Why Should You Care About Immigration?
By Eric A. Ruark, Director Of Research | July 2015

Immigration has a significant impact on JOBS.

- While the official unemployment rate in June 2015 was relatively low at 5.3%, the federal government uses a broader measurement known as the U-6 to more accurately gauge unemployment. The June U-6 unemployment figure was 10.5%, accounting for 16.4 million people who are unemployed, have been forced to take part-time work, or have recently given up searching for a job entirely.¹

- There are almost 94 million people in the United States of working age who are “not in the labor force.” This is an historic high. These people are not counted as officially “unemployed,” which is how politicians can claim that the economy has “recovered.”

- There were 7.1 million more people working in June 2015 than in June 2005, while the working age population increased by 25.8 million, more than three and a half times as much.

- Today, the U.S. is experiencing its lowest labor participation rate in the last 35 years. Only 62.6% of the working-age population is employed.

- 55 million native-born Americans between the ages of 18 to 64 are not in the labor force.

- Most of the new jobs that were created since the Great Recession began in December 2007 have been low-paying and/or part-time. As of June 2015, there were still fewer full-time workers than in November 2007.²

### Employment Indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 2005</th>
<th>June 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working-age Population</td>
<td>225,911</td>
<td>250,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>141,638</td>
<td>148,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>7,486</td>
<td>8,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in Labor Force</td>
<td>76.8 million</td>
<td>93.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• For every new job created between 2000 and 2014, the U.S. added two new immigrants to its population. 89% of these immigrants were of working-age when they arrived.³

• The Center for Immigration Studies found that all net new jobs went to immigrants from November 2007 to November 2015.⁴

• The unemployment rate for the native-born is higher than for the foreign-born for those with a high school diploma or less—a group that competes directly with illegal aliens for jobs.

• The Pew Hispanic Center estimated that there were 8.1 million illegal aliens in the U.S. workforce in 2012, 5.1% of the workforce.⁵

### Unemployment Rates for Foreign-Born and Native-Born (2014 annual averages⁶)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total 16+</th>
<th>Foreign-born</th>
<th>Native-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School Diploma</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate, no College</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate Degree</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree and Higher</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Continuing an historic trend, the employment opportunities of Black Americans are disproportionately harmed by mass immigration. The unemployment rate for Blacks is more than double that for Whites, and almost a third of black teenagers are unemployed.

### Unemployment by Race and Age, June 2015⁷

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Age</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen (16-19)</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Teens</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Occupations with high percentage of illegal alien workers⁸ (2012)

- 34% Drywall Installation
- 30% Farm Laborers
- 27% Roofers
- 25% Maids
- 24% Painters (construction)


⁸ Written testimony of Jeffrey S. Passel submitted to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, March 26, 2015, “Unauthorized Immigrant Population.”
Immigration has a significant impact on **EDUCATION**.

- 30% of illegal alien adults have less than a 9th grade education compared to 2% of U.S. born adults.\(^9\)

- 18% of illegal aliens have not completed high school (6% of U.S. born adults).\(^10\)

- In 2012, 10.5 million students from immigrant-headed households attended public schools in the United States, comprising 21.5% of all students.\(^11\)

- One in four public school students speak a language other than English at home. Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken (62%).\(^12\)

- Children with at least one illegal alien parent made up 7% of students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade in the U.S.\(^13\)

- In AZ, CA, CO, NV, and TX, over 10% of school age children have at least one illegal alien parent.\(^14\)

- Educating the children of illegal aliens in grades K-12 costs U.S. taxpayers $51.3 billion a year.\(^15\)

- All of the projected increase in the number of students in U.S. public schools until 2050 will be the children of immigrants.\(^16\)

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9 Ibid.
10 Passel and Cohn, “A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States,” p. 11.
11 Ibid.
15 Passel and Cohn, “A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States,” p. iii.
Immigration has a significant impact on **POVERTY**.

- Almost one-third of all children living in poverty are children of immigrants. Immigrants and their children account for one-quarter of all U.S. residents living in poverty.  

- Illegal aliens have lower incomes than other immigrants and they do not make significant gains the longer they stay in the United States.  

- 57% of households with children headed by an immigrant (legal and illegal) used at least one welfare program in 2009, compared to 39% of native households.  

- Families with illegal alien members are the fastest growing family group in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

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Immigration has a significant impact on **HEALTH CARE**.

- One-third (32%) of immigrants are uninsured, compared to 12 percent of the native-born population.  

- Between 2000-2010, new immigrants and their children accounted for two-thirds of the increase in the uninsured population.  

- In 2010, of the approximately 47 million uninsured, 27% are foreign born, 22% are non-citizens.

