

New Americans in Middlesex County

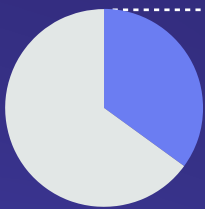
The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County¹



State & Local

Population Growth

Immigrants made up



34.5%
of the total population in Middlesex County in 2018.

394,559

commuters worked in the county in 2018. Of these, **39%**, or **153,735**, were foreign-born.

Between 2013 and 2018, the immigrant population in the county increased by:

8.6%.

The overall population increased by:

0.1%.

Without growth in the immigrant population, the county's population would have declined by:

2.7%.

286,168

immigrants lived in the county in 2018. Their top five countries of origin were:

1. India **33.6%**
2. Dominican Republic **10.2%**
3. Mexico **6%**
4. China **4.4%**
5. Egypt **3.9%**

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the United States:

1. Mexico **25%**
2. India **5.9%**
3. China **5%**
4. Philippines **4.5%**
5. El Salvador **3.2%**

Spending Power & Tax Contributions

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2018:

\$13.5B

\$2.7B

went to federal taxes.²

FEDERAL

\$1.4B

went to state and local taxes.³

STATE AND LOCAL

Leaving them with **\$9.4B** in spending power.

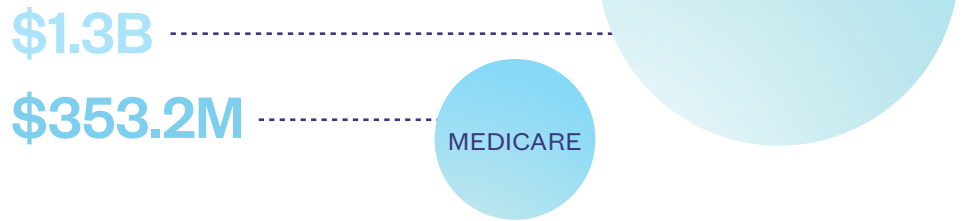
Spending Power & Tax Contributions (Continued)

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF SPENDING POWER: - 42.8%

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF POPULATION - 34.5%

In 2018, foreign-born residents in the county contributed **\$30.1B** to the county's GDP, or **44.4%** of the total.⁴

Immigrants in the county also supported federal social programs. In 2018, they contributed **\$1.3B** to Social Security and **\$353.2M** to Medicare.



22.3%

of immigrants in the county received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with

27%

of U.S.-born residents in 2018.

IMMIGRANTS

U.S.-BORN

PRIVATE

PUBLIC

72.5%

of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while

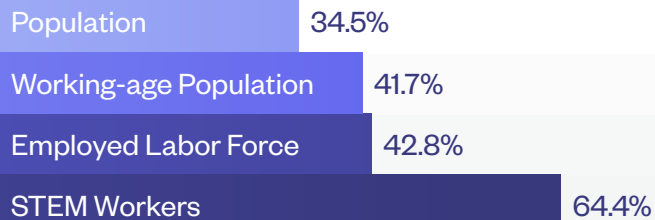
22.3%

had public healthcare coverage in 2018.

Workforce

Although the foreign-born made up **34.5%** of the county's overall population, they represented **41.7%** of its working-age⁵ population, **42.8%** of its employed labor force, and **64.4%** of its STEM⁶ workers in 2018.

Immigrant shares of the...



SPOTLIGHT ON

Rashaad Bajwa

ENTREPRENEUR, DOMAIN COMPUTER SERVICES, BIZRATINGS.COM,
DOMAIN TECH ACADEMY

Rashaad Bajwa arrived in the United States when he was 3 years old. Learning English was easy, given his age. And his parents, educated in British schools in Pakistan, spoke English at home. But he still lived the immigrant experience. “I still am,” he says. “Even though I grew up as an American from quite young, I was always reminded, and I certainly felt, as somebody from the outside.” In Ewing, New Jersey, “I was one of maybe two or three Asian students, so I desperately wanted to be white.”

