

department of economic opportunity

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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October 21, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Kelly LoBianco, Director *Kelly LoBianco*

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK ON MOTION BY SUPERVISORS
HILDA L. SOLIS AND JANICE HAHN – RESPONDING
TO WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN LOS
ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM NO. 51-C OF
SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF JUNE 17, 2025)**

On June 17, 2025, your Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion introduced by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Janice Hahn directing the Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to:

1. Collaborate with applicable entities and report back in writing within 15 days with an assessment that will, at minimum, produce the following data regarding federal immigration enforcement in LA County:
 - a) Economic impact on small businesses due to loss of workforce, including identification of the most impacted areas and most impacted types of businesses in the County of Los Angeles.
 - b) Economic impact of property damage and imposed curfews; and
 - c) Identify available supportive services for impacted small businesses and ways to make services available in a manner that is responsive to their language and immigration needs.
2. Identify the most impacted industrial sectors by connecting with labor unions and other applicable entities.

3. Continue to report back in writing monthly thereafter through December 2025 on datapoints identified in Directive 1.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of DEO or their designee to enter into contracts not to exceed \$150,000 with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) for data and analysis needed in Directives 1-3, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel; and ensuring that data are protected and do not include identifiable information that may put individuals, systems and organizations at risk.
5. Collaborate with the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs's (DCBA) Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Small Business Commission, and the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board to convene impacted County departments and community stakeholders for a listening session to further inform Directive 1.
6. Collaborate with OIA and DCBA's Office of Labor Equity (OLE), in consultation with County Counsel, to develop a rapid response communication strategy for impacted businesses and workers that would facilitate access to legal aid, resources for impacted workers with rental concerns, mental health resources and, when feasible, financial resources. The strategy should, at minimum, include the following:
 - a) Develop and provide live webinars about resources and "Know Your Rights" (KYR) information for business owners and workers across the County, ensuring that anonymity is allowed and interpretation is available for the languages spoken by the impacted business owners.
 - b) Produce and disseminate video webinars covering the information provided in live webinars, in English and the languages spoken by the impacted business owners, on a media platform that offers online privacy tools.
 - c) Develop a printable toolkit for small businesses and workers that includes resources to address the legal rights for small businesses; in collaboration with Department of Mental Health include information and resources to address employee stress and anxiety; and create a toolkit or module that meets the unique needs of street vendors.
 - d) Direct relevant community organizations funded by DEO provide outreach to street vendors regarding resources, KYR cards and toolkit.
7. Include the OIA's KYR information in Youth@Work curriculum going forward; and collaborate with community-based organizations and relevant entities to extend Youth@Work opportunities such as expanding work hours from the current 150 hours to 400 hours to support youth and transitional-aged youth that have become the bread winners of their households due to separation from parental figures.
8. Partner with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Los Angeles Community Colleges, and other relevant schools to disseminate the information in Directive 6 to students and their parents and care providers.
9. Partner with the Chief Executive Office Center for Strategic Partnerships (CEO-CSP) and philanthropy to identify funding for a DEO-led business interruption fund for small businesses impacted Countywide due to loss of workforce and/or curfews imposed due to federal immigration enforcement activity, and to identify supplemental funding for Directive 6.
10. Partner with CEO-CSP and philanthropy to identify funding for local community-serving organizations to provide cash-assistance for impacted workers and youth/transitional-aged youth

that have become head of household.

11. Report back in writing in 30 days and in 60 days on Directives 4-9.
12. Direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) to advocate in support of state-level measures for impacted businesses and workers.

Immigration reports were submitted to the Board on the following dates:

- July 3, 2025: 15-Day report updating the Board on Directives one (1) through four (4)
- July 23, 2025: 30-Day report on Directives one (1) through ten (10)
- August 21, 2025: 60-Day report on all Directives
- September 22, 2024: 90-Day report on all Directives
- October 17, 2025: 120-Day report on all Directives

DIRECTIVES ONE (1) THROUGH FOUR (4)

Economic Impacts of Federal Immigration Enforcement in Los Angeles County

DEO executed an agreement with LAEDC's Institute for Applied Economics ([IAE](#)) to obtain an analysis of the economic impacts of federal immigration enforcement activities, including impacts on the workforce and local communities. On July 3, 2025, DEO provided your Board with a preliminary assessment to quantify and understand the economic impacts of recent immigration enforcement activities. LAEDC-IAE will continue to update the assessment throughout the term of the agreement and through the end of December 2025. The latest report is attached (Attachment) with a summary of key findings below, highlighting emerging economic disruptions, shifts in public behavior, and evolving community responses.

Starting with the November report, updates will also include data from The Los Angeles Economic Equity Accelerator & Fellowship (LEEAF). LAEDC-IAE and DEO will also track any additional impacts related to the Board of Supervisors' October 14, 2025, Emergency Declaration on ICE enforcement in Los Angeles.

Key Findings:

- **Labor Force Impacts:**
Non-citizens comprised roughly 18.5% of the County's labor force in early 2025, dropping sharply to 12.1% by July following intensified ICE activity in June. This drop suggests a retreat from the formal labor market—through job loss, relocation, or movement to informal work.
- **Unemployment Volatility:**
Non-citizen unemployment rose from 3.6% in February to 5.3% in August 2025, coinciding with intensified enforcement actions. While data volatility limits the accuracy of these percentages, the pattern aligns with increased economic displacement for non-citizens. Unemployment rate for citizens was around 6.2%.
- **H-1B Visa Changes:**
The new federal \$100,000 H-1B application fee threatens local industries that rely on highly skilled foreign labor, particularly in technology, professional services, and health care sectors, potentially curbing innovation and growth.
- **Downtown Economic Disruption:**
The June 10–16 curfew during ICE enforcement-related protests led to a 10% drop in downtown foot traffic and 7–9% decline in business visitation, with food services and arts sectors hardest

hit (down 21% and 16% respectively). Retail was the only sector to show resilience.

- **Public Services and Mobility:**

Metro bus ridership plunged most steeply along routes in high immigrant-vulnerability areas, showing a sustained 17,000-passenger monthly decline after June, as riders sought to avoid perceived enforcement zones.

- **Tourism Impacts:**

International flight passengers at LAX fell year-over-year for the first time since 2021, suggesting that both the tariffs and global perception of local enforcement activities are dampening tourism and international business travel.

- **Community and Small Business Impacts:**

DEO and LAEDC-IAE launched a resource guide that provides legal, financial, and mental health supports. Concurrently, LEEAF conducted interviews with 178 business leaders, revealing widespread distress:

- 61% reported revenue loss of 10% or more, and 28% of these business leaders reported losses exceeding 50%.
- 62% experienced worker impacts, and 33% temporarily closed their businesses.
- Fear and uncertainty led to reduced consumer activity, reluctance to seek aid, and weakened community trust.
- Spanish-speaking and immigrant-owned businesses were disproportionately affected.

- **Broader Themes:**

A “climate of fear” is reshaping both the formal and informal economies. Reduced mobility, consumer confidence, and trust in institutions are compounding the direct economic effects of enforcement. The impacts are especially acute in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods and industries that are reliant on face-to-face interaction.

Next Steps:

- Continue monthly data updates and integrate quantified curfew impact modeling through year-end.
- Publish the LEEAF community interview report and host town halls to engage business and community stakeholders.
- Integrate the data analysis of immigration enforcement and impacts that are being performed by the University of Southern California (USC) Equity Research Institute as part of the final (December) report.
- Develop policy recommendations for mitigating economic harm and building resilience in affected sectors.

DIRECTIVE FIVE (5)

Stakeholder Engagement

LAEDC-IAE has executed its subcontract with LEEAF to provide robust engagement efforts including deep-listening interviews with small business owners and workers, two (2) Town Halls to garner additional input and needs from those negatively impacted by the ICE raids, and collaborations with various

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to expand its information and data collection. LEEAF is currently planning to facilitate two (2) Community Town Halls - one multilingual virtual and one multilingual in-person – during the second (2) and third (3) week of November 2025. Site location of the in-person Town Hall is being confirmed.

To date, LEEAF conducted interviews with 178 business leaders from August 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, to determine the effects of ICE raids on their businesses and their communities as a whole. The sample of respondents were drawn from LEEAF's network of over 13,000 businesses, of which an estimated 51% were Hispanic/Latine and 78% were women. The business leaders who shared their insights in these interviews ranged widely by industry and geography, reaching across all Supervisor Districts in LA County and focusing on areas heavily impacted by ICE raids, including Downtown Los Angeles as well as greater South and East LA. Interviews were conducted largely by phone, with some held in-person, led by members of the Facilitator and Outreach Teams trained in rapport-building and deep listening. The interviews were bilingual, with 28% conducted in Spanish and the remainder in English. This data will be summarized in the November and December (final) reports to the Board.

DIRECTIVE SIX (6)

Rapid Response Strategies and Resources

The DEO, in partnership with DCBA–OIA, continues to develop and implement a rapid response communication strategy, including webinars and a toolkit for businesses and workers. The DEO has launched its immigration webpage, which provides links to business, non-profit and worker resources, recorded educational webinars, and downloadable KYR cards.

The DEO Immigration Web page : <https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/immigration/> includes links to:

- The Small Business Resiliency Fund (SBRF)
- LAEDC - IAE Business Impact Survey – 174 responses received as of 10/15/25. Will remain available for an additional 30 days.
- Previously recorded KYR webinars for Small Businesses and Nonprofits
- Immigration Resource Guide (Attachment)
- [Calendar of OIA KYR webinars](#)

DEO also continues to widely share these resources across all its networks, including the County's America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) and Youth@Work partners.

Know Your Rights (KYR) Outreach

In partnership with OIA, DEO has distributed over 13,000 *Know Your Rights* (KYR) red cards in multiple languages—including Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, Haitian, Khmer, Pashto, Russian, Tagalog, English, and Spanish—through the Office of Small Business (OSB), AJCCs, and community events.

The OSB continues to provide KYR cards, particularly in English and Spanish, to small businesses and sidewalk vendors at Countywide events and Sidewalk Vending workshops, where approximately 175 cards have been distributed to date. To further support vendors navigating immigration concerns, OSB continues targeted KYR card distribution during canvassing visits and community engagements, ensuring materials are shared respectfully and effectively.

