

# CALIFORNIA18

## Labor shortage in the US could be less if immigrants were allowed in

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In his press conference yesterday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador reiterated that in his meeting today in Washington with President Joe Biden he will emphasize the fact that the labor shortage in that country could be less if the borders were opened. to migrants.

He said that “What we want is for migration not to be forced, we want it to be optional and, of course, legal, completely legal. That an agreement be reached, order the migratory flow, legalize it both for those who are already there, who work honestly, live in the United States, contribute to the development of that great Nation, and those who, out of necessity, have to go to the United States Joined”.

He added that “Labor is just as important as capital or the activity of a company, so if we want to face the economic crisis, we have to produce (...) Why deny that we need a workforce, that we need workers?”

And AMLO is right, because among the 13 reasons that, according to [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com), explain the lack of workers in the US, is the lack of immigrants to that country.

The article from December 8 of last year that was published on that site points out that “One group of people that could help alleviate labor shortages in industries such as construction could be immigrants. But Joseph Lavorgna, chief economist for the Americas at Natixis, told Axios that “immigration to the US has slowed” and is “exacerbating the problem of labor shortages.” “There are about 1.2 million work-eligible adult foreign workers or immigrants who just aren’t here due to restrictions put in place during the pandemic,” David Bier of the Cato Institute told NPR. “And that’s about a quarter of the increase in job openings.” Before the pandemic restrictions, immigration slowed due to restrictive Trump-era policies. Jason Lalljee and Andy Kiersz of [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) find that if the pre-2016 net international migration trend had continued, there would have been 2.1 million more immigrants between 2017 and 2020.

Those millions of immigrants could cover a significant percentage of the vacancies in the neighboring country. In May, according to the US Department of Labor, “The number of job openings was 11.3 million, down slightly from 11.7 million in April and a high of 11.9 million in March. The figures beat market expectations of 11 million and were still above pre-pandemic levels, suggesting that demand for workers remained strong (...) some 4.3 million Americans quit

their jobs in May, with little changed from the previous month, with the so-called churn rate falling to a four-month low of 2.8% and there were 1.9 job vacancies for every unemployed person.”

Andrés Manuel could convince Biden to accept migrant workers; however, even if this were to happen, his labor proposal would founder in the US Senate, where the US president does not have the majority necessary to achieve legislative change.