

Immigrants and the Current Economic Crisis

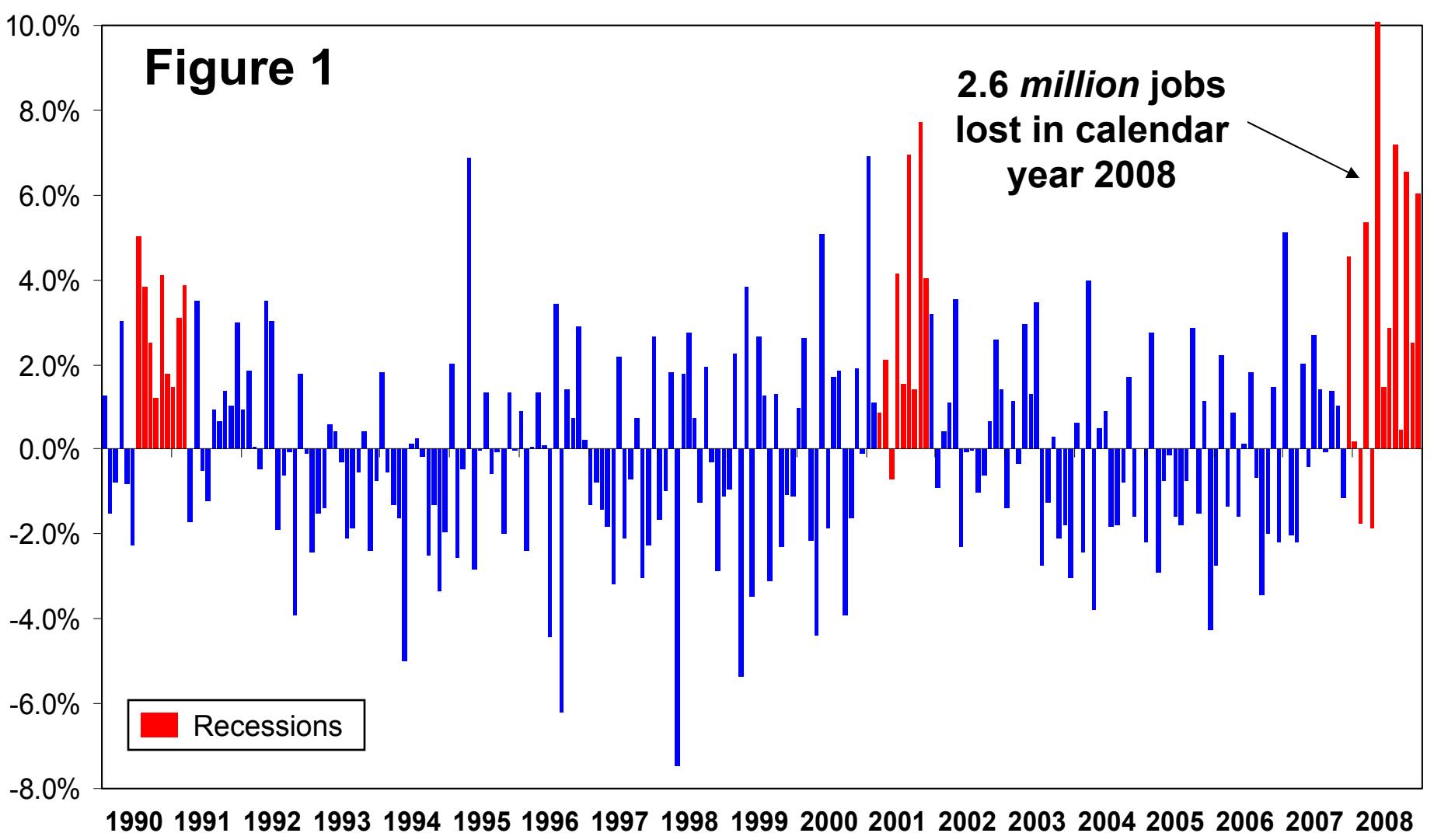
Research Evidence, Policy Challenges, and Implications

