

# New Americans in the Michiana Region

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Region<sup>1</sup>



State & Local

## POPULATION GROWTH

### MICHIANA

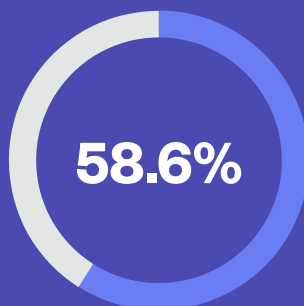
# 45,543

Number of immigrants living in the Michiana region in 2016. They made up **6.3%** of the overall population.

Between 2011 and 2016, the population in the region grew by 0.8%.

The immigrant population increased 8.1%.

Share of overall population growth in the region attributed to immigrants between 2011 and 2016:



#### Total population

717,627 → 723,462

**0.8%**

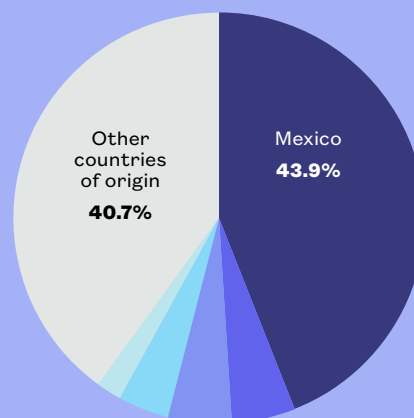
#### Immigrant population

42,121 → 45,543

**8.1%**

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the region:

- 1 Mexico . . . . . 43.9%
- 2 China . . . . . 4.9%
- 3 India . . . . . 4.6%
- 4 Canada . . . . . 3.6%
- 5 Philippines . . . . . 2.3%



**ELKHART, MARSHALL, & ST. JOSEPH COUNTIES IN INDIANA**

**33,929**

Number of immigrants living in Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties in Indiana in 2016.

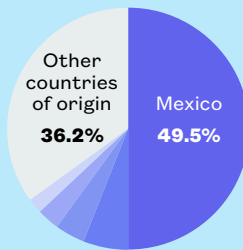
They made up **6.6%** of the overall population.

Between 2011 and 2016, the population in the area grew by **1.3%**.

The immigrant population increased **8.4%**.

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the counties:

- 1 Mexico..... 49.5%
- 2 China..... 5.6%
- 3 India..... 3.8%
- 4 Canada..... 2.8%
- 5 Philippines..... 2.1%



**Total population**  
510,056 → **516,781**

**1.3%**

**Immigrant population**  
31,303 → **33,929**

**8.4%**



Share of overall population growth in the area attributed to immigrants.

**BERRIEN AND CASS COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN**

**11,614**

Number of immigrants living in Berrien and Cass counties in Michigan in 2016.

They made up **5.6%** of the overall population.

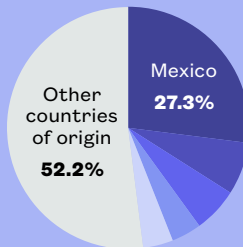
Between 2011 and 2016, the population in the area decreased by **0.4%**.

The immigrant population increased **7.4%**.

Had the foreign-born population stayed the same as it was in 2011, the decline in the population in the counties would have been even greater, falling by 0.8%.

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the counties:

- 1 Mexico..... 27.3%
- 2 India..... 7.0%
- 3 Canada..... 6.0%
- 4 Brazil..... 3.9%
- 5 Germany..... 3.6%



**Total population**  
207,571 → **206,680**

**-0.4%**

**Immigrant population**  
10,818 → **11,614**

**7.4%**



## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

### MICHIANA

In 2016, foreign-born residents in the Michiana region contributed **\$3.1B** to the area's GDP.<sup>2</sup>

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

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2016:

**\$1.2B**

**\$212.8M**  
went to federal taxes.<sup>3</sup>

**\$103.0M**  
went to state & local taxes.<sup>4</sup>

Leaving them with

**\$880.3M** in spending power.

This means that foreign-born households held **6.9%** of all spending power in the Michiana region, more than their share of the region's overall population.<sup>5</sup>

### SPOTLIGHT ON

## Nitesh Chawla

Professor at the University of Notre Dame & Founder of Aunalytics

**A**fter earning his doctorate in computer science from the University of South Florida, Indian immigrant Nitesh Chawla took a position creating consumer behavior analytics models at a Toronto bank. Still, he yearned to pursue his dream of becoming an academic and an entrepreneur. In 2004, he took a pay cut and moved to South Bend to become a research assistant professor in biometrics at the University of Notre Dame. "I felt this deep passion to have my work make a difference and create a lasting impact," says Chawla, 43. "I believed that machine learning could benefit the common good."

