

Just the Facts

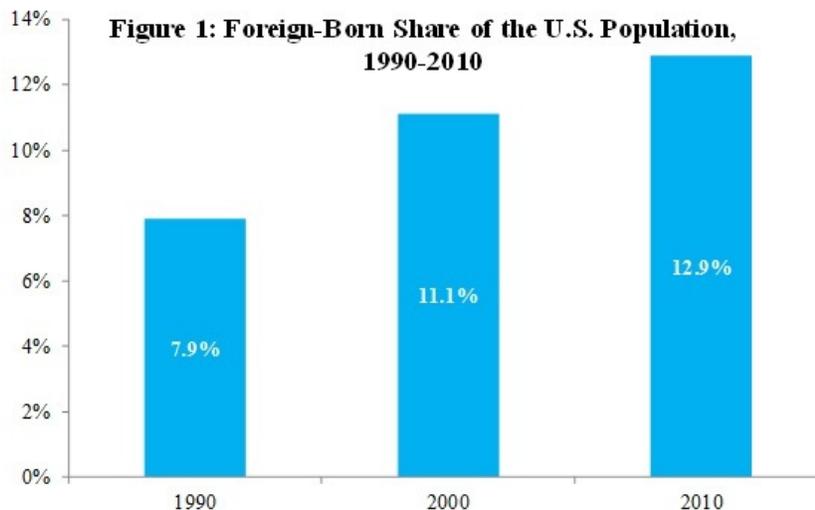
Immigration Fact Checks provide up-to-date information on the most current issues involving immigration today.

[From Anecdotes to Evidence: Setting the Record Straight on Immigrants and Crime](#)

Anti-immigrant activists and politicians are fond of relying upon anecdotes to support their oft-repeated claim that immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, are dangerous criminals. This mythical claim is usually based on rhetorical sleight of hand in which individual stories of heinous crimes committed by immigrants are presented as “proof” that we must restrict immigration or “get tough” on the undocumented in order to save the lives of U.S. citizens. While these kinds of arguments are emotionally powerful, they are intellectually dishonest. There is no doubt that dangerous criminals must be punished, and that immigrants who are dangerous criminals should not be allowed to enter the United States or should be deported if they already are here. But harsh immigration policies are not effective in fighting crime because—as numerous studies over the past [100 years](#) have shown—immigrants are *less* likely to commit crimes or be behind bars than the native-born, and high rates of immigration are *not* associated with higher rates of crime. This holds true for both legal immigrants and the undocumented, regardless of their country of origin or level of education.

Crime Rates in the United States *Fell* as the Size of the Immigrant Population (Including the Unauthorized) Increased Dramatically.

- Between 1990 and 2010, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population [grew](#) from 7.9 percent to 12.9 percent (Figure 1) and the number of unauthorized immigrants [tripled](#) from 3.5 million to 11.2 million (Figure 2).



Source: Elizabeth M. Grieco, et al., *The Size, Place of Birth, and Geographic Distribution of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1960 to 2010* (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, October 2012), p. 19.

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[An Unlikely Couple: The Similar Approaches to Border Enforcement in H.R. 1417 and S. 744](#)

The House of Representatives and the Senate have embarked upon very different paths when it comes to immigration reform. On June 27, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill—[S. 744](#) (the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act)—that seeks to revamp practically every dysfunctional component of the



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U.S. immigration system. The House leadership, on the other hand, favors a piecemeal approach in which a series of immigration bills are passed, each addressing a different aspect of the larger immigration system. To date, the most popular of these piecemeal bills has been [H.R. 1417](#) (the Border Security Results Act), which was passed unanimously on May 15 by the House Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1417 is, in marked contrast to S. 744, an enforcement-only bill which does not acknowledge the existence of any other component of immigration reform.

Nevertheless, the border-enforcement provisions of S. 744 aren't all that different from those contained within H.R. 1417. Both bills share the arbitrary and possibly unworkable goals of "operational control" (a 90 percent deterrence rate) and 100 percent "situational awareness" along the entire southwest border. The Senate bill also added insult to injury in the form of the Corker-Hoeven ("border surge") amendment, which seeks to micromanage border-security operations and would gratuitously appropriate tens of billions of dollars in additional funding, and hire tens of thousands of additional Border Patrol agents, before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has even determined what resource and staffing levels are needed to do the job. [Read more...](#)

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[California: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives in the Golden State](#)

In California, there is no doubt that immigrant entrepreneurs and innovators play an important role. Immigrant entrepreneurs bring in additional revenue, create jobs, and contribute significantly to the state's economy. Highly skilled immigrants are vital to the state's innovation economy, and to the metropolitan areas within the state, helping to boost local economies. Furthermore, local government, business, and non-profit leaders recognize the importance of immigrants in their communities and support immigration through local "welcoming" and integration initiatives.

Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to California's economy. [Read more...](#)

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[Florida: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives in the Sunshine State](#)

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[Ohio: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives](#)

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Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to Ohio's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, immigrants founded 20,768 [businesses](#) in Ohio, and in 2010, 6.7 percent of all business [owners](#) in Ohio were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business revenue of \$1.3 billion, which is 5.7 percent of all business [income](#) in the state.
- Immigrant [entrepreneurs](#) have contributed to Ohio's economy throughout the state's history, founding such companies as Proctor & Gamble and Eaton Corporation. Other Ohio-based Fortune 500 companies had at least one immigrant or child of an immigrant co-founder, including Kroger, Limited Brands, Big Lots, and Owens-Illinois.

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to Ohio's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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[Indiana: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives](#)

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Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to Indiana's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, there were 11,995 new immigrant business [owners](#) in Indiana, and in 2010, 5.2 percent of all business owners in Indiana were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business revenue of \$721.6 million, which is 5.6 percent of all business [income](#) in the state.

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to Indiana's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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Alabama: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives

In Alabama, there is no doubt that immigrant entrepreneurs and innovators play an important role. Immigrant entrepreneurs bring in additional revenue, create jobs, and contribute significantly to the state's economy. Highly skilled immigrants are vital to the state's innovation economy, and to the metropolitan areas within the state, helping to boost local economies. Furthermore, local government, business, and non-profit leaders recognize the importance of immigrants in their communities and support immigration through local "welcoming" and integration initiatives.

Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to Alabama's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, there were 7,968 new immigrant business [owners](#) in Alabama, and in 2010, 4.6 percent of all business [owners](#) in the state were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business [revenue](#) of \$337.3 million, which is 3.4 percent of all business income in the state.
- According to the [Fiscal Policy Institute](#): "It is interesting to note that Alabama ranks toward the bottom of the list of immigrant share of population (3 percent) and labor force (4 percent), but is in the top half of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia (at 20th) in the ratio of foreign-born share of business owners to U.S.-born share. In Alabama, immigrant workers are 10 percent more likely than U.S.-born counterparts to be small business owners."

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to Alabama's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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Michigan: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives

In Michigan, there is no doubt that immigrant entrepreneurs and innovators play an important role. Immigrant entrepreneurs bring in additional revenue, create jobs, and contribute significantly to the state's economy. Highly skilled immigrants are vital to the state's innovation economy, and to the metropolitan areas within the state, helping to boost local economies. Furthermore, local government, business, and non-profit leaders recognize the importance of immigrants in their communities and support immigration through local "welcoming" and integration initiatives.

Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to Michigan's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, immigrants founded 30,223 businesses in Michigan, and in 2010, 10.4 percent of all business [owners](#) in Michigan were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business revenue of \$1.8 billion, which is 9.2 percent of all business [income](#) in the state.
- Michigan's foreign-born were more than [three times](#) as likely as the native-born population to start a new business between 1996 and 2007.
- In particular, 32.8 percent of high-tech startups in Michigan between 1990 and 2005 had an immigrant founder, which places Michigan third out of all fifty states and means that Michigan's immigrants are six times more likely to start a high-tech firm than U.S.-born residents.

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to Michigan's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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Iowa: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives

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Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to Iowa's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, there were 4,823 new immigrant business [owners](#) in Iowa, and in 2010, 3.1 percent of all business owners in the state were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business revenue of \$215.8 million, which is 2.8 percent of all business [income](#) in the state.

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to Iowa's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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[North Carolina: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation, and Welcoming Initiatives](#)

In North Carolina, there is no doubt that immigrant entrepreneurs and innovators play an important role. Immigrant entrepreneurs bring in additional revenue, create jobs, and contribute significantly to the state's economy. Highly skilled immigrants are vital to the state's innovation economy, and to the metropolitan areas within the state, helping to boost local economies. Furthermore, local government, business, and non-profit leaders recognize the importance of immigrants in their communities and support immigration through local "welcoming" and integration initiatives.

Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to North Carolina's economy.

- From 2006 to 2010, there were 33,120 new immigrant business [owners](#) in North Carolina, and in 2010, 8.6 percent of all business [owners](#) in the state were foreign-born.
- In 2010, new immigrant business owners had total business revenue of \$1.7 billion, which is 7.7 percent of all business [income](#) in the state.
- Immigrant entrepreneurs have contributed to North Carolina's economy throughout the state's history. Two of the state's [largest](#) companies, Bank of America and Relativity Technologies, were founded by immigrants or their children. These two companies together employ almost 300,000 people and bring in almost \$100 billion in annual revenues.

Highly skilled immigrants are vital to North Carolina's innovation economy. [Read more...](#)

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