



Michigan: We Are All Migrants Here

Immigrants and Newcomers Built Michigan's Economy

Immigrant Engine of Economic Growth Threatened by Trump

Administration Policy

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Introduction

At first blush, when one thinks of states that have been transformed by immigrants, Michigan might not make your mental list. Unlike California, Florida, New York, or Texas, which have large, transient populations, most of Michigan's population was born in the state, the second highest rate in the country after Louisiana. However, throughout our history, the story of Michigan is very much a story of migrants. Newcomers from other parts of this country, and immigrants from around the world, all came seeking the same things: to find a job and do meaningful work, to make a better life their families and their children, to build communities.

While Michigan for thousands of years has been home to a large and thriving Native American population, over the past two centuries Michigan's industrial and economic growth has been fueled by waves of newcomers. First a flood of northern Europeans in the 1800s came to plow the rich fields, fell the timber, and mine for copper and ores in the UP. Then workers from across the globe, and migrants black and white came from the South and Appalachia to work in our booming mills, machine shops and giant auto plants. A more recent wave of Arab, Latino and Asian immigrants has breathed new life into stagnant communities.

Michigan has literally been made by immigrants, as they built communities, manned our factories and stores, populated our academic institutions, founded companies, and created new businesses that put more people to work.

Today immigrants are one of the relatively few positive and countervailing economic forces in Michigan, and many of our sister Rust Belt States, which have otherwise experienced years of population decline and an exodus of homegrown talent. Michigan immigrants have been a uniquely bright spot of new business growth and entrepreneurial energy in a state that lost some of its legendary entrepreneurial zip through decades of reliance on big, paternal employers and their unions to provide the jobs, and to take care of workers and whole communities. In Michigan, as has been the case elsewhere in the nation, immigrants have been *the* main source of population gains and economic revival for once thriving industrial communities experiencing many years of decline.

Recognizing the economic benefits of immigrants, Michigan's Republican Governor Rick Snyder, many Michigan mayors and local elected leaders, business organizations, and civic leaders have been working to make Michigan an immigrant-friendly and welcoming state. This important project, which has to continue if Michigan is to make a true "comeback" and experience economic revival, is today being undermined by policies of the current

federal Administration. Travel bans, immigration raids, walking back high-skill immigrant visa policies, work together to freeze and ultimately reverse the salutary flow of new people, new ideas, new entrepreneurial energy, and new global connections that have been Michigan's economic lifeblood. It is an important moment to examine and clearly illuminate the true and positive impact of immigrants on the Michigan economy, and how the Trump administration's policies hurt immigrants, immigration, and the economic prospects of all Michigan citizens. Finally, it is important to lay out a roadmap for how Michigan can and must continue to reap the benefits of economic progress and population growth fueled by immigrants.

Michigan A State Built by Migrants

From its founding to today, Michigan has been the destination, the land of opportunity for generations of newcomers. Michigan was settled early by North American standards, by the traders, trappers, then the farmers of the French and British. Cradled by the Great Lakes, when the Erie Canal was completed in 1830 connecting Michigan to Eastern and European markets, immigrants poured in to farm the rich earth and harvest and export the natural bounty of the land. Michigan's population exploded seven fold in one

decade -- growing from 30,000 residents to 212,000 in the 1830s -- with Germans and English settling in the East, Dutch in the west. The copper and iron ore deposits found in the UP in the 1840s kicked off a decades-long "ore rush" and brought waves of immigrant miners and their families -- the Cornish from England, the Irish, Germans and French Canadians. Finnish immigrants began settling in large numbers, forming a population plurality in the northwestern half of the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan's mighty forests were felled by Canadians, Swedes and Norwegians, Germans and Danish who then worked alongside the Poles and Irish, Dutch and Italians in the lumber camps and paper mills of Muskegon, Kalamazoo, and Bay City. And when "splendid tinkers" like Billy Durant in Flint, and Henry Ford (the son of an immigrant) in Detroit gave birth to the auto industry -- they revolutionized the industrial process, created the assembly line and factory-scale economy—which in turn brought a new wave of migrants looking for decent wage and a better life. In 1917 when Henry Ford opened the doors of the Rouge factory -- (his second great invention—the first totally integrated factory in which raw materials, sand, iron ore, coal, came in one door, and two days later a Ford Model A emerged from another) – 100,000 people from over 40 countries went to work.