By 2007, he was on the tenure track and started a research lab that focuses on applying machine learning and network science algorithms to healthcare, environmental sciences, education, and national security. "We're tackling big issues like successful aging and infant mortality," he says. The award-winning research and excellence in the classroom earned him an endowed full professor position in 2016, and he twice won Notre Dame's Outstanding Teaching Award. To date, Chawla's lab has nurtured 30 PhD students, eight post-doctoral scholars, and helped bring the university \$27 million in research funding.

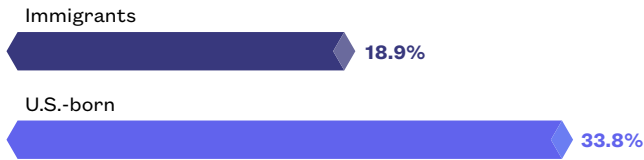
In 2012, he founded Aunalytics, a data science software company that helps businesses solve problems through data analysis, with Graham Allen Partners, an investment firm started by former Notre Dame football player Tracy Graham. Located in South Bend's Ignition Park technology center, the company now has 38 employees, about 80 percent of whom are American-born. "It's really a homegrown story of South Bend," says Chawla. "My employees are all doing innovative work and contributing to the economy. People are becoming homeowners. They're raising families." In 2013, the South Bend Regional Chamber named Chawla one of "Michiana Forty Under 40."

Chawla became a citizen in 2015, and loves his adopted city. He says he has always felt embraced by the community. "It's really amazing to be able to pursue your dream and see it impact many lives," he says. "South Bend is a beacon of American hope and innovation. It provides an environment for people to achieve their best and create opportunities where none existed before. Your only limitation is the size of your dream."

**ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS CONT.**

**MICHIANA CONT.**

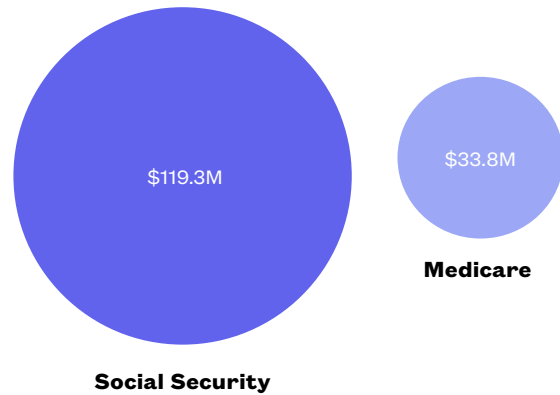
**18.9%** of immigrants in the region received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **33.8%** of the U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **54.1%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **19.0%** had public healthcare coverage.



Immigrants in the Michiana region also support federal social programs. In 2016, they contributed **\$119.3M** to Social Security and **\$33.8M** to Medicare.



**COUNTIES IN INDIANA**

In 2016, foreign-born residents in the Indiana counties of Michiana contributed **\$2.7B** to the region's GDP.<sup>6</sup>

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2016: **\$908.0M**

**\$159.8M**

went to federal taxes.<sup>7</sup>

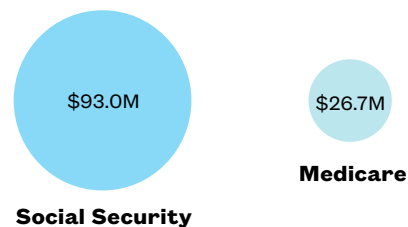
**\$80.4M**

went to state & local taxes.<sup>8</sup>

Leaving them with **\$667.8M** in spending power.

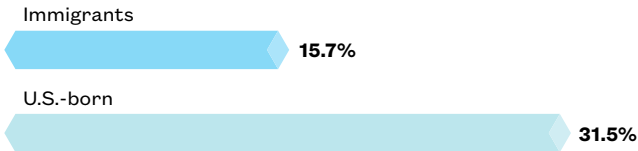
Immigrant households held **7.5%** of all spending power in the counties in Indiana, more than their share of the counties' overall population.

