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## The Dilemmas and Issues of Immigration to United States of America and Globalization

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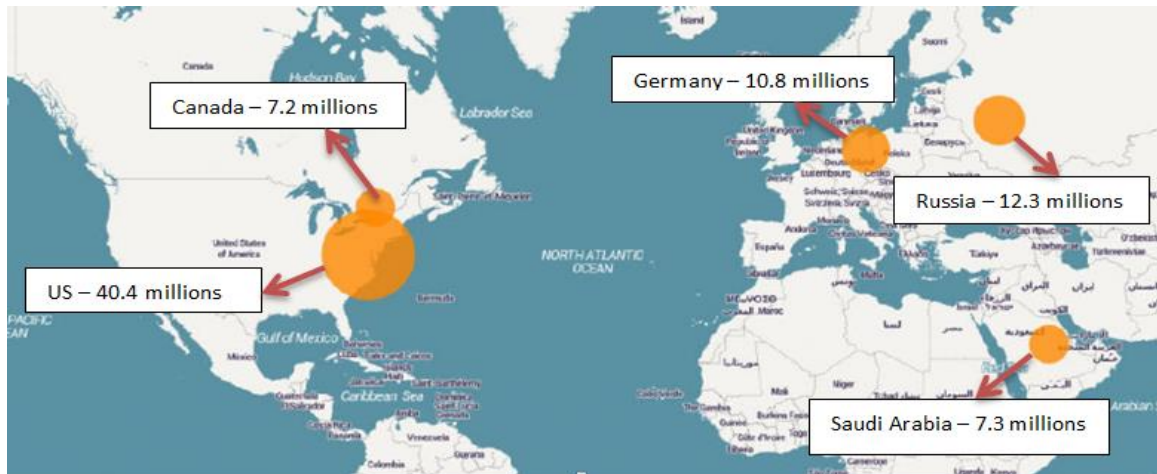
### Abstract

This paper deals with immigration to United States of America from all over the globe. The diversity of immigrants to this land of opportunity is a special feature and contributes substantially towards the economic, technological and social development of the country. The concentration of immigrants in some select States is discussed at length. The distribution of immigrants by their employment, wages, age, marital status and education is a special feature of this paper. The future trends of immigrants have been estimated and their distributions over various States worked out. The paper concludes with implications of immigration on the economy, employment, education and social benefits.

**Keywords:** Immigration, globalization, immigrants

### Introduction

The most fascinating fact is that about 20 percent of all international migrants reside in the United States, which accounts for less than 5 percent of the world's population. Irrespective of the rapid changing global economy, the United States continues to be the world's leader by far as the most popular destination for immigrants generally known as the foreign born population. . The country with the next largest number is Russia with 12.3 million



Known as the land of immigrants, diversity and opportunity, the United States of America has a total estimated population of about 320 million and 42 million foreign born population in 2015? The latest statistics of 2013 show that the total number of immigrants in this country was 41.3 million coming from all over the world. Nearly 41 million

immigrants lived in the United States in 2012—a historical numeric high for a country that has been a major destination for international migrants throughout its history. The U.S. total of 40.4 million immigrants including about 11.1 million illegal/ unauthorized immigrants represents 13% of the total U.S. population in 2011.

### Scope of Paper

The scope of the paper is limited to published data available from various sources. The paper compiles some of the most frequently sought-after current and historical facts and figures about immigrants in the United States and its different States. It answers questions such as: which countries are the main sources for immigration to the United States? The Labor Force characterizes covering their employment, unemployment, wages and some demographic features are discussed. How many unauthorized immigrants are in the United States? The future trends of total immigration have been estimated and their implications examined.

The sources of data used *inter alia* include Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the Center for Immigration Studies, the Pew Research Center, the Center for American Progress, Mexico National Population Council, Mexico National Institute of Statistics and Geography, the US Census Bureau, The American Community survey – 2012, and the US Department of Homeland Security.

