



How can we create growth in St. Louis?

The Economic Impact of Immigration on our Region

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June 2012

Funded by The William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee

St. Louis Demographic Background

1980
10th largest city



2011
19th largest city

St. Louis has the lowest immigration share of a top 20 city,
and 2nd slowest population growth.

1970
26th in # of foreign
born



2012
43th in # of foreign
born

Other metros in the top 20 averaged 40% faster economic
growth over the past decade.

Immigration Effects

- Report statistically demonstrates that a lack of immigration explains a considerable portion of the region's slow job and income growth.
- Why: Immigrants bring work skills, specialize, pay taxes and buy goods in our region.
- St. Louis Metro has around 126,500 immigrants
 - Immigrants comprise 4.5% of the region's population.
 - Other metros in the top 20 average 4-5 times the number of immigrants.
- Typical immigration patterns imply that income growth would have been 4-7% greater, and job growth 4-5% higher.

Foreign Born Profile

St. Louis foreign-born community is highly educated with predominantly white collar jobs.

3x more likely to be high-skilled

Earns **25%** more than average American born.

44%

more likely to have at least a college education

Contribute **29%** more.

130%

more likely to have an advanced degree

more likely to be entrepreneurs

60%

Immigration Effects

- If St. Louis increased its immigration inflow to other top 20 cities, housing prices would increase by 26% in the City and 20% in the County over the decade.
- The foreign-born in St. Louis have:
 - Higher labor force participation rates
 - Substantially lower unemployment rates than native-born
- Encouraging immigration can lower White and African-American unemployment rates.
- The region's poor immigrants are less likely to receive food stamps and cash assistance; thus, they are not a burden to the system.

What's Next?

one policy can simultaneously redress
St. Louis' population decline, output stagnation,
low employment growth, housing problems
and lack of entrepreneurship:

IMMIGRATION

- Steering committee and mobilize support among businesses.
- Persuade public that immigration helps aging population and a city with negative migration.
- Immigrants help everyone by buying local goods.
- Identify policies for St. Louis that can attract and retain immigrants.