Immigrants in the Indiana counties of Michiana region also support federal social programs. In 2016, they contributed **\$93.0M** to Social Security and **\$26.7M** to Medicare.



COUNTIES IN INDIANA CONT.

**15.7%** of immigrants in the region received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **31.5%** of the U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **53.1%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **15.8%** had public healthcare coverage.



COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

In 2016, foreign-born residents in the Michigan counties of Michiana contributed **\$479.3M** to the region's GDP.<sup>9</sup>

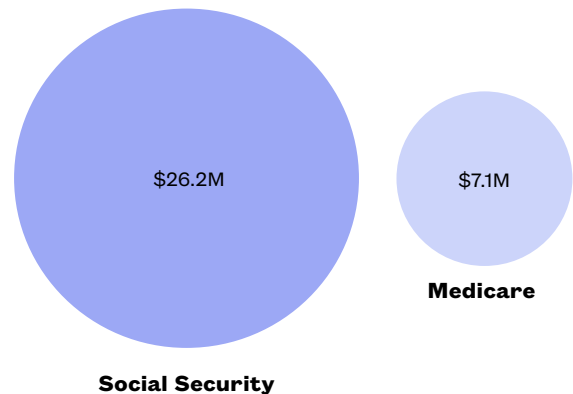
Amount earned by immigrant households in 2016: **\$288.1M**

**\$52.9M**  
went to federal taxes.<sup>10</sup>

**\$22.6M**  
went to state & local taxes.<sup>11</sup>

Leaving them with **\$212.6M** in spending power.

Immigrants in the Michigan counties of Michiana region also support federal social programs. In 2016, they contributed **\$26.2M** to Social Security and **\$7.1M** to Medicare.



**28.2%** of immigrants in the region received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **39.6%** of the U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **56.9%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **28.2%** had public healthcare coverage.

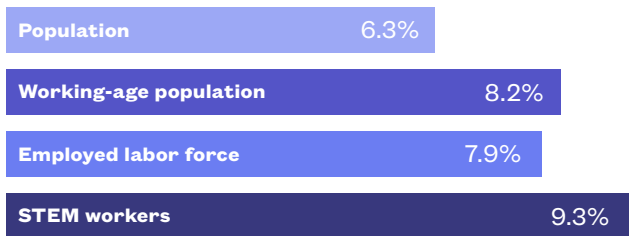


## LABOR FORCE GROWTH

### MICHIANA

Although the foreign-born made up **6.3%** of the region's overall population, they represented **8.2%** of its working-age\* population, **7.9%** of its employed labor force, and **9.3%** of STEM workers in 2016.

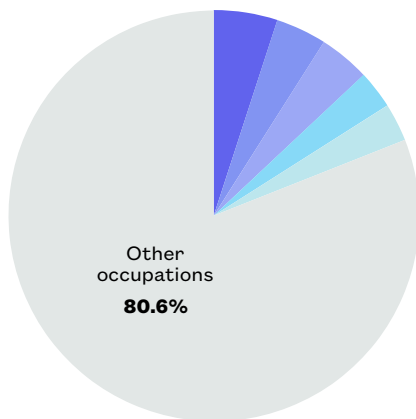
#### Immigrant shares of the...



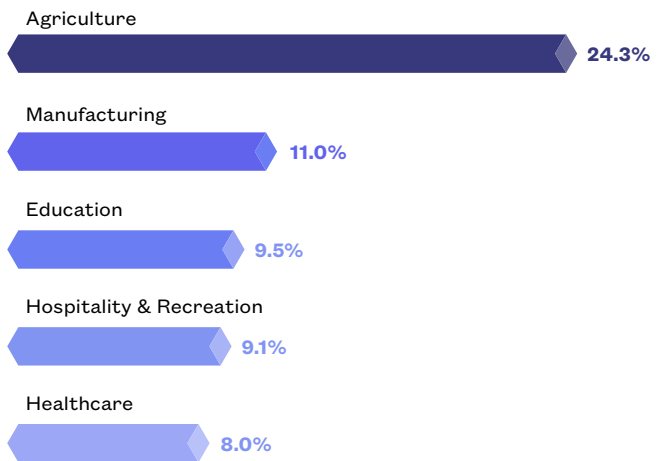
\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.

