

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Immigration and the Foreign Born

Volume Author/Editor: Simon Kuznets and Ernest Rubin

Volume Publisher: NBER

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-360-3

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/kuzn54-1>

Publication Date: 1954

Chapter Title: Front matter, preface, table of contents

Chapter Author: Simon Kuznets, Ernest Rubin

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c4971>

Chapter pages in book: (p. -11 - 0)

Immigration and the Foreign Born

SIMON KUZNETS

and

ERNEST RUBIN

OCCASIONAL PAPER 46

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, INC.

1954

COPYRIGHT, 1954, BY

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, INC.

261 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

TYPOGRAPHY AND PRINTING BY H. WOLFF BOOK MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

Library of Congress catalog card number: 54:10869

PRICE: \$1.50

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

OFFICERS, 1954

Harry Scherman, *President*
Gottfried Haberler, *Vice President*
George B. Roberts, *Treasurer*
W. J. Carson, *Executive Director*

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Donald R. Belcher, *Assistant Director, Bureau of the Budget*
Wallace J. Campbell, *Director, Cooperative League of the USA*
Solomon Fabricant, *New York University*
Albert J. Hettinger, Jr., *Lazard Frères and Company*
Oswald W. Knauth, *Beaufort, South Carolina*
H. W. Laidler, *Executive Director, League for Industrial Democracy*
Shepard Morgan, *Norfolk, Connecticut*
George B. Roberts, *Vice President, The National City Bank of New York*
Beardsley Ruml, *New York City*
Harry Scherman, *Chairman, Book-of-the-Month Club*
George Soule, *Bennington College*
N. I. Stone, *Consulting Economist*
J. Raymond Walsh, *New York City*
Leo Wolman, *Columbia University*
Theodore O. Yntema, *Vice President—Finance, Ford Motor Company*

DIRECTORS BY UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENT

E. Wight Bakke, <i>Yale</i>	H. M. Groves, <i>Wisconsin</i>
Arthur F. Burns, <i>Columbia</i>	Gottfried Haberler, <i>Harvard</i>
Melvin G. de Chazeau, <i>Cornell</i>	Clarence Heer, <i>North Carolina</i>
G. A. Elliott, <i>Toronto</i>	R. L. Kozelka, <i>Minnesota</i>
Frank W. Fetter, <i>Northwestern</i>	T. W. Schultz, <i>Chicago</i>
Jacob Viner, <i>Princeton</i>	

DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Percival F. Brundage, *American Institute of Accountants*
S. H. Ruttenberg, *Congress of Industrial Organizations*
Murray Shields, *American Management Association*
Boris Shishkin, *American Federation of Labor*
W. Allen Wallis, *American Statistical Association*
Frederick V. Waugh, *American Farm Economic Association*
John H. Williams, *American Economic Association*
Harold F. Williamson, *Economic History Association*

RESEARCH STAFF

Solomon Fabricant, *Director of Research*
Geoffrey H. Moore, *Associate Director of Research*
Moses Abramovitz
Harold Barger
Morris A. Copeland
David Durand
Milton Friedman
Raymond W. Goldsmith
Millard Hastay
W. Braddock Hickman
F. F. Hill
Daniel M. Holland
Herbert B. Woolley
Thor Hultgren
John W. Kendrick
Simon Kuznets
Clarence D. Long
Ruth P. Mack
Ilse Mintz
Raymond J. Saulnier
Lawrence H. Seltzer
George J. Stigler
Leo Wolman

RELATION OF THE DIRECTORS
TO THE WORK AND PUBLICATIONS
OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

1. The object of the National Bureau of Economic Research is to ascertain and to present to the public important economic facts and their interpretation in a scientific and impartial manner. The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the work of the National Bureau is carried on in strict conformity with this object.

2. To this end the Board of Directors shall appoint one or more Directors of Research.

3. The Director or Directors of Research shall submit to the members of the Board, or to its Executive Committee, for their formal adoption, all specific proposals concerning researches to be instituted.

4. No report shall be published until the Director or Directors of Research shall have submitted to the Board a summary drawing attention to the character of the data and their utilization in the report, the nature and treatment of the problems involved, the main conclusions, and such other information as in their opinion would serve to determine the suitability of the report for publication in accordance with the principles of the National Bureau.

