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Young People's Attitudes to Immigration: report on findings from the Young People in Scotland Survey 2017

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TO IMMIGRATION: REPORT ON FINDINGS FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND SURVEY 2017

Strategic Analysis Team

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Key findings

The 2017 Young People in Scotland Survey included a module of questions about respondents' attitudes to immigration. Fieldwork was conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland and 1,781 secondary school pupils in state schools across Scotland participated in the online self-completion survey between September and November 2017. Analysis and reporting was conducted by the Scottish Government Strategic Analysis Team.

Perceived impact of immigration on the country as a whole

- Four in ten of the young people who participated in the survey felt that the impact of immigration on the country as a whole had been both good and bad.
- People in the oldest year group (S6) were more likely to feel positive about the impact of immigration in Scotland than those in other year groups (almost three in ten of those in S6 felt that the impact had been mostly good).
- Girls perceived the impact of immigration on Scotland less negatively than boys.
- Young people in the least deprived socioeconomic group were the most positive, and those in the most deprived group the least positive, about the impact of immigration on Scotland.
- Young people who said they had a physical or mental health condition were more negative about the impact of immigration than those who did not have a health condition.

Levels of immigration into Scotland

- More than a third of the young people felt that immigration should be kept at the current level, and 15% thought the level should be increased. However, three in ten thought that immigration should be decreased or stopped completely.
- The attitudes of people in the oldest year group were more positive than the other year groups: almost a quarter of people in S6 supported increased immigration.
- Young White people were more likely than those in BME groups to think that immigration should be decreased.
- Those with non-Christian beliefs were more likely than other groups to support increased immigration, and less likely to support decreased immigration.

Do people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place?

- Over a third of the young people agreed that immigrants who come to Scotland make the country a better place. A further third neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement.
- Almost half of the people in S6 agreed that the impact of immigration had been positive in Scotland; in younger year groups this ranged between 34% and 38%.
- Young people in the least deprived socioeconomic group were the most likely to agree that immigrants make the country a better place.
- Young people in BME groups were more likely than White people to agree that immigrants who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place.

- Almost half of the non-Christian group agreed that immigration had a positive impact on Scotland. This was a greater proportion than that of Christians, or those who had no religion, who agreed with the statement.

Perceived impact of immigration on Scotland's culture and identity

- Over four in ten of the young people disagreed that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more immigrants came to live in Scotland. However, more than a quarter agreed with the statement.
- Young people in S6 were more positive about greater diversity in Scotland than respondents from younger year groups.
- Girls were less likely than boys to think that Scotland might lose its identity as a result of greater diversity.
- Participants from the least deprived socio-economic group (SIMD 5) were the most positive about greater diversity.
- Young people in BME groups were more positive than White people about the impact of immigration on Scotland's culture and identity.
- Young people with a physical or mental health condition were more concerned about the prospect of greater diversity in Scotland than those who did not have a health condition.

Perceived impact of immigration on Scotland's economy

- Half the participants agreed that people from abroad who come to live and work in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy. Just over one in ten disagreed with the statement.
- People in S6 were more positive about the impact of immigration than those in other year groups.
- Although approximately half of both boys and girls agreed that people who come to live and work in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy, boys were more negative than girls.
- Young people in the least deprived socio-economic groups were more likely than those in other groups to agree with the statement.
- Young people from BME groups were more likely than White young people to agree that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy.
- Young people who had a physical or mental health condition were more likely to disagree with the statement than those who did not have such a condition.

Concluding points

- In general, the young people who participated in the survey recognised that people who come to live and work in Scotland have a positive contribution to make, particularly in relation to the economy.
- Although more than a quarter of the sample had concerns about Scotland beginning to lose its identity if more immigrants came to live and work here, more than four in ten were positive about the prospect of greater diversity.
- Some findings relating to sub-groups are consistent across all questions. Generally, the oldest group (S6) had the most positive attitudes, as did the least socio-economically deprived group, people from BME groups, those with a non-

Christian faith, and those who did not have a long-standing physical or mental health condition.

- A substantial proportion of the young people (up to one in five) gave a ‘don’t know’ response to every question. Analysis by year group in relation to each question indicated that the older respondents were, the less likely they were to say they did not know.

1. Introduction

This report presents analysis of data from Ipsos MORI's Young People in Scotland Survey 2017. The Scottish Government commissioned a module of questions on attitudes to immigration. The questions focused on two broad themes: levels of immigration and perceived impacts of immigration. The questions are detailed in Annex A.

Methods

The survey was conducted with a secondary school age, nationally representative sample of young people who responded to the questions in an online, self-completion survey. The sample is of 1,781 pupils across state schools in Scotland. The data were weighted by gender, year group, urban-rural classification and SIMD classification[1] to account for any differences between the sample and Scotland's population as a whole. Fieldwork was conducted between September and November 2017.

Analysis and reporting were undertaken by the Strategic Analysis Team, using data tables provided by Ipsos MORI Scotland. Responses to each attitudinal question were examined for the whole sample and for each sub-group. Details of the statistical tests and the full list of variables are presented in Annex B.

Full details relating to the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the sample are provided in Annex C.

About this report

Although the Scottish Government preferred term is 'migration,' the questions selected for the survey use 'immigration.' It was decided not to change the term when participants were interviewed, so that the meaning was made explicit to the young people, and so that data would be comparable with other surveys which included these questions. For coherence between question reporting and analysis, 'immigration' is used throughout this report.

Each findings section of the report begins with a paragraph and a Figure which summarises findings for the whole sample. Variations in attitudes between sub-groups are then detailed, where these include differences that are statistically significant. For ease of reference, sub-group breakdowns are always ordered as follows:

[1] SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It ranks small areas (data zones) from most deprived to least deprived. SIMD quintiles are bands containing 20% of data zones, from most deprived (SIMD 1) to least deprived (SIMD 5).

- Year group
- Gender
- Socio-economic background (defined by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) category)
- Ethnicity
- Religious affiliation
- Presence or absence of long-standing physical or mental health condition[2].

There were no significant differences between the views of young people living in urban and rural areas in response to any of the questions, so no urban/rural sub-group analysis is included in the report.

The questions used in the Young People in Scotland survey (or questions with similar wording) have been used in a number of recent surveys and opinion polls in Scotland and the UK/Britain. Annex D provides more information and weblinks to findings, for those interested in comparative data.

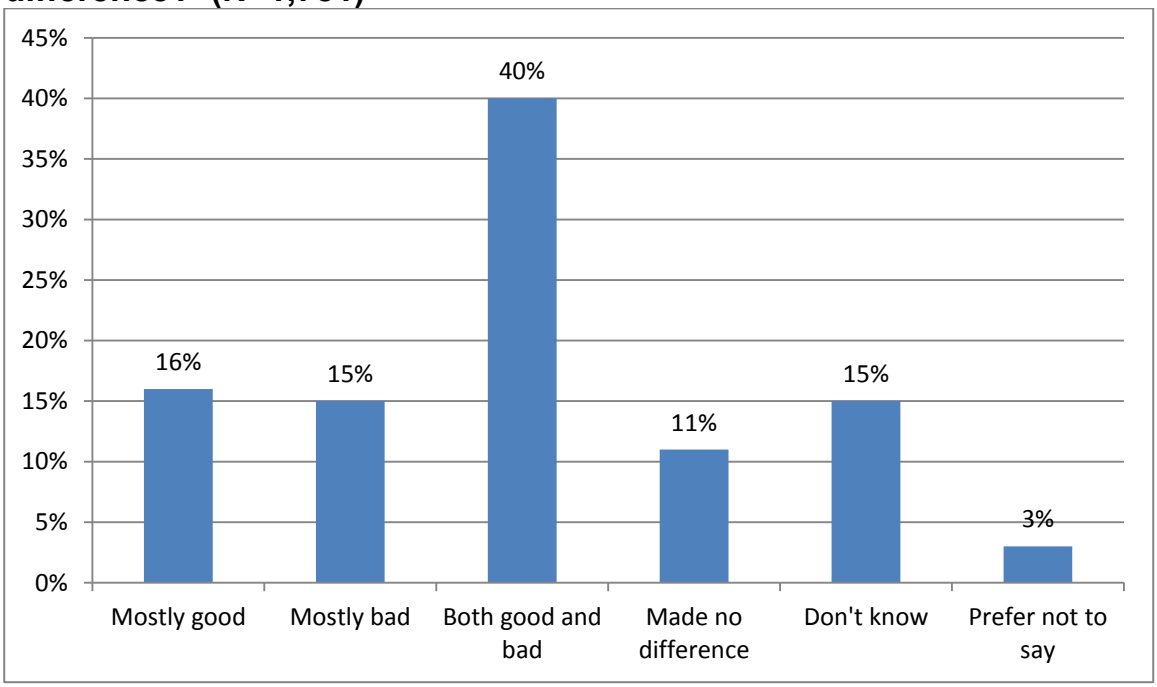
[2] Lasting or expected to last twelve months or more.

2. Perceived impact of immigration on the country as a whole

The young people who participated in the survey were asked whether they thought that, overall, immigration over the last few years has been good or bad for Scotland, or whether it has made no difference.

The highest proportion of respondents across the sample (40%) thought that immigration has been both good and bad for Scotland. An additional 16% felt that immigration has been mostly good for the country, while 15% felt it has been mostly bad. 11% thought that it has made no difference to Scotland. Almost one in five young people either said they didn't know, or that they preferred not to say, in response to the question (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' (N=1,781)



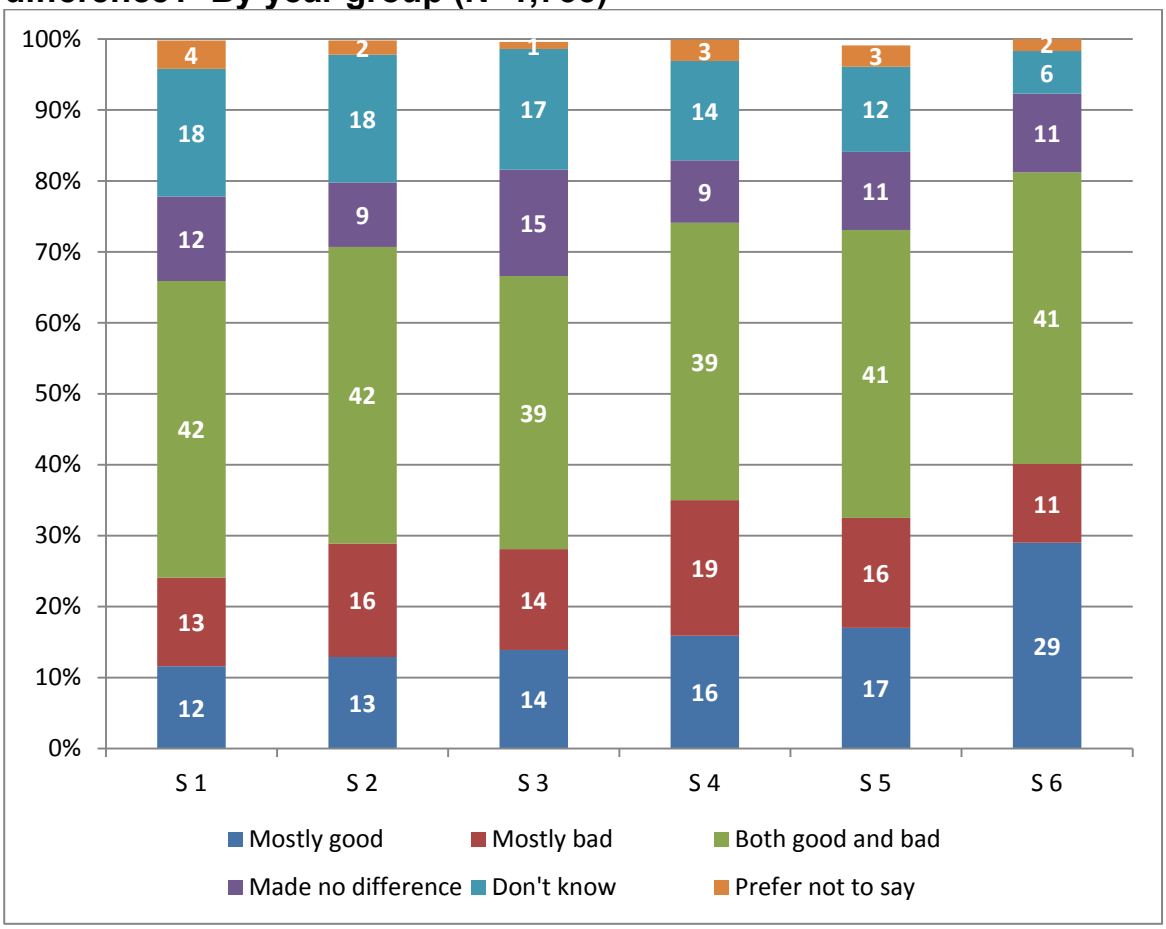
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Variations in attitudes between sub-groups

Year group

The older the respondents were, the more likely they were to think that immigration has been good for Scotland, and the less likely they were to say they 'didn't know' (Figure 2.2). The differences between people in S6 (the oldest year group) and other year groups were statistically significant.

