

Immigration in figures

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Immigration in context

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Immigration is among the most important *economic* and *political* issues.

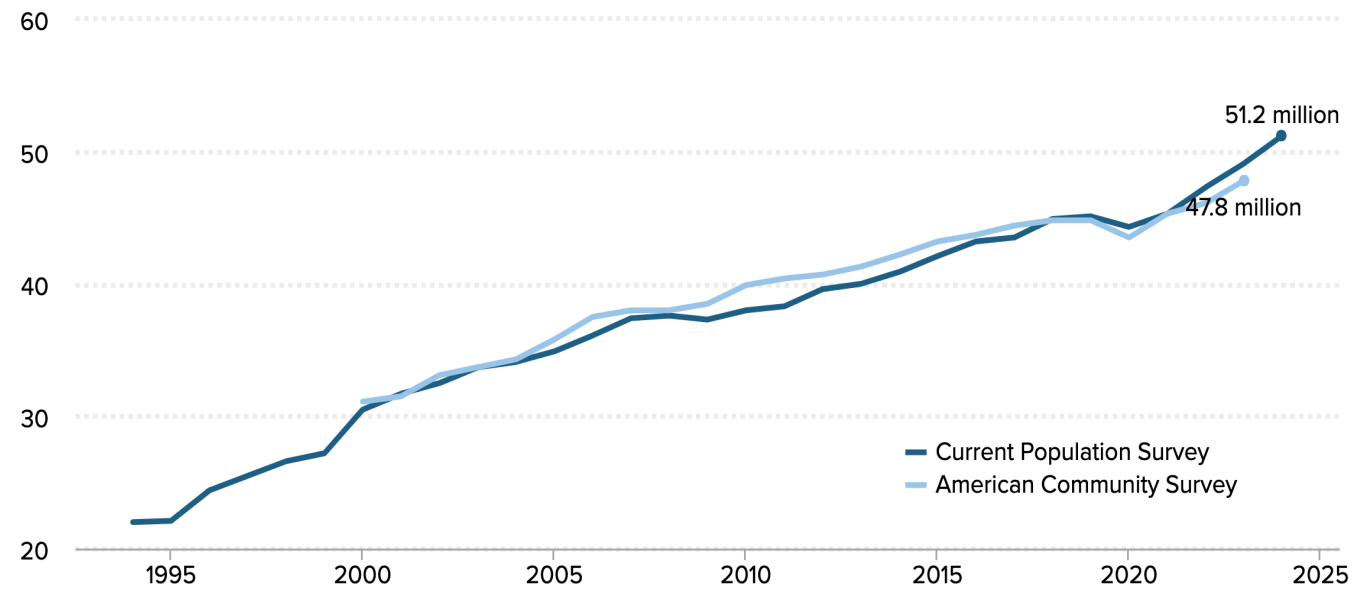
It is also a main topic of discourse and debate among *policymakers* and the *public*.

However, **misperceptions** persist about many *fundamental* aspects of this crucial topic.

How many immigrants?

The immigrant population has grown steadily over the last three decades

Foreign-born population size (millions) from the American Community Survey (2000–2023) and Current Population Survey (1994–2024)

