New Americans in Nashville
A SNAPSHOT OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

**GROWTH**

New Americans are responsible for the majority of Nashville’s rapid growth over the past decade.

Between 2000 and 2012...
- Immigrants accounted for nearly 60% of Nashville’s overall population growth.
- Nashville’s foreign-born population grew by more than 86%, while the native-born population grew by 11%.
- New Americans now make up 12% of Nashville’s overall population, or more than 1 in 10 Nashvillians.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- Immigrants are overrepresented among the self-employed: They make up 12% of the total population but 13.9% of small business owners.
- Nashville’s new Americans are more than twice as likely as native-born Nashvillians to be small business owners: 3.8% of native-born Nashvillians are self-employed, compared with 8% of immigrants.

**WORKFORCE**

New Americans are overrepresented in 4 of Nashville’s 10 largest industries:¹
- Education and Health Services (#2): 16.7%
- Professional and Business Services (#3): 12.2%
- Arts, Entertainment and Accommodation (#8): 15.5%
- Construction (#10): 15.5%

**YOUTH**

- Nearly 1 in 3 children (under 18) in Nashville lives in a bilingual or non-English speaking household.
- 84.4% of children (under 18) in bilingual or non-English speaking households are U.S. citizens.

**HOUSING**

- The growth in Davidson County’s foreign-born population between 2000 and 2010 increased the county’s housing wealth by nearly $1 billion ($967,535,478).²

**CITIZENSHIP**

- One third of new Americans in Nashville are already naturalized U.S. citizens.
- More than 40% of Nashville’s non-citizens, or approximately 18,300 residents, are estimated to be immediately eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.


¹ Industry rankings sourced from the Bureau of Economic Analysis