Immigrants tended to concentrate in these **occupations** in the region in 2016:

- 1 Laborers & Movers .....4.7%
- 2 Postsecondary Teachers ..... 4.3%
- 3 Assemblers & Fabricators ..... 4.0%
- 4 Production Workers .....3.3%
- 5 Agricultural Workers..... 3.1%



Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the region, making up significant shares of the workforce in 2016:



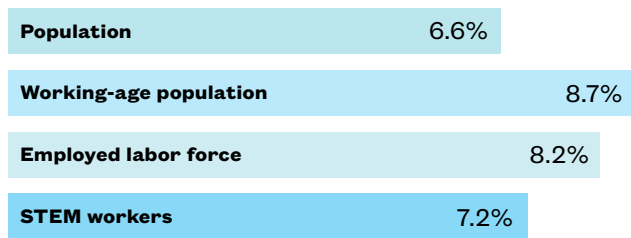
Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that by 2016, immigrants living in the region helped create or preserve

**2,095**  
**local manufacturing jobs**  
 that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>12</sup>

## COUNTIES IN INDIANA

Although the foreign-born made up **6.6%** of the region's overall population, they represented **8.7%** of its working-age\* population, **8.2%** of its employed labor force, and **7.2%** of STEM workers in 2016.

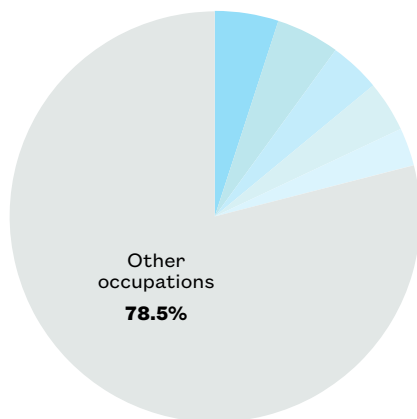
### Immigrant shares of the...



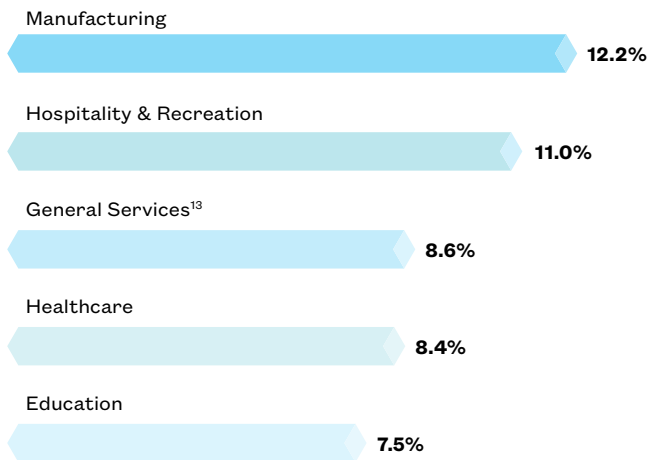
\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.

Immigrants tended to concentrate in these **occupations** in the region in 2016:

- 1 Laborers & Movers ..... 5.2%
- 2 Assemblers & Fabricators ..... 4.9%
- 3 Production Workers ..... 4.4%
- 4 Postsecondary Teachers ..... 4.1%
- 5 Cooks. .... 2.9%



Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the region, making up significant shares of the workforce in 2016:



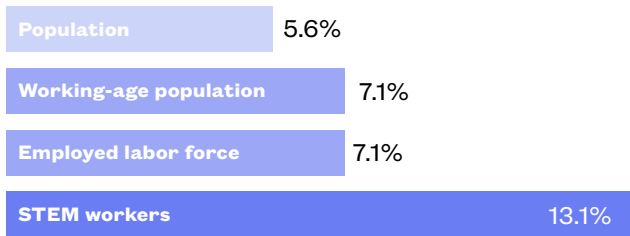
Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that by 2016, immigrants living in the counties helped create or preserve