### Some Statistical Facts on Immigration: 2001-2013

Data on immigration as collected from various sources for the period 2001-2013 is shown below. The same has subsequently been used for estimating future trends till 2020. The data shows clearly that the immigration population has grown from 31.5 to 41.3 million in 2013 – an increase of about 10 million over the period – an average of 0.75 million immigrants per year. The immigrants are, by and large, concentrated in four States, viz., California, New York, New Jersey and Florida but spread over 15 States out of a total of 50 States in the USA. The future trends indicate rising numbers obviously making the politicians and administrators think about it in terms of implications for various social benefits and infrastructure. The paper discusses these and other issues in details in the various sections to follow.

#### Immigrants in United States of America: 2001 to 2013

Year	Population (million)	Size of Immigrant Population (million)	Immigrant Share of Total Population (%)
2001	285.0	31.5	11.05
2002	287.6	33.0	11.47
2003	290.1	33.5	11.54
2004	292.8	34.3	11.71
2005	295.5	35.7	12.08
2006	298.4	37.5	12.57
2007	301.2	38.1	12.65
2008	304.1	38	12.50
2009	306.8	38.5	12.55
2010	309.3	40	12.93
2011	311.6	40.4	12.97
2012	313.9	40.8	13.00

2013	316.2	41.3	13.06
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### Some Select Immigrant Population Characteristics: 2012

The data collected by the Center for American Progress shows that there were 40.7 million immigrants comprising of 18.6 naturalized US citizens and 22.1 million non-citizens. Out of non-citizens, approximately 13.3 million immigrants were legal permanent residents; 11.3 million as illegal and the remaining were on temporary visas. The past decade saw a significant increase in the immigrants – an increase of 31.2% during 2000-2012. During this period, the immigrants increased from 31.1 million to 40.8 million. Interestingly, the number of immigrants has doubled since 1960 although still below its all-time high. While the immigrants were 5.4% of the total U.S. population, their share in 2012 rose to 13% which is below their share in 1890 – 15% of the US population.

Diversity being an important factor of immigration, it has no doubt changed over time. For example, while 75% of the immigrants in US were from Europe, their percentage declined to about 12% in 2012. Out of about 11.6 million immigrants in 2012, approximately 28% were from Mexico; 2.3 million from China, 2 million from India, 1.9 million from Philippines, 1.3 million from Vietnam and El Salvador, and 1.1 million from Cuba and Korea. Available data supports that immigrants are putting down their roots across USA than they were before.

Interestingly the educational background of immigrants is quite diverse. About 11.6% had a Master/Professional/Doctorate Degree as compared to 10.8% for the Natives. On the other hand, 69.4% of the immigrants had High School or equivalent compared to about 90% of the Natives. From demographic angle, the average age of immigrants was 42 years as compared to Natives having 35 years as the average age.

### Immigrant Population by State, 2013

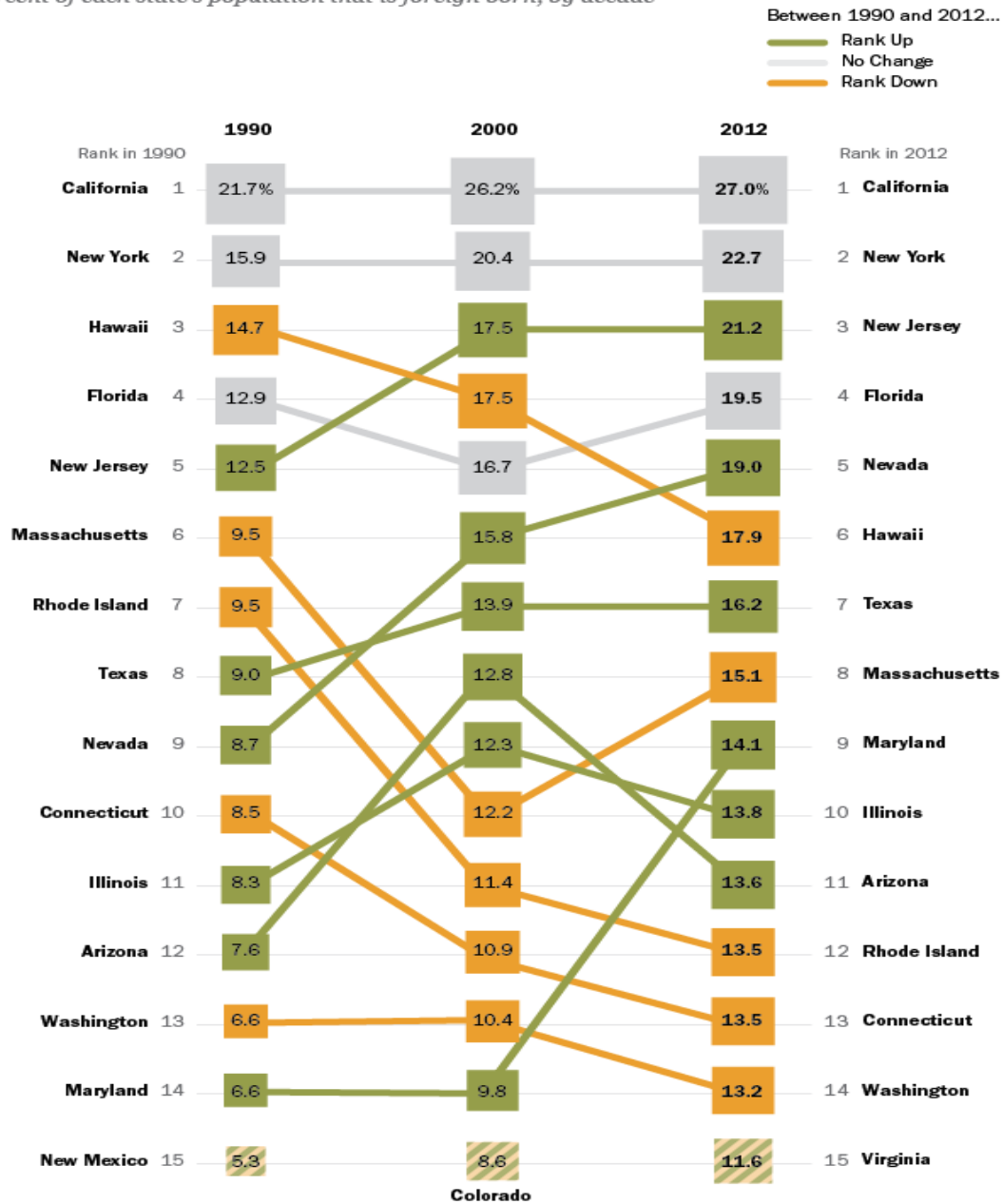
The data collected by the Center for Immigration Studies shows that while the US immigrant population recorded 41.3 million in 2013, the Asian, Caribbean and Middle Eastern immigrant populations grew the most since 2010. The Census Bureau recently released some of the data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). The data show that the nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) grew by 1.4 million from July 2010 to July 2013. The data also imply that 3.3 million new immigrants settled in the country in that same period.<sup>1</sup> These new arrivals were offset by return migration and deaths among the existing population. Some interesting findings of the survey results show that:

1. The immigrants (including the illegal) hit a record 41.3 million in July 2013, an increase of 1.4 million and 10.2 million since July 2010 and 2000 respectively. The Immigrants in 2013 were nearly double the number in 1990, triple the number in 1980 and quadruple than in 1970 when their number stood at 9.6 million. .
2. The sending regions with the largest increases in immigration population from 2010 to 2013 were South Asia (up 373,000, 16 percent growth); East Asia (up 365,000, 5 percent growth); the Caribbean (up 223,000, 6 percent growth), the Middle East (up 208,000, 13 percent growth); and sub-Saharan Africa (up 177,000, 13 percent growth).

