Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Reduce Its Restrictions on Legal Immigration to the United States
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44 U.S.C., SECTION 1333

CHAPTER 13—PARTICULAR REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Sec. 1333. National high school and college debate topics

(a) The Librarian of Congress shall prepare compilations of pertinent excerpts, bibliographical references, and other appropriate materials relating to:
   (1) the subject selected annually by the National University Extension Association as the national high school debate topic and
   (2) the subject selected annually by the American Speech Association as the national college debate topic.

In preparing the compilations the Librarian shall include materials which in his judgment are representative of, and give equal emphasis to, the opposing points of view on the respective topics.

(b) The compilations on the high school debate topics shall be printed as Senate documents and the compilations on the college debate topics shall be printed as House of Representative documents, the cost of which shall be charged to the congressional allotment for printing and binding. Additional copies may be printed in the quantities and distributed in the manner the Joint Committee on Printing directs.


Historical and Revision Notes
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Foreword


In compliance with 44 U.S.C., Section 1333, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Researcher and Reference Services Division of the Library of Congress prepared this bibliography to assist high school debaters in researching the topic. This bibliography is intended to assist debaters in the identification of further references and resources on the subject. In selecting items for inclusion in this bibliography, the Library of Congress has sampled a wide spectrum of opinions reflected in the current literature on this topic. No preference for any policy is indicated by the selection or positioning of articles, books, or websites cited, nor is the Library’s disapproval of any policy, position, or article to be inferred from its omission.

The bibliography was prepared by Valerie S. Cervantes, Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch, Molly Higgins, and Sundeep Mahendra of the Knowledge Services Group, CRS, and by Leroy Bell, Jr. and Darren R. Jones, of the Researcher and Reference Services Division, Library of Congress, under the direction of project team leader Elizabeth Larson, with assistance from Jill Wilson and Jerry W. Mansfield.

We wish the best to each debater as they research, prepare, and present arguments on this year’s topic.

Mary B. Mazanec, Director
Congressional Research Service
Introduction

The 2018–2019 high school debate topic is: “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.” The topic is selected annually by ballot of the delegates from the National Catholic Forensic League, the National Debate Coaches Association, and the National Speech and Debate Association, all organized under the umbrella organization, the national Federation of State High School Associations.

This selective bibliography, with brief annotations, is intended to assist debaters in identifying resources and references on the national debate topic. It lists citations to journal articles, books, congressional publications, legal cases, and websites. The bibliography is divided into six broad sections: Landmark Legislation, Types of Admissions, Workforce Impact, Fiscal Impact, Social and Political Impact, and Public Safety Impact.

Summary

The purpose of the bibliography is to provide students with a brief overview of information related to the 2018–2019 high school debate topic.

This compilation is not intended to provide complete coverage of the topic. Further research on the topic may be accomplished at high school, public, and research libraries.

In addition to the resources included in this bibliography, there are many more international organizations, U.S. government agencies, and non-governmental organizations that provide information on the debate topic and sub-topics on their websites. Debaters are encouraged to consult library resources as well as the internet for their research.
Landmark Legislation

Overview

Books

The author examines the different roles the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals have played in presiding over immigration cases. She traces how their distinctive institutional settings have affected their judicial decision-making in immigration law as those institutional settings and immigration legislation have evolved over the years.

This reference text presents a compilation of primary sources such as court cases, legislation, and presidential remarks that tracks the major laws regulating immigration and naturalization in order to provide “a historical overview of U.S. immigration and naturalization policies . . . [that] inevitably blend several essential elements: economic interest, foreign policy, racial values, and a sense of national identity—who should be allowed to be ‘an American.’”

From *Calvin’s Case* (1608) that described the British view of citizenship to the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on an interpretation of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the author presents principal primary documents with contextual essays to help readers understand the thought process behind the development of U.S. immigration legislation and policy throughout America’s history.

A comprehensive historical account of the politics surrounding immigration policies from the colonial period to today. The author shows how local and state level policies affected immigration, and how various non-state actors influenced the direction of those policies.

Reports

This is the first chapter in a Pew Research Center report on the impact of immigration on U.S. society in the last century. It reviews the historical immigration trends that brought about new immigration laws and policies from 1920 to the present. Included is an interactive graph that charts the major U.S. immigration legislation and executive actions from 1790 to 2015, and compares them over time to the percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign born.

The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) was the first legislative attempt to comprehensively address the issue of unauthorized immigration. In this article, the authors describe the key points of IRCA and how they were borne out of a series of debates and compromises between lawmakers that lasted over a decade. The authors break down the major elements of IRCA, and trace the impact and challenges the U.S. government faced while trying to implement IRCA over the past two decades.


A timeline that reviews the changes in U.S. immigration legislation and policies from the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act to the 2013 comprehensive immigration reform proposal from the Obama administration and select Senators.


