

In over half of the largest 25 metro areas, the IECR hovers very close to parity, measuring between 0.90 and 1.10. In only three metro areas—Phoenix, Minneapolis, and Denver—does the IECR go below 0.90; in eight metro areas it is above 1.10.

Two main factors explain this close relationship. First, immigrants are more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to be of working age. A higher share of the population in the labor force offsets cases where immigrants have lower wages.

Second, immigrants work in jobs across the economic spectrum, and are business owners as well. Although immigrants are more likely than U.S.-born workers to be in lower-wage service or blue-collar occupations, 24 percent of immigrants in the 25 metro areas work in managerial and professional occupations. Another 25 percent work in technical, sales, and administrative support occupations. In fact, in 15 of the 25 metro areas, there are more immigrants in these two higher-pay job categories taken together than there are in service and blue-collar jobs combined. And, immigrants are also entrepreneurs. Immigrants account for 22 percent of all proprietors' earnings in the 25 largest metro areas—slightly higher than their share of the population.

3. FAVORABLE EARNINGS AT THE TOP OF THE LABOR MARKET; DIFFICULTIES AT THE BOTTOM

At the high end of the economic ladder, immigrants earn wages that are broadly comparable to their U.S.-born counterparts in the same occupations. Immigrants working in the professions—doctors, engineers, lawyers, and others—earn about the same as U.S.-born professionals in almost all metro areas. The same is true for registered nurses, pharmacists, and health therapists, and for technicians.

At the low-end of the labor market, wages can also be roughly similar for foreign- and U.S.-born workers. However, in service occupations, most workers have a hard time making ends meet. Both U.S.- and foreign-born workers earn well below the median in almost every service occupation examined in this report—including guards, cleaning, and building services; food preparation; and dental, health, and nursing aides.

The clear challenge for service jobs is to raise pay for all workers, U.S.- and foreign-born alike.

Some blue-collar workers are in a similar position, with both immigrants and U.S.-born workers showing low annual earnings. In certain blue-collar occupations, however, immigrant workers earn considerably less than

their U.S.-born counterparts. In the 25 metro areas combined, for example, the median earnings for U.S.-born workers in construction trades is \$45,000, while the median for immigrants is just \$27,000. Although wages in blue-collar jobs have eroded in recent decades, in the early years of the post-World War II period several blue-collar occupations paid workers, primarily men without college degrees, family-sustaining wages. The discrepancy today between U.S.- and foreign-born earnings in these occupations thus presents a challenge: to raise all workers to the standard that has been set by some, as a means to improve pay for low-wage workers in the occupation and to protect higher-wage earners.

Unions have played an important role in raising pay in many areas, including some blue-collar jobs. By contrast, the relatively low unionization rate in service jobs helps explain the consistently low pay. Unions continue to play an important role in raising wages and equalizing differences in pay for all workers, documented or otherwise. Although undocumented immigrants are legally permitted to join unions, in practice unscrupulous employers have frequently found ways to take advantage of the status of undocumented workers to thwart their efforts.

In the 25 largest metro areas, the average unionization rate is lower for immigrants than for U.S.-born workers—10 percent compared to 14 percent. With immigrants playing a major role in the labor force, they are also playing a significant role in unions, making up 20 percent of all union members in the 25 largest metro areas.

A closer look at the five largest metro areas in the East—New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Atlanta, and Miami—reveals that the same experience applies to them. Economic growth and immigration generally go hand in hand; immigrants work in all occupations; those in managerial, professional, and technical occupations fare relatively well, those in service and blue-collar jobs less so. Atlanta experienced the biggest growth in immigrant share of the labor force and the fastest growth in its overall economy.

THE POLICY CONTEXT

The current recession has pushed up unemployment, prompting some to feel that sharp restrictions on immigration would help the economy. But, creating a climate that is hostile to immigrants would risk damaging a significant part of the country's economic fabric. Immigrants are an important part of

the economies of the 25 largest metro areas, working in jobs up and down the economic ladder. Immigration is highly responsive to demand—the immigrant share of the labor force increases with economic growth. Immigrants are part of the same economy as other workers, getting paid well in jobs at the top of the ladder and struggling in jobs in the economy's lower rungs.

