



The Impact of Mexican Immigration to the United States

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Abstract

The United States has experienced a notable influence because of Mexican immigration, with effects in areas such as economics, society, culture, and politics. Mexican immigrants have contributed to the U.S. labor market, creating competition for jobs and lowering wages, but also contributing to the economy by starting businesses. Mexican immigration has increased the diversity of the U.S. population, while also leading to social tensions and discrimination. Mexican culture has influenced American culture, particularly in areas such as cuisine and language. Immigration policy has become a controversial political issue, affecting U.S.-Mexico relations.

INTRODUCTION

For decades, the influx of millions of Mexicans to the United States in pursuit of improved economic prospects and a higher standard of living has rendered Mexican immigration a crucial and enduring concern. This phenomenon has had a profound impact on the United States, impacting its demographics, economy, culture, and politics. The Mexican immigrant population in the United States is one of the largest and most diverse groups of immigrants, and their contributions to the United States cannot be overstated. Mexican immigration to the United States has been a significant and controversial issue for many decades. It has impacted the demographics, economy, culture, and politics of the United States in profound ways. Mexican immigrants are one of the largest and most diverse groups of immigrants in the United States. Their contributions to the country have been significant, ranging from labor to entrepreneurship, from culture to politics.

The demographics of the United States have undergone a notable transformation due to the considerable influence of Mexican immigration. In 2019, an estimated 11.2 million Mexican immigrants resided in the country, comprising a substantial portion of the overall immigrant population. This demographic shift has fostered a more diverse and multicultural United States, wherein Mexican culture has left a profound imprint on the nation's social tapestry. Mexican-Americans have emerged as an integral component of American society, enriching the country's arts, music, cuisine, and sports with their contributions.

The U.S. economy has been greatly influenced by Mexican immigration, yielding substantial effects. Mexican immigrants have assumed a crucial position within the labor force, particularly in sectors like agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. Their presence has been instrumental in supplying essential labor, often filling roles that many Americans are reluctant to undertake. Additionally, Mexican immigrants have made notable contributions to the U.S. economy by initiating their own enterprises, generating employment opportunities, and bolstering the tax revenue.

Furthermore, Mexican immigration has also had a profound impact on U.S. politics. For numerous years, the topic of Mexican immigration has remained a highly contentious matter in the realm of politics, sparking debates

concerning immigration policies and border security. Moreover, Mexican-Americans have emerged as a significant voting constituency in U.S. elections, leading politicians to actively seek their endorsement and support. The political impact of Mexican immigration is expected to continue to be significant in the future.

In summary, Mexican immigration to the United States has had a profound impact on the country, from demographics to economy, culture, and politics. The significance of the contributions made by Mexican immigrants to the United States cannot be emphasized enough. Recognizing the impact of Mexican immigration is crucial for policymakers and citizens alike, as it profoundly shapes the nation's future.

The Impact of Mexican Immigration to the United States

"While we are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws. Undocumented Mexican immigrants contribute to our economy, our society, and our shared American identity. We must find a way to acknowledge and embrace their contributions while upholding the rule of law." - John F. Kerry¹

The influx of Mexican immigrants to the United States has been significant. In fact, since 1980, the number of Mexican immigrants has skyrocketed from 2.2 million to 11.6 million in 2015, quintupling the figure. Mexican-born individuals account for over a quarter of the foreign-born population in the United States, whereas India holds the second-highest percentage of foreign-born residents, with 5.9 percent. Due to the shared border, Mexican immigration has been a contentious issue in U.S. politics. For instance, in his 2019 State of the Union address, President Trump declared, "Walls work, and walls save lives." In this context, we examine whether the surge in Mexican immigration has improved the safety of U.S. natives in the workplace.

The phenomenon of Mexican immigration to the United States has been intricate and diverse, leaving substantial imprints on numerous facets of American society. Over the past few decades, the Mexican immigrant population in the United States has exhibited steady growth, with estimates suggesting that around 11.2 million Mexican immigrants resided in the country as of 2019.