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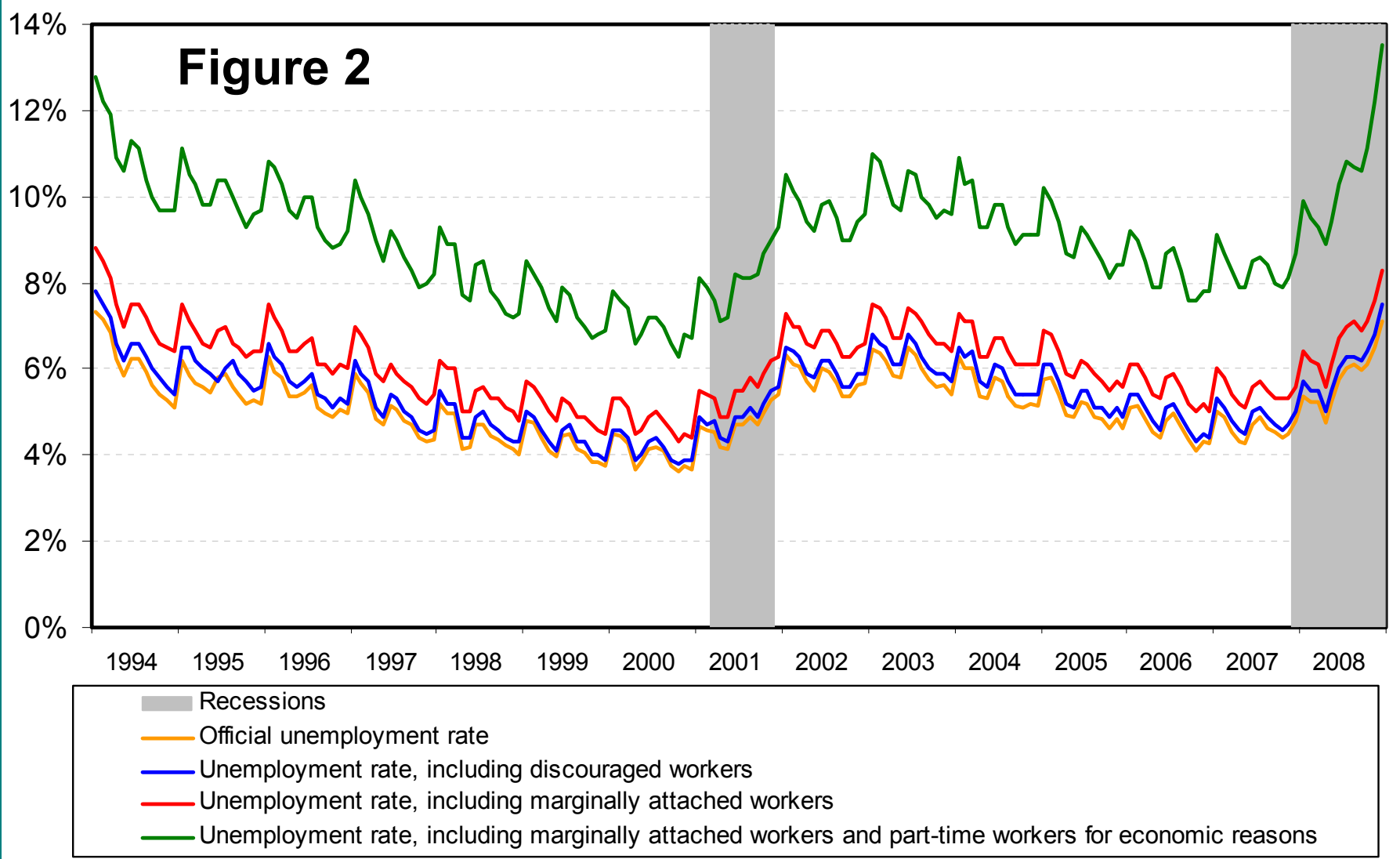
Migration Policy Institute

January 14, 2009



Source: BLS, Current Population Survey, January 1990 to December 2008.

