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## **ESTIMATING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF IMMIGRATION POLICY**

**Quantifying Michigan's Economic Loss from the Pause in Refugee Resettlement**

March 2025



# Acknowledgments

## **THIS IS A JOINT RESEARCH BRIEF**

*Estimating the Economic Impact of Immigration Policy: Quantifying Michigan's Economic Loss from the Pause in Refugee Resettlement* is a joint research brief from Global Detroit and Public Policy Associates. This brief review of three recent reports estimates the impact of a pause in refugee resettlement in Michigan, including the methodology used in the three reports. It provides an update to the assumptions within the current context and a range of impacts that the current pause in refugee resettlement could have on Michigan's economy.

## **Businesses and People for Immigration**

Businesses and People for Immigration, launched by **Global Detroit**, is a campaign to highlight the critical role immigrants play in driving Michigan's economic success. This initiative aims to advance the economic case for immigration and draw a wide range of voices – including business leaders, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and individuals – who understand that immigration is pivotal to Michigan's economic viability and growth. **Public Policy Associates** has proudly signed the pledge to support Businesses and People for Immigration and is pleased to help share these data about immigration and the contributions immigrants make to Michigan's economy.

**For those wishing to join the campaign or learn more, please visit [forimmigration.biz](http://forimmigration.biz).**

## **Global Detroit**

**Global Detroit** is a nonprofit regional economic development initiative that believes immigrants and refugees are critical to job creation, regional growth, and prosperity. Global Detroit is revitalizing Metro Detroit's economy by mobilizing its immigrant potential. We are an innovator and expert in connecting international talent with regional businesses' unmet talent needs, catalyzing the growth and development of immigrant entrepreneurs, revitalizing neighborhoods, and building a globally competitive and inclusive region.

**For more information about Global Detroit, please visit [globaldetroitmi.org](http://globaldetroitmi.org).**

## **Public Policy Associates**

**Public Policy Associates** is a private, non-partisan public policy research, development, and evaluation firm headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We serve clients in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors at the national, state, and local levels by conducting research, analysis, and evaluation that supports informed strategic decision-making.

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# A Joint Research Brief

## I. BACKGROUND

It is crucial to recognize that refugee resettlement programs have demonstrated historic and significant value to Michigan, local communities, and our local economies. Previous economic models and studies have shown that refugee resettlement programs and refugees make profound economic contributions to our state and local communities, expanding our labor force, entrepreneurial activity, and tax revenue growth to the state and local governments, an impact that compounds over time.

While it is important to note that these prior studies and analyses each use different methods and that our use of these produces varying estimates, all of these analyses conclude that refugees make substantial positive contributions to the Michigan economy. This report focuses on the converse – current policy efforts to pause, restrict, or end refugee resettlement programs nationally and in Michigan.

Our review and modeling of this research leads to the conclusion that pausing or limiting refugee resettlement this year will have a long-term negative impact on Michigan’s economy. If the current pause in resettlement continues through the rest of the fiscal year, it will stifle entrepreneurial activity in all communities across the state. Further, it will deprive the Michigan economy of the benefits of an expanded workforce, reducing potential economic growth and job creation. This policy brief, jointly produced by **Global Detroit** and **Public Policy Associates**, uses three recent studies with published economic models to estimate the impact of pausing refugee resettlement in Michigan in 2025.

### *Key Economic Impacts Include:*

- **Labor Force Contributions** – Refugees fill critical labor shortages, and a high percentage of refugees are of working age, contributing to the labor force at rates comparable to or higher than those of U.S.-born populations.
- **Entrepreneurship and Business Growth** – Refugees have a strong track record of entrepreneurship, starting businesses, and contributing financially to local economies.
- **Economic Impact** – Research indicates that refugees contribute significantly to the economy through taxes and consumer spending, exceeding the cost of initial resettlement services.<sup>1</sup>
- **Impact on Local Communities** – Refugees often revitalize declining communities, adding much-needed population growth, filling vacant housing, boosting local businesses, and increasing demand for goods and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Newland, K., & Capps, R., (2017, September). *Why hide the facts about refugee costs and benefits?* Migration Policy Institute. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/why-hide-facts-about-refugee-costs-and-benefits>.