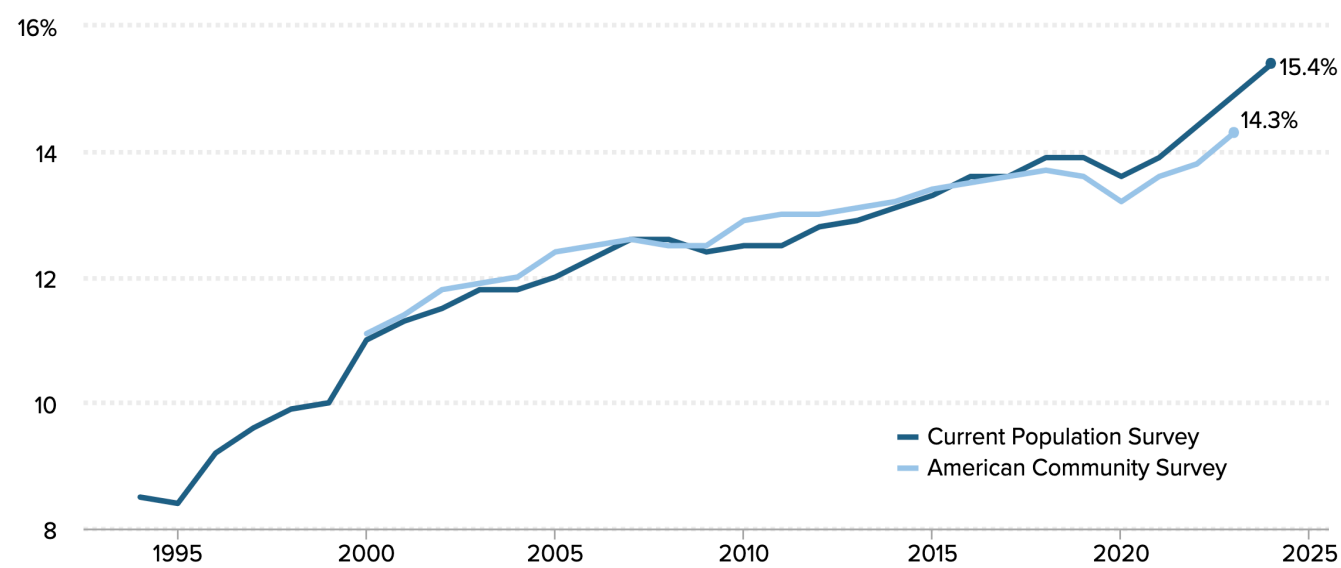


Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

How many immigrants?

The immigrant share of the population has grown by less than five percentage points since 2000

Foreign-born population as a share of total population from the American Community Survey (2000–2023) and Current Population Survey (1994–2024)

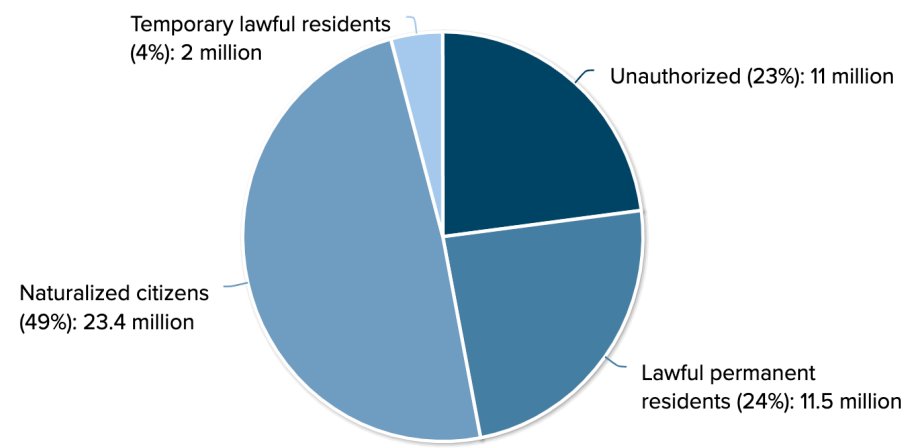


Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Status

Nearly half of all immigrants are U.S. citizens, and one-quarter have green cards

Immigration statuses of the foreign-born population residing in the United States, 2022 (shares and totals, in millions)