News of good paying factory jobs traveled near – drawing migrants from the hills of Kentucky and West Virginia and the

sharecropper fields of Tennessee and Mississippi, and far --luring immigrants from Poland, Italy, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Eastern European Jews populated North and West Detroit. Arab-Christian grocers from Syria and Lebanon were the vanguard for a stream of Middle Eastern migrants from Yemen, Lebanon, then Iraq. Whole families and villages relocated to Southeast Michigan for the good jobs and familiar cultural surrounds that made the Dearborn area one of the largest Arab communities outside the Middle East.

For so many in the great wave of national immigration that defined the early part of the 20th century, and the Great Migration from the South of the 30's, 40's and 50's --



the destination was Detroit, or Flint, Jackson or Saginaw. The Great Migration made Northern cities like Detroit capitals of African-American life, commerce, culture and religion. Michigan's diverse agricultural base of fruit and seasonal crops also drew migrant farmworkers and their families from Mexico and Latin America—seeding generations of growing Michigan Latino neighborhoods.

When a liberalization of federal immigration policy occurred again in the '60's, Michigan was a land of promise for new groups. Over the most recent decades Chinese, Bangladeshi, Indian, and Pakistani immigrants have built new communities, revitalized neighborhoods, and redefined the flavor of cities like Hamtramck, Troy, and Warren. Throughout this time, Michigan's leading universities and colleges have been a choice destination for international students from China, India, Iraq, and Iran, many of whom have stayed and put their degrees and talents to work as doctors, engineers and attorneys. A sizable highly educated immigrant professional class is one of Michigan's most economically important, but little known features.

Michigan has changed, but it has always been changing. When Polish Hamtramck is a now vibrant Bangladeshi and multi-national community; when the Holland schools are more than half Latino, and when Mexicantown is one of few newly vibrant and expanding neighborhoods in the city of Detroit; it is jarring to some (and easily

turned into immigrant fear-mongering by others). But in these and other Michigan communities, today's immigrants are the source of new population growth, needed new workers, and disproportionately contribute to new business growth and entrepreneurial activity—playing the same role today once played by the Poles and Finns, the Germans, Irish, Italians, Dutch, and the African-American re-locating from the South.

Immigrants Power the Michigan Economy

To appreciate how Michigan immigrants contribute to economic growth, first one must appreciate what forces drive economic growth, new job creation and rising incomes. Economic growth (more economic output), and productivity gains (more output from each worker) that create higher wages and incomes -- come from three main sources. First population gains – more workers on the job generates more economic output. Second, innovation: new tools and technologies, creation of new whole new business models—increases productivity resulting in greater output, higher wages per worker, and the creation of wholly new firms and jobs. Third, higher education and skill levels help people and companies work

smarter and more productively, and help Michigan companies fill unmet talent needs, allowing them to grow their business and hire more workers.

Michigan's immigrants uniquely and powerfully contribute to all three of these dynamics:

- ▶ In Michigan's case, immigrants are the *only* current source of population gain and new workers;
- ▶ Michigan's immigrants are disproportionately responsible for Michigan's innovation, entrepreneurship and new business development;
- ▶ And Michigan's immigrants overall have much higher skill and education levels than non-immigrants, which means they create more value, wealth, and businesses that employ and benefit others.

Let's take a closer look at all three.

POPULATION GROWTH

Over the last fifteen years Michigan's immigrant population, today totaling 650,000 foreign born residents, has grown 24.5%, while native born population has declined 1.5%.¹ From 2007 to 2017, Michigan lost about 72,000 people overall, even as the

¹ US Census as reported by Migration Policy Institute. www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-data-hub

country itself has gained population.² Even over the last several years, as Michigan has made modest population gains, it has fallen behind the rest of the country.³ After years of a diminished manufacturing-based economy and exodus to the suburbs, factory towns and urban centers like Saginaw, Flint, and Detroit have seen continued population decline. The children in rural communities leave and never return. Populations of school age-children across Michigan have been plummeting for two decades. Of longstanding concern and a particular Michigan challenge has been the “brain drain”, the net outmigration of young people. Young talent who often get a great education in one of our universities and colleges, then head for Chicago or Boston or California or Minnesota.⁴

Given these trends, it is no surprise that city and state officials have made growing the population a top economic priority—and see population growth as the best indicator of renewed economic health. When elected Detroit’s mayor in 2013, Mike Duggan asked his tenure to be judged on whether the cities’ decades old population decline was reversed.⁵ In his 2017 State of the State

Address, Governor Rick Snyder made Michigan getting back to a population of 10 million by 2020 one of his big, and final goals as Governor.⁶

These leaders, along with a growing number of mayors and local officials across Michigan have realized welcoming immigrants is the most effective (and fastest) way to hit these goals and reverse population decline.

