Essays on Economic Policy (ESPE in Spanish) - Colombian Immigrants in the United States of America: Education Levels, Job Qualifications and the Decision to Go Back Home

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Abstract

This document shows that Colombian immigrants, who returned to the country from the United States between 1990 and 2005, were on average less well-educated than those who decided to stay in the U.S. This is a fact that has contributed to emphasizing the positive selection made by Colombians when choosing the U.S. as their destination, and, as a result, has increased the net flight of human capital (the so-called brain drain). Although data does not allow us to include the quality of the jobs that immi-grants are performing in the U.S. as a determinant of the decision to return, it allows us to show that Colombian immigrants are usually engaged in jobs that require qualifications commensurate with the level of education. We also provide evidence that Colombia is a net exporter of 5% of its population with a university or post-graduate degree.

Fuente: https://www.banrep.gov.co/en/publications-research/espe/Colombian-immigrants-in-the-united-states-of-america