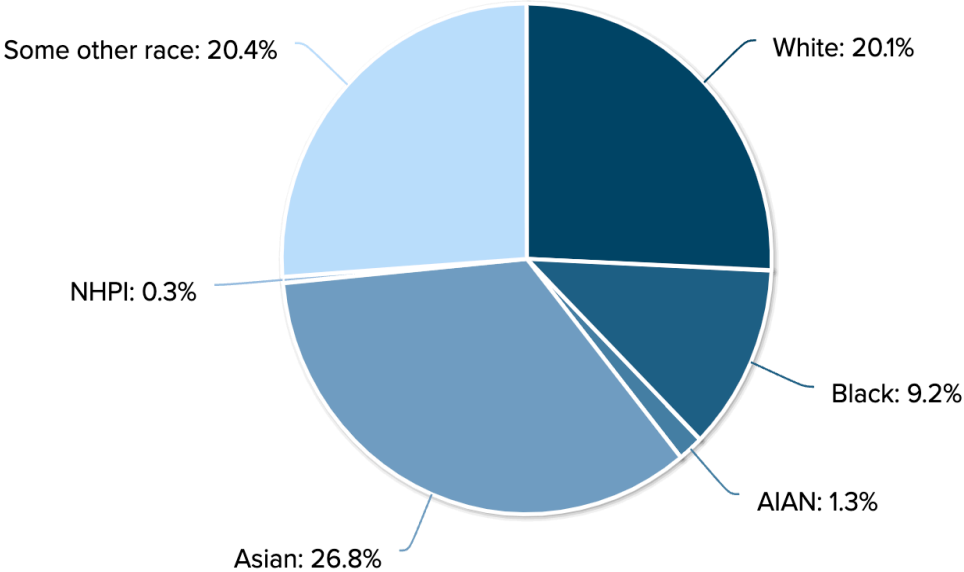


Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Race

The U.S. immigrant population is diverse

Foreign-born residents self-identifying as single-race, shares by race, 2023

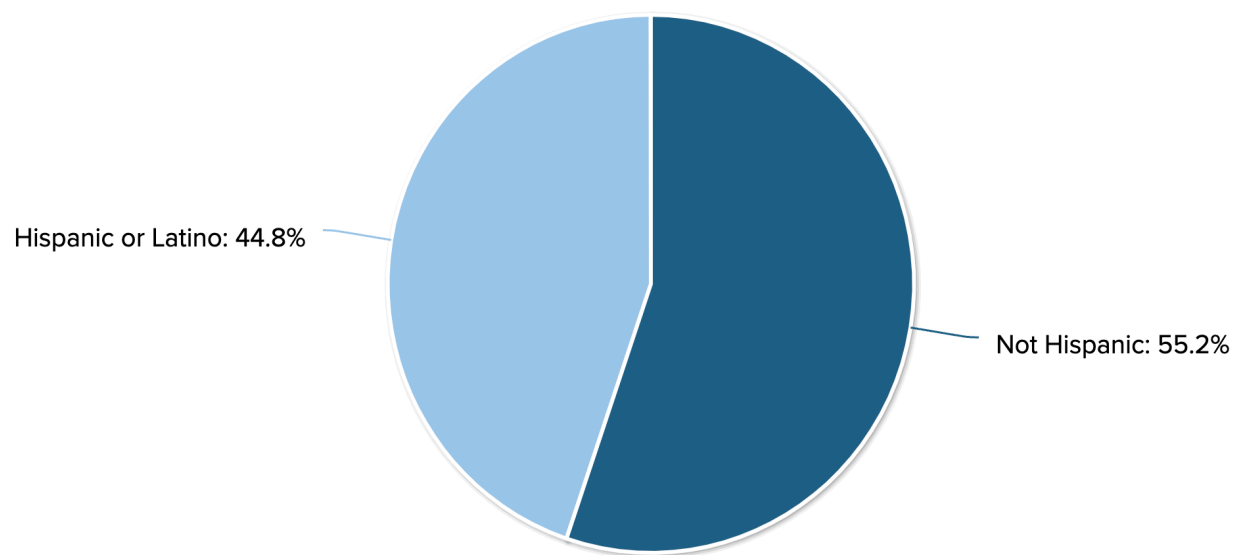


Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Ethnicity

Less than half of the U.S. immigrant population is Hispanic or Latino

U.S. foreign-born population self-identifying as Hispanic or of Latino origin (any race), 2023



Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Contributions to the economy

Immigrants punch above their weight in the U.S. economy

Real contribution to economic output compared with population size, by nativity, 2023

