



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Changing Demographics Illustrate Need for Immigration Reform

The U.S. faces demographic challenges that immigration reform – by generating economic growth through the productivity of new workers – can help address.

Our Senior Population is Exploding

- Each day 10,000 people turn 65.
- The retiree population is expected to more than double between 2012 and 2060, from 43.1 million to 92.0 million as Baby Boomers retire.

Birthrates are Below Replacement Levels

- In 2012, it was estimated that the typical woman in the U.S. during her lifetime would have 2.0 children. This rate is projected to decline to 1.91 by 2060, providing an insufficient number of new births to replace deaths.
- For example, in 2011, the birth rate among women in the U.S. was the lowest since 1920, when U.S. birth rates were first recorded.

America is – and is Becoming – Much Older Than Ever Before

- From 2004-2014, the annual growth rate for those 55 and older is 4.1 percent, more than four times the rate of growth of the workforce. By contrast, during the same time the annual growth rate for those 25-to-54 years old is .3 percent.
- By 2056, for the first time, the older population (age 65 and over) is projected to outnumber the young (age under 18).

Workers are Needed to Help Sustain our Entitlement Programs

- In 1950, each Social Security retiree's benefit was divided among 16 workers. By 2035, the ratio of workers to retired beneficiaries is projected to drop to two workers for every retiree.
- The number of children and elderly compared with the number of working-age Americans (the "dependency ratio") has always been replenished in our country based on immigration. Between 2005 and 2050, the ration of children and elderly people to working age adults is projected to increase by over 22 percent.

Immigration Can Help Address Future Labor Shortages and Expand Our Economy

- Immigrants are more than twice as likely as the native-born to start a business and were responsible for more than one in every four (28 percent) U.S. businesses founded in 2011, significantly outpacing their share of the population (12.9 percent).
- Immigrants tend to be younger than the American population, are more mobile and able to fill labor shortages, and help complement the job skills of native-born Americans.

