and evidence to supplement current and future advocacy and policy work
- Opportunity to identify emerging areas of concern or needs for Irish emigrants and be better placed for further research and reporting
- Awareness raising of Crosscare Migrant Project among Irish emigrants
- Fresh data and insight for interest groups

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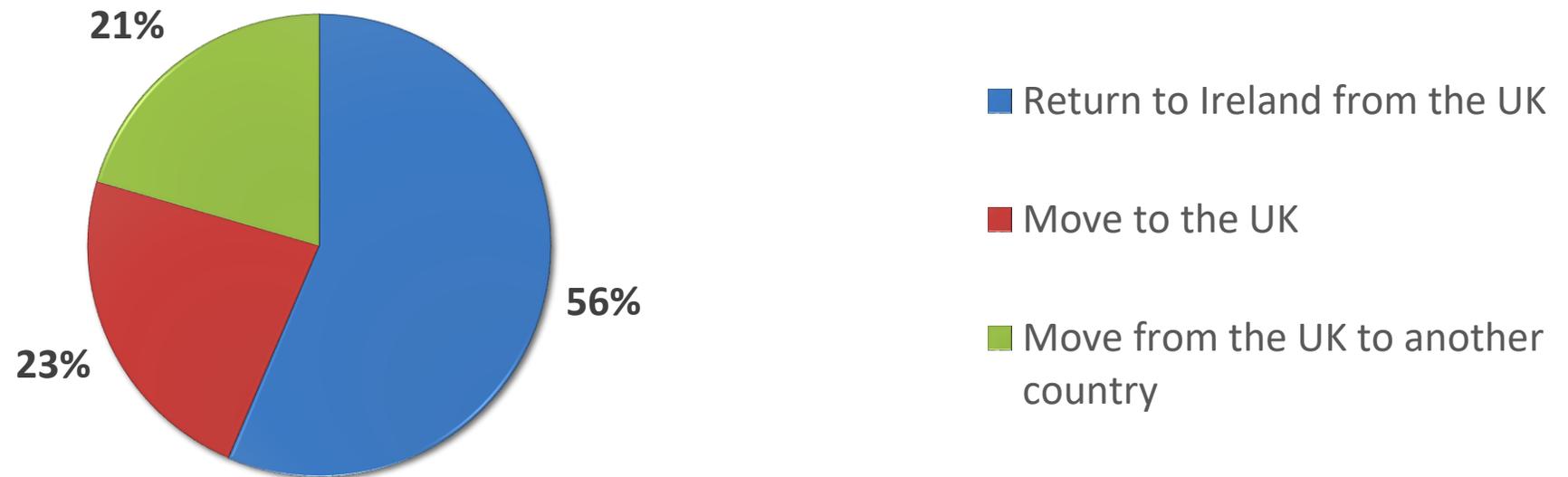
The survey was conducted online by Facebook poll over 3 weeks in March and yielded 40 responses.

Key findings:

- 56% of all respondents are returning to Ireland from the UK
- Brexit was an important factor in the decision to move for 74% of all respondents
- 59% of all respondents are not delaying their move to wait for the outcomes of Brexit
- 87% of all respondents are planning to emigrate long-term
- Top 3 concerns about the impact of Brexit are:
 - Northern Ireland border divide/tension
 - Employment
 - Cost of living