Across the country, no large U.S. city has reversed population loss without significant immigration growth. Of the 29 of our nation’s 50 largest cities that lost population between 1960 and 1980, the fifteen that were able to recover relied on immigrants to do so. For the city of Detroit, many suburban communities, and for Michigan as whole, immigration is a major, if not the major, contributor to keeping our population afloat:

- ▶ Between 2010 and 2014, 52,000 people immigrated into Michigan at a time when the state population only grew by 38,000.⁷ Without immigration, the state would have lost population again over the last decade.

² US Census Bureau, "Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016," American Communities Survey, last modified 2015, calculated from: <https://www.census.gov/did/www/saige/data/statecounty/data/index.html>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ted Roelofs, "Young Talent Continues to Flee Michigan," Crain's Detroit Magazine, last modified January 20, 2016, accessed May 30, 2017, <http://www.craindetroit.com/article/20160120/NEWS/160119783/young-talent-continues-to-flee-michigan>.

⁵ Matthew Dolan, "Mayor Mike Duggan Aims to Reverse Detroit Exodus," Wall Street Journal, last modified June 22, 2014, accessed May 30, 2017, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mayor-mike-duggan-aims-to-reverse-detroit-exodus-1403480663>.

⁶ Rachel Fradette, "Snyder during 2017 State of the State Address: 'We Need to Grow Michigan,'" The State News, last modified January 17, 2017, accessed May 30, 2017, <http://statenews.com/article/2017/01/state-of-the-state-address-2017>.

⁷ American Immigration Council, "New Americans in Michigan," American Immigration Council, last modified January 1, 2015, accessed May 30, 2017, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/new-americans-michigan>.

- ▶ In the city of Detroit, the immigrant population has grown 13% between 2010 and 2014, serving as a net positive even as Detroit's overall population has continued to fall.
- ▶ In Macomb County, immigrants have been a major source of the counties' new population growth. Second to an even faster growing African-American population, foreign-born residents account for 12% of the counties' new residents.

Behind these statistics you can see and feel the impact of immigrants on Michigan streets. Immigrants have been powerful agents of neighborhood renewal, rejuvenating cities like Troy, Warren, Hamtramck, and neighborhoods like Mexicantown in Detroit, and Southtown in Grand Rapids.

INNOVATION

A vital and growing economy is fueled by the growth and development of new businesses, spurred on by new tools, technologies, and operating models. Historically, immigrants and their children have been some of Michigan's most important innovators: Herbert Dow (Canadian immigrant), Henry

Ford (born to Irish immigrants), Frederick Alexander Manoogian, founder of Masco (Armenian immigrant), Peter Karmanos, founder of Compuware (born to Greek immigrants). This tradition continues today. Nine of the 20 Michigan Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children.

Michigan immigrants are its leaders in new business development. In a state that lags on most measures of entrepreneurial activity, and despite being only about 6.5% of the population, Michigan's immigrants:

- ▶ Make up 8% of the state's entrepreneurs, and are three times as likely as native-born Michigander to start a new business.⁸
- ▶ Are responsible for 25% percent of all Michigan's high-tech startups one of the highest immigrant start-up rates in the nation (California is first with 50% of startups from immigrants)⁹
- ▶ In Michigan, 31,000 immigrants are self-employed,¹⁰ and immigrant-owned businesses employ over 150,000 other people.¹¹
- ▶ Immigrant owned businesses generated \$608 million in business income,

⁸ Global Detroit Report, Steve Tobocman, 2010

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Project for a New American Economy, . "The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan." Project for a New American Economy. Last modified 2014.

¹¹ Project for a New American Economy. "The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan." Project for a New American Economy. Last modified 2014. Accessed May 30, 2017. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ona/PNAE_Michigan_Final_Report_531020_7.pdf.

putting more people to work and creating new jobs as they pay for services, and employees spend their paychecks

- ▶ Immigrants own about 28% of Main Street businesses and are responsible for all of the new growth in these businesses within most of the nation's largest metro areas in the country, including Metro Detroit.

Immigrants also contribute disproportionately to Michigan's invention, innovation and technological change in the state.

