



# **Immigration**

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# I. Background and Definitions

# Breaking down the stats

51.9 million  
immigrants lived  
in the U.S.

15.4% of all U.S.  
residents were  
immigrants, down  
from a recent  
historic high of  
15.8%.

19% of the U.S.  
labor force were  
immigrants, down  
from 20% and by  
over 750,000  
workers since  
January

# Definitions

**Immigration** → movement of people into a country to live permanently

**Legal vs. Undocumented Immigration** → lawful entry (visas, green cards) vs. entry without authorization or overstaying visas

**Asylum** → protection for individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries

**Refugee** → person granted protection before arriving in the U.S., usually through UN resettlement

**Naturalization** → legal process of becoming a U.S. citizen after meeting residency & eligibility requirements

## **II. Current US Immigration Policy**

# Trump Administration

- Trump administration's policies have led to 320,000 fewer immigrants in the U.S. over the next decade
  - 290,000 forcibly removed
- **Executive Order 14159** requires undocumented immigrants to register with the government
  - Penalties for non-compliance
- **Executive Order 14160** seeks to end birthright citizenship for children of unauthorized immigrants
  - Though it faces multiple federal court blocks

# Significance of New Immigration Policies

- Immigration restrictions reshaped the U.S. workforce and demographics
  - Labor shortages in industries like agriculture and construction
  - Slowed population growth, especially in immigrant-heavy states
  - Decreased cultural diversity in local communities
- Mandatory registration heightened fear and distrust within immigrant communities
  - Undocumented immigrants less likely to report crimes
  - Families fear separation or deportation
  - Strain on relationships between immigrants and local governments
- Birthright citizenship challenges fueled national debate
  - Raised questions about the 14th Amendment
  - Intensified political polarization on immigration



# Additional Developments

- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for Venezuela ended, affecting thousands of migrants
- USCIS has expanded biometric data collection
  - Iris scans, palm prints, and DNA even from U.S. citizens
- A new rule proposes limiting the duration of stay for foreign students and other visa holders, aiming to curb visa abuse and enhance vetting

# **III. International Immigration Trends**

# Immigration Crises Globally

- Millions displaced by Russia's invasion
  - Many flee to neighboring countries or seek humanitarian entry to the U.S.
- Economic collapse and political instability causing migration in Latin America
  - Some also arrive at U.S. borders
- Climate-related migration
  - Rising seas, droughts, and extreme weather expected to force large-scale movement of people globally
- Canada and EU immigration structure: point-based and quota systems to manage immigration

# **IV. Economic Impacts**

# Economic Impacts

## Positive and Negative

### Positive

- Labor Force Growth
  - Immigrants expand the workforce, filling both high-skill and low-skill jobs
- Entrepreneurship
  - Immigrants are more likely than native-born citizens to start businesses
- Consumer Demand
  - More people = more spending
- Tax Contributions
  - Immigrants pay billions in taxes

### Negative

- Short-term Fiscal Strains
  - Public services may face pressure in areas with high inflows
- Wage Competition
  - Some studies suggest low-skilled native workers may face wage stagnation
- Adjustment Costs
  - Governments need to spend on integration programs.
- Regional Inequality
  - Benefits may cluster in cities, while rural areas feel strain without seeing the same growth

# **V. Social and Political Impacts**

# Social Impacts

- Immigration enriches society with new languages, traditions, food, music, and perspectives
- Diverse communities foster creativity and problem-solving
- Immigrants influence population growth, urbanization, and age structure
  - Helping balance aging populations
- Rapid change can cause friction
  - Xenophobia, discrimination, or perceptions of competition over jobs/resources
- Raises questions about national identity, assimilation vs. multiculturalism, and social cohesion

# Political Impacts

- Immigration is often a central **political issue**
  - Debates about border security, refugee policy, pathways to citizenship
- Immigration frequently splits political parties
  - Varying narratives around nationalism, globalization, and human rights
- Over time, immigrant communities influence elections and shape political platforms
- Immigration policies affect foreign relations
  - Ex. refugee resettlement, cross-border agreements
- **Integration vs. Restriction** → Political battles often center on whether to expand inclusivity or tighten controls.



# VI. Challenges and Criticism

# Challenges & Criticism

What is going wrong with the U.S. immigration process?

- Applications for visas, asylum, or citizenship can take **years** to process
- **Millions** wait in line for green cards or refugee status due to limited capacity
- Legal pathways often require **expensive and inaccessible** resources
- Immigration rules sometimes **separate families** or make reunification extremely difficult

- Systems often favor high-skilled migrants, leaving low-income or vulnerable people behind
- Laws and enforcement vary widely across countries and change with politics
- Critics argue restrictive systems violate human rights and moral duties toward refugees

**Thank You!**