

New Americans in Greater New Orleans

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metropolitan Area¹



SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS



In 2014, foreign-born households contributed **\$7.6B** to the GDP of Greater New Orleans metro area.⁵

Given their income, foreign-born residents of Greater New Orleans—**7.4%** of the overall population—contributed greatly to federal, state, and local taxes, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of Louisiana or by municipal governments.

\$196M — Went to state and local taxes...²

\$525M — Went to federal taxes...³

Leaving them with more than **\$2B** in remaining spending power.

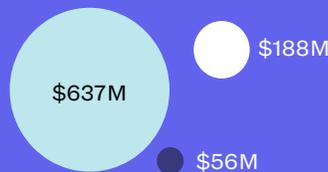
This constituted **8.2%** of the metro area's total spending power.⁴

Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs. That same year, immigrants in the area contributed more than **\$265M** to Social Security and almost **\$77M** to Medicare.

Hispanic Immigrants

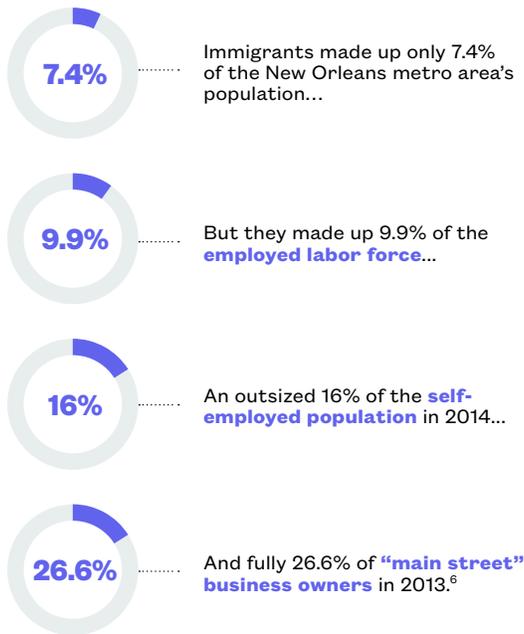


Asian Immigrants



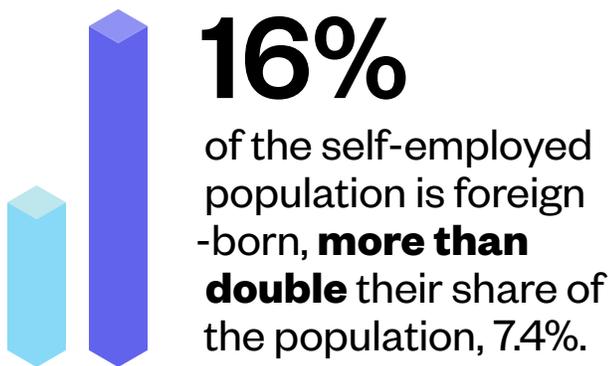
- Spending power in Greater New Orleans
- Federal taxes paid in Greater New Orleans
- State and local taxes paid in Greater New Orleans