**1,561**  
**local manufacturing jobs**  
 that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>14</sup>

**COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN**

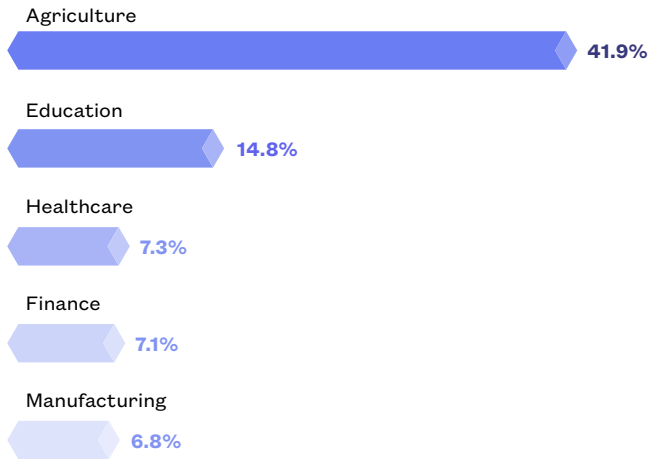
Although the foreign-born made up **5.6%** of the region's overall population, they represented **7.1%** of its working-age\* population, **7.1%** of its employed labor force, and **13.1%** of STEM workers in 2016.

**Immigrant shares of the...**



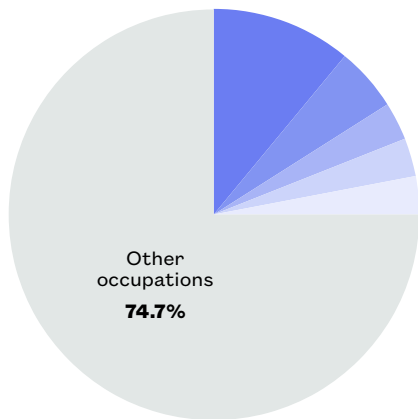
\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.

Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the region, making up significant shares of the workforce in 2016:



Immigrants tended to concentrate in these **occupations** in the region in 2016:

- 1 Agriculture Workers ..... 11.3%
- 2 Postsecondary Teachers ..... 4.6%
- 3 Laborers & Movers ..... 3.3%
- 4 Engineers ..... 3.1%
- 5 Nursing & Home Health Aides .... 3.0%



Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that by 2016, immigrants living in the counties helped create or preserve

**534**

**local manufacturing jobs**

that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>15</sup>



SPOTLIGHT ON

# Rafat & Zoreen Ansari

Founders of the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism

After completing his fellowship in hematology-oncology at Indiana University, Rafat Ansari joined a practice in South Bend. At the time, the Pakistani native was one of a handful of Muslims in this mostly Christian city, but he says the community welcomed him. "I was able to blend in quickly and made new friends," he says. "I got into Notre Dame football. That's important in South Bend."

In 1981, Ansari married his childhood friend Zoreen from his hometown in Karachi who had also studied medicine. She joined him in South Bend, but the closest internship she could find was at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, nearly three hours away. "I'd have to leave at 3 a.m. in the snow to make 7 a.m. rounds," recalls Zoreen. Fortunately, a few years later, she was able to finish her residency in family medicine at South Bend's Memorial Hospital.

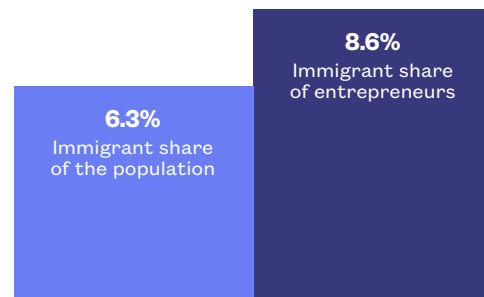
Then in 1994, the couple learned their young daughter Sonya was autistic. The city had few services for autistic children, and the Ansaris saw an opportunity to make an impact. "I left my job to advocate for my daughter and other children with autism," says Zoreen. Together, she and Rafat established the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism, which provides a vital support network along with applied behavioral therapy, parent training and social skills classes. Today the organization serves several hundred patients a year through the Logan Center, a nonprofit for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2011, the couple was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame.

Last year, the Ansaris found a new outlet for their philanthropy. They donated \$15 million they had earned through investments to the Notre Dame School of Global Affairs to create the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion. "We realized that so many of the world's conflicts are brought about by religion and wanted to promote peace," says Rafat. The institute's students represent a diverse spectrum of religions and ethnicities. Twenty-two of the 29 are international. "Immigrants make such a contribution to society," Rafat says. "In many cases, they have come here after much struggle and have something to prove. Their dream is to find their place in the American dream."

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### MICHIANA

Despite making up **6.3%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **8.6%** of the entrepreneurs in the Michiana region in 2016. About **2,168** foreign-born people worked for their own businesses, generating **\$48.9M** in business income.



