

Table Talk



with KRM

Cornerstones of our founding American principles, immigration and the right to seek safety in the U.S. have become divisive - even vilified - issues in recent years. Largely due to widespread misunderstanding and false portrayals of immigrants, this often overshadows the immense ways in which immigrants benefit American economy, culture and communities.

This holiday season, share these key facts that dispel common misinformation about immigrants* and demonstrate how truly invaluable they are to our country.



*Including refugees, asylum-seekers, humanitarian parolees, Special Immigration Visa-holders and all other immigration statuses

MYTH:

Immigrants take jobs away from U.S.-born citizens and hurt the workforce.

TRUTH:

Immigrants create jobs.

- Many bring an entrepreneurial drive and an abundance of skills and knowledge that lead to job creation, not loss.
- Research shows that immigrants are almost twice as likely to start a business compared to U.S.-born citizens.

Did you know? Over 46% of the current Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children. In FY 2024, those 231 companies generated \$8.6 trillion in revenue and employed 15.4 million people - showing the profound impacts immigrants can have on our economy.

Immigrants fill crucial labor gaps.

- Immigrants have long-filled labor shortages where U.S.-born workers are unwilling or unable to meet demand.
- Vital sectors like agriculture, construction and healthcare rely on immigrant labor to fill essential roles.

And without these workers? Many American businesses and industries will face substantial setbacks, higher costs and reduced productivity - major contributors to inflation.

MYTH:

Immigrants are a burden on public resources and put strain on our economy.

TRUTH:

Immigrants contribute more to public resources than they consume.

- Both documented and undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to public benefit programs and social security, though many are ineligible to claim benefits themselves.
- Immigrants pay billions of dollars in taxes every year - contributing a total of \$579 billion to local, state and federal tax revenues in 2022.

Did you know? Of that \$579 billion in tax revenue, undocumented immigrants contributed nearly \$100 billion.

Immigrants Strengthen the U.S. Economy

- In 2023, U.S. Census Bureau data shows that immigrants contributed approximately \$2.1 trillion to U.S. economic activity.

In Addition to All This...

Immigrants enrich cultural diversity and bolster innovation.

- An often overlooked benefit of immigration is that it enlivens the cultural fabric of societies. Diversity has proven to bring many positive impacts to our communities - fostering innovation and creativity.

People from different backgrounds and parts of the world bring new perspectives, traditions and life experience - enriching communities, workplaces and the U.S. overall.

- Immigrants introduce unique insights and ideas from their home countries, which has led to some of the world's most remarkable breakthroughs in science, technology, the arts, and other fields.

Did you know? Research has found that immigration and diversity were the leading factors that made the U.S. into the innovation and economic powerhouse that it is today!

Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research; RefugeePoint.org

FROM ALL OF US AT KRM

We Wish You a Happy Holiday Season

This holiday season, honor the traditions of our “Nation of Immigrants” by celebrating your neighbors, advocating for those in need and welcoming one another with open arms and open hearts.

Learn More, Get Involved or Donate at:

KYRM.org



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Making Kentucky Home
for Refugees