

Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth

Scenario 3: Undocumented immigrants eligible for the American Dream and Promise Act

Who is eligible under this scenario?

Undocumented immigrants are considered eligible for a conditional permanent resident status under the Dream provisions of the law if they arrived in the United States prior to 2021 at the age of 18 or younger and have a high school diploma or are enrolled in high school. They are eligible for permanent residency after completing any of the following three criteria: two years of study toward an advanced degree or technical training; two years of military service; or three years of employment, 75 percent of which must be performed while work authorized.¹ The authors estimate that 2 million undocumented individuals are eligible for protection using 2019–2020 CPS data.

Undocumented immigrants are considered eligible under the Promise provisions of the law if they were eligible for either TPS as of September 2017 or Deferred Enforced Departure as of January 2021.²

Short-run impacts (implementation to year five):

\$4,300 (10%)

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

Long-run impacts (year five to year 10):

\$16,800 (38.9%)

Increase in annual wages of undocumented workers

\$799 billion

Total cumulative GDP increase through the decade

\$400 (0.7%)

Increase in annual wages of all other workers

285,400

Total number of new jobs created

Note: See “Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth” for full methodology.

Endnotes

¹ U.S. House of Representatives New Democrat Coalition, “H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2021,” available at <https://newdemocratcoalition.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Dream%20and%20Promise%20Act%20of%202021%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> (last accessed April 2021).

² A full list of those eligible by country of birth and arrival in the United States can be found in the methodological appendix.