5. A copy of any manuscript proposed for publication shall also be submitted to each member of the Board. For each manuscript to be so submitted a special committee shall be appointed by the President, or at his designation by the Executive Director, consisting of three Directors selected as nearly as may be one from each general division of the Board. The names of the special manuscript committee shall be stated to each Director when the summary and report described in paragraph (4) are sent to him. It shall be the duty of each member of the committee to read the manuscript. If each member of the special committee signifies his approval within thirty days, the manuscript may be published. If each member of the special committee has not signified his approval within thirty days of the transmittal of the report and manuscript, the Director of Research shall then notify each member of the Board, requesting approval or disapproval of publication, and thirty additional days shall be granted for this purpose. The manuscript shall then not be published unless at least a majority of the entire Board and a two-thirds majority of those members of the Board who shall have voted on the proposal within the time fixed for the receipt of votes on the publication proposed shall have approved.

6. No manuscript may be published, though approved by each member of the special committee, until forty-five days have elapsed from the transmittal of the summary and report. The interval is allowed for the receipt of any memorandum of dissent or reservation, together with a brief statement of his reasons, that any member may wish to express; and such memorandum of dissent or reservation shall be published with the manuscript if he so desires. Publication does not, however, imply that each member of the Board has read the manuscript, or that either members of the Board in general, or of the special committee, have passed upon its validity in every detail.

7. A copy of this resolution shall, unless otherwise determined by the Board, be printed in each copy of every National Bureau book.

(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933 and February 24, 1941)

Preface

This paper originated as part of a study of the international economic relations of the United States begun in the later 1940's. It seemed important to examine not only the flows of goods and of capital, but also that of people. Indeed, immigration and emigration may well be the international flows that had the most profound impact upon the growth, and, for a long time, also upon the short-term movements of this country's economy.

Before this flow of people across the boundaries could be analyzed, the checking and reconciliation of immigration and emigration data with the census data on resident foreign born had to be carried through. This difficult task was undertaken by Ernest Rubin. It was brought to completion along the lines set forth in detail in Part III and the appendixes, for the preparation of which Dr. Rubin is largely responsible. It was possible and seemed useful to subject the tested series to an analytical examination that would reveal the broad findings—at least as clues for further exploration. This was done in Part II, for which Simon Kuznets is responsible.

Although the substantive findings are preliminary and cannot be treated at adequate length, a brief summary may be useful to guide the reader and to indicate the broad questions suggested by the record. We are indebted to George Soule for preparing a draft of the summary that constitutes Part I of the paper.

The advice of Professor Dorothy S. Thomas of the University of Pennsylvania, who reviewed the paper, led to the checking and revision of the mortality calculations for 1870–1900. We are indebted to Professor Thomas for her advice; to Miss Lillian Epstein and Miss Elizabeth Jenks for assistance in the analysis in Part II and in the calculation of the annual series of foreign born; and to

Moses Abramovitz, Daniel Creamer, Solomon Fabricant, Clarence D. Long, and Geoffrey H. Moore for their careful reading and comments on the manuscript.

The paper reveals how deeply wars and restrictive legislation have cut into the pattern of population growth. Indeed, the change in the whole climate of international relations has been so drastic that it is hard to imagine a return to the unprecedentedly wide and free movement of people in the world—a movement which enabled millions in their prime working years to migrate and thus take advantage of better economic opportunities and contribute markedly to the growth of their country of destination.

Although this movement, like many other historical processes, is unlikely to recur in the same form, we can learn much by examining and analyzing it. Partly because the supply of data is inadequate and partly because the processes touched so deeply upon the life of the country, dispassionate and methodical study has been rather rare, and some of the most conspicuous aspects of the processes still await analysis. An understanding of these past processes and of the implications of the decisions made about them is of great *practical* importance, today perhaps more than ever. Decisions about immigration, like those about the public domain, internal improvements, industrial organization, and protection, were among the basic secular decisions—basic in that they were far-reaching, and secular in that they were important for the long-term development of the economy. Although such decisions cannot be reversed easily, and often cannot be reversed at all, retrospective understanding of their consequences may forestall haste in future decisions and stimulate foresight where it is obscured by overconcern with the apparently pressing problems of the day.

