

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Foreign-born residents contributed

**\$3.2 billion**  
to the metro area's GDP in 2014.

They accounted for  
7.1% of the total GDP in metro Des Moines.<sup>2</sup>

The foreign-born population of metro Des Moines  
contributed more than

**\$100 million** in state and local taxes

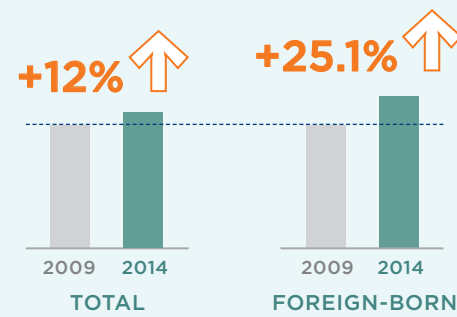
including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by  
either the State of Iowa or by municipal governments in 2014.<sup>3</sup>

## POPULATION GROWTH

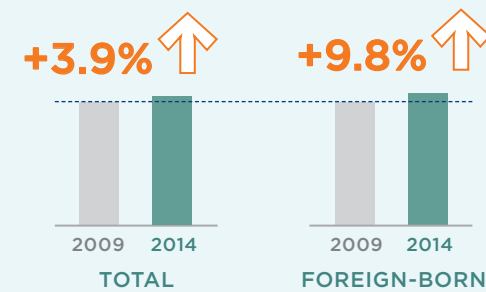
BETWEEN 2009 AND 2014

### POPULATION TRENDS

The total population in the Des Moines metro area increased by 12%, from 545,643 to 611,291 people. During this period, the **foreign-born population grew 25.1%**, from 38,970 to 48,760 people.

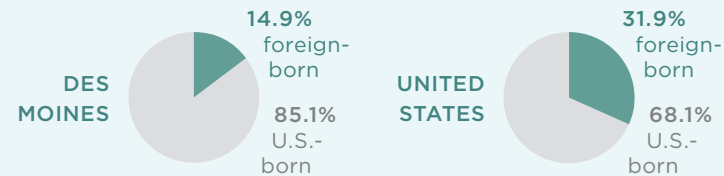


DES MOINES



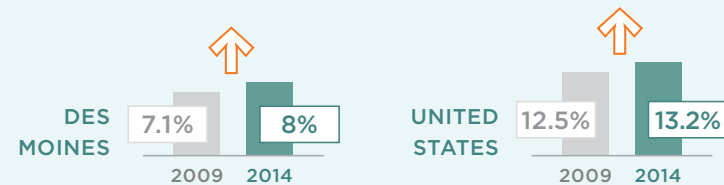
UNITED STATES

### FOREIGN-BORN SHARE OF POPULATION GROWTH



During this period, growth in the foreign-born population accounted for **14.9% of overall population growth**, compared to the national rate of 31.9%.

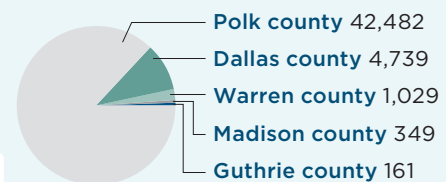
### FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION SHARE



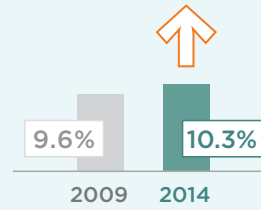
The share of the population in metro Des Moines that was foreign-born **increased** from 7.1% to 8%.

### DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN METRO AREA

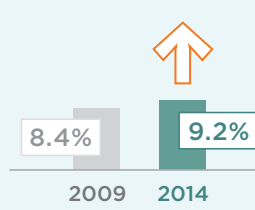
27,489 in City of Des Moines



## LABOR MARKET



The share of the foreign-born within the **working age population** increased from 9.6% to 10.3%



The percentage of the **employed labor force** that is foreign-born also rose from 8.4% to 9.2%.

The foreign-born are overrepresented, relative to their share of the population, in several key industries in metro Des Moines.

Manufacturing	16.1%
Construction	13.4%
Entertainment, recreation, accommodation	11.2%
Finance, insurance, real estate	10.3%
Professional services <sup>4</sup>	9.9%
Health care & social assistance	9.6%
Military	8.7%
Retail trade	8.6%
General services <sup>5</sup>	8.6%

## HIGH TECH WORKFORCE

**STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math**

By 2020, Iowa will need to fill **61,500 STEM jobs**. While the foreign-born make up 8% of the overall population of the Des Moines metro area, they make up 10% of all STEM workers.

**10% OF ALL STEM WORKERS**

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION

Foreign-owned enterprises create thousands of new jobs in the Des Moines metro area.

TOP FIVE COUNTRIES FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE AREA BY NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED IN 2011<sup>6</sup>

United Kingdom 1,400 Japan 900 France 900 Ireland 900 Netherlands 700

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.

**New American Economy**

**dm THE greater DES MOINES partnership**

<sup>1</sup> We define the Des Moines metropolitan area using the Office of Management and Budget definition of the Des Moines–West Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2009, 2011, and 2014, and figures refer to the Des Moines metro area.

<sup>2</sup> These figures derive from our calculations based on the foreign-born's share of wage income and self-employment income in the one-year ACS sample from 2014 and the statistics of GDP by Metropolitan Area from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>3</sup> Based on tax rates from Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (2015) "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

<sup>4</sup> These industries generally include professions that require a degree or a license such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

<sup>5</sup> General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

<sup>6</sup> Saha, D., K. Fikri, and N. Marchio. 2014. "FDI in U.S. Metro Areas: The Geography of Jobs in Foreign-Owned Establishments." Brookings Institution.

## EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

**64.2 percent of the foreign-born in the Des Moines metro area have at least a high school degree, and 20.8 percent have at least a bachelor's degree.**

In fall 2014, **4,767 students** attending local higher-education institutions in the region that includes metro Des Moines, metro Ames, the city of Grinnell, and the city of Pella were on temporary visas.<sup>7</sup>

The total number of international students graduating with a bachelor's degree or higher from a four-year university in Iowa is 11,441. *Attracting or retaining just half of these students* in metro Des Moines would increase the workforce candidate pool and expand the consumer base,

creating **2,449 local jobs** in six years<sup>8</sup>

and boosting the metro area's **total GDP by at least \$609 million** within the next 30 years.<sup>9</sup>

15% of the foreign-born in the Des Moines metro area haven't completed a high school or college degree

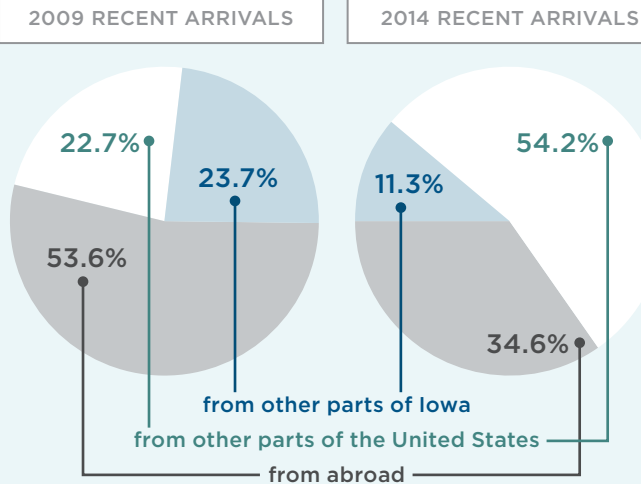
64.2% of the foreign-born in the Des Moines metro area have a high school degree

20.8% have earned at least a bachelor's degree

## WHERE THE FOREIGN-BORN ARE COMING FROM

In 2009, a vast majority (88.4%) of the foreign-born had been in metro Des Moines for more than a year.

Among the remaining 11.6% of foreign-born residents who had lived in metro Des Moines for less than a year — the so-called “recent arrivals” — 23.7% moved from other places in Iowa, while 22.7% came from other U.S. states and 53.6% came from abroad.

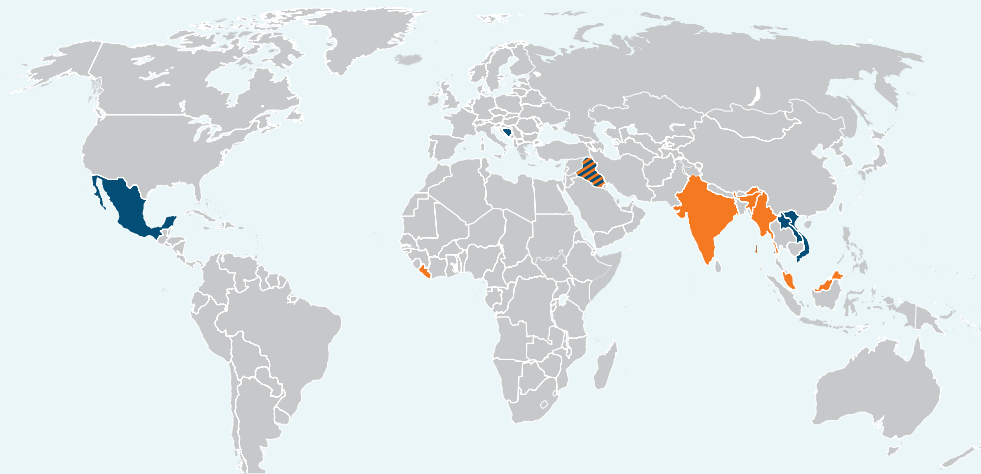


Recent arrivals were more likely to have come from other U.S. states in 2014 compared to 2009.

In 2014, of the 16.2% of foreign-born residents who recently arrived in metro Des Moines, 11.3% moved from other parts of Iowa, while 54.1% came from other U.S. states and 34.6% came from abroad.

### TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH FOR THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN IN 2014

2,297 Iraq  
995 Myanmar  
676 Liberia  
653 Malaysia  
556 India



### TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH FOR ALL FOREIGN-BORN IN THE REGION IN 2014

Mexico 12,256  
Iraq 4,254  
Bosnia 4,054  
Laos 3,744  
Vietnam 2,800

### TOP FIVE U.S. COUNTIES WHERE THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN MOVED FROM

Orange County, California 1,931  
Delaware County, Pennsylvania 676  
Howard County — Columbia, Ellicott City and Elkridge, Maryland 619  
Atlanta Regional Commission — Gwinnett County, Georgia 421  
Linn County — Cedar Rapids, Iowa 319



## THE FOREIGN-BORN IN DES MOINES

A SNAPSHOT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Data on total student enrollment in the metro area is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics.

<sup>8</sup> Curtis Simon, “Human Capital and Metropolitan Employment Growth,” Journal of Urban Economics 43. (1998).

<sup>9</sup> Rita Ray, “Effect of Education on Gross Domestic Product: A Case Study from US ‘Mid-West’,” International Review of Business Research Papers, Vol. 10-1. (March, 2014).

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