



Election Economics

Immigration by Bill Bosshardt

U.S. Immigrants by Class of Admission, 2013

Class of Admission	Number of Immigrants
Family-sponsored preferences	210,303
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	439,460
Employment-sponsored preferences	161,110
Diversity programs	45,618
Asylees	42,235
Refugees	77,395
Others	14,432
TOTAL	990,553

•**Source:** United States Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2013*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, 2015, p. 18.

The Wage Debate: One Estimate of the Effects of Immigration on U.S. Wages in the 1980s and 1990s

Education Level	The impact of immigration on wages – percentage change in wages as compared to if there had been no immigration
High School Dropout	-8.9
High School Degree	-2.6
Some College	-0.3
College Degree	-4.9

Source: George Borjas, “The Labor Demand Curve Is Downward Sloping: Reexamining the Impact of Immigration on the Labor Market,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, November 2003, p.1369.

The Wage Debate: Recent Estimates and Reasons

Immigration may not affect native worker wages as much:

- If immigrant workers are not perfect substitutes for native workers, or if immigrant workers are complements to native workers. Estimates that account for this find immigration increased overall wages 0.6% for the period 1990 to 2006.¹
- If the increased availability of workers attracts capital investment.

¹Ottaviano, G. I. P. and Peri, G. (2012), RETHINKING THE EFFECT OF IMMIGRATION ON WAGES. Journal of the European Economic Association, 10: 152–197. doi: 10.1111/j.1542-4774.2011.01052.

Brain Drain: Costs and Potential Benefits to Source Countries of Emigration by Skilled Workers

I. Costs

- The loss of services of a highly skilled worker. For example, emigration by physicians creates significant losses in some developing nations.
- The cost of training replacement workers is very high, especially considering low income levels in developing nations.

II. Potential Benefits

- Remittances sent by emigrants provide income for households and may be used to promote enterprises within the country.
- Emigrants may provide information, ideas, or other opportunities for businesses in their home countries to do business with firms in their host countries.
- Returnees may start businesses in their home country after acquiring skills and business experience abroad.
- Opportunities to emigrate provide stronger incentives for people to pursue education and training, including some who then chose not to emigrate.

Brain Drain Data for Selected Countries: Inventors

Country	Patent Filings 2007-2012	% by Emigrants
Myanmar	75	96
Pakistan	672	93.9
Ghana	121	92.6
Vietnam	724	85.9
Kenya	161	77.6
Greece	3251	60.5
India	52,167	48.7
Ukraine	2595	42.8
Britain	73,814	20.2
South Africa	3,681	18.7
Sweden	33,902	7.3
U.S.	519,553	1.5

Source: The Economist. Whose brains are draining? July 1st, 2015.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/07/daily-chart>

Physicians: Have Visa, Will Travel

Country or Region	Emigration Effect
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.9
Ghana	30.0
South Africa	18.5
Indian Subcontinent	10.7
Sri Lanka	27.5
Pakistan	11.7
India	10.6
Caribbean	8.4
Jamaica	41.4
Haiti	35.4
Dominican Republic	17.2
Middle East and North Africa	5.2
Lebanon	19.3

The emigration effect is calculated as the number of physicians from the listed country or region who are currently working in one of four nations (the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, or Canada), divided by the total number of physicians from that country (working either in their home country or as immigrants in the four developed nations). It therefore suggests the percentage of a country's physicians who are working abroad, although some physicians might have emigrated to other countries.

Source: Fitzhugh Mullan, "Metrics of the Physician Brain Drain," New England Journal of Medicine, October 27, 2005, pp. 1810-1818.

Numbers of Skilled Migrants Working in OECD Countries, 2011*

Country	Number of Skilled Immigrants (in millions)
United States	6.7
Canada	2.6
Australia	1.9
United Kingdom	1.7
Germany	1.3
France	1.1

*Skilled workers are defined here as those with more than a 12th grade education. The member nations of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Source: Arslan, C. et al., “A New Profile of Migrants in the Aftermath of the Recent Economic Crisis”, OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 160, OECD Publishing, 2014, pp. 17.