New Americans in Detroit
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the City

POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2010 and 2014, the foreign-born population grew by 4,137 individuals.

The share of the total population that was foreign-born in the city increased from 4.8% to 5.6%.

Had the foreign-born population not grown during this period, Detroit’s population would have experienced an even greater decline, falling by 34,265 people, or 4.8%.

As a result of the new immigrants who came between 2010 and 2014, 1,117 U.S.-born residents were attracted to the city.

New American Economy | State & Local | GLOBAL DETROIT
Given their income, foreign-born residents contributed greatly in 2014 to federal, state, and local taxes, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of Michigan or by the City of Detroit.

- **$53.7M** — State and local tax contributions
- **$92.4M** — Federal tax contributions
- **$489.8M** — Spending power

This constituted 6.5% of the city’s total spending power.

Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs. In 2014, immigrants in Detroit contributed **$67.2M** to Social Security and **$17.6M** to Medicare.
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**HOUSING WEALTH**

Between 2010 and 2014, immigration to Detroit increased the total housing value in the city by $127.7M.\(^6\)

**LABOR FORCE**

- Immigrants made up only 5.6% of the population in Detroit...
- But they made up 7.4% of the city’s working-age population...
- And 8% of the employed labor force in 2014.

In fact, immigrants are over-represented in key industries in Detroit,\(^7\) including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Immigrant Share of Employed Population: 8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services(^8)</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that the immigrants living in Detroit in 2014 helped create or preserve 1,768 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.\(^9\)
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1,397 immigrants in Detroit are self-employed. Their businesses generated $15.5M in business income in 2014.\textsuperscript{10}

Foreign-born residents are twice as likely as U.S.-born residents to start their own businesses.

14.8% of the self-employed population is foreign-born, much more than their share of the population at 5.6%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hispanic Residents in Detroit</th>
<th>2,306</th>
<th>$431.3M</th>
<th>1,598</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Residents in Detroit</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>$796.8M</td>
<td>5,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, 3.8% of U.S.-born residents in Detroit were self-employed. Meanwhile, 7.6% of foreign-born residents were self-employed.
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EDUCATIONAL AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Foreign-born residents tend to have slightly higher levels of education than U.S.-born residents in Detroit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than College</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Advanced Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN-BORN</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.-BORN</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Detroit retains one-half of its international students with bachelor’s degrees or higher after graduation, **549 local jobs** will be created within six years and the population would increase by **6,157** people within the next 50 years.

**3,185**
Number of students with temporary resident visas in the city enrolled in higher education during the fall of 2014.

**1,108**
Local jobs they supported.

**$80M**
Spending contribution that academic year.
Share of residents living in Detroit who spoke a language **other than English** at home in 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH UNDER 18</th>
<th>ADULTS</th>
</tr>
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<td>12.7% Share of Youth</td>
<td>9.6% Share of Adults</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Among the residents who were non-citizens, **21.7%**, or **5,341**, were eligible to naturalize.
In 2014, a vast majority, 95.1%, of the foreign-born had lived in Detroit for more than a year.

Of the approximately 1,869 foreign-born residents who recently arrived in the city...

81.5% came from other U.S. states...

And 18.5% came from abroad.16

Top three countries of origin:

1. Mexico .............................................. 42.5%
2. Bangladesh ...................................... 12.7%
3. Yemen .............................................. 7.4%
Endnotes

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2010 and 2014 and figures refer to the City of Detroit. The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. Sent to approximately 295,000 addresses monthly (or 3.5 million per year), it is the largest survey after the decennial census that the Census Bureau administers. It regularly gathers information such as ancestry, educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing characteristics. In this report, “foreign-born” refers to all residents of Detroit born in a country outside of the United States (excluding those that are children of U.S. citizens or born in U.S. territories).


5 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.


7 Number of observations for each industry is below 50.

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


10 Number of observations is below 50.

11 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau

12 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.

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


16 Number of observations is below 50.

Want more information about this region? See our report: The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan