

From Farm to Table

The Role of Immigrants in Salt Lake Metro Area's Food Industry



As the Salt Lake Metro Area's population has grown in recent years, much of the growth has been led by the arrival of newcomers from around the world. According to previous reports from New American Economy, immigrants now make up 12.2 percent of the residents in the Salt Lake Metro Area, with a collective spending power of approximately \$2.2 billion.

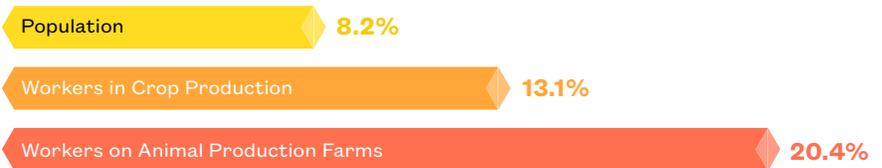
Less well-known is the outsize role that immigrants play in Salt Lake Metro Area's food and restaurant industry. From farm to table, immigrants are involved in nearly every aspect of the business. As entrepreneurs, they have also expanded the international food offerings throughout the area.

UTAH'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Although they make up just **8.2%** of Utah's population, immigrants play a significant role in the production of food across the state. They are nearly **1 in 5** of the state's farmworkers and **15.8%** of workers in agriculture overall. They represent **13.1%** of workers in crop production and **20.4%** of workers on animal production farms.

Nearly
1 in 5
farmworkers in Utah
are foreign-born.

Immigrant shares of the...



SALT LAKE METRO AREA'S FOOD AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

At roughly **11.7%** of the Salt Lake Metro Area population, immigrants punch far above their weight in the local food and restaurant industry. As business owners and employees, immigrants represent **23%** of the food and restaurant industry overall, including:



SALT LAKE METRO AREA'S FOOD AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRY CONT.

Immigrants represent...

11.7%
of the population in
Salt Lake metro area

44.7%
of chefs and cooks

25.8%
of food prep and
serving workers

According to the most recent Survey of Business Owners (SBO):

Minority-owned restaurants and hotels employ more than **3,958** Salt Lake residents and generate more than **\$206.9 million** in sales each year. Asian-owned hotels and restaurants employ **2,716** Salt Lake residents and generate more than **\$146.5 million** in sales each year, and Hispanic-owned hotels and restaurants employ **822** Salt Lake residents and generate more than **\$36 million** in sales each year.

Restaurants and Hotels	Salt Lake Residents Employed	Annual Sales Generated
Minority-Owned	3,958	\$206.9M
— Asian-Owned	2,716	\$146.5M
— Hispanic-Owned	822	\$36M