New Americans in Atlanta

A SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY'S FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION



GROWTH

Between 2000 and 2012...

- Immigrants accounted for nearly two thirds of the city of Atlanta's population growth.
- The city's foreign-born population grew by nearly 22%, from 27,352 to 33,358, while the native-born population grew by less than 1%.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Immigrants are overrepresented among the self-employed: They make up 7.8% of the city's population but more than 11% of small business owners.
- Immigrants are 46% more likely than nativeborn Atlantans to start their own businesses.



WORKFORCE

Immigrants are more likely than the native-born to be employed in the fields of:

- Construction (12.4% foreign-born vs. 5.0% native-born)
- Manufacturing (8.6% vs. 5.7%)
- Education and Health Services (21.3% vs 18.8%)
- Arts, Entertainment and Accommodation (17.2% vs. 13.6%)

YOUTH

- Nearly 1 in 5 children under 18 live in a bilingual or non-English speaking household.
- 89% of children in bilingual or non-English speaking households are U.S. citizens.



EDUCATION

- About one quarter of both native-born Atlantans (26.4%) and foreign-born Atlantans (23.8%) have a bachelor's degree.
- Immigrants complement native-born Atlantans'education levels: They make up a slightly larger share of those with a high school degree or less (38.1% of foreign-born vs. 32.4% of native-born), as well as those with graduate education (21.1% vs. 17.5%).



CITIZENSHIP

- More than a quarter of immigrants in Atlanta are already naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Nearly one third of Atlanta's non-citizen immigrants, or approximately 8,400 residents, are currently eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.