## II. INTRODUCTION

Michigan has a proud history of welcoming refugees, and their contributions have played a vital role in the state's economic health. Refugees in Michigan offer significant economic benefits to our state and local communities by addressing critical labor shortages, promoting entrepreneurship, revitalizing neighborhoods, and expanding the tax base. Recognizing and supporting refugee resettlement is not only a humanitarian duty but also a strategic investment in Michigan's future prosperity.

### Recent Developments

In 2025, refugee policies are experiencing considerable turmoil, primarily influenced by the shifting political landscape in the United States. This has significantly strained our delicate support systems and the organizations dedicated to resettlement. The discourse surrounding refugees remains highly polarized. While some states and municipalities have adopted welcoming initiatives that provide support services and facilitate pathways for integration, recent federal policies and orders have focused mainly on restrictions.

The indefinite refugee ban, stop work orders, and the failure to reimburse resettlement agencies implemented by the Trump administration are poised to have a devastating effect on recently arrived refugee families, refugee resettlement agencies, and communities throughout Michigan. They also represent lost economic growth opportunities.

Since January 20, 2025, the Trump administration has undertaken several significant actions, including suspending all refugee resettlement and issuing a stop work order on January 25th. The unprecedented stop-work order requires resettlement agencies to cease support for any refugees who arrived within the previous 90 days, affecting over one thousand refugees in Michigan – those who entered the state before the suspension of resettlement programs and associated funding for essential needs such as food, clothing, and housing.

Refugees are among the most thoroughly vetted individuals who come to the United States. They undergo a rigorous screening process, including checks by federal agencies, database and security assessments, and in-person interviews. Obtaining refugee status typically takes one to two years. Once granted, refugees usually receive 180 days of support to help them become self-sufficient.

In 2017, a previous refugee pause initiated by the first Trump administration was followed by a resumption of resettlement. Still, resettlement numbers fell nationally to about 10 percent of the annual totals under the Obama administration. The number of refugees resettled in Michigan during the first Trump administration was disproportionately gutted. Annual resettlement numbers were closer to 5 percent of the state's resettlement numbers in 2016. Scores of refugee resettlement agency staff lost their jobs, and at least one resettlement agency shut down its resettlement activities completely.

## Contributions to Michigan's Population

Under current policy assumptions, recent federal actions will likely deprive Michigan of thousands of new refugees, a majority of whom are working-aged. This loss affects Michigan's current economic activity, future population, and long-term economic growth.

These impacts are particularly important as Michigan faces significant economic challenges, including a shrinking workforce, an aging population, and persistent labor shortages in key sectors. International immigration has been a crucial factor in offsetting these losses. Without it, Michigan's population would likely decline at a faster rate.

A report presented to the Growing Michigan Together Council (GMTC) found that without immigration, the state's population would decline more rapidly and severely than with immigration.<sup>2</sup> The report also found that immigrants are essential to Michigan's economy and implied that the projected level of international immigration, before any federal policy changes, would not be sufficient to counteract other demographic pressures.

The GMTC also emphasized the need for Michigan to create welcoming communities for immigrants and address barriers that prevent immigrants from calling Michigan home. Organizations like the Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Council, part of the Office of Global Michigan (OGM), emphasize the importance of creating inclusive environments for immigrants and refugees, recognizing their valuable contributions to the state's diverse communities.

