

MIGRATION NEWS

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>Migration News summarizes the most important immigration and
>integration developments of the preceding quarter.

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>Topics are grouped by region: North America, Europe, Asia and Other.

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>The purpose of Migration News is to provide a quarterly summary of
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>less. Many issues also contain summaries and reviews of recent
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>MIGRATION NEWS

>THE AMERICAS

>DHS: ENFORCEMENT, ASYLUM

>CONGRESS: REAL ID, GUEST WORKERS

>STATES, CENSUS, HEALTH

>LABOR, H-VISAS, MOBILITY

>MEXICO: LEGALIZATION, BRAZILIANS, ECONOMY
>CANADA: BRAIN WASTE
>LATIN AMERICA: REMITTANCES, CAFTA
>EUROPE
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>GERMANY: SERVICES, MIGRANTS
>UK, IRELAND
>FRANCE, ITALY, BENELUX
>SPAIN: LEGALIZATION
>EASTERN EUROPE, TURKEY
>ASIA
>CHINA, HONG KONG
>JAPAN, KOREA
>SOUTHEAST ASIA
>SOUTH ASIA
>OTHER
>AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND
>SOUTH AFRICA, OTHER AFRICA
>GLOBAL TRENDS
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>_____

>THE AMERICAS
>_____

>DHS: Enforcement, Asylum
>
>The 10.3 million unauthorized foreigners in the US reported in the
>March 2004 Current Population Survey were almost four percent of the
>293 million US residents. There were 14 million members of US
>households in which the head or spouse was unauthorized, and they
>included 3.1 million US-born and US-citizen children.
>
>About 57 percent--6.3 millionÑof the unauthorized foreigners are
>Mexicans and another 24 percent are from other Latin American
>countries. About two-thirds of the unauthorized in 2004 arrived
>after 1995. Many went to states in the Southeast, West and Midwest,
>while California's share of unauthorized foreigners fell from 45
>percent in 1990 to 24 percent in 2004.
>
>About 6.4 million of the 148-million US workers in 2004 were
>unauthorized, 4.3 percent. A third of unauthorized workers are
>employed in services, a third work in construction, installation and
>repair, and less than five percent work in agriculture, according to
>the CPS. Education levels are low: only 25 percent of unauthorized
>adults have a high school education or more.
>
>An opinion poll found that a majority of Republican "enterprisers"
>and Democratic liberals say that high levels of immigration
>"strengthens American society." A majority of Republican social
>conservatives and Democratic disadvantaged say that newcomers
>threaten American values.
>
>CBP. Accenture and its subcontractors in the Smart Border Alliance in
>May 2004 won a 10-year contract with a value of up to \$10 billion to
>create a "virtual border" to screen millions of foreign travelers
>electronically. However, the US-VISIT (Visitor and Immigrant Status
>Indicator Technology) system, a key component of virtual borders, is

>in trouble, according to the Washington Post, since it fully checks
>only one percent of foreign visitors to the US. One reason for
>infrequent cross checks is that US-VISIT uses two rather than the
>standard 10 fingerprints.

>

>US-VISIT is eventually expected to cover those arriving at 300 land,
>air and sea ports with 450 million crossings a year. In 2005, US-
>VISIT checked only 800 of the roughly 118,000 visitors a day who
>could be screened against the FBI database. DHS nonetheless asserted
>in May 2005 that US-VISIT was working, and had blocked the admission
>of nearly 600 people and led to the arrest of 39.

>

>The US once again postponed the requirement that foreigners from 27
>countries who do not require visas have biometric information such as
>fingerprints in their passports. The US does not require foreigners
>to have "e-passports," and does not have the equipment in place to
>check such passports, but wants foreigners who do not need visas to
>enter the US to have passports that include biometric chips with
>photos by October 2006.

>

>The unofficial, civilian Minuteman project pronounced its April 2005
>effort to discourage illegal entries in Arizona a success, and said
>that it had 15,000 volunteers ready to patrol the entire Mexico-US
>border. The number of CBP apprehensions in April 2005 was only
>4,173, compared to 12,402 in April 2004. However, when civilians
>detain foreigners, local police and the foreigner's consulate must be
>called to ensure that the foreigner's civil rights are protected,
>adding several hours to their processing and return to Mexico.

>

>California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger praised the April 2005
>Minuteman campaign, saying that the volunteers had done a "terrific
>job" to reduce illegal entries. There was speculation that
>Schwarzenegger was borrowing a tactic of former Governor Pete Wilson
>and using illegal immigration to boost his sagging popularity.
>Wilson, one of the few politicians to embrace and campaign for
>Proposition 187, handily won re-election in 1994.

>

>The Arizona desert, the major crossing point of illegal entrants, has
>once again become a death trap for some migrantsÑ 12 died in mid-May
>2005, as temperatures topped 115 degrees. The US spent \$15 million
>flying 14,000 migrants who were apprehended in Arizona to Mexico City
>and other interior cities in summer 2004, and plans a similar deep
>repatriation program in summer 2005.

>

>In Spring 2004, a team of 12 Border Patrol agents conducted sweeps in
>southern California, apprehending over 420 unauthorized Mexicans and
>sowing panic. The Border Patrol said it visited day laborer sites in
>response to complaints, but papers filed in response to a lawsuit
>found there were none. The sweeps raised protests among politicians,
>church leaders and the Mexican government, and were stopped by DHS
>because the Border Patrol did not coordinate the effort with ICE, the
>agency responsible for interior enforcement. During the sweeps, 45
>people were questioned and detained who turned out to be either U.S.
>citizens or legal permanent residents.

>

>California has 2.5 to 3 million unauthorized foreigners and spends \$5

>to \$9 billion a year to educate, medically care for and also to
>imprison them. There are about 1,700 Border Patrol officers on the
>California-Mexico border. The California Border Police Act was
>proposed in May 2005 as a way to hire 1,500 to 3,000 additional state
>officers to patrol the California-Mexico border and enforce employer
>sanctions laws. According to its legislative sponsor, if the
>Legislature does not act, the CBPA will be on the June 2006 ballot as
>an initiative.

>
>The Department of Homeland Security will get a \$30.8 billion budget
>for FY06, including \$9 billion for border security. DHS in April
>2005 proposed that Americans be required to produce passports to re-
>enter the United States from Mexico, Canada, Panama and Bermuda after
>January 2008. President Bush rebuffed this proposal, and said he
>preferred something between the current system, which requires
>returning Americans and Canadians merely to show a driver's license
>at the border, and the proposed passport requirement.

>
>A FOX News Poll released on May 3, 2005 reported that 63 percent of
>those surveyed said that unauthorized migration was a "very serious"
>problem, and that 28 percent said it was "somewhat serious." When
>asked why, a third cited homeland security and terrorism, a third
>cited jobs and the economy, and a third cited both. Two-thirds of
>those surveyed supported putting troops on the border.
>(www.foxnews.com/projects/pdf/050305_poll.pdf)

>
>Sociologist Doug Massey argues that the US government has been and
>will remain unable to stop unauthorized Mexico-US migration, and that
>the best option is to accept inevitable Mexico-US migration and
>funnel it into legal channels. According to Massey, the probability
>of being apprehended while trying to enter the US illegally from
>Mexico was 33 percent from the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, fell to
>between 20 and 30 percent from the mid-1980s until 2000, and reached
>a low of five percent in 2002 despite the addition of Border Patrol
>agents.

>
>Massey argues that 95 percent of those who attempt illegal entry
>succeed with the help of smugglers, but the increased cost of illegal
>entry encourages irregular Mexicans to remain in the US. The
>probability of returning to Mexico within 12 months of illegal entry
>fell from 50 percent in the mid-1980s to 25 percent today.

>
>Massey believes that the solution to unauthorized Mexico-US migration
>is a two-year renewable work visa that would permit Mexicans to be
>free agents in the US labor market. Massey recommended that 300,000
>work visas a year be sold for \$400 each, and that fees collected from
>guest workers and their payroll taxes be spent to spur development in
>their countries of origin. Massey proposed a temporary status for
>unauthorized Mexicans that would let them earn immigrant visas and
>legal status for their unauthorized children in the US.

>
>In May 2005 testimony, DHS said that it cost \$179,000 for each new
>Border Patrol agent to complete a five-month training course,
>including related expenditures on weapons, training facilities and
>travel.

>

>ICE. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is responsible for the
>enforcement of immigration laws within the US, including detecting
>and removing the unauthorized and those ordered deported (formally
>sending foreigners out of the US used to be called deportation and is
>now called removal). Some 161,346 foreigners were removed in FY04,
>up from 145,651 in FY03 and 116,026 in FY02. About half of those
>removed were convicted of US crimes, down from previous levels of
>two-thirds, as ICE gets more efficient at finding non-criminals who
>have been ordered removed.

>
>To avoid removal, many foreigners apply to federal courts. The 9th
>Circuit, the largest federal appellate court with 24 judges, said
>that half of its cases in 2005 involve immigration issues.
>Foreigners first appear before immigration judges and can appeal
>their decisions to the Board of Immigration Appeals before proceeding
>to the federal courts. The BIA was reduced from 23 to 11 members in
>2002, and the BIA increasingly issues one-sentence decisions
>upholding immigration judges. In 2003, the BIA reversed immigration
>judges in six percent of the cases appealed to it; a quarter of BIA
>decisions are appealed to federal courts.

>
>Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, ICE has given
>priority to checking on employees at critical infrastructure
>workplaces, including airports, nuclear facilities and seaports. In
>May 2005, ICE arrested 60 unauthorized workers from Mexico and
>Central America employed by Brock Enterprises, which supplies
>maintenance workers to refineries and power plants.

>
>The procedure for checking workers employed at critical
>infrastructure is similar to that used in Operation Vanguard in 1999
>in Nebraska meatpacking plants, when I-9 employee verification forms
>were subpoenaed from 111 meatpacking plants and checked against
>Social Security Administration and INS records. INS told employers
>to ask employees with discrepancies to clear them up before agents
>came to the plant to interview them; agents interviewed only
>employees about whom there was doubt during work-place visits.
>However, in today's inspections, agents visit the work place and
>arrest those whose data does not match government records.

>
>Generally speaking, however, workplace enforcement is declining.
>Between 1993 and 2003, the number of employers fined for hiring
>unauthorized workers fell from 944 to 124, and the number of workers
>apprehended at work places fell from 7,630 to 445. Such data
>reinforce the perception that there is no effective workplace
>enforcement of immigration laws.

>
>Hispanic workers have high injury and death rates at US work sites,
>prompting federal and state agencies to step up safety training and
>inspections. Construction workers at the Seymour Johnson Air Force
>Base in Goldsboro were told to come to a mandatory safety meeting
>and, when they did, 48 were arrested as unauthorized, prompting
>complaints from safety officials that workers would be less likely to
>cooperate in the future (the safety agencies were not involved in the
>sting).

>
>Since December 2004, the Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program,

>administered by USCIS, has enabled all US employers to check new
>hires against Social Security and immigration databases. As of June
>2005, some 4,385 employers were participating. They say that, when
>they inform new hires of data mismatches, most do not return, and
>instead seek jobs with non-participating employers.

>

>Mexican-American Robert Vasquez wants to make Canyon County, Idaho
>the only US county to use the federal Racketeer Influenced and
>Corrupt Organizations Act against employers of illegal migrants. His
>initiative illustrates the tensions within the Republican party.
>Senator Larry E. Craig (R-ID) wants to legalize unauthorized workers,
>while Vasquez wants to use RICO to go after their employers.

>

>Not all Mexicans with legal immigrant status live in the US. The New
>York Times on June 7, 2005 reported that up to five percent of the
>legal immigrants living in some Mexican towns have rented their
>immigration visas and social security numbers to others who use them
>to enter the US. The article profiled a Mexican beekeeping
>instructor who fraudulently got an immigrant visa through the Special
>Agricultural Worker farm worker legalization while visiting his
>brother in the US in 1986-87. He got a farmer to give him a letter
>asserting he had worked over 90 days in the fields in 1985-86, got an
>immigrant visa, returned to Mexico, and rented out the visa and
>social security card. He gets money now from migrants working in the
>US. Later, he stands to get the retirement benefits that will accrue
>to his social security account.

>

>Unauthorized workers prefer valid SSNs to invented ones in order to
>avoid having the SSA send out mismatch letters to their employers.
>For Mexican immigrants living outside the US, having earnings
>reported to a valid SSN can help establish "residence" if they want
>to move back to the US. US earnings attributed to them can also
>allow them to collect unemployment insurance benefits. Finally, if
>US earnings are low, there may be an income tax refund to split
>between the worker and the owner of the IDs.

>

>A mid-June 2005 Washington Post review of federal anti-terrorism
>prosecutions found few persons linked to terrorism, but many
>foreigners prosecuted for immigration law violations like
>overstaying a visa or working with a visa that does not authorize
>employment. With over 10 million unauthorized foreigners in the US,
>Muslims say they are being singled out for strict enforcement of
>immigration laws. After September 11, 2001, some 768 Muslim men were
>processed in secret, and most were deported for violation of
>immigration laws after being cleared of connections to terrorism.

>

>Today, activists charge that ICE is scrutinizing the paperwork of
>Muslims in order to find a reason to arrest legal immigrants and
>naturalized US citizens, and then offering them a "deal" on the
>immigration violation if they provide evidence on terror suspects.
>ICE says that since March 2003, more than 500 people have been
>charged with immigration violations after an initial report linking
>them to a terrorism or homeland security threat.

>

>Asylum/Refugees. A Kenyan woman who requested asylum and was
>returned to Kenya in March 2001 won \$87,500 in a settlement with the

>US government. The woman returned to the US as a tourist in
>September 2002 and later sued the U.S. government for returning her
>to face persecution, a suit that a federal judge in January 2005
>allowed to proceed. The woman is from Kenya's largest ethnic group,
>the Kikuyu, and said she was persecuted for belonging to an
>organization that opposed the government of former President Daniel
>arap Moi.

>

>Refugee status is granted to those with a well-founded fear of
>persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in
>a particular social group or political opinion. A South African
>family asked for asylum because a relative abused black workers and
>they feared persecution from his employees. The government said the
>family was not a "particular social group," but the 9th Circuit Court
>of Appeals, in a 7-4 decision in June 2005, said a family is a
>particular social group for purposes of determining whether they face
>persecution.