While the immigrant labor force brings many benefits to the U.S. economy, it also presents political, economic and social challenges. This is especially true in the context of an extremely polarized economy, relatively low unionization rates, weak enforcement of labor standards, and a broken immigration system. Immigration has always been an important part of America's history, and it will continue to be a part of our future. Addressing these complex problems would be a better path for policymakers than wishing away immigration. This report presents an empirical look at the role of immigrants in the U.S. economy, in the hopes of informing a constructive public debate that will result in much-needed policy reform.

REVISION TO BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES FOR CERTAIN HOUSE COMMITTEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND THE PERIOD OF FISCAL YEARS 2010 THROUGH 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, under section 325 of S. Con. Res. 13, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, I hereby submit for printing a revision to the budget allocations and aggregates for certain House committees for fiscal year 2010 and the period of fiscal years 2010 through 2014. This adjustment responds to House consideration of the bill H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009. A corresponding table is attached.

This revision represents an adjustment for the purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. For the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, this revised allocation is to be considered as an allocation included in the budget resolution, pursuant to section 427(b) of S. Con. Res. 13.

BUDGET AGGREGATES

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal years—		
	2009	2010	2010–2014
Current Aggregates: ¹			
Budget Authority	3,668,601	2,882,149	(?)
Outlays	3,357,164	3,002,606	(?)
Revenues	1,532,579	1,653,728	10,500,149
Change for Tax Extenders Reform Act (H.R. 4213):			
Budget Authority	0	4,548	(?)
Outlays	0	4,548	(?)
Revenues	0	-6,049	4,688
Revised Aggregates:			
Budget Authority	3,668,601	2,886,697	(?)
Outlays	3,357,164	3,007,154	(?)
Revenues	1,532,579	1,647,679	10,504,837

¹ Current aggregates do not include the disaster allowance assumed in the budget resolution, which if needed will be excluded from current level with an emergency designation (section 423(b)).

² Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2011 through 2014 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2009		2010		2010–2014 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current allocation:						
Ways and Means ¹	0	0	6,840	6,840	37,000	37,000

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES—Continued

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2009		2010		2010–2014 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Change for Tax Extenders Reform Act (H.R. 4213):						
Ways and Means	0	0	4,548	4,548	4,574	4,574
Revised allocation:						
Ways and Means	0	0	11,388	11,388	41,574	41,574

¹ Does not include allowable adjustments for SGR.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 8 p.m. and for the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCOTT of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, December 10.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, December 16.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, December 16.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, December 16.

Mr. PITTS, for 5 minutes, December 10.

Ms. FOX, for 5 minutes, December 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4948. A letter from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (RIN:

0578-AA49) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4949. A letter from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (RIN: 0578-AA46) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4950. A letter from the Vice Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Recommendation 2009-2, Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility Seismic Safety; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4951. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of the completion of a public-private competition for identification card and administrative functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4952. A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Amendment to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations — Administrative Ruling System (RIN: 1506-AB03) received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4953. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulation S-AM: Limitations on Affiliate Marketing; Extension of Compliance Date [Release Nos. 34-60946; IA-2946; IC-28990; File No. S7-29-04] (RIN: 3235-AJ24) November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4954. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Final Model Privacy Form under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act [Release Nos.: 34-61003, IA-2950, IC-28997; File No. S7-09-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ06) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4955. A letter from the Director, OSHA Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revising Standards Referenced in the Acetylene Standard [Docket No.: OSHA-2008-0034] (RIN: 1218-AC08) received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4956. A letter from the Department Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Device; Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices; Classification of the Cardiac Allograft Gene Expression Profiling Test Systems [Docket No.: FDA-2009-N-0472] received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4957. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled: "Mercury Compounds: Potential for Conversion to Elemental Mercury for Export"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4958. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Wheatland, Wyoming) [MD Docket No.: 08-3] received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4959. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Dubois, Wyoming) [MB Docket No.: 09-83] received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4960. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2009-26: Eligibility of Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) to be Furnished Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2753(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4961. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting weekly Iraq Status Reports for the August 15 to October 15, 2009 period; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4962. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Performance Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4963. A letter from the Chairman and President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the Center's audited financial statements for the period ending September 28, 2008 and September 30, 2007, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 761(c); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4964. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2009, as required under OMB Circular No. A-136, Section I.6, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4965. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sea Turtle Conservation; Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic [Docket No.: 0910141365-91366-01] (RIN: 0648-AY21) received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4966. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Protections for the Gray Wolf in the Western Great Lakes in Compliance with Settlement Agreement and Court Order [Docket No.: FWS-R3-ES-2009-0063] received November 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4967. A letter from the Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, USFWS, Department of