



Who Got the Jobs in New Hampshire?

Natives accounted for 65% of the growth in population, but 71% of employment growth went to immigrants

By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Zeigler

The Gang of Eight immigration bill (S.744) passed last June would have roughly doubled the number of new foreign workers allowed into the country, as well as legalized illegal immigrants. Both of New Hampshire's senators voted for it. An analysis of government data by the Center for Immigration Studies shows that since 2000, 71 percent of the net increase in the number of working-age (16 to 65) people holding a job in New Hampshire has gone to immigrants (legal and illegal) — even though the native-born accounted for 65 percent of population growth among the working-age. As a result, the share of natives holding a job in the state has declined significantly. The decline in employment has been felt primarily by natives without a college education.

Among the findings:

- The total number of working-age (16 to 65) immigrants (legal and illegal) holding a job in New Hampshire increased by 21,000 from the first half of 2000 to the first half of 2014, while the number of working-age natives with a job increased by just 8,700 over the same period.
- The fact that more than two-thirds of the overall net gain in employment among the working age went to immigrants (legal and illegal) is striking because natives accounted for 65 percent of the increase in the total size of the state's working-age population.
- While difficult to measure, our best estimate is that perhaps one-third (7,000) of the increase in immigrant employment since 2000 in the state was among illegal immigrants.¹
- In the first half of this year, 75 percent of working-age natives in the Granite State held a job. As recently as 2000, 79 percent of working-age natives were working.
- Because the native working-age population in New Hampshire grew significantly, but the share working actually fell, there were nearly 41,000 more working-age natives not working in the first half of 2014 than in 2000 — a 25 percent increase.
- The supply of potential workers in New Hampshire is very large: In the first half of 2014, 205,000 working-age natives of all education levels were not working (unemployed or entirely out of the labor market) as were 16,000 working-age immigrants.
- Of working-age natives not working, the overwhelming majority (170,000) do not have a college education. Prior research indicates that the vast majority of illegal immigrants also do not have a college education, and therefore mostly compete with less-educated natives for jobs.²
- All of the decline in the employment rate (share working) among working-age natives in New Hampshire has been among the less-educated. The employment rate for natives in the state without a college degree

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declined from 77 percent in 2000 to 70 percent in the first half of 2014. In contrast, it increased from 85 to 87 percent for natives with at least a bachelor's degree over the same time period.

- Two conclusions from the state's employment situation:
 - First, the long-term decline in employment for natives in New Hampshire and the large number of working-age natives not working clearly indicates that there is no general labor shortage in the state — especially among the less educated. Thus it is very difficult to justify the large increases in foreign workers (skilled and unskilled) allowed into the country in a bill like S.744, which many of the state's politicians support.
 - Second, New Hampshire's working-age immigrant population grew 70 percent from 2000 to 2014. Yet the number of working-age natives working in 2014 was only slightly above the number in 2000 and the share with a job actually fell. This undermines the argument that immigration on balance increases job opportunities for natives.

Data Source

The analysis is based on the “household survey,” collected by the government. The survey is officially known as the Current Population Survey (CPS), and is the nation's primary source of information on the labor market.³ Many jobs are created and lost each year and many workers change jobs as well. But the number of people employed reflects the net effect of these changes. We focus on the first half of each year 2000 to 2014 in this analysis because comparing the same part of the year over time controls for seasonality. Also combining six months of the CPS allows us to have more robust estimates for a small state like New Hampshire. We emphasize the economic peaks in 2000 and 2007 as important points of comparison, though we provide data for all years since 2000. We report figures for January to June between 2000 and 2014 in Table 1.

This analysis focuses on those 16- to 65-years-old, so that we can examine the employment rate (share working) of native-born Americans.⁴ The employment rate is a measure of labor force attachment that is less sensitive to the business cycle compared to the often-cited unemployment rate. Immigrants or the foreign born (legal and illegal) are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

Table 1. Employment Data for 16- 65-Year-Olds in New Hampshire 2000-2014 (thousands)

