

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Cost of Illegal Immigration](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-cost-of-illegal-immigration>

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**Tweet:** Census Bureau data shows that the foreign-born population of the US rose from 45mm in January 2021 to 51.6mm in March 2024, representing 15.6% of the population, surpassing the 1890 record of 14.8%.

**Summary:** Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had a reasonable picture of illegal immigrants in the United States and their fiscal impact. But since President Biden took office, the flow of illegal immigrants into the country has been nothing short of astonishing. All told, during the first three years of the Biden administration, 6 to 7 million new illegal immigrants likely settled in the United States. We have never seen anything like this before. The monthly Current Population Survey shows that the total foreign-born population grew from 45mm in January 2021 to 51.6mm in March 2024 — a 6.6 million-person increase. This is the net increase, not the number of new arrivals, which of course is offset by out-migration and deaths. Immigrants now make up 15.6% of the U.S. population — almost double their share in 1990 and more than triple what it was in 1970. This surpasses the old records of 14.8% in 1890 and 14.7% in 1910. By March of this year, there were probably 13.7mm illegal immigrants in the United States, a net increase of 3.7mm since January 2021.

**Related Articles:** Without Immigrants, US Working-Age Population Would Shrink and Immigration and the U.S. Economy Since the Pandemic: An Accounting Exercise and Immigration's Effect on US Wages and Employment Redux

**Primary Topic:** Immigration

**Topics:** Database, Demographics, Immigration, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Workforce

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