

Candidate Identifier Number: _____

UCL Language Centre English for Academic Purposes (In-Sessional) Course

Autumn Term 2007.

Listening Examination: Lecture

**RECENT IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN THE UK AND SOME OF THEIR
ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

- Before the lecture begins you will have 10 minutes to read this document.
- During the lecture you should complete the questions according to the instructions given. *Where you are required to complete the gap, it is usually one word per gap (with 1 mark per correct answer).*
- After the lecture you will have 10 minutes to check through the answers.
- Please note that no questions will be asked during the Introduction.
- The marks available for each question are in brackets, *for example (2)*, at the right hand side of the page at the end of each question.

INTRODUCTION

No questions

I A LARGER EU – MAY 2004

1. Complete the gap (one word):

In May 2004 _____ European Countries joined the EU. (1)

2. Circle **one** answer:

The new countries are called **accession** / **accede** countries (1)

3. Circle **one** answer and then complete the gap:

Less than / more than half a million Eastern European workers have come to the UK and the _____ of Ireland since May 2004. (2)

4. Complete the gaps (one word per gap):

“The Poles have been taking the jobs because they have a far better _____ to work than local people, and they have much better _____.” (2)

5. Circle **one** answer which is **not** true:

Bulgarians and Romanians will be allowed to:

- a. Work as fruit pickers in the UK
- b. Stay for three months and work for a UK company
- c. Work for themselves in the UK
- d. Work for Romanian or Bulgarian companies in the UK (2)

6. →Link the country on the left with the correct figure on the right

Latvia	5.5%	
Slovenia	1.6%	
Romania	not given	
Bulgaria	0.02%	(2)

7. Romanians speak a language which has a relationship to which other languages? Write **two** languages

- i) _____
- ii) _____ (2)

II 2005 – A SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UK

8. Circle **one** answer:

- a. Immigration was higher than emigration in 2005
- b. Emigration was higher than immigration in 2005
- c. 185,000 people entered the UK in 2005
- d. 185,000 people left the UK in 2005. (2)

9. Write the address of the website that provides information about Britain's social and economic trends.

_____ (2)

10. →Link the year on the left with the correct figure on the right to describe the excess of those entering the UK over those leaving it

Year	Excess entering over leaving
2004	64,000
2005	49,000

(1)

11. Circle **one** answer:

The UK's population increase in 2005 was caused by:

- a) 66% natural changes and 33% migration
- b) Mostly by natural changes in births and deaths
- c) Net international migration into the UK
- d) By higher numbers from all European countries

(2)

12. Complete the gap (figures):

The population of the UK in 2005 was __, ____, 000.

(2)

III WHY EUROPEANS (AND OTHERS) ARE COMING TO THE UK

13. Which of the following was **not** mentioned? Circle **one** answer:

Polish church services Polish books Polish beer

(1)

14. According to the February 7th 2007 edition of the Financial Times, why was London referred to as France's 7th largest city? Write your answer.

(2)

15. What were two reasons for the growth in immigration to the UK since 1995?
Circle **two** answers:

- a) unemployment in the UK
 - b) availability of jobs in the UK
 - c) higher wages in the UK
- (1)

**IV THE EFFECT ON THE UK ECONOMY OF EU ACCESSION
COUNTRY MIGRANTS**

16. Write two positive effects on the British economy of migrant workers.

- i) Lower _____
 - ii) Lower _____
- (2)

17. What is the average age of new accession country migrant workers?
Circle **one** answer:

- a) 18
 - b) 34
 - c) 26
 - d) 48
- (2)

18. The speaker outlines further benefits to the UK economy of the new accession country migrant workers. Which one is mentioned? Circle **one** answer:

- i) They pay tax and benefits
 - ii) They have fewer children
 - iii) They provide health care and education
 - iv) They contribute more than they take away
- (2)