DIRECTIVE SEVEN (7)

Youth@Work Expansion

DEO worked with a consultant to integrate *Know Your Rights* (KYR) content into the Youth@Work Transitional Age Youth World of Work (TAY WOW) 20-hour career readiness curriculum used for the paid “Personal Enrichment Training” component. The updated training covers workplace immigration enforcement response, identifying valid warrants, safety planning, and resources from DEO, LAEDC - IAE, LACOE, and OIA. KYR materials have also been added to the Youth@Work Technical Assistance Guide and provider training, linking to OIA and LACOE resources. Provider training on the revised curriculum began in September 2025, and DEO will continue coordinating Youth@Work webinars with OIA.

On October 14, 2025, DEO trained 40 staff from LA County AJCCs and LA City YouthSource Centers on enrolling youth referred by DCBA into the expanded Youth@Work program, which provides 400-hour work opportunities for 100 impacted participants. DEO also issued a directive to operationalize the program through AJCC and OIA partners, with enrollment launching in late October 2025.

Together with OIA, DEO is implementing a referral strategy to enroll youth from households affected by immigration enforcement and connect eligible family members to additional workforce services through AJCCs, including job training, placement, and supportive services such as transportation, housing, health, and mental health assistance. The AJCCs will also refer impacted families to DCBA for further support.

DIRECTIVE EIGHT (8)

School Districts collaboration

DEO has been working with LACOE, LAUSD, Los Angeles Community Colleges (LACCD), the Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC), and other school districts throughout Los Angeles County to share resources available to students, parents, legal guardians, and other care providers. DEO has also shared the LACOE [website](#) with resources and a toolkit for immigrant students and their families with various partners including the LACCD and LAUSD navigators supporting referrals to the Youth@Work program.

DIRECTIVE NINE (9)

LA Region Small Business Resiliency Fund (SBRF)

In partnership with CEO–CSP, DEO launched the LA Region Small Business Resiliency Fund (SBRF) on September 29, 2025, as an emergency grant program providing up to \$5,000 to small and micro businesses across Los Angeles County that have been impacted by federal immigration enforcement actions since June 6, 2025. Eligible impact includes temporary business closure, reduced hours of operation, property damage, labor impacts or shortages, and related revenue loss. Applications are scheduled to close by October 31, 2025.

The program is led by DEO and supported by philanthropic and public partners. Additionally, it works with Community Business Organizations (CBOs) to validate impact for all business applicants outside of areas that had a curfew zone imposed by the City of Los Angeles in June 2025. These CBOs also help applicants with acquiring documents necessary to apply for and qualify for the grant. Eligible applicants include brick-and-mortar businesses with storefronts, independent contractors, sidewalk vendors, and certain consumer-facing home-based businesses such as daycares.

SBRF Application Data Status to Date

As of October 14, 2025, SBRF has received:

Completed Applications*		By Supervisorial District	
1,237		SD1	420
136	Within Curfew Zone	SD2	243
301	Vetted by CBOs	SD3	205
800	In process of vetting by CBOs	SD4	233
<i>Total</i>		SD5	79
1,237		Undetermined	57

*An additional 1,240 applications have been started but not completed

Approximately 65% of applicants are storefront businesses, 20% street vendors, 9% Independent Contractors and 5% home-based businesses. Approximately 30% have been in business for over 10 years, 31% between 5-10 years and 38% less than 4 years.

SBRF Program Administration

- Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) serves as fiscal sponsor and has subcontracted with AidKit to manage applications, disburse awards, and provide technical assistance related to the application portal.
- CBO partners include LEEAF, Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods (ICON) CDC, and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD), which replaced Vermont Slauson EDC. Along with DEO’s OSB, they provide multilingual outreach, eligibility guidance, and impact verification.
- DEO’s OSB also serves as the main hub for general questions and guidance related to the program.

SBRF Funding and Budget Adjustments

To fund the SBRF, DEO redirected \$1.8 million from its *General Access to Funding for Small, Minority-Owned Businesses Program* funded by the Care First Community Initiative (CFCI) for Year Three, which will support over 300+ businesses. To address increasing needs for these grants, the CFCI Advisory Committee recommended \$3.7 million for the SBRF to help to support 650+ additional businesses. To further support ongoing needs of applicants, DEO, CEO–CSP, and community partners will convene a Funders’ Briefing on October 22, 2025, to raise additional funds for the SBRF.

SBRF Timeline*

Below is the projected timeline for the initial \$1.8 million currently funding the program.

Phase	Timeframe
Applications Opened	September 29, 2025
Applications Close	October 31, 2025
Review & Awards	November–December 2025
Program Closeout	January 2026

*Additional funding will be distributed in a longer timeframe.

Community Engagement

SBRF outreach focuses on immigrant-dense areas—East LA, the San Gabriel Valley, South/Central LA, and the San Fernando Valley—using trusted CBO partners and multilingual materials.

Outreach efforts include:

- Bilingual informational webinars in English and Spanish on October 8 and 9, reaching more than 180 participants. Recordings of both webinars are available on [DEO's YouTube channel](#) and at the [Small Business Resiliency Fund - Department of Economic Opportunity](#).
- Program guides were translated into 12 languages and are now available at [Small Business Resiliency Fund - Department of Economic Opportunity](#)
- A comprehensive digital outreach toolkit was created featuring ready-to-share captions and content, including FAQs, social media carousels, informational graphics and flyers in English and Spanish.
- Earned Media Campaign
 - Led a press conference with Supervisorial District 1 and issued a countywide press release.
 - Secured over 15+ earned media placements across TV, radio, and digital platforms, with coverage multiple languages through outlets including *Univision, Telemundo, Spectrum News, LAist, LA Opinión, My News LA, LA Post, Audacy, and Boyle Heights Beat*.
- LEEAF has created [pop-up SBRF outreach sites](#) in impacted areas such as:
 - East LA/West San Gabriel America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) - 5301 Whittier Blvd, Second Floor Los Angeles, CA 90022
 - James George Bell house 4401 E Gage Ave., Bell, CA 90201
 - ORALE(Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment) - 236 East 3rd Street, Suite #210 Long Beach, CA 90802
 - Storefront at 3322 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello, CA 90640
- DEO presented on the program to the Economic Development Policy Committee (10/2/25), Small Business Commission (10/8/25) and Health Innovation Community Partnership (10/10/25).

DIRECTIVE TEN (10)

Immigrant Worker Fund (Los Angeles Neighbors Support Fund (LA Neighbors Fund)

On September 15, 2025, the County CEO-CSP, OIA, and the City of Los Angeles organized a Funders' briefing to rally support for a new relief effort for immigrant families. Co-hosted by Supervisor Hilda Solis, Mayor Karen Bass, and the California Community Foundation (CCF), the event brought together representatives from major Los Angeles sports teams and other potential donors. The goal of the briefing was to raise awareness and financial support for the LA Neighbors Fund (Fund), a relief fund created to provide emergency cash assistance to immigrant households whose members have been detained or deported and whose families have largely been abruptly left without income or stability.

The County and City of Los Angeles continue working together to ensure the Fund provides meaningful help to immigrant families hit hardest by detention or deportation. In addition to the County and City, the initiative includes philanthropic partners and a trusted CBO that will manage and distribute financial

assistance directly to families in need, reflecting a true collaboration between local government, philanthropy, and the community.

So far, the Fund has raised \$1.15 million to launch this important effort. Of that amount, \$1 million was donated by the Los Angeles Dodgers to the City of Los Angeles, which has already been distributed to 1,000 immigrant families. Each family received \$1,000 through the City's network of FamilySource Centers (FSCs) trusted community hubs that help families access resources and services.

Looking ahead, all new funds raised will be split between 60 percent for the County and 40 percent for the City. The City will continue to distribute its share of the Fund through the FamilySource Centers, while the County will deliver its portion through a partnership with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), a nonprofit organization with deep ties to local communities. The County, City, and CCF are continuing to work side by side to grow the Fund and expand its reach. They are engaging philanthropic foundations, local businesses, sports teams, and members of the public to contribute. Together, these partners seek to build a united, compassionate response to ensure that immigrant families facing sudden crises are not left without support or hope.

DIRECTIVE TEN (11)

Support of state-level measures for impacted businesses and workers

The California State Legislature reconvenes on January 5, 2026, at which point, CEO-LAIR will begin reviewing newly introduced legislation and work with DEO to identify and review any legislation related to measures that support businesses and workers negatively impacted by the ICE enforcement activities. If any relevant bills are introduced, CEO-LAIR will work with DEO to provide an advocacy recommendation to the Board.

Conclusion

Moving forward, DEO will continue to submit monthly reports to your Board on all Directives through December 2025.

Target dates for future reports:

- November 17, 2025
- December 17, 2025 (Final)

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Gary Smith at gsmith@opportunity.lacounty.gov

KL:LL:KA:GS:dm

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs
County Counsel
Department of Consumer and Business Affairs - Office of Immigrant Affairs
Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation



**Economic Impacts of Federal Immigration
Enforcement in Los Angeles County
120-Day Update of Ongoing Analysis
October 15, 2025**

Dear Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO),

The Institute for Applied Economics (IAE) at the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is in the midst of analyzing the economic impacts of federal immigration enforcement efforts in Los Angeles County. The purpose is to quantify and understand the cascading economic effects across small businesses, key industries, informal work sectors, and households—especially those in immigrant and mixed-status communities—resulting from these enforcement efforts. This memorandum provides a 120-day update of our ongoing analysis.

Scope of Work

LAEDC has been tasked with the following analyses to understand the impacts of federal immigration enforcement in Los Angeles County:

- Assessing the economic impact on small businesses due to loss of workforce, including identifying the most impacted areas and most impacted types of businesses in Los Angeles County;
- Assessing the economic impact of property damage and imposed curfews; and
- Identifying available supportive services for impacted small business and ways to make them available in a manner that is responsive to their language and immigration needs.

All three tasks are underway and are being conducted concurrently. Additionally, we are compiling relevant facts and stories that support these tasks as we come across them.

