



NABE Policy Conference 2025

CRE Panel – How to Build Real Estate with Less Labor

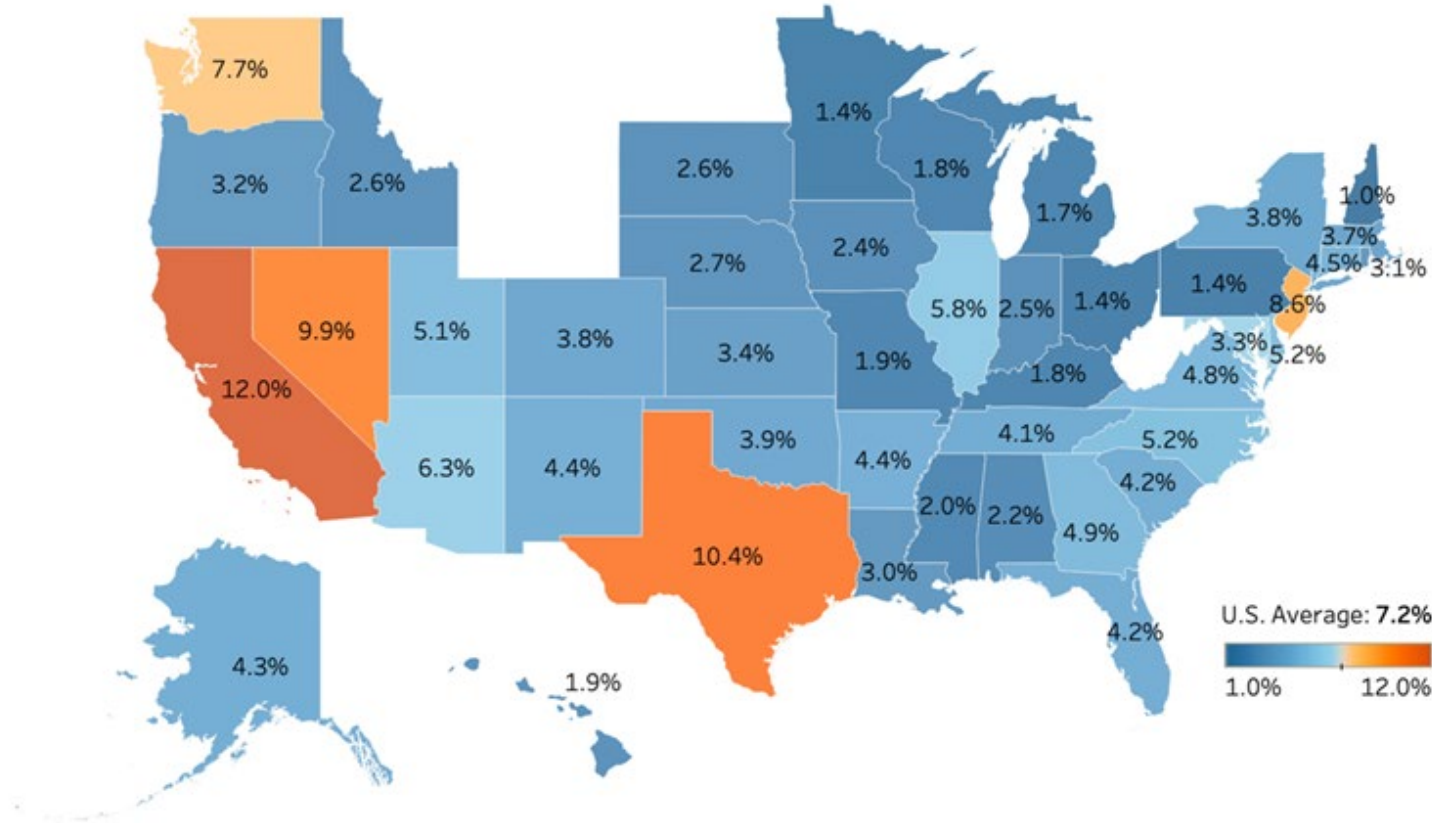
Moderator: Sara R. Rutledge

Founder and Chief Economist, SRR Consulting

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Burning Glass estimates U.S. workforce includes 9M undocumented immigrants

Figure 2. Estimated Undocumented Immigrant Employment Share, by State (2023)



Note: States with fewer than 50 estimated undocumented immigrant observations were omitted.