- Almost half (48%) of immigrants and their children were uninsured or using Medicaid in 2013, compared to about a quarter of the native-born (27%).

- 42% of the growth in Medicaid enrollment from 2011 to 2013 was due to immigrants and their children.

- The Center for Immigration Studies estimated that the increase in Medicaid enrollment due to its use by immigrants and their children at $4.6 billion annually.

- About 60% of illegal alien are uninsured (twice the number of legal immigrants; 4 times the number of U.S.-born).

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23 Camarota, “Immigrants in the United States,” p. 3.
26 Camarota and Zeigler, “Immigrant Families Benefit Significantly from Obamacare,” p. 1
• Illegal aliens and their children account for 17% of the uninsured population.  

• The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that an amnesty would add 7.6 million illegal aliens to the public healthcare rolls under Obamacare.

**Immigration has a significant impact on TAXES.** (FAIR, 2010, except where otherwise noted)

• Illegal immigration costs U.S. taxpayers $113 billion annually. This is equal to $996 per household headed by a native-born resident.

• The Inspector General for the Treasury Department found that illegal aliens received refundable tax credits totaling $4.2 billion in 2010.

• FAIR estimates that in 2010, after deducing taxes paid by illegal aliens, the cost to U.S. taxpayers from illegal immigration was $99.2 billion.

• If illegal workers were replaced with legal workers, tax revenues would rise significantly and benefits paid to unemployed and underemployed legal workers would be reduced.

• According to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, approximately 10,000 illegal aliens filed tax returns in 2010. Estimates of the illegal alien population in the state are between 95,000 and 100,000.

• Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation estimated that it will cost $1.3 trillion to provide Social Security and Medicare benefits to illegal aliens granted executive amnesty by President Obama.

• Rector also estimates that illegal aliens would collect $23.5 billion in retroactive tax credits from the IRS.

**Immigration has a significant impact on WAGES.**

• According the AFL/CIO, real wages for American workers have remained stagnant for the past 35 years and the income gap has widened even as worker productivity and the GDP has continued to increase.

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32 “Illegal workers to file 10,000 tax returns in Minnesota this year,” Lacrosse Tribune, March 9, 2011 (http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/article_5d040fa4-49e7-11e0-81b1-001cc4c03286.html).
34 Ibid.
• Median weekly earnings of foreign-born in 2014 were $155 less than for native-born ($664 vs. $820). This creates a downward pressure on wages for all workers.  

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• Research has shown that the share of GDP attributable to immigrant (including illegal alien) labor is split between the immigrants and their employers.  

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• Wages for native workers in a particular occupation decline when immigrants enter that occupation in large numbers. Immigration reduces earnings for U.S. workers and increases profits for U.S. employers of immigrants. Native workers lose $402 billion overall in reduced wages per year due to immigration.  

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• In 1960, meatpacking workers earned 15% more than the average wage for manufacturing workers. In 2002, they were earning 25% less than the average manufacturing wage, and real wages for industry workers had dropped 45%.  

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• Los Angeles County has one of the highest concentrations of illegal aliens in the U.S. A 2010 report released by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles found that during the preceding decade the middle class had “eroded” as good paying jobs in the county had vanished. Over the past twenty years, the average worker saw a real wage drop of almost $2 per hour and wages were outpaced by rental costs.  

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• In Georgia, where the illegal immigrant share of the labor force went from about 4% to 7% from 2000 to 2007, a study by the Federal Reserve found that illegal labor caused a 2.5% wage drop overall and an 11% drop in construction wages over that period.  

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Immigration has a significant impact on the ENVIRONMENT.

• Between 1970 and 2014, the U.S. population increased from 203.4 million to 321.3 million, a 58% increase.  

• Between 1980 and 2014 the illegal alien population has more than doubled, and perhaps even tripled. In the late 1970s, government officials estimated there were between 3.5 and 5.0 million illegal aliens in the United States. Now there are between 11 and 13 million illegal aliens in the U.S.  

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• In 1970 the U.S. admitted 373,326 immigrants; 990,553 were admitted in 2013  

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• US total population will grow to almost 417 million by 2060 — 108 million more than in 2010.  

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• Immigration will account for about 80% of our population growth in the coming decades.\textsuperscript{45}

• Resource use is equally determined by the amount of resource use per capita and the size of the population. Rapid population growth is cancelling out gains per capita consumption. For example, water conservation has greatly improved over the past thirty years, but population growth has cancelled out these improvements and kept water use at the same unsustainable rate it reached in the 1980s, leading to chronic water shortage throughout the country and posing a threat to the safety of public water supplies.\textsuperscript{46}