19. Complete the gap : "The ageing population has been called a _____ time bomb" (1)
20. How do the middle classes gain from migration?
Circle **one** answer which is **not** mentioned:
- a) cheap child care
 - b) someone to repair the washing machine
 - c) lower house prices
 - d) houses in good decorative order (2)
21. What are some of the losses to the working classes?
Circle **one** answer which is **not** mentioned:
- a) Relatively lower wages in the building industry
 - b) Difficulty in finding reasonably-priced accommodation
 - c) Overcrowded buses and trains
 - d) Large classes in schools (2)
22. Which group of British workers has benefited least? Circle **one** answer
- a) Young mobile workers
 - b) Young migrant workers
 - c) Young white males
 - d) Young white females (2)
23. One of the effects of the 'skills gap' being filled with Poles is:
Circle **one** answer:
- a) skills levels will remain low among British workers
 - b) it is unsustainable
 - c) society will be damaged
 - d) over-dependence on unskilled workers (2)

VI SHORTAGE OF UNSKILLED WORKERS AND SOME EFFECTS

24. Which of the following is true? Circle **one** answer:

- a) Every EU citizen has the right to work in the UK
- b) Workers from outside the EU have the right to work in the UK
- c) Workers from some EU countries have the right to work in the UK
- d) Workers from both inside and outside the EU have the right to work in the UK (2)

25. →Link the information on the left with the correct figure on the right

Information

Figures

Number of people living in a house with no toilet or water	16
Number of people living in a crowded hotel with no facilities	65
Number of hours worked in a factory in Yorkshire	27

(2)

26. Complete the gaps (one word per gap):

“Slavery can be defined by three _____: extreme economic
_____, absence of human _____ and
actual or threatened _____.” (4)

27. Ken Loach recently made a film called *It's a* _____ (2)

28. Which one of the following **best** explains the cause of the labour shortage in catering? Circle **one** answer:
- a) A majority of bar workers in London is non-native
 - b) Indian and Chinese restaurants are very popular
 - c) The British don't want to work in restaurants
 - d) Indian and Chinese workers have become richer (2)
29. What is one effect of the labour shortage in agriculture? Circle **one** answer which is **not** correct:
- a) Fruit lies rotting in the fields
 - b) There is only a quarter of the number of workers needed
 - c) Fruit has to be imported (1)
30. In the 2007 report on the farm in Staffordshire, which of the following statements is true. Circle **one** answer.
- a) 20% of fruit pickers were Bulgarian and Romanian
 - b) More than 60,000 punnets of strawberries were not picked
 - c) There were only 2,400 fruit pickers in the UK. (1)
31. In which department is the UCL Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration?
- _____ (1)
32. What word is used to describe the positive mutual benefits of migration?
- _____ (1)

THIS IS THE END OF THE LISTENING EXAMINATION
You now have 10 minutes to check through your answers

TOTAL MARKS

56

Candidate Identifier

Number: _____ ****ANSWERS****Corrected post-exam

UCL Language Centre English for Academic Purposes (In-Sessional) Course

Autumn Term 2007.

Listening Examination: Lecture

RECENT IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN THE UK AND SOME OF THEIR ECONOMIC EFFECTS

- **Markers: with gap fill: ½ mark if correct word, but incorrect grammatical form ; 1 mark if incorrectly spelt but recognisably the correct words**

INTRODUCTION

No questions

I A LARGER EU – MAY 2004

1. Complete the gap (one word):

In May 2004 8 / eight European Countries joined the EU. (1)

2. Circle **one** answer:

The new countries are called accession / **accede** countries (1)

3. Circle **one** answer and then complete the gap:

Less than / more than half a million Eastern European workers have come to the UK and the Republic of Ireland since May 2004. (2)

4. Complete the gaps (one word per gap):

“The Poles have been taking the jobs because they have a far better attitude to work than local people, and they have much better skills ” (2)

Total 6

5. Circle **one** answer which is **not** true:

Bulgarians and Romanians will be allowed to:

- a. Work as fruit pickers in the UK
- b. Stay for three months and work for a UK company**
- c. Work for themselves in the UK
- d. Work for Romanian or Bulgarian companies in the UK

(2)

6. →Link the country on the left with the correct figure on the right

Latvia 5.5%

Slovenia 1.6%

Romania not given

Bulgaria **0.02%**

(2)

7. Romanians speak a language which has a relationship to which other languages? Write **two** languages

i) **French / Italian / Spanish = 1 each**

ii) **France, Italian, Spain = 0.5 each**

(2)

II 2005 – A SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UK

8. Circle **one** answer:

a. Immigration was higher than emigration in 2005

b. Emigration was higher than immigration in 2005

c. 185,000 people entered the UK in 2005

d. 185,000 people left the UK in 2005.