A list of the major U.S. immigration laws starting from the 1970 Naturalization Act to the 2006 Secure Fence Act. It provides summaries of the provisions established by each of the laws listed.


Overview of the major immigration laws that created and impacted the Immigration and Naturalization Service (1940-2003), as well as the federal agencies that preceded and succeeded it. Also included is a historical overview of major events and policies that shaped the agencies' mission over the last century.

**Selected Specific Landmark Legislation**

The following resources give examples of how a single piece of legislation can significantly shift the debate around immigration policy. This list is not intended to be a comprehensive list of immigration laws in the United States since the nation was formed.

**Articles**


On its 50th anniversary, an examination of the origins and impact of the U.S. Immigration Act of 1965, which greatly shifted the immigration policy from national-origins quotas (from mainly Northwestern Europe) to a system based on family relations with U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, or on needed skill sets, was undertaken.

Ngai explores how the Immigration Act of 1924 – the first comprehensive immigration law – “reconstructed racial categories.” She focuses on the invention of “national origins” (which applied mostly to northern and western Europeans), the concept of “ineligibility to citizenship” (which restricted Asians from immigration), and the “racialization” of the Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans (which affected Mexican immigration and assimilation even though they were not officially restricted like Asian immigrants).

Books

Reimers, David M. Still the Golden Door: the Third World Comes to America, 2nd edition. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1992. The author provides a historical survey of immigration to the United States from the end of World War II until the end of the Cold War. This book focuses on U.S. immigration policies intended to influence migration from third world countries and discusses ways in which these policies have or have not achieved their aims.

Reports

Cadman, Dan. “Lessons Learned by an Insider in the 30 Years Since IRCA.” Washington, DC: Center for Immigration Studies, Oct. 26, 2016. Available at https://cis.org/Cadman/Lessons-Learned-Insider-30-Years-IRCA. For years, the author supervised one of the teams in the Immigration and Naturalization Central Office that was tasked with implementing the new measures for “employer sanctions” as mandated by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. For the 30th anniversary of IRCA, the author shared his five main takeaways of IRCA from the decades that followed its passing. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.


Types of Admissions

Articles

Bernal, Rafael. “What is the Diversity Visa Lottery?” The Hill, Jan. 28, 2018. Available at http://thehill.com/latino/370879-what-is-the-diversity-visa-lottery. This explains how the diversity visa lottery works to allow people from countries with low immigration rates to the United States the chance to apply for a visa. Applicants are vetted the same way as are immigrants applying for work, travel and student visas.
Available at http://lsr.nellco.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1465&context=nyu_lewp.
The authors contend that U.S. temporary labor visa rules do not allocate visas efficiently, do not adequately protect domestic workers, and expose migrant workers to exploitation. To address these problems, the authors urge that a firm’s right to hire a foreign worker should be “unbundled” from the worker’s right to reside and work in the country. The authors propose that pre-contract visas should be auctioned to firms, which could then trade them on a secondary market, with ownership of visas then transferred to workers when an employment contract is signed.

Clemens and Postel report that multiple benefits in a preliminary study of Haitian workers’ filling seasonal agricultural jobs in the U.S.: very large economic benefits, including increasing the value of Haitians’ labor 15-fold; roughly equal division between the two countries of these economic benefits; and benefits that directly benefit poor Haitian households.

The author contends that “a bureaucratic jungle” threatens the reliability and success of the H-2A visa program in supplying temporary foreign agricultural workers, especially for California. The article reports that mature and ripe crops go unpicked due to backlogs and delays in processing H-2A applications by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Labor. “Many farmers are not surprised that the H-2A program is stumbling over its own bureaucracy.”

This article argues that family-friendly visa policies attract highly skilled immigrants regardless of their own visa circumstances and that recent immigrants who have entered via kinship ties are economically productive. According to the authors there are no compelling reasons that new restrictions on family-based visas ought to accompany loosening restrictions on employment visas.

Ellison contends that after returning-worker exemptions in the H-2B visa program expired in late 2016, halving the number of visas to 66,000 nationwide, the reduction of low-skilled jobs filled by H-2B workers meant that fewer higher-wage management positions are available for native workers and that American businesses that can’t get H-2B workers are forced to close or reduce operations. The article reports that a 2011 study from the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy found that every additional 100 H-2B workers resulted in an additional 464 jobs for Americans.

The authors contend that the H-1B visa system is outdated because employers are required to specify a geographic “area of intended employment” in a Labor Condition Application, even though, in contemporary job markets, the physical location of a skilled worker is less important than ever before. The article recommends changing current visa laws to reflect the mobility of the modern workforce.

