

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [How Does Accounting For Population Change Affect Estimates Of The Effect Of Immigration Policies On The Federal Budget](#)

Article Link: <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2024/1/18/population-change-effect-immigration-policies-on-federal-budget>

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Tweet: Douglas Elmendorf and Heidi Williams argue that expanding the number of employment-based green cards for applicants with graduate STEM degrees would reduce the deficit by \$129 billion between 2025 and 2034 relative to current accounting.

Summary: The Penn Wharton Budget Model (PWBM) forecasts that exempting employment-based green cards from statutory limits for applicants (and their families) who have earned a doctoral or master's degree in a STEM field---similar to Section 80303 in H.R. 4521---would reduce federal budget deficits by \$129 billion from 2025 to 2034. In contrast, a conventional budget estimate, which would include projected increases in federal spending but not the effect of a larger population on federal tax revenues, shows an increase in federal deficits of \$4 billion. Over the following decade, the difference between estimates under the conventional approach and the population-change approach is even larger, from a \$74 billion increase in the budget deficit under the conventional approach to a \$634 billion decrease under the population-change approach. Related: Third-Country Effects of U.S. Immigration Policy and Top Talent, Elite Colleges, and Migration: Evidence from the Indian Institutes of Technology and New U.S. Immigration Rules Spur More Visa Approvals For STEM Workers

Primary Topic: Immigration

Topics: Immigration, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Workforce

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/douglas-elmendorf-and-heidi-williams-argue-that-expanding-the-number-of-employment-based-green-cards-for-applicants-with-graduate-stem-degrees-would-reduce-the-deficit-by-129-billion-between-2025-and?view=detail>

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