(2)

9. Write the address of the website that provides information about Britain's social and economic trends.

**www.statistics.gov.uk www.statistics = 1 (accept recognisable spelling/
gov.uk = 1(only correct spelling acceptable)**

(2)

Total

10

10. →Link the year on the left with the correct figure on the right to describe the excess of those entering the UK over those leaving it

Year	Excess entering over leaving
2004	<u>64,000</u>
<u>2005</u>	49,000

(1)

11. Circle one answer:

The UK's population increase in 2005 was caused by:

- a) 66% natural changes and 33% migration
- b) Mostly by natural changes in births and deaths
- c) **Net international migration into the UK**
- d) By higher numbers from all European countries

(2)

12. Complete the gap (figures):

The population of the UK in 2005 was 59,835, 000.
(59 = 1 / 835 = 1)

(2)

III WHY EUROPEANS (AND OTHERS) ARE COMING TO THE UK

13. Which of the following was **not** mentioned? Circle one answer:

Polish church services **Polish books** Polish beer (1)

14. According to the February 7th 2007 edition of the Financial Times, why was London referred to as France's 7th largest city? Write your answer.

The number of French (people) = 1 / living there/in London = 1/in terms of population = 2/immigration grown rapidly =1/because of population = 2 (2)

Total = 8

15. What were two reasons for the growth in immigration to the UK since 1995?
Circle **two** answers:

- a) unemployment in the UK
- b) availability of jobs in the UK
- c) higher wages in the UK (1)

IV THE EFFECT ON THE UK ECONOMY OF EU ACCESSION COUNTRY MIGRANTS

16. Write two positive effects on the British economy of migrant workers.

- i) Lower interest rates / keep interest rates down
Interest(s) = 0.5
- ii) Lower inflation / keep inflation down (2)
Wages = 0/rate (on its own) = 0

17. What is the average age of new accession country migrant workers?
Circle **one** answer:

- a) 18
- b) 34
- c) 26
- d) 48 (2)

18. The speaker outlines further benefits to the UK economy of the new accession country migrant workers. Which one is mentioned? Circle **one** answer:

- i) They pay tax and benefits
- ii) They have fewer children
- iii) They provide health care and education
- iv) They contribute more than they take away (2)

Total = 7

19. Complete the gap : "The ageing population has been called a demographic time bomb" (1)
20. How do the middle classes gain from migration?
Circle **one** answer which is **not** mentioned:
- a) cheap child care
 - b) someone to repair the washing machine
 - c) lower house prices
 - d) houses in good decorative order (2)
21. What are some of the losses to the working classes?
Circle **one** answer which is **not** mentioned:
- a) Relatively lower wages in the building industry
 - b) Difficulty in finding reasonably-priced accommodation
 - c) Overcrowded buses and trains
 - d) Large classes in schools (2)
22. Which group of British workers has benefited least? Circle **one** answer
- a) Young mobile workers
 - b) Young migrant workers
 - c) Young white males
 - d) Young white females (2)
23. One of the effects of the 'skills gap' being filled with Poles is:
Circle **one** answer:
- a) skills levels will remain low among British workers
 - b) it is unsustainable
(both a) and b) are possible = 2 for either)
 - c) society will be damaged
 - d) over-dependence on unskilled workers (2)