One of the primary factors driving Mexican immigration to the United States has been economic opportunity. Many Mexican immigrants come to the United States in search of higher wages and better job prospects, particularly in low-skilled sectors such as agriculture, construction, and service industries. Mexican immigrants have been vital to the U.S. economy, contributing to industries such as agriculture and construction, and filling jobs that many native-born Americans are unwilling or unable to perform. Mexican immigration has been a cause of disagreement and stress within American society. Some Americans view Mexican immigrants as a threat to American jobs, culture, and national security.² There has been considerable debate about the impact of Mexican immigration on wages and employment opportunities for native-born Americans, as well as on the availability of social services and the strain that large numbers of immigrants can place on local communities.

Mexican immigration has had a significant impact on American demographics, culture, and politics. The growing Mexican immigrant population has contributed to the diversification of American society, with Mexican Americans becoming an increasingly influential political and cultural force, tensions have also arisen

¹ Marcus Dillender and Melissa McInerney, (August,2020), The Role of Mexican Immigration to the United States in Improved Workplace Safety for Natives <https://www.cato.org/publications/research-briefs-economic-policy/role-mexican-immigration-united-states-improved#:~:text=Mexican%20immigration%20may%20have%20improved,to%20shift%20into%20safer%20jobs>.

² Library of Congress, Depression and the Struggle for Survival <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/mexican/depression-and-the-struggle-for-survival/>

around issues of assimilation and integration, with some Mexican immigrants and their descendants struggling to find acceptance in American society.

The impact of Mexican immigration on the United States has been significant and multifaceted, with both positive and negative consequences. As the United States continues to grapple with issues related to immigration, it is important to understand the social, economic, and political factors that have shaped this complex phenomenon.

The immigration of Mexicans to the United States has had a favorable influence on several facets of American society, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Here are some points that highlight the positive impact of Mexican immigration to the United States:

Economic Enhancement: Mexican immigrants have played a vital role within the labor market, fostering the growth of the U.S. economy. They have made notable economic contributions, particularly in sectors with lower skill requirements such as agriculture, construction, and hospitality. According to a study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Mexican immigrants constitute nearly 5% of the U.S. workforce and have significantly contributed to the expansion of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).³ The study further reveals that Mexican immigrants display a higher propensity to initiate their own businesses compared to native-born Americans, with a greater percentage of Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs establishing enterprises in sectors characterized by lower skill levels.

In the agricultural sector, Mexican immigrants have played a crucial role in harvesting crops, performing manual labor that many U.S. citizens are not willing to do. For example, in California, which is the largest agricultural state in the U.S., over 70% of farmworkers are estimated to be undocumented immigrants, many of whom are from Mexico⁴. Mexican immigrants have also been a vital part of the labor force, working in physically demanding jobs such as carpentry, masonry, and roofing. Their hard work and willingness to take on low-paying jobs have helped to reduce labor costs, making housing more affordable for low-income Americans.

Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs have also made significant contributions to the U.S. economy, creating jobs for both immigrants and U.S. citizens⁵. For example, the owners of popular restaurant chains such as Taco Bell and Chipotle are both of Mexican descent. These businesses have created thousands of jobs, stimulating economic growth in the U.S.

Mexican immigrants have additionally made economic contributions to the United States through their tax payments. As per a study conducted by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, undocumented immigrants in the U.S. contribute an approximate amount of \$11.7 billion annually in state and local taxes⁶.