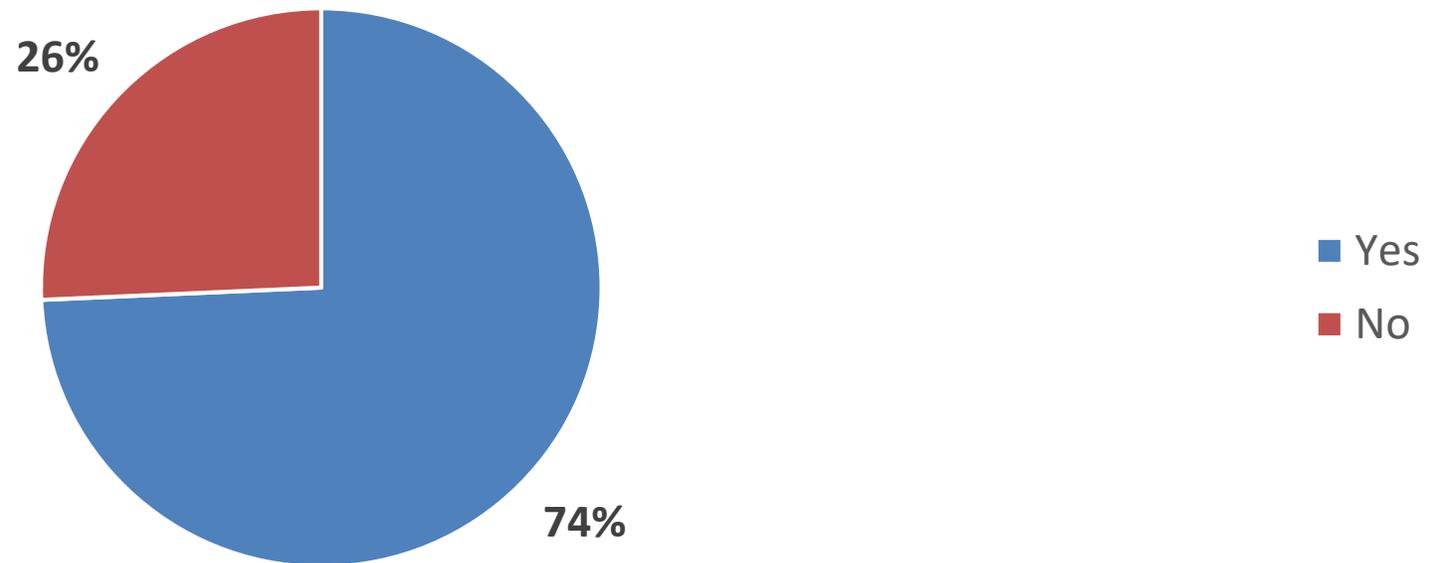
Results

IRISH CITIZENS PLANNING TO EMIGRATE TO OR FROM THE UK OVER THE NEXT 2 YEARS



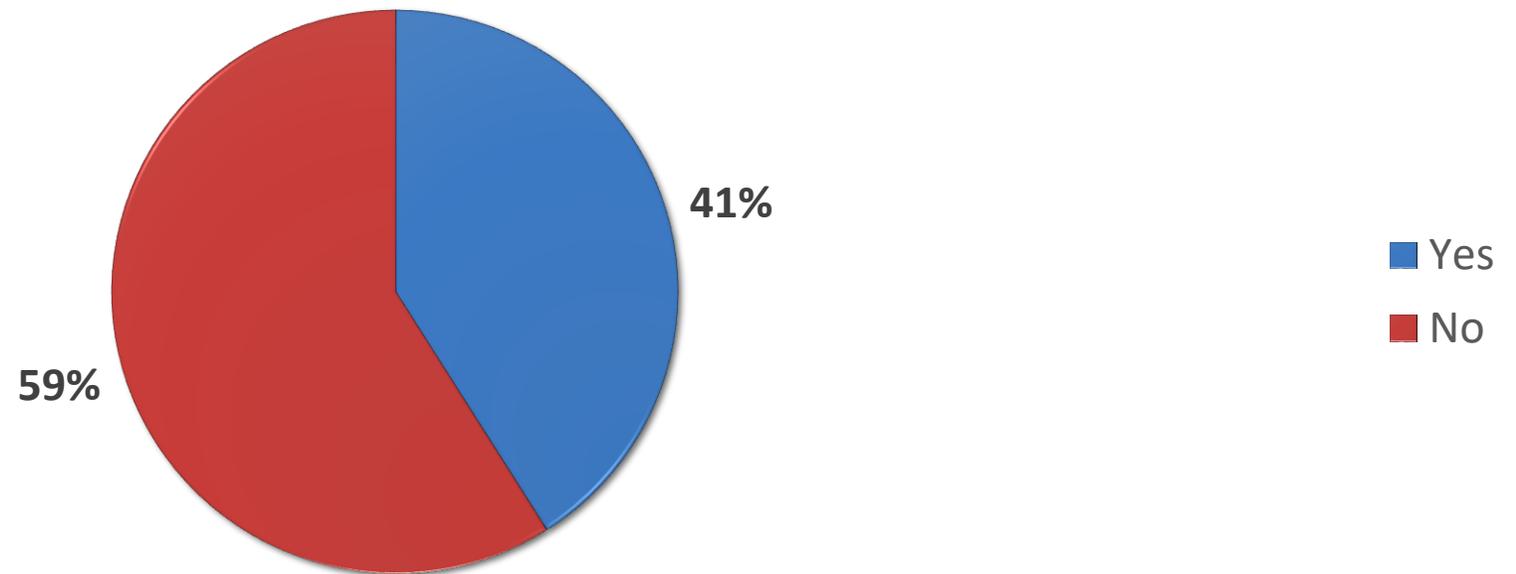
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BREXIT WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THEIR DECISION TO MOVE