His sophomore year, the family moved to West Windsor, which has a large Asian population, a move he says “dramatically changed my self-confidence.” Middlesex County is also where he met his wife, an immigrant from China. He tells his children they are “Pakinese.” The kids say they are half Chinese, half Pakistani, and “all American.”

“There are very few places in the world where a Pakistani boy and a Chinese girl can meet each other,” Bajwa says. As a result, he is passionate about the idea of the American immigrant experience and the boundless possibilities it affords.

Thanks to the diversity of Middlesex County, his children won't feel like outsiders, as he once did. They will be able to thrive and contribute. “Inclusion, that feeling of belonging, is one of our most important needs as humans,” he says, adding: “Not only is it good for people to feel like a part of family, but it's in our self-interest to have people who hold us near and dear as neighbors.”

Bajwa is an example. He is giving what he can to help the next generation of Americans succeed. He has started three computer technology companies: Domain Computer Services; BizRatings.com; and Domain Tech Academy. And he volunteers with the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association; he coaches youth soccer; and with his wife started the Future Domain Tech Academy, a volunteer tech training initiative at a Boys and Girls Club.

“We want to help develop the skills in America that previously we had to outsource,” he says.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Luis DeLaHoz

VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT, BCB BANK

Luis DeLaHoz was granted asylum and moved to the United States in 2004. By 2005, he was running his own-income tax preparation business in New Brunswick.

He had a good education behind him. Raised in Manizales, in the coffee region of central Colombia, DeLaHoz had a bachelor's degree in economics and master's degrees in finance and high management. And he had drive.

But those alone are not enough to start a business. Fortunately, DeLaHoz also had access to start-up capital and networks and English-language competency—the very ingredients, he would later learn, that new Americans often lack.

Across the United States, immigrants create businesses at a higher rate than non-immigrants. Many of those businesses are small, neighborhood, cash-starts only. Others never launch. Both types, DeLaHoz says, are hampered by access. Now DeLaHoz, a vice-president of community at BCB Community Bank, is working to change that. It's a mission that stands to help everyone in the community.

“Ninety-two percent of the businesses in the United States are micro-business, which means they have less than five employees including the owner,” he says. “If one of every three micro-businesses hired one more person, the United States would face full employment. That's the power of micro-businesses.”

In working with a regional small business development center and a micro-lender, DeLaHoz had spotted the same hulking roadblocks to immigrant entrepreneurship: no credit-history or collateral; few business networks or market access; and an inability to access needed information, which a government agency or nonprofit might send out via email in English, or post at a downtown municipal building.

Through the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce and the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, where he now chairs the board, DeLaHoz helped create the Hispanic Business Expo, an annual event entering its eleventh year that helps on all fronts. He also works to provide materials in Spanish, a first step toward integration and English-language skills.

“My goal is to elevate the Hispanic community,” DeLaHoz says. “I realize the only thing I have to share is my knowledge and my time.”

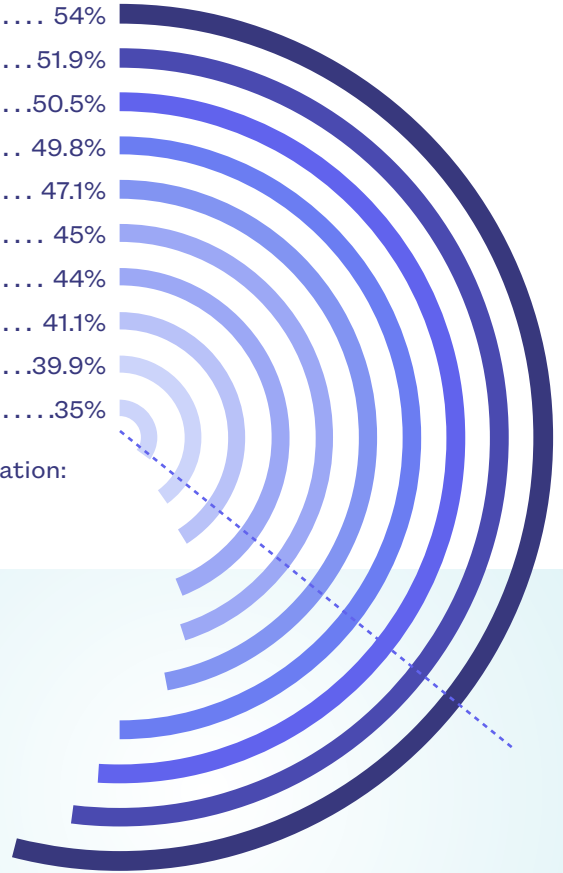
Workforce (Continued)

