

EN

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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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The study¹ on fiscal impact of migration is a Science for Policy report by the Joint Research Centre, which provides evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process. The scientific output expressed therein does not imply a policy position of the Commission. It highlights that legal migrants play a key role in the EU economy and society. As Member States face labour shortages in areas like construction, engineering, healthcare and ICT, legal migrant workers are essential in filling these gaps, given the ageing and shrinking working population of the Member States².

The study examines the fiscal contribution of natives, intra-EU migrants and extra-EU migrants in the EU in the past and future. It notes that migration moderately impacts the economy, emphasizing the need to consider taxpayer characteristics, which can vary significantly across countries and over time². The study also finds that removing obstacles to the full labour market integration of migrants can produce considerable positive fiscal benefits for hosting countries in the future.

No updated version of the study is planned, as the net fiscal impact of natives vs. immigrants does not vary substantially from one year to the next³. The need for future updates should also be gauged against the significant data gathering work required.

The study used the EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) data⁴ because it is the only source giving a detailed overview and comparable statistics about benefits received and taxes paid by individuals/households in all Member States. This data makes the distinction between natives, intra-EU and extra-EU migrants. However, a more granular analysis by country of origin or migration motive is not possible as this type of data is not included in the EU-SILC data.

¹ Bélanger, A., Christl, M., Conte, A., Mazza, J., Narazani, E., Projecting the net fiscal impact of immigration in the EU, EUR 30407 EN, Publications Office of the EU, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92- 76-23423-4, doi:10.2760/582639, JRC121937.

² Cf page 17 'For the OECD (2013), immigrant families in 27 OECD countries contributed on average 0.3% of GDP to national budgets between 2007 and 2009. Immigrants tend to have a less favourable net fiscal position than natives, but their net contribution is generally positive. [...] The socio-economic and demographic profile of the taxpayer once again explains the national results'. and page 18 'The results of the static analyses discussed in this section are strongly dependent on the demographic unit of analysis (i.e. individuals or families), age structure, education and labour market performance of the different population groups, as well as the budget items and years analysed. The estimated impact is either positive or negative depending on the case considered but it is generally moderate'.

³ See Fiorio, C. V., Frattini, T., Riganti, A., & Christl, M. (2024). Migration and public finances in the EU. *International Tax and Public Finance*, 31(3), 635-684.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions>.