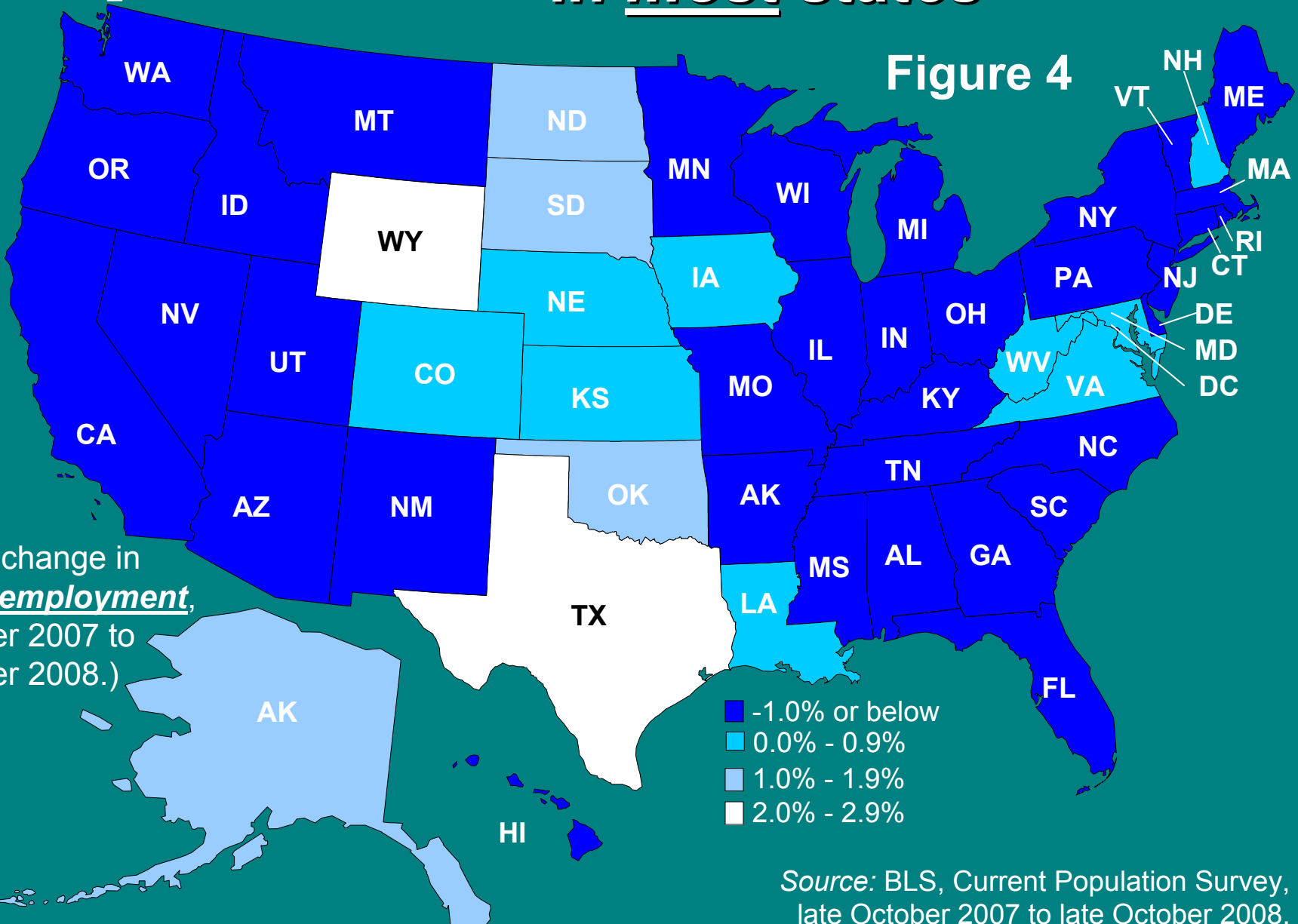
Alternative Indicators of Unemployment. 1994 to 2008



Source: BLS, Current Population Survey, 1994 to 2008.

Unemployment is increasing *in most states*

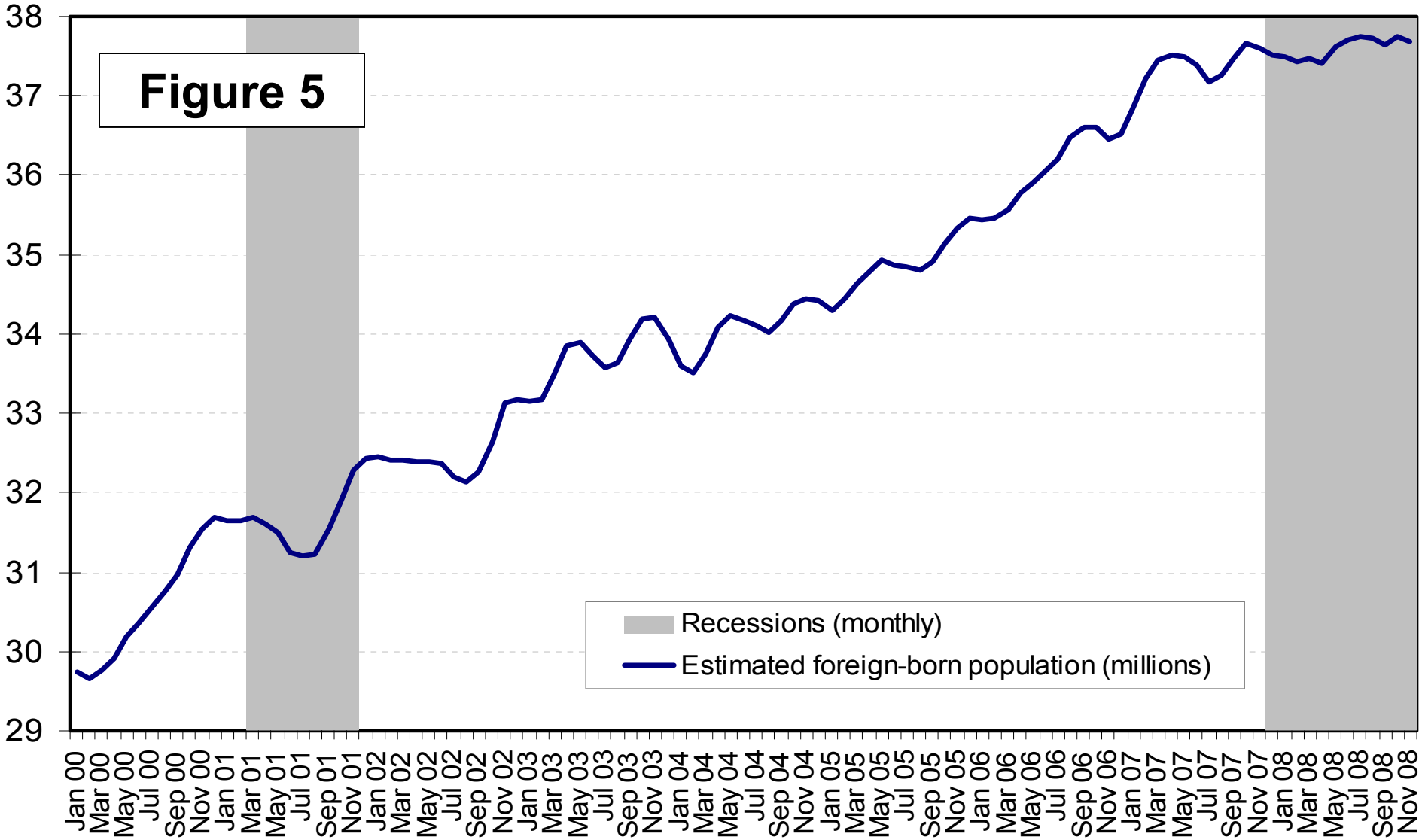
Figure 4



(Percent change in nonfarm employment, November 2007 to November 2008.)

