POLICY BRIEF

• ‡ Š ‹ … ƒ • ‹ ‰ ” ƒ – ‹ ‘ • – ‘ – Š ‡ • ‹ – ‡ † – ƒ – ‡ • ƒ • • ‡ “ — ƒ Ž ‹ – ›?

By: ‡ • ± ‡ • – ‡ • ‘

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Š ‹ • † ‘ … — • ‡ • – ’ ” ‡ • ‡ • – • ƒ • ƒ • ƒ Ž › – ‹ … ƒ Ž ‘ ˜ ‡ ” ˜ ‹ ‡ ™ ‘ ^ – Š ‡ ^ ‘ Ž Ž ‘ ™ ‹ • ‰ – Š ” ‡ ‡ • ‹ ‰ ” ƒ – ‹ ‘ • ë ‘ ™ • — … Š † ‘ ™ ‡ •• ‘ ™ ƒ „ ‘ — – – Š ‹ • Ž ‹ •• á ’ ƒ ” – ‹ … — Ž ƒ ” Ž › ^ ‘ ” – Š • ‹ – ‡ † – ƒ – ‡ • ë ƒ • ’ — „ Ž ‹ … ’ ‘ Ž ‹ … › ’ Ž ƒ › ƒ ” ‘ Ž ‡ – ‘ ™ ƒ ” † • † ‡ … ” ‡ ƒ • ‹ • ‰ ‹ • … ‡ ‹ • ‡ “ — ƒ Ž ‹ – › ƒ Ž Ž ‡ ˜ ‹ ƒ – ‹ ‘ • ‹ • ‡ š ‹ … ‘ ë Š ‡ ƒ ‹ • ‹ • – ‘ ‹ † ‡ • – ‹ ^ › Š ‘ ™ ‹ • ‡ “ — ƒ Ž ‹ – • ‹ ‰ ” ƒ – ‹ ‘ • á ƒ • ™ ‡ Ž Ž ƒ • – ‘ ‹ † ‡ • – ‹ ^ › ^ ƒ … – • ƒ „ ‘ — – – Š ‡ ‡ š ‹ … ‘ æ ä ä … ƒ • ‡ ä

KEY FINDINGS

- International trade and skill-biased technological change have played a larger role.
- Low-skilled immigration to the U.S. and migrants' remittances have played a large role in lowering global inequality by moving millions of low-income Mexican families further away from poverty and closer to the global middle class.
- Voters and lawmakers in destination countries appear to put little weight on the global gains from migration— the increase in world productivity and output that would follow if workers could freely migrate across international borders.
- While Mexican migration may have slightly reduced wages for some U.S. workers and slightly ‹ • … ” ‡ ƒ • ‡ † ‹ • ‡ “ — ƒ Ž ‹ – › ‹ • – Š ‡ ä ä á ‹ – ” ƒ ‹ • ‡ † ™ ƒ ‰ ™ ‡ • ” • ‡ ” • ‡ š ‹ … ‘ ä Š ‡ the U.S. between 1970 and 2000 increased the wage of the average Mexican worker by 8 percent.
- – ƒ – ‹ • – ‹ … ƒ Ž Ž › • ‹ ‰ • ‹ Ð ‹ … ƒ • – • ‡ ‰ ƒ – ‹ ˜ ‡ ™ ƒ ‰ ‡ ƒ • † ‡ • ’ Ž ‘ › • ‡ • – ‡ ^ ‡ … – found among high school dropouts who are a shrinking share of the U.S.-born labor force.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given that migration plays only a small role in ‹ • ‡ “ — ƒ Ž ‹ – › – ” ‡ • † • ƒ • † ‹ • „ ‡ • ‡ Ð ‹ … ƒ sending communities, and destination countries, public policy should focus on reducing migration barriers and making ‹ • – ‡ ” • ƒ – ‹ ‘ • ƒ Ž • ‘ „ ‹ Ž ‹ – › • ‘ ” ‡ ‡ ^ Ð ‹ … costly. For example, boosting legal employment-based migration from Mexico to – Š ‡ ä ä ™ ‘ — Ž † „ ‘ – Š • ‹ † ‡ • ‘ ^ – Š ‡ „ ‘ ” † ‡ ” ä
- Safeguarding or spurring income mobility is essential and can be accomplished by early childhood education for at-risk kids and high-quality public schools.
- Workforce training and apprenticeship programs can help workers adjust to labor market changes.
- Safety net programs can sustain families who are hit by shocks, such as unemployment or a health crisis.
- Financial literacy and innovative banking regulations can boost access to credit. Payments that help people move to areas where jobs are plentiful, from areas where they are not, can help spur socioeconomic mobility with a country.

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