

# An Historical Perspective on the Success of Immigrants and Latinos

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As a front-page story in today's [Washington Post](#) [1] reminds us: "Not since the last great wave of immigration to the United States around 1900 has the country's economic future been so closely entwined with the generational progress of an immigrant group." The story highlights the degree to which the children of immigrants from Latin America have become crucial to sustaining the working-age population and tax base of the nation as the [75 million](#) [2] Baby Boomers retire. The parents of these children most likely would not have even come to this country if not for the U.S. economy's past high demand for workers to fill less-skilled jobs; demand which was not being adequately met by the rapidly aging and better-educated native-born labor force.

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[2] <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/MyersTrendsandFuture02-08.pdf>

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