Notable News

Major Legislation

- On September 20, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a package of bills designed to protect school children and hospital patients from federal immigration enforcement activities, as well as to limit the tactics employed by the Trump administration that cause fear in communities. These bills include:
 - Assembly Bill (AB) 49, the California Safe Haven Schools Act, which prohibits immigration enforcement officers from entering school campuses without proper identification and a valid judicial warrant or court order and also prohibits schools from disclosing personal information about students, their families, teachers, or school staff to immigration authorities;¹
 - Senate Bill (SB) 81, which prohibits health care providers from disclosing information such as patients' current and prior immigration status and place of birth for immigration enforcement, and which prohibits health care providers from allowing any person access to nonpublic areas of the provider's facilities for immigration enforcement purposes without a judicial warrant or court order;²

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB49

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB81

- SB 98, which requires elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools to notify families, students, faculty and staff when immigration enforcement enters or is expected to enter a campus;³
- SB 627, which prohibits law enforcement officers including immigration enforcement officers from wearing masks in the performance of their duties except when necessary;⁴ and
- SB 805, which requires a law enforcement officer operating in California that is not uniformed to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number to the public when performing their enforcement duties.⁵
- On October 8, Gov. Newsom signed into law SB 635, the Street Vendor Business Protection Act, which is intended to protect the data of street vendors from immigration enforcement agencies. It does so by prohibiting the disclosure of sensitive information such as citizenship and immigration status.⁶

Public Safety

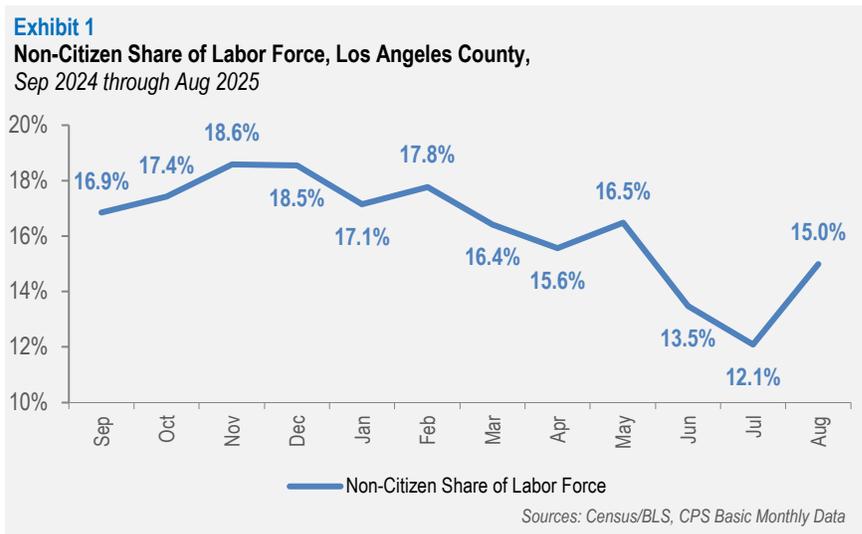
- The Los Angeles Times reports that emergency dispatch data show a major decrease in Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) calls for service in June 2025, during the weeks when sweeps by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal agencies were met by large street protests in downtown Los Angeles. Specifically, in the two weeks after June 6, when the immigration raids kicked off, LAPD calls for service fell 28 percent compared with the same period last year. That amounted to an average of roughly 1,200 fewer calls per day. The concern for residents, workers and businesses is that public safety could be compromised, particularly in high immigrant areas, adversely impacting quality of life and the economic environment.⁷

Impacted Businesses in Los Angeles County

Changes in Labor Force and Unemployment

Understanding the current condition of the immigrant community, particularly the workforce, is essential to understanding the impacts to businesses across Los Angeles County from increased immigration enforcement. We analyzed change in the labor force and in unemployment with respect to non-citizen workers to help provide this insight.

Non-citizen workers made up a stable 18.6 to 18.5 percent of Los



³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB98

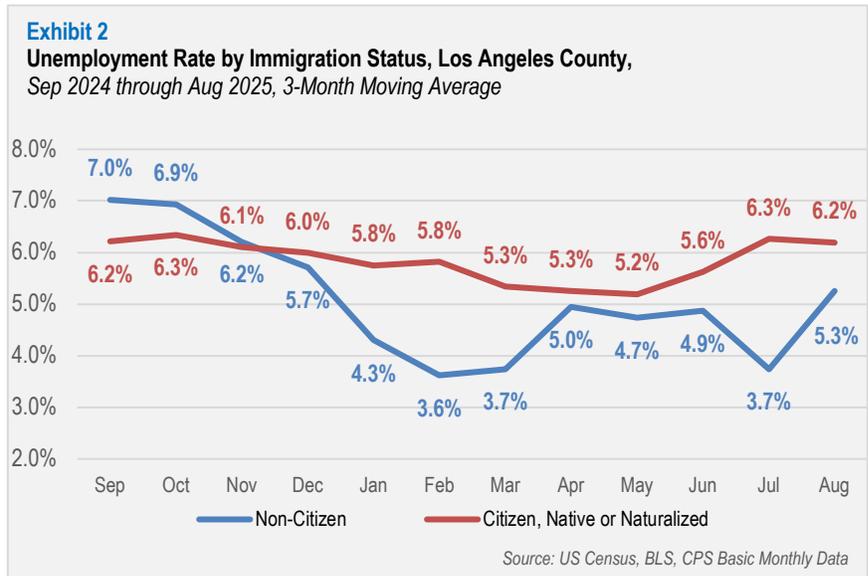
⁴ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB627

⁵ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB805

⁶ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB635

⁷ Jany, L., & Wang, H. (2025, September 20). As ICE raids surged this summer, emergency calls to LAPD plummeted. *Los Angeles Times*. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-09-20/ice-raids-911-calls>

Angeles County’s labor force in November and December, then eased through spring to 16.5 percent in May. After immigration enforcement activity ramped up in June, the non-citizen share fell sharply to 13.5 percent in June and 12.1 percent in July, before a partial rebound to 15.0 percent in August. The timing points to enforcement coinciding with an accelerated pullback of non-citizens from the measured labor force, likely through reduced job search, movement into informal work, or relocation. See **Exhibit 1** on the previous page for the month-to-month trend.



As shown in **Exhibit 2**, the three month average unemployment rate for non-citizens in Los Angeles County fell from about 7.0 percent in September 2024 to 3.6 percent in February 2025, then rose into the 4.7 to 4.9 percent range in May and June, dipped to 3.7 percent in July, and rebounded to 5.3 percent in August, while citizens stayed in a tighter band of roughly 5.2 to 6.3 percent and ended near 6.2 percent.

It should be noted that these month-to-month readings should be interpreted cautiously. These estimates come from CPS Basic Monthly data for Los Angeles County, and the very small sample sizes that are used to produce these estimates create volatility and less precision in these estimates.⁸ Consequently, the dip to 3.7 percent and the subsequent rebound to 5.3 percent could be artificially driven by sample and nonresponse effects. Nevertheless, the sharper summer movement in unemployment among non-citizens, coinciding with stepped up DHS and ICE activity in June, is consistent with some workers leaving or avoiding the measured labor market as opposed to an uptick in hiring.

Los Angeles County’s Exposure to the New H-1B Visa Fee

The Trump administration’s aggressive posture towards immigrants and immigration impacts Los Angeles County businesses beyond detaining undocumented workers and instilling fear in consumers. It also includes making it more costly for businesses that hire foreign workers for specialty occupations, such as through the H-1B process.

Los Angeles County hosts many H-1B visa holders, regularly adding thousands of new H-1B workers every year. On September 21st, 2025, President Trump announced that employers looking to hire through the H-1B process now have to pay a one-time, \$100,000 fee when applying for a new visa, which is much larger than the previous fee of between \$2,000 and \$5,000.⁹ Employers applying for a change in H-1B status for their employee who already holds an H-1B visa are exempt from the fee.¹⁰ However, it is still unclear which new H-1B applicants must pay the \$100,000 fee. The new fee could jeopardize Los Angeles County’s robust growth of H-1B visa workers, as employers may become unwilling to pay the fee and forgo undertaking the H-1B path to hire.

⁸ In July, the survey interviewed far fewer non-citizens in L.A. County (about 220 to 240 vs roughly 300 to 380 earlier in 2025) and the median weight per respondent rose to about 5,000, making the unemployment estimate more volatile.

⁹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/trump-100000-fee-h1b-visa>.

¹⁰ <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/h-1b-faq>

We used U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) data (USCIS data) and Freedom of Information Act data sourced from USCIS by Bloomberg (Bloomberg data) to estimate the number of new H-1B visas in Los Angeles County per year, along with industry, occupation, salary, and employer concentrations of H-1B workers. While the USCIS data gives comprehensive data on the number of new H-1B visas issued, new H-1B visa issuance is geocoded using the employer’s address, which may not necessarily be the worksite where the visa holder is located. On the other hand, while the Bloomberg data has geocoding by visa holder worksite, it only contains information on H-1B lottery registrants. It does not include information on H-1B visa holders exempt from the lottery.¹¹ Together, these datasets can characterize new H-1B visa holders associated with Los Angeles County.

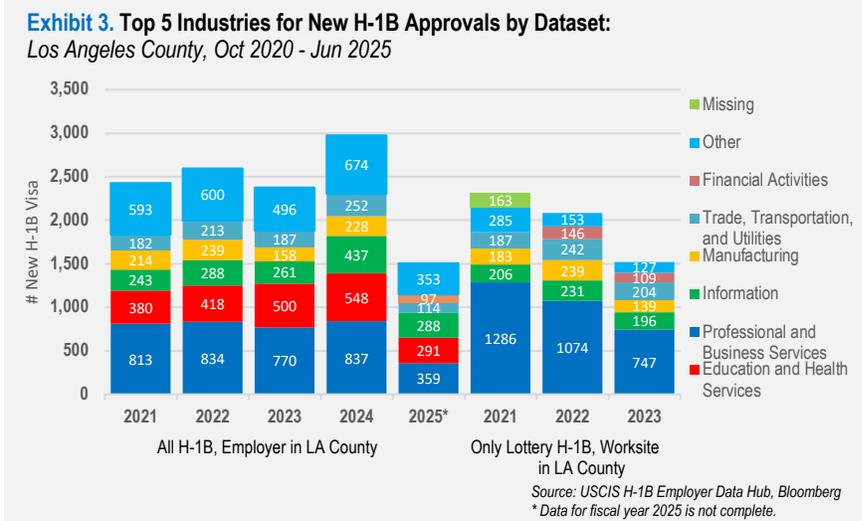


Exhibit 3 shows the number of new H-1B visas issued to employers associated with Los Angeles County by industry. Using the USCIS data, we estimate that employers with a listed address in Los Angeles County incurred between 2,300 and 2,900 new H-1B approvals over fiscal years¹² 2021 to 2024. The Bloomberg data shows that between 1,600 and 2,100 new H-1B lottery winners who got their visa approved worked in Los Angeles County over fiscal years 2021 and 2023. The exhibit also conveys that the industrial composition of new H-1B visas is similar between the two datasets. However, the Education and Health Services industry only appears as a top industry in the USCIS dataset because many employees in this industry are exempt from the H-1B lottery.

