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Immigration in regards to Economics, Labor, and Reform

Poster: [Poster.pptx](#)

Abstract

In the last two presidencies, the United States economy has gone through much development regarding immigration and labor. Many key factors of growth in the economy can be identified pertaining to immigration, such as job fulfillment, innovations, and more productivity. Immigrants arrive into the United States with impressive skills that are needed for many occupations. They also run many of their own businesses and provide food and hospitality services for everyone. A common question that many US citizens wonder is “How do immigrants advantage the United States economy?” By bringing in new skills and ideas that had not been discovered by United States citizens, the United States is provided with the vast majority of their business owners, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers. This research project will respond to the recent effects on America’s economy due to immigration their labor experiences by exploring academic journals, videos, statistical data, news articles, and personal interviews. Different studies have shown the dangers of potential long-effects that can arise from the absence of assistance with these occupancies. Currently, the United States is in great need of labor assistance which immigrants provide an abundance of help in. Due to Covid-19, the economy and job market have drastically changed. Job shortages are increasing, and immigrants strive to take these positions and provide America with efficiency. Unfortunately, it is quite a difficult process for immigrants to find a well-waged job position, as they go through many risks to provide for themselves and/or their family, and prevent them from poverty or violence. So, it is necessary that immigrants are able to find opportunities to have a chance at a more successful and safer life. To sum it up, the United States economy has had several effects from immigration and the labor that it encourages, and this project will explore the factors of these topics.

Ashraf, Rasha, and Rina Ray. “U.S. Skilled Immigrant Employment and Public Firms.”

International Review of Accounting, Banking & Finance, vol. 9, no. 1, Spring 2017, pp.

13–37. Access Number: 126509816

Rasha Ashraf is a Professor at Georgia State University and Rina Ray is a Professor at the University of Colorado Denver. This essay was one of the two professor's many research projects upon firms and human capital in America. In this essay, the professors discussed skilled immigrants and their effects upon their host country. They explain the reasoning for why big firms want to hire skilled immigrants and the positive effects they have upon that firm. That effect of the skilled immigrants on different big firms is what leads to economic growth in a country. This source is very helpful because it follows a similar thesis of this essay. It is filled with information and data about immigrants and their effects on their host country's economy. This source was chosen over the hundreds of others in the KSU library because of how well the topic provided specific information about the true economic effects. Also, because it was found in the KSU library, it is more likely to be a trustworthy source.

Huang, Xi, and Cathy Yang Liu. "Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Economic Development: A Local Policy Perspective."

Journal of the American Planning Association, vol. 85, no. 4, Oct. 2019, pp. 564–84.

DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2019.1634485

This academic journal was written by Xi Huang and Cathy Yang Liu. Xi Huang is from the University of Central Florida, and is known to have many articles published about immigration entrepreneurship and economic development. Her co-author, Cathay Yang Liu, is a Georgia State University Professor who has also written several works pertaining to Immigration and economic studies. This article explains how immigrants develop the U.S. economy through

entrepreneurship. The authors came to this conclusion by studying current government policies and experiences of other immigrants. Whilst broadly explaining the advantages to immigrant entrepreneurship, they state that “Immigrant entrepreneurs as a whole play a vital role in the U.S. economy through business formation, job creation, and revenue generation (Fairlie & Lofstrom, 2015; Kerr & Kerr, 2016). They also serve as an important source of community development and neighborhood vitalization in distressed urban localities” (Bowles & Colton, 2007; Liu, Miller, & Wang, 2014). This article is specifically focused on explaining the personal needs immigrants have through these processes. It is necessary to point out the significance immigrants provide to the United States economy from starting businesses. For this project, this quote is extremely necessary to help explain that there is much more to immigrants forming their own businesses. They are able to build job systems for other immigrants and Americans along with bringing in new ideas and concepts. Adding this into the research project will show the inclusion and credit that immigrants deserve. This emphasizes the importance of how immigrants contribute to developing and building the United States economy.

De Vasconcelos, A. L. Dias, and R. N. Pettigrew. “COVID-19’s Disruption of Canada’s Seasonal

Agricultural Worker Program: Impact on Food Supply Chain, Farmers, Temporary Foreign Workers, Families, and Consumers.”

Journal of Family & Consumer Sciences, vol. 113, no. 1, Jan. 2021, pp. 35–39.

