



## The Impact of High Immigration in Lithuania: Addressing Challenges and Understanding Consequences

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### Abstract

The maxim "too much of a good thing can turn sour" holds significant relevance across diverse aspects of life, indicating that exceeding optimal thresholds may result in negative outcomes if not carefully regulated; this principle can be observed in the context of immigration rates in Lithuania, an Eastern European country experiencing significant influxes of foreign nationals. Immigration, defined as the movement of individuals into a country for specific purposes, can lead to adverse consequences when unregulated, such as overcrowding, strained social amenities, increased costs due to heightened demand, and potential rises in crime rates. Lithuania has welcomed foreigners for work, business, research, studies, and other purposes. Additionally, the unstable situation in Ukraine has prompted the Lithuanian government to extend support to Ukrainian citizens, offering incentives such as subsidized education and various forms of assistance. However, the generous immigration policies have faced challenges. The Migration Department, under the Ministry of Interior,

recently announced impending stricter immigration laws due to identified irregularities, including instances of fraudulent marriages with Lithuanian citizens. Moreover, the increased cost of amenities, food prices, and housing have raised concerns about the sustainability of current immigration levels. This research focuses on examining the immigration and emigration rates in Lithuania and their economic impact over a decade (2013-2022). The study will involve sourcing data from official websites, conducting statistical analyses, and drawing insights from the analyzed data. The goal is to postulate findings, offer recommendations, and draw conclusions on the relationship between immigration rates and economic outcomes in Lithuania.

### Introduction

Tataru (2020) defined migration as crossing an administrative unit's border for a minimum period. This category includes refugee migration, economic migration, and the migration of

people who move for other purposes or under the influence of different factors, such as family reunification. This movement can be perceived from two angles: crossing into and out of a particular nation. The process of entering a nation from another can be described as immigration while leaving a nation for another is described as emigration. Today's world is heightened by an intense migration rate, with people quitting their respective countries and running to others for various purposes. These reasons include studies and research, safety from war and political persecution, search for greener pastures and better life, business purposes, etc. These reasons could be grouped under various categories such as economic, social, environmental, political, etc. According to Population Education (2024), there were 244 million migrants internationally in 2018, accounting for 3.3% of the global population. Since the year 2000, the total number of international migrants has increased by 85 million (49%). Among the reasons for migration, the three most purported are social, economic, and political. Numerous cases have been identified of people fleeing war-torn zones in the Middle East to seek refuge in safer countries in Europe and Africa; African youths have also been spotted undertaking journeys across dangerous tropical forests, crossing deep water bodies on their way to either Europe or America all in the quest for greener pastures to better the lives of themselves and families.

With the European Union being one of the destinations for migrants, Lithuania, an Eastern European nation, automatically falls under one of the destination zones of the migrating population. According to the Lithuanian Bishops Conference (2024), Lithuania's statehood has undergone a series of challenges and battles to get to where it is today (bbtravel, 2024). These adversities really placed the country's economy in bad shape, slowing down the pace of development and growth. However, the Lithuanians' brave and strong-willed nature allowed them to revolt and resist these invasions, although they suffered massive casualties. Their resistance paid off, leading to their imminent declaration of independence in February 1918, recognized by some of the world's largest empires at the time. Despite their independent achievement, they still had many reparations to execute due to the massive destruction encountered in battle. As a result, the level of development and growth was retarded; this was also because the majority of attention was geared towards reviving the once booming country, thus requiring more extended periods of recovery, which could not be succumbed by many of its people; this eventually led to a massive exodus of Lithuanians into other countries in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Most of those who left were children accompanied by their parents and young and old adults, leaving mostly the greying population back in the country. It is thus safe to say the youthful and active population massively exited the nation, mainly leaving the elderly, who are in general economically and biologically inactive. With a high percentage of such an age group, there could be a workforce shortage in industries and other economic sectors; this prompted the government to look into the situation to find quick solutions to unravel the negative consequences of the shortage in the labor force. One measure undertaken to unravel the problem was accepting foreigners into Lithuania for work, studies, or other legitimate and lucrative purposes. The migration department facilitates the entry process of foreigners, who process and issue documents, granting legal entry into the territory. This has been ongoing for some time until it is becoming a problem. Some issues about immigration have been identified by the relevant authorities, such as abuse of the process and the use of false strategies to gain entry. As a result, the authorities have taken stringent measures to regulate the flow of people into the country and curb the demerits that may be associated with it.