- ▶ 76% of all patents issued to top research universities are owned or co-owned by an immigrant.¹²
- ▶ At the University of Michigan alone, international students were behind 74% of the 95 patents filed in 2011.¹³
- ▶ Immigrants have particularly contributed to development in emerging technological fields, producing 87% of patents in semiconductor engineering and 79% of patents in pharmaceuticals.¹⁴

- ▶ Immigrants, while only 6% of the state's population, comprise 30% of Michigan doctors, 28% of software developers, and 22% of mechanical engineers.¹⁵

- ▶ 40-70% of all the graduate students in America in key STEM fields are international students.¹⁶

And Michigan's immigrants' global reach and connections contribute to Michigan business and job growth. Over half of firms that get more than half their earnings from exports are immigrant owned.

TALENT AND EDUCATION

Economic growth and rising incomes are also a function of higher education and increased skill levels. The most prosperous states with growing incomes are the most highly educated states – those states that educate their own people to high levels and attract and keep top talent. Michigan still suffers from a chronic domestic “brain drain”, and today, as it's economy rebounds, the state faces a growing skills and talent gap in key sectors.¹⁷ Michigan's immigrants are one bright spot in this landscape, and

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Global Detroit. "Statistics." Global Detroit. Accessed May 30, 2017. <http://www.globaldetroit.com/statistics/>.

¹⁴ Global Detroit. "Statistics." Global Detroit. Accessed May 30, 2017. <http://www.globaldetroit.com/statistics/>.

¹⁵ The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan," New American Economy, August 2016, pp. 8-10.

¹⁶ Stuart Anderson, "The Importance of International Students to America," National Foundation for American Policy, July 2013, p. 1.

¹⁷ Business Leaders for Michigan, "BLM: Michigan Can Meet Demand for Most Jobs through 2018, but Long-Term Talent Supply Threatened by Demographic and Education Trends," Business Leaders for Michigan, last modified April 26, 2016, accessed May 30, 2017, <https://businessleadersformichigan.com/blm-michigan-can-meet-demand-for-most-jobs-through-2018-but-long-term-talent-supply-threatened-by-demographic-and-education-trends/>.

one of the most powerful contributors to a more talent-rich, and prosperous Michigan economy:

- ▶ On balance—and flying in the face of conventional wisdom that immigrants are unskilled laborers -- Michigan immigrants are much better educated than native born Michiganders. More than 40% of Michigan’s immigrants have a bachelor’s degree or higher, versus only 27% of native-born Michiganders. And between 2010 and 2014, 65% of immigrants who came to Michigan possessed at least a bachelor’s degree.¹⁸
- ▶ Despite being only 6.5% of Michigan’s population, immigrants account for 15% of Michigan’s much needed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) workers.¹⁹
- ▶ At Michigan’s universities, one out of every three students earning a STEM Master’s degree and 39% of STEM degree PhD students are international students on temporary visas.²⁰
- ▶ And every 100 of these higher-level STEM field graduates who goes to work in Michigan creates 260 jobs for other Michigan workers – which explains why Michigan’s business leaders, the state’s economic development agency and universities have been working to both



recruit, and then keep after graduation Michigan’s more than 32,000 international students—who if allowed to stay are a powerful engine for job creation.

- ▶ And while on balance Michigan’s immigrants are better educated than the U.S.-born population, there are certainly a large number of low-skill immigrants as well. While immigrants are more likely than U.S.-born residents to have a higher education—they also are more likely to have less than a high school degree. Research strongly indicates however, that far from being an economic drain, these immigrants are important to many Michigan industries like agriculture—

¹⁸ Migration Policy Institute. www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-data-hub

¹⁹ The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan, Welcoming America

²⁰ Ibid.

where they make up 22% of the labor force—that have a hard time finding workers.²¹ These workers contribute more to local and state economies than they take—by working, employing others, paying taxes, and repopulating communities.²²

MICHIGAN IMMIGRANTS AND THE ECONOMY, THE BOTTOM LINE

Michigan’s immigrant population overall is highly educated and skilled, punching well above its weight in terms of new business development: more likely to create a business, invent new technology, and put other people to work. Immigrants are one shining ray of light in a state still suffering from population loss, low levels of new business startup and flagging education attainment levels, as well as being a visible force for strengthening communities and helping to develop local economies. Welcoming and supporting new immigrants populations as an economic and population growth engine is an agenda being pragmatically championed by local leaders like Mayors Rosalynn Bliss (Grand Rapids) and Mike Duggan in Detroit, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, as well as the Republican governor Rick Snyder, who has bucked the national trend of immigrant bashing in his party for straightforward economic reasons -- having publicly

proclaimed “Immigrants make jobs, they don’t take them.”