DOI: 10.14307/JFCS113.1.35

De Vasconcelos was a Research Assistant at Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Canada and Pettigrew, and an Assistant Professor at the Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal University. Together they studied the disruptive effects that COVID-19 has had specifically on Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and more abstractly the impact that temporary foreign workers (TWFs) have on the success of Canada's agricultural process. Upon their introduction and throughout they stress the amount of people affected throughout the web of industries with claims similar to this, "TFWs play a crucial role in Canada's agricultural industry, accounting for more than 60% of all TFWs coming to Canada every year, filling approximately 60,000 jobs (Government of Canada, 2020a) to plant and harvest fruits and vegetables" (De Vasconcelos and Pettigrew, 2021). Quotes like this really drive home the fact that so many individuals, industries and governments depend on immigrants, legal or not, for labor. Tying that into the impacts of the world changing pandemic gives an updated look at how immigration benefits everyone especially in a time of need.

Solman, Paul. "The US has a 'thirst' for immigrant workers. Why do so many struggle to get legal status?" *YouTube*, uploaded by PBS NewsHour, 20 May 2021,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5lvR8tvImg>.

Paul Solman is a journalist for US economics, business, and politics. He has been a journalist for PBS NewsHour since 1985. The video was made by PBS NewsHour who is a reliable American public broadcasting service. It was also uploaded recently which means the news is relevant and it falls into the time frame for this essay. In the video, it discusses America's need for immigrant

workers and how covid was bringing down the number of immigrants which lead to an effect on America's economy. The video questions why the US is making it so difficult for immigrants to gain legal status when America needs them for labor. This is related to the topic because it discusses the difficulties that immigrants go through just trying to get a normal American job. It also explains the reasons for why immigrants are needed in America and how they benefit America's economy. This source was chosen because it is a video which makes it easy to view and more personal. It is also made by a reliable news source so the information is trustworthy.

Peri, Giovanni, and Reem Zaiour. "Labor Shortages and the Immigration Shortfall | Econofact."

Econofact.org, 11 Jan. 2022,

econofact.org/labor-shortages-and-the-immigration-shortfall.

Econofact's website released an article discussing the shortages of immigrants and immigrant jobs since 2019. Two authors performed research on this topic; Giovanni Peri and Reem Zaiour. Giovanni Peri is an economist and a professor at the University of California. He teaches economics, and also studies immigration research. Peri has conducted research on immigration studies and has been featured on many articles such as the Wall Street Journal and the UC Davis Global Migration Center's web page. The second author, Reem Zaiour, is currently a PhD student attending the same institute. She is mainly focusing on research of migration and the labor and economic effects from it. Reem has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the American University of Beirut, which is located in Lebanon. This source is specifically covering information regarding

difficulties immigrants are facing with finding jobs in the last three years. Lots of statistical data has been used to compare percentages since Covid-19 began. The authors state, “By the end of 2021 there were about 2 million fewer working-age immigrants living in the United States than there would have been if the pre-2020 immigration trend had continued unchanged” (Peri and Zaiour). Currently, the amount of jobs have decreased drastically for immigrants, and even in general. Some data is displayed on charts explaining foreign-born workers and the amounts of job shortages. Food and hospitality related jobs are suffering the most. The authors are arguing the potential short and long-term effects that could arise from this ongoing problem. Overall, this source displays a connection to the research project because it is within the last two presidencies, and explains a deeper understanding of the job shortages from a decreasing amount of immigrants coming into the United States.

CNBC, Lee “Can The U.S. Economy Survive Without Immigration?”

Youtube Uploaded Jul 30, 2020 by CNBC

<https://youtu.be/Qr7kqqAJgaI>

Nathan Lee, a journalist for CNBC, compiles data from several various sources including Jessica Vaughn, Director of Policy Studies at the Center for Immigration Studies and Neeraj Kaushal, an associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Together the authors argue specific topics that have yet to be considered in this annotated bibliography. They explain some of the ways that immigrant labor is able to stay competitive and more so take up the slack of unwanted jobs. They explain a trend of success or return, “Studies show that in

the first 10 years of their arrival, 30 percent of foreigners actually leave. And among temporary workers, a much larger proportion leave. Those who do well, those who assimilate well stay here, those who don't do well go back. And that's the kind of system we really want” (Neeraj Kaushal). This allows for a more steady path of progression in industries and *should* allow legislation to help out these permanent workers. They also bring up the argument of economic competition and the advantage the country will lose if it allows other countries to benefit from the foreign labor it thrives off of. Kaushal explains the slow looming threat, “If immigrants are not allowed to work here or if temporary workers are not allowed to come to the US, companies will move to Canada so that they can bring these temporary workers to Canada. So America's loss would be Canada's gain in the short term” (Neeraj Kaushal). Overall they seem to agree that the benefits of immigration reform, helping out the foreign laborers of America will in the long run be advantageous to the future of America as a nation.