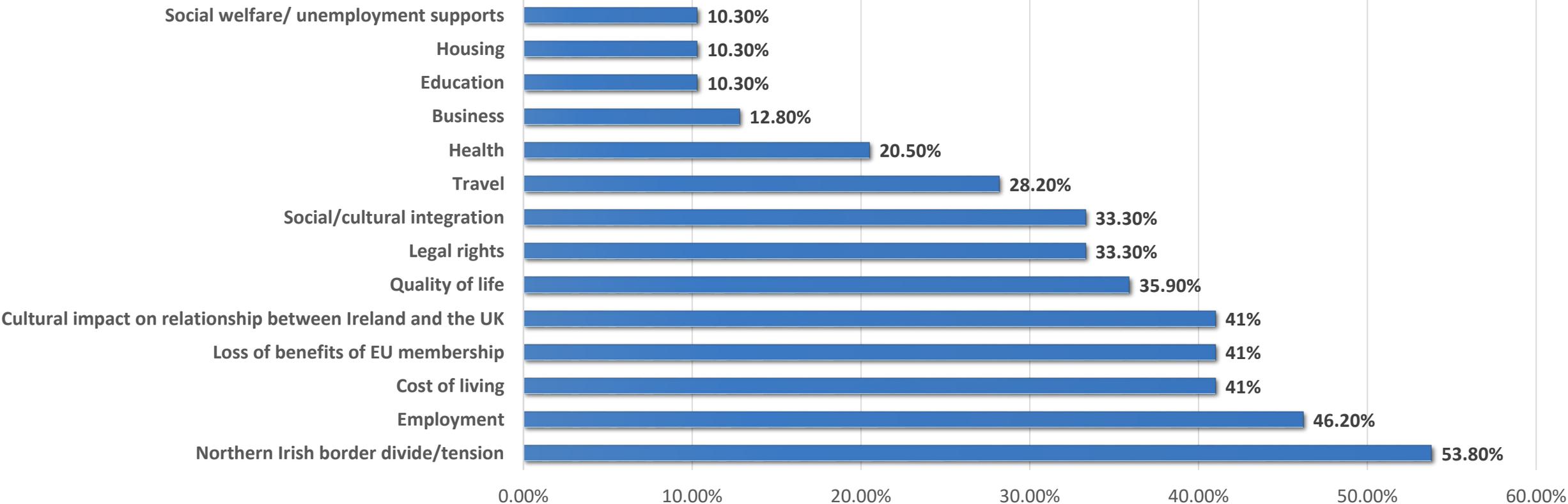
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DELAYED THEIR EMIGRATION TO WAIT FOR BREXIT OUTCOME



