

# **CBO TESTIMONY**

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**Statement of  
Douglas Holtz-Eakin  
Director**

## **The Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Labor Market**

**before the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives**

**November 16, 2005**

*The statement by CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin was based on CBO's November 2005 publication The Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Labor Market. The paper itself served as CBO's written submission.*



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**



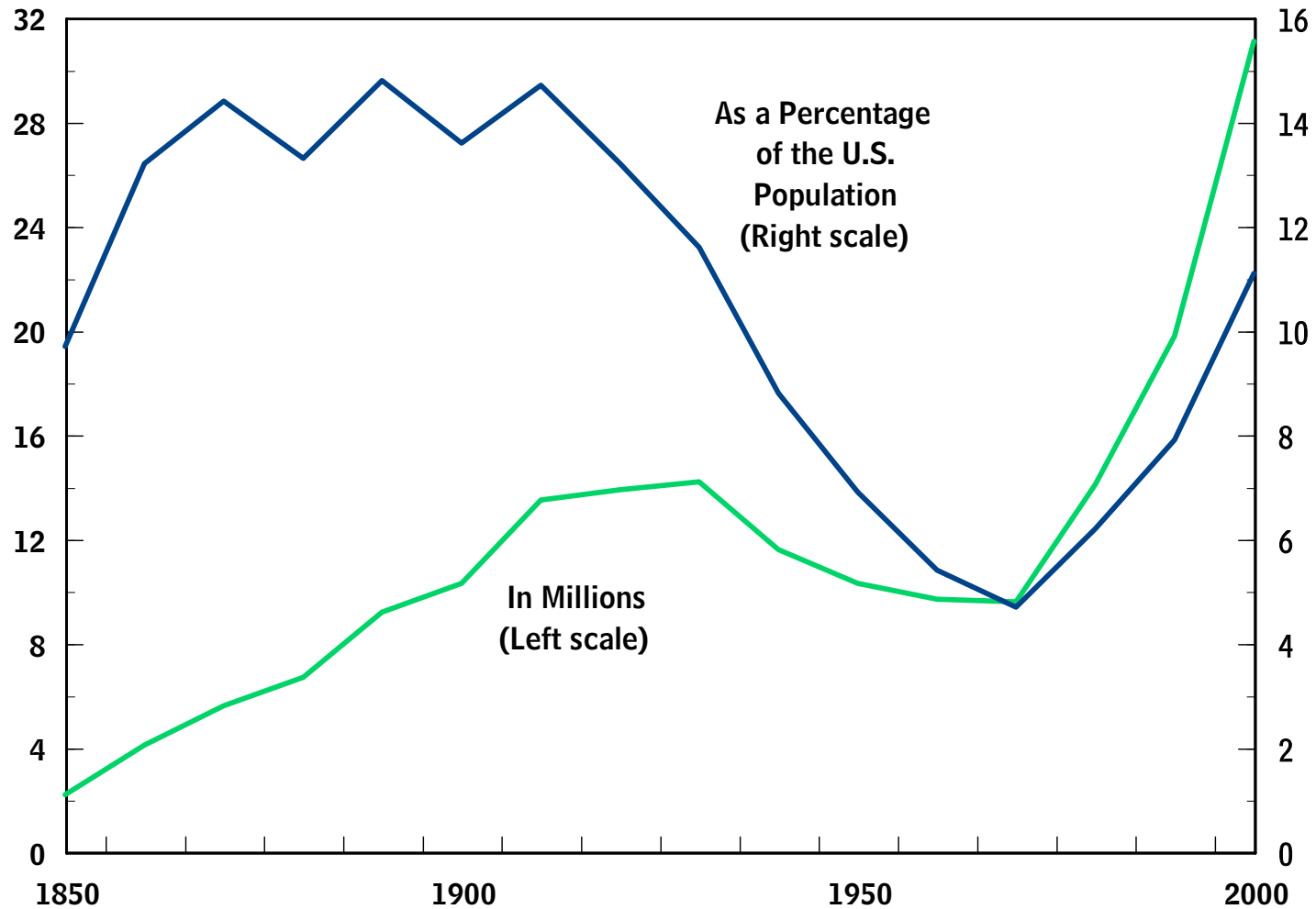
**Congressional Budget Office**

# **The Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Labor Market**

November 16, 2005



# The Foreign-Born Population, 1850 to 2000



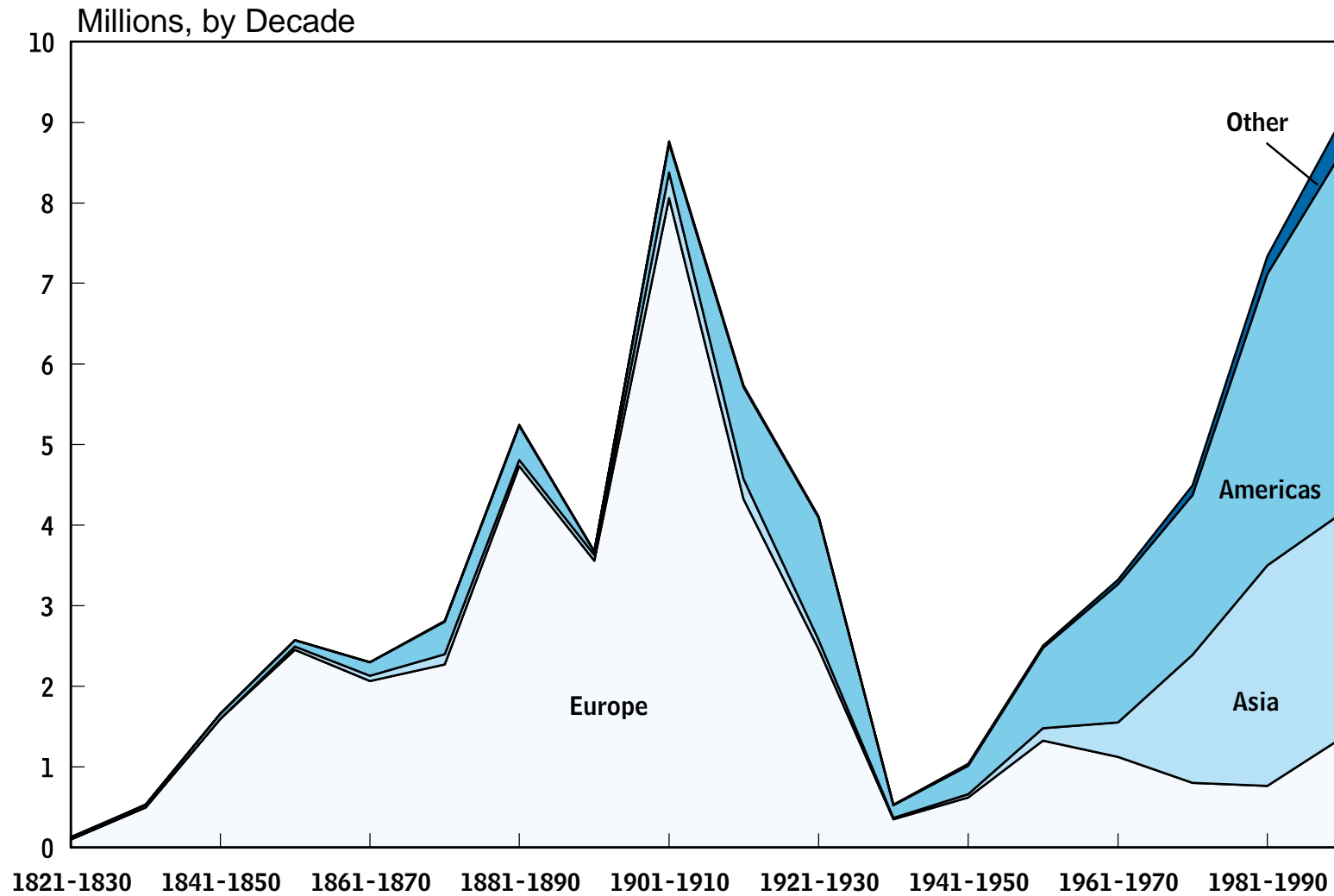


## Immigrants Admitted to the United States, by Major Category of Admission, 2004

Category of Admission	2004	
	Number (Thousands)	Percent
Total	946	100
Family-Based Immigrants	620	66
Family-sponsored preferences	214	23
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	406	43
Employment-Based Preferences	155	16
Diversity Program	50	5
Other Categories	120	13
Refugees and asylees	71	8