Year	Natives Working	Natives Unemployed	Natives Not in the Labor Force	Native Employment Rate	Native Labor Force Participation	Immigrants Working	Immigrants Unemployed	Immigrants Not in the Labor Force
2000	614,101	18,438	145,624	78.9%	81.3%	26,802	2,089	8,790
2001	638,542	20,759	125,431	81.4%	84.0%	30,093	1,910	9,464
2002	614,807	31,996	139,785	78.2%	82.2%	40,198	1,909	13,437
2003	617,667	28,940	143,891	78.1%	81.8%	45,983	446	12,919
2004	628,340	27,650	166,157	76.4%	79.8%	41,490	1,609	13,385
2005	649,183	26,351	157,094	78.0%	81.1%	37,302	2,273	8,933
2006	645,162	23,271	154,373	78.4%	81.2%	41,750	778	12,910
2007	638,886	28,193	161,615	77.1%	80.5%	47,807	2,217	13,603
2008	647,413	27,096	163,669	77.2%	80.5%	43,726	2,199	10,705
2009	627,857	43,163	175,545	74.2%	79.3%	37,572	3,150	9,569
2010	615,530	40,696	182,790	73.4%	78.2%	46,343	4,242	11,379
2011	625,008	36,563	187,368	73.6%	77.9%	39,543	2,065	12,994
2012	626,690	36,781	173,362	74.9%	79.3%	40,269	3,027	11,702
2013	625,597	37,347	172,469	74.9%	79.4%	46,641	1,856	14,655
2014	622,759	30,224	174,763	75.2%	78.9%	48,163	1,724	14,101

Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey from the first half of 2000 to the first half of 2014.
Labor force participation is the share of the working-age (16 to 65) population working or looking for work.
The employment rate is the share of the working-age holding a job.

Table 2. Natives with Less than a Bachelor's Degree

Year	Employed	Unemployed	Labor Force Not in the Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate
2000	428,425	14,800	116,565	79.2%	76.5%
2001	443,357	16,691	98,958	82.3%	79.3%
2002	426,982	25,600	117,683	79.4%	74.9%
2003	412,981	23,466	119,461	78.5%	74.3%
2004	414,297	22,090	130,393	77.0%	73.1%
2005	424,917	22,356	125,133	78.1%	74.2%
2006	425,958	19,450	126,839	77.8%	74.4%
2007	422,202	23,524	131,044	77.3%	73.2%
2008	423,608	22,280	132,724	77.1%	73.2%
2009	399,394	36,535	142,757	75.3%	69.0%
2010	382,403	33,583	141,612	74.6%	68.6%
2011	381,607	30,558	147,116	73.7%	68.2%
2012	386,458	29,577	134,838	75.5%	70.2%
2013	390,271	31,140	134,221	75.8%	70.2%
2014	393,425	24,914	145,154	74.2%	69.8%

Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey from the first half of 2000 to the first half of 2014.
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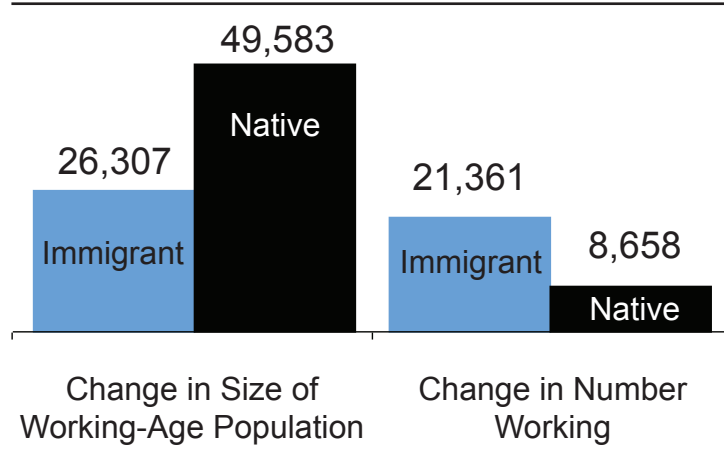
Table 3. State Employment Data for Natives (16 to 65), 2000 & 2014