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

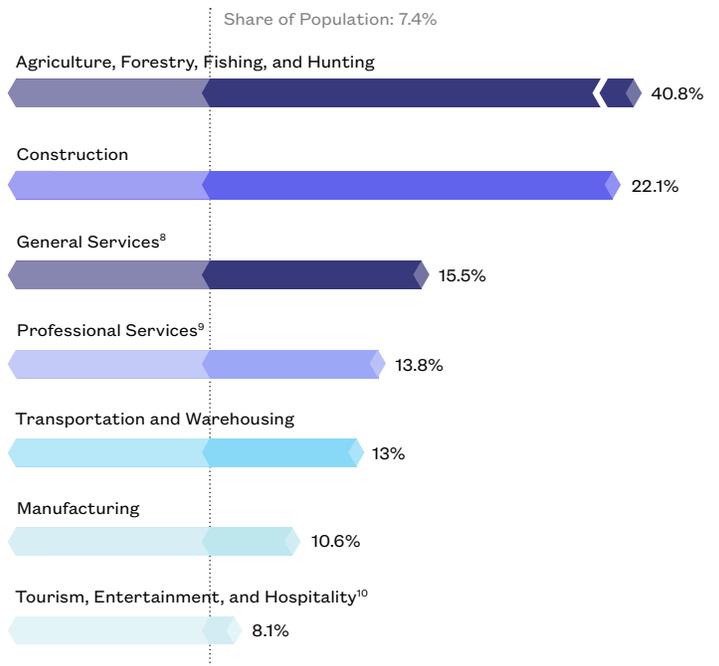


Foreign-born New Orleanians are almost **twice as likely** to own their own businesses as U.S.-born residents in 2014.

Immigrant-owned businesses generated **\$174M** in business income.



Immigrants are overrepresented in key industries in Greater New Orleans, including:

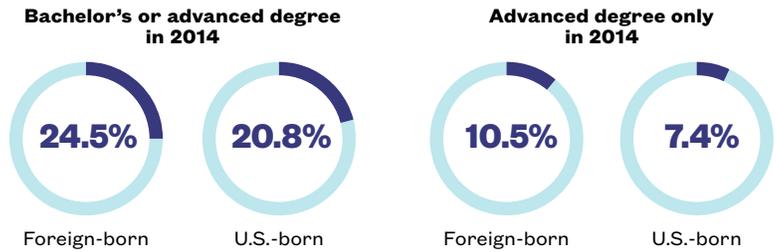


Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in Greater New Orleans in 2014 helped **create or preserve**:

4,285 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁷

EDUCATIONAL AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Foreign-born residents tend to have **higher educational levels** than U.S.-born citizens in the Greater New Orleans metro area.



Louisiana is facing a shortage in STEM workers.

In 2014, there were **8.9** STEM jobs advertised online for every one unemployed STEM worker in the state.

8.9 to 1



students earning a STEM master's degree at Louisiana universities are foreign-born.

And half—**50.4%**—of PhD-level STEM students are foreign-born.

If the metro area retains one-half of its international students after they graduate with bachelor's degrees or higher, **458 local jobs** will be created within six years,¹¹ boosting the area's real GDP by **\$114.6M** in 2014 terms within the next 30 years,¹² and increasing its population by **3,668** people within the next 50 years.¹³

2,523

Number of students with temporary resident visas in the area enrolled in higher education during fall of 2014.¹⁴

1,146

Local jobs supported.

\$83M

Spending contribution that academic year.¹⁵

LANGUAGE

Share of New Orleanians speaking a language other than English at home in 2014:

9.7%

of Youth under 18

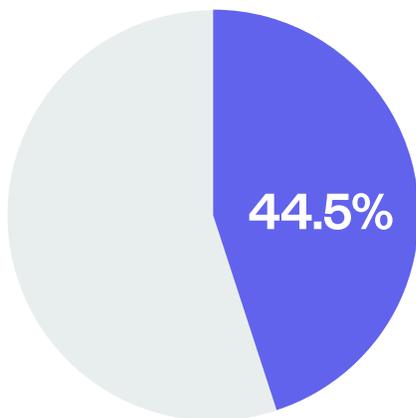
11.6%

of Adults

CITIZENSHIP

41,410

Number of foreign-born residents who had become citizens as of 2014.

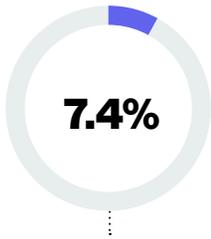


Share of the metro area's foreign-born population **with citizenship** as of 2014.

Of the roughly **52,000** foreign-born people in Greater New Orleans who are not citizens,* **9,287**, or **17.7%**, are potentially eligible for citizenship.