³ Giovanni Peri, Reem Zaiour (June,2021) Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/citizenship-undocumented-immigrants-boost-u-s-economic-growth/>

⁴ Federico Castillo, Ana M. Mora, Georgia L. Kayser (January,2021) Environmental Health Threats to Latino Migrant Farmworkers <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8168948/>

⁵ Elizabeth Salamanca, (August,2019) The Role of Mexican Migrant Entrepreneurs in the Creation of Small and Medium-sized Businesses in the U.S <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/role-mexican-migrant-entrepreneurs-creation-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-us>

⁶ Matthew Gardner, Misha E. Hill (2017, March) <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2017/>

This tax revenue plays a significant role in financing public services, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Mexican immigrants have played a crucial role in making noteworthy contributions to the U.S. economy, working in low-skilled sectors, starting businesses, and paying taxes. These contributions have increased productivity, reduced labor costs, and stimulated economic growth.

Enrichment of cultural diversity: Mexican immigration has brought significant cultural enrichment to the United States, particularly in the form of Mexican-American communities.⁷ These communities have brought with them their unique traditions, customs, and practices, which have added to the country's cultural diversity and richness. Some examples of how Mexican immigrants have enriched American culture are:

1. Food: Mexican cuisine has become a significant part of American food culture. Tacos, burritos, and quesadillas are now commonly found in restaurants and homes across the country. Mexican food has become so popular that it has given rise to a new genre of cuisine known as Tex-Mex, which combines elements of Mexican and American food.⁸

2. Music: Mexican immigrants have also contributed to American music, particularly in the genres of Tejano and Mariachi.⁹ Tejano music has its roots in Texas and blends traditional Mexican music with elements of country, rock, and pop. Mariachi music is a traditional Mexican music style that features trumpets, violins, and guitars.

3. Art: American art has been significantly enriched by the valuable contributions of Mexican immigrants. The inception of the Mexican muralist movement in the early 20th century left a profound impact on American art. Renowned Mexican muralists such as Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros created expansive murals that portrayed social and political issues, serving as an inspiration for American artists who embraced similar styles.¹⁰

4. Festivals and Celebrations: The United States has been introduced to a diverse array of festivals and celebrations by Mexican immigrants. Cinco de Mayo, a commemoration of the Mexican army's triumph over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, has gained widespread recognition and is celebrated in numerous parts of the country¹¹. Additionally, the Mexican holiday known as Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos,

⁷ Alexander Greene, Mexican Immigration to the United States and Its Effect on Mexican Culture and the Family Structure <https://info.umkc.edu/latinxkc/essays/spring-2017/mexican-immigration-family/>

⁸ Alyssa Fernandez, (October,2022) What Is Tex-Mex Food—and What Makes This Style Iconic?<https://www.tasteofhome.com/article/what-is-tex-mex-food/>

⁹ MasterClass, (September,2021) Tejano Music History <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/tejano-music-guide>

¹⁰ David Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican Muralism <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/late-europe-and-americas/modernity-ap/a/mexican-muralism-los-tres-grandes-david-alfaro-siqueiros-diego-rivera-and-jos-clemente-orozco>

¹¹ The Economic Times, (October,2022) Day of the Dead: Everything to know about Mexican holiday <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/day-of-the-dead-everything-to-know-about-mexican-holiday/articleshow/95105550.cms>

which honors the lives of departed loved ones, has become popular within the United States, with celebrations taking place in various communities.

In conclusion, Mexican immigration has enriched American culture in many ways, from food to music, art, and celebrations. Mexican-American communities have added to the country's diversity and have become an integral part of American society.

Political influence: Mexican-Americans have indeed become an influential force in U.S. politics. With their increasing numbers and growing political participation, they have been able to impact elections and policies in various ways. Some examples of their political influence include:

1. Voting Power: Mexican-Americans have become a significant voting bloc in many states, especially those with large Hispanic populations such as California, Texas, and Florida. According to the Pew Research Center, in the 2020 presidential election, Hispanic voters accounted for a record 13% of all eligible voters in the United States. Mexican-Americans have been able to use their voting power to advocate for issues that affect their community, such as immigration reform, healthcare, and education.¹²

2. Representation: Mexican-Americans have also been successful in gaining representation in government at various levels. A total of 52 individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin currently hold positions as members of Congress, with 46 serving in the House of Representatives (including 2 Delegates and the Resident Commissioner) and 7 serving in the Senate.¹³ Additionally, there are several Mexican-American governors, mayors, and other elected officials. Their presence in government has helped to bring attention to issues affecting the Mexican-American community and promote policies that benefit them.