State	Employment Rate, 2000	Employment Rate, 2014	Rank, 2014 Employment Rate	All Employment Growth 2000-2014	Rank, Employment Growth	All Percentage Employment Growth	Rank, Percentage Employment Growth
Neb.	82.5%	79.1%	1	52,937	19	6.0%	19
N.D.	79.9%	78.9%	2	69,390	17	21.9%	4
S.D.	81.9%	77.9%	3	22,229	28	5.8%	20
Iowa	81.2%	77.6%	4	77,001	16	5.2%	22
Minn.	82.0%	77.2%	5	118,712	14	4.6%	24
Vt.	77.0%	75.5%	6	4,485	33	1.4%	29
N.H.	78.9%	75.2%	7	30,019	25	4.7%	23
Wyo.	75.6%	73.9%	8	40,407	21	16.6%	8
Wisc.	78.9%	73.8%	9	14,090	30	0.5%	33
Kan.	79.1%	73.7%	10	46,568	20	3.5%	25
Mont.	75.1%	72.6%	11	27,783	26	6.3%	17
Utah	76.0%	72.5%	12	259,804	10	24.3%	1
Colo.	78.5%	71.9%	13	299,354	6	13.4%	9
Va.	76.2%	71.0%	14	452,926	4	13.3%	10
Conn.	78.3%	70.2%	15	(19,824)	36	-1.2%	37
Maine	76.9%	70.2%	16	(27,609)	38	-4.3%	44
R.I.	76.5%	70.2%	17	(12,320)	34	-2.5%	40
Mass.	76.2%	69.6%	18	(26,328)	37	-0.8%	36
Penn.	73.1%	69.0%	19	65,671	18	1.2%	30
Idaho	74.7%	68.9%	20	100,476	15	16.8%	7
Md.	76.8%	68.8%	21	166,018	12	6.5%	16
Mo.	77.7%	68.7%	22	(149,757)	47	-5.4%	46
Alaska	71.1%	68.3%	23	31,692	24	10.9%	11
Ill.	75.8%	68.3%	24	(336,970)	48	-5.5%	47
Texas	73.4%	68.2%	25	2,161,601	1	22.3%	3
Wash.	73.8%	68.0%	26	279,986	8	9.8%	12
Ohio	74.2%	67.7%	27	(342,085)	49	-6.3%	48
Ind.	74.5%	67.7%	28	(17,616)	35	-0.6%	35
Hawaii	74.5%	67.5%	29	35,071	22	6.2%	18
N.J.	75.0%	66.5%	30	(110,728)	45	-2.7%	41
Fla.	73.1%	66.0%	31	1,224,828	2	16.9%	6
Del.	75.5%	65.9%	32	8,870	32	2.3%	27
Ore.	74.7%	65.3%	33	(31,498)	40	-1.8%	39
Mich.	76.1%	65.2%	34	(674,681)	50	-13.8%	50
Nev.	75.3%	64.9%	35	231,891	11	23.6%	2
N.C.	74.4%	64.9%	36	287,691	7	7.4%	13
Ga.	74.1%	64.9%	37	277,132	9	7.0%	14
Tenn.	71.4%	64.7%	38	16,176	29	0.6%	31
Okla.	71.1%	64.5%	39	32,855	23	2.1%	28
N.Y.	70.0%	64.5%	40	(40,022)	43	-0.5%	34
S.C.	71.7%	64.1%	41	128,596	13	7.0%	15
La.	66.1%	64.0%	42	10,972	31	0.6%	32
Ariz.	72.5%	63.3%	43	394,084	5	17.0%	5
Calif.	71.9%	63.1%	44	891,476	3	5.7%	21
Ky.	69.4%	62.9%	45	(30,002)	39	-1.6%	38
Ala.	70.4%	62.2%	46	(81,295)	44	-4.0%	43
N.M.	70.6%	61.7%	47	26,913	27	3.4%	26
Ark.	70.3%	61.1%	48	(36,507)	42	-3.1%	42
W.Va.	63.8%	58.4%	49	(36,050)	41	-4.9%	45
Miss.	69.3%	56.2%	50	(139,119)	46	-11.4%	49
Total	74.0%	67.0%		5,831,820		4.4%	

Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey from the first half of 2000 to the first half of 2014.

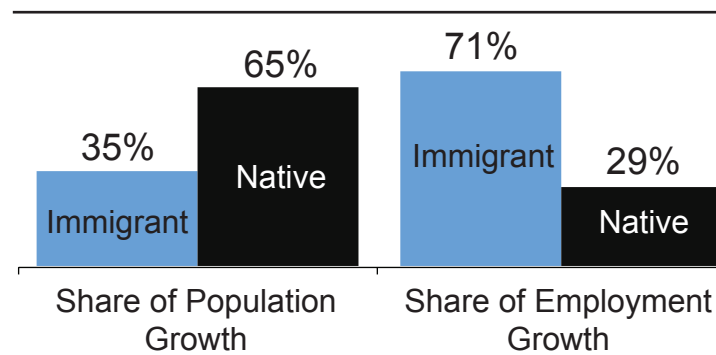
The employment rate is the share of the working-age holding a job.

Figure 1. In New Hampshire, natives accounted for most of the increase in the working-age population (16 to 65), but most of the employment gains went to immigrants, 2000 to 2014.