Anti-Immigrant Policies and Messages Threaten Michigan’s Comeback

Immigrants relocate -- driven by the same reasons all people migrate – to find a job, to make a better life for themselves and their families, and (in some cases) escape something bad (persecution, war, famine). But immigrants and immigrant communities are also very responsive to the messages sent about whether they are welcome in a new place—whether communicated through overt policy or the perceived attitude of national, state, and community leaders. For example, for years Canada has made it very easy for international students and others to stay and obtain citizenship through formal policy. More recently their national leaders’ message of “welcome” to refugees, (while the US sends a different message) has led refugees to flock North across the US-Canada border.

For years the United States has had a relatively open and welcoming policy. According to such informed global political

²¹ The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan,” New American Economy, August 2016, pp. 8-10.

²² Ibid.

economy observers as the Atlantic's James Fallows,²³ this policy, along with the world's leading research universities and education system, has served to make the US economy the most dynamic and innovative on earth. The place that always creates the new things— and the next industry -- from Henry Ford and the automobile, to today's Internet, Apple and Facebook.

Michigan has been a destination for immigrants and migrants, with its great universities and learning institutions and, for so many years, the chance to earn a decent living in our great industries. Even in the less prosperous Michigan of today, for immigrants, Michigan is still a land of milk and honey. We still have some of the greatest universities to learn in, companies to work for—and if you are from a part of the world that isn't nearly so well off -- central America, Somalia, Nigeria, Bangladesh -- Michigan is still a place you can, through hard work, make a better life. That is why immigrants keep coming to Michigan, even as others leave.

That dynamic is now at risk. Donald Trump's campaign for President fueled anti-immigrant sentiment, sentiment always simmering in communities, like many in Michigan, where economic and job prospects have dimmed. Where the “good old days” of abundant high-wage, but low-skill

demanding manufacturing jobs are gone. Maligning immigrants, blaming Latinos and Muslims for societies' ills -- combined with nativist, nationalist rhetoric -- Trump fed fears and resentments towards our recent immigrants (who are more black and brown-skinned). He offered policies to crack down on immigration, both legal and illegal, purportedly to free up jobs for American citizens. Unfortunately, these policies as we are now seeing them being animated, far from helping the American worker, will instead hurt the economy, especially in Michigan.

Michigan is already seeing adverse economic effects from new policies and practices including— the travel ban, the crackdown on undocumented immigrants, and changes to visa programs. These efforts alongside general rhetoric from the administration, collectively are working to undo the positive economic dynamic that immigrants represent to for the Michigan economy.

TRAVEL BAN

On January 27th, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13769, which denied travel into the United States for all aliens from Syria, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Iran, Sudan, and Yemen.^{24 25} In addition, the order limited the amount of refugees admitted into the United States to 50,000, and

²³ <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/01/how-america-can-rise-again/307839/>

²⁴ CNN, "Full Text of Trump's Executive Order on 7-Nation Ban, Refugee Suspension," Cable News Network, last modified January 28, 2017, accessed May 30, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/28/politics/text-of-trump-executive-order-nation-ban-refugees/index.html>.

²⁵ After consideration, permanent residents were eventually allowed in.



suspended all refugee admissions from Syria immediately. For thousands of residents of Southeast Michigan, with one of the largest Arab-American and Muslim American populations in the country, the effects were immediate, and personal. Family members and relatives were stranded at airports abroad. Many themselves and their colleagues became anxious about traveling, re-entering the country, and could not do business or their jobs. Emergency legal advice and advisors had to be found. After the Order was challenged in the courts, the administration rescinded the Order and issued a modified version, Executive Order 13780, which suspends all refugee

resettlement into the country for 120 days, as well as suspending all new visas for the citizens of the aforementioned seven countries, with the exception of Iraq.²⁶ The US Supreme Court in June 2017 allowed elements of the modified ban to remain in place until it considers its' constitutionality this fall. As a leading U.S. Arab-American and Muslim settlement destination, and a state that has settled 50,000 refugees in the past decade, the 4th most in the country and the largest destination for Iraqi refugees,²⁷ behind California, Texas, and New York, these orders hit Michigan disproportionately hard.

²⁶ CNN, "US President Donald Trump Signs New Travel Ban, Exempts Iraq," CNN, last modified March 6, 2017, accessed May 30, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/06/politics/trump-travel-ban-iraq/>.

²⁷ Jynnah Radford and Phillip Connor, "Just 10 States Resettled More than Half of Recent Refugees," Pew Research Center, last modified December 6, 2016, accessed May 30, Jynnah Radford and Phillip Connor, "Just 10 States Resettled More than Half of Recent Refugees," Pew Research Center, last modified December 6, 2016, accessed May 30, 2017, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/06/just-10-states-resettled-more-than-half-of-recent-refugees-to-u-s/>.