**This research paper is therefore focused** on examining the rate of immigration into Lithuania for the past ten years (2013-2022) and the impact it has had on the country's economic, social, and environmental landscape. It will delve deeper by reviewing documents issued by competent

authorities like the Migration Department and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and articles related to migration in Lithuania. This information will be thoroughly analyzed to determine if the decision to accept foreigners has had a dampened or expansive effect, examine why the government is suddenly becoming strict on the admission of foreigners into the country, and draw relevant conclusions from there.

**This study aims** to analyze the socioeconomic impact of high immigration rates in Lithuania and identify the primary challenges and consequences associated with increased immigration. It seeks to comprehensively understand how high immigration influences economic stability, social infrastructure, and public services.

From the aim, the following objectives could be derived:

**1. Analyze the Socioeconomic Effects of High Immigration Rates in Lithuania**

This objective assesses how increased immigration influences various socioeconomic factors in Lithuania, such as employment rates, housing markets, public services, and overall economic growth. The analysis will utilize quantitative data to identify trends and correlations.

**2. Identify and Evaluate the Challenges Posed by High Immigration Levels**

This objective identifies the challenges that high immigration rates present to Lithuanian society. These challenges may include strain on social amenities, infrastructure, public health systems, and potential increases in crime rates. The evaluation will involve both qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of these issues.

**3. Develop Policy Recommendations for Managing Immigration and Mitigating Negative Consequences**

Based on the findings from the first two objectives, this objective aims to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations. These recommendations will help Lithuanian authorities manage immigration more effectively, mitigate adverse effects, and maximize the benefits of immigration for the country's socioeconomic development.

### **Literature Review**

Various factors can influence the decision to leave a particular area and move to another. Some of these factors can be attractive, thus warranting immigration into the area where the immigrants will benefit from the attractiveness. Others can be repulsive, such as war and political unrest, necessitating people to leave such areas and emigrate. The case of Lithuania is widely known, based on the series of invasions back then, which pushed many citizens to relocate to other places. According to Audra and Vlada Stankūnienė (2013), the Lithuanian population has always been characterised by high emigration rates, especially during the Soviet and pre-Soviet eras. According to data from Statistics Lithuania (based on the 2011 census), over the past 22 years (1990-2011), 728,700 people emigrated from Lithuania, the equivalent of approximately 20% of the Lithuanian population of the 1990s. In addition, population losses due to migration are accelerating from 7.5% of the resident population (at the beginning of the period) in 1990-2000 to 12.9% in 2001-2011. Immigration remains low and has only a symbolic compensatory effect.

Lithuania has had the highest negative net migration in the European Union for the past decade. By net migration, it means the difference between immigration and emigration. When such a value is positive, it means that more people entered the country than those who left, but if it is negative, it means more people left the country than those who entered. This situation, sometimes referred to by politicians as “evacuation,” has unfortunately not been effectively contrasted. The last decade of the 20th century (1989/90-1993) witnessed an essential turn in

migration trends: due to the opening of borders and other political developments, emigration replaced immigration. The emigration of that period can be divided into two main categories: return migration/repatriation (Russians, Belarussians, and Ukrainians) and the realization of emigration potential accumulated during the Soviet period, involving, for example, Jews leaving Lithuania and the first tentative signs of Lithuanian emigration to the long-term/permanent, legal, and declared.

It is also worth recalling that this massive exodus of people from the Lithuanian territory was mostly the active population, comprised of young and old adults who constituted the majority of the labor force in the country. Such moves could be attributed to economic challenges encountered during that time. Lithuanian Economic Review (2012) conceded the idea by stating that most emigrants were persons of working age and leaving the country to work. Thus, the main reasons behind emigration from Lithuania are economic – to depart to more attractive states regarding employment and wages. The start of the recent economic downturn, unfavorable economic development prospects, poor wage rise possibilities, and an increasing rate of unemployment in Lithuania might have influenced the decision to emigrate. Besides financial reasons to emigrate, institutional factors, cultural compatibility, and a favorable geographical situation are also important.

Among the most critical institutional factors allowing the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania to emigrate from the country is the right to free movement of the labor force in the EU states. After Lithuania joined the EU in 2004, three EU member states – the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Sweden – did not apply temporary labor market protection measures restricting this right. Other EU member states were concerned that the flow of a relatively cheap labor force from Central and Eastern Europe would worsen the possibility of employing local inhabitants. Thus, to protect their labor markets, these countries set temporary restrictions for new EU countries that joined the EU in 2004. Finland, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, and Luxembourg abandoned these restrictions in 2006–2007, France, Belgium, and Denmark – 2008–2009, while Austria and Germany applied the most extended transitional period until May 2011.

