

November 30, 2021

Do You Trust The Census?

The Federal Census, which is conducted every 10 years, is mandated by the US Constitution and is important so that the Federal government knows how many people we have, where they are and a way to apportion representation in the House of Representatives. Incident to the demands of the US Constitution are the needs of the Federal government to know how to apportion Federal funds returned to the states and localities.

We expect accuracy in the taking of the census, while admitting there are difficulties. We can expect that the large metropolises can be difficult to exactly quantify. However, consider the case of Monowi, Nebraska where they have had one resident for nearly 20 years. It is run by one person who owns the bar and grill in town and is the mayor, clerk, hostess, and bartender and yet the 2020 Census Report revealed there were two people there even though there is only one house in the town. It turns out the Census Bureau CREATED a second person. According to the Census Bureau this “is the noise we add to the data so you can’t figure out who is living there”. The Census spokeswoman clarified that the Bureau did not create a second resident out of thin air; it merely shifted the resident from a different town in the county to Monowi!

Sometimes, you just cannot make these things up. *Washington Examiner 8/31-9/7/21 p. 8.*

Social Security 2022 COLA Estimate Raised to 6.2%

The annual cost of living adjustment, or COLA, for Social Security benefits in 2022 usually announced in October could be 6.2%, the highest since 1983, when it was 7.4% based on the July Consumer Price Index, announced in mid-August.

The consumer price index for all urban consumers in July rose 5.4% over the past 12 months, and .5% from the previous month, the Labor Department reported.

This shows that inflation will not be transitory as the Federal Reserve claims but will be embedded in the system.

Inflation is back and in its insidious way it diminishes the value of what you have and what you earn.

We suggest the only way to beat inflation is to have your assets work as hard as you do. *Investments Advisor September 2021 p. 46.*

Economic Impact of Resettled Refugees and Immigrants in Upstate New York

There has been much conversation about resettling Afghan refugees and illegal immigrants in the U.S. As the national debate over immigration continues and intensifies, the question of whether refugees contribute to a community’s resources continues to be debated. The more than 1,000 Afghani refugees likely to be resettled in upstate New York has again brought the issue to the fore.

The New York State Bar Association joined with the Government Law Center at Albany Law School and Rockefeller Institute of Government to tackle the question and their results have been collected in a new book, “Immigration: Key to the Future – The Benefits of Resettlement to Upstate New York”. Here are some conclusions:

The national debate concerns refugees and migrants. A refugee is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a “well-founded fear of being persecuted” A migrant is someone who theoretically chooses to move to a new country for economic reasons or family ties. Refugees are protected by international law, migrants are not. Unlike migrants, the federal government chooses where refugees will be resettled. In New York, about 90% of refugees are settled upstate; in comparison, 87% of migrants choose to settle in New York City and its environs.

The 2020 census reflected that New York was only one of seven states to lose a congressional seat, based upon the slower growth in population. For upstate New York, the demographic impact has been particularly pronounced. 42 of 50 upstate counties recorded a loss of population of 107,707 between 2010 and 2018. In upstate New York the ratio of older population to youths is making it increasingly challenging to sustain services and attract businesses. Since 2002, more than 50,000 refugees have been resettled in towns and cities upstate. For example, from 1910 to 2000, Utica, lost almost 50% of its population. Since 1981, the city has resettled over 16,500 refugees from Bosnia and 30 other nations, which has demographically and economically helped stabilize the city and reverse its population decline. Today 40 languages are spoken in the Utica City School District and 19.4% of the population are foreign-born. Today, 3 of New York’s upstate city areas are in the top 50 metro areas in the nation for refugee resettlement: Buffalo (#13), Syracuse (#20) and Rochester (#32). In more rural areas, immigrants continue to play a central role in the agricultural economy.

While offsetting demographic decline is important, here are the findings about the tangible contributions made by the resettled refugee population:

- In upstate New York, immigrants in 2018 made up 6.5% of the population but contributed 8% of the GDP, provided 7.7% of the spending power and 8.6% of all entrepreneurs.
- In 2018, immigrants upstate had an aggregate annual income of \$15.2 billion, paid \$3 billion in federal income taxes, \$1.9 billion in state and local taxes, \$1.4 billion in Social Security and \$379 million in Medicare.
- Immigrants have had a favorable impact on housing. It is estimated in Syracuse, immigrants raised housing values by \$406.5 million between 2000 and 2014.
- Generally, immigrants fill both low-skilled and higher-skilled jobs. In 2014, immigrants created or saved 5,000 manufacturing jobs between Buffalo and Syracuse. In 2018, immigrants accounted for 34% of all self-employed New York residents, generating \$7.8 billion in business income. In New York State, immigrants make up 9.1% of agricultural jobs, 8.2% of social service and health care jobs and 8.2% of professional service jobs.
- In upstate New York, foreign born students make up 50% of all recent recipients of engineering, mathematics, computer science and economic doctorates.

I hope the foregoing was illuminating. It was to me. *New York State Bar Association November/December 2021 p. 39.*

As always, if you have any questions about these or any other matters, do not hesitate to call us.