In Michigan this anti-Muslim opening salvo of a broader anti-immigrant agenda coming from the new Administration brought into stark relief Michigan's reliance on its Arab-American community (and importance to our local and state economy). Press and popular reporting noted the disproportionate number of doctors and Medical staff that are Muslim -- 15% of Michigan's doctors, 10 % of the state's pharmacists, and most of the nursing and medical technician students in programs at many Southeast Michigan colleges and universities. Arabs and Muslims constitute many of the more than 32,000 foreign national students drawn to our Michigan universities. These students are estimated to contribute over \$1 billion in annual economic spending, supporting more than 13,500 jobs, and are relied and upon by colleges and universities to pay full tuition. Michigan's business community and economic developers have been counting on these students to be a big part of our future talent base, an effort now effectively frozen.²⁸

Starting after the election, international student applications have fallen, even more precipitously after the Travel ban. An early survey of colleges and universities indicated that 40% of them report declining

applications from international students and these early indicators are likely to be even more severe by the coming academic year.²⁹ More broadly, the travel ban hurt the tourism industry, Michigan's large international trade and business dealings with the Arab world, and by blunting efforts to resettle more people in Michigan, the travel ban helps shutdown the re-population pipeline for ailing communities.

ICE CRACKDOWN

In early February, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) decided to step up their crackdown on undocumented immigrants, following an executive order that dramatically expanded the scope of ICE's priorities.³⁰ The order moved immigration enforcement from focusing on undocumented immigrants with criminal offenses to a broader scope, targeting anyone who has committed even minor crimes like traffic citations, as well as anyone deemed a risk to national security or public safety, vague terms that rely heavily on the judgment of enforcement officials. This has led to a dramatic nationwide increase in arrests compared to the Obama administration, while deportations themselves are slightly down. While

²⁸ "International Student Economic Value Tool," NAFSA accessed Nov. 16, 2015 at http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education/Impact/Data_And_Statistics/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/#stateData

²⁹ Elizabeth Redden, "Will International Students Stay Away?," Inside Higher Ed, March 13, 2017 at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/03/13/nearly-4-10-universities-report-drops-international-student-applications>

³⁰ Roque Planas and Elise Foley, "Undocumented Immigrants Arrested Nationwide, Stoking Fears of Trump's 'Deportation Force'," Huffington Post, last modified February 10, 2017, accessed May 30, 2017, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-immigration-raids-deportation_us_589e1eb0e4b094a129eb03b0.



Michigan doesn't have as many undocumented immigrants as other states, in either number or percentage (undocumented immigrants make up ~1% of the Michigan population),³¹ the effects have been vividly seen here. Neighborhood raids on families in Ypsilanti, Dearborn and Detroit. Kitchen workers very publicly arrested at a popular restaurant in Ann Arbor.

These aggressive enforcement policies by the Trump Administration strain our national character as a place of refuge. Many Michiganders are horrified by the arrest and possible deportation of more than 100 Iraqi Christians, mostly Chaldeans, who if deported face persecution and death in a hostile Iraq. These immigrants were arrested for all manner of criminal violations, including some committed decades ago. The reality is that many of these potential deportees have become constructive, contributing members of the community

and all Iraqi Christians face dire circumstances back in Iraq.

While purported to be a crack-down on illegals, the raids and high profile arrests of the relatively few undocumented immigrants in Michigan--sends a companion and perhaps more intentional set of messages to all immigrants. "You aren't welcome here!", "You are all criminals", "No one is safe". These are chilling messages that serve to unravel the immigrant welcoming mat laid by Michigan's state and local leadership, business community, civic and business groups. Much like the travel ban, this change in priorities also hurts, frightens, and serves over time to chase away lawful immigrants who contribute to the economy and their own communities.

VISA "REFORM"

Back in April, President Trump issued an executive order to examine ways to readjust the H-1B system, that awards visas for foreign workers sought by U.S. employers and graduate students. The order itself, Executive Order 13788, requires that the relevant immigration departments – DHS, State, DOJ, and DOL – examine the H-1B system and look at ways that it can be reformed.³² Currently, the H-1B visa, given to skilled foreign workers, is assigned on a lottery system, giving immigrants of all skill

³¹ Project for a New American Economy. "The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan."

