

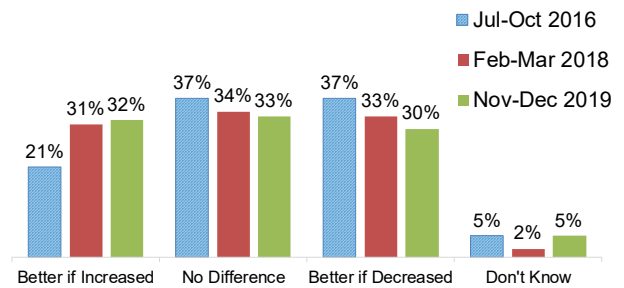


Subject: Impact of immigration on national economy
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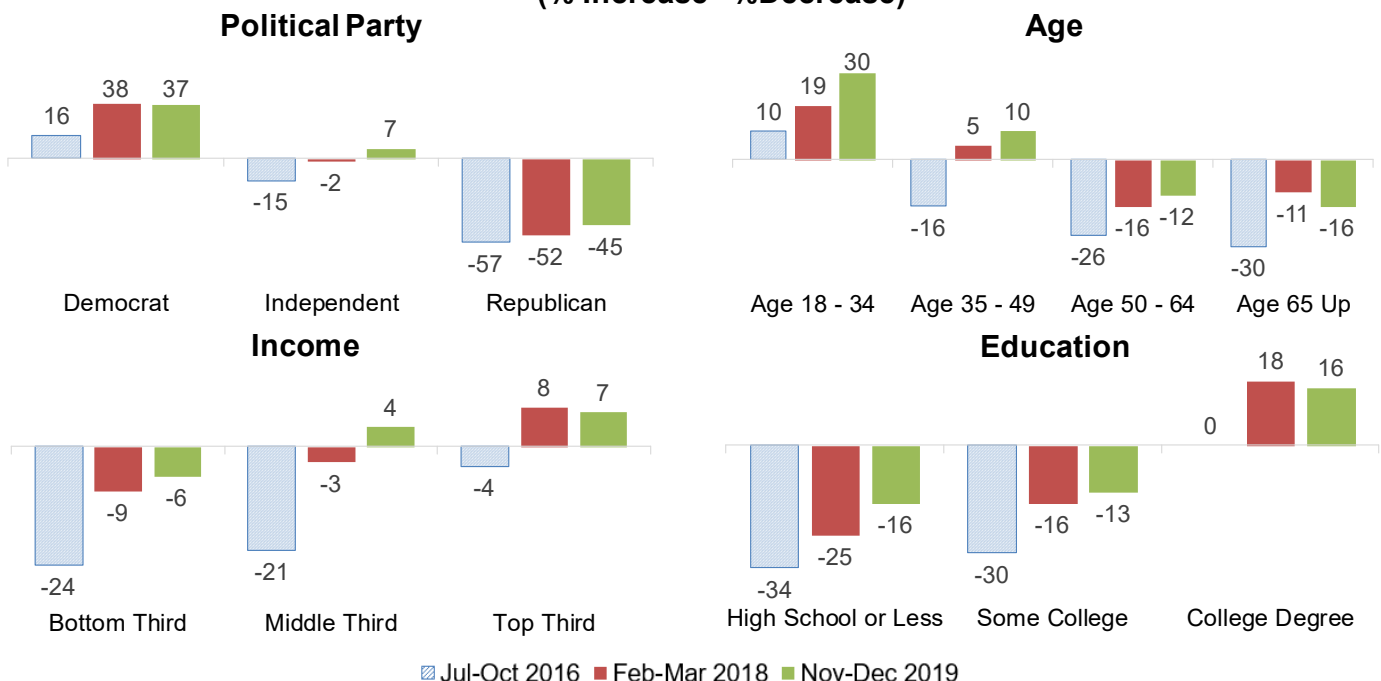
Consumers were asked whether the national economy would be better if immigration increased or if immigration decreased. The sole focus of the question was how consumers viewed the impact of immigration on the economy, avoiding their views on the overall desirability of immigration. The question was asked in 2016, prior to the presidential election, and again in 2018 and 2019. Over that time period, immigration was viewed somewhat more favorably, with 2019 showing near equal proportions favoring increases (32%) and decreases (30%); the data in 2016 was more clearly pointed toward negative assessments of the impact of immigration on the economy. The degree of change is best captured by the net balance score (%increase-%decrease), which rose from -16 in 2016 to +2 in 2019—a significant increase in support for increased immigration. Most of the shift was recorded from 2016 to 2018, with the 2019 data showing little net change from 2018—an insignificant shift from -2 to +2.

Better for the Economy If Immigration Into the U.S. was Increased or Decreased?



Trends in net balance scores by age, income, education, and political affiliation are shown below. The overall finding is that consumers' views on the impact of immigration on the economy have generally become more favorable, although for most subgroups, it would be more accurate to say that views on immigration have become less unfavorable. Note that the largest difference was associated with political party affiliation, ranging from a +37 for Democrats to a -45 for Republicans; there is little doubt that partisanship has played a significant role in shaping these views on immigration. Consumers under the age of 35 voiced the most positive net views about immigration in 2019 (+30), and those 35 to 49, showed the largest change from 2016 (-16 to +10). Older age groups were generally less negative in 2019 than in 2016. Perhaps the most surprising results were found across income and education subgroups. In 2016, households with incomes in the bottom third as well as those with a high school degree or less had strongly net negative views about increasing immigration, net balance scores of -24 and -34 respectively. By 2019, these two subgroups shifted substantially to hold more favorable views on immigration, although they were still more likely to favor less immigration for a better economy. Households with incomes in the top third viewed greater immigration as better for the national economy in 2018 and 2019, although that support for greater immigration was on balance minor. Consumers with a college degree held favorable net opinions about greater immigration being better for the national economy, but that support was just about half as frequent as among those under 35 (+16 versus +30).

Better for the Economy If Immigration Into the U.S. was Increased or Decreased? (% Increase - %Decrease)



Legend: Jul-Oct 2016 (blue), Feb-Mar 2018 (red), Nov-Dec 2019 (green)