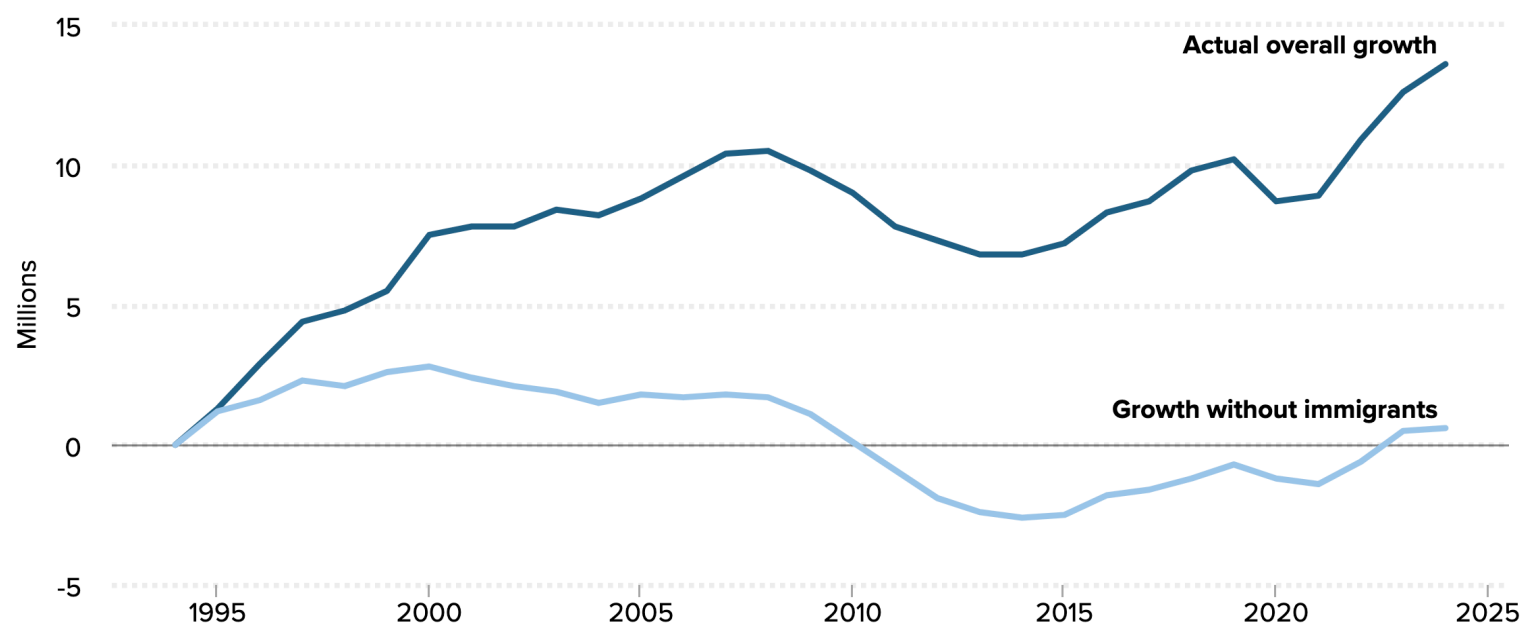
	Total wage, salary, and business proprietor income (2024\$)	Income share	Population share
U.S.-born	\$9.5 trillion	82.0%	85.7%
Foreign-born	\$2.1 trillion	18.0%	14.3%
Total population	\$11.6 trillion	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Contributions to the economy

Immigration is the primary source of growth in the prime-age labor force

Labor force growth for ages 25–54, overall and without immigrants (in millions), 1994–2024