These economic and institutional factors determined that most of Lithuania's citizens live and work in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Declared emigration data announced by Statistics Lithuania at the end of 2011 suggest that from 2004, 92.1 thousand Lithuania's citizens departed to the United Kingdom and 29.4 thousand – to Ireland. Among the other EU member states where the number of immigrants from Lithuania is the largest are Germany and Spain – the countries that opened their labor markets later. In 2004–2011, 15.8 thousand and 10.9 thousand, respectively, of Lithuania's citizens emigrated to these states. As with other Western European countries, the most significant flow of emigrating Lithuania's citizens was to Norway. From 2004 to 2011, 10.5 thousand persons from Lithuania departed from this country. People who departed to these five countries in 2004–2011 made up more than two-thirds of the total number of persons who declared emigration. From 2004–2011, 233.2 thousand Lithuanian citizens emigrated to foreign states, most of whom emigrated in 2009–2011.

A part of the persons who declared emigration in 2010–2011 had emigrated from Lithuania in earlier years. Still, it declared their departure after announcing that persons who did not declare their departure would be required to pay mandatory health insurance contributions independently. Kasnauskiene and Vebraite (2014) were more concerned about the demographic consequences of high emigration. In volume 2 of their publication, they emphasized the rapidly ageing population and how it constitutes a labour force shortage in the future, which will negatively impact the country's economy. They further narrated their arguments based on

biological reproduction, stating that low fertility levels, vast flows of emigration, and population ageing are the demographic forces harming a country's economic development in the long run; this is especially relevant for Lithuania, the country with one of the most rapidly ageing populations in the European Union.

Analysis of Lithuania's demographic data shows a progressive process of population ageing and the necessity of overcoming its consequences. Since the restoration of independence, the total fertility rate has dropped from 2.03 in 1990 to a below-replacement fertility level of 1.23 in 2002. There has been a recovery of fertility over the past decade, and the total fertility rate reached 1.6 in 2012 (Statistics Lithuania, 2014). Also, with increasing quality of life, the average life expectancy has increased from 71.46 to 73.98 years, respectively.

During the past 23 years, the population's median age—with half the population older and half younger—has increased by 10 years, from 32 to 42 (OECD Survey, 2016). The share of people over 65 years old in Lithuania is currently 18%; it is expected to be 31.2% by 2060 (EC, 2012).

It is also widely recognized that because of the continuing aging process and the current extent of emigration, a shortage of skilled workers can be expected in the future, slowing down the development of the country's economy and further social development of the society.

Thus, existing literature has proven series of a massive exodus of Lithuanians to other countries caused by various economic, political, and social factors, leaving the country's economy drained, with mostly the elderly population. This situation led to the government opening its borders for foreigners to infiltrate the economy and revive the dormancy created by those who left. Immigrants have since been coming for various purposes, such as to further their education, work, research, etc. However, through the migration department, the government has recently imposed strict measures on aliens planning to and already in Lithuania, constricting certain measures associated with granting permits to live there. This will thus require an examination of data from various Lithuanian government portals to ascertain the impact of immigrants between 2014 and 2024 and to examine the reason behind the strictness towards them. This will be examined in the methodological section of this research work, as will be seen.

### **Research Methodology**

The coming of people into a country could be accompanied by either positive or negative consequences or a combination of both. The ability to regulate such consequences for the greater good lies in the capacity of regulatory authorities to determine who is fit and qualified to stay in their country or not. This part of the research will highlight data and their sources, relating to the frequency of immigrants within the dedicated time range.

### **Data Collection**

The main data source on the immigration situation will be from official government portals responsible for such data. Data was extracted from Migracija, Oficialiosios Statistikos Portalas, and relevant authors in Lithuania. According to European Migration Network (2016), the number of residents in Lithuania around 1990 dropped by 808 thousand people, constituting about a 22% drop in the entire population. About 275 thousand of these figures were attributed to natural causes like death, while the rest were due to emigration. It should also be noted that as time passed, this number rose consistently, thus creating a need for urgent action to address the population imbalance.

