

New Americans in Indianapolis

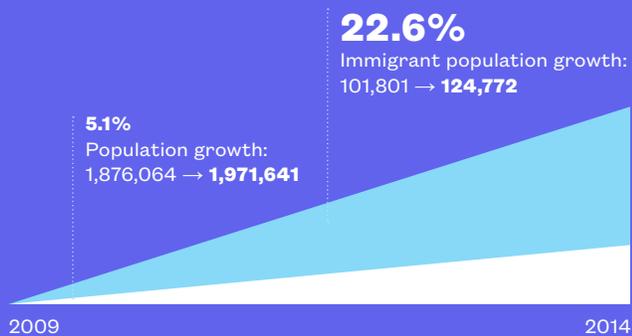
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metropolitan Area¹



POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2009 and 2014, the foreign-born population grew by

22,971
individuals.



Growth in the foreign-born population accounted for **24%** of overall population growth for Greater Indianapolis during this period.

The share of the total population that were foreign-born in the metro area increased from 5.4% to **6.3%**.

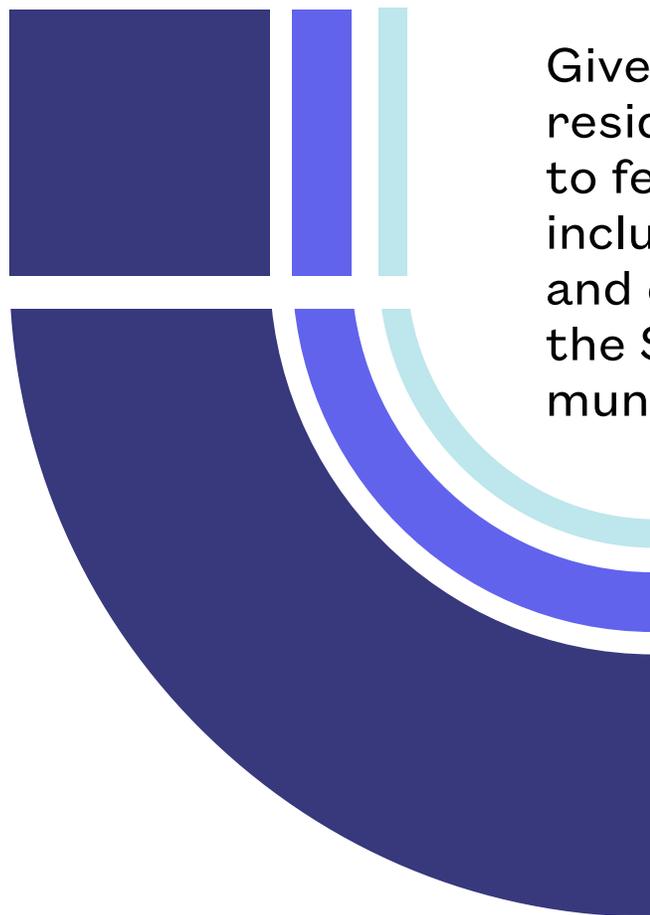


Share of immigrants in Greater Indianapolis, 2009



Share of immigrants in Greater Indianapolis, 2014

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS



Given their income, foreign-born residents **contributed greatly** to federal, state, and local taxes, including property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the State of Indiana or by municipal governments.²

\$290M — Went to state and local taxes...

\$522M — Went to federal taxes...³

Leaving them with more than **\$2.3B** in remaining spending power.

This constituted **5.9%** of the metro area's total spending power.⁴

\$9.2B

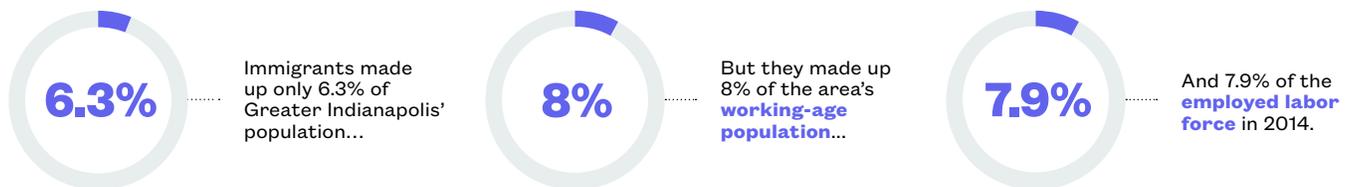
contributed to Greater Indianapolis' GDP by foreign-born residents in 2014.⁵

Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs. That same year, immigrants in the metro area contributed more than **\$382M** to Social Security and almost **\$89M** to Medicare.

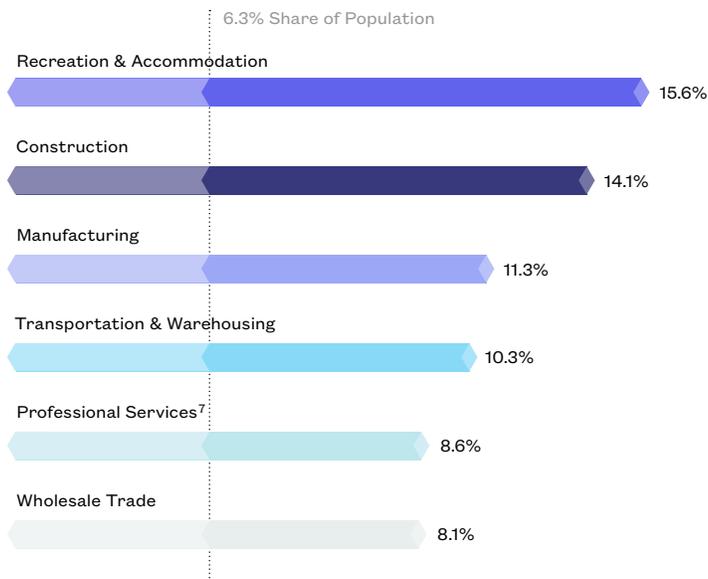
HOUSING

Between 2000 and 2014, the growth in the immigrant population increased the total housing value in Greater Indianapolis by **\$6.6B**.⁶