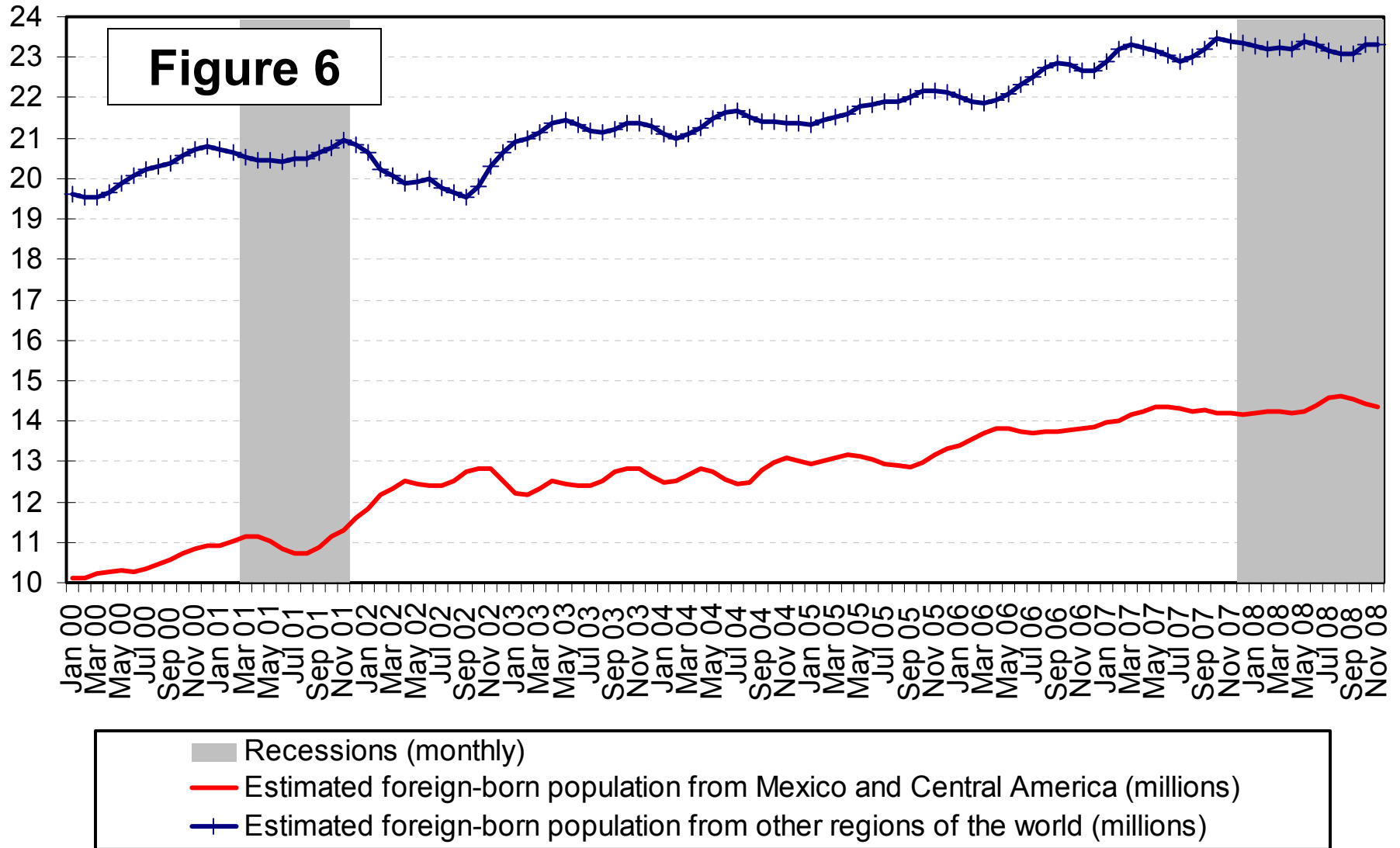
Source: BLS, Current Population Survey, late October 2007 to late October 2008.

