

Undocumented Immigration Fact Sheet

There are approximately **11 million Undocumented people in the US**; as many as **8.4 million unauthorized immigrants are employed in the U.S**; representing 5.2 percent of the U.S. labor force. Of this number, it is estimated that there are **850,000 undocumented immigrants in New York State**.

Economic Impact:

- A policy of mass deportation would immediately reduce the nation's GDP by 1.4 percent, and ultimately by 2.6 percent, and reduce cumulative GDP over 10 years by \$4.7 trillion.¹
- Hard-hit industries (agriculture, construction, and leisure and hospitality) would see double-digit reductions in their workforces.¹
- States with the most unauthorized workers will experience the largest declines in state GDP. New York is among these states.¹

Tax contributions:

- Undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to state and local taxes, collectively paying an estimated \$11.84 billion in 2012.²

The cost of deportation:

- During fiscal 2016, ICE spent \$3.2 billion to identify, arrest, detain and remove undocumented immigrants, according to the Department of Homeland Security.⁴
- Each deportation conducted by ICE cost taxpayers an average of \$10,854 in fiscal 2016. This amount includes everything from housing and feeding a detainee to transportation.⁴
- Mass deportation would cost the federal government nearly \$900 billion in lost revenue over 10 years.¹

Effects of Immigration Policy on children and families:

- 5.9 million U.S. citizen children under the age of 18 live with an undocumented family member, according to estimates of 2010-2014 census data.³
- Roughly half a million U.S. citizen children experienced the apprehension, detention, and deportation of at least one parent between 2011 and 2013, based on estimates using Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data.³
- Immigration enforcement—and the threat of such actions—can negatively impact a child's long-term health and development.³
- There are limited mechanisms to safeguard parental rights, which are incredibly difficult for parents to regain following detention or deportation.³

1. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2016/09/21/144363/the-economic-impacts-of-removing-una-authorized-immigrant-workers/>; Full report: <http://www.itep.org/pdf/immigration2016.pdf>
2. http://itep.org/itep_reports/2015/04/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions.php#_WR5D9LzytsM
3. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/us-citizen-children-impacted-immigration-enforcement>
4. <http://money.cnn.com/2017/04/13/news/economy/deportation-costs-undocumented-immigrant/>
5. <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Immigration-and-Public-Safety.pdf>
6. https://www.cqdev.org/sites/default/files/archive/doc/full_text/CGDBriefs/3120183/time-bound-labor-access.html
7. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/08/donald-trumps-immigration-tab-166-billion-121500>

Undocumented Immigrants and Crime:

- Immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens.⁵
- Police chiefs believe that intensifying immigration law enforcement undermines public safety.⁵

Benefits of a working guest visa program:

- The US economy needs low-skill workers now more than ever, and that requires a legal channel for the large-scale, employment-based entry of low-skill workers. A legal time-bound labor-access program could benefit the American middle class and low-skill workers, improve US border security, and create opportunities for foreign workers.⁶
- Low-skill workers from abroad have built the US economy, while seizing opportunity for themselves and their families, since before 1776. Their work grew the US economy and created most of the middle-class and low-skill jobs that exist today.⁶
- A well-designed temporary work visa program (also referred to as “guest worker program”) could create well-regulated opportunities for foreign workers to fill low-skill positions in the US. Designed correctly, a temporary visa program can be good for the US middle class, good for US low-skill workers, good for border security, and good for foreign workers.⁶

The cost of Trump’s immigration policy:

- Trump’s immigration policy would cost taxpayers an estimated 166 Billion.⁷

Additional Resources:

Average annual GDP loss when unauthorized immigrant workers are removed, by state and industry -- The Center for American Progress

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/09/21/143408/removing-unauthorized-workers-harms-states-and-industries-across-the-country/>

Why Denying Driver’s Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants Harms Public Safety and Makes Our Communities Less Secure -- National Immigration Law Center

https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/FactSheet_DLs_2008-01-16.pdf

Seven myth-busting facts on undocumented immigration -- Urban Institute

<http://www.urban.org/2016-analysis/seven-myth-busting-facts-undocumented-immigration>