Another report from MichAuto and Richard Florida, *Michigan's Great Inflection: A Strategy for the Age of Technology*, finds that immigrants continue to be a critical source of technology and startup talent, and that Michigan needs to do more to attract and retain immigrants, especially immigrants who study at Michigan's research universities.<sup>3</sup>

Contributions in Michigan show that immigrants were the source of 57.7 percent of the state's population growth over the last decade. More recent data show that all population growth in Michigan results from net international immigration. In fact, in 2024, Michigan's population grew by more than 57,000 solely due to immigrants.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Lupher, E., Schneider, R., & Dennis, E. P. (2023). *Michigan's path to a prosperous future: Economic, workforce and talent challenges and opportunities*. Altarum and Citizens Research Council of Michigan. <https://crcmich.org/publications/prosperous-future>.

<sup>3</sup> Florida, R. (2023). *Michigan's great inflection: A strategy for the age of technology*. MichAuto. [https://michauto.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Richard-Florida-Report\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://michauto.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Richard-Florida-Report_Full-Report.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Aguilar, L., & Schwab, G. (2024, December 31). Key group fuels Michigan population growth in 2024, census shows. *Detroit News*. <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2024/12/31/key-group-fuels-michigan-population-growth-census-bureau-report-shows/77240535007/>.

## Estimating the Economic Impacts of Immigration Policy

Population challenges threaten the state's long-term economic growth and competitiveness. Refugees are a valuable contributor to Michigan's economy. Recognizing the economic benefits of refugee resettlement is a sound economic strategy and a reflection of Michigan's commitment to welcoming and supporting those seeking a better future.

### III. PREVIOUS RESEARCH STUDIES ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF REFUGEES ON MICHIGAN

When looking at the economic impact of refugees in Michigan, it is essential to focus on research studies that have provided robust estimates of potential impact.

#### Findings from Previous Studies on Impacts of Refugees in Michigan

- Estimated between \$324 million and \$416 million in net economic impact
- \$419 million to \$841 million in lost earnings
- \$30 million to \$72 million in state and local taxes

#### A. Global Detroit and the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy

A previous study in 2017, *Economic Contributions of Refugees in Southeast Michigan*, conducted by Global Detroit and the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy, revealed significant economic benefits stemming from refugee resettlement in the region.<sup>5</sup>

The study estimated that refugees resettled in Southeast Michigan in the last decade contributed **between \$229.6 million and \$295.3 million annually to the regional economy** in terms of economic impact.

This economic contribution estimate is derived from three sources of economic contributions: spending by refugee households, spending by refugee-owned businesses, and spending by refugee resettlement agencies. The study also estimated that refugees, through these spending patterns, contributed to **the creation of between 1,798 and 2,311 new jobs each year**.

The study analyzed data from refugees resettled in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties between 2007 and 2016. It aimed to provide data-driven insights into refugees' economic impact, contributing to informed discussions about refugee resettlement policies. The study demonstrated that while Michigan refugees receive aid during their first six months of resettlement, they soon become active and vital contributors to Southeast Michigan's economic vitality.

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<sup>5</sup> This report (A) specifically focused on Southeast Michigan, in our analyses, we use per capita impact from these numbers adjusted for inflation to identify potential statewide impact.

## B. American Immigration Council and the Michigan Global Talent Initiative

A more recent 2024 study from the American Immigration Council and the Michigan Global Talent Initiative titled *Contributions of New Americans in Michigan: The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the State* reaffirms that immigrants are vital to Michigan's economy, contributing billions of dollars in spending power and taxes. The study also notes that refugees are essential to filling labor shortages in key sectors (manufacturing, health care, transportation, and warehousing) and stimulating economic growth. The study also adds that immigration is vital to Michigan because immigrants are helping to counteract the population decline in Michigan – bringing younger populations to the state.<sup>6</sup>

**Refugees as Economic Contributors.** The study highlights that refugees, like other immigrants, contribute significantly to Michigan's economy. In particular, refugees often demonstrate high entrepreneurship and workforce participation rates – revitalizing disinvested neighborhoods and communities. The study shows that refugees have become essential to the Michigan workforce.

The report reinforces the idea that refugee resettlement is an investment that yields positive economic returns and highlights that refugees bring valuable skills and cultural diversity to Michigan.