Growth in the foreign born population has slowed

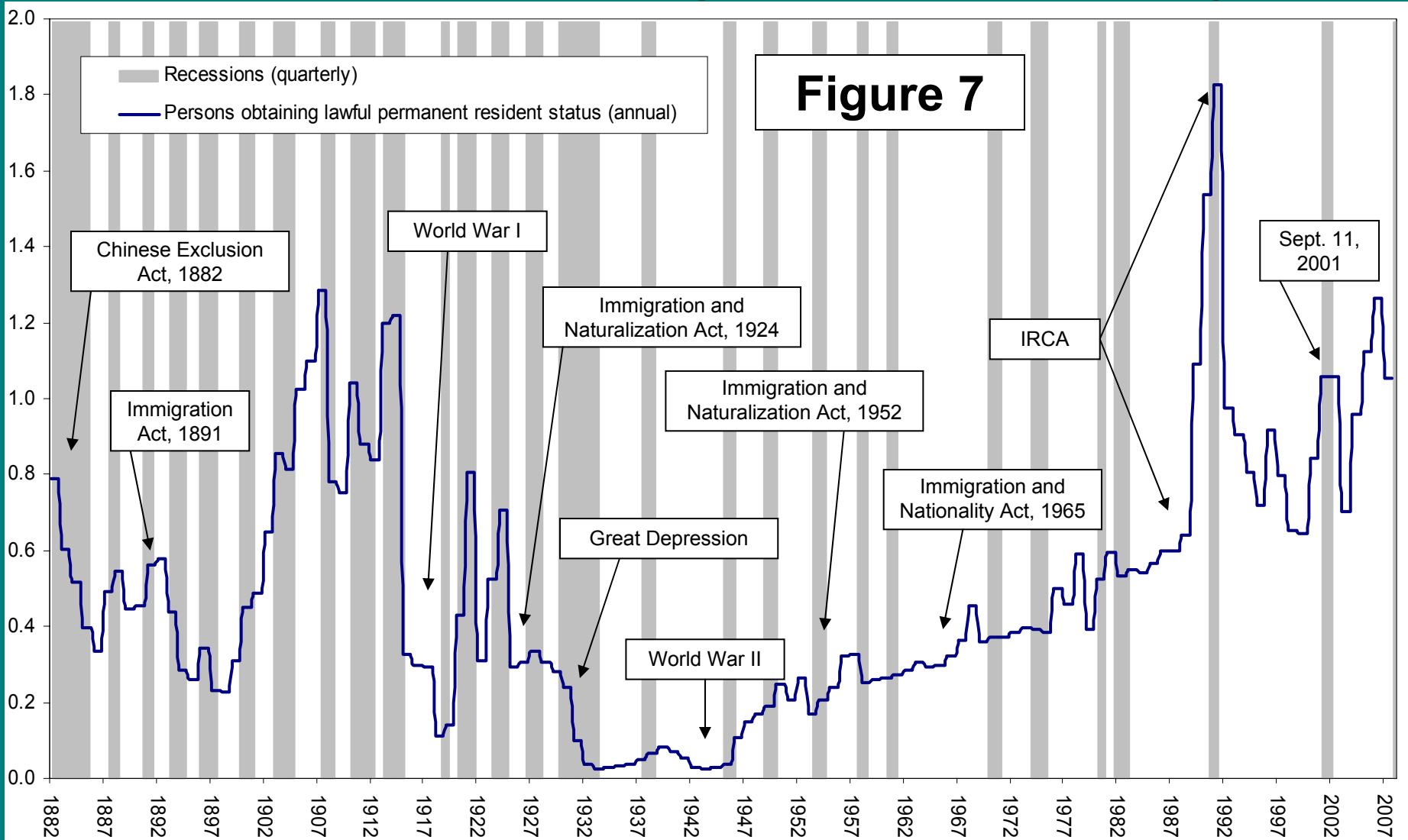


Source: MPI analysis of Current Population Survey, 2000 to 2008; NBER.