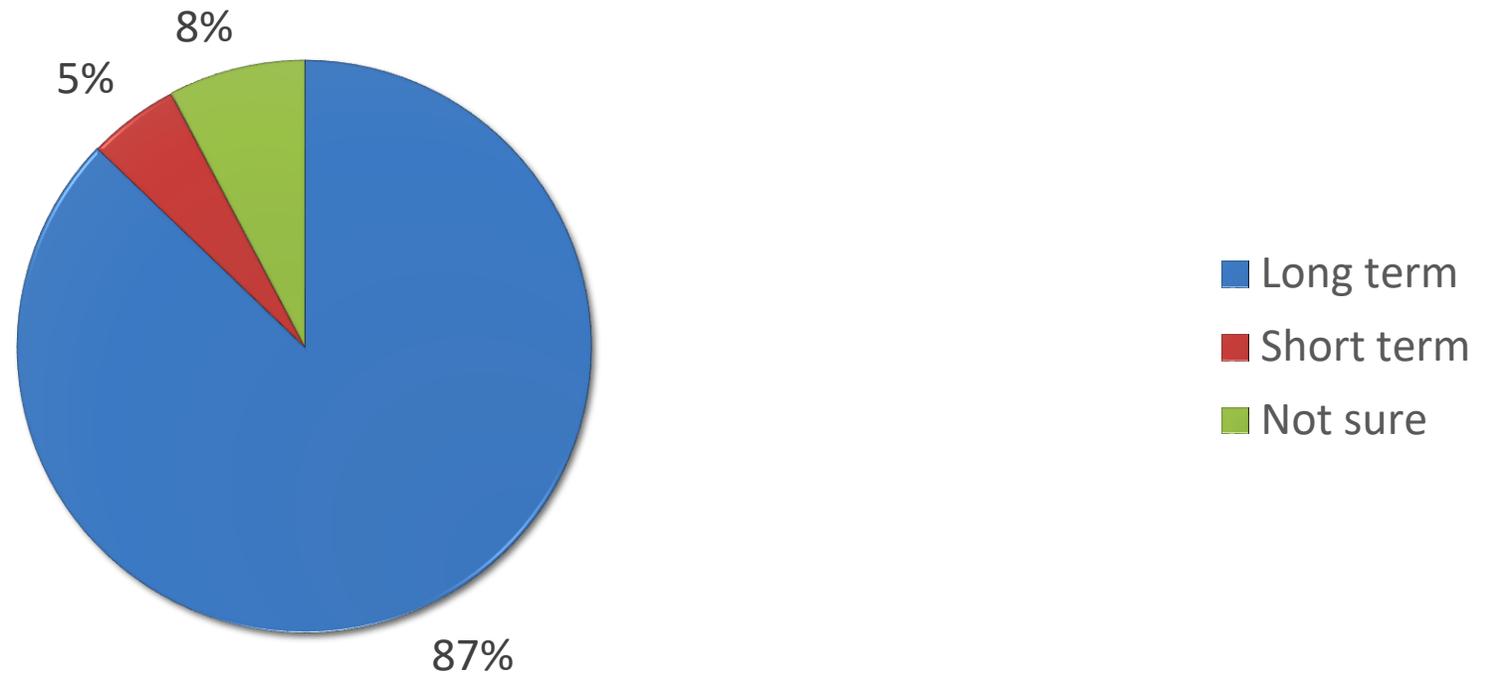
Results

THEIR MAIN CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF BREXIT



Results

HOW LONG THEY PLAN TO EMIGRATE FOR



Results

**3 COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION IDENTIFIED FOR IRISH
CITIZENS EMIGRATING FROM THE UK**

Australia

New
Zealand

Singapore

Thank you for your interest in this research. You can find more information on Irish emigration policy and research at:

https://www.migrantproject.ie/policy_research/

Or contact Danielle Mc Laughlin, Policy Officer dmclaughlin@crosscare.ie