We also estimated the top 10 occupations and employers using the Bloomberg data for new H-1B lottery winners with worksites in Los Angeles County in **Exhibit 4**, shown on the previous page. In 2023, we estimated the most popular occupations to be in business analytics and accounting, with 36 percent of H-1B workers belonging to the top two occupations. However, there is no similar concentration among employers, as the top 10 employers employ only 11 percent of new H-1Bs. These top employers are mostly tech businesses and a few consulting and manufacturing businesses.

Exhibit 4. Top 10 Occupations and Employers of New H-1B Approvals
Los Angeles County, Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

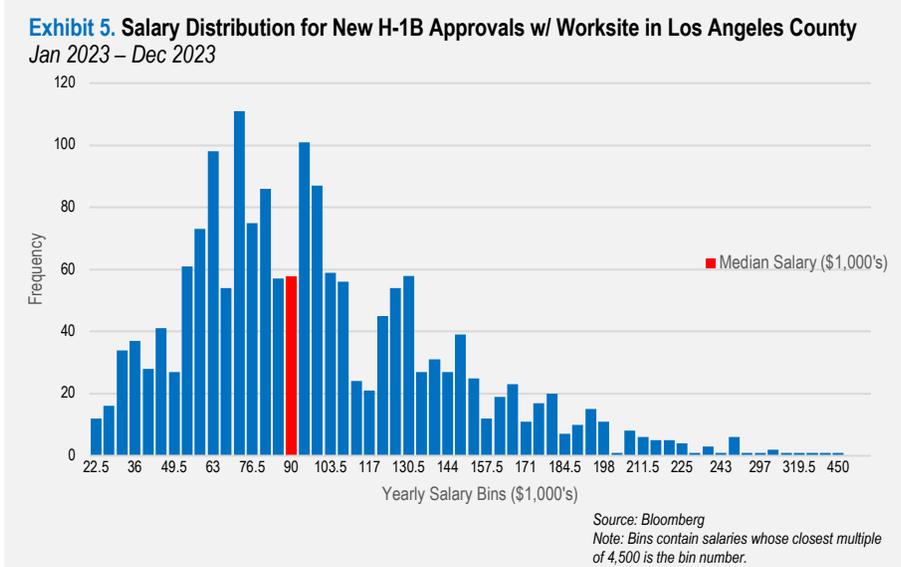
Occupation	Occupation % of New H-1B	Employer	Employer % of New H-1B
Occupations in Systems Analysis and Programming	27.58%	Amazon.com Services LLC	2.42%
Accountants, Auditors, and Related Occupations	9.03%	Snap, Inc.	1.52%
Other Computer-Related Occupations	4.67%	Google LLC	1.15%
Other Occupations in Administrative Specializations	4.48%	V-Soft Solutions Inc	1.09%
Architectural Occupations	4.00%	Riot Games, Inc.	1.03%
Budget and Management Systems Analysis Occupations	3.33%	Niagara Bottling, LLC	0.91%
Occupations in Economics	3.33%	Deloitte & Touche LLP	0.85%
Occupations in Mathematics	3.27%	TikTok Inc.	0.85%
Commercial Artists: Designers and Illustrators, Graphic Arts	3.15%	KPMG LLP	0.79%
Other Occupations in Architecture, Engineering, And Surveying	2.67%	Meta Platforms, Inc.	0.79%

Source: Bloomberg

¹¹ Employees working for employers such as schools or non-profits are usually exempt from the H-1B lottery.

¹² A fiscal year is defined using USCIS’s fiscal year definition, which starts in October of the previous year.

Finally, **Exhibit 5** uses the Bloomberg dataset to show the salary distribution for new H-1B lottery winners who have a worksite in Los Angeles County in 2023. Note that smaller salary amounts in the distribution may reflect work that is not intended to last more than a few months. Our estimates suggest that many H-1B worker salaries are concentrated around the median salary of \$90,740. However, the distribution’s large standard deviation of \$46,722 is owed to outlier salaries in the distribution’s right tail. While workers in Los Angeles County had an average salary of \$76,004¹³ in 2023, new H-1B holders had a higher average salary of \$98,907.



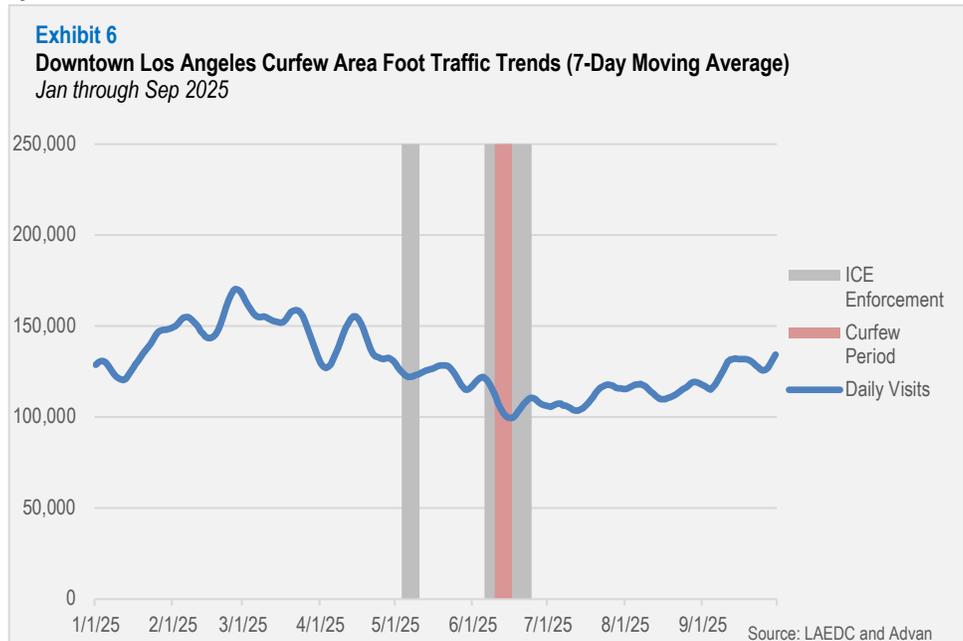
Downtown Los Angeles Curfew and Property Damage

Downtown Foot Traffic Analysis

Mayor Karen Bass imposed a nightly curfew in downtown Los Angeles from June 10, 2025 to June 16, 2025 in response to protests tied to intensified federal immigration enforcement. The curfew covered an approximately one-square-mile area bounded by the 5, 10, and 110 freeways. While the curfew was effective in protecting businesses, residents, and the local community, it also resulted in lost business hours and disruptions to economic activity.

Our analysis of foot traffic in the downtown Los Angeles area indicates that the disruptions from the curfew were significant. In addition, the disruptions extended beyond the start and stop dates of the curfew itself.

Exhibit 6 shows in blue a 7-day moving average of daily foot traffic (visits) in the downtown Los Angeles area where the curfew took place (“curfew area”) between January 1 and September 30, 2025. The grey shaded areas illustrate periods of



¹³ <https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/oes-employment-and-wages.html#OES>

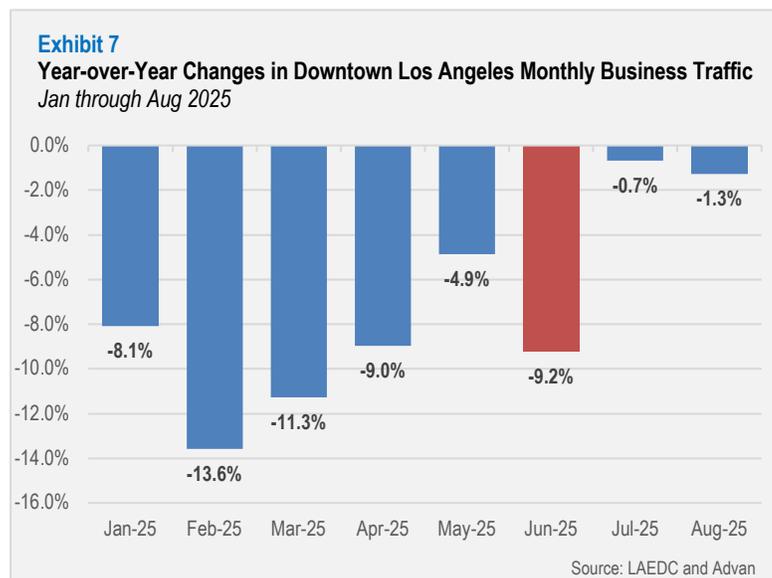
heightened federal immigration enforcement activity around downtown, including a week-long ICE operation from May 4 to 10, 2025 that resulted in 239 arrests in the greater Los Angeles area,¹⁴ and the June 6 to 24, 2025 period that began with immigration raids at the Los Angeles Fashion District and other areas¹⁵ and culminated with large protests after masked agents detained several people near East 9th Street and South Spring Street.¹⁶ The orange shaded area illustrates the curfew period from June 10 through June 16, 2025.

Care must be taken in interpreting any foot traffic trends over time—especially in an area as large as the downtown Los Angeles curfew area—since many factors can influence day-to-day visitation, ranging from weather to economic conditions to large sporting or entertainment events. That said, **Exhibit 6** shows that during the curfew period, foot traffic in the downtown curfew area declined by 10.3 percent, denoted by a steep drop.

The data also show that the curfew, while necessary to protect businesses and residents in the area, exacerbated an already worsening situation with respect to visitation. While the week of May 4 to May 10 was associated with only a 0.5 percent decline in foot traffic in the downtown curfew area, foot traffic began to decline significantly in the beginning of June. Over the June 6 to June 24 period, foot traffic decreased by 8.7 percent. Additionally, over the entire month of June, foot traffic in the curfew area was down 9.8 percent.

Exhibits 7 and 8 illustrate changes in monthly visitors to individual businesses located in the downtown curfew area from January to August 2025. Rather than just capturing visitors who entered the curfew area, these data are more specific in that they measure visitors in and around individual business establishments.

Exhibit 7 shows that on a year-over-year basis (i.e., January 2024 to January 2025), monthly visitation across all businesses tracked in the curfew area was down 9.2 percent in June. For context, year-over-year visitation was down in all months shown, and was down substantially from January through April, likely due to suppressed economic activity in the aftermath of the Eaton and Palisades fires. Business traffic was also down in May but had improved compared to earlier months. June, by contrast, showed a noticeable worsening of the situation.