Rouse, Cecilia, et al. “The Economic Benefits of Extending Permanent Legal Status to Unauthorized Immigrants.” *The White House*, 17 Sept. 2021, www.whitehouse.gov/cea/written-materials/2021/09/17/the-economic-benefits-of-extending-permanent-legal-status-to-unauthorized-immigrants/.

On The White House’s website, an article about economic advantages of legalizing immigrants was posted on September 17, 2021. This was written by CEA Chair Cecilia Rouse, and the advisors Kevin Rinz, Lisa Barrow, and Evan Soltas. Dr. Cecilia Rouse is from Del Mar, California, and is serving as the 30th chairperson of the Council of Economic Advisors. She and the other three authors

have been found in many news articles and journals pertaining to immigration, citizenship and economic studies. In this article, Rouse and her advisors argue the benefits of allowing unauthorized immigrants to reside in the United States. They state that by doing this, there is more room for efficiency, productivity, innovations, and diversity. Rouse argues how more labor opportunities would be offered by legalizing unauthorized immigrants. In the article, Rouse claims that “Critically, permanent legal status would allow these currently unauthorized immigrants to pursue and accept jobs for which their skills are well-suited, rather than being restricted to particular sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, construction, and leisure and hospitality, where employers often do not insist on legal status and where wages are lower on average” (Rouse). Many statements with statistical evidence back up this claim, and support the fact that immigrants would be able to grow their careers with an authorized legal status. When these factors are applied, productivity is increased, which results in economic growth. This source is a great addition to this project because it supports the thesis statement by showing economic effects from immigration and labor, and emphasizes the advantages.

Smith, Rebecca “Immigrant workers and worker's compensation: The need for reform”

27 March 2012 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22033>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ajim.22033>

In this scholarly article the author, Rebecca Smith, delves deep into the policies and statutes that disenfranchise so much of America’s essential workforce.

Throughout the article, Smith brings up specific cases of mistreatment of foreign

workers, highlighting the different ways that immigrants may be vulnerable in the workforce. “For unauthorized workers, immigration status can be a potent source of potential abuse and exploitation by supervisors that may, in fact, contribute to more accidents. (“Many workers live in a constant state of anxiety, fearing they will be deported and lose everything, perhaps even their children. Supervisors, both Latinos and Americans, can force workers to work beyond their normal duties” [Marin et al., 2009])” (Smith). In many of her arguments Smith points out the predatory and exploitative nature that businesses tend to have on their ‘more expendable’ foreign workers, whether it be criminally low wages, no overtime, or real physical harm. The government seems to be unhelpful in most situations as well, as she points out, many of the government programs intended to help Americans and specifically *working* Americans do just that, help native born American citizens get a leg up above the ones putting in hundreds of hours of intensive, dangerous labor to scrape by. Many statistical analyses back up the factors Smith touches on and put into perspective how many people these issues really impact. In the end she offers possible resolutions that could be incorporated into modern law and benefit the workers and in turn the businesses.

In conclusion, after researching many different sources and studying the topic of immigration in America within the last two presidencies, there are two main categories that occur commonly. The first main point is how immigrants help to grow the US economy. Throughout research, there have been multiple articles that discuss the economic benefits that the US receives from immigrants. From those sources, it is quite evident just how dependent

America really is on immigrants. From all the immigrant entrepreneurs who provide jobs for others to the mass amount of immigrants in the workforce, it is shown that America relies on these immigrants in order to sustain maximum productivity and expand the economy. There are also many sources that all relate to this topic and back the argument of why America needs immigrants.

The other main focus of this essay will be about the effects that many government programs and policies have on the individuals who make up the immigrant workforce. Within the last two presidencies there has been a great push to make accommodations for these workers, such as permanent residence and social security that they have contributed towards but missed out on. The sources in this annotated bibliography have to support this dive into the specific policies that hold those individuals back and what America can do as a country to accommodate this integral part of their workforce. Some sources discuss the possibility of migration of the immigrant workforce and the possible implications of that scenario which help to illustrate the competitive edge The US gains from the extra workers. Overall these sources facilitate an in-depth analysis into their arguments to include a lot of detail while remaining centered on the two main topics as they relate to immigration.