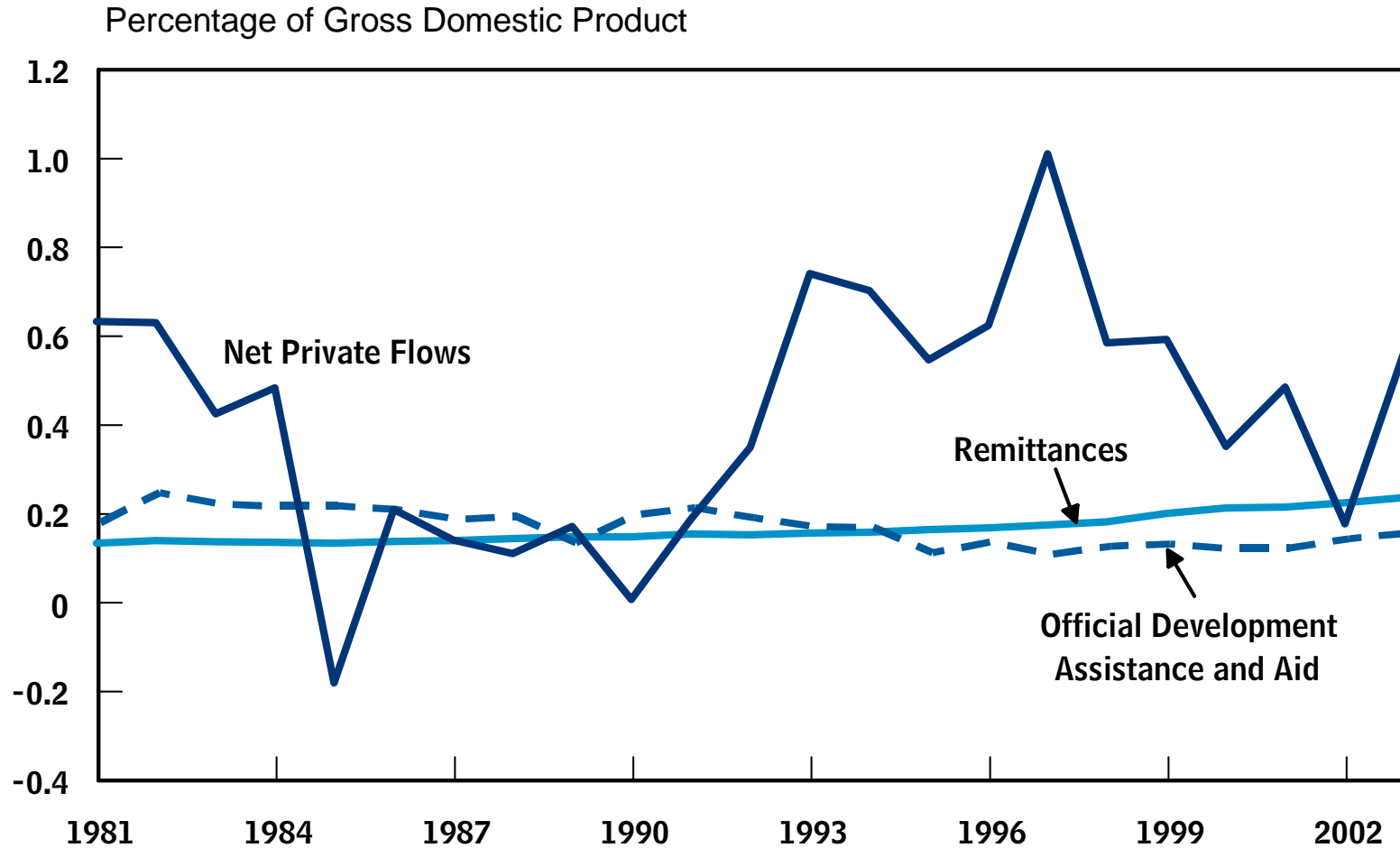


# Immigration to the United States, by Region of Origin, 1821 to 2000





## Remittances and Other International Flows from the United States to Developing Countries, 1981 to 2003





## Size and Growth of the U.S. Labor Force Age 16 and Older, by Nativity, 1994 and 2004

	Number (Millions)		Percentage Change 1994 to 2004	Average Years of Education Completed, 2004
	1994	2004		
Total	131.1	147.4	12	13.5
Native Born	118.1	126.0	7	13.7
Foreign Born	12.9	21.4	66	12.2
Mexico and Central America	4.6	8.3	80	9.4
Rest of world	8.3	13.1	58	14.0



## Geographic Distribution of Native- and Foreign-Born Workers, 2004

	Percentage of the Labor Force			
	California	New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois	Rest of Country	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native Born	67.7	79.2	91.7	85.5
Foreign Born	32.3	20.8	8.3	14.5
Mexico and Central America	17.0	6.8	3.0	5.7
Rest of world	15.3	14.0	5.4	8.9





## Average Weekly Earnings of Various Full-Time Workers Ages 25 to 64 as a Percentage of Earnings of Native-Born Workers with Native-Born Parents, 2004

Nativity Status	Highest Level of Education Attained			
	All Levels	8th Grade or Less	High School Diploma or GED	Bachelor's Degree
<b>Males</b>				
Worker Born in Mexico or Central America	54	78	72	71
Parent from Mexico or Central America	79	95	85	85
Worker Born in Rest of World	97	91	87	87
Parent from Rest of World	114	*	107	100
<b>Females</b>				
Worker Born in Mexico or Central America	59	89	81	81
Parent from Mexico or Central America	89	95	94	112
Worker Born in Rest of World	100	102	91	96
Parent from Rest of World	116	114	106	107

\* = sample size too small