Analyzing data from the National Survey of College Graduates, the author finds that temporary visa holders have voluntary job change rates similar to those of natives with similar characteristics, but that data from temporary workers who acquire permanent residence suggest that mobility is reduced by about 20%. The author tentatively concludes that applicants “pay a small but not large professional price for permanent access to the U.S. labor market.”


The article argues that family unification is a good economic value for the United States. The author uses three economic models of migration or labor markets not generally applied to the visa debate to explain why there is no sharp distinction in how much immigrants earn based on whether their visas are family-based or employment-based.


Forty percent of U.S. PhDs in science and engineering are earned by foreign national temporary visa holders. Focusing specifically on students from China who have earned PhDs in the U.S. under the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (CSPA), the author argues that their visa restrictions prompt them to do less post-doctoral training than natives. Four to eight years after graduation, the author reports, CSPA beneficiaries earned 9% more than their native counterparts, published fewer research articles, were less likely to work in academia, and produced more patents.

**Books**


The authors provide an overview of current immigration law and discuss its complexity. They propose revising the visa system to expand employment-based visas for both skilled and unskilled workers and to eliminate the diversity program. They offer suggestions for systems that better track foreign nationals who overstay temporary visas and try to remain in the United States permanently.


This two volume encyclopedia includes entries on asylum, employment visas, family reunification, green cards, guestworker and contract labor policies, labor supply, legal status, refugees, student visas, temporary protected status, and visa overstayers.


This volume explores the mutual benefits of fair migration policies to migrants, destination countries, and origin countries. It examines the challenges of migration policymaking and includes case studies and lessons learned from both destination and origin countries.
Reports


This study examines a variety of abuses that occur in recruitment of foreign workers to enter the U.S. on H-2A (agricultural) and H-2B (nonagricultural) visas. Abuses during recruitment include third-party recruiters charging workers prohibited fees; failing to provide wage and other information about jobs; and providing false information about job conditions. The report identifies specific recommendations for federal interagency coordination to reduce abuses and reduce the risk of ineligible employers being approved to hire workers.


This report examines the guest worker programs of thirteen countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, South Korea, Spain, and the United Kingdom. It provides an overview of foreign immigration systems and guest worker visa policies.


This report examines the different legal approaches to immigration, citizenship, and border control taken by thirteen countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom. It provides overviews of the countries’ approaches to immigration, overstays, paths to citizenship, and border security.

**Websites**


Refugees (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) Available at https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees. This U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website provides information on types of refugee status, eligibility determination, the refugee process, security screening, and filing for permanent residency.


Visitor Visa (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs) Available at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html. Provides information on Business Visitor Visas (B-1), Pleasure, Tourism, Medical Treatment Visitor Visas (B-2), and the Visa Waiver Program. Includes sections on visa denial and ineligibility.
Workforce Impact

Impact on Wages

Articles

Birgier, Deborah P. “Immigration, Occupations, and Native Wages: Long Time Trends in the U.S.” Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Vol. 51 (Oct. 2017): 41-55. Two different types of multilevel models cast doubt on immigration affecting native wages, and suggest that this negative view of immigration might be overstated.


Kelly, Amita. “FACT CHECK: Have Immigrants Lowered Wages For Blue-Collar American Workers?” National Public Radio (Aug. 4, 2017). Available at https://www.npr.org/2017/08/04/541321716/fact-check-have-low-skilled-immigrants-taken-american-jobs. The report finds that it is true that wages for low-wage workers have declined while the hourly wages of high-wage workers rose. However, there is disagreement over whether an influx of immigrant labor caused or contributed to declining blue-collar jobs and wages.


The migration response to state and local variations in minimum wages in the United States is investigated. The findings show that a one dollar difference between two areas’ real minimum wage is associated with more migration of low-skilled workers towards the location with the lower minimum wage. However, according to the authors, the minimum wage does not influence the migration decisions of high-skilled workers.

Mason, Patrick. “Immigration and African American Wages and Employment: Critically Appraising the Empirical Evidence.” *Review of Black Political Economy*, vol. 41, no. 3 (Sept. 2014): 271-297. Available at [https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs12114-014-9182-1.pdf](https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs12114-014-9182-1.pdf). The paper finds that for African Americans as a whole, immigration may have little effect on mean wages and probability of employment. However, there is some evidence that immigration may have had an adverse impact on the labor market outcomes of African Americans belonging to low education-experience groups.

Pandey, Manish and Amrita Ray Chaudhuri. “Immigration-Induced Effects of Changes in Size and Skill Distribution of the Labor Force on Wages in the U.S.” *Journal of Macroeconomics*, vol. 52 (June 2017): 118-134. Quantitative results indicate that immigration increases the relative average wages of the skill intensive sector. Further, real wages of all workers increase due to reduced prices caused by the increased size of the labor force.

