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## The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 04, 2013

# WEEKLY ADDRESS: Fixing our Immigration System and Expanding Trade in Latin America

WASHINGTON, DC—In his weekly address, President Obama spoke to the American people from Mexico City, Mexico about the incredible opportunities to create middle-class jobs in America by deepening our economic ties and expanding trade in Latin America. He also discussed a recent Senate bill that takes commonsense steps to fix our broken immigration system, like strengthening security on our border with Mexico, providing a pathway to earned citizenship, and modernizing our legal immigration system to attract highly skilled workers to our shores, which helps create jobs and grow the economy. The President will continue to work with our neighbors on our common security and common prosperity, so that we fix our broken immigration system, open more markets for American businesses, and create middle-class jobs for American workers.

The audio of the address and video of the address will be available online at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) at 6:00 a.m. ET, Saturday, May 4, 2013.

**Remarks of President Barack Obama**  
**Weekly Address**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
**May 4, 2013**

Hi, everybody. Today, I'm speaking to you from the road – a trip to Mexico and Costa Rica.

I'm here because Latin America represents an incredible opportunity for the United States, especially when it comes to my top priority as President: creating good, middle-class jobs.

On Friday, we learned that our businesses created another 176,000 jobs last month. That's 2.2 million new jobs over the past year, and 6.8 million new jobs over the past 38 months.

But as I've said before, I won't be satisfied until everyone who wants a job can find one. So I'm going to keep doing everything I can and going everywhere I need to go to help our businesses create jobs.

Now, one of the best ways to grow our economy is to sell more goods and services Made in America to the rest of the world. That includes our neighbors to the south.

Right now, over 40 percent of our exports go to the Americas. And those exports are growing faster than our trade with the rest of the world. That's why I visited Latin America this week – to work with leaders to deepen our economic ties and expand trade between our nations.

In Mexico, I also talked about immigration reform, because that's an important issue that affects both our countries.

The truth is, right now, our border with Mexico is more secure than it's been in years. We've put more boots on that border than at any time in our history, and illegal crossings are down by nearly 80 percent from their peak in 2000. But we've got more to do – not just to secure the border but to fix an immigration system that is badly broken.

In recent weeks, we've seen a commonsense immigration reform bill introduced in the Senate. This bill is a compromise, which means that nobody got everything they wanted – including me. But it's largely consistent with the principles I've laid out from the beginning.

It would continue to strengthen security at our borders and hold employers more accountable if they knowingly

## WATCH THE VIDEO



May 04, 2013 5:00 AM

[Weekly Address: Fixing our Immigration System and Expanding Trade in Latin America](#)



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President makes a pitch for civic connection -- for participation in public life, for engagement in national debates, for community service -- as he speaks to the Class of 2013.

May 06, 2013 10:23 AM EDT

[Celebrating and Listening to Our Nation's Teachers](#)  
Teacher Appreciation Week starts this week and honors extraordinary teachers for their work in the classroom.

May 04, 2013 2:15 PM EDT

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President Obama travels to Mexico and Costa Rica to reinforce the deep cultural, familial, and economic ties that so many Americans share with Mexico and Central America.

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hire undocumented workers.

It would provide a pathway to earned citizenship for the 11 million individuals who are already in this country illegally.

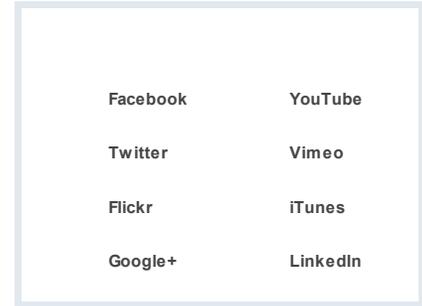
And it would modernize our legal immigration system so that we're able to reunite families and attract the highly-skilled entrepreneurs and engineers who will help create good paying jobs and grow our economy.

These are all commonsense steps that the majority of Americans support. So there's no reason that immigration reform can't become a reality this year.

In the meantime, I'll keep working with our neighbors on our common security and our common prosperity. Millions of Americans earn a living right now because of the trade between our nations. And after this week, I'm as confident as ever that we can build on our shared heritage and values to open more markets for American businesses and create more jobs for American workers.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

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