

Immigration Policy ideas for the Biden Administration

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Global Migration Center

UC DAVIS
OFFICE OF RESEARCH



Immigration has collapsed in last 4 years under Trump and then Covid-19 crisis

Yearly entries

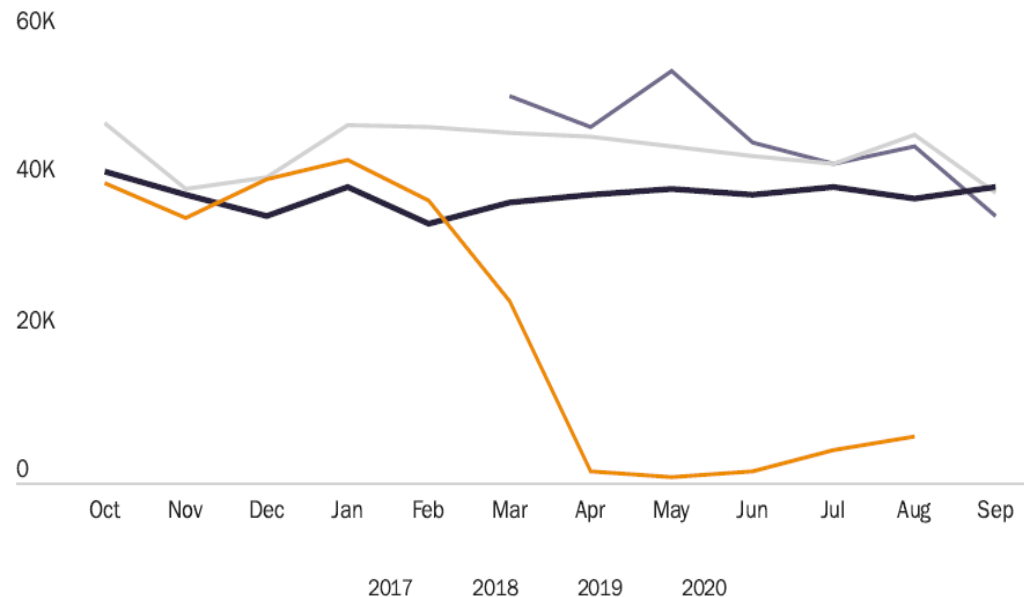
Table 1

Immigrant Visas Issued/New Arrivals of Legal Permanent Residents From Abroad

	New arrivals	Change in New Arrivals	Annualized Rate, % of US Pop.
2020.Q3-4 (Change from 2020 Q1-Q2)	21,297	-91.9%	0.03%
2020	263,849	-42.9%	0.08%
2019	462,422	-13.3%	0.14%
2018	533,557	-4.6%	0.16%
2017	559,536	-9.4%	0.17%
2016	617,752	16.2%	0.19%
2015	531,463	13.7%	0.17%
2014	467,370	-1.2%	0.15%

Monthly entries

Immigrant Visas Issued to New Immigrants Abroad
FY 2017-2020



Economic recovery package should include re-opening to immigration

- Stimulus to Labor Markets and Demand, especially work-based green cards, H1-B, J and Student visas.
 - Estimates that Each H-1B create additional 3-4 local jobs, through local firm expansion/demand effects
- Executive Orders will remove several of the bans/restrictions. Short-run.
- Need legislation action to tackle Caps (H-1B), Number and bottlenecks for Green Cards (7% rule). Long-run.

Long-run Economic Recovery package should include regularization

- **Idea: Path to legal status for undocumented essential workers.**
 - 7 million workers, 5 million in jobs deemed essential by DHS.
 - 500K working in food chain, 400K working in health care.
- Legalization generate stimulus via higher wages, productivity gains, more job mobility.
 - Estimated + 10-20% of earnings, for workers.
- DACA had strong economic impact
 - increasing schooling, work opportunities, long-run fiscal balance.

Two more Important Policies reducing economic inequality and for Immigrants

- **Raise Federal Minimum wage (\$7.25) progressively, up to \$15**
 - Economists do not find averse employment effects.
 - They find strong positive effects in reducing inequality/raising wages at the bottom 10th percentile
 - Undocumented will benefit from this, even before legalization, employers pay them minimum wage.
- **Eliminate Public Charge Provision to get permanent residence**
 - Hurts Public Health
 - Hurts Children