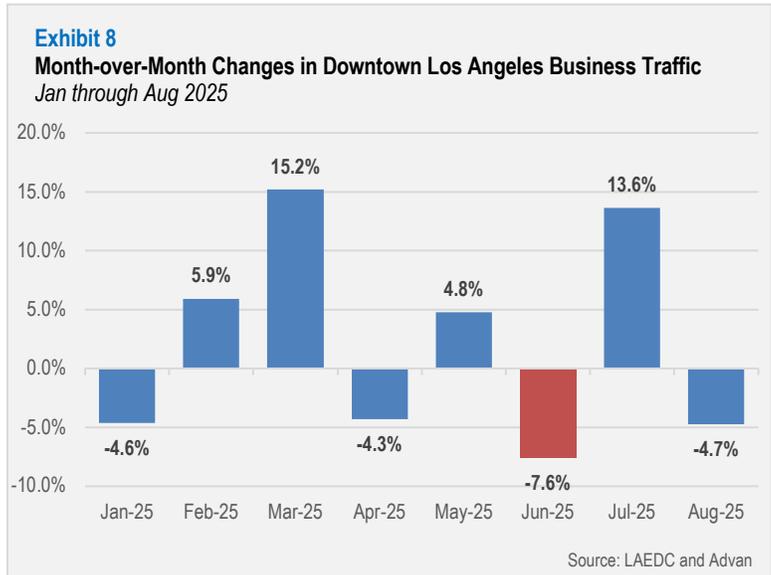


¹⁴ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (2025, May 14). *ICE Los Angeles announces 239 illegal aliens were arrested during recent operation* [Press release]. <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-los-angeles-announces-239-illegal-aliens-were-arrested-during-recent-operation>

¹⁵ Romo, V. (2025, June 10). *After ICE raids in LA, families of those detained are desperate for answers*. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/nx-s1-5428568/ice-raids-la-fashion-district-immigration>

¹⁶ NBC Los Angeles. (n.d.). *Angry crowds confront federal agents in downtown LA*. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/angry-crowds-confront-federal-agents-detaining-immigrants-in-downtown-la/3731468/>

Exhibit 8 corroborates this assessment on a month-over-month basis. Compared to December 2024, businesses in the curfew area experienced a 4.6 percent decrease in visitors in January 2025, likely due to the Eaton and Palisades fires. Visits rebounded in February and March by 5.9 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively, before fluctuating modestly in April and May. In June, businesses in the curfew area saw a 7.6 percent drop in visitation, consistent with the increased immigration activity enforcement and the resulting protests and curfew. Visits rebounded again in July by 13.6 percent before declining modestly in August by 4.7 percent.



Focusing specifically on June 2025, **Exhibit 9** presents the changes in monthly visitation to businesses in the downtown Los Angeles curfew area broken out by selected industries. Changes in monthly visitation are given in both year-over-year and month-over-month bases to account for seasonality while examining short-term differences in visitation.

Exhibit 9 shows that visits to businesses in the downtown curfew area in June 2025 were down compared to June 2024 for all industries except retail trade. Overall, the decrease in traffic measured 10.6 percent. Particularly hard hit were the Accommodation and Food Services sector and the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector, which experienced year-over-year declines of 21.3 percent and 16.3 percent, respectively. Transportation and Warehousing declined 11.8 percent while Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services declined 10.4 percent.

Compared to May 2025, business visitations decreased for all industries, with an overall decline of 6.5 percent. Accommodation and Food Services was the hardest hit, registering a 19.1 percent decline. This makes sense given that the nighttime curfew would have disproportionately impacted restaurants. Other Services (except Public Administration), which includes personal care services like barber shops and nail salons, saw the second biggest decline at 6.1 percent. This was followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (-4.5 percent), Manufacturing (-4.2 percent), and Finance and Insurance (-4.2 percent).

Exhibit 9
Changes in Monthly Visitation to Downtown Los Angeles Curfew Area
June 2025, by Selected Industries

NAICS Sector	Year-over-Year	Month-over-Month
31-33 – Manufacturing	-3.7%	-4.2%
44-45 – Retail Trade	13.7%	-1.9%
48-49 – Transportation and Warehousing	-11.8%	-1.8%
51 – Information	-9.1%	-1.1%
52 – Finance and Insurance	-5.5%	-4.2%
54 – Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	-10.4%	-3.7%
61 – Education	-2.4%	-1.4%
62 – Health Care and Social Assistance	-4.4%	-4.5%
71 – Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-16.3%	-1.0%
72 – Accommodation and Food Services	-21.3%	-19.1%
81 - Other Services (except Public Administration)	-4.4%	-6.1%
Total	-10.6%	-6.5%

Source: LAEDC and Advan

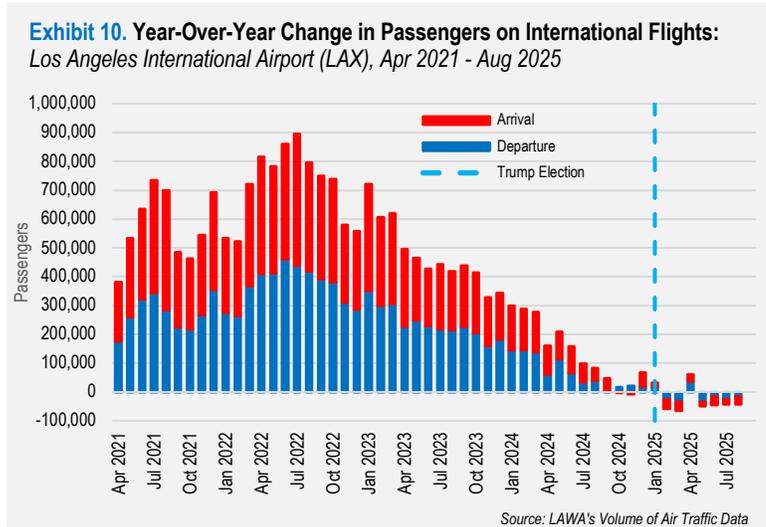
We will use these findings by industry to help estimate the economic impacts to businesses in the downtown curfew area in next month’s report.

Broader Context

Year-Over-Year Decline in Passengers on International Flights at LAX

The number of international visitors to Los Angeles is affected by the actual and perceived treatment of immigrants and other foreign residents. This has broader implications for the health of the Los Angeles County economy, as visitor spending supports hotels, restaurants, and arts and entertainment establishments.

The number of passengers on international flights at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in 2025 has mostly been below 2024 levels. **Exhibit 10** shows that for international flights departing and arriving at LAX, the year-over-year (YOY) change in passenger counts has been mostly negative in 2025, except for January and April. This is the first time since March 2021 that the YOY change in passenger counts for international arrival and departure flights has been negative.

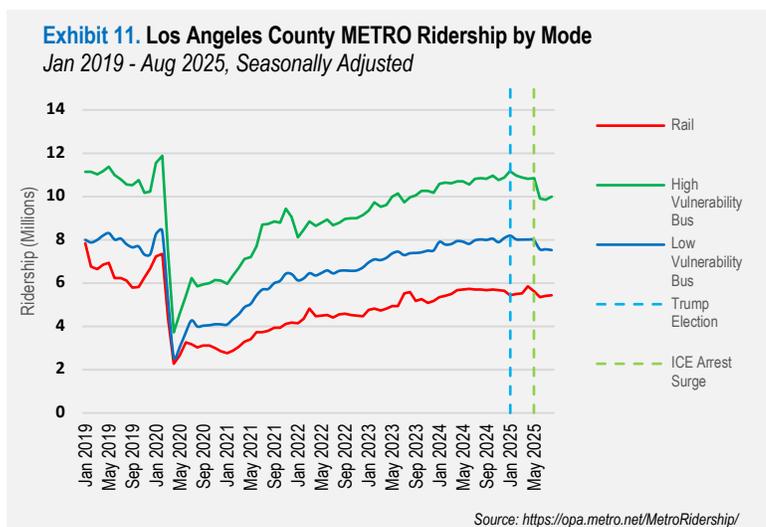


Multiple reasons may have contributed to this YOY decline. For example, the YOY passenger change for international flights has been trending downwards since the middle of 2022, as the recovery in passenger volume from the COVID-19 pandemic began to dampen. Additionally, the Los Angeles County wildfires in January 2025 could have warded off visitors. That said, the policies of the Trump administration likely have also impacted international travel to the Los Angeles area, including the heightening of immigration enforcement throughout the greater Los Angeles area starting in May and the administration's deployment of the National Guard to Los Angeles in June.

Decline in LA METRO Bus Ridership

Aggressive federal immigration enforcement also affects the provision of public services across Los Angeles County. One area where this is becoming more visible is in public transit.

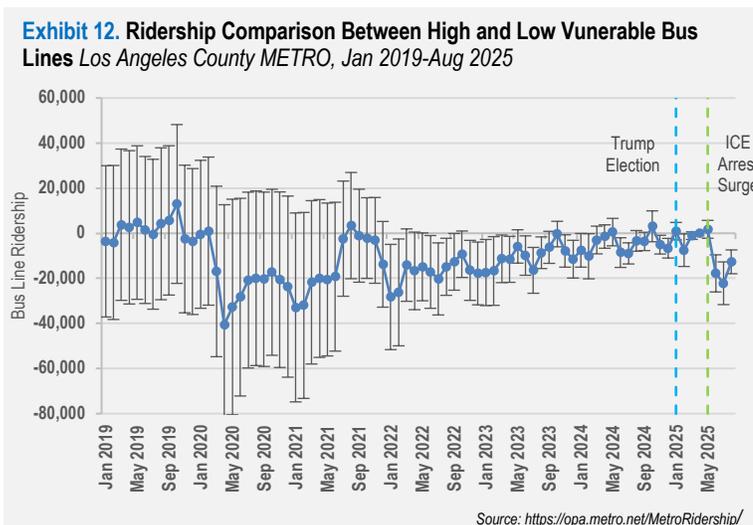
Bus ridership for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) faced a sharp decline after May of this year. As **Exhibit 11** details, seasonally adjusted METRO bus ridership for a constant sample of 91 bus lines¹⁷ began to cool in January and incurred a steep decline in ridership in June. The seasonally adjusted ridership for 4 METRO rail lines



¹⁷ This exhibit does not include total METRO bus ridership. Instead, it displays data from a sample of 91 bus lines and 4 rail lines to facilitate comparison between the same lines over time.

has been mostly steady throughout 2025. The data marked as “High Vulnerability Bus” are bus lines whose operating area puts them in the top 50 percent of LAEDC’s Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Index (IEVI) values, as defined in our August 15th report, while the data marked “Low Vulnerability Bus” are in the bottom 50 percent of the IEVI values.¹⁸ Higher values of this index indicate a greater propensity to be targeted by immigration enforcement activities.