Peri, Giovanni. “Immigrants, Productivity, and Labor Markets.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 30, no. 4 (Fall 2016): 3-30. Available at [https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.30.4.3](https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.30.4.3). Peri discusses the evolution of economic models used to describe the effects of immigration on labor markets. His research shows that immigrants to rich countries have been generally balanced between college and non-college educated. This, along with the adjustment of demand and technology, imply that immigration’s effects across the United States’ entire economy on relative and absolute wages have been small.


Books


Hanson, Gordon H., William R. Kerr, and Sarah Turner. *High-Skilled Migration to the United States and Its Economic Consequences*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2018. This volume addresses how the inflow of foreign workers has effects on innovation and productivity, wage inequality across skill groups, and the behavior of multinational firms.


Reports


Camarota, Steven A. “The Impact of Large-Scale Immigration on American Workers. Testimony Prepared for Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest.” Washington, DC: Center for Immigration Studies, Mar. 15, 2016. Available at https://cis.org/Impact-LargeScale-Immigration-American-Workers. Camarota theorizes that immigrants benefit from the income they get by working in this country, but there is no body of research indicating that immigration substantially increases the per-capita GDP or income of
natives. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.


This Brookings Now web blog gives an overview of issues related to immigration and its impact on the U.S. economy, wages, and the American workforce.

**Impact on Employment**

**Articles**


Borjas writes that immigration redistributes wealth from those who compete with immigrants to those who use immigrants—from the employee to the employer. And the additional profits are so large that the economic pie accruing to all natives actually grows.


The American Community Survey is used to examine the fact that foreign STEM graduates have much lower self-employment rates than their non-STEM counterparts. The paper finds empirical support for differing earnings opportunities as a partial explanation for this gap.


The author provides a quantitative assessment of the economic contribution of unauthorized workers to the U.S. economy.


Frum argues that many economists say that immigration does not harm working Americans but the truth might be more complicated than they say it is.


This article reviews work that examines how growing heterogeneity in the composition of the workforce may beneficially or harmfully affect the production of goods, services, and ideas, especially in regional economies.

This article reviews what research by economists says about how immigration affects workers. It first covers two common “wrong” models of immigration before explaining the “right” model. The Cato Institute generally favors fewer restrictions on immigration.

Lofstrom analyzes recent U.S. data to examine how immigrants during the last 15 years have contributed to entrepreneurship through self-employment and earnings. It aims to address the questions of how do immigrants contribute to recent U.S. self-employment trends. The Cato Institute generally favors fewer restrictions on immigration.

Orrenius writes that immigration is a net positive for the U.S. economy. She concludes that it lowers the wages of competing workers, while raising the return to capital and the wages of complementary workers. The immigration surplus goes primarily to the owners of capital, which includes businesses, landowners, and investors.

An analysis of immigration policy effects on wages, native unemployment, and factors for growth which are the areas of highest concern and debate in the public discussion.
Available at http://www.rmmagazine.com/2014/03/01/immigration-in-the-workplace/.
The article discusses immigration compliance practices and related enforcement that should concern companies of all sizes and industry affiliation.

This is a presentation of state-level data showing the relationship of immigration with unemployment, with wages, and low-skilled workers and discusses the findings of studies about the economic consequences of immigration.

Books

This work examines the economic impact of immigration and immigration policies over the past century.

Borjas writes that, in the grand scheme, immigration has not affected the average American all that much. But it has created winners and losers and in the end immigration is mainly just another government redistribution program.
A wide ranging discussion that includes claims that immigrants take American jobs and are a drain on the American economy is contained in this book.

The impact of migrant workers on the low-skilled American workers is explored in this volume. It also examines the ethical use of migrant workers and how immigration reform will impact them.

The author says that failed workplace enforcement policies have been a magnet for unauthorized aliens coming to the United States for jobs which decreases the employment of native workers. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.

Among other things, Kerr argues that talented migration drives the knowledge economy in the United States.

This is a collection of articles on the economic determinants and consequences of international migration, with a specific chapter devoted to the association between immigration and labor market outcomes in the U.S.

Several explanations for differences in STEM entrepreneurship between college-educated native-born and foreign-born workers are investigated. Also explored are reasons for differences in entrepreneurial participation among foreign-born workers.

Reports

This paper reviews the literature on historical and contemporary migrant flows, yielding insights on migrant selection, assimilation of immigrants into U.S. economy and society, and the effect of immigration on the labor market.

Basso and Peri present important correlations between immigration and labor market outcomes of native workers in the United States.

The findings of this report tell a story of how the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program immigrants will affect the overall employment prospects of young, native-born workers.

This is a discussion of the implications related to government data collected in December 2014 showing 18 million immigrants living in the U.S. who arrived in January 2000 or later, but only 9.3 million jobs being added over this time period. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.

A review of scholarly literature and government data on immigration’s contribution to economic growth find that it boosts economic growth and expands America's workforce, encouraging more business start-ups.