Immigrants played an important role in several **key industries** in the county. These included:

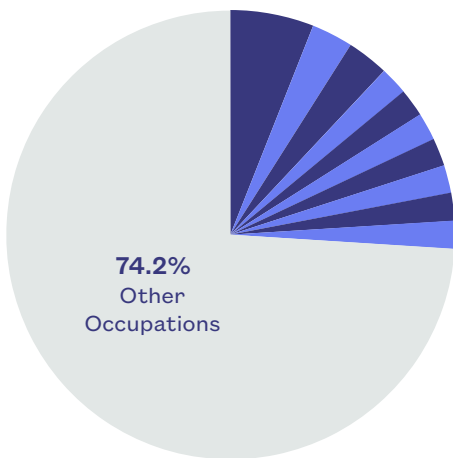
54%
of workers in the professional services industry were foreign-born in 2018.⁷

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	54%
WHOLESALE TRADE	51.9%
TRANSPORTATION.....	50.5%
MANUFACTURING.....	49.8%
FINANCE.....	47.1%
CONSTRUCTION	45%
INFORMATION.....	44%
HEALTHCARE	41.1%
RETAIL TRADE	39.9%
HOSPITALITY	35%

----- Immigrant Share of Population:
34.5%



*Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in the county helped create or preserve **13,164 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2018.⁸*

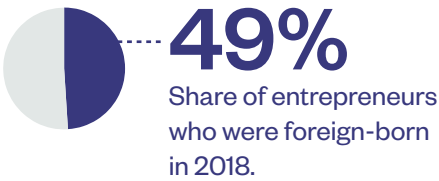


Immigrants tended to work in these **occupations** in the county in 2018:

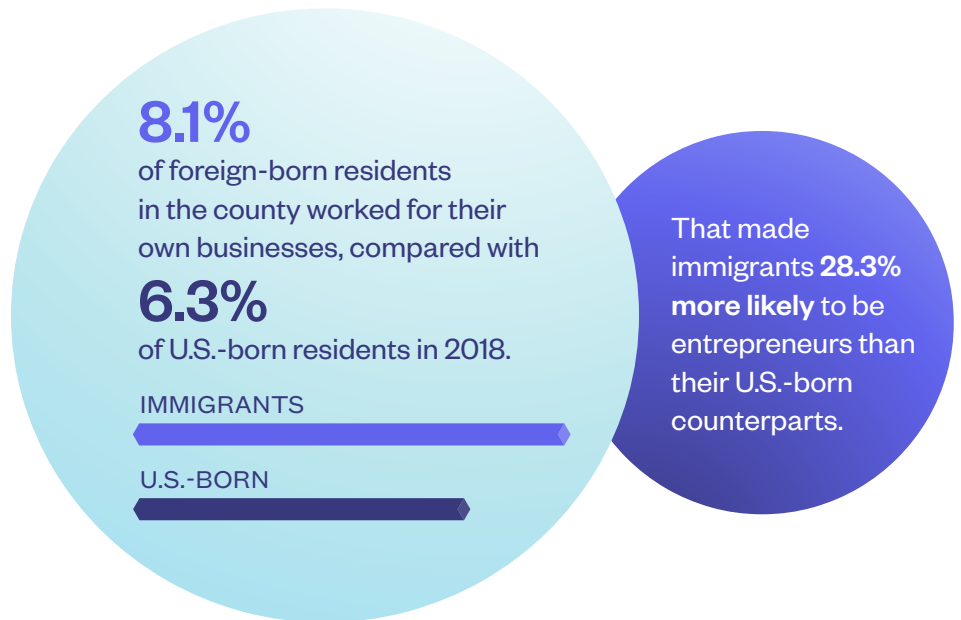
SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS	6.2%
MISCELLANEOUS MANAGERS.....	2.9%
TRUCK DRIVERS	2.5%
REGISTERED NURSES	2.4%
FIRST-LINE SUPERVISORS OF RETAIL SALES WORKERS.....	2.2%
HAND PACKERS & PACKAGERS	2.2%
LABORERS & HAND MOVERS.....	1.9%
COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS	1.9%
COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS	1.9%
JANITORS & BUILDING CLEANERS	1.7%

