With Congress considering taking up immigration reform, workable policies can best be advanced with facts and data that confirm the many benefits immigration provides to our country and the economy. This fact sheet offers unbiased information to inform a constructive dialogue about policy reform.

A Nation of Immigrants

1 in 8 residents of the United States were born in another country

13% immigrants in the United States are citizens

1 in 2 immigrants in the United States are citizens

Immigrants make up 13% of the US Population ~ 40 million people

88% of employment-based green card holders live in the US VS 38% of family-based green card holders live in the US

H-2B

H-1B

STEM

Economic Benefits

In an area where 1 high-skilled visa holder is hired, an average of 2.8 native-born Americans are also hired.

In an area where 1 low-skilled visa holder is hired, an average of 4.6 native-born Americans are also hired.

A foreign born graduate with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degree is associated with an additional 2.6 jobs for native-born Americans.

Impact on Business

Immigrants are 2x more likely than natives to start businesses.

During the decade 1995-2005, American companies founded by immigrants:

- Employed 450,000 workers in the United States
- Generated $52 Billion in sales

50% of Silicon Valley startups are founded by immigrants

Reform is Essential

6% of American green cards are employment-based vs 50-70% of European green cards. America’s future prosperity depends on continued immigration.

Increase real GDP by 3.2%

Reduce the Federal deficit by $150 billion over the next decade
Myths of Immigration

Myth: America needs a pathway to citizenship.

A pathway to citizenship already exists: The United States welcomes over 1 million legal immigrants each year. In raw numbers, that makes the US the most immigrant-friendly country in the world. But when measuring the flow of immigrants as a percentage of the population, the US is currently ranked #22 in the world. The current immigration flow is much lower than it has been historically.

Fact: Most immigrants in the United States are illegal.

Most immigrants coming to the US follow the rules and come here legally. In fact, 3 in 4 immigrants are legal residents. Research shows that these immigrants are overwhelmingly positive for the US economy, a reality reflected by 72% of the American public that thinks immigration is a good thing.

Fact: America needs more border security.

Security is important, but border security is not the key issue. There are now more than 20,000 border security agents, more than double the number in 2000. However, only 3 in 5 illegal immigrants cross the border illegally, while the other 40% arrive on legal visas, but then overstay the visa time permitted.

Fact: There is not a strong demand for high-skilled workers (H-1B visas) in the United States.

Many critical skills are in demand in the US labor market. All 2014 high-tech H-1B visas were issued within the first week that they became available.

Fact: Immigrants do not try to assimilate.

Assimilation can be measured by how well immigrants acquire English. While only 35% of first-generation Hispanic immigrants speak English well, 91% of their children speak English well, as do 97% of their grandchildren. But fears of non-assimilation echo the initial native hostility toward foreigners in previous centuries, a reality faced by Irish, Polish, Jewish, and Asian immigrants to the U.S. in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Sources listed at http://www.hoover.org/taskforces/immigration-reform.

For more ideas and a deeper discussion of immigration reform, subscribe to Peregrine, a product of the Hoover Institution Conte Initiative on Immigration Reform. Peregrine seeks consensus on incremental and appropriate reforms to US immigration policy. Each issue of this free online journal addresses a different aspect of immigration reform and seeks to educate and inform the ongoing debate.
A Nation of Immigrants

- “1 in 8 residents of the United States were born in another country.”
  - Source: 2013 CPS, March Supplement
- “Immigrants make up 13% of the US population.”
  - Source: 2013 CPS, March Supplement
- “1 in 2 immigrants in the United States are citizens.”
  - Source: 2013 CPS, March Supplement
- “88% of employment-based green card holders live in the US. 38% of family-based green card holders live in the US.”

Economic Benefits

- H-1B, H-2B, STEM immigrant benefits

Impact on Business

- “Immigrants are 2x more likely than natives to start businesses.”
- “50% of Silicon Valley startups are founded by immigrants.
- “During 1995-2005, employed 450,000 workers in the United States and generated $52 billion in sales.”

Reform is Essential

- 6% of American green cards are employment based vs. 50-70% of European green cards.
- “Employment based immigration. Increase real GDP by 3.2%. Reduce Federal deficit by $150 billion in the next decade.”

Myths of Immigration

- Pathway to citizenship. Welcomes 1 million legal immigrants each year.
- Most immigrant friendly country vs. #22 in the world as a percentage of population.
- 3 in 4 immigrants are legal residents.
- 72% of the American public thinks immigration is a good thing.
- Number of border security agents.
- 40% of illegals overstayed their visas.
- Demand for high-skilled, H-1B visas.
- Assimilation by immigrants.