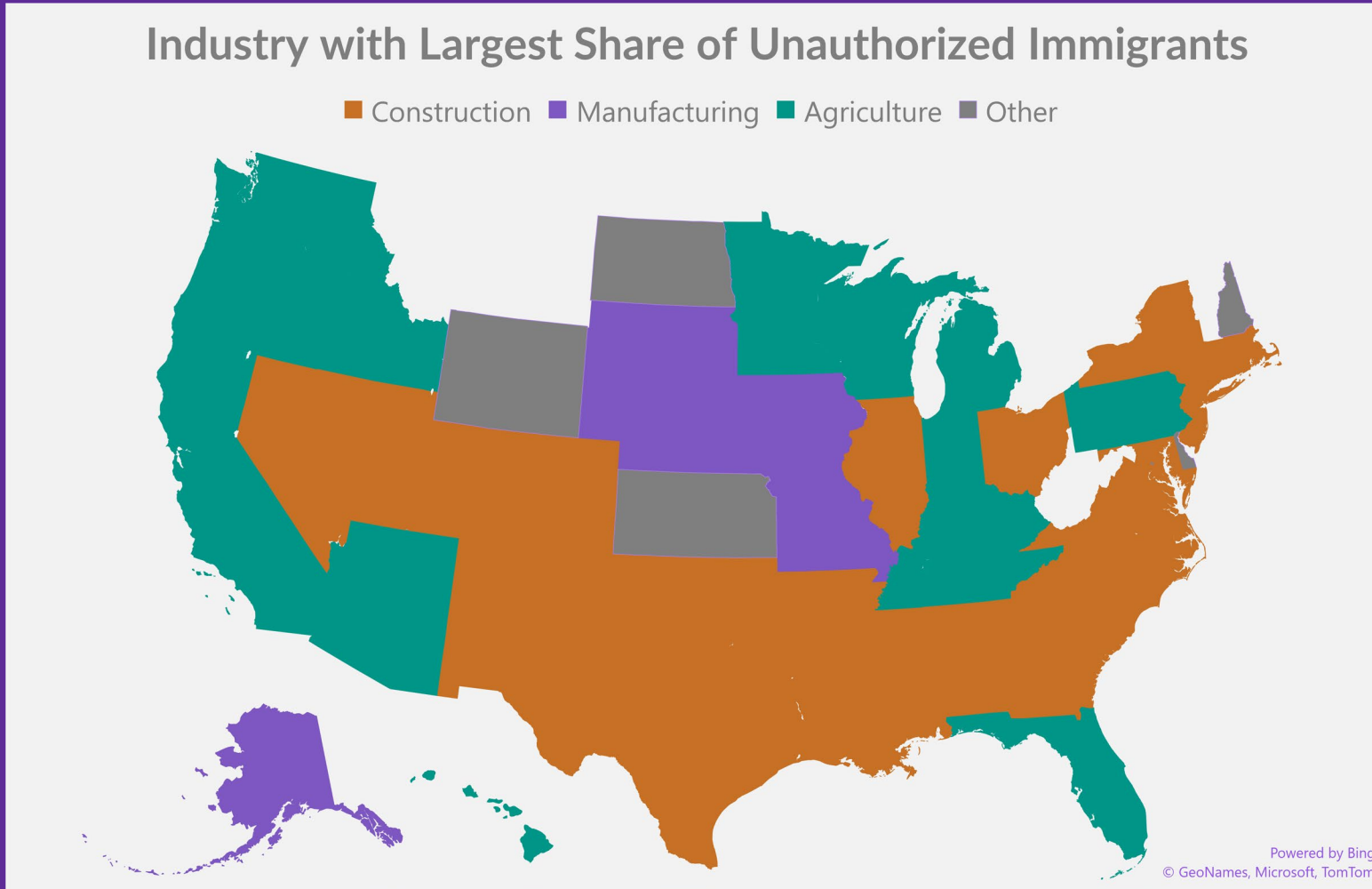
Source: Authors' calculations using CBO, 'The Demographic Outlook: 2024 to 2054'; Baker, B. and Warren, R., April 2024, U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 'Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2018 – January 2022'; American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2023.

- These 9 million workers represent 7.2% of the employed U.S. labor force in 2023.
- State-level undocumented immigrant shares vary from 12% in California to 1% in Maine.
- Proximity to the southern border is only one factor affecting these concentrations with New Jersey at 7.7% and Washington state at 8.6%.

“These disparities underscore the complex mix of factors that lead to larger groups of undocumented immigrants settling and working in various states, including tough enforcement policies (laws like Arizona’s SB1070), economic opportunity in specific industries, urbanization, and pre-existing immigrant communities.”

Source: [“Deporting Undocumented Workers: Impacts on the U.S. Labor Market”](#), by Gad Levanon, Chief Economist at The Burning Glass Institute, January 14, 2025.

Pew: Construction leads unauthorized immigrant employment by industry



- Pew estimates 8.3 million unauthorized immigrants in the workforce as of 2022, or 4.8% of the total labor force.
- Construction has the largest U.S. count and share of unauthorized immigrant workers across industries.
- Construction has the largest share unauthorized immigrant workers in 22 states. Agriculture leads in 14 states and manufacturing leads in 5.

“Since 2003, unauthorized immigrants have made up 4.4% to 5.4% of all U.S. workers, a relatively narrow range. The share of the U.S. workforce made up by unauthorized immigrants is higher than their 3.3% share of the total U.S. population.”

Source: **“What we know about unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S.”**, by Jeffrey S. Passel and Jens Manuel Krogstad, Pew Research Center, July 22, 2024.

Note: Fewer than 5,000 unauthorized immigrant workers by state in Maine, Montana, Vermont, and West Virginia (shown in white) make the sample insufficient to break out by industry. Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data – American Community Survey 2022 (IPUMS), SRR Consulting map, February 2025.