Total = 9

VI SHORTAGE OF UNSKILLED WORKERS AND SOME EFFECTS

24. Which of the following is true? Circle **one** answer:

- a) Every EU citizen has the right to work in the UK
- b) Workers from outside the EU have the right to work in the UK
- c) **Workers from some EU countries have the right to work in the UK**
- d) Workers from both inside and outside the EU have the right to work in the UK (2)

25. →Link the information on the left with the correct figure on the right

Information	Figures
Number of people living in a house with no toilet or water	<u>16</u>
<i>Number of people living in a crowded hotel with no facilities</i>	65
<u>Number of hours worked in a factory in Yorkshire</u>	27

(2)

26. Complete the gaps (one word per gap):

“Slavery can be defined by three elements: extreme economic exploitation, absence of human rights and actual or threatened violence.” (4)

27. Ken Loach recently made a film called *It's a free world* (2)

Total = 10

28. Which one of the following **best** explains the cause of the labour shortage in catering? Circle **one** answer:
- a) A majority of bar workers in London is non-native
 - b) Indian and Chinese restaurants are very popular
 - c) **The British don't want to work in restaurants**
 - d) Indian and Chinese workers have become richer (2)
29. What is one effect of the labour shortage in agriculture?
Circle **one** answer which is **not** correct:
- a) Fruit lies rotting in the fields
 - b) **There is only a quarter of the number of workers needed**
 - c) Fruit has to be imported (1)
30. In the 2007 report on the farm in Staffordshire, which of the following statements is true. Circle **one** answer.
- a) 20% of fruit pickers were Bulgarian and Romanian
 - b) **More than 60,000 punnets of strawberries were not picked**
 - c) There were only 2,400 fruit pickers in the UK. (1)
31. In which department is the UCL Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration?
- (Department of) Economics = 1 / economy = 0 / economic = 0.5** (1)
32. What word is used to describe the positive mutual benefits of migration?
- Transnationalism = 1 / transnational = 0.5 / transnation = 0** (1)
- Total = 6**

THIS IS THE END OF THE LISTENING EXAMINATION
You now have 10 minutes to check through your answers
TOTAL MARKS

56

Recent immigration trends in the UK and some of their economic effects

Introduction

London and the UK are clearly immigration destinations. This must be apparent to any new arrival in the UK. The mix of nationalities, ethnic groups, languages, dress-styles, music and food hits the new arrival immediately. In this lecture I will use the terms migrant and immigrant interchangeably to refer to those who come to live and work in the UK.

I'd like to start this talk by looking at what has happened in the last three years before examining the issue of immigration more broadly and looking at some of the arguments and counter-arguments involved in the discussion of its economic role in British society. I am not going to give a history of migration to the UK and I will not be considering the case of asylum seekers and refugees, which raises all sorts of other humanitarian, political and human rights issues. Instead, I am going to focus mainly on recent economic immigration which refers to those who move country in search of employment and better economic opportunities for themselves and their families. I have divided my talk into 6 sections followed by my conclusion.

I A larger EU - May 2004 (by EU I mean the *European Union*)

As soon as they became EU citizens in spring 2004, workers from Poland, the Czech Republic and six other Eastern European countries won the right to come to the UK and make a living. These countries are called accession countries (from the verb 'accede' which means to join). Britain was one of only three nations that allowed free movement of labour after these eight countries joined the EU in 2004. UK businesses have greatly benefited from the influx of skilled workers from the Eastern European accession countries. It has been estimated that over 500,000 (*five hundred thousand*) Eastern European workers have arrived in the UK and Republic of Ireland since May 2004, though perhaps as many as half of those may have returned home. There has been considerable enthusiasm among employers for Polish workers in particular. As quoted in

the *Observer* Sunday newspaper on January 7, 2007, 'The Poles have been taking the jobs because they have a far better attitude to work than local people, and they have much better skills.'

