The contribution of EU workers

Out of the 166,000 people that work in the UK plastics industry, around 18,000 are EU citizens and 4,000 are from the rest of the world.

Of the EU citizens working in the industry, one in five are in high-skilled positions and just over half are in low-skilled roles.

In fact, out of the entire UK plastics industry, one in five shop floor workers are from the EU (over 10,000).

Distribution of EU workers by role in the UK plastics industry

- 56% Low-skilled
- 25% Mid-skilled
- 19% High-skilled

Concerns of the plastics industry

Two-thirds of UK plastics companies are currently having difficulty recruiting staff. This is a significant increase. Prior to the referendum, only half were experiencing difficulties recruiting.

The top three roles companies are having difficulty filling since the referendum:

- Engineers: 31%
- Shop Floor: 44%
- Technical Management: 16%

57% think job opportunities for EU workers are hindered due to uncertainty
36% say EU nationals are concerned about the right to remain in the UK
14% claim EU nationals are considering leaving
8% say EU nationals have left

In this document, ‘EU worker’ refers to a non-UK EU worker

For a full list of sources please visit: www.bpf.co.uk/eu/sources