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The Immigration Policy Center (IPC) Issues a New Report Confirming Data that Immigration Does Not Cause U.S. Unemployment

BY ALI JOST

This week IPC released a [new report](#) that squarely refutes misleading claims by anti-immigrant (and anti-labor) groups who believe that spending over \$200 billion to deport unauthorized immigrants will solve our nation's serious economic challenges. Confirming earlier data, the [Economic Blame Game: U.S. Unemployment is Not Caused by Immigration](#) shows that swapping out the 8.3 million unauthorized immigrants working in the U.S. today **WILL NOT improve job prospects for the 15.7 million Americans currently unemployed.**

When you get down to the specifics, replacing employed undocumented workers with unemployed native workers just doesn't work out. They live in different parts of the country, work in different industries, and have divergent skill sets. Some key facts from the report:

- Overall regions with the highest unemployment rates--particularly manufacturing centers and rural areas--tend to have the lowest population of recent immigrants.
- The largest share of (26.9%) of all employed recent immigrants without a high school diploma lived in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington in 2008. But the largest share (18.9%) of unemployed natives without a high school diploma lives in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.
- Recent immigrants are 17% of the labor force in Miami, but only 3% of the labor force in Cleveland. Yet the unemployment rate for native-born blacks in Cleveland is double that of native-born blacks in Miami.

In contrast, the report shows that mass deportation strategy doesn't come close to addressing the real needs of workers suffering in today's economy. In fact, according to a new study by the [Perryman Group](#), deporting 12 million unauthorized immigrants would cost \$1.8 trillion in lost spending annually, \$651.5 billion in annual lost output, and \$8.1 million in lost jobs.

Yet, as [IPC](#), [NILC](#), and the conservative leaning [CATO Institute](#) have reported previously, a comprehensive immigration reform package like the one debated by the Senate in 2007 could generate hundreds of billions of dollars for the U.S. economy. By getting unauthorized workers into the system, we'll increase the tax base, increase consumer spending, and raise wages and standards for all workers.

[Click here to check out the full IPC report.](#) And to learn more about the economic benefits of legalizing undocumented immigrants, [check out the NILC report written by Jon Blazer and SEIU's own Joshua Bernstein--"Legalizing Undocumented Immigrants: An Essential Too in the Fight Against Poverty,"](#)

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