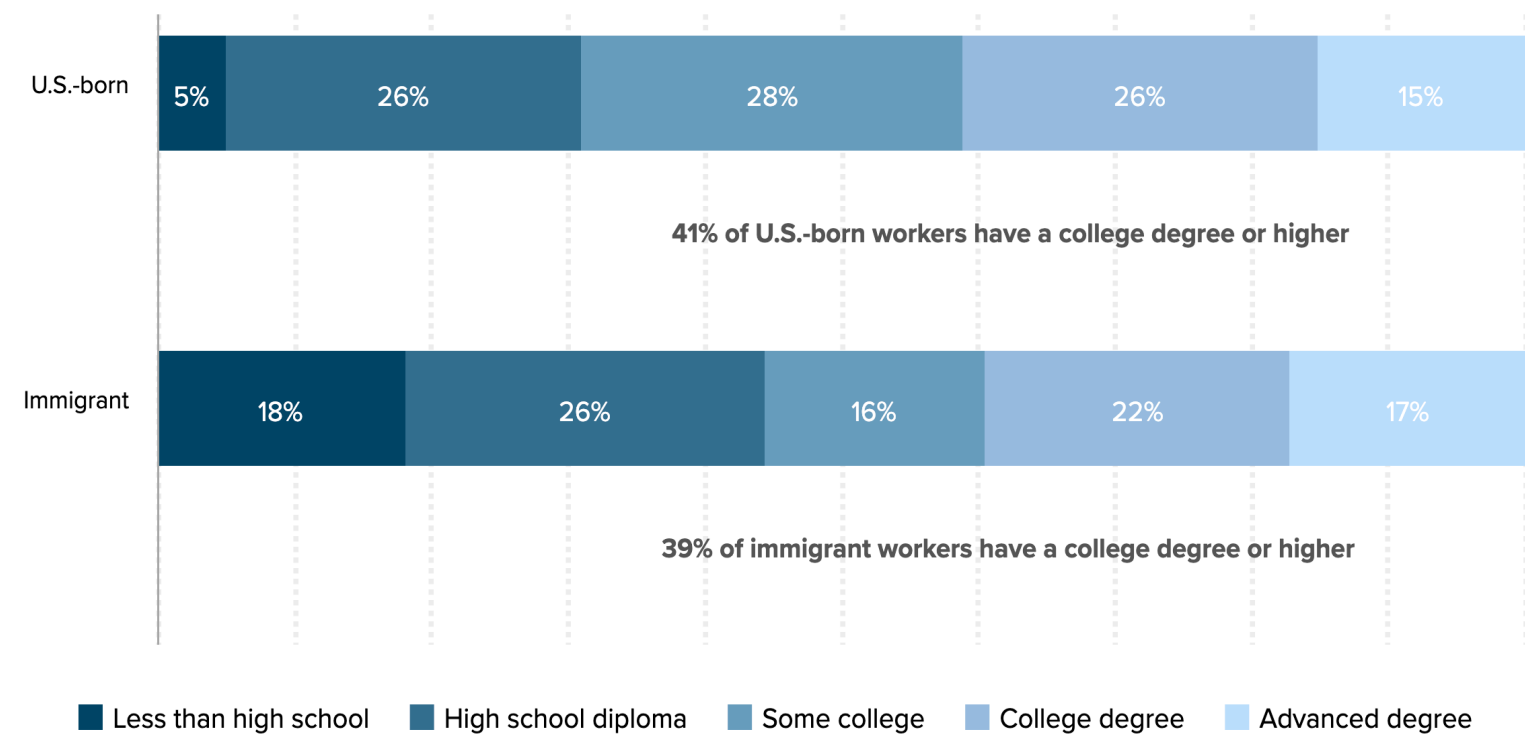


Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Contributions to the economy

Immigrants and U.S.-born workers have similar levels of high-school and college education

Educational distribution of the labor force in 2024, for U.S.-born and foreign-born



Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

Contributions to the economy

Immigrants comprise a significant share of workers in both high- and low-paying major occupations

Top-10 occupations for immigrants by share of employment in the occupation, number of immigrants employed in each occupation, median hourly wage for the occupation, and difference from national median wage for all workers