Figure 2.2: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By year group (N=1,755)

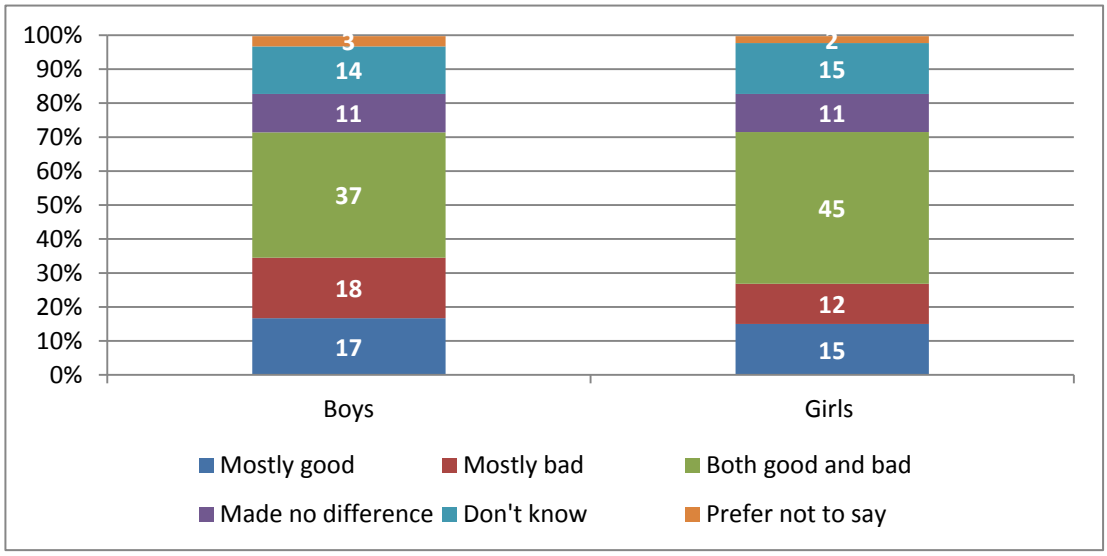


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Gender

Girls were more likely than boys to think that immigration has been both good and bad for Scotland (45% of girls took this view, compared with 37% of boys). Boys were more likely than girls to believe that the impact of immigration has been mostly bad (18% of boys selected this response, compared with 12% of girls) (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By gender (N=1,715)

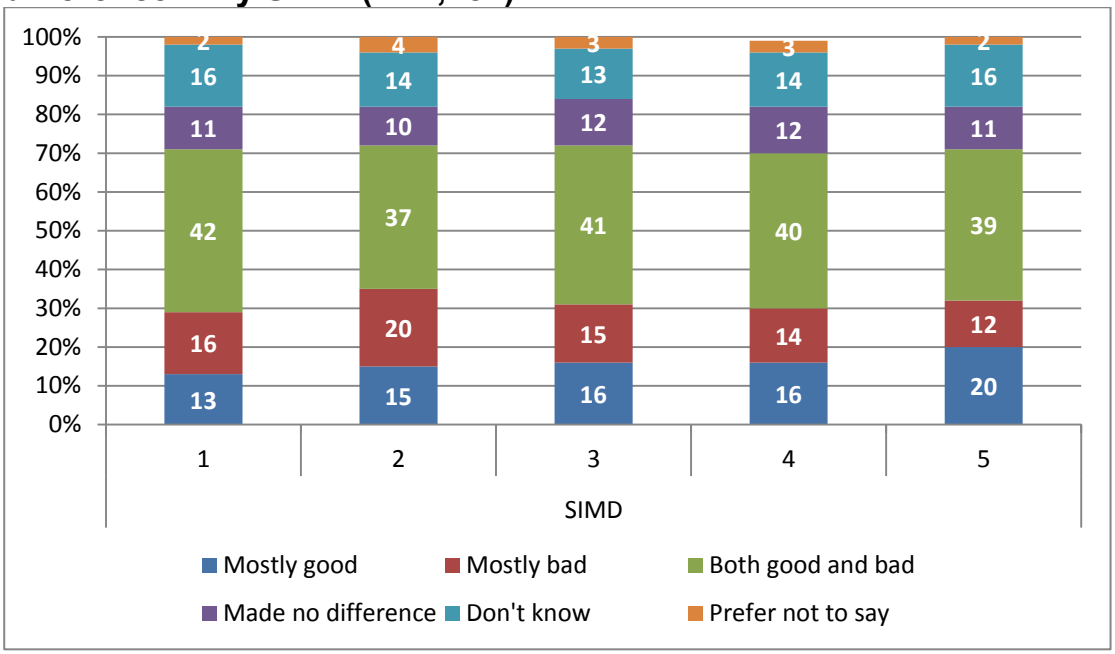


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Socio-economic background

Young people in the least socio-economically deprived group (SIMD 5) were more likely to believe that immigration has been mostly good for Scotland, compared with the most deprived group (SIMD 1) (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By SIMD (N=1,781)

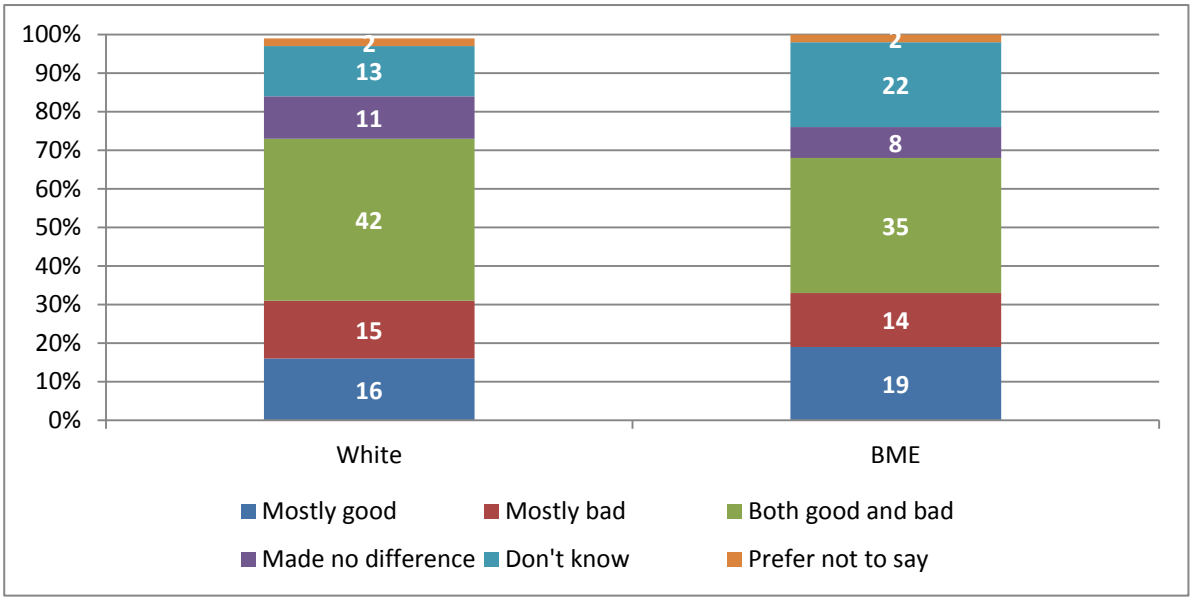


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Ethnicity

Young people from BME groups were more likely than White respondents to say that they did not know if immigration has been good or bad for Scotland (Figure 2.5). This was the only significant difference between White and BME groups in relation to this question.

Figure 2.5: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By ethnicity (N=1,672)



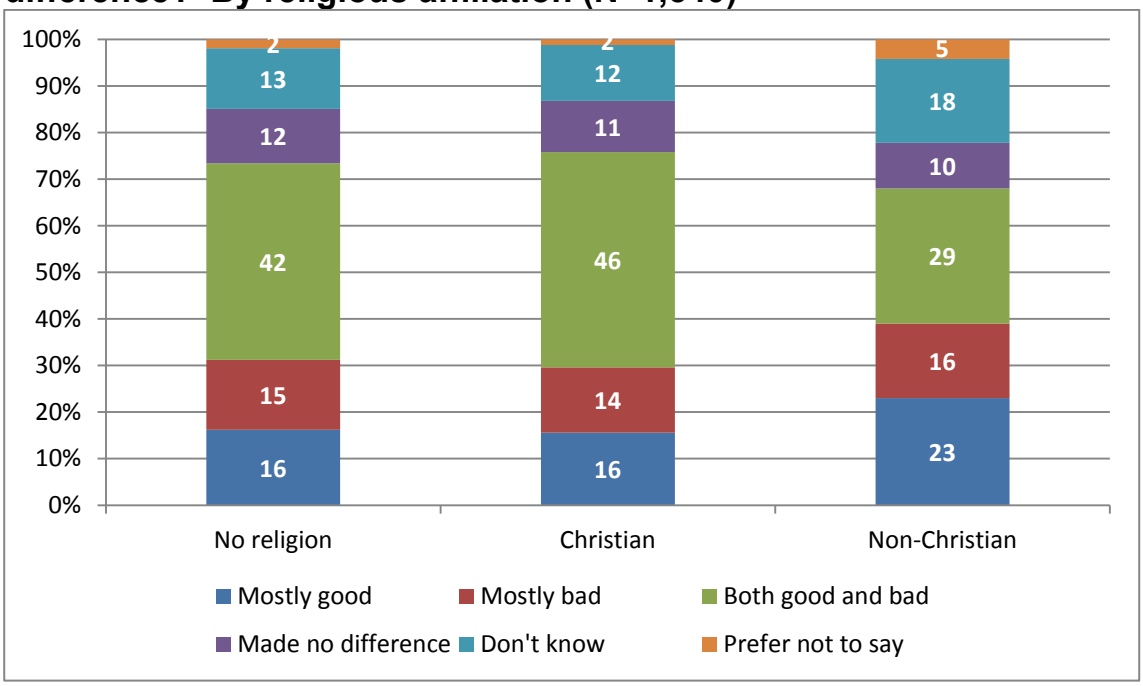
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Religious affiliation

Those who identified as non-Christians were less likely to think that immigration has been both good and bad for Scotland than either Christians or those who said they had no religion. 29% of non-Christians took this view, compared with 46% of Christians and 42% of those with no religious affiliation.