>

>The US government had argued that, if families are particular social
>groups, then "victims of vendettas or feuds" around the world could
>claim asylum. However, the court said that asylum applicants "must
>still show that the persecution is at the hands of the government or
>persons or organizations that the government is unable or unwilling
>to control."

>

>There are two major ways of obtaining asylum in the United States:
>the "affirmative" process and the "defensive" process. During their
>first 12 months in the United States, asylum-seekers who have not
>been ordered deported can submit an asylum application regardless of
>how they came to the country and regardless of their immigration
>status, the affirmative process. These applicants have interviews at
>one of eight asylum offices around the US, usually within 60 days of
>applying for asylum.

>

>The defensive process is used by people who request asylum after a
>U.S. immigration court has ordered them removed from the country.
>Between 1993 and 1995, thousands of foreigners applied for asylum in
>order to get the work authorization then provided. Since 1995, there
>has been a six-month wait for a work permit, and applications have
>fallen while approval rates have increased. There were 46,272 asylum
>applicants in 2003 and 31,500 in 2004, when 32 percent were
>recognized as refugees. Under the Real ID Act of 2005 future asylum
>applicants would have to provide more evidence that they faced
>persecution at home. They could be more easily rejected if the
>asylum judge questioned their "demeanor" or "responsiveness."

>

>A Somali refugee who was convicted of a US felony in 1999 was ordered
>deported in 2001. The US Supreme Court in January 2005 said that he
>could be deported even if Somalia had no functioning government to
>accept him. However, after arrival, local officials rejected him,
>and the private security firm that flew him to Somalia brought him
>back to the US. About 90,000 Somalis are in the US, half in
>Minnesota, and 4,000 are subject to removal.

>

>There are at least 1,225 foreigners in long-term detention in the US
>from 100 countries who cannot be deported. Another Supreme Court

>decision forbids detention beyond six months unless deportation is
>imminent or there is a specific danger in releasing foreigners who
>cannot be removed.
>
>Americans who want more done to reduce illegal immigration
>nonetheless often rally to the cause of individual unauthorized
>migrants. A now 17-year old boy from Fujian was smuggled into the US
>after his father reportedly paid smugglers \$60,000, and became an
>outstanding student in US schools. After three years of living in the
>US, there were protests when DHS tried to deport him back to China.
>The boy ask for asylum on the grounds that the smugglers would seek
>retribution because he went to school rather than worked and was
>unable to repay the smuggling debt; his case is pending.
>
>Vienna Convention. The Vienna Convention ratified by the US in 1969,
>requires consular access for Americans detained abroad and for
>foreigners arrested in the United States. However, many state
>prosecutors do not tell foreigners that they have the right to seek
>help from their consular officials. The International Court of
>Justice in The Hague ruled in 2004 that the rights of foreigners were
>violated when they were sentenced to death in the US without being
>informed of their consular rights.
>
>President Bush ordered states to comply with the International
>Court's ruling and hold new hearings for convicted foreigners who
>were sentenced to death. The US Supreme Court in May 2005 rejected
>an appeal from a Mexican on death row in Texas, saying that he had to
>wait until Texas completed a review of his case.
>
>Barron's on January 3, 2005 reported that the underground US economy
>may add \$1 trillion to the \$11 trillion GDP, and that its size and
>growth suggests that the number of unauthorized foreigners is double
>the usual 10 million estimate.
>
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>Congress: Real ID, Guest Workers
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>The Real ID Act of 2005, which would establish national standards for
>drivers licenses, was signed into law in May 2005. Under Real ID,
>states must verify that applicants for licenses are legal U.S.
>residents within three years, a process expected to cost \$500
>million. Licenses and IDs from states that do not follow these
>guidelines could not be used for federal purposes, such as for
>boarding airplanes.

>

>In May 2005, 11 states permitted foreigners who do not have visas to
>obtain drivers licenses. There is no reliable estimate of how many
>licenses have been issued to noncitizens in the US legally or
>illegally. Critics said that Real ID would not prevent terrorists
>from obtaining licenses, but would make it hard for otherwise law-
>abiding unauthorized foreigners to live and work in the US.
>Supporters of Real ID said that was the purpose--they want to make it
>harder for foreigners to remain in the US without authorization.

>

>Some states threatened to defy Real ID, arguing that it is an
>unfunded federal mandate. Administrators protested they would have
>to re-program DMV computers so that driver's licenses issued to
>temporary foreign residents expired on the same date that their visas
>expired. Some 36 states currently verify the Social Security Numbers
>presented by applicants.

>

>Tennessee is one of two states that issue drivers' licenses stamped
>"Not Valid for Identification" to unauthorized foreigners and
>temporary legal residents, and some 21,000 were issued in the nine
>months after July 1, 2004. Interviews with immigrants found that
>many were grateful for the one-year driving permits, but also
>frustrated because some banks did not honor the IDs to open accounts.

>

>Since 2001, eight states, including major immigration destinations
>such as Texas, California and New York, have enacted laws allowing
>unauthorized children who graduate from local high schools to pay in-
>state tuition at state-funded universities. State officials say they
>expected Congress to approve the Dream Act, which would allow
>unauthorized foreigners in the U.S. at least five years to get
>temporary legal residency upon completion of high school, and make
>those who attended college or joined the military eligible for
>permanent residency. Congress has not acted.

>

>Guest Workers. On April 19, 2005, the Senate voted on three
>immigration-related amendments to the emergency military spending
>bill: each needed 60 votes for approval. AgJOBS received 53 votes
>(45 Senators voted against attaching AgJOBS). An opposing proposal
>by Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-GA, that would have allowed some
>unauthorized farm workers to become guest workers was defeated 77-21.
>However, an amendment to allow the return of H-2B workers who had
>been in the US in previous years outside the 66,000 a year ceiling
>was approved 94-6; the exemption is valid in 2005 and 2006.

>

>Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the
>105-page Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (S.
>1033/H.R. 2330) to implement the proposals of President Bush in May
>2005. The 11-title bill would aim to enhance border security, re-
>authorize a program that reimburses state and local governments for
>the cost of imprisoning unauthorized foreigners, and create a new
>"Essential Worker Visa Program." (www.cirnow.org)

>

>Some 400,000 new H-5A and H-5B visas would be available for essential
>workers inside and outside the US; the cap could be adjusted year by
>year in response to US labor market conditions. Foreigners who are
>outside the US but had a US job offer would pay \$500 for an H-5A visa

>valid for three years and renewable once; at the end of six years,
>the worker would have to return home or be in the pipeline for a
>green card. The H-5 visas would be portable, meaning the worker
>could change US employers, but workers who lost US jobs would have to
>find another US job within 60 days. H-5 visa holders could enter and
>leave the US.

>

>Unauthorized foreigners in the US on May 12, 2005 could apply for H-
>5B visas if they could show they had a US work history and passed
>background checks; their family members would also be eligible for
>visas. However, in order to qualify for permanent or immigrant
>status, they would have to continue working in the US, pass
>additional security and background checks, and pay a fee/fine of at
>least \$2,000.

>

>Employers could sponsor H-5A and H-5B workers for immigrant visas
>after they had been employed at least four years in the US, and
>workers could apply on their own for immigrant visas after five years
>of US employment. The number of immigration visas available for
>economic/employment reasons would be increased from 140,000 to
>290,000 a year (this includes principals and their family members).

>

>To make available more immigration visas for family unification,
>immediate relatives of U.S. citizens would no longer be counted
>against the 480,000 annual cap on family-sponsored immigration visas,
>and the income requirement for sponsoring family members would be
>reduced from 125 percent of the poverty line to 100 percent.

>

>A public-private foundation would be created under the USCIS Office
>of Citizenship to support programs that promote citizenship and to
>fund civics and English-language instruction for immigrants. The
>bill would extend federal reimbursement for hospitals that provide
>emergency care to unauthorized foreigners as well as to H-5A and H-5B
>workers.

>

>McCain-Kennedy would create a new electronic work authorization
>system that would ultimately replace the current paper-based, I-9
>system. The Department of Labor would gain new authority to conduct
>random audits of employers to ensure compliance with labor laws, and
>fines for illegal employment practices would be increased.

>

>The bill aims to promote circular migration by requiring Mexico and
>other foreign countries to enter into migration agreements with the
>U.S. that help control the flow of their citizens to jobs in the U.S.
>and encourage the re-integration of citizens returning from the US.

>

>A competing bill is expected to be introduced in Summer 2005 by
>Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX). It would require
>government certification that illegal migration is under control
>before any new temporary worker program is launched. Unlike McCain-
>Kennedy, the Kyl-Cornyn bill would require unauthorized foreigners in
>the US to return to their countries of origin before they could
>adjust to immigrant status.

>

>Outlook. US immigration policy has been based on the premise that
>foreigners should enter and be in the US legally. Employer sanctions

>in the mid-1980s and the border control build-up after the mid-1990s
>aimed at control. However, in the absence of internal enforcement,
>the result became something of a Darwinian border-crossing testÑ
>those who eluded the border patrol found it relatively easy to obtain
>>false documents and US jobs, and the US employers who hired them
>faced little risk of fines.

>

>President Bush, in arguing that legal is better than illegal, has
>proposed a temporary worker program for unauthorized workers inside
>and outside the US. At least implicitly, Bush was saying that the
>border could not be "controlled" and that unauthorized workers are
>"needed" in the US, justifying his proposal to "match willing foreign
>workers with willing American employers."

>

>Turning Bush's general proposals into concrete plans, as McCain-
>Kennedy does, requires hard choices about issues that range from what
>employers must do before hiring guest workers to how the government
>will monitor them inside the US. One proposal is to issue work visas
>that do not tie guest workers to a particular employer, under the
>theory that this protects the worker by allowing her to leave bad
>employers.

>

>All proposals require that foreigners work in the US or leave, which
>means a monitoring system would have to be established to track the
>US work done by guest workers. In order to avoid the charge that
>turning unauthorized foreigners into guest workers is an amnesty,
>some proposals call for the unauthorized with US employers to leave
>the US and re-enter with guest worker visas.

>

>A major difference between the proposals is what happens at the end
>of several years of US work. President Bush said that, after a
>maximum of six years, guest workers would have to leave if they had
>not found a way to obtain an immigrant visa, either through family
>unification or having a US employer sponsor them. McCain-Kennedy
>would give guest workers additional avenues to apply for immigrant
>visas and increase the number of such visas available. Both
>proposals have been careful to ensure that unauthorized foreigners in
>the US do not gain an advantage in the quest for a green card over
>those who "played by the rules" and waited in their countries of
>origin.

>

>In June 2005, Bush said that he would press Congress to begin
>immigration reform by improving border security, and then turn to
>legalizing unauthorized foreigners in the US. Homeland Security
>Secretary Michael Chertoff on July 13, 2005 announced plans to
>streamline DHS, which includes 183,000 employees drawn from 22
>federal agencies, and said that immigration reform is a key component
>of improved security: "I look forward to working with Congress . . .
>this year to improve border security significantly through the
>president's temporary-worker program."

>

>However, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) said that Congress
>was unlikely to approve an immigration reform that includes a new
>guest worker program in 2005, but could act in 2006. A Frist aide
>noted that, even if the Senate approved immigration reform, the House
>is unlikely to act because of sharp divisions, especially within the

>majority Republicans.

>

>Meanwhile, a reporter interviewing Mexicans who were apprehended and
>returned found that US discussions of legalization and guest workers
>was attracting more Mexicans to the US. One migrant among the 300
>who are flown every day to Mexico City thanked the US for the free
>flight and promised to return and try again to enter the US.

>

>Susana Hayward, "Getting caught doesn't deter migrants bent on
>finding work in US," Knight Ridder, July 15, 2005.

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>States, Census, Health

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>California/Los Angeles. California added 539,000 residents in 2004,
>bringing its population to 36.8 million. Immigration is slowing, and
>so is internal migration: in 2004, the state gained 227,000 residents
>via immigration and 55,000 via net domestic migration. In 1990, the
>state had 29.6 million residents, and is projected to have 46 million
>in 2030. By 2030, a quarter of Americans are projected to be in
>California, Texas and Florida.

>

>About 46 percent of California births, and 23 percent of US births,
>were to foreign-born mothers in 2002. About 40 percent of these
>immigrant mothers did not complete high school.

>

>In Los Angeles, Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa defeated incumbent
>Mayor James Hahn to become the city's first Hispanic mayor since
>1872, when Los Angeles had 5,000 residents. The 445,000 voters in
>the city of four million embraced the promise of fixing gridlock and
>dealing with gangs and failing schools, reversing a 2001 vote that
>Hahn won. Only 31 percent of the 1.5 million registered voters cast
>ballots. Latinos, who are almost half of the city's residents, cast
>an estimated 25 percent of the vote, up sharply from 10 percent in
>1993; 84 percent of Latinos who voted voted for Villaraigosa.

>

>Los Angeles approved a living wage ordinance in 1997 that immediately
>raised wages by \$1.50 an hour, 20 percent, for the 8,000 workers
>employed by private businesses operating on city-owned land, such as
>at the airport. A June 2005 study concluded that only about 100 jobs
>were lost as a result of the wage increase, and that most employers
>dealt with the wage increase by hiring more productive workers. They
>had less turnover, which saved employers money and kept them
>competitive. Workers affected by the wage ordinance were mostly
>adults with a high-school education or less.

>

>The Mennonite Church USA is expanding among Asian and Latino
>immigrants in southern California and the Central Valley. With one
>million members globally, 20 percent in the US, the church, which
>stresses pacifism, social justice and charity, is very small. Its
>origins can be traced to the Dutch priest Menno Simons and the
>Anabaptists, Christians who believed in adult rather than infant
>baptism. The Amish split from the Mennonites in the 1700 because
>they believed that Mennonites were too involved in the world.

>

>Arizona. Immigration was a major issue in Spring 2005. Arizona

>Governor Janet Napolitano vetoed a bill in May 2005 that would have
>prohibited illegal migrants from receiving child-care assistance and
>paying cheaper in-state tuition status at public universities. She
>vetoed another bill that would have given police the power to enforce
>federal immigration laws. Napolitano signed into law a bill that
>barred local governments from spending taxpayer money for day labor
>centers.

