

Immigration

Through of current interest, this chapter is not on the AP Economics Course Outlines. There is limited time for teaching the concepts on the Course Outlines so it is best to skip this chapter.

The population of the United States is composed largely of immigrants and their descendants, yet immigration has long been a matter of heated controversy. Some immigration issues are political, social, and legal; others are economic. Our focus will be on economic issues and **economic immigrants**—international migrants motivated by economic gain. How many such immigrants come to the United State each year? What is their motivation and what economic impact do they make? Should more or fewer people be allowed to enter legally? What criteria, if any, should be used in allowing legal entry? How should the United State handle illegal immigration?¹

¹Some of our discussion is drawn from our more advanced treatment of mobility and migration in our textbook on labor economics: Campbell R. McConnell, Stanley L. Brue, and David A. Macpherson, *Contemporary Labor Economics*, 10th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013), pp. 263-290.