NEW AMERICANS IN DENVER

A SNAPSHOT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Foreign-born households control more than $6.9 billion in spending power and contribute more than $673 million in taxes to state and local budgets.

Immigrant households also contribute more than $1.2 billion in federal taxes.

Foreign-born households also pay into federal social programs, including Social Security and Medicare. In 2013, we estimate that immigrants contributed $1+ billion to Social Security and $256+ million to Medicare.

POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2000 and 2013, the population of the Denver metropolitan area increased by more than 500,000 people, going from 2,196,053 in 2000 to 2,696,610 in 2013.

The foreign-born accounted for 17.5% of the total population growth.

The foreign-born population during this period grew by close to 86,000, an increase of more than 37%. Their share of the area’s population grew from 10.8% in 2000 to 12% in 2013.

We define the Denver Metropolitan area using the Office of the and Budget definition of the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This MSA consists of the City and County of Denver, the City and County of Broomfield, as well as Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties.
Total Workforce

- 12% of the total population are foreign-born
- 14.2% of the employed population are foreign-born

Immigrants make up a disproportionate share of all employed people in the Denver metro area. While 12% of the population, they account for 14.2% of the employed population.

Key Industries

Foreign-born workers contribute significantly to key industries in Denver where they make up large shares of the workforce. For example, immigrants make up:

- 28.6% of construction workers
- 22.5% of automotive workforce
- 21.3% of workers in arts, entertainment, and recreation
- 19.8% of workers in accommodation and food services

High-Skilled Industries

They make up significant shares of the IT (14.7%), and advanced manufacturing (16.8%) industries.

- 14.7% of the IT industry
- 16.8% of the advanced manufacturing industry

Healthcare Services

Immigrants are also active in providing healthcare services to the Denver metropolitan region.

- 12%+ of healthcare service workers

High-Tech and STEM

Foreign-born workers also figure significantly into the high-tech and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workforce. More than one in four professional, scientific, or technical service workers is foreign-born.

- 12.3% of all high-tech workers
- 13.2% of all STEM workers

In 2010

4,427 manufacturing jobs

Immigrants play a large role in the workforce and help companies keep jobs on U.S. soil; over the course of the decade an estimated 4,427 manufacturing jobs were preserved or created in Denver county due to the influx of immigrants.¹

While immigrants account for 12% of the population and 14% of the labor force, they are 22% of “main street” business owners. In 2012, immigrant-owned main street businesses alone generated $152 million in earnings, nearly one-quarter of the total earnings for this sector.  


A PROFILE OF DENVER’S IMMIGRANTS

Most common regions of origin:
- Latin America 68%
- Asia 18.3%
- Africa 6.5%

Top 10 countries of origin:
- Mexico 56.7%
- Vietnam 5.1%
- China 2%
- Ethiopia 1.7%
- India 1.7%
- Canada 1.7%
- Russia 1.5%
- Germany 1.4%
- Korea 1.2%
- El Salvador 1%

The Partnership for a New American Economy brings together more than 500 mayors and business leaders united in making the economic case for streamlining, modernizing, and rationalizing our country’s immigration policies at the national, state, and local levels.