3. Advocacy: Mexican-American organizations and advocacy groups have been instrumental in advancing the concerns and well-being of the Mexican-American community. Prominent among these organizations are the National Council of La Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Their efforts encompass a wide range of initiatives, including advocating for immigration reform, safeguarding civil rights, and ensuring access to healthcare and education for the community.

4. Political candidates: Mexican-Americans have also been running for political office at increasing rates. As per the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, individuals of Latino descent contested for high-level positions in 44 out of the 50 states in the country¹⁴. While not all of these candidates were successful, their campaigns helped to bring attention to issues affecting the Mexican-American community and increased representation.

¹² Luis Noe-Bustamante, Abby Budiman and Mark Hugo Lopez (January,2020) Where Latinos have the most eligible voters in the 2020 election <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/31/where-latinos-have-the-most-eligible-voters-in-the-2020-election/>

¹³ Jennifer E. Manning, (December,2022) Membership of the 117th Congress: A Profile, pp. 2 <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46705>

¹⁴ Nicole Acevedo, (November,2022) These Latino firsts made history in the 2022 midterm elections <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/latino-firsts-made-history-2022-midterm-elections-rcna56421>

Healthcare contributions: Mexican immigrants have played a pivotal role in making substantial contributions to the healthcare sector in the United States. They have filled critical gaps in healthcare workforce shortages and expanded access to healthcare for underserved communities.

One of the most significant contributions made by Mexican immigrants is in the field of nursing. Based on research conducted by the Migration Policy Institute, foreign-born individuals constitute 20% of the nursing assistants and aides, with 30% of this group hailing from Mexico¹⁵. A considerable number of Mexican immigrants are employed as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) in hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics throughout the United States. Notably, in California, Mexican immigrants form a substantial segment of the nursing workforce¹⁶. They work in community clinics, county hospitals, and private practices. Mexican immigrants have also been instrumental in providing care to underserved communities in rural areas, where there is a shortage of healthcare providers.

Mexican immigrants have also made significant contributions in the field of medicine. Many Mexican immigrants work as physicians, surgeons, and specialists in various medical disciplines. For example, Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, a neurosurgeon at the Mayo Clinic, is a Mexican immigrant who has become a leading authority in his field¹⁷. He has pioneered new surgical techniques and has been recognized with numerous awards for his work. Another example is Dr. Martha Montes, an obstetrician-gynecologist who immigrated to the United States from Mexico. Dr. Montes is a prominent healthcare advocate and serves as the Medical Director for the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. She has dedicated her career to providing healthcare services to underserved communities, including undocumented immigrants.

In addition to their direct contributions to the healthcare sector, Mexican immigrants have also offered to the quality of healthcare in the United States. Mexican immigrants have brought along valuable cultural knowledge and language expertise that are indispensable in delivering healthcare services to diverse communities. Being present, they have established a more intimate link between healthcare providers and patients, resulting in better communication and superior healthcare quality.

Mexican immigrants have made remarkable and noteworthy contributions to the healthcare sector in the United States. The contributions to the healthcare sector have been multifaceted, encompassing widened healthcare access, critical workforce filling, and integration of invaluable cultural knowledge and language skills. The impact has not been limited to healthcare alone, as it has also transcended to the health and wellness of communities nationwide.