In the region, immigrants were **10.0%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

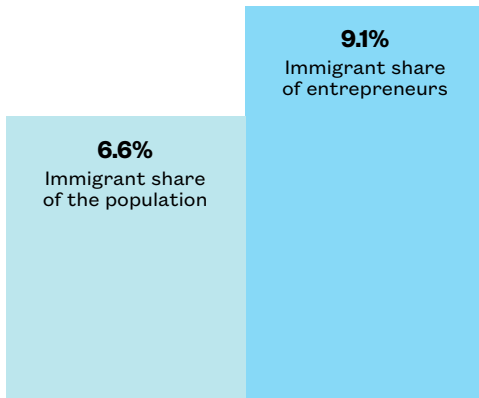
Share of **foreign-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **8.6%**

Share of **U.S.-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **7.5%**

Michiana Businesses, 2012	Sales Revenue, 2012	Number of Paid Employees, 2012 <sup>16</sup>
<b>African American-owned</b>	<b>\$252.3M</b>	<b>1,580</b>
<b>Hispanic-owned</b>	<b>\$202.0M</b>	<b>1,129</b>

### COUNTIES IN INDIANA

Despite making up **6.6%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **9.1%** of the entrepreneurs in the Indiana counties in 2016.



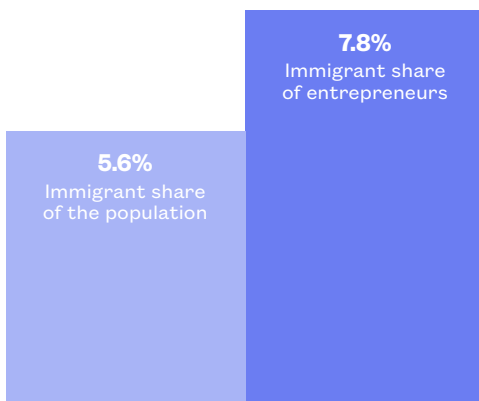
In the counties, immigrants were **11.2%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Share of **foreign-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **7.6%**

Share of **U.S.-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **6.8%**

### COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

Despite making up **5.6%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **7.8%** of the entrepreneurs in the Michigan counties in 2016.



In the counties, immigrants were **10.9%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Share of **foreign-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **10.3%**

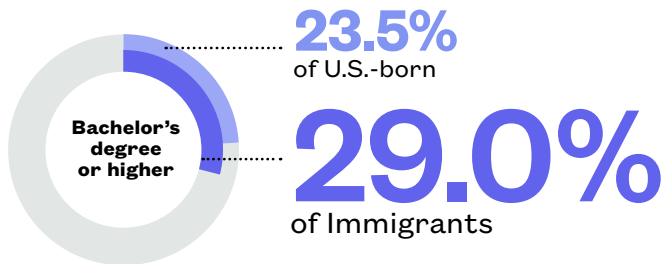
Share of **U.S.-born** who were self-employed in 2016: **9.3%**

**EDUCATION**

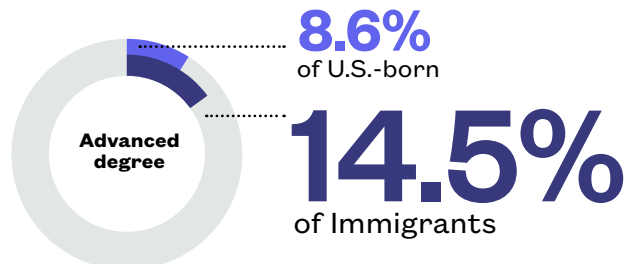
**MICHIANA**

Immigrants were more likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016.

Share of population over age 25 with a **bachelor's degree or higher:**



Share of population over age 25 with an **advanced degree:**



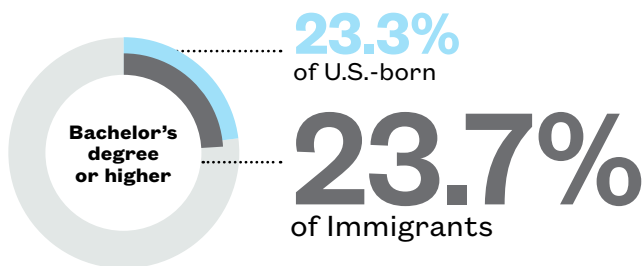
**1,647** students who were enrolled in Michiana colleges and universities during the fall of 2015 were temporary residents.<sup>17</sup> International students supported **1,105** local jobs and spent **\$80.4M** in the 2016-17 academic year.<sup>18</sup>

Immigrants make up **2.5%** of students under age 18 who attended public schools in the region in 2016.