The effects of immigrants on local labor demand, due to the increase in consumer demand for local services created by them are studied in this paper. This effect can attenuate downward pressure from immigrants on non-immigrants' wages, and also benefit non-immigrants by increasing the variety of local services available. For this reason, immigrants can raise native workers' real wages, and each immigrant could create more than one job.

Using estimates of government data the Pew Research Center estimates that unauthorized immigrants, who make up 5% of the U.S. civilian labor force, was virtually unchanged from 2009 to the official end of the Great Recession.

The authors contend that as large numbers of baby boomers begin to retire, given today’s slower population growth, workforce growth will happen primarily through immigrants and their children.

Hearing on the proposed “Legal Workforce Act,” which would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require an employer to attest, during the specified verification period for recruiting or hiring, and under penalty of perjury, that the employer has verified that an individual is not an unauthorized alien. The bill would also expand the E-Verify system and apply it to all U.S. employers.
Websites

Available at https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/permanent-workers.
A federal government website set up to provide immigrants who seek employment based on their job
skills with information about permanent work visa preference categories.

Filling Skills Gaps

Articles

2017): A16.
President Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to review immigration laws in
regards to employment and the issuance of work visas.

(Online), (Dec. 6, 2017).
Available at http://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/363561-to-spur-growth-us-must-welcome-more-
highly-skilled-immigrants.
Griswold contends that America’s immigration system needs a major overhaul. His opinion piece says the
U.S. is falling behind other countries in admitting immigrants that might spur the economy because the
current immigration system does not allow for more high-skilled immigrants.

Islam, Asadul, Faridul Islam and Chau Nguyen. “Skilled Immigration, Innovation, and the Wages of
The paper examines the effects of skilled immigration on wages that can be credited to immigrants’
contribution to innovation.

The impact of skilled immigrants on the employment structures of U.S. firms using matched employer-
employee data is studied in this article.

(Fall 2017): 449-460.
This is a review of how the timing and skill sets of immigrants between 1970 and 2014 could not have
been responsible for wage declines and includes other evidence at the local level that implies immigration
is not associated with wage declines for non-college workers. The Cato Institute generally favors fewer restrictions on immigration.

Books

Cohen, Gail A. *Immigration Policy and the Search for Skilled Workers: Summary of a Workshop.* Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2015. This is a summary of the proceedings of a fall 2014 workshop that focused on how immigration policy can be used to attract and retain foreign talent.

Hagan, Jacqueline Maria, Rubén Hernández-León, and Jean-Luc Demonsant. *Skills of the “Unskilled”: Work and Mobility Among Mexican Migrants.* Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2015. This book presents the findings of a five-year study that draws on research, including interviews with Mexican migrants. It examines these migrants’ lifelong human capital and identifies mobility pathways associated with the acquisition and transfer of skills across the migratory circuit.

Reports

Batalova, Jeanne and Michael Fix. “Through an Immigrant Lens: PIAAC Assessment of the Competencies of Adults in the United States.” Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, Feb. 2015. Available at https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/PIAAC-Immigrant-Adult-Profile.pdf. The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is a large-scale direct assessment of working-age adults’ literacy and numeracy. This report by the Migration Policy Institute discusses the results. It contends that many immigrant adults lack literacy skills which help account for widening income inequality.


“Immigration Policy That Works.” Arlington, VA: Committee for Economic Development, June 14, 2017. Available at http://www.ced.org/reports/immigration-policy-that-works. This policy brief concludes that if U.S. immigration policies are more targeted to workers with skills that are in short supply, immigrant workers will not displace native-born workers or bid down their wages, stimulating greater economic growth and better meeting the needs of all citizens.

The attributes of immigrants, including their socio-demographic characteristics, geographic distribution, and current education levels and training are detailed in this report to provide context for a comparison to native-born workers.

Websites


This website informs immigrants that they may be eligible for this visa preference category if they are skilled workers, professionals, or fit into other employment subcategories.

Fiscal Impact

Expenditures

Articles


This is a graduate level economics paper. It presents a number of formulas to address the cost of immigration in the U.S. labor market. It is an attempt to present a more nuanced set of formulas than are presented by George J. Borjas in his graduate level textbook Immigrant Economics.


This fact sheet includes concise answers to questions like “How much do immigrants contribute to the economy?” and “Do immigrants take jobs away from American workers?” and “Do immigrants depress wages for American workers?”

Books


This book covers economic theories of immigration in language that is suitable for introductory-level college students and students in disciplines other than economics. While it is not specific to the United States, the examples do often draw on research from the United States.


This report divides economic and fiscal impacts of immigration. A large part of the economics section focuses on employment and wage impact of immigration. It also includes a section on wider production, consumption, and economic growth impacts. The fiscal section looks at federal, state, and local costs.
Reports

The report estimates that the fiscal cost of immediately deporting the approximately 750,000 people currently in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program would be over $60 billion to the federal government along with a $280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade. The Cato Institute generally favors fewer restrictions on immigration.