>
>Census. The US had 294 million residents in July 2004, including 41
>million self-designated Hispanics, a third of whom are under 18 and
>half of whom are under 27; 20 percent of those under 18 in the US are
>Hispanic. Hispanics accounted for half of US population growth since
>2000, largely because of births to Hispanic women in the US. As a
>result, observers say that issues involving children and schools are
>likely to be most important to Hispanics.

>
>Immigrants over 40 in the US are mostly white, while those under 40
>are mostly Hispanic and Asian.

>
>The Census reported that New York City, with 8.1 million residents,
>was the largest US city, followed by Los Angeles with 3.8 million.
>Detroit, the nation's fourth largest city in 1950, slipped to number
>11 in 2005, replaced by San Jose, California. However, the Detroit
>metro area, with 5.5 million residents, remains the eighth largest in
>the US.

>
>An estimated four million Americans live abroad, including one
>million in Mexico; 688,000 in Canada; 224,000 in the UK; and 211,000
>in Germany.

>
>The US had 50 million K-12 students in 2003, matching the previous
>peak in 1970. Some 22 percent of 2003 students had a at least one
>foreign-born parent.

>
>The Center for Immigration Studies estimated that 23 percent of all
>births in 2002 were to immigrant mothers, including 10 percent to
>unauthorized mothers. Almost half of the immigrant mothers were born
>in Mexico.

>
>Health. The Bush administration in May 2005 announced that it would
>provide \$1 billion over the next 2.5 years to reimburse hospitals and
>doctors for providing emergency care to illegal immigrants. To get
>reimbursed, hospitals are supposed to ask patients for certain
>documents to substantiate claims for payment without directly asking
>their legal status: "In no circumstances are hospitals required to
>ask people about their citizenship status."

>
>There were immediate complaints that the federal reimbursement was
>too little. California, for example, said it spent \$500 million a
>year on emergency health care for illegal migrants, and was slated to
>receive \$71 million.

>
>There are about 45 million US residents without health insurance. A
>quarter of them are immigrants, and 60 percent of foreign-born
>Hispanics were uninsured in 2003. California has about 3.2 million
>uninsured immigrants, and they are about half of the uninsured in

>California.

>

>Nancy Cleeland, "Study Gauges Effect of Living Wage Law," Los Angeles

>Times, June 2, 2005. Gordon, Suzanne. 2005. Nursing Against the

>Odds: How Health Care Cost Cutting, Media Stereotypes and Medical

>Hubris Undermine Nurses and Patient Care. Cornell University Press.

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>Labor, H-Visas, Mobility

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>In April 2005, the US added 274,000 jobs, keeping the unemployment

>rate at 5.2 percent as the economy created almost 10,000 net new jobs

>a day. In May 2005 employment growth slowed to 78,000, while the

>unemployment rate stayed steady at just over five percent. In June

>2005, some 146,000 net new jobs were added, and the unemployment rate

>was five percent. The US has added an average of 180,000 jobs a

>month in the first half of 2005.

>

>About 66 percent of Americans 16 and older were employed or looking

>for work, down from a peak 67.3 percent in 2000. Hourly earnings

>averaged \$16 for the 80 percent of the work force employed in

>production and office jobs below the level of supervisor or foreman.

>

>Immigrants seem to be taking a disproportionate number of the new

>jobs in the US labor market. According to a Pew Hispanic Center

>report released in May 2005, Hispanics filled 40 percent of the 2.5

>million new jobs created in 2004, even though they are only about 15

>percent of the US labor force. Of the one million US jobs filled by

>immigrants in 2004, almost 900,000 went to recent arrivals. Mexicans

>increasingly dominate many of the construction trades, from

>plasterers and stucco masons to drywall installers.

>

>The median weekly wages of Hispanics fell from \$420 in 2002 to \$400

>in 2004. Explanations for falling Hispanic earnings include the fact

>that many workers are unauthorized and that many are going to the

>Midwest and Southeast, where wages are lower than in other regions.

><http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/45.pdf> About 40 percent of US

>Hispanics work in California, down from 60 percent in 1990.

>

>In Nassau County on Long Island, the District Attorney arrested three

>Hispanic home-improvement contractors for not paying \$50,000 in back

>wages to 20 day laborers, saying that the status of the workers did

>not matter in resolving the unpaid wage claim. Normally, unpaid

>wages are handled by labor inspectors or small claims court, but the

>district attorney said he wanted to send a message to employers who

>would cheat workers of wages.

>

>There are about 80 organized day-labor centers across the US,

>including 60 that opened since 2000. Most have buildings and staff

>who register workers (without recording legal status) and record

>employer license plate numbers; some offer English classes and have

>clinics on site. An estimated 25,000 laborers seek jobs at 100

>places in Los Angeles county each work day, followed by 15,000 at 60

>places in New York City.

>

>Wal-Mart is the largest private employer in the US, with 1.3 million

>employees and 3,700 stores. Wal-Mart says its full-time workers
>average \$9.68 an hour, and their average annual pay is \$17,600, which
>is below the \$19,157 poverty line for a family of four but above the
>\$15,219 poverty line for a family of three. Wal-Mart says that it
>provides health insurance to 570,000 of its workers, 550,000 receive
>health insurance via spouses or government programs, and 180,000 have
>no health insurance. Wal-Mart offers health insurance for families
>of full-time workers after 180 days of employment for worker-paid
>premiums of \$150 to \$300 a month.

>
>Other retailers pay more and provide health insurance. Competitor
>Costco pays an average \$16 an hour and says that 82 percent of the
>workers are covered by company health insurance, compared with 48
>percent of Wal-Mart workers. Wal-Mart had \$10 billion in profit on
>about \$288 billion in revenue in 2004.

>
>Many of the 2.3 million US janitors are immigrants, and advocates say
>that they are often denied overtime pay, classified improperly as
>independent contractors, locked in the stores overnight and forced to
>work their first two weeks unpaid. Most janitors are employed by
>cleaning companies, not building owners, reflecting a trend similar
>to that in agriculture, where farmers shifted from hiring workers
>directly to hiring them via labor contractors. As in agriculture,
>some labor contractors operating on thin margins allegedly cheat
>newcomer immigrants.

>
>Over the past two decades, the share of Los Angeles janitors who are
>Hispanic rose from 25 percent to over 90 percent.

>
>H-Visas. The annual limit on H-1B visas is 65,000 a year. That
>allotment was used up on the first day of FY05, but the cap was
>raised by allowing up to 20,000 foreign graduates of US universities
>with at least an MS degree to obtain visas outside this cap each
>year. Bill Gates, in an April 2005 discussion, said that he would
>eliminate the cap on the number of H-1B visas: "I'd certainly get rid
>of the H1-B visa cap." Critics noted that the unemployment rate for
>IT workers in 2004, 5.7 percent, was higher than for all US workers,
>5.5 percent.

>
>The number of H-2B visas is capped at 66,000 a year, but the yearly
>allocation of H-2B visas was used up on January 3, 2005, well before
>the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2005. US employers
>may apply for H-2B visas 120 days before foreign workers are needed,
>so that summer resorts could not apply before the H-2B visas were
>gone. Many of the summer resorts applied for exchange student
>workers under the J-1 program, which allows foreign students to have
>a work and learn experience in the US and, as the New York Times
>noted June 10, 2005: "had the unintended effect of transforming
>formerly apple-pie resorts into virtual Epcot Centers of languages
>and cultures."

>
>For the next two years, the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses
>Act of 2005 allows employers to bring back H-2B workers whom they
>employed during the previous three summers outside the 66,000 a year
>cap. The 66,000 H-2B visas are divided into summer and winter
>categories, so that one the summer employers are not shut out of the

>program.

>

>Mobility/Education. The New York Times in a series of articles in May
>2005 explored the question of economic mobility, the process by which
>Americans move up or down the income ladder. Most Americans believe
>that a good education and hard work allows someone who begins poor to
>end up rich.

>

>On the one hand, there appears to be more mobility than ever, as the
>IT and stock market booms seemingly allow anyone with a good idea to
>become rich; 45 percent of respondents in the New York Times poll
>said they were in a higher class than their parents. However, the
>articles concluded that children are more likely than ever before to
>>wind up in the same economic class as their parents because the
>"merit" that determines earnings is often class-based, as when
>college-educated parents have college-educated children.

>

>Classes are groups of people of similar economic and social position.
>The people in a class often share political attitudes, lifestyles,
>consumption patterns, cultural interests and opportunities to get
>ahead. Traditionally, societies were sorted into three classes:
>upper, middle and working, but some sociologists today say that it is
>more appropriate to think of US society as having dozens of rungs on
>an economic ladder rather than three classes.

>

>People have four major characteristics often used to assign them to a
>class or rung: education, income, occupation and wealth. Americans
>grouped themselves in a 2005 poll as follows: one percent said they
>were upper class; 15 percent upper middle class; 42 percent middle;
>35 percent working; and seven percent lower class.

>

>People are born into their parents' class, and their education and
>experience determine whether they stay in their parents' class or
>move up or down. Economist Gary Becker in the 1980s argued that
>economic mobility in the US was so high that the mobility prospects
>of the grandchildren of rich and poor were about the same. This
>assertion is unproven, however, since available data do not permit
>rigorous cross-checking of recollections of parents' incomes.
>However, other data show fewer families crossed from one income
>quintile to the next in the 1990s than in the 1970s.

>

>How much economic mobility is optimal? Most analysts agree that the
>system should allow movement from one rung to another, but preserve
>the link between achievement and income. The single best determinant
>of earnings in the US is years of education, and highly educated
>parents tend to invest more in their children's education, giving
>them a boost on the economic ladder.

>

>Globalization and technological change have redrawn class lines or
>mobility paths, as skilled blue collar workers in US factories get
>pushed down the ladder while college-educated professionals move up.
>The results are lower wages and pensions for factory workers and
>suburban neighborhoods where college-educated women have children
>later in life, when their earnings are higher. Americans still
>believe in Horatio Alger's rags-to-riches mobility, but the reality
>appears to be that parental influence plays a larger role than simple

>hard work in determining the place that one starts and ends on the
>income ladder. Education can offset parentage, but a recent study
>found that only 40 percent of low-income students entering a four-
>year college graduate within five years, that is, most children from
>low-income families do not complete the extra years of education that
>tend to raise status and income.

>

>The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that student
>performance data be reported separately in each school for racial,
>ethnic and certain other groups. Schools are to bring all students
>to grade level over the next decade, which has sparked efforts to
>close achievement gaps between minority and white and Asian students.

>

>Immigrants. A May 26, 2005 New York Times article profiled a 70-year
>Greek immigrant who opened a successful restaurant in Manhattan and a
>34-year old unauthorized Mexican who worked for him. The Greek
>arrived in 1953 when he illegally left his ship with \$100 and joined
>a cousin in New York City. The Mexican slipped across the border in
>the mid-1990s and joined an uncle in New York City.

>

>The Greek found a supportive community and odd jobs, learned English,
>was deported and returned, married a US citizen and became a legal
>immigrant, and then opened a restaurant. The Mexican man's uncle got
>the newcomer a job at the bakery where he worked, and the migrant
>supplemented his bakery earnings with a job in a diner, where he
>learned the importance of tips.

>

>The Mexican returned to Mexico and married, brought his wife to New
>York City and had a child, and found work in the Greek restaurant.
>Despite weekly wages of \$600 for 10 hour work days, six days a week
>work, or \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year, he has not gotten ahead because
>of high rents, loans to relatives and remittances, and illegal status
>and lack of English. After a dispute, the Mexican picketed the Greek
>restaurant and was fired, and lost jobs at other restaurants after
>disputes with their owners.

>

>Many of those who assess the progress of unauthorized Mexicans are at
>two extremes of the spectrum. Some believe that Mexicans will not
>assimilate, and that the separate culture they are developing
>threatens the United States. Others say that, if Mexicans were
>legalized, they would integrate as earlier European immigrants did.

>

>Economy. The U.S. trade deficit rose to a record \$61 billion in
>February 2005, including a \$14 billion deficit with China. China,
>Korea and Japan continue to run trade surpluses with the US,
>accumulating US treasury bills that give them a vested interest in a
>healthy US economy and strong dollar.

>

>Since 2000, median household income in the US has been stable at
>\$40,000, but median household spending has continued to rise as a
>result of more debt. Median household debt was \$100,000 in 2004,
>including \$9,200 in credit card debt (in households with at least one
>credit card).

>

>Denny Lee, "Few Visas, Fewer Resort Workers," New York Times, June
>10, 2005. Janny Scott and David Leonhardt, "Class in America," New

>York Times, May 15, 2005. Anthony DePalma, "15 Years on the Bottom
>Rung," New York Times, May 26, 2005.

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>Mexico: Legalization, Brazilians, Economy

>

>Mexican President Fox continues to campaign to improve the rights of
>Mexicans in the US, but his efforts sometimes boomerang. In May
>2005, while speaking to visiting Texas business leaders, Fox said
>that: "There is no doubt that Mexican men and women, full of dignity,
>drive and a capacity for work, are doing the jobs that not even
>blacks want to do there, in the United States."

>

>Fox retracted his comments, but analysts were quick to turn the
>mirror on Mexican society, where discrimination against darker
>skinned residents such as the 10 million Indians is common. In one
>survey, 40 percent of Mexicans said they do not want to live near
>Indians, but 80 percent agreed that more should be done to reduce
>discrimination and poverty.

>

>Brazilians. Mexico removed visa requirements for Brazilians and, with
>smugglers offering to take Brazilians to Boston via Mexico for
>\$10,000, thousands of Brazilians are being apprehended on the Mexico-
>US border—some 2,000 a month. Many of the migrants are from
>Governador Valadares, a city of 250,000 in the inland state of Minas
>Gerais, which has sent an estimated 40,000 migrants to the US.

>

>The migrants are often young and educated people who could find jobs
>in Brazil, but are attracted by higher-wage US jobs and able to
>migrate with the help of "travel agencies" that collect the fee after
>arrival in the US. There are 1.5 to 3 million Brazilians abroad,
>most in the US. Remittances in 2004 were estimated at \$6 billion,
>equivalent to earnings from soybean exports.

