

The issue of open borders in our country has continued to affect our economy and society daily. Our country has battled this open border controversy for decades. Our wages, employment, and economy have significantly been positively and negatively impacted by open borders and illegal immigrants crossing into our country daily.

Immigrants from numerous foreign countries have crossed our American border daily to pursue the “American dream”. These illegal immigrants come to America in search of jobs, schooling, and to build a family. Their intentions are understandable however, them crossing our borders illegally have affected our countries wages, employment, and our overall economy.

Based on a survey of the academic literature, economists concluded that immigrants may raise wages and lower prices in the economy. One main reason for the raise in wages and lower prices is because immigrants and Americans don't compete for the same jobs<sup>1</sup>. For example, 4 percent of unauthorized aliens are employed in farming, fishing, or forestry, on the other hand, only 0.5 percent of U.S-born workers work in this industry<sup>2</sup>. In the end, researchers have proven that immigrants don't lower wages in the United States.

Open borders in the United States does not affect employment and unemployment drastically. In a graph by the Bipartisan Policy Center, the data showed that the unemployment rate for native and foreign were coincidental from 2000 to 2014. For example, in 2000, the unemployment rate for natives was 3.7 percent, and the unemployment rate for foreign people was 3.9 percent<sup>3</sup>. In 2014, the unemployment rate for natives was 5.6 percent, and 5.3 percent for immigrants. Therefore, they're aren't many consequences on employment caused by opened borders.

Lastly, our government exhausts federal and state funds on protecting our borders. In 2013, U.S. taxpayers paid over \$12 billion for border security<sup>4</sup>. Although we have secure borders, that doesn't guarantee zero crossing or passing into our country by illegal immigrants. Our government spends billions to protect our borders with border patrol agents, ICE, United States Customs agents, and Immigration Naturalization service agents. Our foreign policy budgets are maxed out every year with having to pay these agents that protect our country and borders annually. Our country also spends millions of dollars annually extraditing and sending back these illegal immigrants to their home countries. Also, illegal immigrants can file 'phony' documents to receive tax credits from the IRS<sup>5</sup>. It not fair that Immigrants receive tax

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<sup>1</sup> Kugler, A. (2013, August 29). Immigration Helps American Workers' Wages and Job Opportunities.

<sup>2</sup> Constable, P. (2015, March 26). Majority of undocumented immigrants work in low-skill jobs, report finds.

<sup>3</sup> Garver, R. (2015, August 26). Are Immigrants Really Taking American Jobs?

<sup>4</sup> Vetter, R. (2013, August 05). Border Security Costs Taxpayers \$12 Billion.

<sup>5</sup> Segall, B. (2012, May 24). IRS workers OK "phony" documents from illegal immigrants.

money while native Americans have to pay taxes for the immigrants. For example, in 2011, taxpayers had to pay nearly \$52 billion for the education for the children of illegal aliens<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, our economy is greatly impacted by these people that cross our borders illegally on a daily basis.

In conclusion, open borders on wages, employment, and the economy can bring consequences to the United States. It's safe to say that immigrants don't lower wages or take the jobs of native Americans. However, immigrants negatively impact our economy by illegally receiving tax money. In the end, the United States is spending billions to ensure safety and to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing the border.

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<sup>6</sup> (2013, August) The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers.