

New Americans in Michigan



Michigan has a sizable immigrant community, over half of whom are naturalized. About 7.4 percent of the state's residents are foreign-born, and 3.4 percent of its U.S.-born residents live with at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants make up 8.7 percent of Michigan's labor force and support the state's economy in many ways. They account for 10.6 percent of entrepreneurs, 18.1 percent of STEM workers, and 7.7 percent of nurses in the state. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Michigan's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

OVERVIEW¹

Immigrant residents ²	740,300
Immigrant share of population	7.4%
Immigrant taxes paid	\$8.3B
Immigrant spending power	\$24.1B

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the United States, immigrants are more likely to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This means they are more likely to be active in the labor force, allowing them to contribute to the economy not only as consumers but also as taxpayers, helping fund social services and programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Share of immigrant women	51.2%
Share of immigrant men	48.8%
Number of immigrant children	59,700
Share of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	3.4%
Number of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	316,900
Share of foreign-born that are proficient in English	80.0%

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
0-15	6.4%	19.4%
16-64	75.9%	61.2%
65+	17.7%	19.4%

New Americans in **Michigan**

Top Countries of Origin for Immigrants

Mexico	11.3%
India	10.7%
Iraq	7.1%
Canada	5.1%
China	4.4%

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. Today, millions of American workers are employed at immigrant-founded and immigrant-owned companies.

Immigrant entrepreneurs	43,700
Share of entrepreneurs who are immigrants	10.6%
Total business income of immigrant entrepreneurs	\$1.1B
Number of Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants or children of immigrants ³	6

TAXES & SPENDING POWER

Immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local taxes and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, helping support local communities as consumers and taxpayers. Like all residents of the United States, regardless of where they were born, immigrants make use of public services like education, healthcare, and public safety. Even with these costs, however, immigrants' economic contributions far outweigh the cost of additional public services they incur.

Immigrant household income	\$32.4B
Total taxes paid	\$8.3B
Federal taxes paid ⁴	\$5.6B
State & local taxes paid ⁵	\$2.7B
Total spending power	\$24.1B
Foreign-born, contributions to Social Security	\$3.2B
Foreign-born, contributions to Medicare	\$858.1M

New Americans in **Michigan**

WORKFORCE

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. As baby boomers retire, younger immigrants are filling crucial gaps in the labor 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. As such, they are able to fill critical shortages at both ends of the skill spectrum, from high-tech positions to agriculture, hospitality, and service jobs.

Number of immigrant workers in the labor force	437,000
Share of workers in the labor force who are immigrants	8.7%

Education Level	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less than high school	19.9%	6.8%
High school & some college	36.1%	61.7%
Bachelor's degree	21.3%	19.6%
Graduate degree	22.7%	11.9%
Share of college-educated workers employed in jobs that don't require a college degree	25.7%	28.9%

Top Industries with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Manufacturing	11.9%
Agriculture	11.7%
Professional, Scientific, Administrative, and Waste Services	10.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	10.4%
General Services	10.1%

Top Occupations with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Software developers	33.6%
Physicians	29.3%
Postsecondary teachers	23.9%
Mechanical engineers	21.6%
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	11.3%

New Americans in Michigan

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are some of the most in-demand jobs in the U.S. economy. These jobs are also expected to experience some of the highest growth rates in the next decade, second only to healthcare jobs. While immigrants already play a huge part in maintaining the United States’ role as a leading innovator, immigrants will also be instrumental in helping high-tech industries meet their full potential as their needs for high-skilled STEM workers rapidly increases in the future.

Share of STEM workers who are immigrants ⁶	18.1%
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Healthcare

As millions of baby boomers become elderly, the U.S. healthcare system is facing unprecedented demand, adding jobs faster than any other segment of the economy. Many healthcare businesses and providers are struggling to find enough workers, and in some rural areas shortages are particularly acute. Immigrants have already been filling some of our most glaring healthcare needs. They are twice as likely as the U.S.-born to work as home health aides, and twice as likely to work as physicians and surgeons.

Nurses who are foreign-born	7.7%
Health aides who are foreign-born	-

HOUSING

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

Immigrant homeowners	211,600
Share of recent homebuyers who were foreign-born	8.8%
Housing wealth held by immigrant households	\$67.8B
Amount paid by immigrant-led households in rent	\$1.4B

New Americans in **Michigan**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS⁷

International students in the United States contribute tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and support a significant number of U.S. jobs through their tuition payments and day-to-day spending. Research has also found that increases in the number of international students at American universities boost innovation and patent creation.

Students at Michigan's colleges and universities who are international students	38123
Economic contribution of international students	\$1.5B
Jobs supported by international students	11,951

NATURALIZATION & VOTING POWER

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

Share of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	55.9%
Number of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	413,800
Number of immigrants who are eligible for naturalization	115,700
Number of immigrants eligible to vote	392,200

New Americans in **Michigan**

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The presence of a significant number of undocumented immigrants in the United States poses many legal and political challenges. But these millions of undocumented immigrants, most of whom have lived in the country for more than five years, are working across the country, contributing billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

Number of undocumented immigrants ⁸	110,700
Share of immigrant population who are undocumented immigrants	15.0%
Share of population that is undocumented	1.1%
Share of workforce that is undocumented	1.5%
Share of undocumented immigrants who are working age	89.1%
Undocumented entrepreneurs	-
Undocumented household income	\$4.0B
Total taxes paid ⁹	\$887.3M
Federal taxes paid	\$593.0M
State & local taxes paid	\$294.3M
Total spending power	\$3.1B
Number of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	77,500
Share of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	0.8%
Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	44,000
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	2.1%
Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	34,900
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	1.7%

New Americans in **Michigan**

Top Industries with Highest Share of Undocumented Immigrant Workers

Construction	3.4%
Manufacturing	2.7%
Professional, Scientific, Administrative, and Waste Services	1.2%
-	-
-	-

THE DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION

DACA-eligible people contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. Removing the protections afforded to DACA recipients would likely upset local economies, communities, and schools, hurting employers and businesses that depend on these young immigrants as workers and customers.