But despite this enthusiasm on the part of UK firms, the government has decided to make entry for workers from the EU's two newest member states, Bulgaria and Romania, much tougher. From these countries, only a few thousand fruit-pickers under a long-established scheme called The Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme will be allowed to work in the UK, and also a handful of food-packers. (Let me just explain this a little. The Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme allows temporary work permits during the busy times on fruit and vegetable farms. Typically such workers may work 12 hours a day picking tomatoes or strawberries. And food-packers are needed around the same time to help process and distribute the picked fruit and vegetables). So, to go back, under EU regulations, any member of the EU can stay in another EU country for a period of three months and Bulgarians and Romanians will be allowed to visit for this period, but not to work, unless they are self-employed or employed by Bulgarian or Romanian companies. I will return to this point later in my lecture.

The decision to bar Bulgarian and Romanian workers, announced by the Home Office in October 2006, reflected the profound economic and political impact of the arrival of accession country migrants over the past few years. There is some evidence to suggest that the poorer the accession country, the more migrants have come to the UK - 1.6 per cent of Latvians have registered to work here, against just 0.02 per cent of the much more affluent Slovenians. Since Bulgaria and Romania have an even lower GDP per capita than any of the previous wave of entrants, it has been suggested by the more popular newspapers that hundreds of thousands were preparing to come. In fact, unemployment rates in the new members (only 5.5% in Romania) are actually lower than the European average. At the same time, Romanians, who speak a romance language (based on Latin and having some similarities with French, Spanish and Italian) are expressing a preference to visit France, Spain or Italy rather than the UK. I'd now like to look at how immigration is reflected in population statistics.

II 2005 – a significant year for population growth in the UK

2005 was significant for two reasons. Firstly, 2005 was an important year in terms of migration because an estimated 185,000 *{one hundred and eighty five thousand}* more people entered the UK than left the country. These figures come from the UK Office for National Statistics – incidentally a very useful website for information about Britain's social and economic trends and the website address is: www.statistics.gov.uk. This 2005 estimate was lower than the 2004 estimate, but was higher than the estimates for all other years since 1991. Basically, those UK citizens leaving the UK went mainly to Australia, followed by Spain and then France (in order of preference). An estimated 64,000 more EU citizens migrated into the UK for at least a year than left in 2005, compared with 49,000 in 2004. EU citizens migrating long-term into the UK increased by over 50 per cent from 52,000 in 2004 to 80,000 in 2005. This increase can be explained by 2005 being the first full calendar year following the May 2004 date of accession, which I mentioned earlier. Unofficial sources say the numbers are higher. The second interesting thing in this context about the year 2005 was that the UK population as a whole increased by 375,000, the largest annual rise in numbers since 1962 (chart). In 2005 the differences between births and deaths (or natural changes) contributed one third of the UK's annual population increase. Net migration (that is the number of people leaving the UK subtracted from the number of people entering the UK) accounted for the other two-thirds. Net international migration into the UK from abroad is the main factor in population growth. The population of the UK in 2005 was 59,835,000 *(fifty nine million, eight hundred and thirty-five thousand)*. I'd just like to give you a recent update from the Office for National Statistics (as reported in the press in September 2007). This says that for 2006 the total population of the UK was now 60.6 million, an increase of 0.6% *(nought point six percent)* on the previous year. But, although gains were still outpacing losses, the inflow of migrants into the UK was slower than the record pace recorded in 2005.

I'd now like to look at why Europeans (and others) are coming to the UK

III Why Europeans (and others) are coming to the UK

The appearance of Polish newspapers in corner shops, Polish beers in pubs and Polish services in Catholic churches means the accession-country migrants have been especially noticeable. They have spread from the Scottish Highlands to Cornish villages, touching areas which have seen little or no immigration for 50 years. Catholic churches in places like Edinburgh (as reported in the Financial Times on 17 February 2007) have seen an increase of 3000 worshippers on a Sunday because of Polish migrants. (Poles are mostly Roman Catholic rather than Protestant Christians). But the surge in immigration began before 2004, and other ethnic groups, from the French to the Somalis, have come to take advantage of a thriving labour market. (And it was not quite jokingly reported in the Financial Times in February 2007 that London is France's 7th largest city in terms of population.) A recent Bank of England report summarized the situation (and I quote): 'It seems likely that immigration has grown rapidly since the mid-1990s, in part because of the United Kingdom's low level of unemployment and higher earnings. Over this period, immigrants are therefore likely to have been attracted to the UK by the relative strength of its labour market.'