Entrepreneurship and innovation: Mexican immigrants have made significant contributions to entrepreneurship and innovation in the United States. Initiating enterprises and developing inventive solutions to a plethora of issues, they have stimulated the U.S. economy and generated employment opportunities. The entrepreneurial spirit and innovative mindset have helped to drive growth and prosperity in the United States. The most significant contributions made by Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs is in the field of agriculture. Many Mexican immigrant farmers have brought innovative farming techniques to the United States, improving productivity

¹⁵ María Gudelia Rangel Gómez, Ana María López Jaramillo (2019, September) Together for Health: An Initiative to Access Health Services for the Hispanic/Mexican Population Living in the United States <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6769102/>

¹⁶ *ibid*, pp. 03

¹⁷ Elizabeth Landau, (May,2013) From migrant worker to neurosurgeon <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/24/health/lifeswork-dr-g/index.html>

and sustainability. For example, Mexican immigrant farmers in California have introduced drip irrigation, which uses less water and fertilizers, improving crop yields and reducing the environmental impact of farming¹⁸.

Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs have also made significant contributions in the field of technology. By establishing startups and devising creative solutions to various issues, they have bolstered the expansion of the technology industry in the United States. For example, Jorge Pérez, a Mexican immigrant entrepreneur who founded the Related Group, a real estate development company. The Related Group has developed numerous properties across the United States, creating jobs and contributing to the growth of the U.S. economy. Pérez's entrepreneurial success has inspired other Mexican immigrants to pursue entrepreneurship and innovation in the United States. Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs have contributed to the overall welfare of their communities, beyond their direct contributions to entrepreneurship and innovation. Creating jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods, and providing essential services to underprivileged communities are some of the ways in which they have contributed. For example, Mexican immigrant entrepreneurs have established grocery stores, restaurants, and other small businesses, providing essential goods and services to their communities.

Mexican immigrants have made significant contributions to entrepreneurship and innovation in the United States. The entrepreneurial drive and innovative approach have pervaded multiple sectors, propelling growth and prosperity. The contributions made by them have extended beyond the U.S. economy, positively impacting the welfare of their communities. The entrepreneurial success of Mexican immigrants has inspired future generations to pursue entrepreneurship and innovation, ensuring continued growth and prosperity for the United States.

Educational Diversity: Mexican immigrants have made substantial contributions to the diversity of the student body in the United States¹⁹. They have actively enrolled in educational institutions across all levels, ranging from elementary schools to universities, thereby introducing their unique perspectives and life experiences to classrooms. This infusion of diversity has greatly enhanced the educational journey of U.S. students and contributed to the overall excellence of the American education system.

One particularly noteworthy contribution of Mexican immigrants lies in the realm of bilingual education. Many Mexican immigrants possess fluency in multiple languages, including English and Spanish, enabling them to bridge the communication divide between English-speaking students and those who are non-English speakers²⁰. Their linguistic abilities have played a vital role in facilitating effective communication within U.S. classrooms, fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment, enabling better communication and more effective learning. For example, in California, where Spanish is the second most widely spoken language, Mexican immigrant students have helped to strengthen bilingual education programs in public schools. Mexican immigrants have also contributed to the diversity of educational perspectives in the United States and come from a different cultural background, and they bring unique experiences and perspectives to the classroom which has enriched the learning experience for U.S. students, giving them a more comprehensive understanding of the world around them. For example, Mexican immigrants have contributed to the teaching of Mexican

¹⁸ Mike Hsu (2022, June) Drip-irrigation study sees 'huge' reduction in water, fertilizer use for sweet corn
<https://ucanr.edu/News/?routeName=newsstory&postnum=53466>

¹⁹ Alexander Greene, Mexican Immigration to the United States and Its Effect on Mexican Culture and the Family Structure
<https://info.umkc.edu/latinxkc/essays/spring-2017/mexican-immigration-family/>

²⁰ Claudio O. Toppelberg, MD and Brian A. Collins (October, 2010) Language, Culture, and Adaptation in Immigrant Children
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3526379/>

history and culture in U.S. schools, helping to broaden students' understanding of the rich cultural heritage of Mexico.