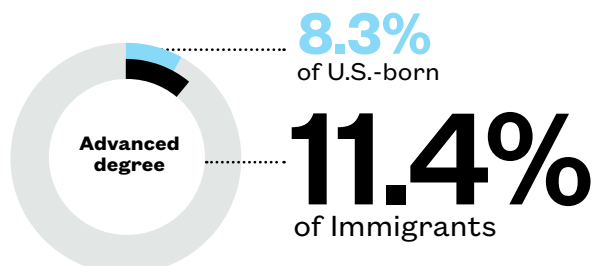
**COUNTIES IN INDIANA**

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Share of population over age 25 with a **bachelor's degree or higher:**



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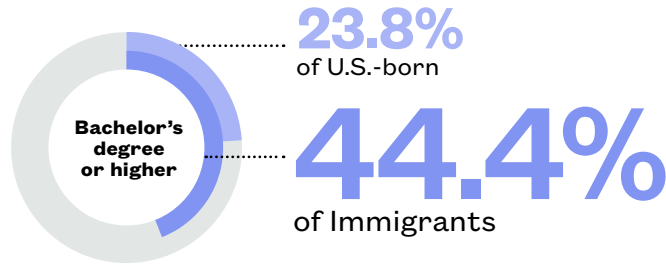


Immigrants made up **2.8%** of students under age 18 who attended public schools in the counties in 2016.

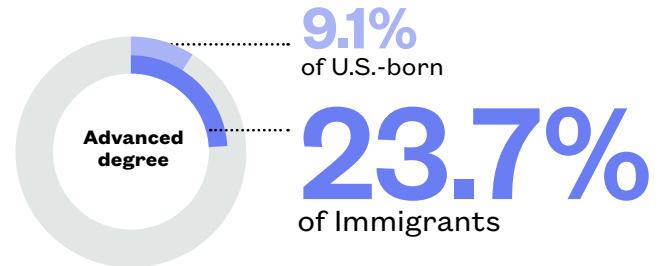
COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

Immigrants were more likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016.

Share of population over age 25 with a **bachelor's degree or higher:**



Share of population over age 25 with an **advanced degree:**



Immigrants made up **1.8% of students under age 18** who attended public schools in the counties in 2016.

HOUSING WEALTH

MICHIANA

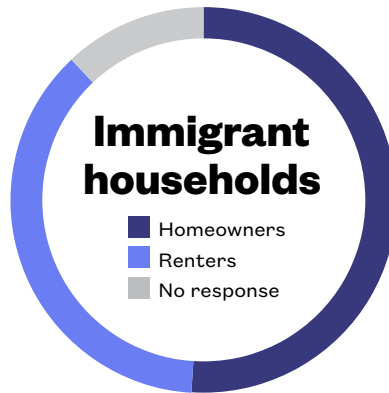
In 2016,

**50.5%**

of immigrants in the region owned their own homes, compared to **65.2%** of the U.S.-born.

**37.2%**

of immigrants were renters.



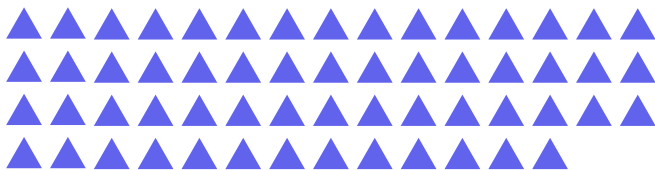
The total property value of immigrant households was

**\$1.6B.**

Their total annual rent was

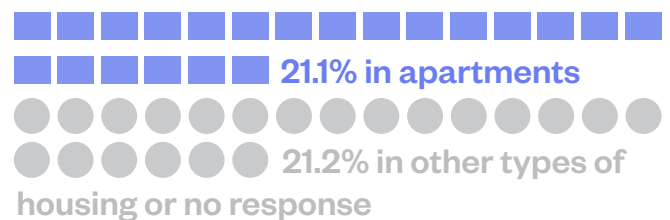
**\$52.2M.**

In 2016, **57.7%** of immigrant households lived in houses...



