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Immigration Good for America And Certainly Essential for New York

By Tony Best



Contrary to what skeptics and anti-immigration zealots often falsely claim, immigrants "contribute to the economy in proportion to their share of the population."

In addition, "immigration and economic growth" in metropolitan areas across the country "go hand in hand."

Two of the key findings of a national study, "immigrants and the Economy" which evaluated the contribution of immigrant workers to the country's 25 largest metropolitan areas. Conducted by the Fiscal Policy Institute, the study concluded that unlike what many people believe immigrants are a key contributing force to economic growth, not a drag on prosperity.

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"In the United States, immigrants make up 12.5 percent of the population and they are responsible for 14 percent of economic output," stated the Institute, which used U.S. Census data to reach its conclusions. "In the 25 largest metropolitan areas combined, immigrants make up one fifth of both population and economic output.

This finding strikingly illustrates that while the amount of immigration varies greatly among metro areas, the relationship between immigrants' contribution to their local economy and their share of the workforce varies little."

In the New York Metropolitan area where immigrants account for almost a third of the total population, 28 percent to be exact, and where there the largest single concentration of people from the English, French and Spanish speaking nations and territories in the Caribbean can be found in the U.S. immigrants are responsible for 28 percent of economic activity. In Miami, another major area with a large concentration of West Indians, the foreign born residents account for 37 percent of the population they contribute 38 percent of the economic activity

"In all 25 metro areas, immigrants work across the economic spectrum," the researchers reported. "Immigrants are found in significant numbers in each of the four broad employment categories that define almost the entire metropolitan workforce in the United States – managerial and professional specialty; technical, sales and administrative support; service; and blue collar."

New York State Senator Malcolm Smith, the son of West Indian immigrants and who is the President Pro-tem of the upper chamber in Albany said that the findings confirm what was certainly known and that was immigrants "make their mark" in the economy and society as a whole.

"They are hard workers and several industries in this country and certainly in New York rely on immigrant labor," he said.

Senator Kevin Parker, Chairman of the State Senate's Task Force on Americans, agree. The "study acknowledged what we already knew and that is immigrants make a significant contribution in this land of immigrants. It's that simple."

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