>

>Brazil, a country of 180 million, has been growing fast, so the
>migration wave or hump is unexpected. Part of the explanation for
>the migration fever may lie in the fact that 40 million people watch
>a daily soap opera called "America," which follows a young woman's
>efforts to get to the United States through Mexico and to adjust to
>life in Florida.

>

>Economy. The Mexican central bank reported that remittances doubled
>between 2000 and 2004 to \$16.6 billion, and could rise to \$20 billion
>in 2005. Remittances appear to have increased much faster than the
>number of Mexican-born US residents.

>

>Mexican researchers say that household surveys indicate that people
>receive only about 40 percent of the remittances reported by the
>Mexican central bank, suggesting that the \$7.7 billion remittance
>estimate of the US Bureau of Economic Analysis for 2004 is more
>accurate. Rapidly rising remittances could reflect more migrants
>transferring funds via banks and other official channels, more
>business transactions between individuals, transfers from the US to
>Mexico by wealthy people, or money laundering. Some 11 million
>Mexicans are abroad, with 98 percent in the US.

>

>According to the World Bank, about 20 percent of Mexicans lived in
>extremely poor households in 2002, and 52 percent were moderately
>poor. Mexico spends \$3 billion a year on cash grants of up to \$162 a
>month for poor households who keep their children in school and get
>health check ups under the Oportunidades program. In 2003, a third
>program was added to give \$300 savings accounts to older youths who
>stay in high school. The program began in 1997 and was expanded by
>President Vicente Fox from rural to urban areas, so that with 25
>million poor residents received some benefits in 2004.
>(www.progres.a.gob.mx/)

>
>The goal of these cash payments for education and health is to break
>the cycle of poverty. Studies suggest that, because of the programs,
>there are more visits to clinics in rural areas, more family planning
>and an increase in children's food consumption. School teachers say
>that families think twice about pulling children out of school
>because they know that if they do, they will lose some of their cash
>grant.

>
>The number of permanent private-sector formal jobs in Mexico grew by
>one million between 2000 and 2004, from 13.5 to 14.5 million, while
>the labor force expanded by a million a year. Emigration to the US
>is a safety valve for up to 500,000 Mexicans a year. Other Mexicans
>go into the informal economyÑ the number of street vendors rose from
>a million to 1.6 million between 2000 and 2003.

>
>Latin American countries have some of the world's most unequal income
>distributions, and it slows economic growth. This inequality is
>often traced to an abundance of natural resources and large
>indigenous population, so that economies relied on raw materials and
>cheap manual labor to exploit them in societies with low government
>taxation, few benefits such as good schools, and monopolies that
>stifled entrepreneurs. Economic advancement is more often achieved
>through personal relationships than merit, and family members tend to
>look out for each other.

>
>In 1980, Mexico's economy was nearly four times the size of South
>Korea's. However, in 2005, South Korea had the world's eleventh
>largest economy, and Mexico the twelfth largest. About 26 percent of
>Koreans age 25 to 34 have a college degree, compared to five percent
>of Mexicans.

>
>Maquiladoras, the border-area factories that import components,
>assemble them into TVs and other products, and re-export them,
>employed 1.1 million workers at the end of 2004, a third of Mexico's
>manufacturing workers. Maquiladora employment peaked at 1.3 million
>in 2000, and is not expected to return to that level until 2006.

>
>Do maquiladora jobs keep Mexicans in Mexico or act as a bridge to the
>US? Traditionally, the argument was that maquiladoras acted as a
>fence, attracting young women who had just completed schooling and
>were in their first jobs. Instead of migrating further to the US,
>researchers found that most of the young women married and started
>families when they left their factory jobs. However, new research
>suggests that maquiladoras that draw Mexicans to the border may also
>serve as bridges to the US. The percentage of young women workers in

>maquiladoras has fallen, and interviews with maquiladora workers
>suggest that at least some intend to migrate to the US.
>
>The effects of Nafta are clearly visible in border-area maquiladoras,
>and studies of economic development in Mexico since Nafta went into
>effect suggest that more highly skilled workers employed in
>industries that benefit from trade have benefited most, such as
>engineers and technical workers employed in auto and other
>maquiladoras. Southern Mexican states and those dominated by rain-
>fed agriculture have not grown as fast, and as a result inequalities
>between Mexicans by level of education and between states have
>increased.
>
>A dispute at Rubie's Costume Company, a maquiladora that made Barbie
>doll gowns 60 miles north of Mexico City, highlights frequent union
>conflicts in the assembly plants. The workers in April 2005 voted
>for an independent union, leading to conflicts with the existing
>union affiliated with the Confederation of Mexican Workers and the
>Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. Rubie's signed a contract
>with the new independent union, but the national labor board rejected
>it, saying the workers already had a contract with a CMW union.
>
>Pemex, with \$70 billion in annual revenue and 142,000 employees
>pumping 3.4 million barrels of oil a day, is the largest company in
>Latin America. However, its proven reserves are dropping, and
>President Fox wants to allow foreign investment in Mexican oil and
>gas to create efficiencies that would increase production and reduce
>prices, which sometimes exceed US prices for gasoline. Opponents say
>privatization would lead to more corruption, pointing to Carlos Slim,
>who bought Mexico's former state telephone monopoly and became the
>world's third-richest man (\$24 billion). Mexicans now pay among the
>world's highest prices for phone service.
>
>Gangs. The Mara Salvatrucha street gang, also known as MS-13, has up
>to 50,000 members operating in El Salvador and the United States.
>MS-13 is increasingly involved in human smuggling. In April 2005,
>Mexico and the US announced a joint effort to target MS-13 operations
>that move migrants through Mexico to the US. According to one
>migrant, gang members "own the trains" that run north through Mexico.
>
>The presidents of four Central American nations appealed for
>international economic aid in April 2005 to help them address the
>social conditions that contribute to the growth of gangs. Mexico
>said that more of its youth are joining MS-13, a result that many
>attribute to disintegrating families caused by migration.
>
>Mexico reported more Central Americans crossing its southern border,
>with most headed via Mexico to the US. A culture of migration is
>developing in some areas of Central America, reflecting bleak
>economic prospects, gang violence, and the growing network of ties to
>family members settled in the US. In May 2005, Mexico was reportedly
>returning 700 Central Americans a day at Tecun Uman, Guatemala; the
>US returns about 3,000 Mexicans a day.
>
>
>Politics. Mexico City mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the front
>runner in most polls for president in 2006, was stripped of his

>immunity in April 2005 and faced jail for disobeying a judge's order
>to stop work on an access road to a hospital in 2001. Lopez Obrador
>complained that the prosecution showed the face of "old Mexico."
>President Vicente Fox countered that the prosecution showed "new
>Mexico," where no one is above the law. Fox later reversed course,
>fired his attorney general, and said that Lopez Obrador was free to
>run for president in 2006.

>
>David Luhn and John Lyons, "In Latin America, Rich-Poor Chasm
>Stifles Growth," Wall Street Journal, July 18, 2005. Larry Rohter,
>"Brazilians Streaming Into U.S. Through Mexican Border," New York
>Times, June 30, 2005. Brendan M. Case, "Mexico figures doubted,"
>Dallas Morning News, June 16, 2005. Ginger Thompson, "Uneasily, a
>Latin Land Looks at Its Own Complexion," New York Times, May 19,
>2005. Faux, Jeff. 2003. How NAFTA Failed Mexico; Immigration is not
>a development policy. American Prospect. July-August, 2003. P35.

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>Canada: Brain Waste

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>Brain Waste. Canada uses a point system to select immigrants likely
>to contribute economically to Canada, ensuring that most newcomers
>are young, speak English or French, and are well-educatedÑ 45 percent
>of adults arriving in 2000 had university degrees. However a quarter
>of the recent immigrants with a university degree are working at jobs
>that require only a high school diploma or less, and only half are
>working in Canadian jobs that use their credentials three years after
>arrival.

>
>The earnings of immigrants relative to comparable Canadian-born
>workers have been declining, in part because many immigrants with
>doctorates are now driving taxis. University-educated immigrant men
>25 to 54 who arrived in Canada between 1990 and 1999 earned an
>average C\$41,700 in 2000, while comparable Canadian-born men earned
>an average C\$66,500. There are concentrations of Chinese immigrants
>in science and technology, and of Black West Indians in health care.

>
>So-called "brain waste," when immigrants work in occupations below
>those for which they qualify, is estimated to cost the Canadian
>economy C\$2 billion a year, in the sense that immigrant earnings
>would be C\$2 billion higher if they worked in the occupations for
>which they are educated. The government made grants to professional
>organizations so that they can more quickly determine if foreign-
>trained doctors, nurses, engineers and other professionals can obtain
>licenses to work in Canada. Their children, educated in Canada,
>typically have no problems getting licenses.

>
>There are 13 jurisdictions, 15 regulated professions and more than
>400 regulatory bodies in Canada. Joe Volpe, minister of citizenship
>and immigration, said that Canada has "an arcane infrastructure of
>professional organizations that essentially mitigate against the
>immediate integration of these highly skilled immigrants." Several
>business leaders unveiled a web site, hireimmigrants.ca, to promote
>the hiring of qualified immigrants.

>
>Several professions have launched programs to speed up recognition of

>immigrants' credentials with the help of government grants. For
>example, the International Pharmacy Graduate Program offers gap-
>filling courses to those trained outside North America so that they
>can more quickly get licenses to work in Canada. Ontario, which
>estimates it has a shortage of 2,000 doctors and 4,000 foreign
>medical graduates who do not have Canadian licenses, is taking steps
>to speed up the review of their credentials.

>

>Many private firms, such as World Education Services (www.wes.org/)
>offer to assess foreigners' credentials for a fee. However, many
>Canadian employers continue to insist that the workers they hire have
>Canadian work experience.

>

>Average hourly earnings in Canada are C\$19 an hour, or almost C\$700 a
>week. Analysis of why the earnings of highly educated immigrants
>selected under the point system are declining focus on rising levels
>of education for Canadian-born workers and Canadian employers being
>reluctant to acknowledge and value credentials earned abroad.

>

>Canadian graduates are much more likely to be working in the
>occupations for which they trained than recent immigrants. Analysts
>note that it has taken a great deal of time for Canadian employers to
>assess and recognize credentials earned in other provinces and in the
>US, so it is no wonder that they are slow to recognize credentials
>earned in Asia, the source of most Canadian immigrants nowadays.
>Another factor may be that Canada greatly expanded its universities
>in the early 1990s, which may have increased competition in the labor
>market.

>

>The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of 2001 (Bill C-11) aimed
>to ease the integration of immigrants into the Canadian labor market
>by increasing the emphasis on language skills and education, and
>reducing the points for specific occupational skills. C-11 also
>provided an avenue for foreign workers and students in Canada to
>become immigrants if they had sponsoring Canadian employers.

>

>Prime Minister Paul Martin, whose Liberal party has been mired in a
>corruption scandal, won a vote of confidence 153-152 in May 2005 and
>retained power. Even if there is a political change, there is not
>likely to be a significant change in immigration policy.

>

>The chair of a House of Commons committee said there may be 400,000
>workers in Canada's underground economy. The introduction of exit
>visas, which track the number of visitors who stay beyond their
>scheduled stay in Canada, has been proposed as a way to collect data
>on unauthorized foreigners.

>

>Settlement. Ontario reached an agreement with the federal government
>to increase the settlement funds available to integrate new
>immigrants. Immigrants pay fees that cover the cost of language
>training and counseling services: C\$500 for each adult plus a C\$975
>landing fee, and they are generally eligible for social welfare
>services upon arrival. Ontario, which receives 57 percent of
>Canada's immigrants, gets C\$800 per immigrant in federal support,
>while Quebec gets C\$3,800; the new agreement will narrow the gap.

>

>Since 1970, the Quebec provincial government has had the right to
>select immigrants, with the number determined by the province's share
>of the Canadian population. Quebec favors French-speakers, but many
>of the immigrants selected by Quebec soon move on to other provinces,
>especially to Ontario and British Columbia.

>

>Canada has officially been a multicultural society since 1971, when
>the policy was adopted to diffuse the French-English conflict by
>protecting the French language and supporting the cultures of the
>various groups in Canada. Multiculturalism was included in Canada's
>Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the live-and-let-live attitude it
>embraces has become a national symbol of the Canadian mosaic, which
>is often contrasted with the US melting pot.

>

>Asylum. Judy Sgro, the ex-immigration minister, was cleared in May
>2005 by the federal Ethics Commissioner of conflict-of-interest
>allegations in the granting of a temporary-resident permit to an
>exotic dancer; her successor, Joe Volpe, canceled the exotic dancer
>program. She was forced to resign in January 2005 when a failed
>asylum seeker claimed she promised him asylum in exchange for free
>pizza and help on her campaign; he was deported after 17 years in
>Canada.

>

>The man, Harjit Singh, who said he feared persecution in India, was
>reportedly building his second home in Jalandhar, a city of two
>million in the Punjab, in May 2005. His case prompted Canadian
>government officials to acknowledge that they needed to speed up
>final decisions in asylum cases. The Canadian Border Services Agency
>has 350 inland removal officers who remove about 10,000 foreigners a
>year, including 1,500 criminals.

>

>In April 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Charter of
>Rights and Freedoms guarantees everyone on Canadian soil, including
>asylum seekers, the right to fundamental justice, including an oral
>hearing. The Immigration and Refugee Board was created in 1989, and
>had to deal with a backlog of 115,000 cases that had accumulated.
>The IRB was staffed with political appointees rather than migration
>experts, and several were accused of incompetence and corruption.

>

>By 2005, most of the IRB judges were professionals, and the backlog
>was reduced to 26,000. There were 25,000 asylum applications in
>2004, when IRB judges granted asylum to 40 percent of the applicants.

>

>Failed asylum applicants can try to stay in Canada by asking for a
>review based on unusual hardship if removed, ask a Federal Court to
>review mistakes in law made by an IRB judge, or request a pre-removal
>risk assessment that may find that the foreigner would face torture
>or danger at home. About 60 percent of the hardship appeals result
>in the foreigner being allowed to stay in Canada, and investigations
>take an average 30 months, reportedly giving incentives to parents to
>have "anchor babies" that improve their chances of staying in Canada.
>A majority of Canadians in opinion polls say they want to end
>automatic birthright citizenship. The IRB's annual budget is about
>C\$100 million.