These comments are made because the obvious relation between proper analysis of the past, conforming to canons of objectivity and respect for fact, and intelligent social decisions is so often overlooked. Even a hasty survey of the data in this field and a glance at the implications of some of the findings reveal the vast need for a methodical quantitative analysis of this aspect of the country's past growth. Little analysis of this type, as far as we know, is to be

found in the literature. To such an analysis, the often tedious and sometimes statistically daring type of work undertaken here is a prerequisite.

Simon Kuznets
Ernest Rubin

Contents

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
PART I. SUMMARY	1
The Basic Trends	2
Immigrant Contribution to Population Increase	3
The Long Swings	4
Migration and Business Cycles	5
Immigration and Variations in Population Growth	6
Proportion of Foreign Born in the Labor Force	7
PART II. THE COMPARISON AND SOME GENERAL IMPLICATIONS OF ITS RESULTS	9
1. Introduction	9
2. The Comparison	10
3. Arrivals and Departures	19
a. The Underlying Trends	21
b. The Long Swings	26
c. Response to Business Cycles	34
4. Intradecade Flows	37
5. Contribution to Increase of Population and Labor Force	43
PART III. STATISTICAL METHODS AND PROBLEMS	50
1. General Outline of Method	50
2. Census Data on Foreign Born Population	52
a. Race	52
b. Treatment of Transients	52
c. Age and Sex	54
d. Undercounts and Errors	54
	ix

TABLE

PAGE

4. Average Volume per Year of Arrivals, Departures, and Net Balance during Cycles Established in Net Balance, All Alien Passengers, 1871-1942, and Immigrants, 1908-1943	28
5. Indexes of Conformity to Business Cycles, Arrivals, Departures, and Net Balance, 1871-1939	35
6. Migration and Deaths by Decades, Total Alien Migration, 1870-1920, and Immigrants and Emigrants, 1920-1940	39
7. Estimated Minimum Proportion of Foreign Born Population Who Were in the Country 10 Years or Less, 1880-1940	42
8. Proportion of Changes in Foreign Born to Changes in Total Population and Labor Force, Census Intervals, 1860-1940	45
9. Absolute Changes in Population and Labor Force by Nativity Components on a Strict Decade Basis, 1870-1940	47
10. Reconciliation of Estimates and Census Enumerations of the Foreign Born White Population of the United States, 1880-1940	74
11. Census Enumeration and Estimated Total of Foreign Born White Population, by Sex and Age, 1880-1940	80-81
B-1. Annual Arrivals and Departures, All Alien Passengers, 1870-1945, and Immigrants and Emigrants, 1908-1945	95-96
B-2. Estimated 5-Year Survival Ratios of the United States Foreign Born White Population, Selected Periods, 1870-1940	97-98
B-3. Foreign Born White Male Population of the United States, January 1, 1920, and Estimate for April 1, 1930	99
B-4. Foreign Born White Population of the United States, Male and Female, Estimated for Census Dates, 1880-1900	100

TABLE	PAGE
B-5. Foreign Born White Population of the United States, Male and Female, Estimated for Census Dates, 1910-1940	101
B-6. Estimates of the Foreign Born White Population of the United States by Sex, July 1, 1870-1939	102-103
B-7. Calculation of Estimates of Foreign Born White Males, July 1, 1900-1910	104

CHART

1. Panel A: Census Enumerations and Migration-Survival Estimates of Foreign Born White Population, Census Dates, 1870-1940	16
Panel B: Changes between Census Enumeration at Beginning of Census Period and Census Enumeration and Migration-Survival Estimates at End of Census Period, 1870-1940	17
2. Arrivals, Departures, and Net Balance of Alien Passengers, Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1870-1945	20
3. Average Volume per Year of Arrivals, Departures, and Net Balance during Cycles (Trough to Trough and Peak to Peak) Established in Net Balance, All Alien Passengers, 1871-1942, and Immigrants, 1908-1943	29
4. Net Arrivals, Gross National Product per Worker, and Residential Construction, Total Value in 1929 Prices and Index of Number of Units Started, 1869-1945 (1929 = 100)	31