## C. Michigan League for Public Policy and the Immigration Research Initiative

Another report, published in 2024 by the Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP) and the Immigration Research Initiative (IRI), focused on the economic contributions of asylum seekers and other new immigrants in Michigan.<sup>7</sup> The report correctly emphasizes that asylum seekers and new immigrants, who differ from refugees, also significantly contribute to Michigan's economy. It provides rich data and projections on the wages earned and taxes these populations pay. Using economic models, the study projects the economic benefits that these groups bring to Michigan.

**Workforce Participation and Demographic Impact.**<sup>8</sup> The analysis highlights the potential for new immigrants to fill labor needs in various sectors, providing an optimistic outlook for Michigan's future workforce. It acknowledges that, for asylum seekers, access to work authorization is crucial in realizing this potential. Note that refugees are work-authorized when they arrive on U.S. soil.

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<sup>6</sup> This report (B) most closely aligns with the context provided in the introduction section.

<sup>7</sup> This report (C) focuses on *both* asylum seekers and new immigrants. It should be noted that refugee status, the primary focus of this research brief, is determined before entering a new country. At the same time, an asylum seeker requests protection after arriving and is awaiting a determination of their claim. The models used are based on samples from the American Community Survey (ACS) and represent two different model outcomes (for those in the country who have been in the country for less than two years and those who have been in the country for about five years).

<sup>8</sup> The economic trajectories of refugees and asylum seekers can vary significantly. Due to their uncertain legal status, asylum seekers may face more significant barriers to employment. While recognized refugees may have access to integration programs facilitating their entry into the labor market. Therefore, modeling them as a solitary group could obscure these significant differences.

The report shows that asylum seekers' wages increase over time, meaning their economic contributions also increase. It also recognizes the role of immigration in addressing population growth challenges in Michigan and shows that immigration is key to the state's population growth.<sup>9</sup>

#### IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The historical impact of refugees on Michigan's economy is a positive contribution. They have consistently demonstrated their ability to be self-sufficient, create jobs, and revitalize communities, showcasing their resilience and potential for significant economic impact.

### Quantifying Michigan's Economic Loss from the Pause in Refugee Resettlement

#### A. How Many Refugees Is Michigan Missing Out On?

Michigan's approved refugee reception and placement (R&P) capacity, obtained from the Office of Refugee Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 was to be 4,580 refugees (including Special Immigration Visa (SIV) holders).<sup>10</sup> Michigan's R&P capacity of 4,580 refugees and SIV holders was approved against a Presidential Determination of 125,000 refugees and 35,000 projected SIV arrivals for FY 2025.<sup>11</sup>

As of January 20, 2025, Michigan has received an estimated 1,500 refugee arrivals during FY 2025 (based on an average of 375 per month from October 2024 to January 2025).<sup>12</sup> The total number of projected arrivals for the FY would be 3,080 more individuals – including both refugees and SIVs.

Using federal estimates, it can be assumed that 73.5 percent of the 3,080 refugees impacted by the pause in refugee resettlement since January 20th – approximately 2,265 more refugees – would be slated to be resettled in Michigan before September 30, 2025.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Refugees, unlike asylum seekers, receive immediate resettlement assistance, including initial housing, food, language classes and other case management services (such as entrepreneurial coaching), within their first 180 days in the U.S. Because of these services, the economic impact of refugees is likely greater.

<sup>10</sup> SIV holders are individuals who are granted permanent residence in the United States based on specific criteria, including those who worked for and aided the U.S. military or its allies in Afghanistan or Iraq. The estimates included in this report do not include SIVs.

<sup>11</sup> The actual number of refugees that arrive in Michigan can fluctuate based on several factors, including: (1) global refugee crises; (2) U.S. government policies; and (3) the availability of resources.

<sup>12</sup> This estimate compares to 1,169 refugees who arrived in the 90 days before the order. The total estimate for this report is for all four months. However, it is unclear if the arrivals reported by OGM are just refugees and if the SIV numbers are omitted.