There were no differences in attitudes to the impact of immigration on Scotland between people who identified as Christian and those who said they had no religion (Figure 2.6).

Figure 2.6: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By religious affiliation (N=1,540)

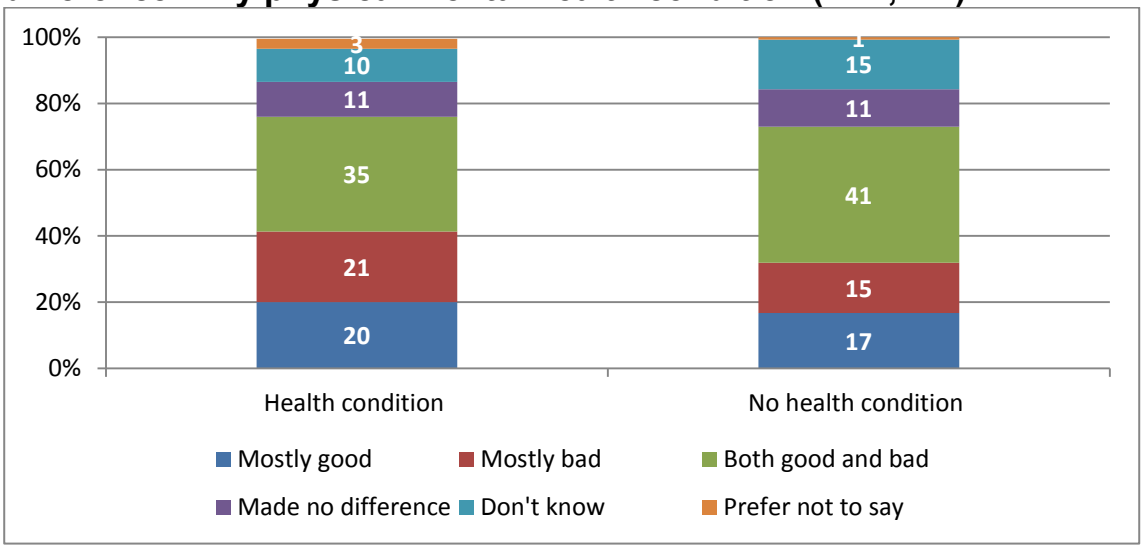


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Physical/mental health condition

Young people who said they had a physical or mental health condition were more likely than those who did not have such a condition to believe that immigration has been mostly bad for Scotland (21% of those with a health condition took this view, compared with 15% of young people with no health condition) (Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7: 'Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference?' By physical/mental health condition (N=1,412)



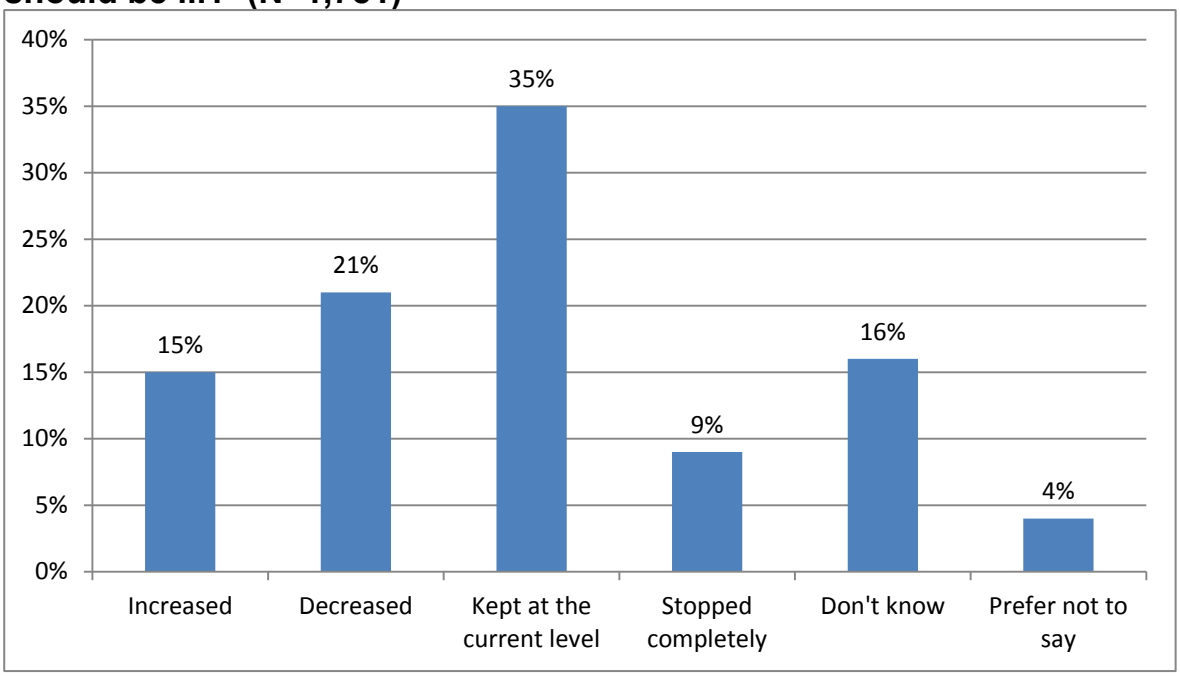
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

3. Levels of immigration into Scotland

The young people were asked whether they thought the level of immigration into Scotland should be increased, decreased, kept at the current level or stopped completely.

Across the whole sample, more than a third of respondents (35%) felt that immigration should be kept at the current level, and 15% thought the level should be increased. However, 30% thought that immigration should be decreased or stopped completely. A further one in five either said they did not know, or preferred not to say (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: 'Overall, do you think the level of immigration into Scotland should be ...?' (N=1,781)



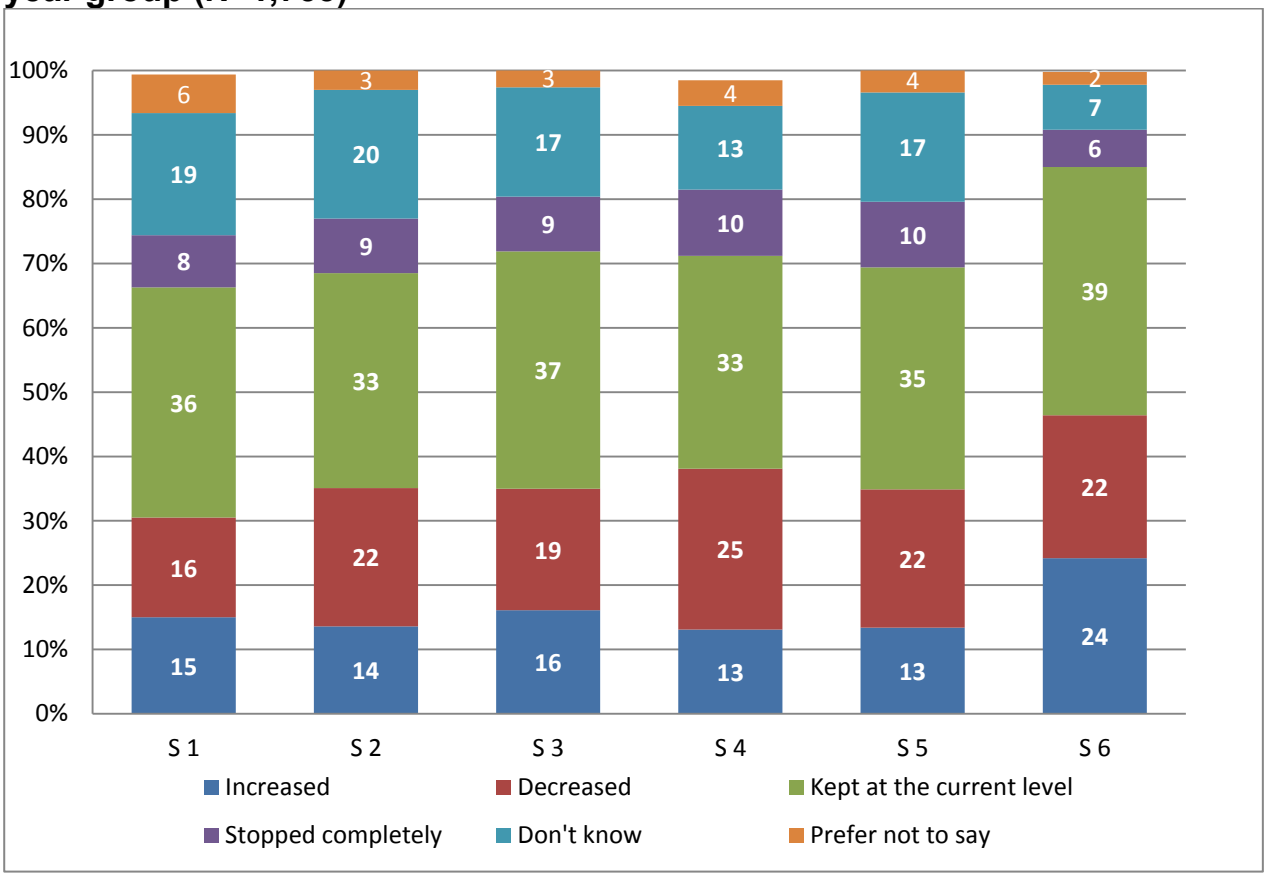
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Variations in attitudes between sub-groups

Year group

The pattern of responses across the year groups was similar, except for the oldest group (S6). Almost a quarter of respondents in S6 supported increased levels of immigration. Young people in this group were also the least likely to select 'don't know' as an option (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: 'Overall, do you think immigration into Scotland should be…?' By year group (N=1,755)

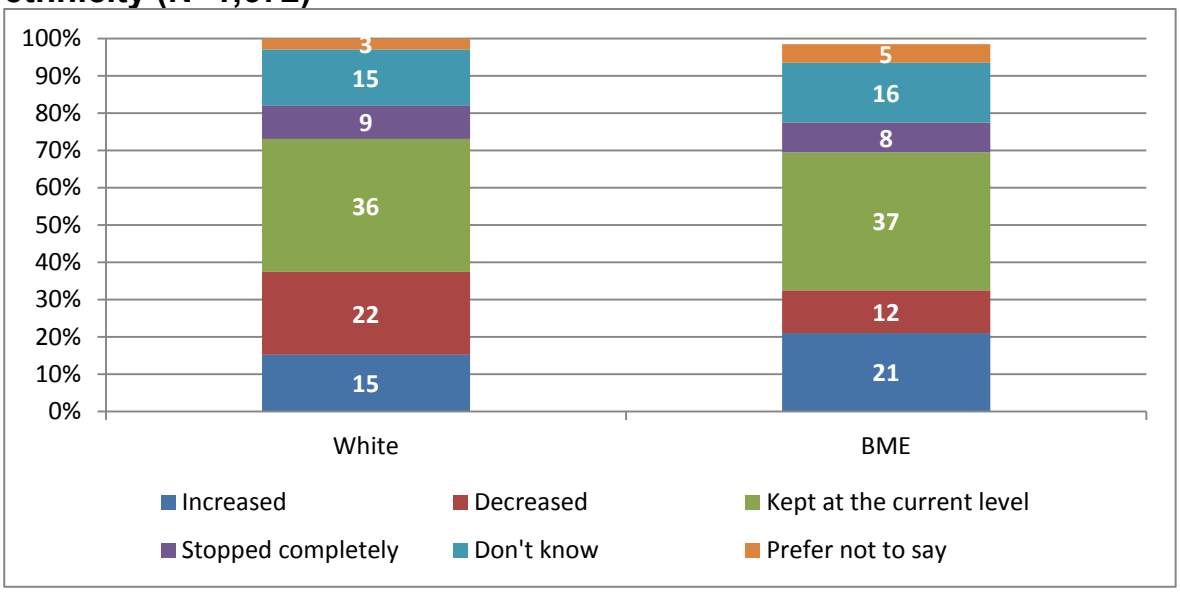


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Ethnicity

Young White people were more likely (22%) than those in BME groups (12%) to think that immigration should be decreased. However, there was very little difference in the proportions who felt that immigration should be stopped completely (9% of young White people took this view, compared with 8% of those in BME groups) (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: 'Overall, do you think immigration into Scotland should be ...?' By ethnicity (N=1,672)