IV The effects on the UK economy of EU accession country migrants

Economic optimists point to the positive effects of these workers on the British economy. Firstly, it has been estimated that interest rates in the economy have been kept a full percentage point lower than they would have been without these migrant workers. Why is that? Generally, recently arrived migrant workers are young, mobile and prepared to work for relatively low wages. This in turn has created a more flexible pool of labour and thus helped to keep inflation and thus interest rates down. Of course, what this actually means is that migrant workers often earn less than British workers and it has been estimated that 2/3 of them earn less than the minimum wage.

Gordon Brown, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer and now prime minister, has also estimated that the economy's long-term rate of growth will rise from 2.5 to 2.75 per cent, if this continued influx of productive workers continues. These young workers from

the new accession countries, mostly aged between 18 and 34 years, have generally also brought fewer dependents such as non-working relatives and children with them (that is, fewer than previous groups of immigrants). This benefits UK taxpayers because these new workers contribute to the economy by paying tax but take little away from it in terms of benefits such as unemployment pay or prolonged health care as well as education. It is also hoped that accession country workers will help to solve the problem of Britain's growing ageing population, which has been called a demographic time-bomb. Simply put, this means that because people are living longer, there are relatively fewer younger people working to provide pensions and health care for the elderly through their taxes. More young workers without dependents, such as those from the new accession countries may help by reducing the 'dependency ratio' - the number of pensioners for each tax-paying worker.

V Who gains and who loses?

Just as the employers want greater flexibility in employing skilled and unskilled workers (and also the advantage of underpaying them), so other groups in society appear to have benefited. These are chiefly the middle classes who can now employ cheap, well educated au pairs, or child care helpers, from accession countries. This enables middle class women in particular to carry on working after having their children and to pursue their careers. Middle classes families also benefit from the ready availability of labour for their homes: the polish plumber has become a standard reference. Polish builders and electricians are also in great demand. (I should explain that until 2004, it was very hard to find plumbers or electricians to do jobs or conversions in the home). It could be argued that the great British hobby of improving their property (kitchen extensions, enlarging and modernizing bathrooms, adding extra rooms into the roof space etc) has been massively enabled by the influx of EU workers since 2004. This might also have contributed to the very competitive property market in the UK at present and the high decorative standard of the houses for sale.

But this has not been all gain. Until 2005 wages in the building industry were rising by 7% per annum but since then have only risen by 2%, which is less than the rate of

inflation. It can be argued that effectively, the advantages of relatively cheaper and more available labor has gone to the middle classes but the brunt, or disadvantages, have been born by the working classes. An increase in migrants in larger cities also means greater pressure on accommodation – so migrants live in more crowded and also more expensive rooms or flats. Greater numbers of people use public transport thus contributing to overcrowding and stress. In schools, greater numbers of children not speaking English well may reduce the progress of all children in a class unless extra specialist help is made available. The middle classes to some extent are insulated from these effects as they use less public transport and may well send their children to fee-paying private schools.

Other losers are young British workers. It is argued that in some cases, Poles, Czechs and Slovaks take jobs that could have been offered to young British workers, and this means that unemployment among this group is correspondingly higher. Others take this further and say that although companies and businesses have benefited from generally hard-working, motivated and mobile young migrant workers, young British people have lost out. Among the British youth who appear to be most disadvantaged are young white males. Already, there are concerns about the low skill level and ability to find and keep jobs among this group. The fact that migrants are doing jobs that British young people can't or won't do merely hides the growing problem of what is called a 'low-skills' economy in Britain. Increasingly, employers are relying on migrants for the skills they need in their employees. To conclude this section in the words of the Observer article, "Britain's success in attracting overseas workers may be an indication of its healthy labour market - and their presence has many economic benefits - but some employers believe there must be no substitute for preparing young Britons for work. Employers have clearly benefited, but it's unsustainable just to fill the skills gaps with Poles." And Richard Lambert from the Confederation of British Industry also warned that depending on migrant labour could mean that skills levels of UK citizens will not be raised sufficiently. This in turn could risk damaging social cohesion (*Guardian Weekly*, March 2-8, 2007)