When Lithuania eventually became part of the European Union, one of the first working steps was opening its borders to foreign nationals. According to data from the official statistics portal (2023), the following table displays more:

**Table (1):** Display of immigrants and returned migrants to Lithuania between 2013 and 2022 (Compiled by the author according to data from Official Statistics Portal)

<b>Years</b>	<b>Number of immigrants</b>	<b>Number of returned migrants</b>
2013	22011	19000
2014	24294	19500
2015	22130	18400
2016	20162	14200
2017	20368	10200
2018	28914	16600
2019	40067	20400
2020	43096	20800
2021	44858	23700
2022	87367	20700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353267</b>	<b>183500</b>

As displayed on the table, the inflow rate of people into Lithuania gained momentum as the nation's invitation went out. The data reveals a positive trend between the growing years and the number of immigrants, implying that more people entered the country as the years went by. Another important aspect is that part of this immigration number was Lithuanians returning home. According to Renkuosi (2024), this is termed returned migration and constitutes the largest share of immigrants returning to Lithuania. One look at the data, one can spot how it reflects a U-shaped form, indicating that the number of returning Lithuanians was high at the beginning, dropped at some point, and rose again.

### **Ethical Considerations**

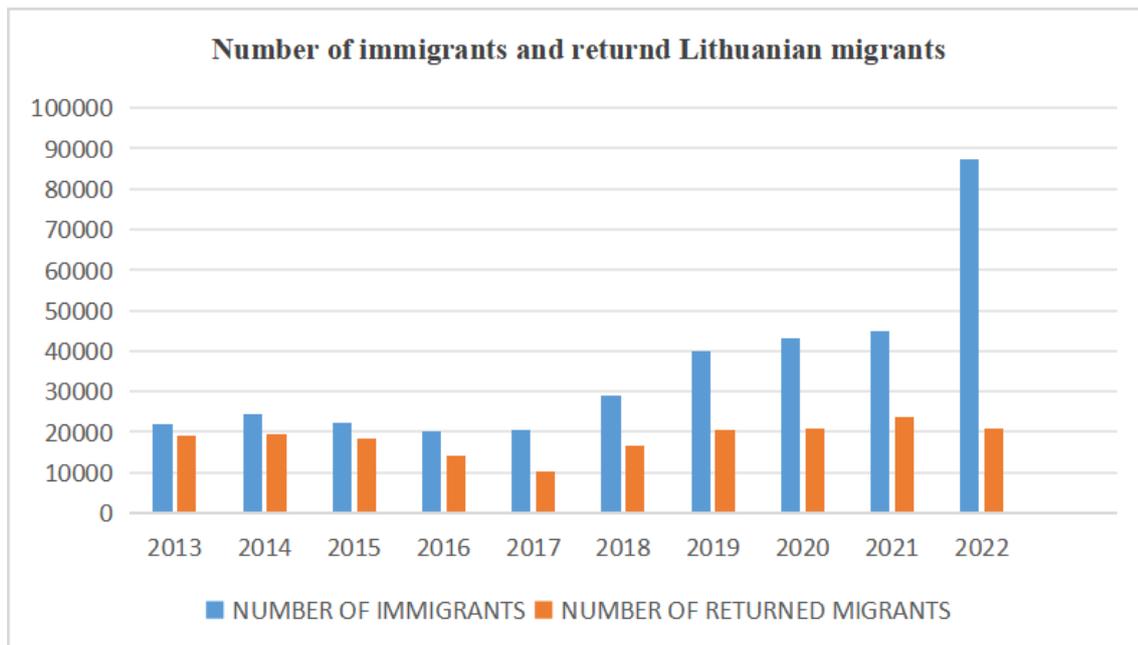
The data extracted from the above government portals is publicly available for anyone to use for legitimate purposes, like research or understanding the migration situation of Lithuania's economy. The data collected will solely be used for analytical purposes to best understand immigration's impact on Lithuania.

### **Limitations**

The data collected are slightly old and may not actually reflect the exact and current migration status of Lithuania. This is also due to the fact that updated data on the migration for up to the current year of 2024 were not available at the time of writing this article. However, the general view demonstrates the increase in the immigration rate.