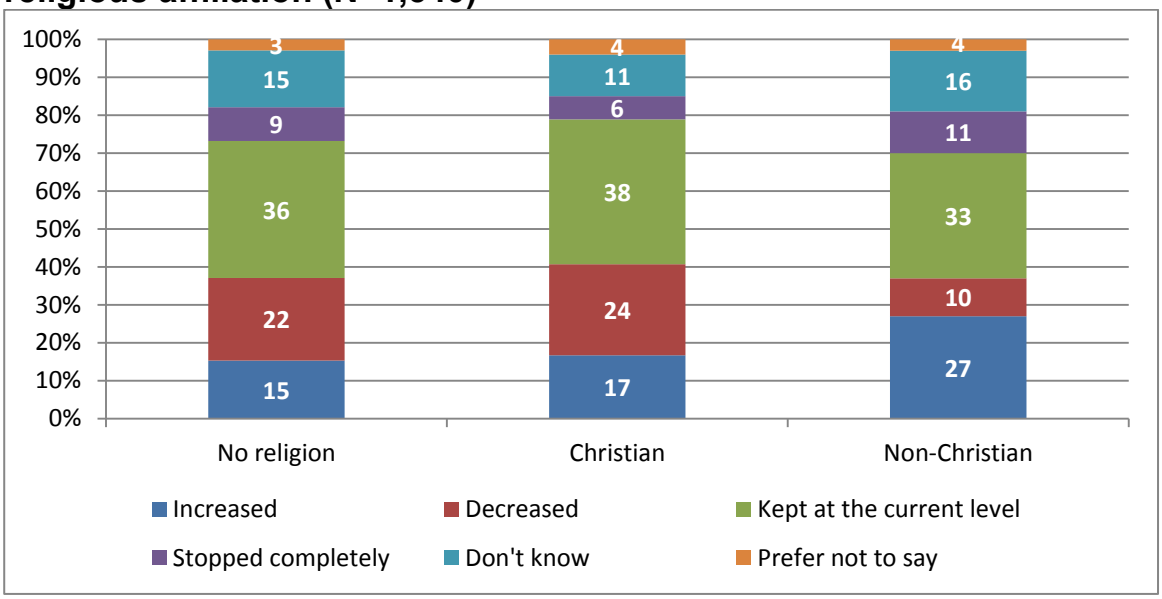
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Religious affiliation

More than a quarter of those young people who identified as non-Christian thought that immigration levels should be increased. This view was less popular in the Christian group (17%) and among those who said they had no religion (15%).

Young people who were Christians and those who said they had no religion were more likely than non-Christians to believe that immigration should be decreased. Between a fifth and a quarter of Christians and those with no religion took this view, compared with 10% of non-Christians (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: 'Overall, do you think immigration into Scotland should be ...?' By religious affiliation (N=1,540)

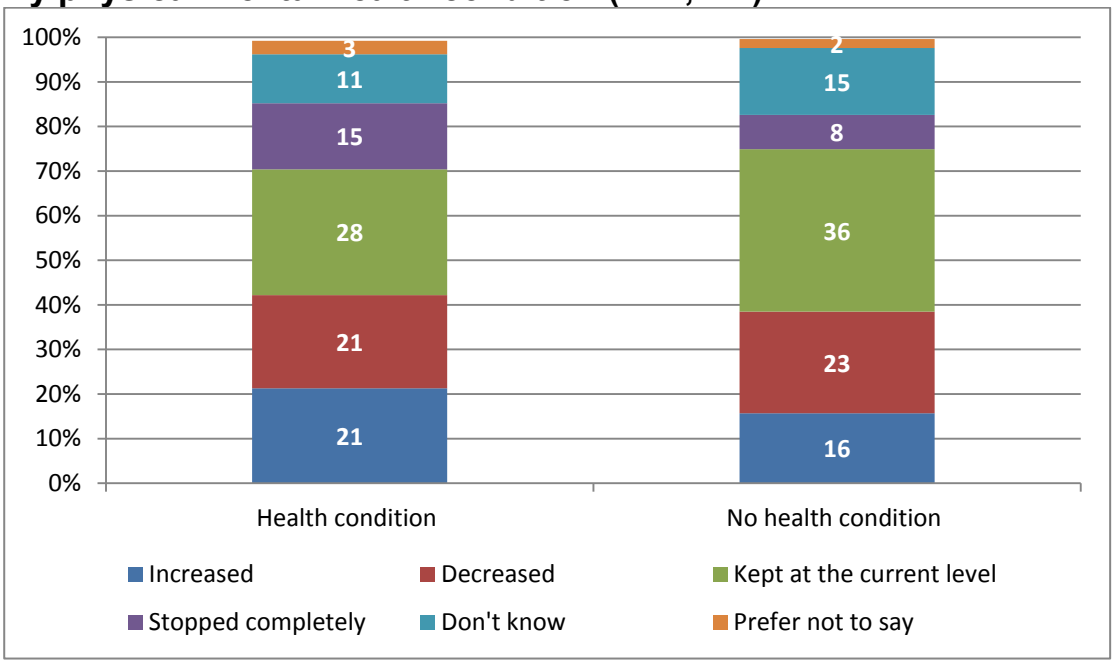


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Physical/mental health condition

Young people who said they had a physical or mental health condition were more likely than those who did not have such a condition to believe that immigration should be increased. 21% of young people with a health condition took this view, compared with 16% of those without a health condition. However, people with a health condition were also more likely to believe that immigration should be stopped altogether (15% of young people with a health condition said this, compared with 8% of those who did not have a health condition). 36% of young people who did not have a health condition believed that immigration should be kept at the current level, compared with 28% of those who said they did have such a condition (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: 'Overall, do you think immigration into Scotland should be ...?' By physical/mental health condition (N=1,412)



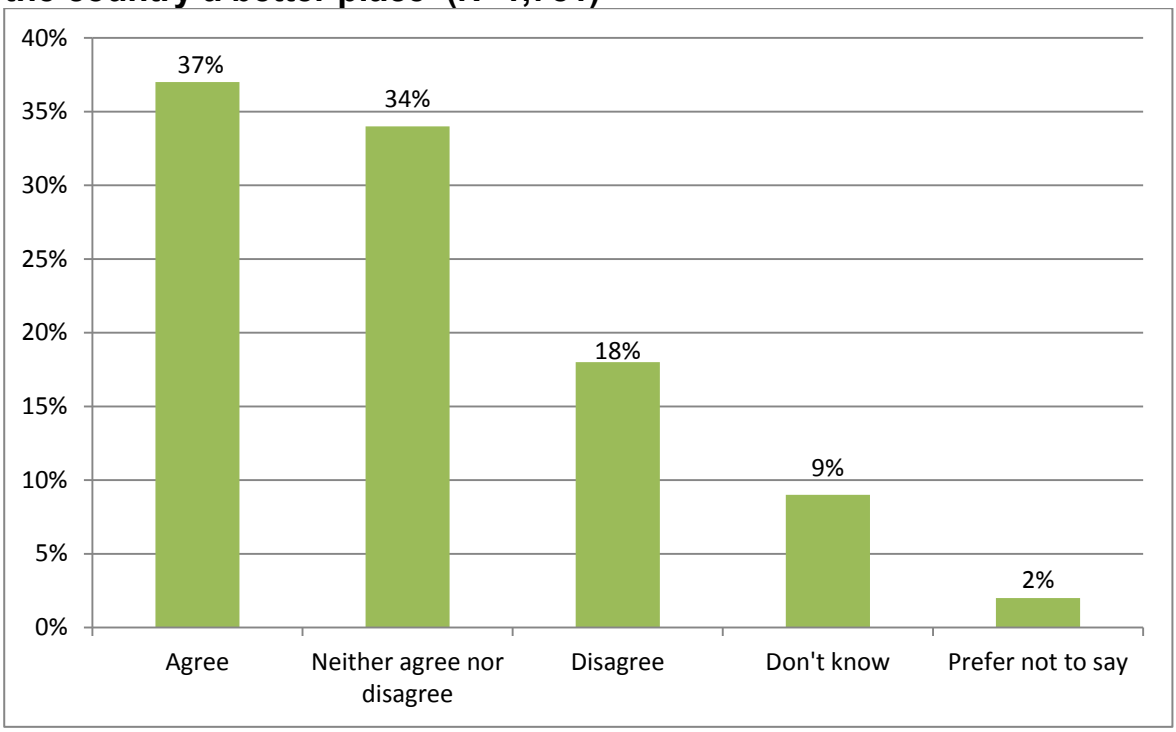
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

4. Do people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place?

Young people were asked how much, if at all, they agreed or disagreed with the statement that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place.

Over a third of the total sample (37%) agreed that immigrants make the country a better place; and a further third neither agreed nor disagreed. However, almost one in five disagreed with the statement. 9% said they did not know, and a further 2% preferred not to say (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place' (N=1,781)



Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Variations in attitudes between sub-groups

