

## Key Benefits of Immigration

It is often said that the U.S. is a nation of immigrants: all citizens born in the U.S. whose ancestors who were immigrants and emigrants.

A diversity of cultures, beliefs, rituals, etc. makes for a richer, more resilient more entrepreneurial society.

It is well-known that immigrants are often more than grateful to have employment involving work that citizens are unwilling to do, especially including construction, agriculture, home health care, etc.

Consider important demographics in the U.S.: The birth rate continues to decline, and the average age of citizens is increasing.

Immigration-related implications of those demographic trends are significant: Without an influx of younger immigrants – many from countries with higher birth rates and lower average age – there will be an expensive shortage of U.S. workers.

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program

There is perhaps no other group that is so deserving of a path to citizenship as the people referred to as the Dreamers – undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who have lived in the U.S. for at least four years.

## Government Assistance for Immigrants

Most people come to the U.S. to work, innovate and assimilate, not to collect welfare or other forms of assistance. Nonetheless, Libertarians oppose welfare and other assistance payments to recent immigrants who do not pay their share of related costs.

Indeed, in most cases immigrants must have “sponsors” who agree to take responsibility for important needs of new immigrants.

And there are numerous people and private organizations that help new immigrants assimilate.

# Immigration

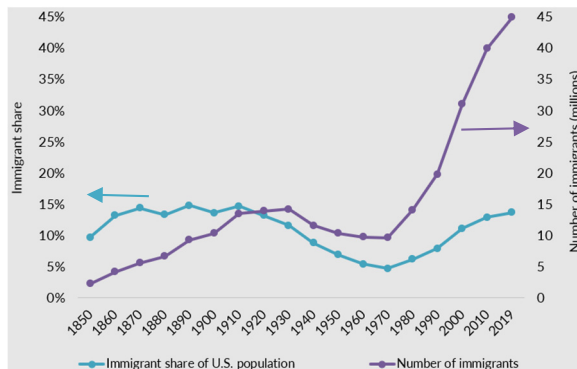


## Introduction

As of 2019 about 45 million immigrants lived in the United States, or about 13.7 percent of the total population. That is somewhat less than the record high of 14.8 percent in 1890.

The number of foreign-born people in the U.S. increased by about 0.5 percent or 204,000 people in 2019, much lower than the increase of about 2 percent growth or 787,000 people in 2017.

The figure below provides details since 1850 when immigration status was first recorded.



Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

## Libertarian Perspective on Immigrant and Citizen Rights

Libertarians believe that *all* people – not just citizens – have rights and that government should not restrict immigrants' freedom to travel, reside, and to work in the U.S. so long as doing so does not infringe on the rights of others.



And Libertarians defend the rights of citizens to associate with undocumented immigrants in any way that does not negatively affect the rights of others.

Therefore, Libertarians oppose:

- mandatory reporting by employers about employees' nationality or immigration status;

- fining or otherwise punishing employers who hire undocumented immigrants;
- forfeiture of assets, to the government, by employers of undocumented immigrants;
- arrest of immigrants at their home or workplace;
- requiring job applicants to have a driver's license to show proof of legal residency;
- use of the California National Guard or the U.S. military to control the border with Mexico or Canada;
- construction of a fence or wall along the U. S. border;
- restrictions on people's right to associate with undocumented immigrants including hiring them and providing sanctuary to them.



[Immigration Policy Facts](#)