3. The sending countries with the largest increases in immigration population from 2010 to 2013 were India (up 254,000, 14 percent growth); China (up 217,000, 10 percent growth); the Dominican Republic (up 112,000, 13 percent growth); Guatemala (up 71,000, 9 percent growth); Jamaica (up 55,000, 8 percent growth); Bangladesh (up 49,000, 32 percent growth); Saudi Arabia (up 44,000, 97 percent growth); Pakistan (up 43,000, 14 percent growth); and Iraq (up 41,000, 26 percent growth).
4. Between 2010 and 2013, four million new immigrants settled in the United States. However, 7.5 million immigrants have settled in the country since 2007 when the Great Recession began.
5. As a share of the total US population, total immigrants comprised of 13.1 percent (about one out of every eight), the highest percentage in 93 years as compared to 6.2 percent in 1980. On the other hand Immigrants comprised 16 percent of the adult population (18-plus) in 2013, nearly one out of every six adults.
6. Mexicans accounted for the largest immigrant population in the United States by far, with 11.6 million legal and illegal immigrants living in the United States in 2013. However, the number of Mexican immigrants in the country declined 1 percent from 2010 to 2013.
7. The number of immigrants from Europe has also since declined.
8. Interesting, States where the number of immigrants grew the most since 2010 were Texas (up 227,240); California (up 160,771); Florida (up 140,019); New York (up 85,699); New Jersey (up 81,192); Massachusetts (up 62,591); Washington (up 57,402); Pennsylvania (up 57,091); Illinois (up 47,609); Arizona (up 39,647); Maryland (up 38,555); Virginia (up 37,844); North Carolina (up 30,289); Michigan (up 29,039); and Georgia (up 28,020).
9. States with the largest percentage increase since 2010 were North Dakota (up 27 percent); West Virginia (up 17 percent); and Wyoming (up 14 percent). In South Dakota, Nebraska, and Idaho the immigrant population increased 10 percent. It grew 8 percent in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania and 7 percent in Iowa, Delaware, and Minnesota.
10. The 15 states where immigrants made up the biggest share of the population in 2012 account for about eight-in-ten (79%) of the nation's. The number of immigrants has risen so quickly in some parts of the country that states typically thought of as hubs of immigration, such as Arizona. While in 2000, immigrants made up 12.9% of Arizona's population, ninth-highest in the nation that year. By 2012, Arizona had dropped to 12<sup>th</sup>-highest, even though immigrants made up a higher share—13.6%—of the state's population. These 15 States with the highest share of immigrants in their respective populations may be seen in the following elaborate diagram/chart (BY JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD AND MICHAEL KEEGAN'S COMMENTS)

### While Immigrant Population Grows, Top Immigrant States Remain the Same

Percent of each state's population that is foreign born, by decade



Note: State ranks calculated prior to rounding  
 Source: Historical Census Bureau statistics on the U.S. foreign-born population, 1990 and 2000; Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)

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### Immigrants by Labor Force Characteristics, 2013

Based on the data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor force characters are discussed. These are collected as a part of the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the period 2013 covering about 60, 000 households. The foreign born are those who reside in

the United States but were born outside the country or one of its outlying areas to parents who were not U.S. citizens. The foreign born include legally-admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents such as students and temporary workers, and undocumented immigrants. The survey data, however, do not separately identify the numbers of persons in these categories. Some of the highlights from this data are:

1. In 2013, there were 25.3 million foreign-born persons in the U.S. labor force, comprising 16.3 percent of the total. (See Table 1 Statistical Appendix)
2. Hispanics accounted for 47.8 percent of the foreign-born labor force in 2013 and Asians accounted for 24.3 percent. (See Table 1) (Data in this news release for persons who are white, black, or Asian do not include those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Data on persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are presented separately.)
3. Foreign-born workers were more likely than native-born workers to be employed in service occupations and less likely to be employed in management, professional, and related occupations and in sales and office occupations. (See Table 4)
4. The median usual weekly earnings of foreign-born full-time wage and salary workers were \$643 in 2013, compared with \$805 for their native-born counterparts. (See Table 5) (Differences in earnings reflect a variety of factors, including variations in the distributions of foreign-born and Native-born workers by educational attainment, occupation, industry, and geographic region.)