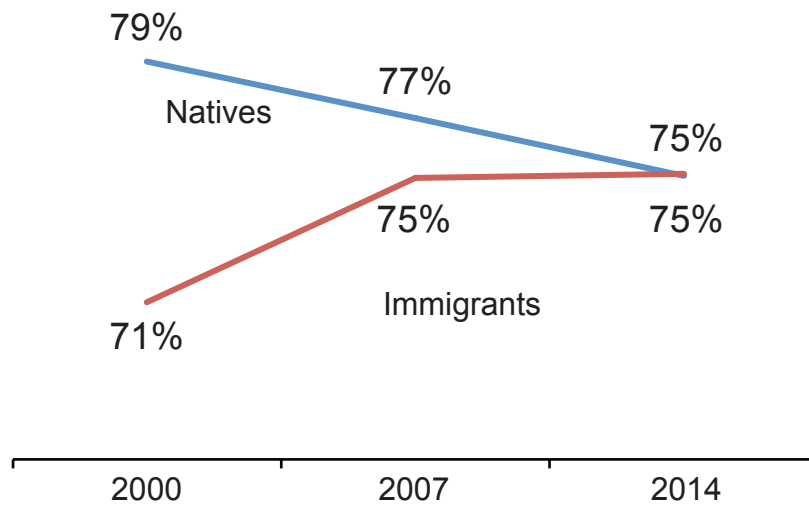
Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey for the first halves of 2000 and 2014. All figures are for those 16 to 65.

Figure 2. In New Hampshire, natives accounted for nearly two-thirds of the increase in the working-age population (16 to 65), but only 29 percent of the employment gains, 2000-2014.



Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey for the first halves of 2000 and 2014. All figures are for those 16 to 65.

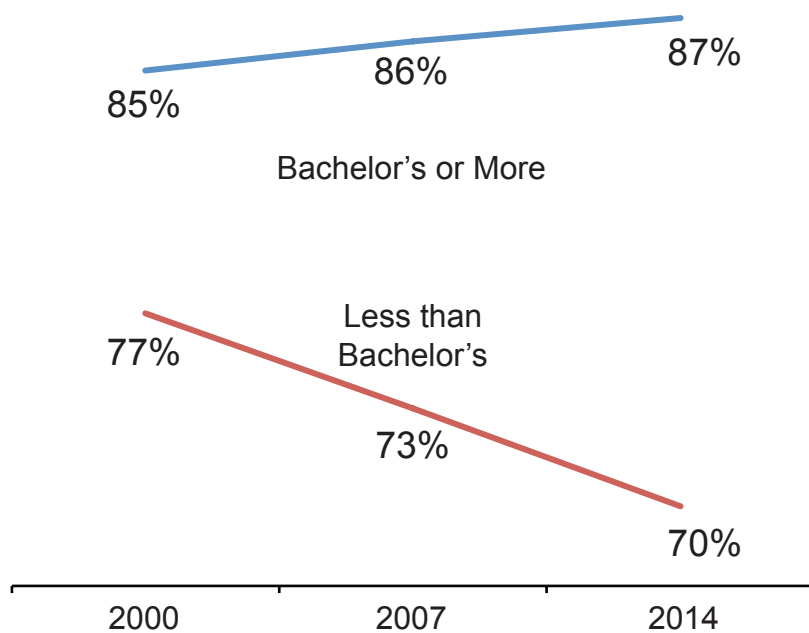
Figure 3. Natives Show Long-Term Decline in Employment Rate



Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey for the first halves of 2000, 2007, and 2014.

The employment rate is the share of the working-age (16 to 65) holding a job.

Figure 4. The Employment rate of less-educated natives has declined. But for those with a bachelor's Degree it has increased.



Source: Public-use files of the Current Population Survey for the first halves of 2000, 2007, and 2014.

The employment rate is the share of the working-age (16 to 65) holding a job.

End Notes

¹ Based on the characteristics of immigrants in New Hampshire, we estimate that there were 13,000 working-age illegal immigrants in the state holding a job in the first half of 2014, compared to 6,000 in the first half of 2000, for a growth of 7,000. This means that about a quarter of the immigrants holding a job in the state are in the country illegally. While these estimates are consistent with those developed by the Pew Hispanic Center, it must be remembered that New Hampshire is a small state and this creates significant uncertainty for any estimate of the illegal immigrant population based on the CPS. Therefore, these estimates should be interpreted with caution. See Table A3 in Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, [“Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends”](#), Pew Hispanic Center, 2010.

² The Pew Hispanic Center has estimated that 15 percent of illegal immigrants have at least a bachelor’s degree. See Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, [“A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States”](#), Pew Hispanic Center, 2009. The Heritage Foundation has estimated that about 10 percent of illegal immigrants have a high school education. See Robert Rector and Jason Richwine, [“The Fiscal Cost of Unlawful Immigrants and Amnesty to the U.S. Taxpayer”](#), Heritage Foundation, 2013.

³ We do not use the “establishment survey”, which measures employment by asking businesses because that survey is not available to the public for analysis. Equally important, it does not ask if an employee is an immigrant. The survey does not include those in institutions such as prisons.

⁴ Those 16 to 65 years of age account for some 95 percent of all workers. When examining the share working or in the labor force, it is necessary to limit the age range because, although the under-16 and over-65 populations are quite large, only a small share work.