



*Institute for the Study of International Migration*  
*Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service*  
at  
*Georgetown University*



POLICY BRIEFING

**How Many and Which Migrants Leave?  
Estimating the Unknown and Why it Matters**

Who

**Jonathan A. Schwabish**, Congressional Budget Office

**Paul R. Cullinan**, Special Assistant to the Director, Congressional Budget Office

A sound assessment of the impacts of immigration requires accurate measurement of both inflows and outflows of migrants. A primary challenge is that there are no data on emigrants. Dr. Schwabish estimates rates of emigration using earnings data from 1978 to 2003. His new strategy measures rates of emigration from the United States and out of the Social Security system. The estimates shed light on the age, country, and earnings of those who emigrate, with implications for budget impacts and immigration policy. The will be discussion on the use of such estimates by the CBO in reporting to Congress.

When

Friday, March 27, 2009  
8 AM, Continental breakfast  
8:30 to 10:00 Program

Where

Georgetown University Law Center  
McDonough Hall, Room 200  
600 New Jersey Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC, 20001

RSVP & Directions

Please RSVP to <http://www12.georgetown.edu/sfs/rsvp/index.cfm?Program=ISIM>

For questions, please contact Alexander R Gee, [arg29@georgetown.edu](mailto:arg29@georgetown.edu)

For a link to directions: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/directions/>

Media Notice

To encourage frank discussion, these proceedings follow Chatham House rules. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Presenters may be asked for quotes and photographs at the conclusion of the Briefing.

*ISIM thanks the Sloan Foundation for their generous support.*

## Bio

**Jonathan Schwabish** joined the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 2004 and is a Principal Analyst in the Long-Term Modeling Group. Most of his work deals with CBO's long-term Social Security and Medicare model (CBOLT) where he is engaged in projecting earnings and labor force behavior. He has published in the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *The Monthly Labor Review*, *Public Finance Review* and he is author of the award-winning book, *Human Capital in the United States from 1975 to 2000: Patterns of Growth and Utilization*. Dr. Schwabish received a Master's degree in economics from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. degree in economics from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

<http://cboblog.cbo.gov/?p=54>

**Paul R. Cullinan** is currently Special Assistant to the Director at the Congressional Budget Office; he served from 1994 to 2007 as the chief of the human resources cost estimates unit at the CBO. His research has generated estimates for federal programs ranging from Social Security to welfare to education; and he has coordinated much of the CBO's work relating to long-term budgeting and immigration. Previously he was research director for the Budgeting for National Priorities Program at the Brookings Institution, and he worked in the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy Analysis. He is a graduate of the University of Maine and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University.

## Reading

Jonathan A. Schwabish, 2009. "Identifying Rates of Emigration in the United States Using Administrative Earnings Records," Working Paper Series 2009-01, Congressional Budget Office,  
<http://www.cbo.gov/publications/bydoctype.cfm?dtype=8>.

The CBO supplies the US Congress with estimates of migration and assessments of the impact of legislation on direct spending and discretionary spending. These readings are a good introduction to those assessments and they demonstrate the value of solid estimates of emigration or return.

Congressional Budget Office, Publications on Immigration  
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/87xx/doc8711/12-6-Immigration.pdf>

A Description of the Immigrant Population, 2004,  
<http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=6019>

The Impact of Unauthorized Immigrants on the Budgets of State and Local Governments, 2007,  
<http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=8711>

S. 2611, Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, A CBO Cost Estimate,  
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/75xx/doc7501/s2611spass.pdf>

Projections of Net Migration to the United States, 2006, A CBO Paper,  
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/72xx/doc7249/06-06-Immigration.pdf>