Entrepreneurship

Despite making up **34.4%** of the population, immigrants made up **49%** of the business owners in county in 2018.

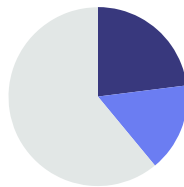


14,431
immigrant entrepreneurs lived in Middlesex County in 2018.



\$302.7M
in business income was generated by immigrant entrepreneurs in 2018.

Immigrant entrepreneurs tended to work in these **key industries**:



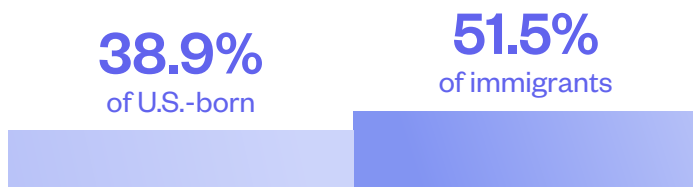
22.6%
of immigrant entrepreneurs worked in professional services in 2018.

15.5%
worked in transportation.

EDUCATION

Immigrants are more likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher in Middlesex County.

Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2018:



Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held an **advanced degree** in 2018:



Education (Continued)

6,133

international students were enrolled in colleges and universities in the county during the fall of 2018, including 5,879 international students enrolled in Rutgers University.¹⁰

3,529

Undergraduate

2,604

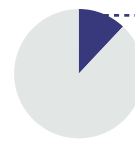
Graduate

3,541

local jobs were supported by international students.

\$278.2M

was spent by international students in the 2018-19 academic year.¹¹



12.2%

of public school students under 18 were born abroad.

Housing Wealth



In 2018,

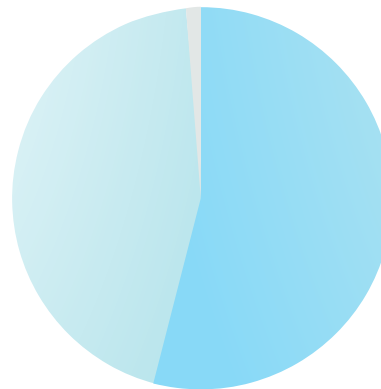
52.2%

of immigrant households in the county owned their own homes, compared to

70.3%

of U.S.-born households.

47.8% of immigrant households were renters.



IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS

53.5% Lived in Houses

45.9% Lived in Apartments

0.6% Lived in Other Types of Housing

The total property value of immigrant households:

\$26.3B

Their total annual rent paid:

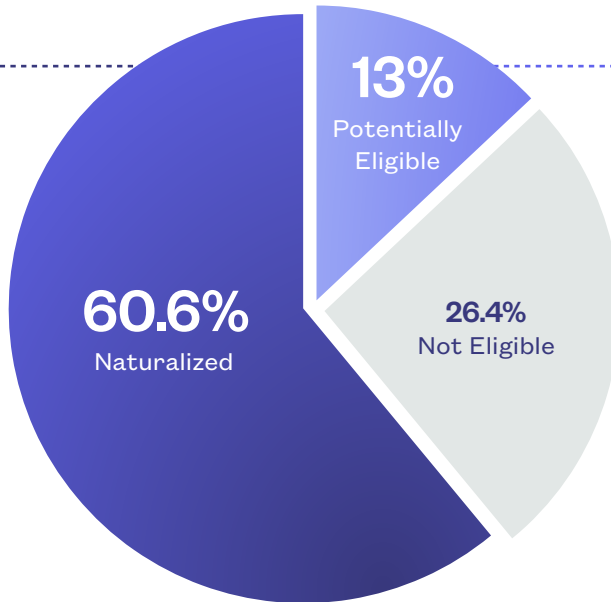
\$878.8M

Naturalization

Share of immigrants in the county who were naturalized U.S. citizens. This represents a total of

173,381
immigrants.

Nationally, **49.4%** of all immigrants are naturalized.



Share of immigrants in the county who were likely eligible to naturalize. This represents a total of

37,240
immigrants.

Share of immigrants ineligible for naturalization for various reasons including: temporary visas, residency requirements, and undocumented.

75,547
immigrants.

Refugees

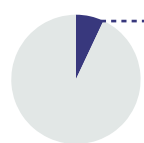
5,663

immigrants were likely refugees in 2018.

2.0%

of the foreign-born population were likely refugees.¹²

Undocumented Immigrants



7.1%

of the total population in Middlesex County was undocumented in 2018.

59,124

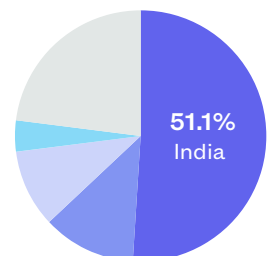
immigrants were undocumented in 2018.¹³

20.7%

of the foreign-born population were undocumented.

Top countries of origin for the undocumented in the county:

1. India **51.1%**
2. Mexico **11.9%**
3. Dominican Republic **9.5%**
4. China **3.7%**



Undocumented Immigrants (Continued)

Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2018:

\$1.6B

After taxes, they were left with **\$1.4B** in spending power.

\$148.1M

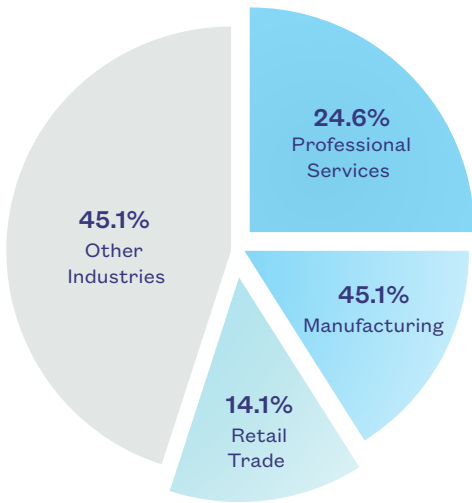
in federal taxes were paid by undocumented immigrant households.

FEDERAL

\$80.3M

in state and local taxes were paid by undocumented immigrant households.

STATE AND LOCAL



Undocumented immigrants tended to work in these **key industries**:

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	24.6%
MANUFACTURING	16.2%
RETAIL TRADE	14.1%

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2013 and 2018 and figures refer to Middlesex County, New Jersey.

2 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2019. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2016."

3 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

4 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 1-year ACS sample from 2018 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.

5 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

6 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

7 Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

8 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.

9 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau

10 Data on total student enrollment in the county is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Temporary residents refer to people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

11 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.

12 *New American Economy*. 2018. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

13 Using data from the American Community Survey, we apply the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas to arrive at an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population in Middlesex County. George J. Borjas, "The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants," NBER Working Paper (National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc, 2016).