Global Louisville

A Demographic and Economic Snapshot of the Foreign-Born

POPULATION GROWTH

Since 2000, New Americans have played a significant role in Louisville’s overall growth, accounting for nearly 20 percent of the metro’s population increase. Despite these gains, Louisville’s international community is still relatively small when compared to the 50 largest metros in the United States (4.9 percent vs. 18.4 percent of the total population) and the country overall (4.9 percent vs. 13.2 percent of the total population).

Foreign-born shares of the overall population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro Louisville</th>
<th>City of Louisville/Jefferson County</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>50 Largest Metros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The foreign-born population in Louisville holds considerable economic power. In 2016, immigrant households earned $1.6 billion total income. These foreign-born households contributed $281.5 million in federal taxes,¹ and $148 million in state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes,² leaving them with $1.2 billion in spending power.³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Contributions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Household Income</td>
<td>$1.6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Spending Power</td>
<td>$1.2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$281.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Local Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$148.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$429.5M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 2010 and 2016, the foreign-born were responsible for 19.8% of Louisville’s population growth.

Growth in Louisville’s foreign-born population:

- 2000-2010: 112.4%↑
- 2010-2016: 18.5%↑
Louisville’s foreign-born population is highly-educated: They are more likely to hold a bachelor’s degree than the foreign-born population within the United States overall.

**Shares of foreign-born with a bachelor’s degree or higher:**

**Metro Louisville**

31.8%

**United States**

30.0%

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Immigrants make up just 4.9 percent of Metro Louisville’s population, but they represent more than 7.1 percent of its business owners. Moreover, immigrant entrepreneurs make up 10.4 percent of “Main Street” business owners.

**Immigrant Share of Population:** 4.9%

**Share of business owners:** 7.1%

**Share of “Main Street” business owners:** 10.4%

**Immigrant Share of Population:** 4.9%

**U.S.-born**

5.2%

**Foreign-born**

6.9%

**L/LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT**

Immigrants in the Louisville region are more likely to be active in the labor force than their U.S.-born counterparts. Nearly three-quarters of foreign-born individuals over than the age of 15 are in the labor force, compared to less than two-thirds of the U.S.-born of the same age. Additionally, Louisville’s share of foreign-born in the labor force is higher than the U.S. as a whole, and is higher than in Louisville’s closest peer metros (Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Nashville, and St. Louis).

**Shares of workers employed in STEM fields:**

**U.S.-born**

5.2%

**Foreign-born**

6.9%

**Foreign-born workers make up 6.3% of the employed workforce...**

**But make up 8.3% of the metro area’s STEM workforce.**

**Shares of immigrants in key industries:**

**#1 Construction**

10.8%

**#2 General Services**

9.1%

**#3 Manufacturing**

8.6%

**#4 Transportation & Warehousing**

7.3%

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1 The Louisville metro area is defined as a 13-county region including 5 in Indiana (Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, Washington) and 8 in Kentucky (Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Meade, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble).

2 Unless otherwise cited, all data comes from NAE analysis of 2016 1-year microdata.


5 Estimates are based on federal tax rates from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and state and local tax rates are from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.