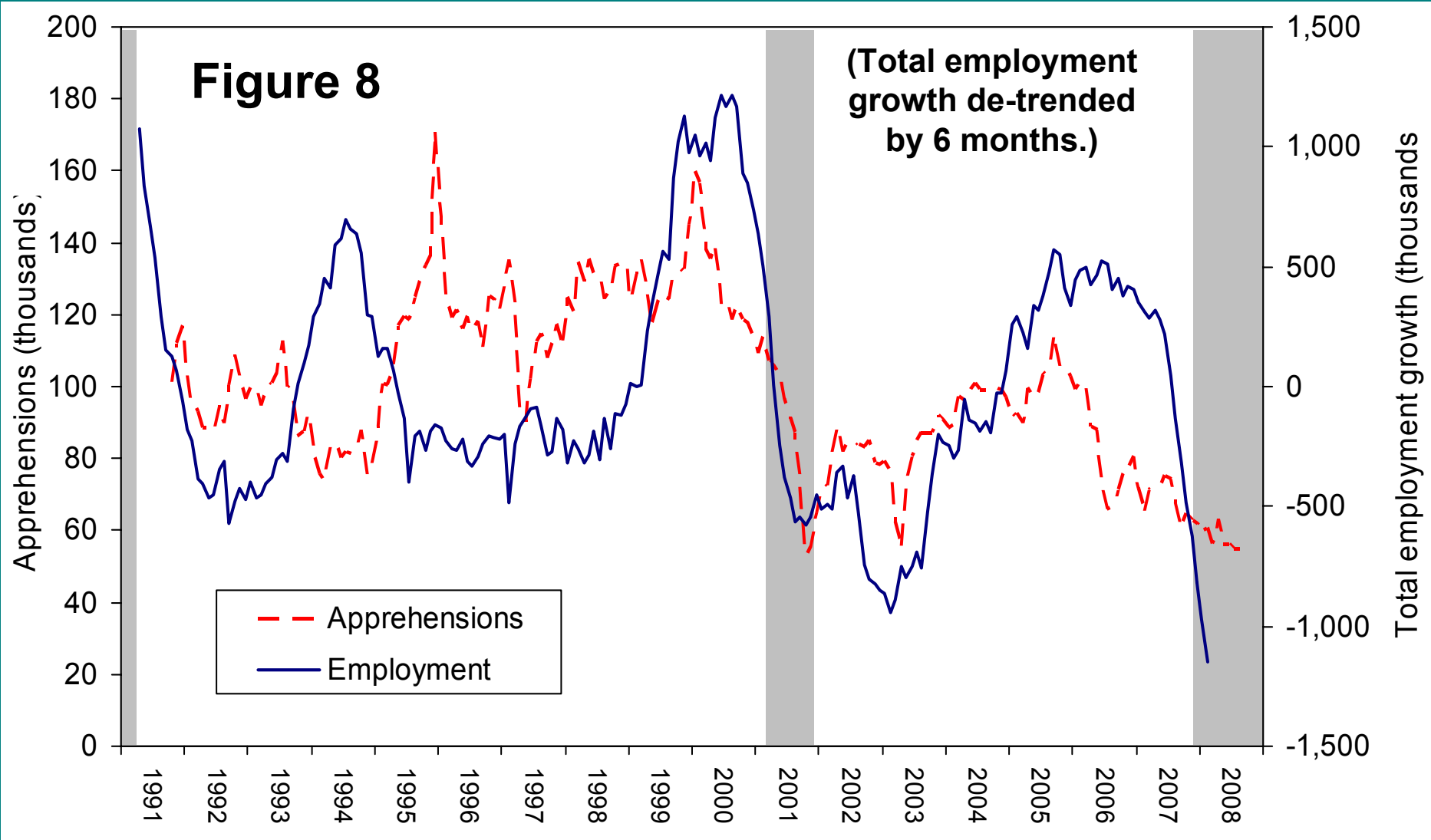
Foreign born population by region of origin, 2000 to 2008



Historically, legal immigration flows do not seem to respond directly to the business cycle



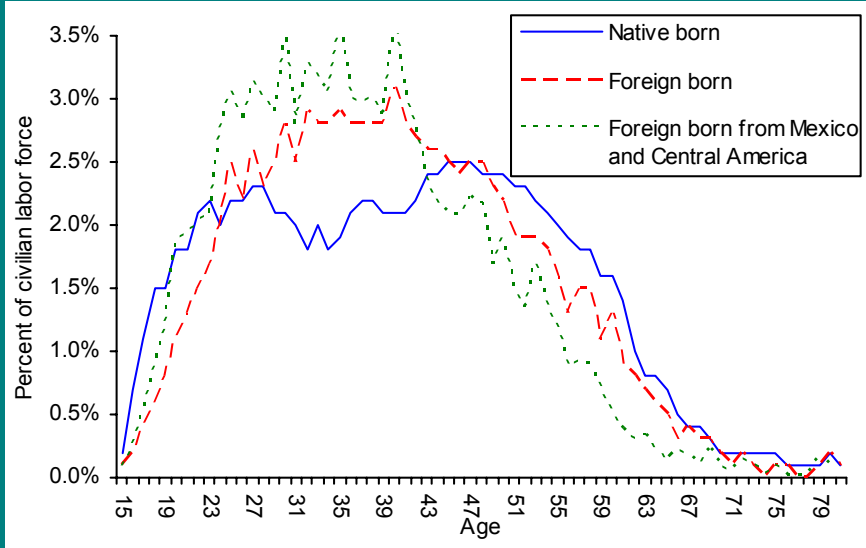
Border apprehensions seem to be a leading indicator of variations in labor demand



