
A common misperception is that undocumented immigrants are only a drain on society’s resources and the best way to deal with them is to get rid of them. This article provides very specific examples of how that is not actually the case in most situations. Anti-immigrant laws that were passed recently in Arizona and Georgia actually created more economic problems. The article points out that Arizona lost over $200 million due to economic boycotts over their law and Georgia could stand to lose $300 million in spoiled crops due to labor shortages because the undocumented workforce was leaving the “hostile” environment in the state. This article is useful because it addresses emotional reactions to the issue with factual evidence. Many people protesting the presence of undocumented immigrants don’t understand, or don’t want to acknowledge the contributions of the undocumented population; this article is proof that it can’t be ignored.


This article provides a counter-argument to an article written about David Stoll on the impacts that immigration has on American society. Stoll says that larger immigrant populations will destroy American values and that Americans should focus on the well-
being of themselves before those from another country. Gold provides evidence and
examples that this is not the case and that society actually does a good job of
incorporating the diversity that immigrants bring to everyone’s benefit. This article is
useful because it provides solid evidence that allowing immigrants to fully participate on
society has positive results.


In this article, the author addresses the many ways that high-skilled and low-skilled
immigrants benefit the economy and policies for reform of the immigration system. The
U.S. needs high-skilled immigrant labor for productivity growth and policies need to be
changed to encourage those who come to study in the U.S. to stay after graduation. He
also points out that low-skilled labor is necessary for high-skilled labor to be effective.
Low-skill jobs like child care, house cleaning, and yard work allow high-skill workers to
focus more on their jobs. Another important point is that even undocumented immigrants
pay taxes but are not allowed to collect federal benefits. A solution to the tax-payer
burden of funding education and health care for the undocumented could be to make
employers pay an immigrant labor tax. He also addresses the costs of limiting immigrant
labor, which are also significant. This article is useful because it provides pragmatic
solutions to people’s concerns around the immigration debate, illustrating the benefits of
having an immigrant workforce and while addressing the issues raised by those opposed.

This author presents the argument that comprehensive immigration reform is the type of reform the will be the most beneficial to the American economy and that past policies have trying to limit unauthorized immigration have had more negative impacts that positive ones. People will not stop trying to cross the border unauthorized so increased border enforcement has resulted on more dangerous conditions and increased people smuggling. Also, any type of immigration reform has to also address the future flow of immigrants, not just the current situation. He also points out that the economic contributions of undocumented immigrants far outweigh the costs incurred to maintain them. This article is helpful because it points out that comprehensive reform is the most effective way to handle the undocumented immigrant situation. It clearly illustrates that this type of reform will benefit the American economy. Most of these immigrants are well-established in the U.S. and it would be more costly to deport them than to allow for them to stay.


This report illustrates the positive impacts that granting legalization and citizenship to the U.S.’ 11 million plus undocumented immigrant population would have positive effects on
the nation’s economy. The authors calculate, over 10 years, the amount of additional money that would be added to the GDP of the U.S., the amount of additional income there would be for Americas, and the additional increases in federal, state, and local taxes. Granting legal status and citizenship allows the undocumented population access to legal protections, more education and training, access to better jobs, more job mobility, and opportunities for entrepreneurship, all of which contribute to the economic growth the authors have pointed out. They compare the numbers in three scenarios, showing how much the economy could grow depending on the timeline of implementation for legal status and citizenship. Granting these two things immediately allows for the most economic growth. This report is useful because it gives very clear statistics and number that prove that legalization and citizenship for the undocumented population will be a benefit to this country.


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This article weighs the economic contributions of undocumented immigrants to the economy against their cost to taxpayers for things like education, health care, and incarceration. Through their labor and consumption and goods, undocumented immigrants have a positive impact on the economy. However, their cost to the economy is almost equal to what they are contributing. The author argues that a better allocation of resources between the federal and state governments could fix that. This article is useful
in showing that while undocumented, immigrants are canceling out their contributions with what is spent to maintain them. This helps make the argument for legalization stronger, because through legalization, all would pay taxes and contribute even more to the economy, creating less of a burden on other taxpayers.


This article reports on a study of 13 migrant worker women, interview once a year for three years about their experience as a migrant worker. The study points out the hardships that are found in agricultural work and in the migrant lifestyle itself. The women’s perseverance through hard times came from a strong cultural background and dedication to their families. This article is useful because it puts personal stories to an important issue. To understand the complexities of immigration, a person has to understand what an immigrant’s life, especially an undocumented immigrant’s life, is really like. Knowing their personal struggles and motivations makes it easier to push for positive reforms to the system.

This article addresses the deep animosity that some have towards immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants. Many blame the undocumented population for the collapse of the economy and the loss of jobs in 2008/2009. The fact of the matter is, as this article points out, that while we like to point the finger at undocumented immigrants, they are not at fault and actually have helped the economy pull itself back together. This article is useful because it addresses the negative feelings, giving their point of view, while illustrating that their point of view is misguided.


In this article, the author focuses on the contributions of immigrants through their skills and creativity and how the United States benefits from that. He argues that the visa limits for “specialty occupations” or, what is known as high-skilled labor, need to be increased. He gives several examples of how immigrants have contributed to many scientific advancements in the U.S. Also the economy would benefit with more low-skilled labor visas, allowing more workers to be documented while working the in country. He points out that our economy needs immigrant workers to thrive and continue to be innovative. He also points out the contribution that immigrants make to the culture is beneficial to U.S. citizens. This article is useful because it points out the positive contributions of immigrants both to the economy and society.

contributed an estimated $115.2 billion more to the Medicare Trust Fund than they took out in 2002-09. *Health Affairs*, 32(6), 1153–60.

This article illustrates the contributions the immigrants, especially young, undocumented workers, make to the Medicare Trust Fund. The author highlight data that shows immigrants contributed a surplus of $13.8 billion to the fund in 2009 and $115 billion between 2002 and 2009. Immigrant’s contributions are so significant because undocumented immigrants, who contribute to the fund through their paychecks just like a U.S. citizen, do not have access to Medicare. The article points out that policies that limit immigration could reduce Medicare funds significantly. This article is useful because it shows that undocumented immigrants are paying taxes and contributing to federal benefits and services that they are denied.