

POLICY BRIEF

The Decline in Mexican Migration to the U.S.: Why is Texas different?

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STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Net migration to the U.S. declines in immigration on a national level, rather than a state-by-state basis. We present an empirical model that studies net Mexican migration by state and includes different push and pull factors that have been identified in the literature. Our findings show that net migration to the U.S. has declined since the turn of the century, and that this decline is more pronounced in states with a high percentage of Mexican residents. We also find that net migration to the U.S. is higher in states with a high percentage of Mexican residents, and that this is true for both young and old adults. Finally, we find that net migration to the U.S. is higher in states with a high percentage of Mexican residents, and that this is true for both young and old adults.

KEY FINDINGS

- Net migration to the U.S. has declined since the turn of the century.
- Gender parity has been basically achieved among Mexicans in Texas, contrary to the pattern of other states.
- Net migration to the U.S. is higher in states with a high percentage of Mexican residents, and that this is true for both young and old adults.
- Relative costs of fuel, water, electricity and rent are growing at a slower pace in Texas than the average of other states.

CONCLUSIONS

- The national declining trend for Mexican immigration is not found in all demographic sub-groups.
- The increase of Mexican population in Texas can be attributed to net migration from other states and later relocated to Texas.
- Net migration to the U.S. is higher in states with a high percentage of Mexican residents, and that this is true for both young and old adults.
- Models predict that under current conditions net migration to the U.S. will decline in the number of Mexican residents in the medium term. The speed at which this decline will occur may depend on how much time passes before the differences in living costs between Texas and other states such as California begin to shrink.

