

The Impact of a Possible Trump Reelection on Mexican Immigration Pressures in Alternative Countries*

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Abstract

We address the question of the impact of a possible Trump reelection on the location choices of potential Mexican migrants. We use migration aspiration data from the Gallup World Poll Surveys which provide the preferred location choices of Mexican respondents before, during and after President Trump first office period. We show that Trump presidency led to an increase in disapproval rates about the US leadership among Mexican respondents, which in turn led to a decrease in the level of the perceived attractiveness of the US location. Using a Cross-Nested Logit model that allows to account for the heterogeneity in the substitution patterns between alternative locations to the US, we simulate the impact of a possible reelection of Donald Trump based on different scenarios about these disapproval rates. Compared to models such as the multinomial logit, we find that such a reelection would lead (i) to a lower increase in the number of potential migrants staying in Mexico and (ii) heterogenous increases across countries in the number of Mexican willing to move to a specific destination. In particular, countries such as Canada, the UK, Germany, Spain and France would face significant higher increases in Mexican immigration pressures.

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