According to a new Pew Research Center Report with data from 18 nations, majorities in some of the world’s top destinations for international migrants say immigrants strengthen their countries. In 10 of the countries surveyed, majorities view immigrants as a strength rather than a burden. By contrast, majorities in five countries surveyed see immigrants as a burden to their countries. With the exception of Russia, these countries each have fewer than 5 million immigrants. In the U.S., the nation with the world’s largest number of immigrants, six-in-ten adults (59%) say immigrants make the country stronger because of their work and talents, while one-third (34%) say immigrants are a burden because they take jobs and social benefits. Views about immigrants have shifted in many of these countries. In Greece, Germany and Italy, three countries that experienced high volumes of arrivals during the 2015 refugee surge, the share saying immigrants make their countries stronger dropped significantly in 2018. By contrast, public opinion shifted in the opposite direction in France, the UK and Spain, countries that received fewer asylum seekers in 2015.

Speaker

Ana Gonzalez-Barrera
Senior Researcher, Pew Research Center

Chair

Dilip Ratha
Head of KNOMAD, Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank

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Ana Gonzalez-Barrera Ana Gonzalez-Barrera is a senior researcher at Pew Research Center. She is an expert on U.S. immigration, particularly on Mexican immigration to the U.S. and border apprehensions and deportations. She also has extensive experience analyzing and surveying the Hispanic population in the U.S. Before joining Pew Research Center in 2011, she served as director of population distribution at the Mexican Population Council (CONAPO). Prior to that, she worked for over four years at CIDE in Mexico, where she coordinated two rounds of the Mexico and the Americas public opinion survey in 2004 and 2010. She received a MPP from the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago, where she was a Fulbright-Garcia Robles scholar. She is an author of An Awakened Giant: the Hispanic Electorate is Likely to Double by 2030, The Path Not Taken: Two-thirds of Legal Mexican Immigrants are not U.S. Citizens, and More Mexicans Leaving Than Coming to the U.S., among others.

Dilip Ratha is Head of KNOMAD and Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances at the World Bank. His TED Talk has 1.3 million views.

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