



US Immigration Newsletter

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Commentary



Earlier this year, the USCIS removed the term "*nation of immigrants*" from its mission statement, in a move that many saw as indicative of the Trump administrations increasingly unwelcoming attitude towards both legal and illegal immigrants.

Over the past two years, the government has implemented a series of rules that, for all intents and purposes, seem to make it harder for foreign-born residents of to work and live within the United States. Policies such as the new "*notice to appear*" ruling which states that the rejection of an immigration benefits application must be followed up with an USCIS notice (usually considered as a first step in the deportation process). As well as tougher visa guidelines allow USCIS officer to outright deny any visa applications that are considered incomplete or inaccurate represent a *virtual wall* that could prevent many deserving immigrants from remaining in the country.

But although the USCIS may not want to admit it, the US is still very much a nation of immigrants. Recent Pew Research statistics show that we have more immigrants than any other [country](#). In total, foreign-born residents make up at least 13.5% of the US population, and around 1 million new immigrants are added to this list every year. If these trends continue apace, then immigrants will account for well over [80% of the population growth](#) in the United States by 2065.

Based on these statistics and, cutting off this vital source of labor, innovation,

and growth would inevitably leave a crippling impact on the country. Ultimately, any immigration reform should be aimed at facilitating the movement of all qualified foreign individuals, while only restricting access to those individuals that truly represent a threat to our economy and security.

College-Educated Asians Are The Face of 21st Century Immigration

Over the years, the demographics of immigrant populations have gone through many shifts. In the early 1900s the vast majority of foreign-born US residents hailed from Italy, Ireland, and Eastern Europe. By the 1970s Latin Americans had become the primary driver for immigration to the country.



Today, these individuals remain a key source of concern for many legislators who claim that tides of lower-income immigrants from Mexico and Central America must be dealt with.

However, a recent Brookings Institution [study](#) reveals that the number of Spanish-language immigrants has fallen significantly since 2010. While Mexico remains a key source of foreign workers, China, India, and the Philippines have made up a far larger share of US immigrants between 2010 and 2018.

Michigan Policy Institute (MPI) data shows that almost 62% of these individuals are college-educated and possess at least basic proficiency in English.

Immigrants Account For 2/3^{rds} of US Economic Growth Over The Past Decade



A recent study from Citigroup and Oxford University shows that immigrants have contributed to 75% of the economic growth achieved since 2011. The study reveals that up to 40% of the businesses currently in the Fortune 500 and over 30% of all businesses founded over this period are either wholly or partially owned by foreign-born US residents.

These findings reflect data from the Information Technology and



Innovation Foundation (ITIF) which shows that 1 in 3.5 new US patents are granted to US immigrants and that 35% of new doctorate degrees are granted to foreign-born students.

According to Ian Goldin, a co-author of the Oxford study, higher levels of immigration are generally correlated with higher workforce productivity, increased wages, and greater innovation.

These statistics reaffirm the potential ramifications of limiting or freezing migration.