**The Demographic Characteristics** the immigrant's labor force differs from that of the Natives. In 2013, men accounted for 57.7 percent of the immigrants, compared with 52.3 percent of the native labor force. By age, the proportion of the immigrant labor force made up of 25- to 54-year-olds (74.6 percent) was higher than for the native labor force (63.0 percent). Labor force participation is typically highest among persons in that age bracket. (See Table 1) .In 2013, nearly half (47.8 percent) of the immigrant labor force was Hispanic, and almost one-quarter (24.3 percent) was Asian, compared with 9.7 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, of the native labor force. About 17.7 percent of the immigrant labor force was white and 9.0 percent was black, compared with 74.4 percent and 11.7 percent, respectively, of the native labor force. In 2013, 24.3 percent of the immigrants labor force age 25 and over had not completed high school, compared with 4.8 percent of the native labor force. The immigrants were less likely than the natives who had some college or an associate degree—17.1 percent versus 30.1 percent. The proportions for immigrants and natives having a bachelor's degree or higher were more similar, at 33.8 percent and 37.5 percent, respectively.

**The Labor Force show that the** share of the U.S. civilian immigrant labor force was 16.3 percent in 2013, about the same as in 2012 but up from 13.3 percent in 2000. (See Table 1) In 2013, the labor force participation rate of the immigrants was 66.4 percent, compared with 62.7 percent for the natives. The participation rate for the immigrants was about the same as in 2012, while that for the natives continued to trend down. By gender, the participation rate of immigrant men was 78.8 percent in 2013, higher than the rate of 68.0 percent for native men. In contrast, 54.6percent of immigrant women were labor force participants, compared with 57.7 percent of natives. Among the major race and ethnicity groups, the 2013 labor force participation rates for immigrant was: whites (60.0 percent),



blacks (71.8 percent), Asians (65.1 percent), and Hispanics (68.6 percent) were little different from the prior year. In comparison, the participation rate for natives: whites (63.1 percent) declined in 2013, while the rates for blacks (59.5 percent), Asians (62.4 percent), and Hispanics (63.7 percent) showed little change. In 2013, immigrant mothers with children under 18 years old were less likely to be labor force participants than were natives mothers—59.7 percent versus 72.7 percent.

Labor force participation differences between foreign-born and native mothers were greater among those with younger children than among those with older children. The labor force participation rate of immigrant mothers with children under age 6 was 51.2 percent in 2013, much lower than that for native mothers with children under age 6, at 67.4 percent. Among women with children under age 3, the participation rate for the foreign born (46.7 percent) was 18.2 percentage points below that for native born mothers (64.9 percent). The labor force participation rates of immigrants and native-born fathers with children under age 18 were similar, at 93.6 percent and 92.6 percent, respectively. (See Table 2)

By region, the immigrants made up a larger share of the labor force in the West (23.8 percent) and in the Northeast (19.1 percent) than for the nation as a whole (16.3 percent) in 2013. In contrast, the immigrants made up a smaller share of the labor force than for the nation as a whole in the South (14.9 percent) and Midwest (8.4 percent See Table 6)

**The Unemployment Rate** of immigrants declined from 8.1 percent in 2012 to 6.9 percent in 2013, and the jobless rate for the natives fell from 8.1 percent to 7.5 percent. The over-the-year decrease in the unemployment rate of immigrants and natives reflected decreases in the rates for both men and women. The unemployment rate for immigrant men fell from 7.5 percent to 6.4 percent, and the rate for immigrant women was down from 8.9 percent to 7.5 percent. Among the natives, the rate for men fell from 8.4 percent to 7.9 percent, while the rate for women was down from 7.7 percent to 7.0 percent. (See Table 1) For both the immigrants and the natives, jobless rates vary considerably by race and ethnicity. Among the immigrant born, blacks had the highest unemployment rate (10.5 percent) in 2013, while Asians had the lowest (4.7 percent). The unemployment rates were 6.6 percent for whites and 7.5 percent for Hispanics. Among the natives, blacks also had the highest jobless rate (13.5 percent), followed by Hispanics (10.7 percent). The unemployment rates were 6.0 percent for whites and 6.5 percent for Asians.