### **Results**

The integration of the Republic of Lithuania into the European Union in 2004 paved the way for the nation to be exposed to various cultures through the opening of its portals for immigrants. As displayed in Table 1, the nation received 353 thousand immigrants and 183 thousand returned migrants between 2013 and 2022. The table equally displays a direct relationship between the growing years and the number of immigrants per year, indicating that more people entered the country as the years went by. This relationship can also be well represented in the chart below:



**Fig (1):** Graphical representation of immigration and returned migration to Lithuania between 2013 and 2022

From the chart above, the horizontal axis depicts the years, while the vertical axis shows the immigrant values. As time passed, more persons have been entering the nation of Lithuania for one reason or another. This positive trend may equally suggest the level of attractiveness of the nation that pulled many people within this limited period of time. The chart equally reveals that 2022 was the year with the greatest number of immigrants within this range, and information from the grapevine reveals that it has risen far above this figure since then. Also mentioned was the fact that many immigrants were Lithuanians who had fled the country some time ago to settle in other countries. The number was highest in 2021 and lowest in 2017. Thus, within this span of four years, the number of returning migrants more than doubled, indicating positive turnouts, which must have pulled them from different parts of the world to go back home. Here are three prime reasons for their return back to Lithuania:

### 1. Cultural And Social Factors

**Family and Community Ties:** Strong family connections and a sense of community often draw Lithuanians back home. They miss this while living abroad. Also, a desire to reconnect with their cultural heritage and national identity can be a strong motivator.

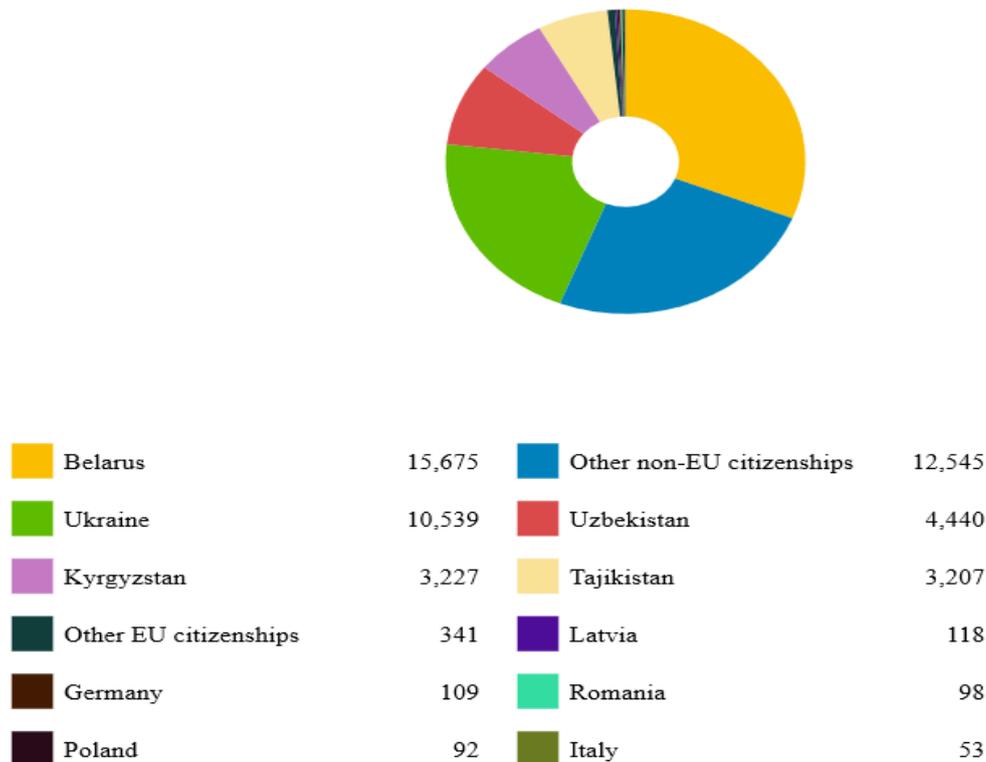
### 2. Negative Experiences Abroad

This could be associated with economic challenges such as economic difficulties, job insecurity, and high living costs in host countries, which prompted most to think of home as an optimal option. Discrimination and Integration Issues were also a part of the setbacks, including discrimination and social isolation, thus prompting the return.

### 3. Political Stability and EU Membership

**Political Environment:** The era of political instability and rivalry had long ended, offering a peaceful and serene atmosphere. This was coupled with Lithuania's membership in the European Union, which offered a sense of security and numerous benefits. Also, the Freedom of Movement in the EU membership facilitated easier mobility for Lithuanians, allowing them to return home without facing significant bureaucratic hurdles.

