Foreign-Born STEM Workforce in the United States.

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Background

Recent high-velocity migration waves have reshaped the nation’s population in ways that challenge how we understand and monitor the characteristics of the labor force. For example, one of the fastest growing components of our workforce is the foreign-born population – 17.9% of all workers. This workforce is composed of a large number of workers in STEM occupations. The foreign-born STEM workforce representation is higher than the native STEM workforce. In 2015, the foreign-born STEM workforce составляют 26.8% of STEM workers, compared to 23.3% for the native STEM workforce.

Key findings

1. The foreign-born STEM workforce includes a large number of workers in computer and mathematical occupations, which consist of workers employed in computer and mathematical occupations, engineers, and scientists.

2. Foreign-born males and females are overrepresented in STEM occupations among the foreign born and work primarily in computer occupations.

3. Foreign-born whites and Asians are the highest earners in the STEM workforce.

4. The foreign-born STEM workforce earns more than the native STEM workforce.

5. The distribution by sex is similar for both the foreign-born STEM workforce and the overall STEM workforce.

6. There are significant differences in the foreign-born STEM workforce compared to the native STEM workforce across race and ethnic groups.

7. The foreign-born STEM workforce is underrepresented in physical science occupations compared to their representation in STEM overall (22 percent).

8. The foreign-born STEM workforce has a higher percentage of workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher than the native STEM workforce.

9. The foreign-born STEM workforce is more likely to have a master’s degree or higher than the native STEM workforce.

10. The foreign-born STEM workforce is more likely to have a doctorate degree or higher than the native STEM workforce.

Note: The universe includes the civilian employed population aged 25-64.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

References


U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

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