>

>Secure Borders. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks snarled the

>movement of people and goods over the 4,000 mile Canada-US border,
>sometimes described as the longest "unguarded" border in the world.
>In order to keep the flow of people and goods flowing freely, Canada
>and the US in December 2001 signed a Smart Border plan that, inter
>alia, created a NEXUS program to allow pre-approved, low-risk
>travelers to cross the border in an expedited fashion by air, land
>and water. A similar FAST program facilitates low-risk shipments of
>goods across the border.

>
>In December 2004, Canada and the US allow foreigners to seek asylum
>in only one of the two countries. In 2004, some 6,000 foreigners
>entered Canada from the US and applied for asylum. As of December
>2004, Canada and the United States had common visa policies for 175
>countries and different policies for 18 countries. Both Canada and
>the US station migration officers at overseas airports to intercept
>high-risk travelers.

>
>Conservative MP Gurmant Grewal from Vancouver, who immigrated from
>Liberia in 1991 as a business investor, was accused in June 2005 of
>violating the rules governing investment and job creation. Grewal
>made news by demanding that Canadians seeking visas for their
>relatives to visit post bonds to ensure that their relatives leave
>Canada, and then said that the Liberals discussed giving him a
>cabinet post in May 2005 in exchange for voting with them to support
>the government. Grewal's wife is Conservative MP Nina Grewal.

>
>In June 2005, Canada's Supreme Court struck down a Quebec law banning
>private medical insurance. The decision threatens the current system
>of publicly financed national health care. Canada is the only
>industrialized county that outlaws privately financed purchases of
>core medical services. The Court ruled that long waiting lists
>violated patients' "life and personal security, inviolability and
>freedom."

>
>Grant Robertson, "Canada has no handle on illegal immigrant workers:
>Federal policy needed to legitimize up to 400,000 underground
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>Jonathan Woodward, "A bumper crop of migrant labourers," Globe and
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>Immigrants' Skills: New Directions for Canadian Immigration Policy in
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>Latin America: Remittances, Cafta

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>Latin American nations received \$46 billion of the \$100 billion in
>remittances to developing countries in 2004, including \$16.6 billion
>to Mexico; \$5.6 billion to Brazil; \$3.9 billion to Colombia; \$2.7
>billion to Guatemala; and \$2.5 billion to El Salvador. The average
>remittance transfer was reported to be \$328. Competition between
>remitters has reduced the cost of transfers to less than 10 percent
>of the amount sent in 2004.

>
>A survey of migrants found that money-transfer firms such as Western
>Union made 78 percent of the transfers, people traveling home carried

>11 percent of the remittances, and US banks had a seven percent
>share.

>

>The Dominican Republic announced plans to begin issuing matricula
>consular cards to some of its 300,000 citizens in Puerto Rico to make
>it easier for Dominicans to open bank accounts and enter government
>buildings.

>

>Cafta. The Central American Free Trade Agreement was reportedly in
>trouble in Congress, even though the US Senate approved it on a 54-45
>vote in June 2005. Many Democrats who normally support freer trade
>opposing the agreement with five Central American countries and the
>Dominican Republic, citing Cafta's lack of labor protections.
>Republican supporters of sugar producers and much of the textile
>industry opposed because of potential low-cost competition. Cafta's
>six-member countries have 50 million residents and a GDP of \$170
>billion; their trade with the US totaled \$33 billion in 2004. If
>Cafta is defeated, it would be the first time Congress rejected a
>major trade agreement in more than four decades.

>

>Central American leaders want Cafta approved to expand trade with the
>US and thus speed development. However, the World Bank warned that
>Cafta alone "is unlikely to lead to substantial economic development"
>in source countries. Most economists agree that more trade speeds
>overall growth, but the benefits are not targeted toward lower-income
>people. Instead, freer trade can increase inequality between richer
>and poorer regions, as Nafta helped the already richer northern areas
>to grow while not transforming the poorer south.

>

>Cafta countries have poor records of protecting worker rights, a
>point emphasized by US unions and those who interview workers in
>garment factories in Central America. Cafta countries are the
>poorest with which the US has ever signed a free-trade agreement.
>Rural-urban migrants who find jobs in the garment factories on one
>hand welcome the steady wages but on the other lament the long hours
>and high prices of housing and goods in factory zones. Efforts to
>organize independent unions are often crushed—only two of 200
>textile factories in Guatemala have collective bargaining agreements.
>Cafta requires governments to enforce their labor laws, and allows
>fines of up to \$15 million per violation paid by governments and to
>be spent to improve labor law compliance.

>

>The free-trade agreement of the Americas FTAA aimed to create a free-
>trade area for 825 million residents of the Western Hemisphere by
>2005. However, it is unlikely to be in place in 2006 as planned.

>

>South America. The US in 2004-05 is apprehending over 2,000
>Brazilians a month on the Mexico-US border, prompting complaints to
>Mexico, which recently lifted visa requirements for Brazilians.
>Mexican officials are patrolling Mexican border towns in search of
>Brazilians in the hope of bolstering support for immigration reform
>legislation in the US that would improve the status of Mexicans.
>Brazil is one of 45 countries on which Mexico does not impose visa
>requirements.

>

>Ecuadorian president Lucio Gutierrez, elected in 2002, was removed

>from office in April 2005 after street protests prompted in part by
>cuts in social spending demanded by the IMF. Gutierrez, who is of
>mestizo (mixed race) origins and from an Amazonian city five hours
>southeast of Quito, was seen as a great hope in a country where the
>40 percent of the population that is of mixed race has long been
>excluded from power.

>

>Most Latin American economies are struggling. There was a lost
>decade in the 1980s as import-substitution policies were dropped in
>favor of markets and free trade, but despite market-oriented policies
>in the 1990s, growth was uneven. Since 2000, poverty has increased
>and open unemployment has risen, reflecting a lack of formal job
>creation. In many countries, the wages of well-educated and less-
>educated workers has been diverging, increasing inequality.

>

>There appears to be growing frustration among many Latin Americans
>who have endured the pain of market reforms but have not yet
>benefited from faster growth. Benefits of the market-oriented
>economic policies tend to be concentrated among the elite and the
>well educated, and governments have little room to cushion the
>effects of privatization and trade on the poor because of high debts.
>Argentina and Uruguay, for example, have debt-to-GDP ratios over 100
>percent; only Chile has the 25 to 30 percent debt-to-GDP ratio
>considered sustainable in a developing economy.

>

>In many Latin American countries, there are several tiers or layers
>in the labor market, with the 20 to 30 percent of workers who are
>public employees or employed in private formal sector jobs enjoying
>extensive protections and benefits. These workers resist changes
>that would make the labor market more flexible. However, without
>flexibility, the formal labor market is likely to remain small.

>

>

>EUROPE

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>EU 10-Migrants, Services, Seasonals

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>There were fears that, if nationals of the EU-10 countries that
>joined on May 1, 2004 had freedom of movement rights upon accession,
>some 355,000 might migrate to the EU-15 in the first year. EU-10 to
>EU-15 migration was projected to fall to 160,000 a year by 2010, with
>the British share of this migration at less than 15,000 a year.

>

>Germany, Austria and other countries feared that this migration would
>be disruptive, and the EU decided that EU-15 nations could restrict
>migration for up to seven years. Except for Ireland, Sweden and the
>UK, they restricted migration for employment, although not tourist
>travel or migration to provide services. However, Ireland and the UK
>did restrict the access of EU-10 migrants to welfare benefits.

>

>By May 2005, some 265,000 EU-10 nationals were registered to work in
>EU-15 countries--176,000 in the UK, 85,000 in Ireland, and 4,400 in
>Sweden--far more than were projected for these countries. Some
>researchers say that their pre-accession estimates were nonetheless
>accurate because EU-10 migrants went to the few countries open to
>them. Others say that the 265,000 number is exaggerated because

>perhaps a third were already in the EU-15 country in May 2004 and
>simply registered to work, that is, they were not "new" migrants.
>
>EU-10 nationals have continued to register in the UK at the rate of
>about 13,000 a month. About 80 percent of those registered in the UK
>are 18- to 34-years old and 80 percent earned L4.50 to L5 an hour.
>About 100,000 were Poles; 26,000 were Lithuanians; 18,500 were
>Slovaks; and 12,000 were Latvians. Some 42,000 were employed in UK
>hospitality and catering, 27,000 were factory workers and 20,000 were
>employed in agriculture.
>
>There is relatively little migration within the EU-15. In 2003,
>about six million or 1.6 percent of the 380 million residents of EU-
>15 countries were registered to live in another EU country. The EU-
>15 also had 14 million non-EU residents.
>
>Analyses of how US states and European regions respond to economic
>shocks that raise unemployment rates find that in the US, many of the
>workers who lose their jobs leave the state, so that its unemployment
>rate returns toward the national average. However, in European
>regions suffering shocks that increase unemployment, long-term
>jobless workers tend to drop out of the labor market via early
>retirement and other means rather than move to areas with jobs.
>
>Reciprocity. The European Parliament in May 2005 called on EU
>countries to facilitate the cross-border movement of professionals by
>expanding reciprocity, the practice of France or Germany granting
>licenses to doctors or engineers that are recognized throughout the
>EU.
>
>However, this services directive, which would affect far more workers
>by allowing construction contractors, consultants and craftsmen with
>licenses from their own governments to provide services in other EU
>countries without regard to local regulations -- the so-called
>country-of-origin principle--is stalled because of objections from
>France and Germany. Fear of the iconic Polish plumbers, symbolizing
>the ability of EU-10 workers to provide lower cost services,
>reportedly contributed to the French 55-45 percent vote against the
>EU constitution in May 2005 (Dutch voters also rejected the
>constitution by 62-38 percent). As a result of these "no" votes, EU
>leaders abandoned plans to ratify the constitution by 2006.
>
>The proposed EU constitution is essentially a vehicle to streamline
>decision-making and a blueprint for the further unification of the
>EU. It would have eliminated the six-month rotating European Union
>presidency, creating a president with a maximum five-year term;
>detailed a list of basic rights; and determined what functions, such
>as making rules on immigration, would be governed by the EU and what
>others, like foreign policy and defense, would remain with member
>states.
>
>EU leaders in June could not agree on a 2007-2013 budget that would
>spend about \$120 billion a year, half for farm subsidies. Britain
>receives a rebate because it gets relatively few farm subsidies,
>while France gets \$13 billion a year. Britain refused to reduce its
>rebate unless France agreed to reduce overall farm subsidies.

>

>The EU did not agree to ease visa restrictions on Russians in May 2005 because Russia, citing the expense, would not agree to accept the return of migrants who transited Russia and were caught in EU countries.

>

>Swiss voters in June 2005 voted 55-45 to join the European Union's Schengen and Dublin accords. Switzerland will end passport controls with other Schengen countries and harmonize asylum procedures with other countries.

>

>Seasonal Migrants. With the enlargement of the EU and the preference of more affluent consumers for labor-intensive farm commodities, there has been an increase in the number of migrant farm workers, often Eastern Europeans employed in Britain, France and Spain. EFFAT, the European federation of food, agriculture and tourism trade unions, signed an agreement in December 2002 with the employers group GEOPA that creates a worker qualification certificate that is to be recognized throughout Europe.

>

>Unions have often been active in assisting seasonal migrants to prevent abuses. In Britain, the Transport and General Workers Unions (TGWU) estimated in 2004 that some 3,000 gang masters supply 70 percent of seasonal workers, about 60,000 a year, and called on the government to require gangmasters to obtain two-year licenses and be registered. In August 2003, German IG Bau and Polish ZZPR agricultural workers' unions published a bilingual guide for Polish workers employed as seasonal workers in Germany that covers basic issues such as worker and employer rights and obligations, German labor law and fringe benefits, and how migrants can access German labor courts.

>

>Spanish unions have opened workers' rights centers that provide assistance with immigration and labor laws in the worker's language.

>The French unions CFDT and Force Ouvrière joined with employers and local governments to open a seasonal work center near Béziers in 2003 that aims to prevent the employment of irregular seasonal workers by contractors in 19 communes and help them switch from one seasonal job to another, as from wineries to vineyards.

>

>Irregulars. The biggest EU member states, the so-called G5 countries, agreed to take new steps to cooperate against illegal migration by, for instance, fingerprinting visa applicants to expedite removals if necessary, inspecting those traveling to the EU and copying their documents, and making the ease of obtaining visas dependent on the amount of irregular migration from the applicant's country.

>

>European counter-terrorism officials find that they are facing a more dangerous generation of Islamic extremists, younger and more radical than before. Some have been trained during the insurgency against the US occupation of Iraq. Spain's investigating magistrate has said that some of the terrorists, as young as 16, have no affiliation with al-Qaida. The Madrid railway bombings in March 2004, he said, was a case of a single person being the catalyst.

>

>Craig Whitlock, "Dutch Reject European Charter, Washington Post, June
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>Germany: Services, Migrants

>

>The Social Democratic Party lost elections in Germany's largest
>state, North Rhine-Westphalia, in May 2005, prompting Chancellor
>Gerhard Schroeder to call for national elections in Fall 2005, a year
>earlier than planned. The SPD-Green coalition government came to
>power in 1998, and made immigration reform a top domestic priority.
>Birthright citizenship was approved, and beginning in January 2005,
>Germany has an immigration system that anticipates the arrival of
>settlers.

>

>The major issue in the 2005 campaign is likely to be unemployment,
>which is over 12 percent despite sharp cuts in social welfare
>benefits that are opposed by labor unions, core SPD supporters.

>

>Services. On April 13, 2005, almost 1,400 customs inspectors checked
>350 slaughterhouses for unauthorized workers in a bid to crack down
>on East Europeans who offer "services" in Germany. Nationals of the
>EU-10 accession countries can enter Germany and other EU-15 countries
>without visas, but cannot work unless their employers secure work
>permits for them.

>

>However, EU-10 nationals may lawfully offer "services" in Germany,
>inducing some German and other firms to set up firms in Poland,
>employ Polish workers and then send them to Germany to provide
>services. In some cases, Poles come as self-employed workers.
>Government officials said that up to a quarter of the workers in
>German tourism and taxi driving may be Eastern Europeans abusing the
>freedom to provide services provisions to work in Germany.