In addition to the Lithuanians returning, there was also an inflow of people from other EU and non-EU countries. The chart below presents more.



**Fig (3):** Display of immigrants by nationality (Extracted from European Migration Network, 2024.)

The pie chart and accompanying data table provide a comprehensive overview of the distribution of immigrants to a particular region from various countries. Below is a summarized analysis and presentation of this information:

**Belarus:** represents the largest segment of the immigrant population, according to the figures.

**Other EU Citizenships:** Smaller segment, indicating less movement from within the EU.

**Other Non-EU Citizenships:** Collectively, they constitute a significant portion of the immigrant population, indicating a diverse influx from non-EU countries.

**Ukraine:** Due to the unrest occurring in their country, most citizens relocated to different parts of Europe and America. In Lithuania, they constitute a substantial contributor to the immigrant population, reflecting regional geopolitical influences.

**Uzbekistan:** moderate contribution to the immigrant population.

**Kyrgyzstan:** notable presence in the immigrant demographic.

**Tajikistan:** is similar to Kyrgyzstan in terms of immigrant numbers.

**Latvia:** A minor portion of the immigrant population.

**Germany:** slightly less than Latvia, showing limited immigration from this major EU country.

**Romania:** marginally smaller than Germany's contribution.

**Poland:** comparable to Romania, indicating minimal migration.

**Italy:** the smallest segment of the immigrant population.

From this analysis, the largest segment is from Belarus, followed by other non-EU countries and Ukraine. Smaller segments include immigrants from various EU countries and other specific non-EU countries like Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The entry of people from different economies will be met with mixed outcomes, leading to deciphering the consequences of immigration:

### **Positive Effects of Immigration on Lithuania's Economy**

#### **Labor Market Contribution:**

1. **Filling Labor Shortages:** Immigrants often fill critical labor gaps, especially in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. This can be applicable in scenarios where there is a shortage of active population to engage in these professions, thus necessitating the inflow of foreign nationals to occupy the positions. For example, companies like Majorel UAB and Dexcom UAB are huge employers of foreign nationals in Lithuania
2. **Diverse Skill Sets:** Immigrants bring diverse skills and expertise, enhancing productivity and innovation in various industries.

#### **Economic Growth:**

1. **Increased Consumption:** Immigrants increase demand for goods and services, stimulating economic growth. Consumers generally constitute the market for goods and services. The market situation becomes even more intense when the purchasing power of the consumers, determined by their income levels and propensity to spend, becomes even more intense.
2. **Entrepreneurship:** Many immigrants start their own businesses, creating jobs and contributing to the economy. Shops owned by African nationals have been established, such as the Afroman Shop in Kaunas, an African food market in Vilnius, and MB Garam Masala, an Indian shop in Kaunas.

#### **Demographic Balance:**

1. **Counteracting Population Decline:** Immigration helps mitigate the effects of Lithuania's declining birth rate and aging population.
2. **Workforce Sustainability:** A steady influx of working-age immigrants supports the sustainability of the workforce and social security systems.

#### **Cultural Enrichment:**

1. **Innovation and Creativity:** Cultural diversity can lead to greater innovation and creativity in business practices and product development.
2. **Tourism Boost:** A diverse population can make Lithuania attractive to tourists, further boosting the economy.

### **Negative Effects of Immigration on Lithuania's Economy**

#### **Strain on Public Services:**

1. **Healthcare and Education:** Increased demand for healthcare and educational services can strain public resources.

2. **Social Services:** More immigrants may require additional social services, increasing public expenditure. The case might be worse if most immigrants do not fall within the working age group, implying that they may not be liable to contribute to the economy through taxes from jobs or other economic activities. This may render the government budget in deficit.

### **Infrastructure Challenges:**

1. **Housing Shortages:** High immigration rates can lead to housing shortages and increased rental prices. This could be possible if adequate regulation is not enforced on the rate of foreign nationals entering Lithuanian territory .
2. **Transportation:** Increased population density can strain transportation systems and other infrastructure. Effects could be congestion, pollution, and their accompanying diminishing effects on the welfare of society.

### **Labor Market Pressures:**

1. **Wage Suppression:** In some sectors, an oversupply of labor can lead to wage suppression, potentially affecting local workers. Generally, when the supply of labor for a specific profession is higher than its demand, the pressure on wage rates drops. Companies' Human Resource departments often use such situations to bargain the lowest pay due to an overflow of labor, leading to a low quality of life.
2. **Job Competition:** Native workers may face increased competition, particularly in low-skilled sectors.

