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ENGL 1102

24 March 2022

## **Research Proposal for 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 is responding 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.*

### **Problem and Objective:**

Do you enjoy the affordability of labor, housing, and fresh produce? Without the millions of documented and undocument immigrants in America, the prices of these goods and services would greatly increase. As America's economy grows greater and greater by the day, the need for immigrant labor increases significantly. Without them, who will fill the countless jobs of cashiers, truck drivers, janitors, and cooks? Yet still the American government proceeds to pass laws that discriminate against immigrants and they allow ICE to remove immigrants from America every day. In an interview with an undocumented immigrant, Paul Solman states, "So, they contribute to the economy in production and in taxes, which pay for benefits the undocumented can't always use." It is also mentioned in the interview that 50-70% of undocumented immigrants pay taxes. However they do not seek the benefits other citizens get like medicare, Section 8, and food stamps.

This essay will be focused on the statistics behind the real economic benefits undocumented and documented immigrants provide for America. The goal of this essay is to provide evidence to all of America that there is a need for immigrants. It doesn't matter where someone comes from, in a capitalist country like America everyone who is willing to work should be accepted. In fact, it's been proven that the immigrants looking for jobs end up having

to work longer and harder shifts than most Americans at a far lower rate of income most of the time. These jobs are not the jobs that your average American would strive to work at, so if that's the case then why do so many people in America dislike the fact that immigrants are filling those unwanted jobs. That is why this essay aims to provide the real facts about immigrants in the American workforce and its actual effect on the economy.

### **Review of Literature:**

A common controversy among people living in the United States is “do immigrants help or hurt the economy?” The first main pattern we address is the side of immigrants benefiting the United States’ economy. The first source discusses the skills immigrants have that connect to economic growth. It ties into the themes of the second source because in source two, the author is stating how immigrant skills have improved the economy short-term and long-term. The source states that “Skilled immigrants make significant contributions to the long-term growth and development of their host-countries”(Ashraf and Ray 14). This emphasizes the realness of the growth immigrants add economically. Source three is relating to these themes but more specifically is from the time of Covid-19 beginning. Lastly, source four brings another perspective to the pattern and explains the downsides of not allowing immigrants to come into the United States and help the economy. In the source, this quote was used “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). This quote describes how America’s economy could suffer from not having the assistance of skilled immigrants.

One of the main concerns about immigrants migrating into America is that people think they will lower America's economy. The argument that immigrants are stealing jobs from Americans is often cited and throughout this essay there is evidence contrary to that popular belief. In an essay by Rasha Ashraf and Rina Ray, they discuss the real impact of immigrants on the economy rather than making a surface level assumption. They draw their conclusions based on prior data and studies of immigrants' impact on their host country. For example, the text states, "An incremental increase of \$85 million in R&D expenditure is associated with a 37% increase in the number of new skilled immigrants hired relative to other firms that hire skilled immigrants. In other words, hiring of skilled immigrants is correlated with firm-level capital investment in research and innovation." This evidence backed by data shows that there have been signs of economic improvement that most likely is an effect of the increased number of skilled-immigrant workers. Most of the research has supported this argument, however there is also research that explores other factors.

The evidence given connects to theme two by explaining personal effects immigrants go through when trying to maintain a career path. It discusses how the more skills an immigrant has can help prevent difficulties with occupations. This source relates to theme two because it discusses the challenges that immigrants must go through in order to receive a job. The expectations for immigrant workers are slowly going up which is slowly making it more difficult for these immigrants to get a job. The next source is a popular source that was used to further knowledge on current job shortages with immigrants. It connects to these other sources in Pattern 2 because it is describing the effects the economy has on specific immigrants when finding a job. Source 3 and 4 connect well by both discussing this issue during Covid-19.