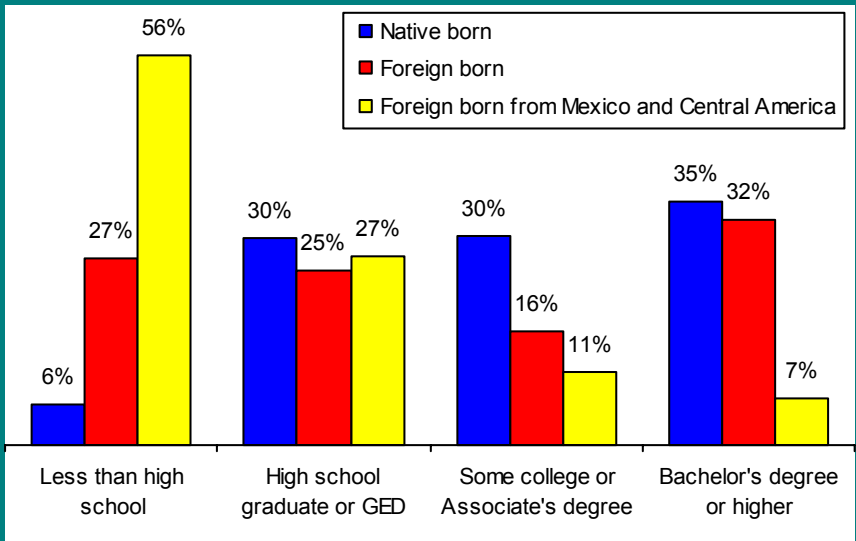
Source: BLS, DHS; Courtesy of Pia Orrenius, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Immigrants' demographic and labor force characteristics make them more vulnerable to job losses during recessions.

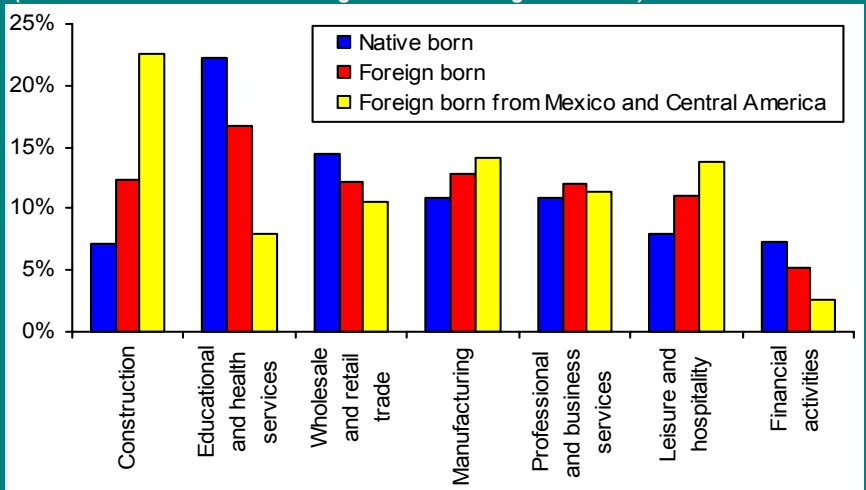
Immigrant workers are on average younger than natives...



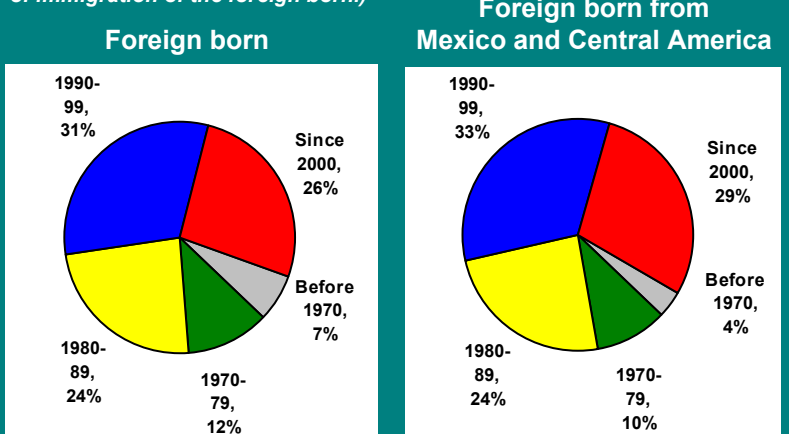
They are also more likely to be less educated... **



And tend to work in different sectors than natives... *
(Distribution of native- and foreign-born in leading industries.)



A large share of immigrants are recent entrants to the US labor market.*
(Year of immigration of the foreign born.)



Thank you!

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