**The Occupational distribution** of immigrants was more likely than natives to be employed in service occupations (24.8 percent versus 16.7 percent). Within service occupations, about one-third of the immigrants were employed in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations, about twice the proportion for the natives. Immigrants were more likely than the natives to be employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations (15.4 percent versus 11.1percent) and in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (12.9 percent versus 8.3 percent). (See Table 4)

Natives were more likely than immigrants to be employed in management, professional, and related occupations (39.5 percent versus 30.3 percent) and in sales and office





occupations (24.4 percent versus 16.5 percent). Immigrant men were more likely than the native men to work in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations and in service occupations. Compared with native-born women, foreign-born women were more likely to be in service occupations and in production, transportation, and material moving occupations. Among women, the disparity was especially great in service occupations: 32.9 percent of foreign-born women worked in service occupations in 2013, compared with 19.8 percent of the native women. Native women were more likely than the immigrant women to be in sales and office occupations, 31.8 percent versus 22.4 percent.

**The Earnings** show that the median usual weekly earnings of immigrants, full-time wage and salary workers (\$643) were 79.9 percent of the earnings of their native counterparts (\$805). Among men, median weekly earnings for the immigrant men (\$671) were 74.6 percent of the earnings of their native counterparts (\$899). Among women, median earnings for immigrant-born women (\$610) were 84.8 percent of the earnings of their native counterparts (\$719). Differences in earnings reflect a variety of factors, including variations in the distributions of immigrants and natives by educational attainment, occupation, industry, and geographic region. (See Table 5) Among the major race and ethnicity groups, Hispanic immigrants with full-time wage and salary workers earned 78.2 percent as much as their native counterparts in 2013. For white, black, and Asian workers, earnings for the immigrants and the natives were relatively close within each group. The earnings of both immigrants and natives increase with education. In 2013, immigrants with age 25 and over with less than a high school education earned \$428 per week, while those with a bachelor's degree and higher earned about 2.9 times as much—\$1,235 per week. Among the natives with a bachelor's degree and higher earned about 2.3 times as much as those with less than a high school education—\$1,187 versus \$511 per week. Natives earn more than the immigrants' at most educational attainment levels. The gap between the earnings of immigrants and natives closes at higher levels of education. For example, among high school dropouts and graduates in 2013, full-time immigrants earned 83.8 percent as much as their native counterparts among those with a bachelor's degree

### **Illegal Immigrants to United States of America**

The Center for American Progress shows that the number of illegal immigrants has relatively stayed stable after declining slightly during the great recession. While their estimated number was 8.4 million in 2000, it rose to 12 million in 2017. Again their estimated number was 11.7 million towards 2012 end, their number was estimated as 11.2 in 2012 and it has marginally increased to 11.3 million in 2013.

Although Mexicans constitute the largest number of immigrants in the US, their number has somehow declined from 6.9 million (57% of total immigrants) to 6 million (52% of total immigrants).

As of 2012, the concentration of immigrants in six US States, viz., California (22%), Texas (15%), Florida (8%), New York (7%), Illinois (4%) and New Jersey (4%). These numbers may differ from estimates from other sources, but the fact remains that majority of the immigrants are located in the States mentioned here.



Majority of the illegal immigrants have stayed for a long time thus having committed themselves to living in the US. Their median length of stay was 13 years in 2013. Currently, 62% have been living in the US for 10 years or longer. A full 88% have been living in the US for five years or longer. These illegal immigrants continue to be undocumented as they cannot adjust their status towards green card sponsorship. The illegal immigrants constitute disproportionately large percentage of the labor force relative to the overall size of the population. Interestingly, 84% of the illegal immigrants were employed in the US in 2010 constituting about 5.2% of the total labor force against 3.7% share in the US population. Not only are these, almost half of the settled illegal immigrants homeowners. As per the Pew Research Center, 52% of the illegal immigrants have completed high school or even higher and 15% have a Bachelor or higher Degree.