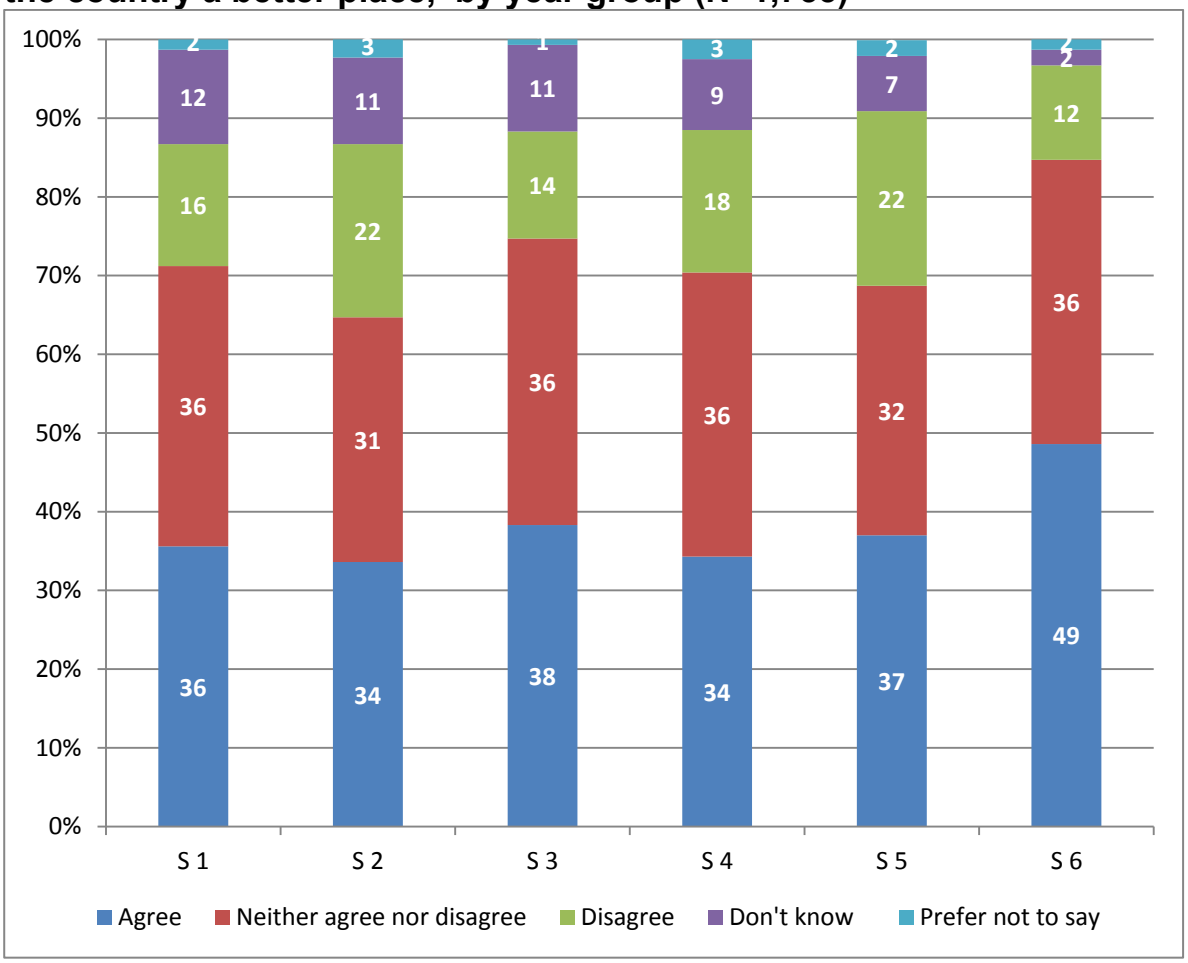
Year group

More than a third of young people in each year group agreed with the statement that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place. A further third neither agreed not disagreed with the statement.

Almost half of respondents in the oldest group (S6) agreed that immigrants who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place.

The older people were, the less likely they were to give a 'don't know' response (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place,' by year group (N=1,755)

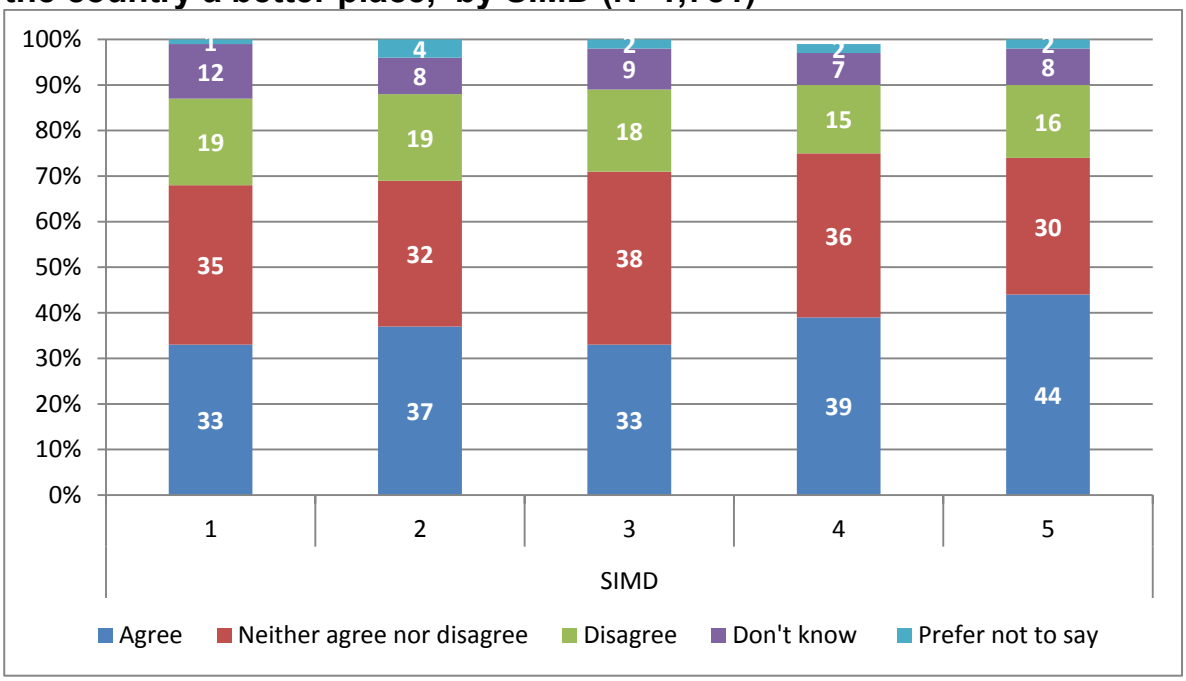


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Socio-economic background

Young people in the least socio-economically deprived group were the most likely to agree that immigrants make the country a better place (Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place,' by SIMD (N=1,781)

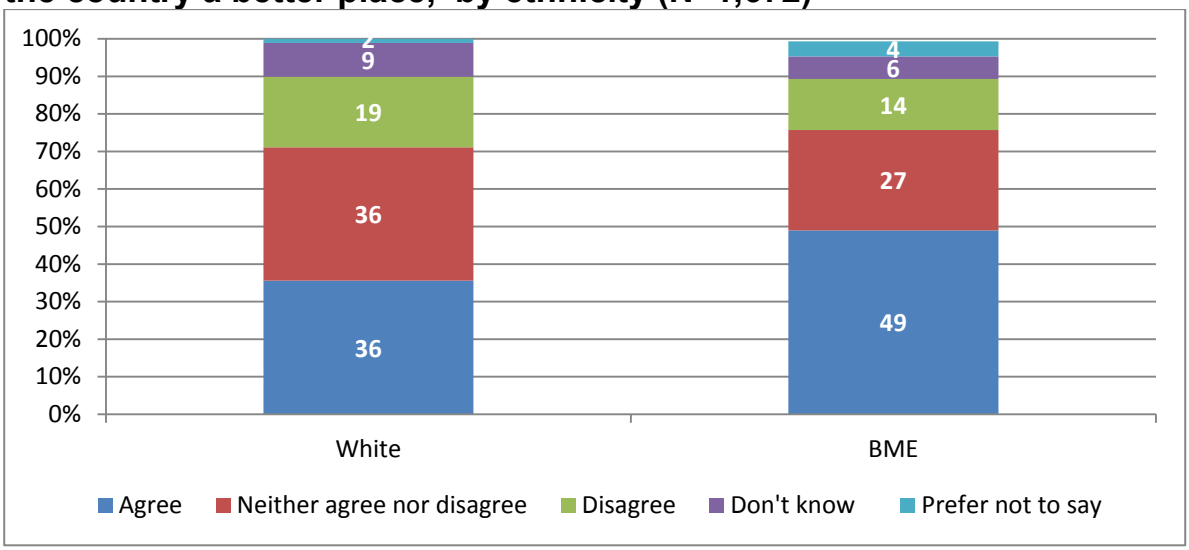


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Ethnicity

Respondents in BME groups were more likely (49%) than White young people (36%) to agree that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place,' by ethnicity (N=1,672)

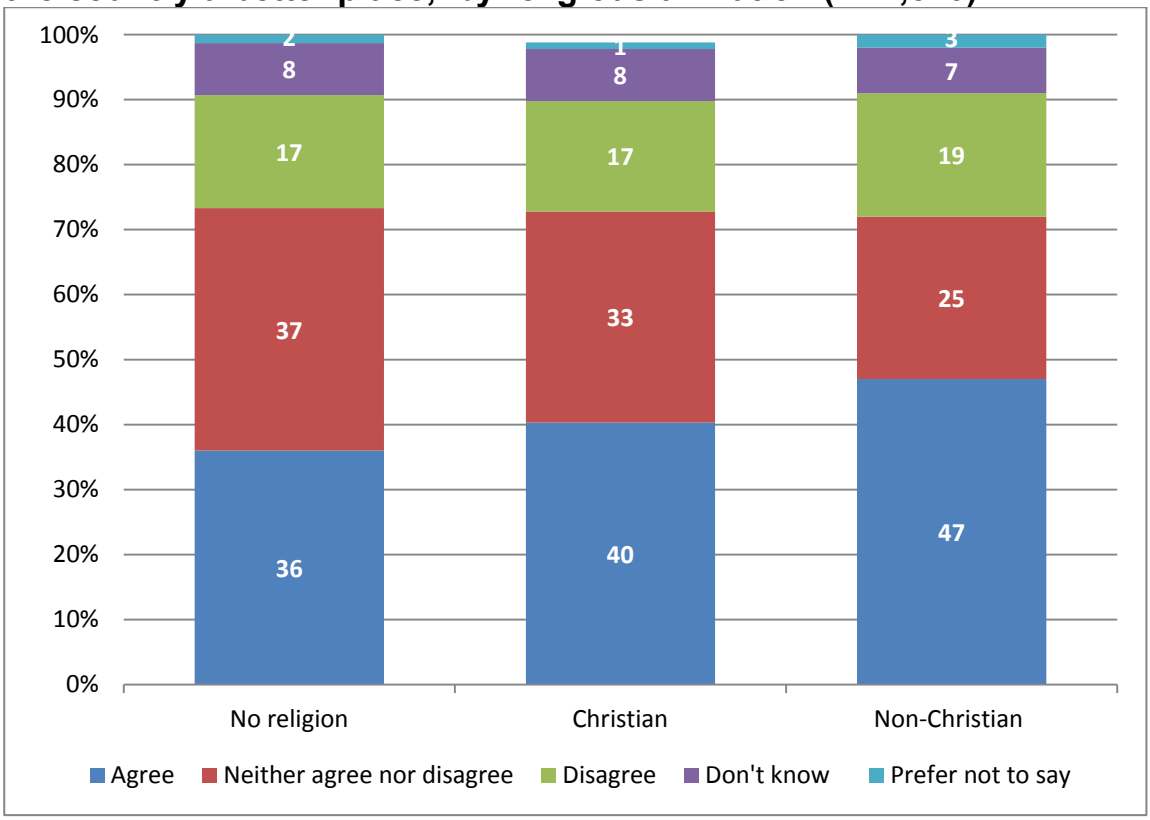


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Religious affiliation

As Figure 4.5 shows, almost half of non-Christians (47%) agreed that immigrants who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place. This was a greater proportion than Christians (40%) or those who had no religion (36%) who agreed with the statement (Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place,' by religious affiliation (N=1,540)



Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

5. Perceived impact of immigration on Scotland's culture and identity

Participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims, people from Eastern Europe and Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland.

Across the whole sample, over four in ten of respondents disagreed with the statement. The young people were most likely to disagree with the statement when it related to Black and Asian people. However, over a quarter agreed that Scotland would begin to lose its identity as a result of greater diversity, particular when they were asked to consider more Muslims coming to live in Scotland (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%) (N=1,781)

Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		TOTAL
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	28
	Neither agree nor disagree	19
	Disagree	42
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	11
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	27
	Neither agree nor disagree	21
	Disagree	41
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	11
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	25
	Neither agree nor disagree	20
	Disagree	45
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10

Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Variations in attitudes between sub-groups

Year group

Young people in each year group were relatively positive about the prospect of greater diversity in Scotland. The most popular option for each year group, and in relation to each immigrant group, was disagreement with the statement about Scotland's possible loss of identity. Those in the oldest group (S6) were the least negative of all the year groups: 53%, 52% and 57% of respondents in S6 disagreed with the statement that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims, people from Eastern Europe and Black and Asian people (respectively) came to live in Scotland.

