

British business backs EU remain campaign as jobs reach record high

- 62% of British businesses back EU remain camp over Brexit
- Over 50% of employers believe Brexit would put UK jobs at risk
- Jobs advertised at highest level yet according to February's Reed Job Index

New research from the UK's largest job site, reed.co.uk, confirms that a majority of British employers are in favour of staying in the EU. What's more, over half feel a Brexit will put UK jobs at risk.

The research is released alongside the latest Reed Job Index data which reveals the number of UK jobs on offer is at its highest level since the recession.

The monthly tracker stands at 285 for February - up 13.1% on the same time last year. However, the job site warns that the rate of jobs growth is starting to slow and could be reduced further by uncertainty surrounding membership of the EU.

James Reed, chairman of reed.co.uk comments:

"We surveyed over 1,000 employers and they were very clear; a strong majority said that we should remain in the EU. And it's easy to understand why. More than half of UK employers think jobs would be at risk if the UK leaves the EU. And for many people, this is the harsh reality that could affect them most."

Of the 1,000 employers surveyed, 62% will vote to remain in the EU when the UK goes to the polls on 23 June.

Over half (53%) fear leaving Europe could put jobs at risk, while a further 55% believe a Brexit will deter foreign investment in the UK. When asked if an EU exit would lead to more jobs for UK workers, 63% of respondents said no.

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Notes to editors:

About reed.co.uk

- reed.co.uk is the UK's largest commercial job board with over 250,000 job opportunities from more than 12,000 recruiters at any one time.
- Each month, more than 8 million people turn to reed.co.uk in their search for work, making 4.7 million applications across 42 industry sectors.
- reed.co.uk is part of REED, the international recruitment group of companies.

Reed Job Index

The Reed Job Index for February 2016 was at its highest yet at 285, up 12.6% from 253 in January 2016.

While the number of jobs is continuing to increase, growth is starting to slow as you'll see below. This is especially true when you compare the Q4 15 average with Q1 16 average where growth is negative.

- **Reed Job Index Feb 15 (252) V Feb 16 (285) = 13.1%**
- Reed Job Index Feb 14 (202) V Feb 15 (252) = 24.7%
- **Reed Job Index Q4 2015 (272) V Jan-Feb 16 (269) = -1.1%**

Brexit: employer survey

Total respondents: 1,059

Do you think leaving the EU would deter foreign investment in the UK?

Yes 54.42%

No 45.58%

Do you think a Brexit would put jobs at risk?

Yes 52.58%

No 47.42%

Do you think a Brexit would lead to more job creation?

Yes 37.49%
No 62.51%

Do you think Britain should remain in or leave the EU?
Remain 62.39%
Leave 37.61%