### **Social Integration:**

1. **Cultural Tensions:** Rapid demographic changes can lead to cultural tensions and challenges in social integration. A good example could be foreigners' outright unwillingness to integrate into society by participating in cultural events like language learning, which will hasten the integration process.
2. **Xenophobia:** Negative perceptions and xenophobia can rise, potentially leading to social unrest and decreased social cohesion.

### **Economic Dependency:**

1. **Remittances:** Many immigrant earnings may be sent back to their home countries as remittances, reducing the economic benefits retained within Lithuania.
2. **Dependency on Low-Skilled Labor:** Over-reliance on low-skilled immigrant labor can hinder investment in automation and the upskilling of the native workforce.

### **Conclusion**

1 .The influx of foreign nationals into Lithuania has resulted in various social and economic outcomes. One significant economic challenge previously faced by the nation was a labor shortage caused by the mass emigration of Lithuanians. The arrival of foreign workers has partially mitigated this issue by filling gaps in the labor force, as these individuals have been hired and trained to assume various roles, thereby maintaining economic activity levels. However, this inflow has also generated mixed feelings among the native population, who may perceive those foreigners are favored over them. This perception could potentially lead to social tensions and xenophobia if not properly managed. Addressing these concerns through inclusive policies and community engagement is crucial to fostering a harmonious and productive economy.

2. While immigration has introduced numerous benefits, it has also presented certain challenges. One significant issue is the support provided to economically inactive migrants, whom the Lithuanian government assists with monthly stipends for food, clothing, and other

needs. If these support measures are not carefully reviewed and addressed, they could lead to an increase in government expenditure without a corresponding rise in revenue, given the economic inactivity of this demographic. Additionally, there is a potential for increased anti-immigration sentiments among local citizens who may feel neglected, perceiving those substantial resources and attention are being directed toward immigrants at the expense of their development needs.

3. The Migration Department in Lithuania has demonstrated a proactive approach to ensuring strict adherence to legal entry and residency regulations in the Republic of Lithuania. This involves clearly outlining the necessary procedures for foreigners, specifying required documents, and providing information on application processing times. Furthermore, the department regularly updates its website with changes to immigration laws, including their effective dates and the affected parties; these updates help keep current and prospective immigrants well-informed about their obligations and the legal framework. The analysis conducted in this research has led to the development of several recommendations aimed at mitigating the negative externalities associated with immigration. These recommendations are detailed in the concluding section of this study.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Implement Balanced Immigration Policies:**

One way to ensure equilibrium is attained in the economy is to develop and enforce balanced immigration policies that regulate the flow of immigrants while addressing labor market needs and demographic challenges. This includes setting quotas based on economic requirements and ensuring legal pathways for immigrants. Balanced immigration policies can help manage the number of immigrants entering the country, aligning it with Lithuania's economic and social capacities. Such policies can prevent labor market oversaturation and ensure that immigration contributes positively to economic growth and demographic sustainability. By tailoring immigration levels to the country's needs, Lithuania can maximize the benefits of immigration while minimizing potential negative impacts.

### **2. Enhance Integration Programs:**

Another measure may involve developing comprehensive integration programs that provide language courses, cultural orientation, and job placement services to help immigrants assimilate more smoothly into Lithuanian society. Such programs can mitigate social tensions and improve the economic contributions of immigrants by ensuring they are well-prepared to participate fully in the workforce and community life. Considering that a huge chunk of the immigrants enters the country as students, it will be imperative to implement a Lithuanian language course as a university requirement, thus enabling all students to actively participate and learn how to speak, read, and understand the Lithuanian language. It will also facilitate the process of getting jobs or internships, most of which will emphasize the Lithuanian language as a prerequisite for employment. This can increase productivity and social cohesion, benefiting immigrants and native Lithuanians.

### **3. Invest in Infrastructure and Public Services:**

The authorities could also allocate funds to expand and upgrade infrastructure and public services, including healthcare, education, housing, and transportation, to accommodate the growing population due to high immigration rates. Enhanced infrastructure and services can prevent the strain caused by an increasing population, ensuring that all residents, including immigrants, can access necessary resources. This proactive approach can improve living standards and prevent potential issues such as overcrowding and resource shortages. Likewise, incomes will also be raised through rental fees paid by the occupants, thus helping to restore the huge deficit incurred in establishing the houses and other facilities.

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