Another significant contribution made by Mexican immigrants is in the field of higher education. Mexican immigrants have enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, contributing to a diverse student population and enriching the academic environment. Unique perspectives and experiences to classrooms, helping to broaden the range of intellectual discourse and research have been brought by them. For example, Mexican immigrant scholars have made significant contributions to the fields of sociology, anthropology, and history, enriching the academic discourse and contributing to the overall quality of education in the United States. Approximately 75% of Mexican American teachers are employed in Texas and California, while the remaining 15% are primarily located in New Mexico²¹.

Mexican immigrants have also contributed to the overall well-being of their communities. Community-based organizations and support networks have been established, providing resources and guidance to students and families and have also served as role models and mentors, inspiring the next generation of Mexican immigrants to pursue education and career opportunities in the United States.

Mexican immigrants have greatly enriched the diversity and enhanced the quality of education in the United States through their substantial contributions. They have enriched the learning experience for U.S. students, bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to classrooms and have also contributed to the academic environment in higher education and the overall well-being of their communities. The contributions of Mexican immigrants have strengthened the education system in the United States, making it more inclusive, diverse, and equitable.

Increased cultural understanding: The influx of Mexican immigrants has increased cultural understanding and tolerance in the United States. Mexican-Americans have helped bridge the cultural divide, increasing understanding and appreciation for Mexican culture among U.S. citizens²².

In summary, Mexican immigration to the United States has had a significant positive impact on various aspects of American society, including the economy, culture, politics, healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and cultural understanding.

Here are some points that highlight the negative impact of Mexican immigration to the United States:

Strain on public resources: The significant influx of Mexican immigrants has placed pressure on public resources, including education, healthcare, and social services, leading to challenges such as overcrowded schools and hospitals, as well as restricted access to these resources for American citizens²³.

²¹ Susan Navarro, (June,2022) Uranga, The Study of Mexican American Education in the Southwest: Implications of Research by the Civil Rights Commission. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED070545.pdf>

²² Maureen Mickus and Denise Bowen, (October,2017) Reducing the cultural divide among U.S. and Mexican students through application of the contact hypothesis
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320660981> Reducing the cultural divide among US and Mexican students through application of the contact hypothesis

²³ Uri Dadush, Mona Niebuhr (April,2016) The Economic Impact of Forced Migration
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2016/04/22/economic-impact-of-forced-migration-pub-63421>

Here are some examples that illustrate this impact:

Education: The large influx of Mexican immigrants has led to overcrowded schools in some areas. For example, in Los Angeles, which has a significant Mexican immigrant population, the school district has struggled to provide adequate resources to meet the needs of all students. This has led to larger class sizes, a shortage of teachers, and limited access to extracurricular activities.

Healthcare: The large number of Mexican immigrants who lack health insurance has put a strain on the healthcare system²⁴. This is because uninsured immigrants often rely on emergency rooms for their medical needs, which can be costly and can lead to long wait times for both immigrants and U.S. citizens. Additionally, some hospitals have closed due to financial strain from providing care to uninsured immigrants.

Social services: The large influx of Mexican immigrants has put a strain on social services such as welfare and food assistance programs. This is because Mexican immigrants who are in the country illegally are not eligible for these programs, but many of them still need assistance. This has resulted in limited resources for U.S. citizens who are eligible for these programs.

Lower wages for U.S. workers: The large number of Mexican immigrants working in low-skilled sectors has led to lower wages for U.S. workers in these sectors²⁵. This is because Mexican immigrants are willing to work for lower wages, which has driven down wages for U.S. citizens. Here are some examples that illustrate this impact:

1. Competition for jobs: Mexican immigrants, whether documented or undocumented, often occupy positions in low-skilled sectors such as agriculture, construction, and manufacturing²⁶. Their willingness to accept lower wages than their American counterparts can contribute to a decline in wages and create challenges for U.S. workers seeking employment in these industries.
2. Depressed wages: Research findings demonstrate that Mexican immigration has had an adverse influence on the wages of American workers in specific sectors. For instance, an analysis conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research revealed that Mexican immigration resulted in an average wage decrease of 1.8 percent for U.S. workers employed in the manufacturing sector between 1990 and 2004²⁷.
3. Labor market segmentation: Mexican immigrants tend to be concentrated in certain occupations and industries, which can lead to labor market segmentation. This means that U.S. workers may be pushed into other occupations and industries, which can lead to a skills mismatch and lower wages for those workers.