>

>In March 1996, when Germany required foreign construction workers
>sent or posted to Germany to be paid at least the German minimum
>wage, there were 1.4 million workers employed in the construction
>industry. A decade later, construction employment has fallen to
>750,000. Germany is considering extending the minimum wage
>requirement to more sectors, such as meatpacking to deal with the
>transfer of workers from Eastern Europe under freedom to provide
>services.

>

>The Polish Ministry of Labor in May 2005 reported that Germany was
>the top destination for migrants in Poland's first year of EU
>membership, with 350,000 legally admitted workers, including 90
>percent employed seasonally in agriculture. A total of 500,000 Poles
>worked legally in EU-15 countries.

>

>Emigration. Some young East Germans are migrating abroad for jobs, a

>"reverse Gastarbeiter" phenomenon drawing attention to slow job
>growth at home. The number of Germans working in Austria as nurses
>and waiters is estimated at 25,000 to 45,000, with agreement that the
>number is up as a result of restrictions on non-EU migrants.
>Austria's unemployment rate is five percent, compared with Germany's
>12.5 percent.

>

>A young East German woman reported that she could collect \$390 a
>month in unemployment benefits at home after being laid off from her
>seasonal job in Austria. Before so-called Hartz IV laws went into
>effect January 1, 2005, the benefit would have been \$1,050, and
>reduced benefits plus a desire to see the world are cited as
>explanations for German youth emigration to work in agriculture in
>Scandinavia or at Disneyland in Paris.

>

>Germany is returning 51,000 Kosovars, including 34,000 Roma, to the
>UN-administered province. Germany allowed them to remain for five or
>more years, and now wants those without jobs to return. German
>employers can hire Kosovars and other non-EU foreigners if they can
>prove that local workers are not available to fill jobs. Most
>cannot, and the cost of their welfare, \$600 a month, is encouraging
>Germany to promote returns.

>

>Germany's asparagus harvest began in April 2005; the largest acreage
>is in Lower Saxony, where many farmers use plastic tunnels to heat
>the ground and obtain an early harvest. Since Poland joined the EU
>on May 1, 2004, seasonal Polish workers and their German employers
>must pay social security and other taxes, raising their cost by 20
>percent in 2005.

>

>Welfare. Beginning January 1, 2005, Germans unemployed more than a
>year receive E345 (\$450) a month plus money to cover their rent, and
>they are required to take "one-Euro" public service jobs that pay
>E1.50 an hour for up to 20 hours a week. About 1.8 million of
>Germany's 5.2 million unemployed are long-term jobless and subject to
>the one-Euro job requirement.

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>Richard Bernstein, "Nation That Once Drew Guest Workers Now Sends
>Them," New York Times, April 14, 2005.

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>UK, Ireland

>

>Britons went to the polls on May 5, 2005 and re-elected the ruling
>Labor Party of Prime Minister Tony Blair to a third successive term;
>Labor ended 18 years in opposition in 1997. Labor got only 36
>percent of the vote, the Conservatives got 33 percent, and the
>Liberal Democrats 23 percent; Labor has 354 seats in the 646-member
>Parliament.

>

>Immigration was a major issue in the campaign. The Conservatives led
>by Michael Howard argued that Britain had lost control over
>immigration. The Conservative campaign motto was: "it's not racist
>to impose limits on immigration." Blair agreed: "Concern over asylum
>and immigration is not about racism. It is about fairness." Blair
>promised "strict controls that work." Former Home Secretary David

>Blunkett was brought back into the new Blair cabinet as Work and Pensions Secretary.

>

>Britain, with a population of 60 million, has 250,000 to 500,000 unauthorized foreigners. Net legal immigration was 75,000 in 1994, reached 170,000 in 2001, and was 151,000 in 2003. The number of asylum seekers peaked at 85,000 in 2002 and fell to 30,000 in 2004.

>

>One of the first proposals of the new Blair government was to create a national identity card with the bearer's biological data to foster a "culture of respect" for law and responsibility. However, a group of 30 left-leaning Labour MPs in May 2005 announced they would join the Conservatives to try to block identity card legislation.

>

>Blair also proposed a four-tier point system for foreigners seeking to work, thus "allowing controlled immigration where it is in the UK's interest, and preventing it where it is not." Under the point system, only skilled workers could stay in the UK, and only after they pass English tests. However, after five years of legal residence, up from the current four, skilled foreigners could become permanent immigrants.

>

>Blair's re-elected government also proposed a new £2,000 fine on employers for each illegal worker hired and more work-place inspections. Some foreigners seeking to visit the UK would have to post financial bonds. The government proposed that recognized asylum applicants receive safe haven for five years rather than indefinitely. In its previous term, the Blair administration enacted three significant immigration laws-- the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004

>

>The British government has decided not to build accommodation centers for asylum seekers in rural areas. Asylum applications dropped to 7,015 in the first quarter of 2005 compared to 15,855 in the first quarter of 2003. Removals fell from 4,125 in 2003 to 3,445 in 2005. Plans for offshore processing of asylum applications have been scrapped.

>

>Accession. Britain allowed Eastern Europeans from the countries joining the EU on May 1, 2004 to work if they registered, and 176,000 did so, including 73,000 Poles. A third were believed to have been already in the UK and simply legalized their presence by registering. Some 13,000 to 14,000 EU-10 nationals a month were registering in summer 2005, half from Poland. Many of the Poles are unskilled or semi-skilled and from villages in eastern Poland.

>

>The UK attracted 300,000 foreign students in 2004, including 48,000 Chinese and another 10,600 from Hong Kong; there were 14,600 Indians. The government wants to eliminate the appeals that foreign students can make if their applications for student visas are denied. Universities protested, saying that they would lose tuition payments, while the government said that the few student visa denials that are appealed are costly to process. Foreign student graduates can stay for three months to look for a job in most of the UK, but up to two years in Scotland.

>
>Ireland. Some 85,000 EU-10 nationals, including 40,000 Poles and
>18,000 Lithuanians, were issued Personal Public Service (PPS) numbers
>in Ireland a year after the May 1, 2004 accession of their home
>countries. In Sweden, by contrast, only 4,400 EU-10 nationals
>applied for work permits, suggesting that language barriers may be a
>significant barrier to migration. About 60 percent of the EU
>nationals in Ireland were age 18 to 30, and their numbers continued
>to rise in spring 2005.

>
>Turkish construction firm Gama was accused in April 2005 of opening
>secret bank accounts at Finansbank in Holland under the names of the
>migrants it posted to Ireland without their knowledge. Gama, which
>won E200 million in public contracts in Ireland between November 2000
>and early 2005, received about 1,300 of the 1,900 exemptions from
>social insurance contributions (PRSI) for migrants in Ireland less
>than one year available since 2003. Turkish migrants also benefit
>from reduced income tax, as most of their wages are paid directly
>into accounts in Turkey and the Netherlands.

>
>The investigation of Gama began in February 2005, when some 300
>migrants charged that they were paid E2 to E3 an hour because they
>were made to work up to 84 hours a week but paid only for 40. About
>200 returned to Turkey, but a Labor Court in May 2005 recommended
>that Gama workers receive payments of about E13,000 each plus the
>back wages in the Finansbank.

>
>Ireland had only 21 labor inspectors until April 2005, when their
>number was increased by 11 as a result of the Gama scandal. In
>arguing for more inspectors, unions noted that Ireland had 54 dog
>wardens, more than twice as many as it had labor inspectors. A new
>report by Martin Ruhs pointed out that only three Irish employers
>were convicted of violating the Employment Permits Act 2003 between
>its inception and February 2005, highlighting the need for more labor
>inspectors.

>
>Ireland has 450 licensed employment agencies that bring migrants into
>the country, and the government is reviewing the Employment Agency
>Act of 1971 that regulates their behavior. Ireland plans to
>substitute registration for licensing, and to make it an offense for
>an employer to recruit workers from a non-registered agency.

>
>Bank of Ireland, with almost 300 branches around the country,
>announced in July 2005 that it would provide literature for migrant
>customers in three languages: Chinese (Mandarin), Polish and Russian.

>
>Robert Booth, "Rural asylum centers scrapped," Guardian, June 11,
>2005. Alan Travis, "14,000 a month sign for work," Guardian, May 27,
>2005. Richard Ford, "176,000 migrants from Eastern Europe seek jobs
>in first year," The Times, May 27, 2005. Ed Caesar, "Would the last
>person to leave Poland please turn out the lights?," Independent
>(UK), April 28, 2005. Ruhs, Martin. 2005. Managing the Immigration
>and Employment of non-EU Nationals in Ireland. Trinity College
>Dublin. Policy Institute.

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>France, Italy, Benelux

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>A mid-April 2005 fire in a Paris hotel left 24 asylum seekers dead
>and highlighted the growing number of asylum applicants, some 65,600
>in 2004, and the ways in which they live in 150 hotels in the Paris
>region. A woman displaced by the fire said she moved to France for
>economic reasons and received housing, food, health care and E100 a
>month while her asylum denial was on appeal.

>

>France is a country of 60 million people with about six million North
>African Muslims and an estimated 2.5 million blacks from south of the
>Sahara desert -- an estimate, because the French government does not
>keep statistics by race. Of 555 deputies representing districts in
>continental France, none is black or Muslim (some of the 22
>representing French overseas territories are).

>

>The French government announced on June 10 that it was adopting a
>tougher immigration policy, in response in part to the rejection by
>the French electorate of the EU constitution. The new policy will
>introduce a quota system for immigrants with professional skills and
>speed up the expulsion of illegal entrants. The government hopes the
>new policy will help relieve some of the pressures on the job market
>and reduce the 10.2 percent unemployment rate.

>

>The annual quota for immigrants with professional qualifications will
>be set by parliament each year. The policy would operate like the
>Canadian system, with immigrants assessed according to their
>education, language skills, age, work experience and capacity to
>adapt. According to Nicolas Sarkozy, interior minister, the new
>policy would move France from "immigration by submission to
>immigration by choice." The government hopes to increase the
>expulsion rate by 50 percent from 15,000 a year to 22,500.

>

>Italy. Italy's FILCAMS-CGIL estimated in 2004 that almost half of the
>million domestic workers in Italy were immigrants, and that many are
>irregular. During a regularization in 2000, some 340,000 of the
>500,000 applications were from domestic workers.

>

>Italy's foreign population rose from 140,000 in 1970 to one million
>in 1997, and in 2005 reached 2.7 million, five percent of Italian
>residents. Foreigners in Italy include 1.3 million EU nationals;
>647,000 Africans; 472,000 Asians; and 314,000 North and South
>Americans.

>

>Netherlands. Moroccan and Turkish groups in the Netherlands set up a
>new action committee named "Genoeg is genoeg" (Enough is enough) to
>organize a campaign against the Dutch government's tough immigration
>and integration policies. The organizers are calling for a national
>demonstration on September 17 in Amsterdam.

>

>"Moroccans, Turks rally against Dutch immigration plans," Exptica
>News, June 13, 2005. John Thornhill, "France to bring in immigrant
>quota system," Financial Times, June 11, 2005.

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>Spain: Legalization

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>Some 3.7 million foreigners were 8.4 percent of Spain's 44 million
>residents in 2004, when 650,000 immigrants arrived. The foreigners
>include Moroccans and Ecuadorians, 500,000 each; Romanians and
>Colombians, 300,000 each; and Britons, 225,000. The number of
>foreign residents has been rising rapidly; there were 750,000 in
>1999.

>

>Spain had a legalization program that ended on May 7, 2005 and drew
>applications from almost 700,000 foreigners whose employers sought to
>legalize their employees by showing they had been in Spain at least
>six months, had no criminal record, and had a work contract for at
>least another six months.

>

>Those legalized received one-year renewable work and residence
>permits if they were in Spain by August 8, 2004. Their 400,000
>family members also received legal papers, bringing the total number
>of persons affected to 1.1 million. About 21 percent of the
>applicants were Ecuadorians, followed by Romanians, Moroccans and
>Colombians. About 30 percent of the applicants were domestic
>helpers; 20 percent worked in construction; 20 percent in tourism and
>trade; and 13 percent in agriculture.

>

>The purpose of the legalization was to bring unauthorized foreigners
>out of the underground economy and collect more taxes. Those who
>support legalization argued that unauthorized migration can only be
>managed, not stopped, and that the foreigners take jobs Spaniards
>refuse.

>

>Critics, on the other hand, asserted that the effect would be to
>encourage more illegal immigration in the hope of a future amnesty.
>There were reports of foreigners traveling from France to Spain to
>apply for legalization, and of some Spanish employers charging
>migrants up to E5,000 for the labor contracts needed to legalize.
>Spanish authorities said they expected to reject applications that
>cite, for instance, start-up employers with 10 immigrant workers or
>families that have more than three maids.

>

>There have been reports of local attacks on foreigners, who are
>sometimes linked to crime. Residents of Villaverde, a poor
>neighborhood in southern Madrid, in May 2005 attacked immigrant-owned
>shops following the murder of a Spanish youth, chanting "We want
>immigrants, not criminals."

>

>Spain is in its seventh year of a housing boom that shows no sign of
>easing, putting it with Ireland in the vanguard of fast-growing Euro
>countries. With interest rates at two percent, house prices have
>risen almost 160 percent since 1997, and loans to buy houses have
>tripled. Spain has had the most rapid price increase in housing of
>any large country in the world since the mid-1980s, and more new
>houses will be built in 2005 in Andalusia than in Germany.

>

>Portugal. Portugal had 466,000 legal migrants at the end of 2004, and
>will automatically grant citizenship to children born to immigrants
>who have lived in the country legally for at least six years.
>Children of legal immigrants will also be able to apply for

>citizenship if they were born in Portugal and have lived in the
>country until they reach 18.

>

>"Amnesty brings 600,000 in from black economy," Expatica news, May
>24, 2005. Leslie Crawford, "Amnesty fails to ease Spanish worries
>over immigration," Financial Times, May 9, 2005.

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>Eastern Europe, Turkey

>

>The Czech Republic and most other Eastern European countries have
>"special schools" for the mentally disabled; 90 percent of those
>enrolled in special Czech schools are Roma.

