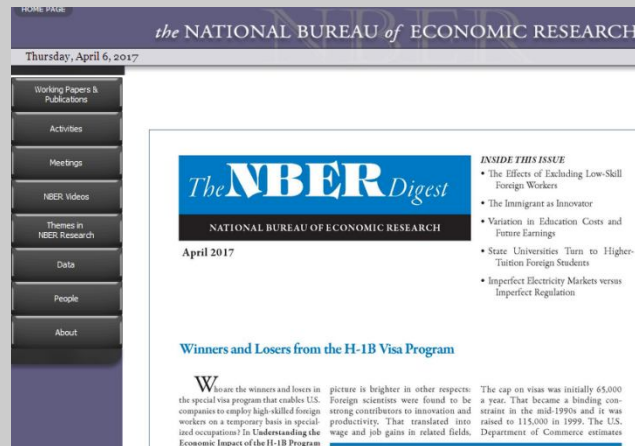


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Subject

Economics – USA – Digest

Accessibility

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Language

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National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

Brief History

The NBER was founded in 1920. Its first staff economist, director of research, and one of its founders was American economist Wesley Mitchell. He was succeeded by Malcolm C. Rorty in 1922. Online digest archive available from 1997 onwards.

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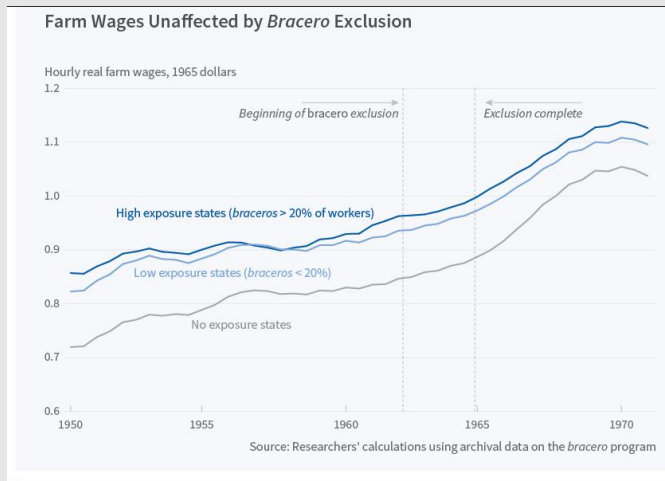
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- The Immigrant as Innovator
- Variation in Education Costs and Future Earnings
- State Universities Turn to Higher-Tuition Foreign Students
- Imperfect Electricity Markets versus Imperfect Regulation

The Effects of Excluding Low-Skill Foreign Workers



Termination of the program between the U.S. and Mexico at the end of 1964 led employers to adopt more labor-saving technology rather than to raise domestic wages or employment.

The 1964 termination of the *bracero* program, which recruited Mexican guest workers to work on American farms, had "little measurable effect on the labor market for domestic farm workers." That is the conclusion of Immigration Restrictions as Active Labor Market Policy: Evidence from the Mexican *Bracero* Exclusion (NBER Working Paper No. 23125), by [Michael A. Clemens](#), [Ethan G. Lewis](#), and [Hannah M. Postel](#).

By bilateral agreement, the *bracero* (a Spanish term for manual laborer) program allowed Mexicans to work seasonally on American farms, starting in 1942. At the program's height, nearly half a million workers came each year, comprising over a third of the Mexicans then working in the United States. They made up 40 percent of all seasonal farm labor in many states. The 1964 decision to exclude

braceros was made explicitly to raise wages and employment for domestic farm workers. It was therefore a significant change in labor market policy for domestic workers in the states and industries that employed the migrant laborers. (Not a complete article, only for example)

— John Laidler

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Remarks

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