The impact of Mexican immigration on wages for U.S. workers is complex and varies depending on the industry, occupation, and location. It is also important to note that Mexican immigrants often work in jobs that

²⁴ Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Jonathan Garcia and David Song (November,2010) Health Care Access Among Hispanic Immigrants <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2992323/>

²⁵ Matthew Hall, Emily Greenman, and George Farkas (November,2014) Legal Status and Wage Disparities for Mexican Immigrants <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4235135/>

²⁶ Michelle Buckley, Adam Zendel, Jeff Biggar Migrant Work & Employment in the Construction Sector https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_538487.pdf

²⁷ Douglas S. Massey and Julia Gelatt (August,2015) What Happened to the Wages of Mexican Immigrants? Trends and Interpretations <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3744106/>

U.S. workers may not be willing or able to do, and their work can contribute to economic growth and productivity in certain industries.

Crime: The presence of Mexican immigrants has been associated with an increase in crime in some areas and has led to concerns about public safety and has contributed to negative perceptions of Mexican immigrants. It is crucial to acknowledge that immigrants, including those from Mexico, exhibit lower crime rates compared to U.S.-born citizens, as evidenced by research conducted by the Cato Institute²⁸. Here are a few instances that exemplify the potential influence of Mexican immigration on crime:

1. **Gang activity:** Mexican immigrants are often associated with gang activity, such as the notorious MS-13 gang²⁹. These gangs can engage in violent crime, drug trafficking, and other illegal activities that can harm U.S. communities.
2. **Illegal immigration:** The fact that some Mexican immigrants may enter the United States illegally can contribute to a perception of lawlessness and may make it more difficult for law enforcement to effectively address crime³⁰.
3. **Drug trafficking:** Mexican drug cartels play a substantial role in facilitating a considerable portion of the drug trafficking operations within the United States, contributing to drug-related offenses such as drug dealing and drug-related violence. These activities pose a threat to American communities, potentially causing harm and destabilizing their safety and well-being.

It is important to note that not all Mexican immigrants engage in criminal activities, and that many contribute positively to U.S. communities. Policies that criminalize immigration or target immigrants based on their country of origin can create a hostile environment that actually makes it more difficult for law enforcement to effectively address crime.

Illegal immigration: A significant portion of Mexican immigration to the United States has been illegal, which has led to concerns about border security and the rule of law. Here are some examples:

1. **Border security:** The fact that many Mexican immigrants enter the United States illegally has raised concerns about border security. This has led to debates about how best to secure the border, with some calling for increased border patrols, additional fencing or walls, and other measures to deter illegal immigration.
2. **Deportation:** The United States has a policy of deporting individuals who are in the country illegally³¹. This has led to controversy and protests, particularly in cases where individuals have been in the United States for many years and have families and ties to the country.

²⁸ Alex Nowrasteh (July,2015)Immigration and Crime – What the Research Says <https://www.cato.org/blog/immigration-crime-what-research-says>

²⁹ BBC News, (April, 2017) MS-13 gang: The story behind one of the world's most brutal street gangs <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39645640>

³⁰ Jens Manuel Krostad, Jeffery S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn (June,2019) 5 facts about illegal immigration in the U.S. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/12/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

³¹ Library of Congress, Depression and the Struggle for Survival <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/mexican/depression-and-the-struggle-for-survival/>

3. Sanctuary cities: Some cities in the United States have declared themselves to be "sanctuary cities" and have policies in place to protect illegal immigrants from deportation³². This has led to controversy and debates about the responsibilities of local governments to enforce federal immigration laws.