LABOR FORCE



Immigrants are punching above their weight in several key industries in the metro area, making up significant shares of each industry's workforce:



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

5,740

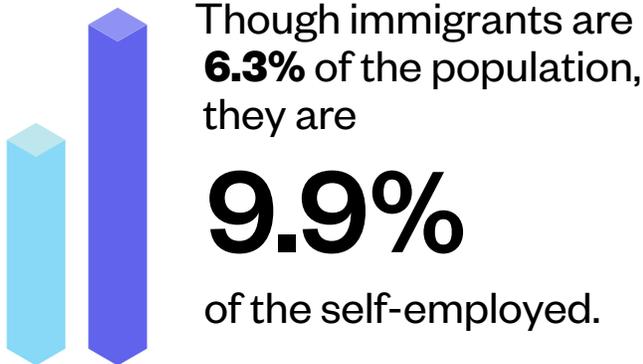
local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁸

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

7,241

immigrants in Greater Indianapolis are self-employed.

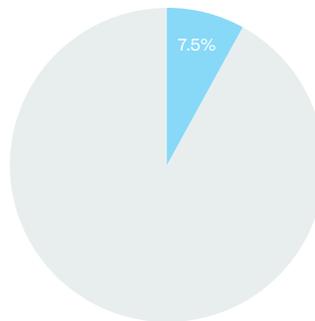
Immigrant-owned businesses generated **\$136M** in business income in 2014.



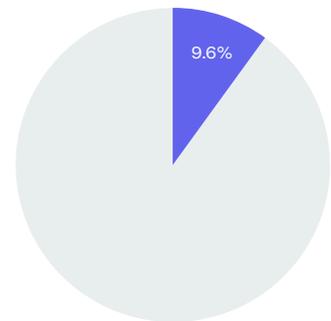
Foreign-born Hoosiers are **more likely** to start their own businesses than the U.S.-born in the metro area.

In 2014, the self-employed U.S.-born population in the Indianapolis metro area was **7.5%**.

Meanwhile, **9.6%** of foreign-born residents were self-employed.



VS

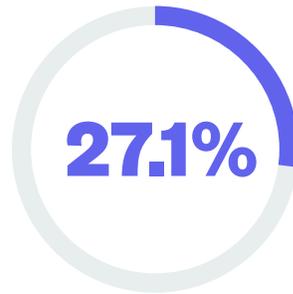


Share of U.S.-born who are self-employed

Share of foreign-born who are self-employed

EDUCATIONAL AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In 2014, **27.1%** of immigrants in Greater Indianapolis held at least a bachelor's degree, compared with **23.1%** of the U.S.-born population.



Foreign-born



U.S.-born

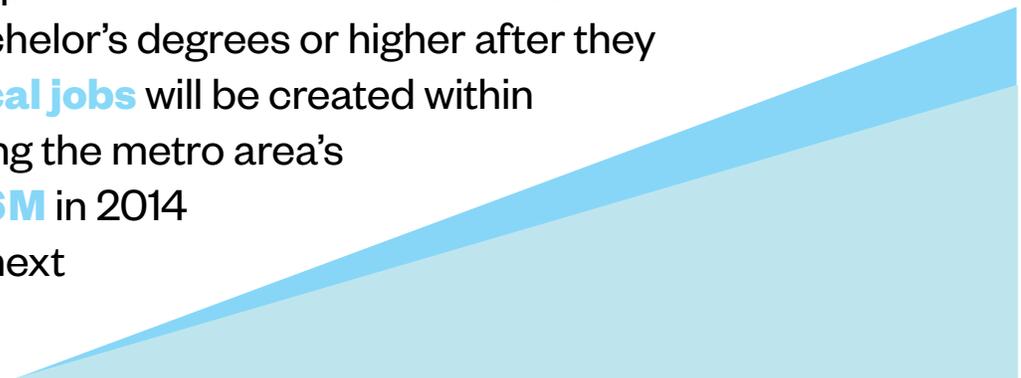
2,851

Number of students with temporary resident visas in the metro area enrolled in colleges and universities during the fall of 2014.⁹

1,103

Local jobs supported by those students in that academic year.¹⁰

If Greater Indianapolis retains one-half of its international students with bachelor's degrees or higher after they graduate, **574 local jobs** will be created within six years,¹¹ boosting the metro area's real GDP by **\$136M** in 2014 terms within the next 30 years.¹²



LANGUAGE

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

10.8% Youth under 18
8.4% Adults

NATURALIZATION

46,045

Number of foreign-born residents who had naturalized in 2014.



Share of the metro area's foreign-born population naturalized in 2014

More than half—**61%**, or 48,005—of the **78,727** people who were not citizens were potentially eligible for naturalization.

MIGRATION

In 2014, a vast majority—**91.2%**—of the foreign-born had been in Greater Indianapolis for more than a year, while **8.8%** of the foreign-born had lived in Greater Indianapolis for less than one year.

Endnotes

- 1** We define the Indianapolis metropolitan area using the Office of Management and Budget definition of the Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2000, 2009, and 2014, and figures refer to the Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson metro 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. 2014. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2011."
- 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** 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.
- 7** 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." Partnership for a New American Economy.
- 9** 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.
- 10** Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 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.

Want more information about this region? See our report:
[The Contributions of New Americans in Indiana](#)

