**US Cities Depend on Immigrants for Growth**

**美国城市依靠移民促发展**

Jawad Rahimi is a native of Afghanistan. He arrived in the United States 16 years ago after spending time as a refugee in Azerbaijan. Since then, his store in St. Louis, Missouri has become a needed part of the city center.

贾瓦德·拉希米是土生土长的阿富汗人。在阿塞拜疆度过了一段难民时光后，他于16年前抵达美国。从那以后，他在密苏里州圣路易斯开的商店渐渐成为市中心必不可少的一部分。

The area is full of empty homes and buildings. A usual day brings a continuous flow of people who come for alcohol, food or just to talk.

该地区到处都是空的房屋和建筑物。平平常常的一天就会不断吸引来买酒，买食物或只是聊天的人。

“I think they’re addicted to me,” he told the Reuters news agency. He said people exchange friendly words with him as they buy their goods in his store.

他对路透社说：“我认为他们已经离不开我了。”他说，人们来他的商店购买商品时总是与他友好地交流。

St. Louis and several other cities in Midwestern states have come to depend on people like Rahimi in urban areas.

圣路易斯和中西部各州的其他几个城市市区已经开始依赖像拉希米这样的人了。

Between 2010 and 2018. the population of St. Louis shrank by 10.000 people. If it were not for 15.000 foreigners who arrived to live in the city, the decrease would likely have been greater.

在2010年至2018年间，圣路易斯的人口减少了10000。如果不是有15000名外国人的留居，下降的幅度可能会更大。

Reuters examined government data for that period. It found that immigration reversed what would have been major population decreases in 18 cities. Among them are Detroit, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Akron, Ohio. Many are cities that have depended on manufacturing.

路透社调查了该时期的政府数据。调查发现，移民扭转了原本18个城市人口减少的局面。其中包括密歇根州的底特律，威斯康星州的密尔沃基市和俄亥俄州的阿克伦市。这其中许多城市是依赖制造业发展的城市。

In St. Louis and other places, immigrants are helping halt population decreases in urban areas. The cities are struggling to maintain their population as people move to areas with higher economic growth.

在圣路易斯和其他一些地方，移民正在帮助遏制城市地区人口减少的状况。随着人们迁往经济增长较高的地区，这些城市在很艰难地维持其人口数量。

To officials in St. Louis, this creates a problem. Where do you find the people needed to buy homes, start businesses and keep the population from shrinking?

对于圣路易斯的官员来说，这也造成了一个问题。去哪里找能买房，创业并帮助这个城市增加人口的人呢?

Betsy Cohen is executive director of the St. Louis Mosaic Project. The group aims to make St. Louis’s immigrant population the fastest growing in the country. “When those numbers fall, it is hard to have the growth…we want,” said Cohen. “Every person counts,” she added, “All skill lines. All families. We need people.”

贝蒂·科恩是圣路易斯马赛克项目的执行理事。该组织期望圣路易斯的移民人口增长能成为美国移民人口增长最快的城市。“如果这个数字也下降的话，就很难达到我们想要的增长速度，”科恩说。她还补充道：“每个人都很重要。不管来自何处何种家庭的何种人，我们需要的是人。”

The immigration debate nationally often brings attention to issues like border security and separation of families caught entering the country illegally. But cities like St. Louis are looking to immigration as a way to strengthen their economies.

全国范围的移民讨论经常会引起广泛关注，例如边境安全和非法入境造成的家庭分居。但是像圣路易斯这样的城市则在期望移民作为其强化经济发展的一种方式。

Recently, President Donald Trump gave state governors the power to reject refugees in their states. Only the state of Texas chose to do so. The order is being disputed in courts, but state leaders of both political parties have said they still welcome refugees.

最近，唐纳德·特朗普总统赋予州长在本州拒绝难民的权力。然而，只有德克萨斯州选择使用这一特权。法院仍在就此命令进行激烈辩论，但两个政党的国家领导人都表示，他们仍然欢迎难民。

In a January letter to the State Department, Missouri Governor Mike Parson said the new arrivals would eventually become “patriotic and productive fellow Americans.”

密苏里州州长迈克·帕森在1月致国务院的信中表示，新移民最终将成为“爱国且富有生产力的美国同胞”。

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Buffalo, New York and many other places, mainly in the Northeast and Midwest, have also come to depend on immigrants.

宾夕法尼亚州匹兹堡，纽约布法罗和许多其他地方——主要是东北和中西部，也开始依赖移民。

Some economic experts worry about the effects of population loss in some parts of the country.

一些经济专家对该国某些地区人口流失带来的影响表示担忧。

Last year, economists Adam Ozimek, Kenan Fikri, and John Lettieri wrote a report for the Economic Innovation Group in Washington D.C. The report found that smaller populations provide less money in taxes to local governments. This, they found, leads to a decrease in public services and property values. So, fewer businesses start and existing ones have fewer reasons to stay.

去年，经济学家亚当·奥齐梅克，凯南·费克里和约翰·莱铁里为华盛顿特区的经济创新集团撰写了一份报告。该报告发现，人口较少的地方人们为地方政府提供的税收就更少。他们还发现，这还导致公共服务和资产贬值。进而导致新企业变得更少，现有的企业也就没什么继续办下去的理由。

The group argues that, while some parts of the country are losing people and others are gaining, immigration is controllable. The economists suggest that the United States could expand immigration like Australia and Canada have. They said the U.S. could do so by increasing the number of visas aimed at areas with population problems.

该组织认为，尽管该国某些地区正在经历人口流失，而其他地区则在增加人口，而移民又是可控的。经济学家认为，美国可以像澳大利亚和加拿大那样加大对移民的接纳。他们认为，美国可以通过增加人口流失地区的签证数量来做到这一点。

I’m Pete Musto.

皮特·穆斯特报道。

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