New Americans in Phoenix
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 18,288 people.

The share of the total population that was foreign-born in the city increased slightly, from 19.9% to 20%.

Growth in the foreign-born population accounted for 23% of overall population growth for Phoenix during this period.

As a result of the new immigrants who came between 2000 and 2014, 13,494 U.S.-born residents were attracted to the city.

1,445,622 → 1,525,146

5.5% Population growth: 1,445,622 → 1,525,146
6.4% Immigrant population growth: 207,183 → 305,471

19.9%
Share of immigrants in Phoenix, 2010

20%
Share of immigrants in Phoenix, 2014

13,494
U.S.-born residents were attracted to the city.²
In 2014, given their income, foreign-born residents contributed greatly to federal, state, and local taxes, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of Arizona or by municipal governments.

$534.7M — State and local tax contributions

$1B — Federal tax contributions

$4.9B — Spending power

This constituted 18.5% of the city’s total spending power.

Foreign-born residents also supported federal social programs in 2014.

Immigrants in Phoenix contributed $698.6M to Social Security and $177.4M to Medicare.

Hispanic Immigrant Contribution 50.9%

Asian Immigrant Contribution 23.4%

Immigrant Spending Power $4.9B
Between 2000 and 2014, immigration to Phoenix increased the total housing value in the city by $3.2B. 

Looking just at the period after the Great Recession, 2010 to 2014, immigrants raised the total housing value in the city by $1.2B. 

- **Home Ownership**: 
  - **Foreign-born residents**: 46.6% were homeowners. 
  - **U.S.-born residents**: 53.1% were homeowners. 

- **Debt**: 
  - **Foreign-born residents**: 13% owned their homes debt-free. 
  - **U.S.-born residents**: 12.7% owned their homes debt-free. 

52.3% of foreign-born residents contributed to the rental property market, compared with just 45.8% of U.S.-born residents.
New Americans in Phoenix

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

22,304
immigrants in Phoenix are self-employed. Their businesses generated...

$390M
in business income in 2014.

32.5%
of the self-employed population is foreign-born, much more than their share of the population of 20%.

Foreign-born residents are more likely than U.S.-born residents to start new businesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Businesses Owned, 2012</th>
<th>Sales Revenue, 2012</th>
<th>Number of Paid Employees, 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Residents in Phoenix</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,348</td>
<td>$2.7B</td>
<td>16,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Residents in Phoenix</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,954</td>
<td>$1.9B</td>
<td>11,724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, 9% of U.S.-born residents in Phoenix were self-employed.
Meanwhile, 13.2% of foreign-born residents were self-employed.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONT.

In 2015, half of the Fortune 500 companies in Phoenix were founded by immigrants or their children.
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**Immigrant Share of Population - 20%**

- Immigrants made up only 20% of the population in Phoenix...
- But they made up 24.8% of the area's employed labor force in 2014.

In fact, immigrants are overrepresented in key industries in Phoenix, including:

- **Construction**: 44%
- **General Services**[^11]: 39.2%
- **Manufacturing**: 31.3%
- **Professional Services**[^12]: 30.3%
- **Recreation & Accommodation**: 27.7%

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that the **305,471** immigrants living in Phoenix in 2014 helped create or preserve **14,052** local manufacturing jobs that would have vanished or moved elsewhere.^[13]
In 2014, **13%** of immigrants in Phoenix held at least a bachelor’s degree, and **5.1%** held an advanced degree.

**506**
Number of students with temporary resident visas in the area enrolled in higher education during the fall of 2014.\(^{14}\)

**181**
Local jobs they supported.

**$13.4M**
Spending contribution that academic year.\(^{15}\)
### LANGUAGE

Share of residents living in Phoenix who spoke a language other than English at home in 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH UNDER 18</th>
<th>ADULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>40.5%</strong> Share of Youth</td>
<td><strong>35.7%</strong> Share of Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>85.4%</strong> of them were citizens</td>
<td><strong>55.0%</strong> of them were citizens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NATURALIZATION

90,736

Number of foreign-born residents who had naturalized as of 2014.

Among the residents who were not citizens, **26.1%**, or **56,025**, were eligible for naturalization.
In 2014, a vast majority, 95.7%, of the foreign-born had lived in Phoenix for more than a year.

4.3% of foreign-born residents were recent arrivals to Phoenix...

62.2% came from other U.S. states....

33.7% came from abroad...

And 4.1% came from within Arizona.16

Top five countries of origin:

1. Mexico 65.2%
2. India 3.8%
3. Philippines 2.9%
4. Vietnam 2.1%
5. Canada 1.6%
Endnotes

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2010 and 2014, as well as the five-percent sample from 2000 census, and figures refer to the City of Phoenix.


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

8 These industries include personal services (e.g. laun- dry services, barber shops, and repair and mainte- nance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

9 These industries generally include professions that require a degree or a license such as legal services, ac- counting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

10 Number of observations is below 50.

11 These industries include personal services (e.g. laun- dry services, barber shops, and repair and mainte- nance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

12 These industries generally include professions that require a degree or a license such as legal services, ac- counting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.


14 Data on total student enrollment in the city 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.

16 Number of observations is below 50.

Want more information about this region? See our report:

The Contributions of New Americans in Arizona