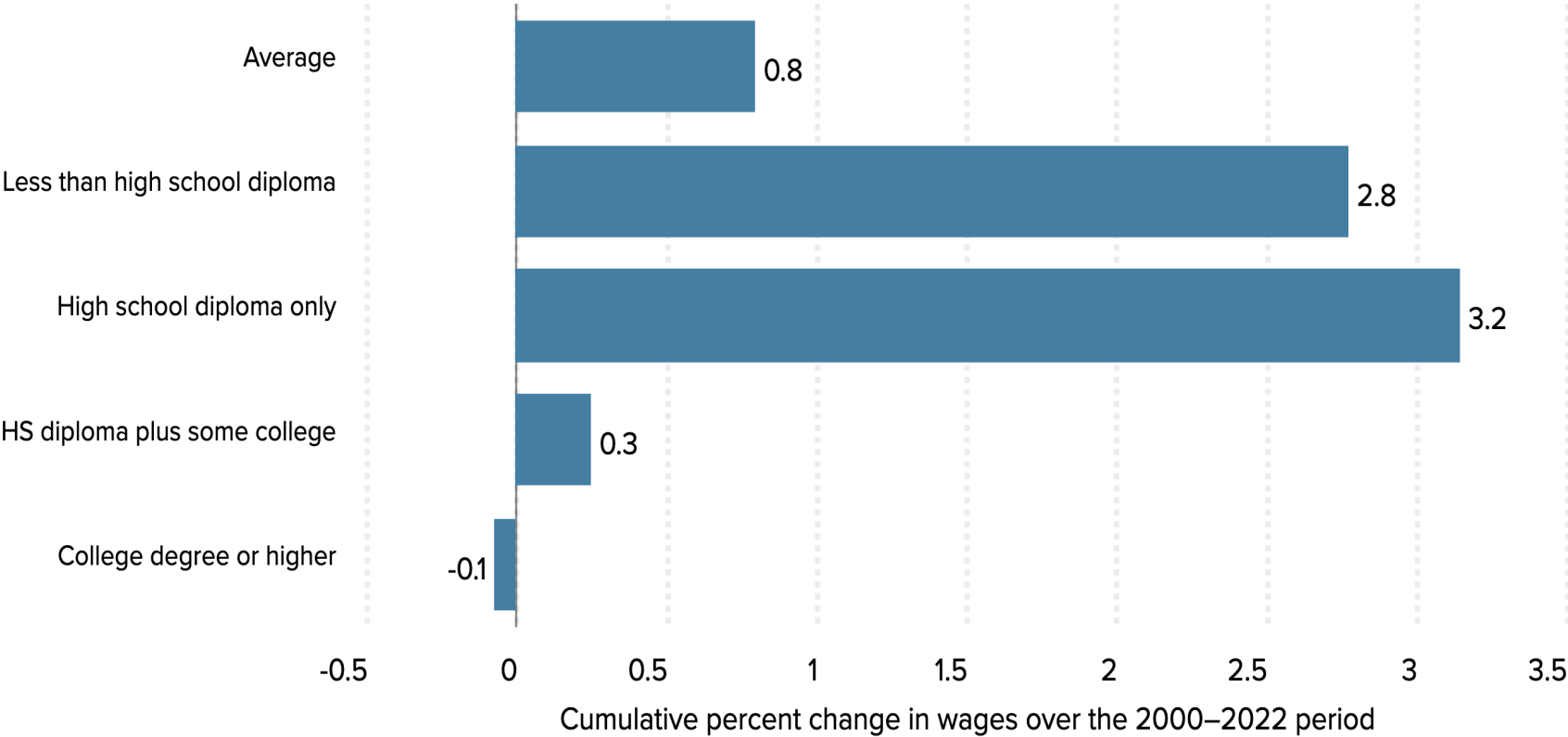
Occupation	Number of immigrants employed	Immigrant share of total employment in occupation	Median wage for the occupation	Difference from national median wage for all workers
Farming, fishing, and forestry	386,000	40%	\$16.64	–34%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	2,285,000	40%	\$17.95	–29%
Construction and extraction	3,037,000	36%	\$24.83	–2%
Computer and mathematical science	1,695,000	27%	\$47.36	87%
Food preparation and serving related	2,043,000	25%	\$16.21	–36%
Production occupations	1,960,000	25%	\$22.14	–12%
Healthcare support	1,311,000	24%	\$18.33	–28%
Transportation and material moving	2,838,000	24%	\$19.98	–21%
Personal care and service	892,000	22%	\$17.74	–30%
Life, physical, and social science	405,000	22%	\$37.95	50%

Source: Economic Policy Institute (2025).

The big question

Immigration’s wage effects on U.S.-born workers estimated to be positive and progressive since 2000

Estimated effect of immigration flows on hourly wages by educational level, 2000–2022



Source: Caiumi and Peri (2024).

Next time: Education and student debt