

Immigration reform would be good for the economy

by [kos](#)

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Anti-immigrant forces are hoping the bad economy gives them ammo to scuttle the common-sense legalization of 10-15 million undocumented workers in this country. The thinking goes, since so many Americans have no jobs, there would be little appetite to grant "illegals" the right to stay and work.

That may have some rhetorical power, even if few Americans are lining up to work in slaughterhouses or as day laborers. But fact is, normalizing their status would be a **huge boost to the economy**.

Even during the ongoing recession, immigration reform legislation that legal undocumented immigrants would boost the American economy, according to out of UCLA.

The report said that legalization, along with a program that allows for future based on the labor market, would create jobs, increase wages and generate revenue. Comprehensive immigration reform would add an estimated \$1.5 U.S. gross domestic product over 10 years, according to the report.

"But wait!" scream the critics, "That report was authored by brown people at the UC Chicana and Chicano Studies!" So let's look to a **decidedly non-brown source**, the Institute:

This study finds that increased enforcement and reduced low-skilled immigration has had a significant negative impact on the income of U.S. households. Modest saving expenditures would be more than offset by losses in economic output and job for more skilled American workers. A policy that reduces the number of low-immigrant workers by 28.6 percent compared to projected levels would reduce household welfare by about 0.5 percent, or \$80 billion.

In contrast, legalization of low-skilled immigrant workers would yield significant gains for American workers and households. Legalization would eliminate sn and other costs faced by illegal immigrants. It would also allow immigrants to productivity and create more openings for Americans in higherskilled occupations. The positive impact for U.S. households of legalization under an optimal visa tax percent of GDP or \$180 billion.

That's an even more optimistic outlook than the UCLA study, adding \$1.8 trillion to the GDP over 10 years.

That's a lot of new jobs.

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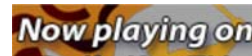
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