

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Immigrant Inventors Are Crucial for American National and Economic Security

Article Link: <https://eig.org/immigrants-patents/>

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Tweet: Immigrants make up 20% of the US workforce, but they accounted for 1/3 of US Nobel prize winners in the last decade, and they were authors or co-authors on 30% of all patents in strategic industries from 2000-18. @cojobrien @ModeledBehavior

Summary: Nearly one out of every seven people who live in the United States is foreign-born. Yet the benefits of immigration have been much larger than immigrants' share of the population would suggest. Foreign-born talent has been instrumental in American scientific and technological leadership, accounting for more than 1/3 of U.S. Nobel Prizes over the last decade. We use U.S. patent data between 2000 and 2018 to estimate the share of patents with foreign-born authors by industry. We find that immigrants authored or co-authored 30% of patents within U.S. industries that are important for economic and national security, from semiconductors to automobile manufacturing to software development. The share of patents that are immigrant-authored varies widely by industry. In the information industries considered strategic, 44% of patents originate from immigrant inventors. In professional services, the share is 38%.

Related Articles: Foreign-born Skilled Workers Play a Critical Role in Strategically Significant Industries and Third-Country Effects of U.S. Immigration Policy and Immigration and the U.S. Economy Since the Pandemic: An Accounting Exercise

Primary Topic: Immigration

Topics: GDP, Growth, Immigration, Innovation/Research, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Productivity, Security, Weekly, Workforce

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