>

>Turkey. Negotiations for Turkey's entry into the EU are scheduled to
>begin in October 2005, amid growing doubts in both the EU and Turkey
>about the virtue of membership. About 60 percent of Turks support EU
>membership, but some are saying that Turkey, which is in the midst
>of an economic boom that has reduced inflation and stimulated foreign
>investment, may not need to join the EU to achieve economic growth.

>

>The State Institute of Statistics reported that 19.4 million Turks
>had incomes below the poverty line in 2004, which was 417 lira or
>about \$320 a month for a family of four.

>

>Russia. The Moscow government reported in July 2005 that two-thirds
>of local construction workers were migrants, and that most are men in
>their 30s who live on the site where they work and believe they are
>underpaid. Two-thirds of Moscow residents believe that migrants
>increase crime and ethnic tensions.

>

>In October 2004, Russia and China settled their Siberian border
>disputes, and Chinese migrants are beginning to settle. The
>population of far eastern Siberia, including the cities of Khabarovsk
>and Vladivostok, declined from eight million in 1989 to under seven
>million in 2005, while the three nearby provinces of northeastern
>China are home to about 105 million people.

>

>There are no definitive statistics on the number of Chinese migrants
>in Siberia. Given the fact that many Chinese return, researchers
>estimate a stock of 200,000, while newspapers sometimes report
>millions. Most Chinese travel to Russia legally with tourist or
>business visas, but many overstay and relatively few hold work
>permits or pay taxes; Chinese have difficulty getting permanent
>residence status in Russia.

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>ASIA

>

>China, Hong Kong

>

>China is rapidly urbanizing, in part because urban incomes are higher
>than rural incomes. In 1980, about 80 percent of Chinese residents
>lived in rural areas, and their disposable income was about the same
>as urban Chinese. However, the gap between urban and rural incomes
>has widened sharply, especially after 1995, as many urban residents

>benefit from China's integration into the global economy while many
>rural residents fall further behind. In some cases, prices received
>by farmers have gone down as imports increase, and prices paid by
>farmers have risen as the government removes subsidies.

>

>By 2005, urban incomes of \$1,200 per person were about four times the
>average rural income of \$300 a person, and rural-urban migration has
>meant that 40 percent of the 1.3 billion Chinese are now in urban
>areas. Some economists want to accelerate the pace of rural-urban
>migration, arguing that, unless the rate is raised above the current
>one percent a year, rural incomes will remain far below urban
>incomes. If rural-urban migration were 1.5 percent a year, 80
>percent of Chinese would be urban residents by 2030.

>

>China has more than 200 cities with populations of more than a
>million. The most populous city in the world is Chongqing, located
>in the center of China. However, only five percent of the Chinese
>live in middle-class households, defined as those that have an income
>of at least \$10,000 a year.

>

>Chinese workers and entrepreneurs have moved to Siberia to use their
>agricultural and greenhouse skills to grow vegetables in a land where
>winter lasts for six months. Some Russians merchants complain they
>are being forced out of work due to low prices of Chinese products.
>Most Chinese go to Russia legally with tourist or business visas, but
>many overstay and few have work permits or pay taxes.

>

>Hong Kong. Surveys of Indonesian maids in Hong Kong reported that
>over 40 percent received less than the minimum wage of HK\$3,270 a
>month, even though many said they signed receipts provided by their
>employers showing that they earned the minimum. Most also paid more
>than the 10 percent that Hong Kong allows to be charged in
>recruitment fees (Indonesia allows higher fees, and some maids
>reported paying over five months salary).

>

>David Holley, "Chinese Workers Sowing Dreams in Siberia," Los Angeles
>Times, June 12, 2005.

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>Japan, Korea

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>Japan's population is projected to peak in 2006 and then begin to
>decline, but there are no plans to open the country to large-scale
>immigration. Japan has 1.9 million foreign residents, half ethnic
>Koreans and Chinese who were mostly born in Japan, followed by
>350,000 ethnic Japanese from Latin American, often the descendants of
>Japanese who emigrated. Many of these Latin Americans work in the
>auto industry.

>

>The Justice Ministry's Immigration Bureau said that the number for
>foreign nationals registered as residents in Japan was 1,973,747 at
>the end of 2004, setting a new record for the 36th consecutive year.
>The number increased from 2003 by 58,717 and was 1.55 percent of the
>population in Japan. North and South Koreans, including those born
>in Japan, made up nearly 31 percent of the total. Chinese were
>second with nearly 25 percent and Brazilians were 14 percent.

>
>Japan is grappling with whether it would be better to remain the
>second most populous industrial country or become less populous. A
>major business group, the Federation of Economic Organizations, wants
>large-scale immigration, arguing that, with projections showing that
>two-thirds of the population of a closed Japan would be aged 60 or
>more by 2050, it is likely that the country will have to import
>foreign caregivers in any event. The FEO wants to select immigrants
>and integrate them.

>
>Public opinion is ambivalent about immigration, with many Japanese
>reporting that they fear more immigration will mean more crime.

>
>Korea. Korea had 199,000 unauthorized foreign workers in April 2005;
>they were over half the total of 378,000 foreign workers. Korea had
>a registration between August and November 2003 that granted two-year
>work visas to 180,000 unauthorized workers, and promised a crackdown
>on the unauthorized. There were 16,000 illegal foreign workers and
>30,000 Korean-Chinese left by May 2005.

>
>Some unauthorized foreign workers did not register, and some who did
>are not planning to leave when their work permits expire for fear
>that they cannot re-enter.

>
>Some 600 migrants from Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines and
>Indonesia established a union, the Seoul-Gyeonggi Incheon Migrant
>Trade Union (MTU), in April 2005, but the government refused to
>recognize it and arrested its leader. The Korean Confederation of
>Trade Unions (KCTU), the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU),
>the Peoples Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) and the
>human rights group Sarangbang denounced the government.

>
>A revised Nationality Act effective in May 2005 prohibits a male from
>giving up his Korean citizenship unless he finishes Korean military
>service, prompting almost 2,000 Korean men with dual citizenship to
>give up Korean citizenship just before the law went into effect.
>Those who renounce Korean citizenship will have their names published
>in an official gazette. Previously, dual nationals had to choose one
>nationality before turning 17.

>
>In a sign of growing nationalism, a pending bill would prohibit
>children who acquire foreign citizenship while their parents are
>overseas for a short period from attending Korean universities as
>Koreans.

>
>"1 Migrant Workers Union Banned," Korea Times, June 6, 2005. "No. of
>foreign residents in Japan hits record for 36th straight year," Japan
>Economic Newswire, June 17, 2005. Bae Keun-min, "1,820 give up
>Korean nationality," Korea Times, May 24, 2005.

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>Southeast Asia

>
>Thailand. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra promised on May 1, 2005
>that the government would better regulate the 1.3 million migrants
>from neighboring Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia who registered in 2004.

>The migrants must re-register in June 2005 to remain in Thailand an
>additional year, and to do so they need a Thai employer. The
>government said that no new migrants would be admitted in 2005, and
>that unauthorized migrants face fines of up to 60,000 baht (\$1,500)
>and three years in prison.

>

>NGOs have begun helping migrants to sue Thai employers who do not pay
>the required minimum wage, 175 baht a day in Bangkok and 139 baht in
>Mae Sot in 2005. In Mae Sot in Tak Province, many of the 100,000
>Burmese migrants are employed in garment factories that do not pay
>the 139 baht a day minimum wage. In June 2005, the MAP Foundation
>sued a Thai garment maker as well as the local labor office, which
>rejected the migrants' charge that they were underpaid even though
>Thai labor laws say all workers are entitled to the minimum wage.

>

>The Burmese migrants are vulnerable because they have so few options
>at home. About two percent of Burmese are migrants in Thailand, and
>there are few prospects for an economic turnaround at home.

>

>Malaysia. The government's latest efforts to crack down on illegal
>foreign workers failed. Some 380,000 unauthorized foreigners left or
>were expelled between October 2004 and February 2005. However, in
>response to labor shortage complaints from plantations (claiming a
>shortage of 300,000 workers), construction (200,000 workers short)
>and services, the government in May 2005 resumed the practice of
>allowing foreigners who enter Malaysia on tourist visas to work if
>they find a job. In July 2005, the government announced that the
>60,000 refugees in the country would be allowed to work.

>

>The government also said it would raise the tax paid by plantations
>and service firms that hire foreign workers by 50 to 100 percent,
>saying "we do not want these sectors to resort to employing foreign
>workers as an easy way to solving their woes É they must give
>opportunities to local workers." However, maids are to be protected
>by restricting the fees that recruiters can charge to M\$2,500, half
>of the usual current M\$5,000 (\$1,320) fee. Employers will also be
>able to name the foreign workers they want.

>

>Illegal foreigners were supposed to leave and return after they were
>registered with their governments. However, Malaysia said that the
>Indonesian registration centers did not work as expected, and so it
>fast-tracked recruitment in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal,
>Myanmar and Vietnam. There is also to be a crackdown on abusive
>employersÑ an Indian died of yellow fever after being locked up along
>with some 400 other Indian workers in a hostel for two weeks by an
>employer in southern Johor state.

>

>There are about 1.5 million legal foreign workers in Malaysia, mostly
>Indonesians, and another million unauthorized foreigners, making
>foreigners about a quarter of the total labor force of 10.5 million.

>

>Vietnam. The Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1987 allowed those born in
>Vietnam to American service members to come to the United States with
>their families; 26,000 arrived. There are some 1.2 million
>Vietnamese-origin US residents, and their median age is 30.

>

>Philippines. Some 933,588 overseas Filipino workers were deployed in
>2004, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
>(POEA), which said the stock of Filipinos abroad, including
>naturalized citizens of Canada and the US, was eight million.
>Remittances were \$8.5 billion in 2004.

>
>The June 7, 2005 Migrant Workers Day celebration had the theme,
>Migranteng Pilipino: Buong Bansa, Buong Mundo, Saludo sa Inyo (The
>Nation and the World Salute You, the Migrant Filipino Workers!).

>
>President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's family in May 2005 was accused of
>corruption for accepting gambling proceeds from jueteng, a popular
>but illegal game that led to the ouster of her predecessor, Joseph
>Estrada, in 2001; she faces impeachment in the Filipino Congress.

>
>The economy is floundering, and in one poll, a quarter of respondents
>said their best hope for improvement was to find an overseas job. A
>third of Filipinos live in poverty, and the country has among the
>most inequality in southeast Asia.

>
>

>South Asia

>
>India sends millions of unskilled and semi-skilled migrants to Gulf
>oil exporters. The migrants are better educated than most Indians:
>80 percent of the working-age Indian migrants employed in other
>developing countries have more than secondary schooling, compared to
>2.5 percent of all working-age Indians.

>
>Generally, the harder it is to migrate to another country, the more
>skilled the migrants. This helps to explain why there may be more
>doctors and nurses born in some sub-Saharan and Caribbean and Pacific
>Island countries abroad than at home.

>
>India's Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs in June 2005 announced
>plans for an electronic emigration card (smart card) with a computer
>chip that included information on the migrant, a help line that
>migrants can call, and more legal advice for migrants abroad. The
>Ministry would like to have recruiting agents rated by an independent
>agency.

>
>India receives more remittances from migrant workers than any other
>country, \$23 billion in 2004, compared to \$17 billion sent to Mexico.

>
>Bangladesh. Some three million Bangladeshis are believed to have gone
>overseas for employment since 1975. Since 1995, a million
>Bangladeshis have been abroad at any one time, and they remitted \$3
>billion in 2003, or more than the net earnings of the garment sector
>(after deducting the cost of imported materials for garments).

>
>Some 225,000 migrants were deployed abroad in 2002, but only 140,000
>in 2003, with most of the drop due to fewer placements in Saudi
>Arabia.

>
>The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has a
>Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, created in 1976, to

>process migrants going overseas and to regulate recruitment agents,
>who have been allowed to operate since 1981. The Bangladesh
>Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) had 700
>members in 2002, including several members of parliament. A
>government agency, Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited,
>plays a very small role in deploying migrants abroad.

>

>There are some 2,500 licensed travel agents in Bangladesh, and some
>engage illegally in helping workers go abroad.

>

>Most Bangladeshis are unskilled, and most rely on private recruitment
>agents or networks to get jobs abroad. The government banned
>recruitment of women between 1984 and 1987, restricted female
>migration until 1997, when there was another brief ban, and since
>2003 has allowed unskilled women over 35 to be recruited for overseas
>jobs. All Bangladeshis must get medical tests before leaving at one
>of 35 centers.

>

>Some receiving-country policies have the perhaps unintended effect of
>forcing migrants to use recruitment agencies to get foreign jobs, and
>of increasing the cost of such jobs to migrants who often have to
>borrow money at high interest rates. For example, requiring
>employers to pay levies to receive permission to hire migrants can
>mean that employers pass on the levy charge to agencies that in turn
>charge levies to migrants, raising the cost of overseas jobs to them.
>In some countries, work visas are auctioned, which means that agents
>who buy them pass on the cost to migrants.

>

>In the layered Bangladeshi labor market, recruiting agencies in the
>capital city of Dhaka obtain work visas and then use an army of
>agents and sub-agents to recruit migrants to travel abroad. Many of
>the agreements that agents and sub-agents make with the migrants they
>recruit are oral, and migrants often sign contracts they do not
>understand. Thus, migrants can go abroad and find wages and
>conditions that are different than they expected, but it can be very
>difficult to determine exactly what was promised and by whom.

>

>Sri Lanka. Some 200,000 Sri Lankans a year go abroad to work. Two-
>thirds of them are women who have not worked for wages in Sri Lanka
>and who are migrating to be domestic helpers, usually in the Middle
>East. By some estimates, about 600,000 of the one million Sri
>Lankans abroad are domestic helpers who are aged 18 to 40 and have at
>least a tenth-grade education. Sri Lankan migrants remitted \$1.4
>billion in 2003, equivalent to eight percent of Sri Lankan GDP.

>

>About 75 percent of the migrants use one of the 600 licensed
>recruitment agencies to find foreign employers; the number of
>agencies was about 500 in the mid-1990s. About 20 percent of the
>agencies are new in any one year, largely because the agencies that
>place few migrants abroad and have to pay for work visas and then
>pass on the cost to the migrants they send abroad often go out of
>business.