<sup>13</sup> The analyses for this document focus on estimates for refugees only and omit SIVs (estimated at 815 individuals).



## B. How to Quantify the Economic Loss of Fewer Refugees?<sup>14</sup>

### 1. Applying Global Detroit and Ford School of Public Policy 2017 Study on the Economic Impact of Refugee Resettlement in Southeastern Michigan Methodology

In 2017, Global Detroit and the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy partnered with the Southeast Michigan Refugee Collaborative and the four refugee resettlement agencies operating in the region to estimate the annual economic impact of refugee resettlement on the regional economy.

The study estimated three buckets of impacts, including: (1) the economic expenditures of refugee households; (2) the spending by the four resettlement agencies; and (3) the added economic contributions of refugee-owned businesses in the region. The study suggested that the annual regional economic impact from the prior 10 years of refugee resettlement – resettling 21,045 refugees into the area – contributed between \$229.6 million and \$295.3 million in 2016 alone.

Adjusting for inflation, \$1 in 2016 is estimated to have \$1.31 in spending power in 2025 dollars. This suggests that the annual impacts of refugees to Southeast Michigan adjusted for inflation would be much larger, between \$300.8 million and \$386.9 million in current dollars.

One way to estimate the loss of refugees to Michigan's economy would be to reduce this estimate to a per capita basis by dividing the totals by the number of refugees and multiplying the per capita impact by the number of refugees not being resettled in Michigan for the estimated effects.

The per capita annual economic impact from the 21,045 refugees resettled into Southeast Michigan between 2007 and 2016 is estimated to be between \$14,293 and \$18,384 annually. Estimating that the pause in refugee resettlement lasts for an entire year, then Michigan would lose out on 2,265 additional refugees. Extrapolating the economic impact estimates from the Global Detroit and Ford School study on a per capita basis suggests that the economic loss would approximate \$32.4 million to \$41.6 million in economic impact per year.

The 2017 study by Global Detroit and the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy estimated the annual economic impact of refugee resettlement in Southeast Michigan using the past decade of refugees. It is well documented that refugees experience growing incomes and

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<sup>14</sup> All of the forecasts provided in this document assume that none of the projected 2,265 additional refugees one would expect to come to Michigan between February and September 2025 are resettled during this period. While national resettlement agencies successfully obtained an injunction against the resettlement pause, the Trump administration terminated all contracts in the days following the injunction. If refugee resettlement is resumed in the coming months at the rates of resettlement observed during Trump's first term of office, then one could project the economic loss from the pause would be similarly reduced. For example, if refugee resettlement were to resume on July 1, 2025, at 10 percent of projected FY 2025 levels, then the projections in this study would be tempered by roughly three or four percent (as the resumption of resettlement would only replace refugees arriving in the last quarter of the fiscal year).

## Estimating the Economic Impacts of Immigration Policy

spending patterns as they integrate into the United States, rapidly increasing their earning potential and spending as workers or entrepreneurs.

The expected annual impact of new refugees in their first year of resettlement is likely lower than the methodology used above. However, we will get a more accurate picture if you estimate the impact on the Michigan economy over the coming decade by multiplying our findings by 10 years.

One would expect the impact to be below our annual estimate in 2025. Still, well above that estimate in 2034 (even adjusted for inflation), the earning and spending power of the refugees who were to be settled in 2025 found their earning and spending power increased as they further integrated. Thus, looking not just at lost economic activity over the coming year but also the coming decade gives a more accurate picture of the actual economic costs.

Based on estimates from the Global Detroit and University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy study, **Michigan will lose between \$324 million and \$416 million in economic impact** over the coming decade if refugee resettlement is paused through September 30, 2025.

## 2. Using the American Immigration Council and Michigan Global Talent Coalition 2024 *Contributions of New Americans in Michigan: The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the State* Report to Estimate the Economic Loss from Pausing Refugee Resettlement

In May 2024, the American Immigration Council and Michigan Global Talent Coalition<sup>15</sup> released a study on the economic contributions of New Americans in Michigan.

