

Points to Ponder Regarding Immigration

Some numbers:

Of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the US today, 6.2 million are Mexican, 723,000 are Guatemalan, 465,000 from El Salvador, 337,000 Honduran, 268,000 Chinese, 267,000 from India, plus many from other countries.

More than 30% own homes.

A third of undocumented immigrants 15 years and older lives with at least one child born in the US. About 60% have been in the US for at least a decade. Seventy-eight percent of unauthorized Mexicans have been here for more than a decade (7% for less than 5 years)

There are about 2,000 immigrant farm workers in Vermont and between 50,000- 80,000 in New York State, many of whom are undocumented.

Employers

Dairy farmers state that immigrant help is crucial to their businesses since few Americans choose to work the hours or in the conditions necessary to produce milk. See youtube video "The Worst Job in New York" by Roy Germano for more details.

Many other temporary agricultural jobs are filled by visa holders who can come legally for the season. **There are no visas for year-round dairy farms and businesses such as our local slate industry and construction.**

Nationwide about 40% of all undocumented workers are employed in agriculture, construction, or hospitality services.

- Since about 1/3 of this population own homes, they pay property taxes, renters also contribute through their rent.
- About 50 % pay income taxes (and with legal status, this number would rise)
- About 75% of this population pay to US Social Security, but benefits are unavailable to them unless they become citizens. Some estimate these payments to be in the neighborhood of \$13 billion a year.
- An estimated \$11.74 billion is contributed by undocumented workers via sales taxes combined with all state and local taxes. (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy)
- On average, undocumented immigrants pay 8% of their incomes in state and local taxes each year.

Why don't they go home and get in line?

There is no line for the majority of unauthorized immigrants. Most do not have the necessary family or employment relationships and often cannot access humanitarian protection, such as refugee or asylum status. Unless immigration policy changes to include a guest worker program, this broken "system" will continue.

The Economic Cost of Deportation

Mass deportation would immediately reduce the country's GDP by 2.6%, with an annual loss of \$434 billion and reducing cumulative GDP by \$4.7 trillion over 10 years. This doesn't account for the massive price tag for locating and removing millions of people.

(source: economists Ryan Edwards and Francesco Ortega)
The humanitarian impact of removing millions from their American born children has no price tag.

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Do the Undocumented Pay Taxes?