

Online Appendix to “US Immigration from Latin America in Historical Perspective”

Table 1 variable descriptions and data sources:

The dependent variable is the change in the number of foreign born over each decade based on decennial Census or American Community Survey data from IPUMS (Ruggles et al. 2022) divided by the origin country population at the start of the decade based on United Nations World Population Prospects (UN WPP) data (United Nations 2022). We use the person weights to create population totals from the Census and ACS data. We use 2019 data instead of 2020 and, for the data used in the regressions, multiply the 2010s immigration rate by 10/9 to make it comparable to the complete decades.

The migrant network is an indicator variable for whether a country’s number of foreign born living in the U.S. relative to the origin population, both measured at start of decade, is in the top half of LACs during 1960 to 2010.

The share of the population ages 5-14 at the start of each decade is based on data from UN WPP.

The growth rate of real GDP per capita over the decade is based on data from Penn World Table 10.0 (Feenstra, Inklaar, and Timmer 2015; Feenstra, Inklaar, and Timmer 2022). We use output-side per capita real GDP at chained PPP in millions of 2017 US dollars. For Cuba, we use data on real GDP per capita, PPP, for 1970-2010 from Penn World Table 7.1 (University of Pennsylvania 2022); for the growth rate between 2010 and 2019, we use data on real GDP per capita from the World Bank (2022). For the data used in the regressions, we multiply the 2010-2019 growth rate by 10/9 to make it comparable to the complete decades.

The number of balance of payments crises during a decade is calculated following Hanson and McIntosh (2012). We calculate the number of balance of payment crises during each decade using Cavallo’s (2006) sudden stop measure. Specifically, we use Cavallo’s first measure of sudden stops, with a few differences. We limit the sample years from 1970-2019 due to data availability; the number of balance of payments crises in the 1960s is set equal to 0 for all countries. We calculate real GDP per capita using data from the Penn World Table version 10.0 (Feenstra, Inklaar, and Timmer 2015; Feenstra, Inklaar, and Timmer 2022). To calculate real GDP per capita for each country, we divide output-side real GDP at chained PPP in millions of 2017 U.S. dollars by the population. We use the population standard deviation when calculating the standard deviation of the financial account. We use financial account and current account data from the International Monetary Fund’s Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics (BOP/IPP) database, accessed through Haver Analytics.

The measures of natural disasters are based on data from EM-DAT, the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT 2022). As described in the text, we classify natural disasters as major if they affected over 10 percent of the population or killed over 0.01 percent of the population. We calculate population shares using the EM-DAT data on the number affected or number deaths relative to the country’s population at the most recent 5-year interval using the UN WPP data (e.g., we use 1975 population for a natural disaster in 1979).

The measure of armed conflicts is based on data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2022a, 2022b). As described in the text, we consider an armed conflict as major once it has resulted in at least 1,000 deaths since it began, and we include both conflicts that include the state (UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset version 21.1; see Davies, Pettersson and Öberg 2022 and Gleditsch et al. 2002), and those that only involve non-state actors (UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset version 21.1; see Davies, Pettersson and Öberg 2022 and Sundberg, Eck, and Kreutz 2012).

We measure distance from the US using the population-weighted distance measure from CEPII (2022); see Mayer and Zignago (2011).

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