

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** Foreign-born Skilled Workers Play a Critical Role in Strategically Significant Industries

**Article Link:** <https://eig.org/hsi-in-strategic-industries/>

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**Tweet:** Properly trained talent is the limiting constraint to growth; immigrants currently make up 20% of the domestic American workforce in strategic industries. @cojobrien @ModeledBehavior

**Summary:** We identify Census-defined industries as strategically significant if they intersect with Brookings Metro's Advanced Industries definition, using the Census Bureau's NAICS crosswalk. Brookings defines advanced industries as those that are both in the top fifth of industries by R&D spending per worker and are above average in their use of STEM workers. We then examine the workforces of these industries using 2018-2022 five-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata. The industries identified encompass nearly 20 million workers and range from software to shipbuilding. Strategic industries are disproportionately in manufacturing and professional services, which combine for 83% of employment. In non-strategic sectors, these two categories combined employ only 9% of workers. We find a total of 19.9mm workers in the 2022 five-year ACS in our identified strategic industries. Just over 4mm, or 20.3%, of such workers are foreign-born, compared with 18.4% of workers overall. Related: The Extreme Shortage of High IQ Workers and Immigration and the U.S. Economy Since the Pandemic: An Accounting Exercise and Third-Country Effects of U.S. Immigration Policy

**Primary Topic:** Immigration

**Topics:** Database, GDP, Growth, Immigration, Important!, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Weekly, Workforce

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