To quantify the difference between high and low vulnerability bus ridership, we estimated a regression that compares monthly bus line ridership between these two groups in **Exhibit 12**. Each dot in **Exhibit 12** measures the difference in average ridership between bus lines with high and low immigration enforcement vulnerability, relative to this difference at baseline. We have chosen April 2025 as our baseline, as it is right before the surge in immigration enforcement. Averaging the estimates at June, July, and August 2025, we find that the difference in average ridership between high and low vulnerability bus lines was about 17 thousand monthly riders below the difference in April. This is the lowest difference from baseline since early 2023, and reverses the upward trend going into 2025. Consistent with **Exhibit 11**, the summer decline appears to be driven by a sharp, relative drop for high-vulnerability lines in June, followed by little recovery in July and August.



Several factors may have been responsible for the initial drop in ridership from May to June. Ridership may have declined more for buses that service high-vulnerability areas if patrons attempted to avoid immigration enforcement, as confirmed reports circulated in June that ICE was targeting public transit stops, along with a swelling of ICE arrests in June.¹⁹ Los Angeles also saw the deployment of the National Guard, large-scale immigration-focused protests, and a temporary curfew in June. These activities could have impacted bus lines servicing high-vulnerability areas more than low-vulnerability areas, causing the large drop in ridership. However, bus ridership remained depressed in July and August, after most of these events concluded, while ICE arrests remained elevated.

Supportive Services for Impacted Small Businesses

Resource Toolkit

In response to the ICE raids across the Los Angeles area, LAEDC and LA County’s Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in collaboration with the Department of Immigrant Affairs, has developed a comprehensive resource guide and toolkit to support impacted individuals, families, and communities. The guide centralizes critical information on legal aid, workers’ rights, emergency financial assistance, housing resources, and mental health services. It also includes information for employers on maintaining workplace protections and fostering a safe, inclusive environment.

¹⁸ Full details on the construction of each bus line’s vulnerability index, along with details on the regression presented in Exhibit 12, is given in Appendix A.

¹⁹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-20/new-immigration-crackdown-sparks-fear-among-public-transit-riders-ridership-has-dropped-up-to-15>

The resource toolkit is currently posted on the LAEDC and DEO websites.

Community Engagement

LAEDC business impact survey is now circulating throughout Los Angeles County and is generating responses. The business impact survey is intended to help measure the effects of recent and ongoing immigration enforcement activities. It is expected that the survey will remain open for a total of 60 days to maximize feedback. It is anticipated that results will be shared in the December reporting period.

LAEDC also has partnered with the Los Angeles Economic Equity Accelerator & Fellowship (LEEAF) to strengthen community engagement efforts across the region. This collaboration focuses on ensuring outreach to vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, with the goal of capturing voices and perspectives that can complement traditional economic analyses.

LEEAF reports that it conducted interviews between August 1 and September 30 with 178 business leaders across Los Angeles County on the impacts of immigration enforcement. (This report is included as Appendix B.) LEEAF's phone and in-person interviews focused on the effects of ICE raids on their businesses and their communities as a whole. The business leaders who shared their insights in these interviews ranged widely by industry and geography, reaching across all Supervisor Districts in LA County and focusing on areas heavily impacted by ICE raids including Downtown Los Angeles along with greater South and East LA. The interviews were bilingual, with 28 percent conducted in Spanish and the remainder in English, reaching an estimated 51 percent Hispanic/Latine respondents and 78 percent women.

Among other things, LEEAF found:

- The social and economic impacts of immigration enforcement were deeply linked in the experiences of these business leaders, with 104 (78 percent) mentioning mental and emotional health in ways that are suggestive of a “climate of fear.”
- Dozens of business leaders drew a direct line between fear in their communities and revenue loss for their businesses. The owner of a community health business summed up the situation: “People not going out leads to a loss of income to small businesses. If it continues it will be unsustainable for those small businesses. They will not be able to keep employees or stay open.”

Next Steps:

IAE will continue to update this economic analysis on a monthly basis as we obtain more information over time from impacted businesses, workers and affected stakeholders.

In particular, IAE will next estimate the economic impacts of the June 2025 curfew, focusing on business disruptions. The analysis will evaluate both the initial impacts that occurred during the one-week curfew period in June and potential longer-term disruption scenarios extending from June through end of the year. These scenarios will be informed by multiple data sources, including news reports on observed impacts, foot traffic data, and insights from a literature review of comparable events in other cities. These analyses will inform the potential economic consequences if similar disruptions were to occur again before the end of the year under current conditions.

Additionally, LAEDC provided guidance to LEEAF in its preparations for two town hall meetings (one in-person, one virtual) with community stakeholders to obtain feedback and perspectives on the fallout from federal immigration enforcement activities.

About Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) www.laedc.org

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is a public-benefit nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing a strong, growing, and sustainable economy for the Los Angeles region. Now in its 44th year, LAEDC works collaboratively with partners across the county to improve the quality of life for residents by fostering job creation, supporting key industries, and strengthening the region's economic resilience. As a trusted leader, LAEDC serves the people of Los Angeles County by promoting a healthy economy and high standard of living.

Appendix A:

Construction of the Bus Line Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Index and Regression Details

In the “Decline in LA METRO Bus Ridership” section, we presented evidence that the surge in immigration enforcement and other Los Angeles County-specific events in June of this year may have caused a sharp decline in bus ridership, and particularly so for lines with high immigration enforcement vulnerability relative to those with low vulnerability. To determine whether a bus line was of high or low vulnerability, we first mapped all 91 bus lines we were considering onto our Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Index (IEVI) map. The ZIP codes’ IEVI value that each bus line crossed through were then collected, along with the distance of the bus line in each ZIP code. The vulnerability index for each bus line was then calculated by taking the weighted average of all assigned ZIP codes’ IEVI values, weighted by the distance the bus line runs in the corresponding ZIP code. This weighting scheme then gives more weight to IEVI values that a bus line has greater exposure to. A table with the bus lines we considered and their weighted vulnerability score is given below, along with whether they were considered “low” or “high” vulnerability.

Exhibit A1. Los Angeles County METRO Bus Line Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Index Values by “High” and “Low” Vulnerability Status

Low Vulnerability Line #	Low Vulnerability IEVI	High Vulnerability Line #	High Vulnerability IEVI
2	0.27	10	0.32
4	0.21	14	0.31
16	0.23	18	0.34
20	0.20	30	0.32
28	0.23	35	0.32
33	0.25	40	0.28
76	0.27	45	0.35
78	0.24	51	0.33
90	0.19	53	0.31
92	0.25	55	0.38
94	0.23	60	0.30
102	0.27	62	0.29
105	0.24	66	0.38
120	0.27	70	0.29
128	0.25	81	0.31
150	0.16	108	0.29
154	0.23	110	0.34
155	0.13	111	0.38
158	0.27	115	0.28
161	0.06	117	0.33
164	0.23	125	0.29
165	0.27	127	0.31
180	0.18	152	0.38
205	0.20	166	0.34
209	0.24	167	0.32
210	0.24	169	0.29
212	0.23	202	0.33

Exhibit A1. Los Angeles County METRO Bus Line Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Index Values by “High” and “Low” Vulnerability Status

217	0.25	204	0.38
218	0.07	206	0.36
222	0.15	207	0.30
224	0.26	211	0.30
232	0.15	230	0.28
233	0.27	234	0.32
236	0.24	251	0.38
237	0.22	258	0.34
246	0.21	260	0.32
267	0.16	265	0.33
268	0.17	266	0.30
344	0.11	460	0.30
487	0.22	550	0.33
501	0.15	605	0.40
577	0.20	611	0.47
601	0.18	665	0.37
602	0.06	754	0.38
720	0.19	910	0.27
901	0.25		

We also estimated a regression in the “Decline in LA METRO Bus Ridership” section. This regression is formally known as a difference-in-differences event study. Below is the equation that we estimated:

$$y_{l,t} = \sum_{j=1, j \neq 76}^{80} \beta_j \times treat_{l,j} + \alpha_l + \delta_t + \gamma \times X_{l,t} + \epsilon_{l,t}$$

Where l is an index for bus line and t is an index for time. The variable $y_{l,t}$ measures bus ridership for line l at time t , $treat_{l,j}$ takes a value of one at time j if line l is a high vulnerable bus line and zero otherwise, α_l are line fixed effects, δ_t are time fixed effects, and $X_{l,t}$ is the average yearly bus stops for a line l at time t .²⁰ The coefficient β_j is represented by the dots in Exhibit 3, and measures the difference in average ridership between bus lines with high and low immigration enforcement vulnerability, relative to this difference at baseline (April 2025 or $j = 76$), conditional on controls mentioned above. The baseline period is omitted to avoid perfect collinearity with the set of treatment dummies. The regression controls for factors that are constant within a bus line throughout the period using line fixed effects (α_l), factors that affect all bus lines each month using time fixed effects (δ_t), and the yearly average number of stops a bus line has ($X_{l,t}$).

²⁰ Data on yearly stops is collected from <https://developer.metro.net/gis-data/>.

Appendix B:



**LOS ANGELES
ECONOMIC EQUITY
ACCELERATOR
& FELLOWSHIP**

October Report

LEEF x LAEDC Immigration Enforcement Impacts

LEEF conducted interviews with 178 business leaders to extend and enrich understanding of the impacts of immigration enforcement. Leveraging LEEF's network of 13,000 businesses across Los Angeles County, our Facilitator and Outreach Teams led phone and in-person interviews from August 1 to September 30 focused on the effects of ICE raids on their businesses and their communities as a whole.

The business leaders who shared their insights in these interviews ranged widely by industry and geography, reaching across all Supervisor Districts in LA County and focusing on areas heavily impacted by ICE raids including Downtown Los Angeles along with greater South and East LA. The interviews were bilingual, with 28% conducted in Spanish and the remainder in English, reaching an estimated 51% Hispanic/Latine respondents and 78% women.

Crucially, each LEEF interview is designed to build trusting relationships, centering respect and care to enable business leaders to share candid insights into the impacts of immigration enforcement. This report explores the lived experience of business leaders to reveal economic impacts beyond traditional indicators, with future reports investigating how fear and mistrust affect long-term business health - and how businesses and communities are coming together to resist and respond to the current situation.

