New Americans in Greater New Orleans

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metropolitan Area

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Given their income, foreign-born residents of Greater New Orleans—7.4% of the overall population—contributed greatly to federal, state, and local taxes, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of Louisiana or by municipal governments.

$196M — Went to state and local taxes...²

$525M — Went to federal taxes...³

Leaving them with more than $2B in remaining spending power.

This constituted 8.2% of the metro area's total spending power.⁴

In 2014, foreign-born households contributed $7.6B to the GDP of Greater New Orleans metro area.⁵

Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs. That same year, immigrants in the area contributed more than $265M to Social Security and almost $77M to Medicare.

Hispanic Immigrants

$712M

Asian Immigrants

$637M

$188M

$147M

$76M

$76M

$56M

- Spending power in Greater New Orleans
- Federal taxes paid in Greater New Orleans
- State and local taxes paid in Greater New Orleans
Immigrants are overrepresented in key industries in Greater New Orleans, including:

- **Manufacturing**: 10.6%
- **Tourism, Entertainment, and Hospitality**: 8.1%
- **Professional Services**: 13.8%
- **Transportation and Warehousing**: 13%
- **General Services**: 15.5%
- **Construction**: 22.1%
- **Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting**: 40.8%

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<th>Industry</th>
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Foreign-born New Orleanians are almost **twice as likely** to own their own businesses as U.S.-born residents in 2014.

Immigrant-owned businesses generated **$174M** in business income.

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**ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**

- **7.4%**: Immigrants made up only 7.4% of the New Orleans metro area’s population...
- **9.9%**: But they made up 9.9% of the employed labor force...
- **16%**: An outsized 16% of the self-employed population in 2014...
- **26.6%**: And fully 26.6% of “main street” business owners in 2013.

**16%** of the self-employed population is foreign-born, **more than double** their share of the population, 7.4%.

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in Greater New Orleans in 2014 helped create or preserve:

**4,285** local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.
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EDUCATIONAL AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Foreign-born residents tend to have higher educational levels than U.S.-born citizens in the Greater New Orleans metro area.

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<td>U.S.-born 20.8%</td>
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Louisiana is facing a shortage in STEM workers.

In 2014, there were 8.9 STEM jobs advertised online for every one unemployed STEM worker in the state.

8.9 to 1

If the metro area retains one-half of its international students after they graduate with bachelor's degrees or higher, 458 local jobs will be created within six years, boosting the area's real GDP by $114.6M in 2014 terms within the next 30 years, and increasing its population by 3,668 people within the next 50 years.

2,523
Number of students with temporary resident visas in the area enrolled in higher education during fall of 2014.

1,146
Local jobs supported.

$83M
Spending contribution that academic year.

And half—50.4%—of PhD-level STEM students are foreign-born.

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Of the roughly 52,000 foreign-born people in Greater New Orleans who are not citizens,* 9,287, or 17.7%, are potentially eligible for citizenship.

41,410
Number of foreign-born residents who had become citizens as of 2014.

**CITIZENSHIP**

Share of the metro area's foreign-born population with citizenship as of 2014.

**LANGUAGE**

Share of New Orleanians speaking a language other than English at home in 2014:

- 9.7% of Youth under 18
- 11.6% of Adults

* This number includes international students, individuals on work visas, and other types of status
In 2014, **92.8%** of the foreign-born had been in Greater New Orleans for more than a year.

In fact, **59,582** immigrants, or **64%** of the metro area's foreign-born population, have been in the country for **more than 10 years**.

6,743 immigrants recently arrived to the Greater New Orleans metro area.

- **37.1%** came from other U.S. states.
- **35.9%** came from other countries.
- And **26.9%** came from within Louisiana.

### Top five countries of origin:

1. Honduras
2. Vietnam
3. Mexico
4. Nicaragua
5. India

Want more information about this region? See our state report: [The Contributions of New Americans in Louisiana](#)
Endnotes

1 We define the New Orleans metropolitan area using the Office of Management and Budget definition of the New Orleans-Metairie Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and figures refer to the New Orleans metropolitan area.


3 U.S. Congressional Budget Office

4 Estimates are based on federal tax rates from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and state and local tax rates from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

5 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the one-year ACS sample from 2014 and the statistics of GDP by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.


8 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

9 Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

10 This category includes all places of work in the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry as well as the Accommodation and Food Services industry. This includes performing arts, spectator sports, museums, galleries, recreation centers, hotels, RV camps, restaurants, and bars.


14 Data on total student enrollment in the area is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

15 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.