According to this report, the overall impact on the U.S. economy of unauthorized aliens is small. The modest net gain that remains after subtracting U.S. workers’ losses from U.S. employers’ gains is tiny; and if one accounts for the small fiscal burden that unauthorized immigrants impose, the overall economic benefit is close to zero. A substantial increase in spending on border and interior enforcement could easily cost far more than the tax savings generated from reducing the number of unauthorized aliens in the United States.

This document provides select examples of fiscal and economic impacts of immigrants at the state, local and regional levels. The fiscal studies typically examine income and sales tax contributions of foreign-born, compared to costs of education, health care and corrections. A few examine broader economic impacts such as job creation and business development of the foreign born.

Includes spending by state and local governments (broken down by education, health care, and law enforcement) as well as federal assistance (broken down by education, health care, and law enforcement).

Includes questions used to estimate how changes in U.S. immigration policy, such as increasing H-1B visas or providing conditional nonimmigrant status for unauthorized residents, might affect the federal budget, based on tax revenues and expenditures such as health benefits and social security. It also includes a list of specific cost estimate reports on select bills.

Available at https://www.cbo.gov/publication/53409.
S. 1615 and H.R. 3440 would increase budget deficits by $25.9 billion over the 2018-2027 period. It would also cost $1 billion providing higher education assistance over the 2018-2022 period.

*S. 1615 and H.R. 3440 would increase budget deficits by $25.9 billion over the 2018-2027 period. It would also cost $1 billion providing higher education assistance over the 2018-2022 period.*

**Revenues and Economic Growth**

**Articles**


Low-skilled immigrants represent a significant fraction of employees in services like housekeeping. This paper finds that low-skilled immigration decreases the time that high-skilled women spend on housework and increase the amount they spend on housekeeping.


Foreign-born workers specialize in occupations intensive in manual-physical labor skills while natives pursue jobs more intensive in communication-language tasks. This mechanism can explain why economic analyses find only modest wage consequences of immigration for less educated native-born workers.


This paper examines how international students impact domestic enrollment, focusing on a unique boom and bust in international matriculation into U.S. graduate programs from 1995-2005. Overall, foreign students appear to increase domestic enrollment. This positive effect is linked to cross-subsidization, whereby high net tuition payments from foreign students help subsidize additional domestic students. This positive effect is pronounced at public universities where foreign students face tuition rates that are 2-3 times higher than those for domestic students.


This paper estimates that by their 10th year in the U.S., refugees are cost-neutral. Summing over 20 years, they pay $21,195 more in taxes than benefits received.


The authors found that, in part because of immigrant demographics, immigrants contributed twice as much to the Medicare Trust Fund as they took out. In contrast, U.S.-born people generated a $30.9 billion deficit. They contend that policies restricting immigration may deplete Medicare’s financial resources.
Books

West argues that the relatively contained costs of immigration are outweighed by immigrants' contributions to economic, intellectual, social, and cultural life in the United States. His chapter goes on to describe those costs and benefits.

Reports

This report looks at the effects of several proposed immigration reform proposals on the economy, housing, and wages. According to the authors, an influx of working-age immigrants spur economic growth, reduce federal deficits, help the housing sector, and mitigate the effects of an aging population. By contrast, preventing unauthorized immigration without providing replacement labor would cause severe damage to the economy.

This article looks at labor and unauthorized resident aliens in the United States and Mexico. Their model shows that the presence of unskilled, undocumented immigrants reduces labor costs, creating more jobs. Increasing deportation rates and tightening border control weakens the low-skilled labor market, increasing unemployment of native low-skilled workers. Legalization decreases the unemployment rate and increases income of native workers.

H-1B visas are supposed to increase innovation by allowing U.S. companies to hire workers with exceptional skills that the company could not easily find in a native worker. Many H-1B visas, however, are awarded to workers who do not perform innovative work (e.g., technical support). According to the authors, there is some evidence that H-1Bs crowd out the employment of other workers, leading to lower average employee earnings, but higher company profits.

The average cost of resettling a refugee in the United States between 1990 and 2014 was $15,000. While there are many factors at play, such as language barriers and age, the National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that refugees pay $21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits over their first 20 years in the U.S.

Hong and McLaren’s working paper examines if immigrants do more than add to the labor supply. They find that immigrants add to the demand for and variety of local services. Using U.S. Census data from 1980 to 2000, this article shows that each immigrant creates 1.2 jobs for local workers, most of them going to native workers.


This report looks at the difference between the economic contributions of immigrants and naturalized U.S. citizens, to determine whether providing a path to citizenship for certain immigrant groups could spur economic growth in the United States. The analysis suggests that it can, although the cost of naturalization and the complexity of the process discourage eligible immigrants from naturalizing.