* This number includes international students, individuals on work visas, and other types of status

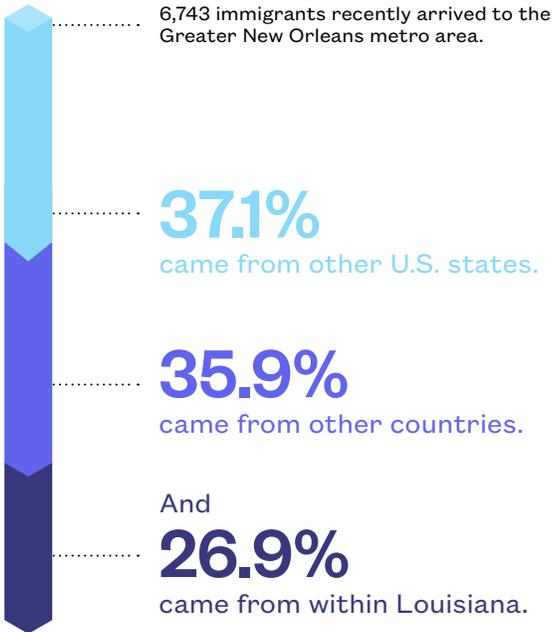
POPULATION



Immigrant share of population, 2014

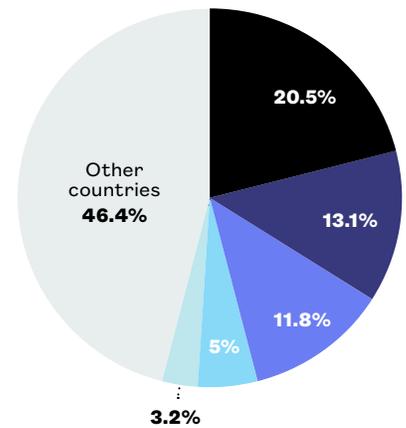
In 2014, **92.8%** of the foreign-born had been in Greater New Orleans for more than a year.

In fact, **59,582** immigrants, or **64%** of the metro area's foreign-born population, have been in the country for **more than 10 years.**



Top five countries of origin:

- 1 Honduras
- 2 Vietnam
- 3 Mexico
- 4 Nicaragua
- 5 India



Want more information about this region? See our state report:

[The Contributions of New Americans in Louisiana](#)



Endnotes

- 1** We define the New Orleans metropolitan area using the Office of Management and Budget definition of the New Orleans-Metairie Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and figures refer to the New Orleans metropolitan area.
- 2** Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 3** U.S. Congressional Budget Office
- 4** 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.
- 5** These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the one-year ACS sample from 2014 and the statistics of GDP by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- 6** Kallick, David. "Bringing Vitality to Main Street: How Immigrant Small Businesses Help Local Economies Grow," Americas Society/Council of the Americas and Fiscal Policy Institute, January 2015. <http://www.as-coa.org/sites/default/files/ImmigrantBusinessReport.pdf>. This report uses data from 2009-2013. Main street-businesses are those fall into the ACS-defined Retail and Accommodations and Food Services sectors, as well as a subset of businesses in the Other Services sectors. For a full list, see Kallick, p. 37
- 7** Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." Partnership for a New American Economy.
- 8** General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 9** Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.
- 10** This category includes all places of work in the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry as well as the Accommodation and Food Services industry. This includes performing arts, spectator sports, museums, galleries, recreation centers, hotels, RV camps, restaurants, and bars.
- 11** Curtis Simon. 1998. "Human Capital and Metropolitan Employment Growth." *Journal of Urban Economics* 43.
- 12** Rita Ray. 2014. "Effect of Education on Gross Domestic Product: A Case Study from US 'Mid-West'." *International Review of Business Research Papers*, Vol. 10-1. Calculated by an estimated \$70 GDP per capita, multiplied by 2014 total population.
- 13** Edward L. Glaeser, Giacomo A. M. Ponzetto, and Kristina Tobio. 2014. "Cities, Skills and Regional Change." *Regional Studies*, Vol. 48-1.
- 14** Data on total student enrollment in the area 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.