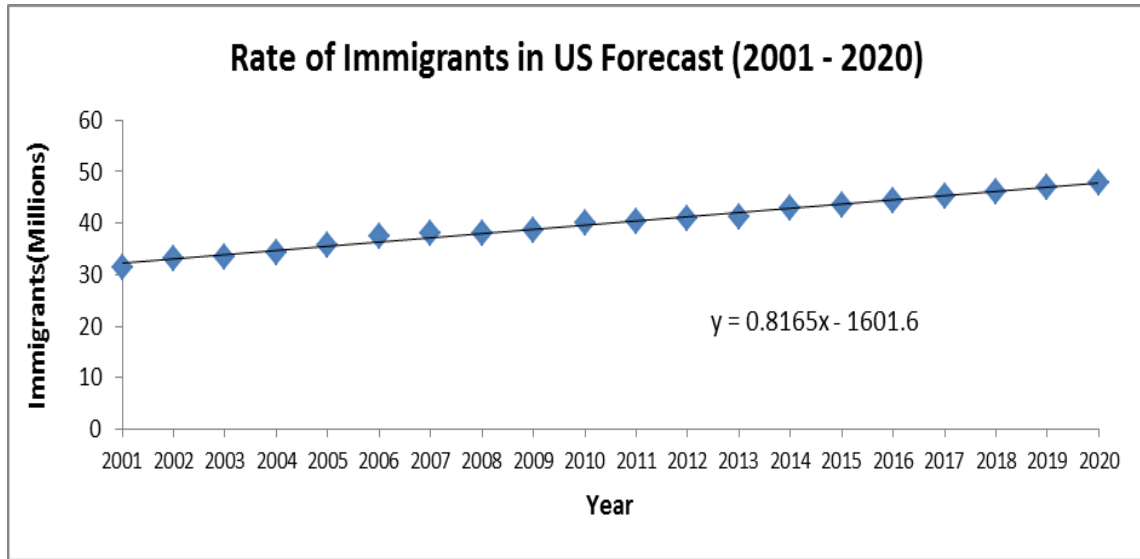
Apart from the number of illegal immigrants in the US, quite often, the everyday, real-life effects of illegal status are overlooked in debates about abstract numbers or policies. The fact remains that with more than 11 million illegal immigrants living in the US, with majority of them living for more than a decade, takes a real toll and puts pressure on American families. Parents—mostly mothers—have to deal with providing for their children when a spouse is deported, while children face a range of negative psychological and emotional consequences from the fear of having a loved one taken from the

**Future Trends of Immigrants: 2014-2020**

By using the available data on immigrants for 2001 to 2013, the number of immigrants has been estimated for 2014-2020. Simple linear regression has been used as shown along with the scatter diagram.