The older the respondents were, the less likely they were to say they didn't know, or preferred not to say, when asked about the impact of more immigrants on Scotland's identity (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%), by year group (N=1,755)

Do you agree or disagree that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	22	28	28	28	31	29
	Neither agree nor disagree	23	21	19	21	15	16
	Disagree	40	37	43	41	45	53
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	15	14	11	11	8	2
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	24	25	25	29	28	27
	Neither agree nor disagree	24	25	22	23	16	18
	Disagree	38	36	43	36	48	52
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	13	14	10	12	8	2
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	23	25	23	25	26	23
	Neither agree nor disagree	18	19	23	26	17	19
	Disagree	43	43	46	39	50	57
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	16	13	8	11	7	1

Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Gender

Boys were more likely than girls to agree that Scotland might lose its identity if more Muslims, people from Eastern Europe and Black and Asian people came to live here (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%), by gender (N=1,715)

Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		Boys	Girls
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	32	23
	Neither agree nor disagree	20	19
	Disagree	39	46
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	9	13
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	30	22
	Neither agree nor disagree	22	22
	Disagree	38	44
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	12
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	27	21
	Neither agree nor disagree	22	19
	Disagree	42	49
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	10

Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Socio-economic background

Young people in the most deprived socio-economic group (SIMD 1) appeared to be the most concerned about the prospect of greater diversity in Scotland. Respondents in SIMD 1 were more likely than other groups to agree with the statement that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims, people from Eastern Europe and Black and Asian people came to live here. The key significant differences were between young people in SIMD 1 and SIMD 5, the least deprived socio-economic group (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%), by SIMD (N=1,781)

Do you agree or disagree that Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		1	2	3	4	5
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	33	27	27	27	24
	Neither agree nor disagree	18	23	21	17	18
	Disagree	36	40	40	46	49
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	13	10	12	10	10
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	34	26	26	24	25
	Neither agree nor disagree	21	22	24	21	19
	Disagree	31	40	39	47	47
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	14	12	10	8	10
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	33	25	24	20	22
	Neither agree nor disagree	18	22	21	21	18
	Disagree	37	43	45	50	51
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	12	11	9	9	10

Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Ethnicity

Respondents in BME groups were more likely than White young people to disagree with the statement that Scotland would lose its identity if more Muslims, people from Eastern Europe and Black and Asian people came to live here (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%), by ethnicity (N=1,672)

Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		White	BME
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	28	22
	Neither agree nor disagree	20	14
	Disagree	42	55
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	10
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	27	25
	Neither agree nor disagree	22	17
	Disagree	41	50
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	8
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	25	22
	Neither agree nor disagree	21	14
	Disagree	45	56
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	9	8

Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Physical/mental health condition

Young people who said they had a physical or mental health condition were more likely to agree that Scotland would lose its identity if there was greater diversity in the country. Young people who did not have a health condition were more likely to disagree with the statement (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Perceptions of Scotland's identity (%), by physical/mental health condition (N=1,412)

Scotland would begin to lose its identity if:		Health condition	No health condition
More Muslims came to live in Scotland	Agree	34	27
	Neither agree nor disagree	17	19
	Disagree	37	45
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	12	9
More people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	Agree	32	25
	Neither agree nor disagree	19	22
	Disagree	38	44
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	9
More Black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	Agree	32	22
	Neither agree nor disagree	18	21
	Disagree	40	48
	Don't know/Prefer not to say	10	9

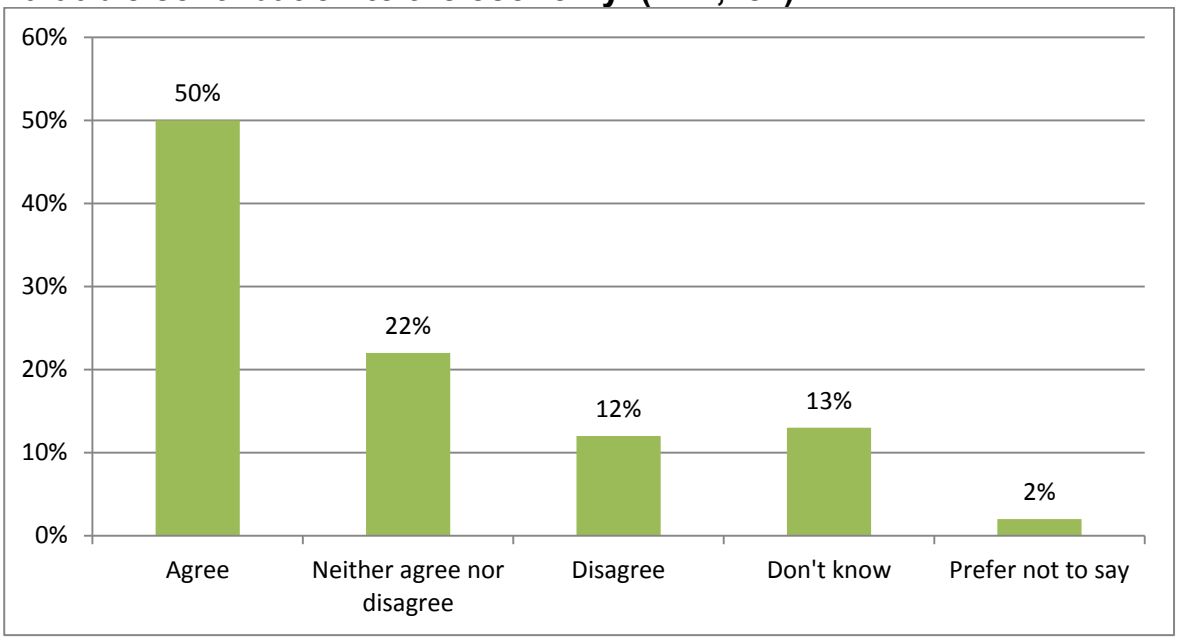
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

6. Perceived impact of immigration on Scotland's economy

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy.

Half of the young people who participated in the survey agreed with the statement that people who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy. A further 22% neither agreed nor disagreed and 12% disagreed with that statement (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy' (N=1,781)



Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

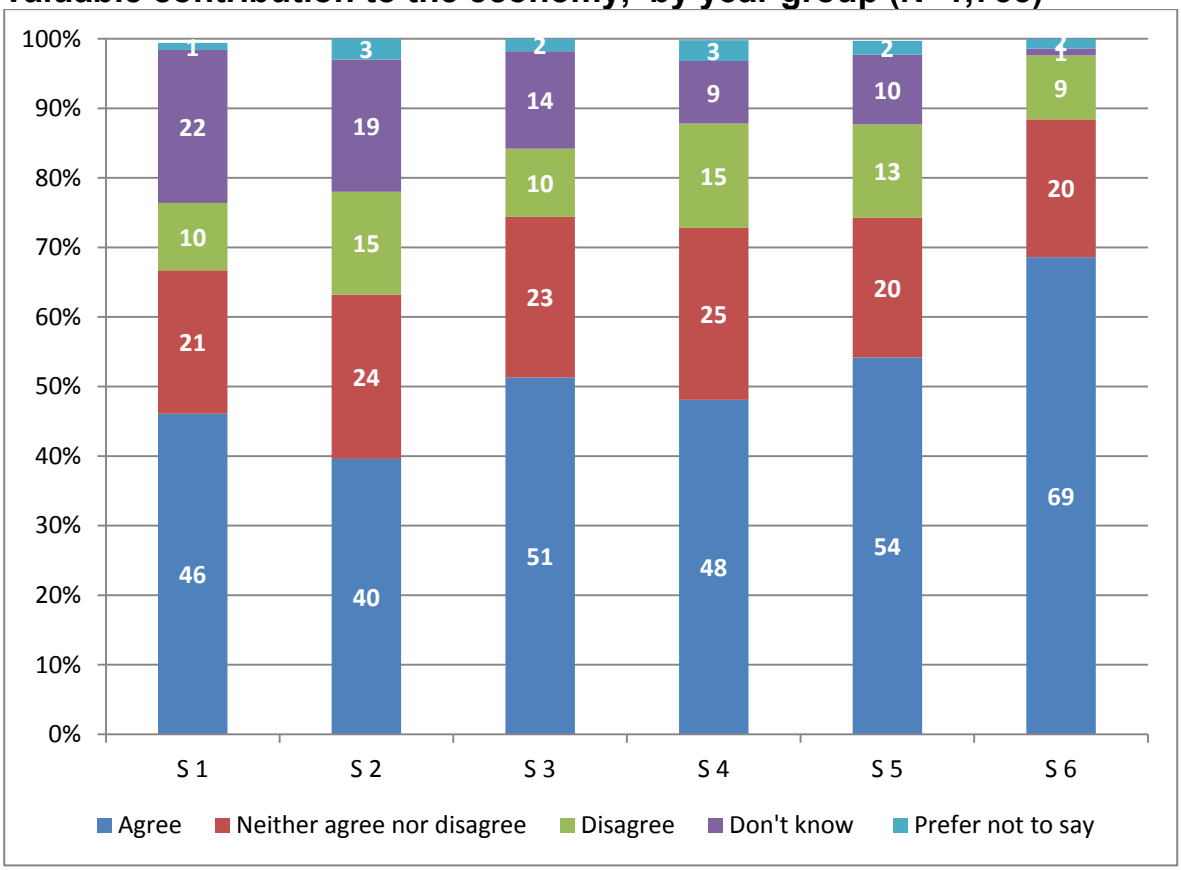
Variations in attitudes between sub-groups

Year group

Young people in the oldest year group (S6) were most likely to agree that immigrants make a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy: 69% of those in S6 agreed with the statement.

Analysis based on year group also shows that the younger the respondents were, the more likely they were to give a 'don't know' response to the statement (Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by year group (N=1,755)

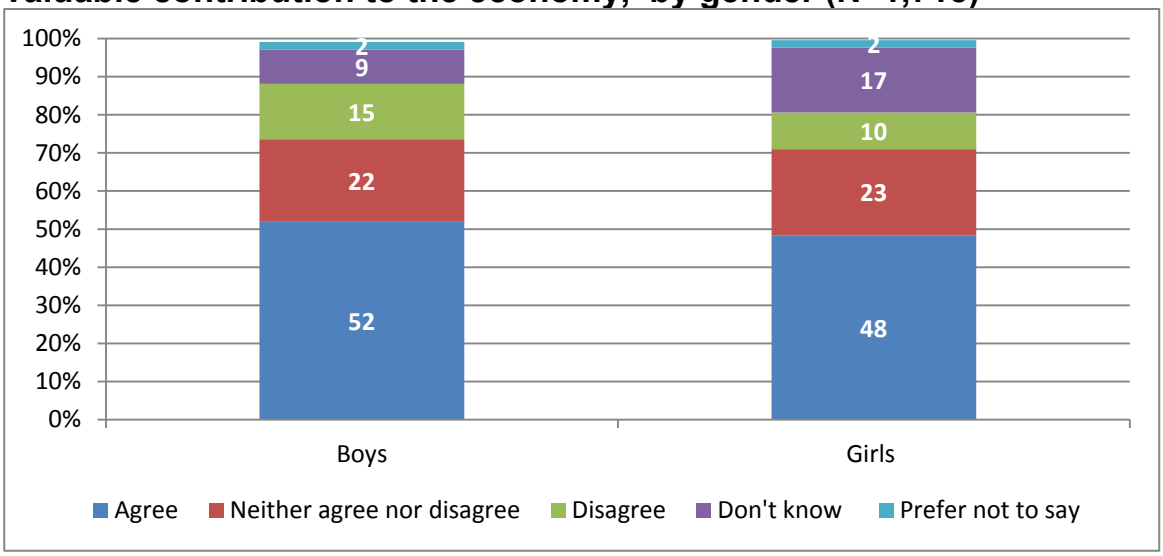


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Gender

Girls were less likely than boys to disagree with the statement that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy, and more likely than boys to say that they 'didn't know' (Figure 6.3).