Number of DACA-eligible residents	10,700
Employment rate of DACA-eligible population	98.2%
Number of DACA-eligible entrepreneurs	-
DACA-eligible household income ¹⁰	\$368.7M
Total taxes paid	\$82.5M
Federal taxes paid	\$49.5M
State & local taxes paid	\$33.0M
Total spending power	\$286.2M
Number of active DACA recipients ¹¹	4,430
Number of people with DACA granted ¹²	6,492
Number of additional residents who would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA	-

New Americans in **Michigan**

REFUGEES¹³

Refugees living in the United States make tremendous contributions to our economy as earners, taxpayers, and consumers. Rather than a drain on communities, refugees, with their high employment rate and entrepreneurial spirit, actually sustain and strengthen their new hometowns.

Number of likely refugees	75,900
Employment rate of likely refugees	94.4%
Share of refugees who are naturalized U.S. citizens	76.8%
Refugee household income	\$2.5B
Total taxes paid	\$607.4M
Federal taxes paid	\$389.6M
State & local taxes paid	\$217.7M
Total spending power	\$1.9B
Number of refugee entrepreneurs	-
Total business income of refugee entrepreneurs	-
Number of refugees resettled in the last fiscal year ¹⁴	3,649

Top Countries of Origin for Refugees Resettled in the Last Fiscal Year

Syria	32.5%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	23.6%
Afghanistan	9.8%
Venezuela	8.3%
Iraq	7.1%

New Americans in **Michigan**

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS HOLDERS

Recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) have made enormous contributions to various industries and paid a significant amount in federal, state, and local taxes in the United States. Forcing them to leave the country not only risks putting these individuals in danger, but also threatens to significantly disrupt local economies.

Number of TPS holders ¹⁵	2,600
Share of TPS holders who are working age	-
Employment rate of TPS holders	-
TPS household income	\$57.9M
Total taxes paid	\$11.9M
Federal taxes paid	\$6.7M
State & local taxes paid	\$5.2M
Total spending power	\$46.0M

New Americans in Michigan

To learn more about Map the Impact, visit maptheimpact.org.

The American Immigration Council works to empower immigrants from arrival to belonging. To learn more about the Council's work, visit americanimmigrationcouncil.org.

ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from the American Immigration Council analysis of microdata from the 1-year sample of the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS), downloaded from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) <https://www.ipums.org/>.
2. Except where otherwise noted, an immigrant refers to anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is resident in the United States. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, individuals holding temporary (nonimmigrant) status, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
3. American Immigration Council analysis of the 2024 Fortune 500 rankings <https://fortune.com/ranking/fortune500/>.
4. Congressional Budget Office. 2022. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019." <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
5. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). 2024. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States (7th edition)." <https://itep.org/whopays-7th-edition/>.
6. U.S. Census Bureau. 2018. "STEM, STEM-related, and Non-STEM Occupation Code List 2018." <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/guidance/industry-occupation/2018-census-stem-related-and-non-stem-occupation-code-list.xlsx>
7. We use the state-level data of international students in the 2023-24 academic year from the "International Student Economic Value Tool" developed by NAFSA, www.nafsa.org/economicvalue.
8. We use data from the ACS to arrive at an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population by applying the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas in his 2016 NBER working paper, "The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants", <https://ideas.repec.org/p/nbr/nberwo/22102.html>.
9. When estimating the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants, we follow the methodology detailed by Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). ITEP. 2024 "Tax Payments By Undocumented Immigrants." <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>.
10. We treat each DACA-eligible individual as a single taxpaying unit, following the lead of other groups that have also sought to quantify the economic and tax contributions of this population, such as ITEP in its report "State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants", <https://itep.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/2017DACA.pdf>.
11. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). 2024. "Active DACA Recipients - Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 4" https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/active_daca_recipients_fy2024_q4.xlsx.
12. USCIS. 2024. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Quarterly Report (Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 4)." https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/daca_performancedata_fy2024_q4.xlsx.
13. To identify cases in microdata from the 2023 ACS that are likely to be refugees, we use an imputation method based on each foreign-born respondent's country of birth and their year of arrival, similar to the work of Kallick and Mathema in "Refugee Integration in the United States," <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/refugee-integration-in-the-united-states>, as well as Capps et al in "The Integration Outcomes of U.S. Refugees: Successes and Challenges" <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/integration-outcomes-us-refugees-successes-and-challenges>.
14. Refugee Processing Center (RPC). 2024. "FY 2024 Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality." <https://www.wrapsnet.org/archives/>
15. Congressional Research Service (CRS). 2023. "Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure." <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20844/70>