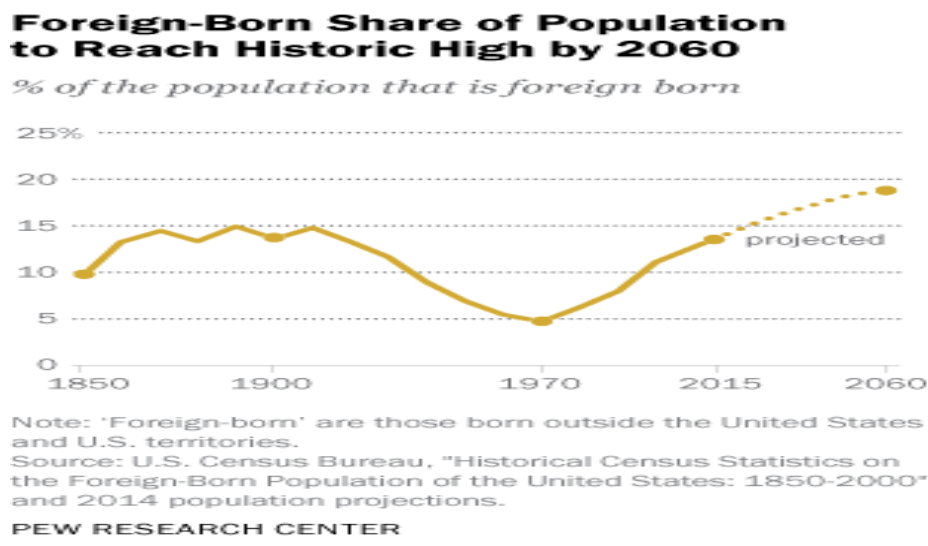
**Estimated Immigrants: 2001-2060**

Year	Immigrants(Millions)
2001	31.50
2002	33.00
2003	33.50
2004	34.30
2005	35.70
2006	37.50
2007	38.10
2008	38.00
2009	38.50
2010	40.00
2011	40.40
2012	40.80
2013	41.30
2014	42.83
2015	43.65
2016	44.46
2017	45.28
2018	46.09
2019	46.91
2020	47.73



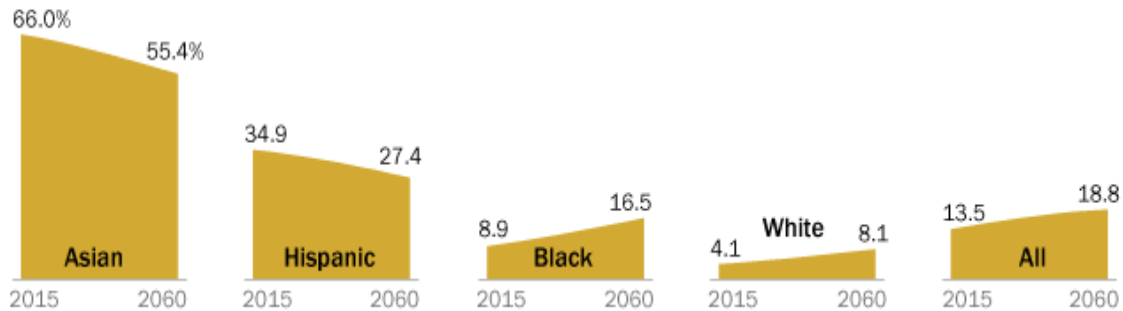
Based on the above estimation, it seems that about 4 million immigrants are likely to be added in the coming five years. This is a quite high number obviously having lot of implications on the economic and social system of the country. This also includes illegal immigrants for which special provision is required. The Government is still debating on how to accommodate such a large number of existing illegal immigrants.

Further, the US immigrant population projected to rise, even as share falls among Hispanics and Asians (Anna Brown comment). The nation's immigrants are projected to reach 78 million by 2060, making up 18.8% of the total U.S. population, according to new Census Bureau population projections. That would be a new record for the foreign-born share, with the bureau projecting that the previous record high of 14.8% in 1890 will be passed as soon as 2025.



## Census Projects Share of Asian, Hispanic Population Born Abroad to Fall by 2060

*% foreign born, by race/ethnicity*



Note: 'Foreign-born' are those born outside the United States and U.S. territories. Whites, blacks, and Asians include only non-Hispanics; Hispanics are of any race. 'All' includes those who reported two or more races, and other racial groups not reported separately.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2014 population projections

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### Conclusion

A sharp rise in the number of immigrants in the U.S.A. in recent decades and as projected for future serves as a basis for any policy formulation. While immigration is considered to be a great and constant source of economic vitality and demographic dynamism, it is equally well a great source of taxpayers, job creators and consumers. Paradoxically, on the other hand the immigration system is paralyzed and needs complete overhaul. Even though the US border is relatively more secure than ever before but the existing laws need review. The immigration reforms do address these issues including the pathway for illegal immigrants and working in the USA against the American wraths. There seems to be a strong need to restore public faith in the system rather than supercharging the economic benefits from the immigrant population. On the contrary the immigration populations think otherwise while the Government is still debating on how to accommodate such a large number of illegal immigrants in the country. The next Presidential elections in 2016 may bring in a new wave of thinking towards immigration especially when the new face of American immigrants is likely to be Asians with a different profile, better educated, economically more successful and doing amazingly well in this country as compared to the than the Hispanic immigrants of the recent decades.

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