Immigrants create and own businesses at rates higher than non-immigrants. This is especially true of engineering and technology companies.

**Social and Political Impact**

**Immigrant Integration**

**Articles**


The authors examine the economic assimilation of childhood immigrants to the United States, including the relationship between English language proficiency and skill requirements for selected occupations.


This article discusses the issues that arise when investigating the socioeconomic integration of immigrants and their U.S.-born descendants, including, but not limited to levels of schooling, English proficiency, and acquisition of skills needed to succeed in the U.S. labor market.


Based on a survey of fourth and fifth grade students in a high-immigrant community, this article is an examination of how these children view the concept of “Americans” and includes a discussion of the role of education in formation of these views.

Based on the assumption that marginalized individuals are less politically engaged, the authors of this article examine cases of politically active undocumented immigrants in comparison to the practice of citizenship by others in the United States.

Books

The authors of this book report the results of a major study on the social, cultural, political, and economic lives of second generation immigrants in New York City. They examine how this group compares to first generation immigrants and to those with native-born parents. The authors contend that today’s second generation immigrants are able to combine elements of American culture with elements of their parents’ cultures in ways that increase their upward mobility.

Available at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/21746/the-integration-of-immigrants-into-american-society.
This book offers a wide-ranging summary of research available regarding how immigrants and their descendants are integrating into American society, focusing on areas such as education, occupations, health, and language.

Reports

This resource provides a broad overview of English proficiency in relation to languages spoken in households within the United States.

Political and Civic Engagement

Articles

Bloemraad examines three models of citizenship acquisition and presents a fourth which highlights the social aspects of immigrant political incorporation.

Available at https://www.rsfjournal.org/doi/full/10.7758/RSF.2017.3.4.08.
This study examines the relationship between migration status of parents and the political and community engagement of their adult offspring.

While the number of Mexican immigrants leaving the United States has surpassed those entering the country in recent years, the issue of Mexican immigration continues to be a hotly contested political issue. Drawing from this concept, the authors of this article examine the relationships between conceptions of American identity and attitudes toward immigration and immigration policy.

To examine how identity and social exclusion influence civic engagement, the authors conducted a study with individuals of Hispanic descent in three low-income neighborhoods in large U.S. cites.

Available at https://www.rsfjournal.org/doi/full/10.7758/RSF.2016.2.3.03.
Drawing from the view that “immigrants are also emigrants,” this article examines the political attitudes of immigrants in the United States in relationship to social and political ties to their country of origin.

**Reports**

This paper examines the political and ideological identifications of immigrants and descendants of immigrants, particularly fourth-generation Americans. Their findings point to statistically insignificant differences between the political views of native-born Americans and immigrants. The Cato Institute generally favors fewer restrictions on immigration.

**Public Safety Impact**

**Visa Screening and Security**

**Articles**

Outlines the history, legal process, and security screening efforts for refugees coming to the United States.

Arthur discusses findings published in a report by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ). He argues for more screening of foreign nationals coming to the United States in the interest of national security. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.


Marks, Kile. “Hashtag Terrorist: Can Social Media Screenings at the Border Prevent Immigrant Terrorist Attacks.” Georgetown Immigration Law Journal, vol. 31 no. 2 (2017), 453-457. After the attack in San Bernardino and Paris attacks of 2015, there was an increased focus on the role of social media accounts in vetting. This article discusses the impact of reviewing incoming migrants’ social media accounts would have in increasing public safety.

Books

Skogberg Eastman, Cari Lee. Immigration: Examining the Facts. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, 2017. See esp. chapter 5, “Immigration and Crime/Public Safety.” This book looks at specific claims about immigration and the origin of these claims, along with empirical research about these claims. Chapter 5 discusses questions concerning Immigration and Crime / Public Safety.

Reports


The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs has released a proposal to start reviewing social media accounts of potential migrants. This blog post argues in favor of the proposal. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.


**Interactions with Law Enforcement**

**Articles**


Armenta, Amada and Isabela Alvarez. “Policing Immigrants or Policing Immigration? Understanding Local Law Enforcement Participation in Immigration Control.” *Sociology Compass*, vol. 11, no. 2 (2017). This article discusses the ways local law enforcement contribute to immigration enforcement and how this affects how they interact with immigrant communities. The article suggests research should be directed towards reviewing how the deportation system reflects in the immigrant communities’ views of law enforcement.

Using the 2008 National Survey of Latinos, this paper examines the Latino communities’ support for the criminalization of immigration.


Coon, Michael. “Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population.” Journal on Migration and Human Security, vol. 5, no. 3 (2017): 645-666. Available at http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/download/102/93. This article discusses the impact of Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act implementation in Frederick County, Maryland. The author discusses the potential racial profiling by law enforcement and the interaction of the Hispanic community with law enforcement within Frederick County, Maryland.

