

New Americans in Portland, OR



State & Local



A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the City¹

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, local leaders in communities across the country have been working tirelessly to ensure that all community members have access to the services and support they need. The immigrant population is both essential to our country's rapid response efforts and especially vulnerable to gaps in our social safety nets. Understanding this population will help better inform local leaders as they aim to implement inclusive emergency response policies.

OVERVIEW

86,356

Immigrant Residents, 2018



43,365

Immigrants who were **Naturalized** U.S. Citizens, 2018



Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018

14,176

Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018²



Share of Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018

18,335

Undocumented Immigrants, 2018



Undocumented Share of Immigrants, 2018

2,513

DACA-Eligible Immigrants, 2018



DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

LANGUAGE

Top Five Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

SPANISH	22.3%
VIETNAMESE	11.5%
CHINESE	8.9%
RUSSIAN	7.1%
SOMALI & RELATED	2.7%

28.4% of immigrants, or **24,510**, living in the city had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top five languages spoken at home other than English were:

- SPANISH (**32.0%**)
- VIETNAMESE (**21.3%**)
- CHINESE (**13.7%**)
- RUSSIAN (**8.8%**)
- UKRAINIAN & RELATED (**3.3%**)

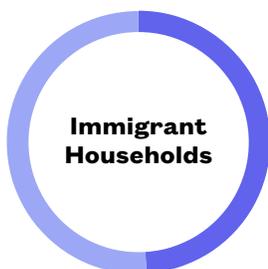
FRONTLINE WORKERS

Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning. In Portland, immigrants are working in frontline and essential industries during the Covid-19 crisis.

Number of Immigrants	Industry	Share of Workforce
5,788	RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE	21.1%
1,602	TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING ³	20.1%
1,523	GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS	16.0%
5,851	HEALTHCARE	14.9%

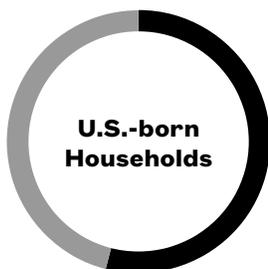
HOUSING CONDITIONS

The COVID-19 economic upheaval has highlighted the need for stable housing.



Among immigrant households in 2018...

- **48.6%** Owned their own Homes (16,882)
- **51.4%** were Renters (17,823)



Among U.S.-born households in 2018...

- **54.3%** Owned their own Homes (124,503)
- **45.7%** were Renters (104,896)

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to the City of Portland, Oregon.
- 2 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."
- 3 These industries include rail, water, truck, and pipeline transportation, bus and public transit, postal service, couriers and messengers, warehousing and storage.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Access to healthcare and medical services remains critical during this pandemic.

44,101

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018



ENTREPRENEURS

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, **entrepreneurs within particularly vulnerable industries in the city face severe challenges posed by the crisis.**

Number of Entrepreneurs	Industry	Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants
1,563	HOSPITALITY ⁴	32.9%
4,238	GENERAL SERVICES ⁵	20.9%
3,493	HEALTHCARE	16.4%
3,649	CONSTRUCTION	15.9%
12,831	PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES ⁶	11.8%
2,601	RETAIL TRADE	11.0%

- 4 Hospitality includes accommodation and food services industries, such as hotels, camps, restaurants, and bars.
- 5 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 6 Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

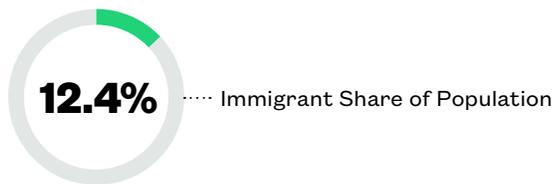
New Americans in the Portland Metro Area, OR

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in 2017



OVERVIEW

303,633
Immigrant Residents



22,790
Immigrant Entrepreneurs

\$2.8B
Immigrant Taxes Paid, 2017

\$8.1B
Immigrant Spending Power, 2017

DEMOGRAPHICS

Similar to the United States as a whole, immigrants in most cities are more likely to be of working age—defined as being between the ages of 16 and 64—than the native-born population. This allows them to contribute to U.S. entitlement programs and also assume roles helping seniors as they age.

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share
0-15	4.6%	21.3%
16-64	82.4%	64%
65+	13%	14.7%

WORKFORCE

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. As baby boomers retire, younger immigrants are filling critical gaps in the market. Nationally, immigrants are more likely to hold an advanced degree than the U.S.-born. They are also more likely to have less than a high school education. In many cities across the country, their unique educational profile allows immigrants to fill labor shortages at both ends of the skill spectrum, from high-tech fields to more manual sectors like construction or food service.

Workforce Education	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less Than High School	21.2%	4.7%
High School & Some College	43.9%	53.7%
Bachelor's Degree	19.1%	26.5%
Graduate Degree	15.9%	15.1%



TAXES & SPENDING POWER

Nationwide, immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal income, state, and local taxes nationwide and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, even at a local level, where they help support local communities as consumers and taxpayers.

\$11B

Immigrant Household Income

\$8.1B

Total Spending Power

TOP INDUSTRIES WITH HIGHEST SHARE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	34.4%
Manufacturing	22.8%
Construction	21.5%
General Services	18.3%
Tourism, Hospitality, and Recreation	17.9%

HOME OWNERSHIP

Immigrant families have long played an important role helping to build housing wealth in the United States. In recent decades, the more than 40 million immigrants collectively in the country increased U.S. housing wealth by \$3.7 trillion. Much of this was possible because immigrants moved into neighborhoods once in decline, helping to revitalize communities and make them more attractive to U.S.-born residents.

73,663

Immigrant Homeowners

State & Local Taxes Paid **\$816.7M**

Federal Taxes Paid **\$2B**

Total Taxes Paid **\$2.8B**

VOTING POWER

As more immigrants naturalize and become eligible to vote, they continue to gain power at the voting booth. The number of immigrant voters is only projected to rise in the next decade, but already in some states and cities, foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding the outcome of local elections.

146,306

Immigrants Eligible to Vote

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It is hard to overstate the importance of entrepreneurship since new businesses are the main driver of job growth in the United States. Immigrants play a particularly important role in this—founding businesses at far higher rates than the U.S. population overall. Their knack for starting businesses is an important source of new job creation in cities across the country.

How many immigrant entrepreneurs reside in this District?

22,790

How much more likely are immigrant residents to be entrepreneurs than U.S.-born residents?

8.4%