>

>The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) was created in
>1985 within the Ministry of Labour. It licenses agencies and
>requires that all migrants register with the SLBFE and pay fees to

>receive exit permission before going abroad. This is shown by a
>SLBFE stamp in the migrant's passport that is checked at the airport
>on leaving the country. Recruitment agencies must post a bond with
>the SLBFE, but many rely on sub-agents to recruit women in villages
>the oral promises they make to these women are not binding.

>

>Before going abroad to be domestic helpers for a salary of about \$120
>a month, SLBFE offers migrants a 12-day course in one of 22 training
>centers that includes instruction in how to use modern appliances,
>with instructors warning would-be migrants that they risk beatings if
>they do not pay attention and learn. Sri Lanka's government promotes
>the export of domestic helpers, and critics say that the training and
>shelters for abused women, who may be 15 to 20 percent of the total,
>are insufficient protection for women sent to work behind high walls
>in the Gulf oil states.

>

>When domestic helpers seek safety in Sri Lankan embassies, they
>sometimes have to stay there for months for lack of funds to fly them
>home. Until Sri Lanka's Constitution was recently amended, children
>born to Sri Lankan women abroad were not given Sri Lankan
>citizenship.

>

>Amy Waldman, "Sri Lankan Maids Pay Dearly for Perilous Jobs
>Overseas," New York Times, May 8, 2005.

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>OTHER

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>Australia, New Zealand

>

>Australia in mid-April 2005 announced plans to accept 140,000
>immigrants in 2005-06, up 20,000 from 2004-05, an almost doubling
>since the late 1990s. The list of shortage occupations was expanded
>from 38 to 56 by adding, for instance, bricklayers, plumbers and
>carpenters, which could bring the skilled worker inflow to almost
>100,000, plus 42,000 visas for the family stream. Even though
>unemployment is about five percent, employers complain of labor
>shortages and fears of wage spikes helped to convince the government
>to increase immigration.

>

>The Migrant Agents Registration Authority (www.themara.com.au)
>requires persons who recruit migrants to Australia to pass a test.
>Some 3,000 agents are registered, and half have less than three years
>experience, suggesting high turnover; their activities are monitored
>by the MARA as well as the Department of Migration and Indigenous
>Affairs.

>

>Under Australia's Working Holiday Maker program, foreigners from
>Commonwealth countries with reciprocal arrangements get 12-month
>visas that allow up to three months employment, and employment can be
>extended by 12 months if the worker was employed in agriculture.
>Working Holiday Makers as well as foreign students are becoming the
>core of the seasonal farm work force; the government has rejected
>calls for a seasonal foreign worker program.

>

>Australia announced in May 2005 that failed Afghan asylum applicants

>who did not accept an A\$2,000 return incentive package (up to
>A\$10,000 a family) would be forcibly returned.

>

>New Zealand. New Zealand First leader Winston Peters in April 2005
>predicted that Maori would be outnumbered by Asians within two
>decades, reviving the debate about large-scale immigration. New
>Zealand's immigration minister, Paul Swain, said that the government
>will begin a fundamental review of its Immigration Act to develop a
>"firm, fair and fast immigration process."

>

>Pacific Islands. Pacific Island nations have some of the highest
>rates of dependence on remittances, with Tonga in 2002 receiving \$65
>million; Papua New Guinea, \$58 million; Fiji Islands, \$53 million;
>and Vanuatu, \$31 million. On many islands, young people educate
>themselves for foreign jobs.

>

>Vikki Bland, "Migrant skills go begging," New Zealand Herald, June
>18, 2005. Ruth Berry, "Government signals migrant rules to get
>tougher," New Zealand Herald, May 25, 2005.

>

>

>South Africa, Other Africa

>

>South Africa enacted an Immigration Act in April 2002 and amended it
>in October 2004 in a context of growing xenophobia and the existence
>of simultaneous labor shortages and surpluses. South Africa has
>experienced an exodus of professionals to industrial countries and an
>influx of less skilled workers from sub-Saharan countries, a mix that
>>fosters restrictionism among many South Africans. However, there is
>little reliable data on either flow.

>

>South Africa has 7,000 km of borders with Southern African
>Development Community (SADC) neighboring states, making border
>control difficult. The number of migrants from SADC states increased
>sharply since the mid-1990s.

>

>Gold and other mines received special exemptions to recruit guest
>workers, and about half of the current mining work force is not South
>African. Traditionally, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland
>sent migrants to work in South African mines, and Malawi and Zimbabwe
>supplied miners until 1988 and 1981, respectively. Miners were men
>in South Africa without their families who lived in relative
>isolation in barracks near the mines and were discouraged from
>unionizing. The miners entered South Africa under the "two-gates"
>policy on the basis of MOUs with neighboring governments because the
>Aliens Control Act, passed in 1991, amended in 1995 and repealed in
>2002, prohibited guest workers unless an MOU was in place with the
>workers country of origin.

>

>Teba (The Employment Bureau of Africa) had a monopoly to recruit
>migrant miners, offering a standard contract whose provisions follow
>the requirements of the MOUs that say miners must come to South
>Africa without their families and return home at the end of their
>contracts. Teba is considered the best of the recruiters, offering
>migrants the most favorable contracts, but the National Union of
>Miners argues that the rise of sub-contracting (mines outsourcing

>work to contractors who use migrantsÑ including ex-miners who stayed
>in South Africa when their regular contracts expired) is lowering
>wages and working conditions.

>

>Algos in Mozambique traditionally supplied seasonal farm workers to
>South Africa farmers, but many came on their own during fighting in
>the 1980s. As migrants poured into South Africa after apartheid
>ended in 1994, many had their first jobs on farms, and South African
>farmers registered them to obtain "special agricultural permits,"
>which in turn led to registration with Mozambican and South African
>authorities.

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>Ending apartheid in 1994 raised expectations among local Blacks, and
>disappointment was widespread when rationalization reduced jobs in
>mining and other sectors, migrants from other African countries
>poured into South Africa, and unemployment among unskilled South
>African Blacks reached 20 to 40 percent. Labor migration became more
>complex in the 1990s, with Indians and other Asians arriving to open
>shops and women from neighboring countries filling many farm jobs.
>Many South Africans do not make distinctions between legal and
>illegal Black foreigners, assuming that all Black foreigners are
>unauthorized.

>

>South Africa is trying to develop new migration policies amid skill
>shortages, persisting high unemployment rates and sectors such as
>mining that are accustomed to hiring migrants and migrant countries
>of origin that need jobs and remittances. In 1995, South Africa
>offered permanent residence to foreign miners who worked in South
>Africa since 1986 and voted in the 1994 election. In 1996, this
>offer was extended to foreigners in South Africa for at least five
>years and who were employed or self-employed since 1991 and/or had a
>child born in South AfricaÑ 200,000 foreigners applied by the end of
>1996.

>

>South Africa is debating more border and interior controls at one
>extreme, and free movement with SADC at the other, with managed
>migration between these extremes. The Immigration Act of 2002
>(amended in 2004) aims to regulate labor migration strictly by
>charging employers fees or levies for each migrant they employÑ the
>aim is to encourage South African employers to train and hire local
>Blacks.

>

>However, critics say that the South African government is slowing the
>development it wants by making it too hard for South African
>employers to recruit needed skills abroad, and by setting up too many
>barriers to foreign business investors.

>

>South Africa risks the development of an underclass. A third of the
>37 million Blacks in South Africa live in townships, where the
>unemployment rate often tops 50 percent and those with jobs often
>earn less than \$250 a month. About 90 percent of children finish
>primary school but, since secondary school fees are often \$40, few
>township youth go on to secondary school.

>

>South Africa's ANC government is committed to negotiating with major
>employer, union and civil society groups to determine the country's

>future. The four-chamber National Economic Development and Labour
>Council (NEDLAC) was established in 1995 to agree on labor market,
>trade and industry, public finance and monetary policy, and
>development policies, but in some cases the NGOs invited to
>participate appear to be creatures of the government, which risks
>adding to government power and not encouraging a range of opinion.

>

>In an effort to stop fraudulent marriages, foreigners marrying South
>Africans will have to wait at least five years to apply for South
>African citizenship. Almost 2,000 South African residents said that
>they did not know they were married to the foreigners who claimed to
>be their spouses. In another change announced in May 2005, foreign
>miners will no longer have to leave South Africa as soon as they are
>dismissed. If they have a claim pending against the employer, they
>will be able to stay until it is resolved.

>

>Other Africa. People fleeing the violence in western Sudan's Dafur
>region have begun showing up in other countries and applying for
>asylum. In Europe, officials are scrutinizing applications closely,
>suspecting that many of those who say they are from Dafur are from
>elsewhere. Libya sealed its border with Sudan in May 2003, but many
>of those fleeing Dafur cross by land to Ghana and other countries.

>

>In 2004, some 352,000 refugees returned to nine African countries,
>but Sudan and Congo produced waves of new refugees.

>

>Crush Jonathan: Contract migration to South Africa: Past, present,
>and future.

>www.polity.org.za/html/govdocs/green_papers/migration/crush.html

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>Global Trends

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>Former Portuguese prime minister (1995-01) Ant—nio Guterres was named
>UN high commissioner for refugees in May 2005. Guterres has been the
>head of the Socialist International since 1999. UNHCR estimated
>there were 9.2 million refugees worldwide at the end of 2004, and
>they were about half of the 19 million "persons of concern" to the
>agencyÑ the others were returned asylum seekers and internally
>displaced persons.

>

>UNHCR provides assistance to about half of the world's 9.2 million
>refugees. As in previous years, two million Afghans were almost a
>quarter of the world's refugees, followed by 750,000 Sudanese. Iran
>and Pakistan received most of the Afghani refugees ([www.unhcr.ch/cgi-
>bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=42b283744](http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=42b283744))

>

>Remittances. The World Bank's Global Development Finance report
>estimated that remittances to developing countries were \$126 billion
>in 2004, up from \$115 billion in 2003, and projected that remittances
>to developing countries may rise to \$150 billion in 2005. There has
>been discussion that remittances can be the spark to help developing
>countries take off economically, and some have suggested that
>remittances are a more effective development tool than foreign aid.

>

>Western Union, with 220,000 outlets around the world, dominates the

>money transfer business, charging at least \$15 to send the typical
>\$300 remittance from the US to Mexico. However, prepaid bank cards
>are offering competition. Under one scheme, migrants add value to
>prepaid Visa cards that permit their relatives to withdraw funds in
>local currency from one of the 945,000 Visa-linked automated teller
>machines (ATMs).

>

>Globalization or economic integration should have three beneficial
>effects on the poor: provide them and their employers with access to
>capital to raise productivity and wages, open new markets for goods,
>which should raise export sector prices and wages, and perhaps open
>new channels to migrate abroad, raising wages. The world's GDP was
>\$36 trillion in 2003, when measured at current exchange rates.
>However, at purchasing power parity, which adjusts for the fact that
>prices for goods are generally lower in developing countries, world
>GDP was \$50 billion.

>

>MDGs/Aid. The eight Millennium Development Goals (www.undp.org/mdg/)
>were agreed to by world leaders in 2000, and they aim, inter alia, to
>eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 by halving the number
>and share of people whose income is less than \$1 a day, ensure that
>all school-age children are in primary schools, and halt by 2015 the
>spread of HIV/AIDS. The UN and other organizations issue periodic
>progress reports on whether the world is on track to achieve the
>MDGs, and most are pessimistic. About 75 percent of the world's poor
>live in rural areas; half live in farm households.

>

>British leaders pressed industrial countries at the G-8 summit in
>June 2005 to forgive the \$17 billion debt of 18 countries, most of
>which are in Africa, and they succeeded. However, the US opposed
>plans to double aid to Africa, pointing to its Millennium Challenge
>Account, a \$2 billion fund that provides extra aid to poor nations
>that show progress in establishing what the United States considers
>stable democratic governments and pursuing sound economic and social
>welfare policies. As of June 2005, however, the program had given
>final approval for aid to only two countries, Madagascar and
>Honduras, and had disbursed little money.

>

>Between 1960 and 2003, Africa received \$570 billion in aid (in 2003
>dollars).

>

>Rich countries spent \$280 billion in 2004 subsidizing their farmers--
>triple the \$79 billion they spent on aid. The extra production that
>results from these subsidies reduce prices for agricultural goods on
>international markets, making it harder for farmers in poor countries
>to compete. If all trade barriers were removed and agricultural
>subsidies were eliminated, developing countries would gain \$100
>billion in income, according to World Bank estimates.

>

>Economist L. Alan Winters argues that, if the industrial countries
>were to increase their labor forces by three percent or about 15
>million, global income would rise by \$156 billion a year, with most
>of the gain going to poor workers and regions via remittances.

>

>A January 2005 Asian Development Bank study of poverty distinguished
>income poverty from access povertyÑ do the poor have access to

>essential services? In the Philippines, there was little poverty
>reduction since 2000 despite economic growth. Almost half of the
>rural residents were poor, as were 20 percent of urban residents.
>However, the worst outcomes were in access—two-thirds of all
>children finish elementary school, but only a third of poor children
>do so.

>

>Ancient Migration. Everyone in the world can be placed on a single
>family tree, in terms of their mitochondrial DNA, the genetic
>material inherited solely from the mitochondrial Eve, a woman who
>lived some 200,000 years ago. A May 2005 analysis estimated that
>emigration from Africa occurred 65,000 years ago along the coasts of
>India and Southeast Asia to reach Australia 50,000 years ago. A
>second migration out of Africa to Europe occurred about 40,000 years
>ago.

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>Tourism. According to the World Tourism Organization, the countries
>with the most tourist arrivals in 2004 were France, about 75 million;
>Spain, 55 million; US, 45 million; China, 40 million; and Italy, 38
>million.

>

>Some \$720 billion in US currency is in circulation, two-thirds
>outside the US. There is about €500 billion in circulation, worth
>about \$630 billion, but most Euros are still in Europe. As the Euro
>comes to rival the dollar as a world currency, the demand for Euros
>outside Europe is expected to increase.

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>Warren Hoge, "Former Portuguese Premier Chosen to Lead UN Refugee
>Agency," New York Times, May 25, 2005. Winters, Alan L. et al.
>"Negotiating the Liberalization of the Temporary Movement of Natural
>Persons." Discussion Papers in Economics. (2002) No. 87. Brighton:
>University of Sussex.