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*The study noted that Michigan was home to 72,700 residents who had entered the United States as refugees.*

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Refugee households in Michigan earned \$2.5 billion in 2022, paying \$374.2 million in federal taxes and \$214.3 million in state and local taxes. Dividing these numbers per capita suggests that each refugee generates \$34,388 in annual earnings and pays \$5,147 in federal taxes and \$2,948 in state and local taxes. If we assume that the pause in refugee resettlement deprives the state of 2,265 refugees, the loss in earnings and taxes would be \$77.9 million in annual earnings, \$11.7 million in federal taxes, and \$6.7 million in state and local taxes in 2022 dollars. Adjusting for inflation (using an 8 percent rate), these estimates would equal \$84.1 million in annual earnings, \$12.6 million in federal taxes, and \$7.2 million in state and local taxes.

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<sup>15</sup> The Michigan Global Talent Coalition is a collaboration of two dozen chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, and industry groups across Michigan. MGTC was formed to advocate for a comprehensive immigrant inclusion talent strategy to help the state meet its workforce development goals articulated in Governor Whitmer's Sixty by 30 initiative. Global Detroit staffs and leads the Michigan Global Talent Coalition. To learn more about the Michigan Global Talent Coalition and the Michigan Global Talent Initiative, visit [www.michiganglobaltalent.org](http://www.michiganglobaltalent.org).

## Estimating the Economic Impacts of Immigration Policy

Again, one would expect these estimates to be inflated for the first several years of resettling new refugees. Still, these numbers would be more reflective as refugees became more integrated over time. Using the ten-year horizon of projections is likely to produce a more accurate estimate.

Using the American Immigration Council and Michigan Global Talent Coalition research suggests that resettling 2,265 refugees in Michigan would add **\$841 million in earnings, \$126 million in federal taxes, and \$72 million in state and local taxes over the next decade.**

### **3. Using the Michigan League for Public Policy and Immigration Research Initiative's 2024 Economic Projections for Asylum Seekers and New Immigrants: Michigan Report to Estimate Economic Loss from Pausing Refugee Resettlement**

In February 2024, the Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP) and Immigration Research Initiative (IRI) issued a short paper estimating the economic impact of 1,000 new immigrant arrivals, estimating the wage earnings of newly arrived asylum seekers and earnings five years later.<sup>16</sup> In short, during the first year, MLPP and IRI estimated that for every 1,000 new immigrant arrivals, Michigan would experience \$22 million in additional annual wage earnings and \$1.6 million in state and local taxes, while the annual numbers would rise to \$35 million and \$2.5 million five years after arrival.

We can use these numbers to determine the number of workers among Michigan's projected loss of 2,265 refugees. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 52.9 percent of the refugee arrivals in the United States in 2023 (down from 53.9 percent in 2022 and 57.7 percent in 2021) were working-aged. Thus, we would project a loss of earnings from 1,198 working-aged refugees among the 2,265.

Using MLPP and IRI projections, this would mean **a loss of \$26.4 million in earnings in the first year, \$1.9 million in state and local taxes, \$41.9 million in earnings in year five, and \$3 million in state and local taxes.** Using year five as the mean projection would make sense to project these values over an entire decade, with expected earning power and state and local tax contributions growing even more in years 6-10.

This methodology projects a loss of \$419 million in earnings and \$30 million in state and local taxes over the decade.

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<sup>16</sup> The report includes ACS data for asylum seekers, who are individuals awaiting a decision on their asylum claim and possessing uncertain legal status and other new immigrants, who may encompass a broader range of individuals entering a country for various reasons. While this brief focuses on refugees, who have been granted recognized refugee status, granting them specific legal protections, the economic modeling is helpful to benchmark the economic impact of the loss of 2,265 refugees. Refugees, unlike asylum seekers, receive immediate resettlement assistance, including initial housing, food, language classes and other case management services (such as entrepreneurial coaching), within their first 180 days in the U.S. Because of these services, the economic impact of refugees is likely greater.