Donato, Katharine M. and Leslie Ann Rodriguez. “Police Arrests in a Time of Uncertainty: The Impact of 287(g) on Arrests in a New Immigrant Gateway.” American Behavioral Scientist, vol. 58, no. 13 (2014): 1696-1722. This article explores the difference in reporting before and after the implementation of 278(g) in Davidson County, Tennessee based on police narratives from 2005 to 2010. The article focuses on how the language used in the narratives mixed with the current political climate impacted difference in the narratives.


Macías-Rojas examines how the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) was shaped not just by immigration reform debates, but by the War on Crime. She looks at how policies of mass incarceration may have impacted the criminal provisions of the IIRIRA.

This article defines “sanctuary cities” and offers sociological explanations how the “sanctuary” policies affect crime in the community.

With the increase of federal prosecution of crimes of migration, this article poses the question if crimes of migration are the best use of criminal law. Using criminal law theory, political theory, and federal sentencing norms, this article discusses the boundaries between criminal laws and immigration.

This article is a meta-analysis addressing the question: are immigration and crime related?

Examines the relation between the perception of Latino economic and political threat and support for greater policing among different racial groups.

This law review article describes how the federal, state and local levels are policing immigrant communities. It focuses on the gap between law enforcement officers’ capacity of harm and the victims’ rights.

Examines public perception of immigrant criminality by analyzing coverage of immigration in the Virginia Gazette.

Examines the relationship between deportation activity and violent crime in Metropolitan Statistical Areas within border patrol sectors.

Examines the relationship between the perception of criminal threat from undocumented immigrants and measures of threat and public support for enhanced control against undocumented immigrants.
Books

Ackerman, Alissa R. and Rich Furman. *The Criminalization of Immigration: Contexts and Consequences*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2014. This book explores key ways in which immigration is criminalized, and examines how problems within immigration become political tools. The authors seek to understand the process of “othering” members of the immigrant population to exact social control, and they provide the impetus for why states have enacted, or have attempted to enact state level immigration laws that make it nearly impossible for the undocumented to live within the boundaries of these states.

Dowing, Julie A. and Jonathan Xavier Inda, eds. *Governing Immigration through Crime: A Reader*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. This collection of essays examines different ways in which the lines between immigration control and criminal law enforcement in the United States have blurred over the past two decades.


Provine, Doris, Monica Varsanyi, Paul Lewis, and Scott Decker. *Policing Immigrants: Local Law Enforcement on the Front Lines*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2016. The authors trace the transition of immigration enforcement from a primarily federal endeavor to a “patchwork system” of local police. They link the variation in responses to this transition to the local politics of communities and argue that immigration enforcement at this level undermines the core mission of policing.

Ventura Miller, Holly and Anthony Peguero. *Routledge Handbook on Immigration and Crime*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2018. This book examines the relationship between immigration and crime by presenting key issues from both historical and current perspectives. The volume includes a range of topics related to immigration and crime, including the links between immigration rates and crime rates, nativity and crime, the social construction of the criminal immigrant, policy decisions and their relation to perceptions of the criminal immigrant, theoretical perspectives on immigration and assimilation, sanctuary cities, and immigration in the context of the “war on terror.”

Reports


In this report, Feere discusses the idea of the “otherwise law-abiding” unauthorized resident alien and outlines statutes other than property crimes or violent crimes that people in this group may violate. The Center for Immigration Studies generally favors more restrictions on immigration to the United States.


This report presents information on research related to immigration’s impact on public safety. The authors contend that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born citizens and that linking immigrants to criminality contributes to public fears that may undermine public safety generally.


This report discusses the intersections of national security and immigration policy. The authors suggest several policy changes that focus on identifying security threats without limiting the positive effects of immigration.


The authors outline the complexity of the label “sanctuary city” or “sanctuary jurisdiction.” They show the sometimes overlapping or conflicting policies of local law enforcement regarding immigration enforcement in four large cities. They argue that the actual operation of local law enforcement agencies and their work with immigration enforcement agencies must be researched, as it is more complex and nuanced than is often understood.


This fact sheet summarizes President Trump’s executive order signed on January 25, 2017, E.O. 13768. This order defines enforcement priorities and encourages state and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws. This order would allow the Department of Homeland Security to withhold federal funding from sanctuary cities. The American Immigration Council generally advocates for policies that support immigrants and place fewer restrictions on immigration.


Hearing to examine sanctuary cities as a threat to public safety with testimonies, letters, and statements from citizens, law enforcement, director of think tanks, and materials from members of the subcommittee.
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These resources are available for purchase at the GPO bookstore at https://bookstore.gpo.gov


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Price: $21.00

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Year/Pages: 2007: 16 p.; ill.
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