³² <https://www.recode.net/2017/4/17/15334662/trump-h1b-visa-immigration-order>

and educational levels an equal shot at the visa. As Detroit and Ann Arbor are two of the densest metro areas for H-1B workers on a per capita basis, with Detroit being a top ten location for H-1B workers overall, any changes to this program will heavily impact Michigan.

The executive order, while not immediately making any changes, appears to be accompanied by very opaque changes in immigration practice and procedure that are having an immediate effect on Michigan's economy. Almost overnight Canadian nurses and health professionals who travel to Detroit by the thousands each day to provide needed health care services were running into trouble, their visas being questioned, reports of some newly refused entry at the border. Michigan's agriculture and tourism employers are reporting the inability to attract and hire needed workers under the H2-B program which awards a limited number of visas for "guest-workers". And while the nature and impact of visa reform in the future – whether to a skills-based points system for H1-B program, and some changes to existing guest-worker programs (which the Trump Administration did announce they will continue this year, under tremendous pressure from employers nationally)—the on-the-ground reality for Michigan and the rest of the nation is a chill and uncertainty around status for current and future program participants.

MESSAGE? DON'T COME

Recent shifts and attempted shifts in immigration policy, on-the-ground practices, and the rhetoric of the national administration, are undoubtedly having spillover effects on people wanting to immigrate to the USA and to the flow of immigrants to Michigan which, as we have seen, has been Michigan's only source of net population gain. Five months into their effect—with little hard data in hand—the initial estimates we do have are troubling. Tourism into the United States is down around 16% from previous years.³³ Forty percent of U.S. colleges and universities have reported a drop in international student applications³⁴ (while institutions across the border in Canada report increases). With Michigan's 32,000+ international students accounting for over \$1 billion a year in local economic impact (rents, food, tuitions), this alone translates into hundred's of millions less income in Michigan communities. Applications for H-1B visas, are down 18%, or 37,000 applicants, from 2016 – more bad news for Michigan as our large share of high skilled workers and international students become less enthused about studying (and staying) here.

³³ <http://www.businessinsider.com/trumps-rhetoric-hurt-us-tourism-and-retail-2017-5>

³⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/16/us/international-students-us-colleges-trump.html>

Making Michigan the Most Welcoming State

From the international student working with a team of researchers to file a patent, to the entrepreneur managing a global business, to the nurse drawing blood at the hospital, to the newly -renovated houses and thriving commercial districts of Hamtramck, Grand Rapids and Detroit, Michigan's immigrants power the state economy, and counter the effects of deindustrialization and population loss.

State and local leaders business, civic and political leaders including Governor Snyder and mayors of our major cities, have constructively advanced an immigrant welcoming agenda in the face of unfortunate, national anti-immigrant headwinds. Actions and initiatives such as these are paying real dividends for Michigan's economy:

- ▶ Prosper US Detroit has provided microenterprise training, lending, and support to catalyze the growth and development of immigrant entrepreneurs (and their African-American neighbors). This Global Detroit initiated program has graduated 700 Detroit residents (85% African-American) through a 20-week, 11-session, 10 one-on-one hours training program with nearly \$1 million in microloans.
- ▶ Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan - the nation's first international student retention program has connected nearly 5,000 students with over 100 employers—to keep this top talent in Michigan contributing to our economy.
- ▶ The State of Michigan's International Talent Solutions - is the hands-down leader in helping underemployed college-degreed immigrants get credentialed and connect with jobs in their profession, placing over 100 individuals in jobs with salary increases averaging \$40,000.
- ▶ Global Detroit's recent Champions for Growth Campaign has galvanized 216 community and business leaders to sign onto a basic pledge that acknowledges immigrant contributions to economic growth, calls for retaining our nation's immigration system, and commits to building local policies, programs, and practices that embrace this agenda.

To continue to grow Michigan's population, and a more entrepreneurial and diverse economy, now is the time for Michigan leaders to double down on these and related efforts and to send clear messages in word and deed: that Michigan is a welcoming state for legal immigrants, and that our economy grows and our culture is enriched when we support our newcomers.

In spite of actions taken at the national level, there is wide latitude at the state and

local level for affirmative actions that can work to continue to welcome and attract immigrants.

The following are recommendations for new and continued practices that will advance Michigan as an immigrant welcoming and supportive state and serve to grow new jobs and spur community redevelopment in Michigan.

STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS COMMIT TO WELCOMING

It is a powerful message when our state and community leadership formally initiate immigrant welcoming offices, programs and support services. It also can provide space for community dialogue and engagement, and a needed set of new immigrant acculturation and support services ranging

from navigating new housing, schools, language and licensing systems, to providing support for immigrant entrepreneurs and small business development.