4. Family separation: To discourage unauthorized immigration, the United States implemented a policy of family separation at the border. The policy received widespread criticism and was eventually rescinded.

5. Workforce issues: Illegal immigration from Mexico can have a negative impact on the workforce, particularly in industries where immigrants are heavily concentrated, such as agriculture and construction. This is because illegal immigrants may be willing to accept lower wages compared to U.S. citizens or legal immigrants, which can depress wages in certain industries.

Cultural conflicts: The cultural differences between Mexican immigrants and U.S. citizens have led to conflicts and tensions in some areas. This has resulted in social and political divisions and has contributed to negative perceptions of Mexican immigrants. The cultural conflicts arising from Mexican immigration to the United States can be attributed to several factors, including language barriers, different customs and traditions, and differences in values and beliefs. These conflicts have led to tensions between Mexican immigrants and U.S. citizens, contributing to negative perceptions of Mexican immigrants. One example of cultural conflict is the debate over bilingual education in schools. Some U.S. citizens view bilingual education as a threat to the English language and U.S. culture, while Mexican immigrants may view it as a necessary means of preserving their own culture and language which led to heated debates and even legal battles over the use of bilingual education in schools³³.

Another example is the festivities of Mexican holidays and traditions in the United States. While Mexican immigrants may view these celebrations as an important part of their cultural heritage, some U.S. citizens may view them as a threat to U.S. culture and identity. This has led to tensions and conflicts in some areas, particularly around celebrations such as Cinco de Mayo.

The issue of religion has also contributed to cultural conflicts between Mexican immigrants and U.S. citizens. Mexican immigrants are largely Catholic, which may clash with the predominant Protestant culture in some parts of the United States which has led to tensions and conflicts, particularly around issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage.

Unemployment: The large influx of Mexican immigrants has led to increased competition for jobs, resulting in higher unemployment rates for U.S. citizens in some areas. Mexican immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented, might be inclined to accept lower wages compared to U.S. citizens, potentially resulting in the displacement of American workers. As an illustration, a study conducted by the Economic Policy Institute revealed that in 2013, the construction sector employed over 1.1 million undocumented immigrants, constituting more than 13% of the overall construction workforce³⁴. This has led to concerns that U.S. workers in the construction industry may be losing jobs to undocumented Mexican immigrants.

Mexican immigration may lead to a reduction in wages for U.S. workers. For example, a study by Borjas (2017) found that the large influx of Mexican immigrants in the 1990s resulted in a 3-9% reduction in wages for U.S.

³² Kathleen Meier, (July,2021) What are Sanctuary cities and why do they exist? <https://www.lirs.org/what-are-sanctuary-cities-why-do-they-exist/>

³³ Dinesh Bhugra and Matthew A. Becker (February,2015) Migration, cultural bereavement and cultural identity <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1414713/>

³⁴ Ryan Edwards and Francesc Ortega, (November,2016) The Economic contribution of unauthorized workers: An Industry analysis, pp. 4 https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w22834/w22834.pdf

workers without a high school degree³⁵. This has led to concerns that Mexican immigration may be contributing to income disparity in the United States.

Some critics argue that Mexican immigration may result in unemployment or underemployment among U.S. workers with similar skills as Mexican immigrants. As an illustration, research conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research revealed that Mexican immigration had adverse effects on both employment opportunities and wages for U.S. workers employed in the manufacturing sector.

In summary, Mexican immigration to the United States has had some negative impacts, including a strain on public resources, lower wages for U.S. workers, crime, illegal immigration, cultural conflicts, unemployment, and strain on public infrastructure. It is crucial to recognize that the negative effects of Mexican immigration are not all-encompassing and are frequently confined to regions and situations. Furthermore, the positive consequences of Mexican immigration often surpass the negative ones.



³⁵ Ken-Hou Lin1 and Inbar Weiss (November,2021) Immigration and the Wage Distribution in the United States
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8612123/>