Figure 6.3: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by gender (N=1,715)



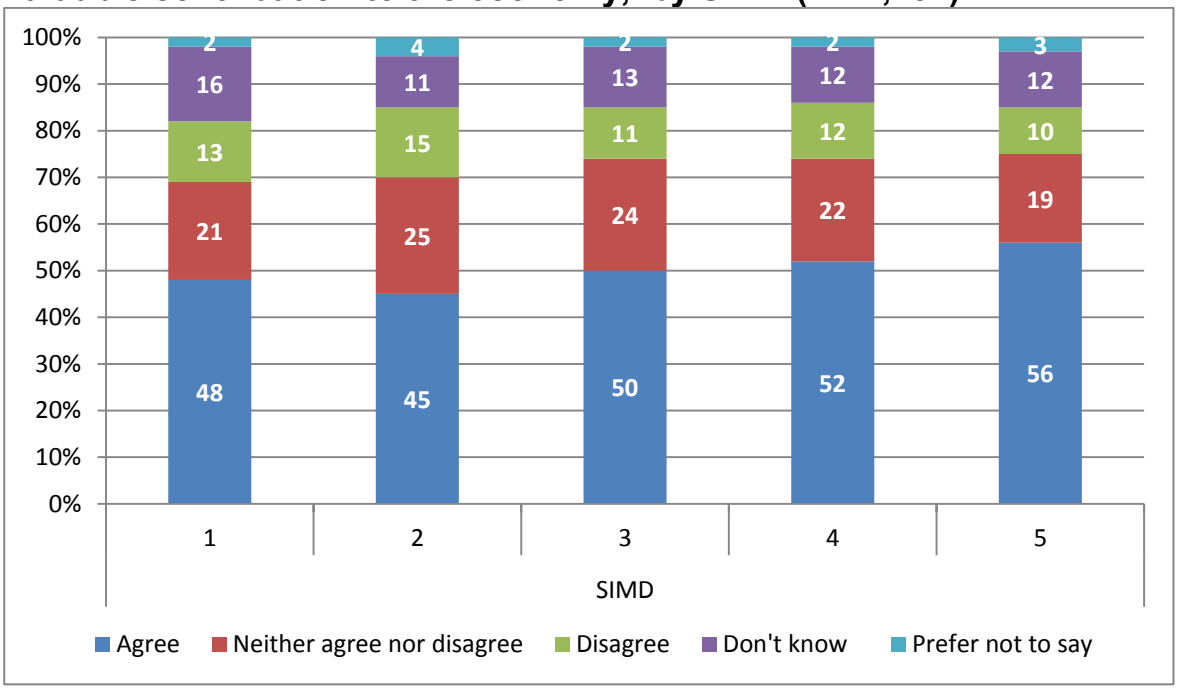
Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Socioeconomic background

Analysis by socioeconomic group shows that young people in the least deprived groups (SIMD 4 and SIMD 5) were more likely than those in SIMD 2 to agree that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy.

People in the most deprived group (SIMD 1) were more likely than other groups to give a 'don't know' response to the statement (Figure 6.4).

Figure 6.4: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by SIMD (N= 1,781)

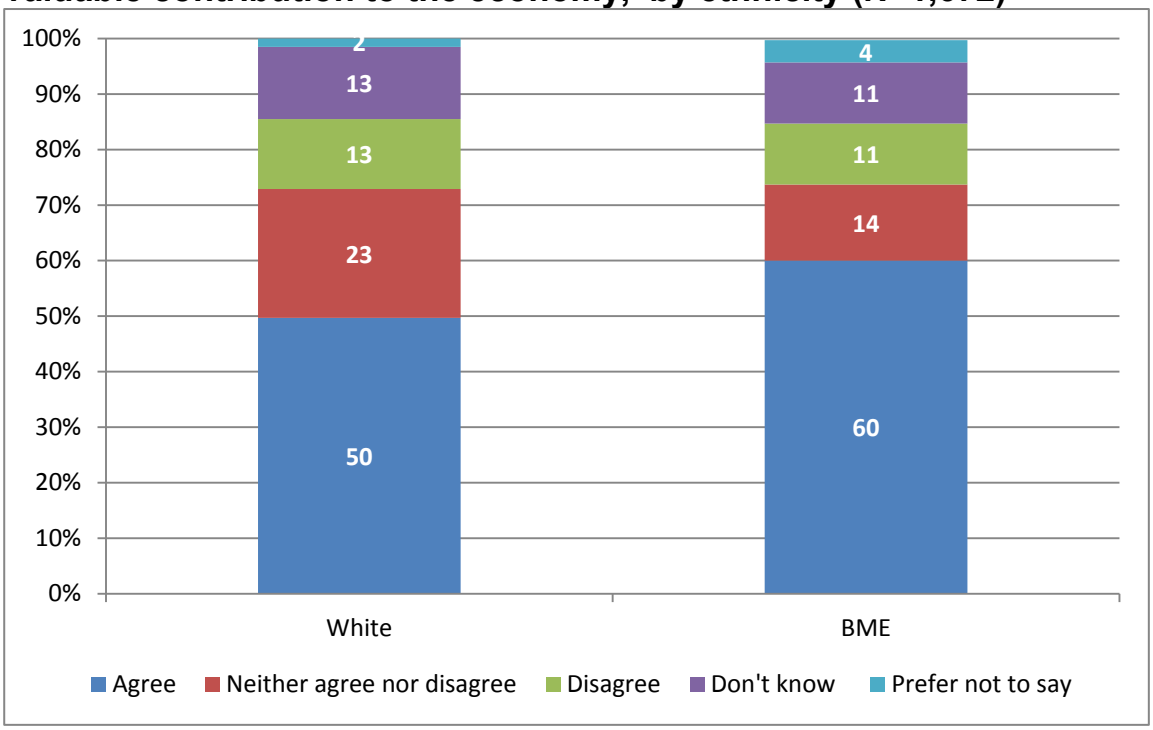


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Ethnicity

Analysis by ethnicity indicates that respondents in BME groups (60%) were more likely than White people (50%) to agree with the statement that immigrants make a valuable contribution to the Scottish economy. Six in ten of those in BME groups agreed with the statement, compared to half of White people. White people (23%) were more likely than those in BME groups (14%) to neither agree nor disagree with the statement (Figure 6.5).

Figure 6.5: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by ethnicity (N=1,672)

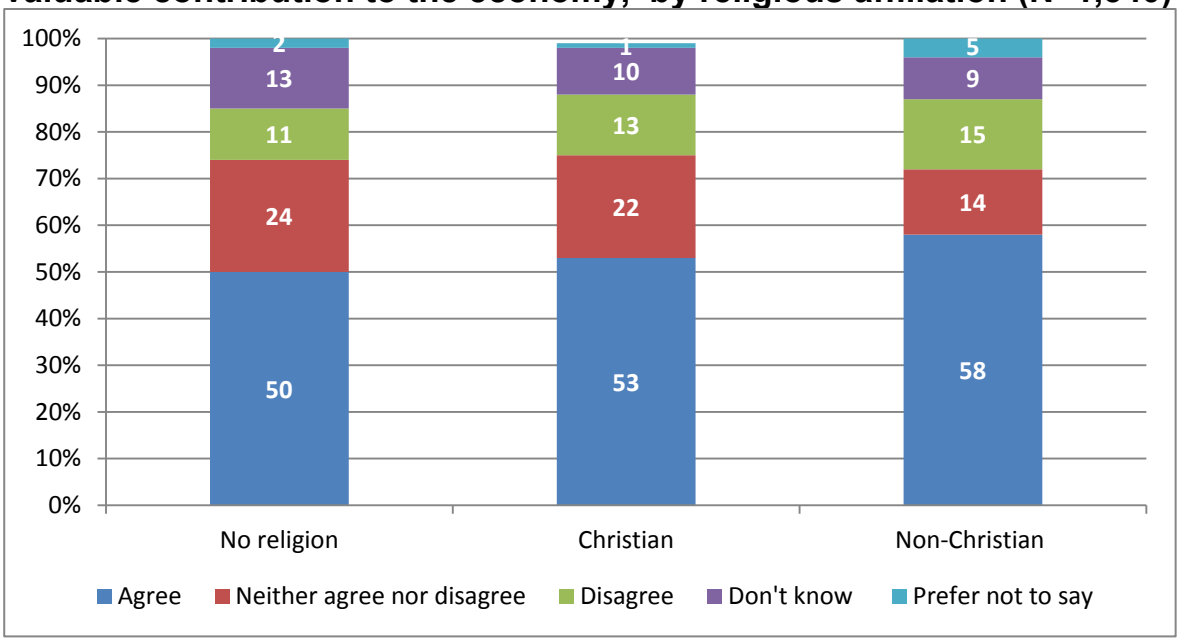


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Religious affiliation

Young people who said they had no religion were more likely than non-Christians to neither agree nor disagree with the statement that immigrants make a valuable contribution of immigrants to the Scottish economy. Almost a quarter of respondents who had no religion took this view, compared with 14% of those with non-Christian religious beliefs (Figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by religious affiliation (N=1,540)

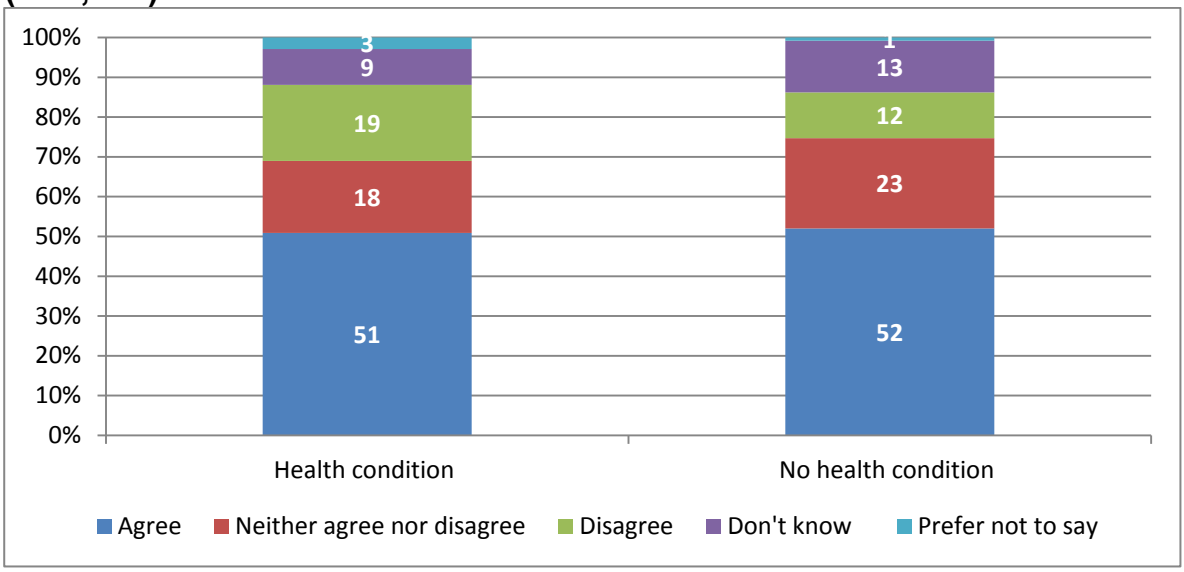


Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

Physical/mental health condition

Young people who said they had a physical or mental health condition were more likely than those who did not to disagree with the statement that people from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy. 19% of those with a health condition disagreed with the statement, compared with 12% of those with no health condition (Figure 6.7).

