

## Reaching the Need for 40 Million More US Workers

*Calculating the number of people in the US needed to maintain current ratios of working-age adults to adults over 65 years old involves a few calculations of publicly available government data. Given the multiple steps required for sound analysis, a brief description of how 40 million people was reached is included below:*

First, using Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [demographic projections](#) and [data](#), we can find the projected numbers of people in the US by age bracket. Using the current ratio of people aged 20-64 to people aged over 65 of 3.07, we can find the number of people aged 20-64 we will need in 2036 by multiplying 3.07 by the projected number of people over 65 in 2036 (77.5 million people). This gives roughly 238 million as the “needed” population of 20-64 year olds in 2036.

Then, because CBO projections include net immigration flows into the US, we must remove the net immigration from estimates of the number of 20-64 year olds in 2036. By subtracting the number of immigrants (8.1 million) that will contribute to the CBO estimate of 206 million people, we can find a projection of 197.9 million people aged 20-64 in 2036, without any new immigration. To find the gap of how many more people we will need, absent any new immigration, to maintain this ratio of working-age adults to those over 65, we finally subtract the projected number of 20-64 year olds in 2036 (197.9 million) from the projected “needed” population of 20-64 year olds (238 million) which results in a gap of roughly 40 million people.