## Estimating the Economic Impacts of Immigration Policy

The following table summarizes the economic losses across the three studies discussed in this research brief and estimates for both 1- and 10-year impacts where applicable.

**TABLE 1. ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN MICHIGAN BY REPORT**

ECONOMIC IMPACT		
	1 YEAR	10 YEARS
Global Detroit and the University of Michigan’s Ford School of Public Policy (2017)		Between \$324 million and \$416 million
American Immigration Council and the Michigan Global Talent Initiative (2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$84.1 million in earnings</li> <li>• \$12.6 million in federal taxes</li> <li>• \$7.2 million in state and local taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$841 million in earnings</li> <li>• \$126 million in federal taxes</li> <li>• \$72 million in state and local taxes</li> </ul>
Michigan League for Public Policy and the Immigration Research Initiative (2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26.4 million in lost earnings</li> <li>• \$1.9 million in state and local taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$419 million in lost earnings<sup>17</sup></li> <li>• \$30 million in state and local taxes</li> </ul>

*Note:* these estimates are calculated using the methodology utilized by each of the three reports and the number of refugee arrivals for this brief (2,265) that would be expected to settle in Michigan if the pause were not in place.

## V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Regardless of the methodology and exact projection, the projections made from these studies rely on the same basic economic analysis. Adding more population and workers to the Michigan economy expands the amount of spending within the economy and contributes to state, local, and federal taxes.

The benefits of population growth are so clear, well understood, and meaningful to communities throughout Michigan that have long experienced either population decline or stagnation that Michigan’s business, economic development, political, and community leaders have united in identifying population growth as a critical public policy goal for Michigan’s future.

Refugees resettled in Michigan have demonstrated that they are eager to pursue the American Dream and join the Michigan workforce as both workers and entrepreneurs and have succeeded in doing so. Having fled war, religious persecution, natural disasters, violence, and oppression, refugees are eager to embrace America as their new home. They are quick to integrate into their communities and call Michigan home. Over time, research<sup>18</sup> has documented that their earning

<sup>17</sup> These numbers use year five as the mean projection.

<sup>18</sup> New American Economy. (2017, June). *From struggle to resilience: The economic impact of refugees in America*. <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/from-struggle-to-resilience-the-economic-impact-of-refugees-in-america/>.

power, spending and tax contributions grow as they become more integrated into our communities.

If President Trump's Executive Order pausing refugee resettlement were to last until September 30, 2025, the projected loss of 2,265 new refugee arrivals would negatively impact Michigan's gross domestic product and tax base in the coming year and decade. Over the course of the decade, even just a pause in refugee resettlement for the next six months would negatively impact Michigan's economic activity to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Federal refugee resettlement and immigration policies have profound humanitarian impacts. U.S. refugee policies impact our geopolitical strategies and relationships and intersect with the nation's foreign affairs. Refugee and immigration policies raise significant civil and human rights issues.

However, the U.S. refugee resettlement policy, as well as the federal immigration policy, is also an economic policy. We have authored this analysis not to dictate a specific policy recommendation but to build awareness that significantly reducing refugee resettlement to Michigan will negatively impact our state's population growth and economic activity. This report uses prior research efforts quantifying some of the economic impacts of refugee resettlement into Michigan to estimate the immediate and long-term effects of pausing refugee restatement into Michigan for an extended period – in this case, through the end of September 2025, six months from this report's publication.

Global Detroit and Public Policy Associates have joined some 400 local chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, business owners, and concerned citizens in signing onto the Businesses and People for Immigration campaign to help spread information on the economic contributions of immigrants in Michigan. Helping to shine a light on the economic impacts of policies like the current pause in refugee resettlement is a core function of *Businesses and People for Immigration*. For those wishing to join the campaign or learn more, please visit [forimmigration.biz](http://forimmigration.biz).

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