The pandemic brought out a lot of issues in immigration policies in terms of public welfare programs, and workers rights. This pattern addresses inequalities between foreign and native workers as it develops possible solutions for these same issues. Since the COVID-19 pandemic the US and many other parts of the world have seen overwhelming job shortages. This lack of work has contributed to supply chain issues and in turn higher prices for virtually all products across all industries. While this job shortage may be seen as an opportunity for a great migration of immigrant workers, other factors regarding safety of workers and the clarity of their legal rights seem to be interfering. As for the workers who stayed through the pandemic, “immigrants continued to work in high-risk-exposure environments while simultaneously having less access to health care and economic relief and facing discrimination” (Đoàn, Lan N., et al.). These workers that, due to circumstance, worked through the crisis were abused and unheard by the very government that they were benefiting in a time of desperate need. This discrepancy looks bad on the US as a prospective foreign worker and can ultimately be bad for the US. As far as workers' individual safety there is a huge difference between that of undocumented and legal workers. Whether it be from underreporting or lack of safety and oversight there is an unsettling difference in the overall treatment and regard for workers safety.

**Questions attempting to answer:**

1. What would the United States Economy look like without immigrant labor?
2. What are the personal impacts of working in the United States for these immigrant workers?
3. How have recent events including presidential changes and COVID-19 affected immigration and labor factors?

**Procedures/Methods:**

The research methods have been split according to the topics to emphasize them as well as possible. For example, the topics of immigrant labor and the economy we have taken a more statistical approach looking at what industries most immigrants go into and the resulting economic rewards. The statistics we include will allow for the reader to visualize the drastic differences between foreign and native workers. The other main topic discussed is how individual immigrants are affected by working in the US and for this topic we include interviews, surveys and various personal input. This topic takes an anecdotal approach finding individuals who have had experience immigrating and or working as an immigrant. These inclusions allow the reader to sympathize with the larger population of immigrants seeking work or refuge by getting them to root for the few who were specified.

The main topics split up and go into more detail such as the effects COVID-19 has had on the immigrant population and the specific skills they may bring that are advantageous in our economy and industries. These subtopics give a much more detailed analysis of the issues currently facing the population of working immigrants in the United States. Also included are possible solutions for some of these issues in regards to immigration reform at a national level and turning the negative nature of the process into an inviting opportunity for millions.

**Data Collection Methods:**

The quantitative portions included are statistics sourced from previous studies and second hand research. This portion will discuss specifically the various industries most common for immigrants, economic relief and public benefits, and economic rates of change in relation to that of immigration. For some personal and up to date evidence, a survey and two interviews

conducted first hand are also included. These will address issues faced throughout the process of immigrating and obtaining citizenship as well as everyday life and possible problems with social security, drivers license/identification etc.

### **Data Analysis:**

The data included is information collected with three different approaches. There is statistical analysis of the economic factors and outside influences while popular sources included give a fleshed out personal perspective of individual immigrants. The included interviews and survey give current unbiased input to compare to the research. This will allow for a thorough analysis of the material and help identify unseen patterns that will help in the writing process of the essay. The included evidence will argue different sides of immigration and offer possible solutions to problems facing that community. Solutions included will not be to let all immigrants in immediately, but to slowly integrate prospective workers and find solutions to problems one by one rather than rushing to address everything at once.

### **Schedule:**

3/26 - 3/28, work on recommendations from peer review.

3/28 - 3/31, review statistic tables in articles to evaluate the more promising ones.

3/31 - 4/2, send in final proposal.

4/3 - 4/8, work on ideas of basic arguments and outline structure.

4/8 - 4/11, review literature for promising quotes & review each of their arguments.

4/15 - 4/19, write out draft paragraphs halfway through planned outline.

4/19 - 4/23, finish writing draft all the way to the end.

4/23 - 4/25, finish up flaws/confusion in arguments and beginning final edits.

4/25 - 4/30, finish final edits to research essay and submit.

Drafts	Responsibilities
Planning and Layout Revision	
Draft 1 3/24/22	Will Ross- areas 1-3 Dylan Stone- areas 4-5 Maryella McCown- areas 6-8
Draft 2	Group: Completed poster and added to schedule and proposal
Draft 3	Group: Finished any minor additions to project
Peer Review	Group: collaboratively reviewed all comments on peer review
Revision	Maryella: Completed schedule Will: fixed anything that was mentioned in our peer review Dylan: added last minute touches helped finish editing
Final Submission	Maryella: Submitter for proposal

### **Bibliography:**

#### **Main Topic:**

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>.

#### **1. Subtopic:**

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

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

## **2. Subtopic:**

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](https://econofact.org/labor-shortages-and-the-immigration-shortfall).