Governor Snyder has sent just such a message with consistent immigrant-friendly rhetoric and through the creation of the Michigan Office of New Americans to coordinate state outreach and supportive surfaces. Michigan local communities' formal immigrant welcoming efforts have also helped, and can take a number of different forms: From Sterling Heights Ethnic Communities Committee, working since 1990 to bring together and support a diverse community; to Mayor Duggan of Detroit establishment of a Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to coordinate immigrant support services, new business development, and attract more immigrants



and refugees to the city. Grand Rapids' Mayor Rosylyn Bliss announced a new 'Our City Academy' to coordinate immigrant support and education efforts. Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel launched One Macomb in 2012 bringing 27 organizations together to collaborate and coordinate support for the counties' diverse community and new immigrants. Michigan communities from Kalamazoo to Clinton Township to Bay City have passed formal "Welcoming City" measures that signal their commitment to provide an immigrant friendly and supportive community. In fact, Michigan is home to more welcoming cities, counties, and townships than any other state in America. As immigrants become important contributors to a growing number of Michigan communities, including rural areas, local leaders can help their community organize around immigrant welcoming as deliberate community economic development and revitalization strategy.

BUSINESS LEADERS CHAMPION WELCOMING POLICIES

The most effective advocates for immigrant supportive public policies and practices can be the business community. When the business community organizes its voice and formally weighs in—helping reinforce the importance of immigrants for economic growth and the business bottom line, they can effectively promote immigrant-friendly policies at the state and local level, and fend

off anti-immigrant measures that have negative effects on their workplaces and profits.

The Detroit Regional Chamber has shown the way and been a strong advocate for welcoming immigrants as an important economic development and jobs strategy. They have also helped this position be adopted by the Great Lakes Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce Coalition representing dozens chambers of Commerce from around the region, and counting Kalamazoo, Lansing, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Traverse City, Michigan West Coast Chamber, and the West Michigan Chambers Coalition as members. The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Detroit Future City, and the New Economy Initiative have also signed on as immigrant welcoming. Particularly at a time of anti-immigrant policy and practices being pushed from the federal level, it would be important for Michigan's leading State Business organizations—Business Leaders for Michigan, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Association of Michigan, and more local and regional Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations to follow the Detroit Chambers's lead in their clear advocacy for pro-immigrant policies.

CONTINUE TO LAY A STRONG IMMIGRANT WELCOME MAT

Michigan's very active and dynamic set of non-profit, philanthropic, and civic leadership organizations must continue to fund and support a rich fabric of immigrant support programs and organizations. Organizations like Global Detroit, Welcoming Michigan, Welcome Mat Detroit—that organize, catalyze and connect immigrant welcoming and support programs and services ranging from help for new immigrant entrepreneurs, to the retention of international students—along with immigrant acculturation and direct service organizations like ACCESS, Arab Chaldean

Council, Chaldean Community Foundation, Samaritas, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, the Michigan Immigrants Rights Center, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Freedom House, Southwest Solutions—all play critical roles in helping legal immigrants move fast to full, productive, and valued citizens.

Michigan must ramp up these efforts on this work in the coming years—if we are to meet the Governor's goals of Michigan exceeding 10 million in population, for Detroit and so many other communities to grow again; and for us to reap the economic benefits of new immigrant led businesses and job growth.



ABOUT THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC CENTER

The Michigan Economic Center is a center for ideas and a network of state and local leaders and citizens working to:

Advance a vision for Michigan's economic renewal;

Provide policy ideas and solutions that realize the vision; and

Engage and support a diverse network of citizens, leaders, and organizations in advancing the vision and making ideas for a more competitive, innovative, and global Michigan a reality.

More information is available at www.MiEconomicCenter.org

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ABOUT GLOBAL DETROIT

Global Detroit is revitalizing Metro Detroit's economy by mobilizing its immigrant potential. A 2016 national Renewal Award winner, Global Detroit is nationally-recognized as an innovator and expert in leveraging international talent to fill regional businesses' unmet talent needs, catalyzing the growth and development of immigrant entrepreneurs, and building a global region with competitive advantages in job creation, business growth, and community development.

Global Detroit has launched leading-edge programs in international student talent retention, professional talent connection, immigrant entrepreneurship, and neighborhood revitalization. Global Detroit has spearheaded the creation of the Welcoming Economies Global Network (WE Global), a ten-state regional collaborative of 20 peer local immigrant economic development initiatives across the Rust Belt.

For further information, visit www.globaldetroit.com.