Bottom-line effects of a climate of fear: How social impacts deepen economic impacts

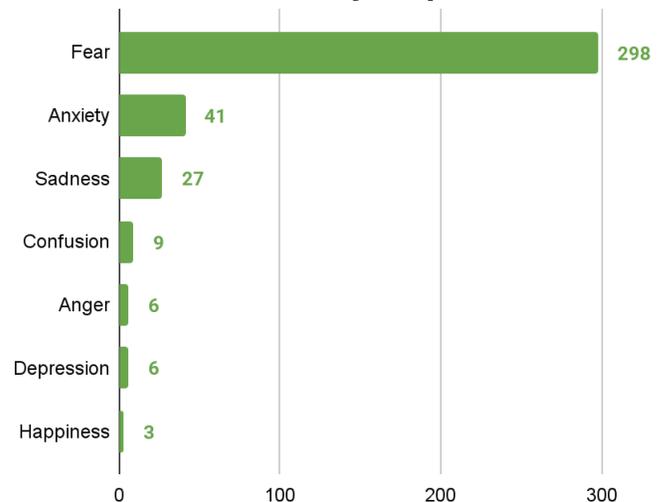
Respondents shared insights that extend traditional economic analysis, showing how mental and emotional factors combine with economic factors to drive deep impacts on businesses and their communities. When asked about how immigration enforcement impacted their business, many shared experiences of revenue loss, with 108 businesses (61%) reporting losses of 10% or greater to monthly revenue and 50 (28%) reporting losses of 50% or more. Further, 62% reported that their workers were impacted by raids and 33% said they had to close their business temporarily to adjust .

Social and economic impacts of immigration enforcement were deeply linked in the experiences of these business leaders. When asked about how raids had impacted their community, 104 business leaders (78%) mentioned mental and emotional health. A count of the emotion words used by these business leaders brings detail to the phrase "climate of fear"

that many have used to describe the current situation: words related to fear appeared 298 times in their responses (*afraid*, *scared*, and *scary* along with *fear* itself) anxiety appearing 41 times, sadness 27 times, and no other common emotions appearing more than 10 times across 179 interviews.

The climate of fear they described reached across their communities and fueled economic outcomes, driving losses in revenue and worker capacity along with impacts on trust and community cohesion. The owner of a media company described an "uneasiness that is permeating everywhere" and multiple businesses spoke of people afraid to go out, attend events, or shop. Affects reached beyond immigrants, with one respondent noting that "mental health is also

Emotion words used by respondents



being impacted whether you are an immigrant or were born here. We are watching and listening to all the bad stuff all around, all the chaos, and that is causing mental health problems." The leader of a craft business told us that "I see the fear in my neighbors, in my family, and my business community."

Dozens of business leaders drew a direct line between fear in their communities and revenue loss for their businesses. Many respondents described how customers who used to visit in person were now staying inside, with community events that used to drive revenue either poorly attended or closed altogether. The owner of an insurance business told us that customers are "hesitant to spend money at this time because they don't know what's going to happen to themselves or their families."

"If it continues it will be unsustainable for these small businesses. They will not be able to keep employees or stay open. A lot of local businesses that have been in the community for decades are closing."

Respondents told of dramatic changes in streets and commercial corridors once packed with customers and community life. The owner of a closing business shared that "where our streets used to be filled with people shopping, there is now a lot of emptiness." The owner of a community health business summed up the situation: "People not going out leads to a loss of income to small businesses. If it continues it will be unsustainable for those small businesses. They will not be able to keep employees or stay open. A lot of local businesses that have been in the community for decades are closing."

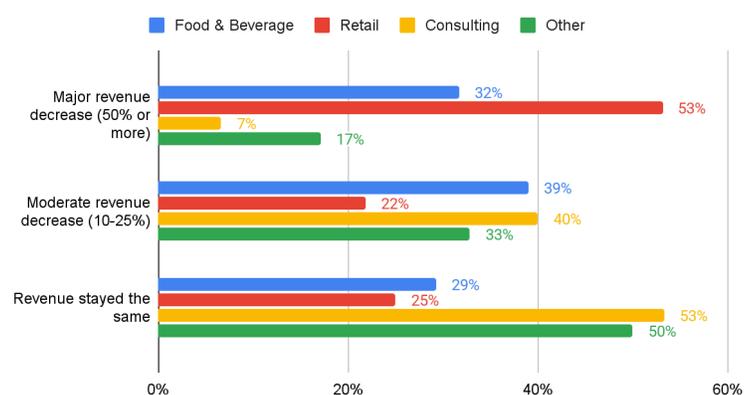
Fear also affected worker outcomes. "We currently are not offering enough hours to our employees. Right now we only have myself and another family member working the business and many are out of work." The owner of a spa described "a domino effect financially" where "If employees are afraid to go to work they cannot provide for their family and they will eventually go through financial hardships".

Finally, the climate of fear affected business behavior, reducing overall capacity with specific impacts on resource use and with the willingness to invest and take risks. A retail business owner described how the businesses she knows are "less likely to register or apply for services and resources to help their businesses grow and succeed" because they are ""fearful that the information they share will be used against them to target them." Several business leaders described avoiding locations or even canceling contracts to avoid risk, with one respondent noting that "because I am not willing to take that risk I lose potential revenue and business growth from not connecting with clients."

Unequal impacts: Revenue loss across industry, race, and language groups

Revenue impacts hit some businesses harder than others. LEEAF interviews gained a critical mass of respondents from retail, food & beverage, and consulting industries, revealing that over half of retail businesses (53%) and about a third of food & beverage businesses (33%) reported major revenue decreases of 50% or more, compared to 17% in other industries. Roughly half of businesses in consulting and other industries reported revenue remaining about the same.

Self-reported revenue loss by industry



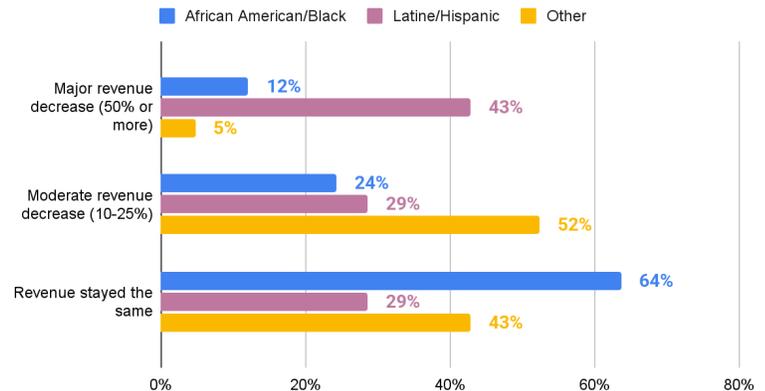
The words of the business leaders interviewed by LEEAF point to the lived experience that drives these patterns in impact. Businesses that depend on events reported heavy impacts, with one respondent describing "a drastic drop in visitors", another reporting their customers

"aren't emotionally open to be in a celebratory event", and another sharing that "people are scared to celebrate and host events - we need help in many ways and our business is hanging by a thread."

The leader of a retail shop who usually sells outside and at events shared that her monthly revenue had decreased 85%, leading her to close for two weeks because "people aren't going outside and there aren't any sales." The leader of a personal services business reported a double bind where "clients are afraid of meeting up in public places but they also don't want strangers coming into their home."

Impacts also varied widely across race/ethnicity and language, with 43% of Hispanic/Latine business owners reporting major revenue losses of 50% or more, compared to 12% of Black respondents and 5% of other ethnic groups. Patterns in revenue loss were even more dramatic across language groups, with 68% of business owners not fluent in English reporting a major revenue decrease compared to only 19% of English-fluent businesses.

Self-reported revenue loss by ethnicity/race



Spanish-speaking business owners reported particularly intense impacts, as with the owner of a beverage business who described "a fear of being profiled and targeted. Families are being torn apart. People and businesses are still regrouping with what has been happening." Multiple business leaders described feeling stigmatized and isolated, like the respondent who told us that "we are painted as criminals and bad people. No one trusts us or they look down on us." She closed the interview with a wish, noting that she is "just hoping this will pass soon and we can continue to work without fear."

Takeaways and next steps

This first analysis extends research on the economic structure of communities to show how the emotional and mental burdens of raids affect businesses. It adds depth to results exploring the impact of immigration enforcement on foot traffic and consumer behavior, showing that revenue loss impacts businesses differently by industry, language, and race. These results also reveal human impacts that are hard to quantify but deeply impact the long-term economic and social health of communities.

Reports in the next two months will leverage these interviews with business leaders to shed light on further themes including resource use, public health, and the role of small businesses in addressing the issues faced by their communities. Their responses will show how fear and mistrust not only impact the bottom line of businesses but also how businesses and communities access resources, changing their trajectory of growth. Further analysis will explore the ways that many business leaders are stepping up to support their workers and communities in this challenging time and how government and philanthropic support can position businesses as hubs for economic recovery.

In the coming month, LEEAF will release a public report featuring full results from business leader interviews, lead a new set of interviews with community-based organizations, and hold a series of events where business leaders can access resources, share business and community needs, and discuss solutions. Organization interviews will shed further light on direct community-level economic and social impacts but also show the impact of recent immigration enforcement on the support systems that undergird business outcomes. Town halls will bring further insight into the continuing impacts of raids, but most importantly will open space for businesses to develop the ideas, resources, and connections to build economic resilience and support community recovery.



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Methodological Note

LEEF x LAEDC Immigration Enforcement Impacts

LEEF conducted interviews with 178 business leaders from August 1 to September 30 focused on the effects of ICE raids on their businesses and their communities as a whole. The sample of respondents drew from LEEF's network of over 13,000 businesses and roughly matched the demographic profile of the business owners in the LEEF network, reaching an estimated 51% Hispanic/Latine respondents and 78% women. The business leaders who shared their insights in these interviews ranged widely by industry and geography, reaching across all Supervisor Districts in LA County and focusing on areas heavily impacted by ICE raids including Downtown Los Angeles along with greater South and East LA.