Figure 6.7: 'People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy,' by physical/mental health condition (N=1,412)



Source: Young People in Scotland Survey 2017, Ipsos MORI.

7. Concluding comments

Findings from the survey give a nuanced picture of young people's feelings about immigration into Scotland. In general, participants thought that the impacts of immigration were both good and bad. More than a third of those interviewed felt that immigration should be kept at the current level, and 15% thought the level should be increased. However, more than one in five of the young people thought immigration levels should be decreased, and 9% felt that immigration should be stopped completely.

There is recognition that people who come from abroad to live and work in Scotland have a positive contribution to make, particularly in relation to the economy. Although a sizeable proportion of the sample (between 25% and 28%) had concerns about Scotland beginning to lose its identity if more immigrants came to live and work here, a larger proportion of respondents (between 41% and 45%) were positive about the prospect of greater diversity.

Findings relating to sub-groups are relatively consistent across all questions. Generally, the oldest group (S6) had the most positive attitudes, as did the least socio-economically deprived group, people from BME groups, those whose religion was non-Christian, and those who did not have a long-standing physical or mental health condition. Where there were differences between the attitudes of boys and girls, girls were more positive about the impacts of immigration.

A substantial proportion of the sample (up to 20%) gave a 'don't know' response to every question. Analysis by year group indicated a consistent pattern across all questions: the older respondents were, the less likely they were to say they did not know.

Annex A. List of questions

There has been a lot of talk about immigration lately; that is, the number of people who come to stay in Scotland from other countries.

Q1	Thinking about the last few years, overall, do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference? **PLEASE SELECT** ☐ ONE BOX ONLY			
	☐	Mostly good	☐	Made no difference
	☐	Mostly bad	☐	Don't know
	☐	Both good and bad	☐	Prefer not to say

Q2	Overall, do you think the level of immigration into Scotland should be ...? **PLEASE SELECT** ☐ ONE BOX ONLY			
	☐	Increased	☐	Stopped completely
	☐	Decreased	☐	Don't know
	☐	Kept at the current level	☐	Prefer not to say

Q3	How much, if at all, do you agree with the following statements? **PLEASE SELECT ☐ONE BOX ONLY FOR EACH ROW**							
		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to agree disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Prefer not to say
A	People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
B	Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims came to live in Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
C	Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
D	Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
E	People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Annex B. Statistical significance testing

This Annex contains details of the Z statistical tests which determined the statistically significant differences between percentages for sub-groups at the 95% level. In the table below:

✓ indicates that a statistically significant relationship is found in at least two percentages in demographic sub-groups.

× indicates that no statistically significant relationship is found.

	Gender	Year group	Ethnicity	Religious affiliation	Health condition	Rurality	SIMD
Do you think that immigration has been good or bad for Scotland, or has it made no difference	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Do you think immigration into Scotland should be…	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims came to live in Scotland	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more people from Eastern Europe (e.g. Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more black and Asian people came to live in Scotland	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓
People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make a valuable contribution to the economy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓

Annex C. Demographic breakdown: characteristics of the Young People in Scotland Survey sample 2017 (N=1,781)

Demographic characteristics	Total (unweighted)	% (unweighted)	Total (weighted)	% (weighted)[3]	Population weighting (%)
Gender identity					
Boy	854	48	859	48	50
Girl	861	48	856	48	50
In another way	41	2	41	2	
Prefer not to say	25	1	25	1	
Age					
9-11	63	3	82	5	
12	285	16	305	17	
13	381	21	311	17	
14	355	20	334	19	
15	281	16	300	17	
16	255	14	289	16	
17-19	151	8	150	8	
Prefer not to say	10	1	10	1	
Year group					
Secondary 1	251	14	309	17	18
Secondary 2	399	22	317	18	18
Secondary 3	355	20	316	18	18
Secondary 4	298	17	320	18	18
Secondary 5	243	14	284	16	16
Secondary 6	209	12	208	12	12
Prefer not to say	26	1	26	1	
Ethnicity					
White	1527	86	1519	85	
BME	145	8	151	8	
Other[4]	37	2	39	2	
Prefer not to say	72	4	72	4	
Religious affiliation					
No religion	1042	59	1018	57	
Christian[5]	397	22	424	24	
Non-Christian[6]	101	7	103	4	
Other[7]	77	4	80	5	
Don't know	97	5	92	5	
Prefer not to say	67	4	63	4	
Having a physical or mental health condition or illness[8]					
Health condition	274	15	277	16	

[3] Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
[4] Includes people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, African, Caribbean or black and Arab). Also includes other groups which are not categorised.
[5] The 'Christian' category includes Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, Other Christian.
[6] The 'Non-Christian' category includes Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Hindu and Pagan.
[7] The 'Other' category includes Religions no categorised.
[8] Lasting or expected to last twelve months or more.

No health condition	1138	64	1129	63	
Don't know	245	14	248	14	
Prefer not to say	124	7	127	7	
Rurality					
Urban	1281	72	1452	82	82
Rural	500	28	329	18	18
SIMD[9]					
1	191	11	349	20	20
2	357	20	339	19	19
3	404	23	340	19	19
4	464	26	376	21	21
5	365	20	375	21	21

[9] The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Quintile 1 contains the 20% most deprived areas and Quintile 5 contains the 20% least deprived areas in Scotland.

Annex D. Comparative sources of data (based on previous use of questions with the same or similar wording)

Impact of immigration on the country as a whole

Ipsos MORI, Oct 2017 (online panel with British adults – 7 waves, conducted between Feb 2015 and October 2016. 4,574 respondents in total; 1,301 people completed all waves). 244 people in Scotland participated in the final wave; 108 completed all waves
https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2017-10/Shifting%20Ground_Unbound.pdf

On a scale of 0-10, has migration had a positive or negative impact on Britain? (0 is 'very negative,' 10 is 'very positive.')

YouGov/BBC survey 4-6 March 2015 (1,100 Scottish adults);
https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/pk699juini/BBCResults_Immigration_150306_Wesbite.pdf

YouGov/Channel 5 survey 10-11 Feb 2014 (1,899 GB adults)
http://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/88q0g7tq8f/YG-Archive-140211-Channel5-Immigration.pdf

On balance, do you think the level of immigration into Britain over the last ten years has been good or bad for the country?

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, 2015: Attitudes to discrimination and positive action (1,288 adults in Scotland, face-to-face interviews). Question used in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2015
http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00506463.pdf

People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place (Agree strongly/agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Disagree strongly/disagree)

YouGov/Migration Observatory, 2013 (2,000 adults in Scotland; 2,000 adults in England and Wales)
http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Report-Immigration_Independence.pdf

Would you say that it is generally good or bad for Scotland/Britain that people come to live here from outside of the UK? (Bad (0-4) Neutral (5) Good (6-10).

European Social Survey, 2014 and 2002 (UK sample size at least 1,500 – Scottish sample included) Nationally representative sample; adults aged 15+.

https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS7_toplines_issue_7_immigration.pdf

Is *[country]* made a worse or a better place to live by people coming to live here from other countries? (Scale 00, worse place to live, to 10, better place to live).

Levels of migration

Ipsos MORI, Oct 2017 (online panel with British adults – 7 waves, conducted between Feb 2015 and October 2016. 4,574 respondents in total; 1,301 people completed all waves). 244 people in Scotland participated in the final wave; 108 completed all waves
https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2017-10/Shifting%20Ground_Unbound.pdf

British Social Attitudes Survey. 2013 BSA Survey. (Sample size approximately 3,000 adults across Britain; random probability sampling, representative of the British population).
http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Briefing-Public_Opinion_Immigration_Attitudes_Concern.pdf

Do you think the number of immigrants coming to Britain nowadays should be:

- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- Remain the same as it is
- Reduced a little
- Reduced a lot
- Don't know/refused.

YouGov/BBC survey 4-6 March 2015 (1,100 Scottish adults);
https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/pk699juini/BBCResults_Immigration_150306_Wesbite.pdf

YouGov/Channel 5 survey 10-11 Feb 2014 (1,899 GB adults)
http://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/88q0g7tq8f/YG-Archive-140211-Channel5-Immigration.pdf

Generally speaking, do you think the level of immigration into Britain should be:

- Increased
- Reduced
- Kept at current level
- Stopped completely
- Don't know.

Impact of migration on culture and identity

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, 2015: Attitudes to discrimination and positive action (sample 1,288 adults in Scotland, face-to-face interviews). Question used in 2011, 2013 and 2015
http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00506463.pdf

Do you agree or disagree:

- People from outside Britain who come to live in Scotland make the country a better place
- Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more Muslims came to live in Scotland
- Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more people from Eastern Europe (for example, Poland and Latvia) came to live in Scotland
- Scotland would begin to lose its identity if more black and Asian people came to live in Scotland.

British Social Attitudes Survey, 2011, 2013, 2015. (Sample size approximately 3,000 adults across Britain). Reported in Migration Observatory Briefing UK Public Opinion toward Immigration, 2016
http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Briefing-Public_Opinion_Immigration_Attitudes_Concern.pdf

And on a scale of 0 to 10, would you say that Britain's cultural life is generally **undermined** or **enriched** by migrants coming to live here from other countries?

European Social Survey, 2014 and 2002 (UK sample size at least 1,500 – Scottish sample included) Nationally representative sample; adults aged 15+.
http://bsa.natcen.ac.uk/media/39148/bsa34_immigration_final.pdf

And, using this card, would you say that *[country]'s* cultural life is generally undermined or enriched by people coming to live here from other countries?

Impact of migration on the country's economy

YouGov/BBC survey 4-6 March 2015 (1,100 Scottish adults);
https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/pk699juini/BBCResults_Immigration_150306_Wesbite.pdf

YouGov/Channel 5 survey 10-11 Feb 2014 (1,899 GB adults)
http://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/88q0g7tq8f/YG-Archive-140211-Channel5-Immigration.pdf

Generally speaking, do you think immigration is good or bad for the British economy?

British Social Attitudes Survey. Approximately 3,000 people surveyed each year; random probability sampling; representative of the British population. 2011, 2013, 2015.
http://www.bsa.natcen.ac.uk/media/39097/immigration-data-tables-for-web-final.pdf

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is extremely bad and 10 is extremely good, would you say it is generally **bad** or **good** for Britain's economy that migrants come to Britain from other countries?

European Social Survey, 2014 and 2002 (UK sample size at least 1,500 – Scottish sample included) Nationally representative sample; adults aged 15+.
http://bsa.natcen.ac.uk/media/39148/bsa34_immigration_final.pdf

Would you say it is generally bad or good for [country]'s economy that people come to live here from other countries?

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this social research publication:

☐ are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

☐ are available via an alternative route <specify or delete this text>

☒ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact **socialresearch@gov.scot** for further information.

☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

social research

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