

## Americans moving from union states

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What do Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania have in common?

They have been losing businesses and workers.

What do Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Texas have in common?

They have been gaining workers.

As Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore wrote in The Wall Street Journal, the states shedding workers tend to be heavily unionized.

Those gaining workers tend to be right-to-work states.

From 2000 to 2009, consider these facts regarding the 22 right-to-work states and 28 union-shop states:

**Gross state product:** Up 54.6 percent for right-to-work states, up 41.1 percent for union-shop states.

**Personal income:** Up 53.3 percent for right-to-work states, up 40.6 percent for union shop states.

**Population:** Up 11.9 percent for right-to-work states, up 6.1 percent for union shop states.

From 2000 to 2008, 4.8 million Americans moved from union-shop states to right-to-work states, according to a study from the Cato Institute.

Unions by their nature are effective political forces in protecting their own interests.

But they don't help much in job creation.

People are voting with their feet.

### India's hyped graduates

We keep hearing about all those engineers that India and China are turning out.

Well, it seems that the qualifications of the engineers in India have been exaggerated.

A customer service company in Bangalore, India, has had to find employees in the Philippines and Nicaragua.

"Business executives say schools are hampered by overbearing bureaucracy and focus on rote learning rather than critical thinking and comprehension," reported The Wall Street Journal.

Curriculum in India focuses on rote learning, not critical thinking, which is a common criticism of Chinese education, as well.

So 75 percent of India's technical graduates are not employable.

There are "inherent inadequacies" in Indian engineering education, the newspaper reported.

We in America like to beat ourselves up over our national shortcomings. But this self-criticism as a national characteristic is a strength.

The freedom to criticize leads to solutions, even when the criticism may be painful.

### Opportunities at risk?

In contrast, however, Indians and Chinese trained in American universities are finding more opportunities in their home countries than in America, according to a study from the University of California at Berkeley, Duke and Harvard.

It wasn't just a matter of cost. It had to do with mood, that their home countries seemed to have more potential, The Wall Street Journal reported.

This is a worrisome trend since first-generation immigrants tend to be the secret sauce of U.S. innovation.

Why does this matter? Last year, foreign students received more than 60 percent of all U.S. engineering doctorates.

These are world-class educations. We need to keep these students in America where they will innovate and help create businesses and jobs for the future.

And we need to make sure that our business climate is strong enough that the immigrants will want to stay here.

### Teachers are respected

Americans respect teaching. And most Americans would like their children to become teachers.

So said a scientific survey from the respected Phi Delta Kappan/Gallup Poll.

About half of Americans believe unions are hurting education.

Most Americans think various factors should be considered when figuring a teacher's salary, such as the principal's evaluation, degrees and experience.

We would rather have quality teachers with larger classes than less effective teachers and other extras.

In fact, research shows the incredible impact of strong teaching on student growth.

Americans have to be shown that vouchers are working, but we increasingly like choice in education.

We like the schools we're familiar with and are less impressed by the others.

In fact, 7 in 10 Americans give public school teachers a letter grade of A or B.

### **Muslims-Americans appreciate U.S.**

Question: Who is most likely to appreciate America?

Answer: Immigrants who fled from oppression or intolerance.

Thus, a scientific poll from a Gallup affiliate reported that Muslim-Americans are the least likely to find a justification for people to attack civilians.

Only 1 in 10 Muslims say such attacks are sometimes justified. Every other religious group is at least twice that, except Mormons.

This comes despite almost half of Muslim-Americans saying they had experienced discrimination in the past year.

It's a shame that Muslim-Americans or Arab-Americans have to justify their loyalty to the rest.

Behavior should speak for itself.

The poll also found that Americans who practice Islam are among the most tolerant of faith groups studied. They, of all people, appreciate freedom of religion.

Why would Muslims be more tolerant? Because the faith is among the most diverse ethnically, nationally. Muslim-Americans often have traveled extensively.

It's just another example of the great strength of America.

Americans can be identified by race, color or creed, only by a commitment to the values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In the battle against extremism worldwide, using the diversity of the American people, including all religions, is a great strength.

The New York City police, for instance, have capitalized on that diversity.

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