VI Shortage of unskilled workers and some effects

A related but wider issue is the general shortage of unskilled workers in the UK. But the government has strict rules on who can be employed (as I mentioned earlier not even every EU citizen has the right to work in the UK, let alone workers from outside the UK.) As a result, it has been estimated that in 2005 there were as many as 600,000 (*six hundred thousand*) illegal immigrant workers in the UK. Employers like unskilled migrant workers because they can pay them less and do not have to train them. But this situation forces those already in the UK to work in terrible circumstances. For example, working 20 hours a week earning very little and being forced to live in poor accommodation, perhaps dozens to a small flat. Felicity Lawrence has written a book about the conditions of some of these workers and says "I have come across cases from Bristol to Sussex where 65 migrants are living in a 10 bedroomed hotel with no kitchen and no heating and in another case, where 27 were camping in a small house without sanitation". A report by researchers at Hull University published in March 2007 describes case after case in which working and living conditions of these workers, many of whom are in the UK legally, can be compared to slavery. For example, in one case a woman from Latvia had her passport confiscated by a Hull employment agency that forced her to work 16-hour shifts at a factory in Barnsley, Yorkshire. She had to sleep in a car. Modern slavery is defined by three elements: extreme economic exploitation, absence of human rights and actual or threatened violence. A new film by the British director Ken Loach called *It's a Free World* explores the exploitation of migrant workers, and Loach says cheap labour is "at the heart of the British economy."

A further illustration of the effects of shortages of unskilled labour can be found in the catering industry. All restaurants are suffering from a severe lack of staff and you may have noticed how almost every one working in a bar or restaurant in London is not a native English speaker. As you may also have noticed, the British love their Chinese and Indian food: Indian restaurants are the most popular kind in the UK and you can find Chinese takeaway restaurants in every small town in Britain. Native or British born Indians and Chinese, however, no longer want to work in Indian or Chinese restaurants. As these workers become more prosperous, they want better jobs for themselves or at least their children. The government maintains that there are more than enough British

citizens and workers from EU countries to fill the job shortages. Indian and Chinese community leaders argue that this decision is putting the future of Britain's 20,000 Indian and Chinese restaurants and takeaways in danger. They say: "Most east Europeans wouldn't know anything about the spices we use or the way we prepare dishes." And they want the government to allow migrant workers from the Indian sub-continent and China to fill these shortages.

Another area of shortage, which I'll just mention briefly, is agriculture. I have already alluded to this when talking about workers from new accession countries. Farms in the UK that depend on seasonal labour to pick their soft fruit such as strawberries and tomatoes have suffered from a shortage of labour for a long time. In 2000 the National Farmers Union estimated that there was a 25% shortfall in the number of workers available, mostly because of the small number of permits issued under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme (which I also mentioned earlier). As a result British fruit growers have to import fruit from abroad and let their own produced crops rot in the fields. A more recent example, quoted in the *Guardian Weekly* of 22 June 2007 said that a farm in Staffordshire had lost 66,000 punnets (that is small baskets) of strawberries - about 20% of their crop - because they could not find enough workers to pick them. In 2007 only 2,400 Romanians and Bulgarians were allowed in to the UK under the scheme I mentioned.

Conclusion

So, to conclude this talk, I have described some of the positive and negative economic effects of the increase in migration to the UK, particularly from the enlarged European Union. I have also looked a little at the wider issue of labour shortage in the UK and some its consequences. As you have perhaps realized, this is a complex and controversial topic. If you are interested in following it up, UCL itself has a Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration within the department of Economics and for further information you can look at their website on www.econ.ucl.ac.uk/cream. Of particular interest is their work on transnationalism, which is the two-way flow of positive benefits from both sending and receiving countries – a topic for a further lecture. (3078 words)