Interviews were conducted largely by phone with some in-person conversations, led by members of Facilitator and Outreach Teams trained in rapport-building and deep listening. The interviews were bilingual, with 28% conducted in Spanish and the remainder in English. Interviewers took notes during the conversation, pausing and reading back key quotes to ensure accuracy. The interviews were semi-structured, including a core set of questions but also opening space for business leaders to express their full experience and for interviewers to follow up to clarify and explore generative responses. The analysis in this report focused on responses to these questions:

1. We know there has been a large uptick in ICE raids and protests, do you know any businesses that have been affected - what kind of effects have you seen?
2. How do you think workers and employees are going to be impacted? [Follow up]: Do you know of any businesses that are experiencing labor shortages?
3. How has your business been impacted by the protests in response to the raids? [If unanswered]: How long did the city take to clean up after the protests? Were you able to open back up quickly?
4. Have the raids/protests forced you to adapt in ways that have impacted your business?
5. In the last few months, would you say your revenue has been impacted? [Multiple choice with options revealing]
6. Besides the economy and business, what other impacts do you see these raids having on the community?

Further questions focused on specific impacts to inform future reporting:

1. We've talked to thousands of business owners and have seen that many of them are hesitant to sign up for government services for their businesses—how do you think these raids are going to affect trust in government services?
2. How do you think the ICE raids/protests are impacting foot traffic in the area?
3. Did you have to temporarily or permanently close your business due to ICE raids? Did you have to temporarily or permanently close your business due to the protests?
4. Is there anything else you would like to let us know about these raids and their impact on the community?

Researchers coded the interview notes and collaboratively refined a set of core themes through iterative discussion to ensure consistency and validity. Illustrative quotes were selected to exemplify key themes and to give voice to participant experiences while maintaining confidentiality and adhering to ethical research standards.

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LAEDC

For Small Businesses and Workers impacted
by Immigration Enforcement

Legal Aid & Referrals

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)

Deportation defense, removal defense for detained individuals, children, veterans

General Public:
213-833-8283 (24/7 hotline)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Free consultations, deportation defense, rapid response to ICE activity

General Public:
888-624-4752 (hotline) | www.chirla.org

Public Counsel

Pro bono legal immigration support

General Public:
www.publiccounsel.org

El Rescate Legal Services

Low-cost DACA, asylum, citizenship, SIJS, U-Visa help

General Public:
www.elrescate.org

Central American Resource Center (CARACEN)

Legal services for students, and faculty in the CSU and CA community college system

Members of CSU and community college system:
www.carecenla.simplybook.me/v2
www.findyourally.com

Boyle Heights Immigrant Rights Network

Attorneys offering legal support

General within East L.A. or Boyle Heights:
323-805-1049 | www.proyectopastoral.org

Immigration Equality

Free information/legal services for those persecuted on account of sexual orientation

LGBTQ+ Migrant Community:
www.immigrationequality.org/legal/legal-help/resources

Asian Americans Advancing Justice SoCal

Supports with adjustment of status, representation in court, and other forms of family-based immigration

Asian American Migrant Community:
213-977-7500 | www.ajsocal.org

Immi

Free and low-cost immigration legal aid

General Public:
www.immi.org/en/Info/FindLegalHelp

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles

Free and low-cost legal and social services

General Public:
www.catholiccharitiesla.org/irr
213-251-3411

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Help with adjusting status and navigating the immigration process

General Public:
www.lafla.org/get-help/immigration
800-399-4529

Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County

Helps individuals adjust immigration status and become a naturalized citizen

General Public:
www.nls-la.org/legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern_intake.php?pid=157&h=bcaf65&f=717&i=498294&_ref_mes=Saved

Central American Resource Center Los Angeles

Low-cost legal help, free consultation, and citizenship application preparedness

General Public:
213-385-7800 ext.136

Emergency Hotlines

Boyle Heights Immigrant Rights Network

Hotline to report raids, volunteers help to identify agents and contact info of those detained

General Public within East L.A. or Boyle Heights:
323-805-1049

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

ICE activity reporting, deployment of legal support teams

General Public:
888-624-4752

ImmDef

Southern California ICE removal defense hotline

General Public:
213-833-8283

ACLU SoCal

Legal support, ICE raid reporting

General Public:
213-353-1333

Los Angeles Raids and Rapid Response Network(LARNN)

Individuals can report raids, seek help if detained or at risk, and report missing migrants

General Public:
888-624-4752

Immigration Equality

Provides detention help

LGBTQ+ Migrant Community:
917-654-9696

El Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes

Assists families in their search for a migrant who has gone missing in Mexico

General Public:
From US: dial 01152 first, then 55-55-27-54-23

ICE Out of California Hotline

Assists people who have been victim of the ICE raids or victim of the TRUST Act Violation

General Public:
1-844-TRUST-01

American Bar Association (ABA) Hotline

Assistance for those with loved ones held at Guantanamo Bay

General Public:
1-855-641-6081

National Immigration Detention Hotline

Connects immigrants in detention to their family, resources, and abuse documentation

General Public:
Dial 9233#



Connect With Us:

510 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020
1-844-777-2059 | opportunity.lacounty.gov | @EconOppLA



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For Small Businesses and Workers impacted by Immigration Enforcement

Know Your Rights (KYR)

LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs

KYR cards/workshops and legal referrals in multiple languages

General Public:

800-593-8222

www.immigrants.lacounty.gov

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

Day laborer-focused KYR materials

General Public:

www.ndlon.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California

Rights education on how to support AAPI immigrant communities

General Public:

www.ajsocal.org/immigration/#know-your-rights

California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice

Resource and guidance to help take steps after someone you know is detained by immigration

General Public:

www.ccijustice.org/post-detention-guide

National Immigration Law Center

Guide to help look for someone who was taken by immigration officers and faces deportation

General Public:

www.nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest

American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Immigration

Information page to provide important information about key immigration terms

General Public:

www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/immigration/frequently-asked-questions

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Guide for knowing one's rights ahead of time and creating a step-by-step family preparedness plan

General Public:

www.ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California

Website:

www.aclusocal.org/en/issues/immigrant-rights

Department of Economic Opportunity Webinars (DEO)

Webinars to help businesses and workers understand their rights

Spanish: Conozca Sus Derechos:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaOruFbJM94

English:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1YY2VNyhPc

Community Support

Los Angeles Rapid Response Network (LARRN)

Coalition of 15+ orgs deploying monitors, response teams

General Public:

Through CHIRLA or ImmDef

Community Self-Defense Coalition

Organizing protest actions, community ICE patrols

General Public:

Via local organizing hubs

Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)

Immigrant workers' rights advocacy (esp. Koreatown)

General Public:

www.kiwa.org

TransLatin@ Coalition

Transgender Latinx immigrant advocacy and services

General Public:

www.translatinacoalition.org

Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC)

Southeast Asian immigrant support (housing, health, jobs)

General Public:

www.thaicdc.org

United We Dream

Advocacy, Know Your Rights workshops, and legal assistance for immigrant youth

General Public:

www.unitedwedream.org

Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Center (ICON CDC)

Rapid response grant and direct cash aid to impacted individuals and families

General Public:

Council District 7 Residents

Pico-Union Project

Education, advocacy, and legal support for immigrants in Los Angeles

General Public:

www.pico-union.org

Carecen Los Angeles (Central American Resource Center)

Free or low-cost legal services for Central American immigrants, including asylum and deportation defense

General Public:

www.carecen-la.org

Liberty Hill Foundation

Grants and support for grassroots organizations advocating for immigrant rights

General Public:

www.libertyhill.org

The Weingart Center Association

Services to homeless immigrants, including case management, housing, and mental health services

General Public:

www.weingart.org

LA Immigrant Youth Coalition (LIYC)

Advocacy, activism, and legal aid to young immigrants, especially those impacted by deportation proceedings

General Public:

www.immigranyouthcoalition.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ) – Los Angeles

Legal services and community education for Asian immigrants

General Public:

www.advancingjustice-la.org

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)

Free legal services to low-income immigrants, including deportation defense and assistance with housing and employment

General Public:

www.lafla.org

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project

Legal services, including help with asylum cases, U visas, and deportation defense

General Public:

www.esperanza-la.org

Tiyya Foundation

Support for refugee and immigrant families, including food, housing, and social services

General Public:

www.tiyya.org

California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)

Advocacy and public policy support focused on immigrant rights and protections in California

General Public:

www.caimmigrant.org



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Specialized Support

Program for Torture Victims (PTV)

Legal affidavits, mental health & trauma care for asylum seekers

General Public:
www.ptvla.org

National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

Civil and health rights for immigrant communities

General Public:
www.healthlaw.org

Women's Refugee Commission

Finding families where children have been separated

General Public:
Together.gov
1-646-905-8892

County of Los Angeles

LA County Animal Care & Control

DACC Supports Pet Owners Affected by Deportation Operations

Website:
animalcare.lacounty.gov/news/dacc-supports-pet-owners-affected-by-deportation-operations/

DPSS: Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)

Website:
dpss.lacounty.gov/en/cash/capi.html

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)

For mental health support during this time

General Public:
www.dmh.lacounty.gov
Help Line: (800) 854-7771 or call/text/chat with 988

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Immigration services assistance to undocumented children who are victims of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and exploitation.

General Public:
www.dcfs.lacounty.gov/youth/immigration
(800) 540-4000

Home Visitation Program

Planning to become pregnant, are pregnant, or child under 5 home visitation from CHW

General Public:
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/helpegrow/home-visiting-and-family-support.html

Fraud Prevention

CA Attorney General & ABC7

Guidance against notario fraud and unauthorized immigration consultants

General Public:
www.oag.ca.gov

Helpful Databases

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

Directory of private immigration attorneys

General Public:
www.aialawyer.com

American Bar Association (ABA)

Lists of local and state bar associations with immigration contacts

General Public:
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home/flh-bar-directories-and-lawyer-finders/

American Bar Association (ABA)

Immigration judge dashboard to allow registered users to access case outcome data

General Public:
<https://cgrs.ucsf.edu/about-immigration-judge-dashboard>

Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA)

Serves consumers, businesses, and communities with added focus on rent stabilization and tenant protections

General Public:
www.dcba.lacounty.gov/contact-us/
(800) 593-8222

Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA)

The mission of the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs is to advance the well-being of immigrants in LA County

General Public:
www.oia.lacounty.gov
(800) 593-8222

Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH)

General Public:
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch

Los Angeles County Community Health Outreach Initiatives (DPH/CHOI)

Support for the wellbeing of infants, mothers, fathers, children, adolescents, and families in Los Angeles County.

General Public:
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/choi/CHOIContractorListEngSp.pdf

Help Me Grow

Provides support to children with special needs or with disabilities and helps connect them to service providers

General Public:
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/helpegrow/index.html
(833) 903-3972 Hotline

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DEO)

Supports businesses and workers in need of assistance and resources

Website:
www.opportunity.lacounty.gov/immigration

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