**57.7% in houses**

And **21.1%** lived in apartments.



### COUNTIES IN INDIANA

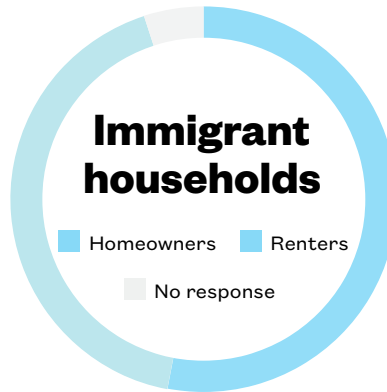
In 2016,

**53.3%**

of immigrants in the region owned their own homes, compared to **63.6%** of the U.S-born.

**41.7%**

of immigrants were renters.



The total property value of immigrant households was

**\$1.1B.**

Their total annual rent was

**\$41.8M.**

In 2016, **62.3%** of immigrant households lived in houses and **22.1%** lived in apartments. **15.6%** lived in other types of housing or did not respond.

### COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

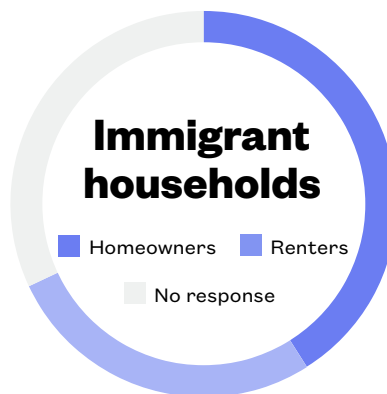
In 2016,

**41.1%**

of immigrants in the region owned their own homes, compared to **69.0%** of the U.S-born.

**26.7%**

of immigrants were renters.



The total property value of immigrant households was

**\$522M.**

Their total annual rent was

**\$10.4M.**

In 2016, **46.8%** of immigrant households lived in houses and **18.9%** lived in apartments. **34.3%** lived in other types of housing or did not respond.

## NATURALIZATION

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### MICHIANA

**32.8%**  
Naturalized

Share of immigrants who were naturalized citizens in 2016.  
This constitutes **14,959** immigrants.

**25.4%**  
Potentially eligible

Share among the 30,584 who were not citizens but potentially eligible for naturalization.  
This constitutes **7,768** immigrants.

### COUNTIES IN INDIANA

**32.8%**  
Naturalized

Share of immigrants who were naturalized citizens in 2016.  
This constitutes **11,135** immigrants.

**24.7%**  
Potentially eligible

Share among the 22,794 who were not citizens but potentially eligible for naturalization.  
This constitutes **5,631** immigrants.

### COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

**32.9%**  
Naturalized

Share of immigrants who were naturalized citizens in 2016.  
This constitutes **3,824** immigrants.

**27.4%**  
Potentially eligible

Share among the 7,790 who were not citizens but potentially eligible for naturalization.  
This constitutes **2,137** immigrants.

SPOTLIGHT ON

# Husam Abdulameer

Equipment Manager at Food Bank of Northern Indiana

**W**hen he graduated from Iraq’s Technology Institute in 1991, Baghdad native Husam Abdulameer opened a business servicing hydraulic equipment. He married, had three children, and also opened a neighborhood convenience store. But when American soldiers began patronizing the store, trouble arose. “People thought I was giving the Americans information about the neighborhood,” Abdulameer says.

He started receiving death threats and someone made an attempt on his life. The family appealed to the United Nations, were granted refugee status, and in 2010, moved to Indiana. The adjustment wasn’t easy. “When you change your country, you have to change everything,” he says. “It’s hard at first, but we’re doing well. There’s low crime, and good jobs here.”

Today, Abdulameer works at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, where he stocks the warehouse with donations from local grocery stores, drives a delivery truck, and helps with construction projects, like renovating the Food Bank’s bathrooms. He says that working for such an altruistic organization has helped him to feel like a part of the community. “The pay is low, because it’s a nonprofit,” Abdulameer says. “But I love helping people through my work. I feel like it is my duty to help, because other people helped me when I got here. The Food Bank is my family and home.”

Ever the entrepreneur, Abdulameer realized that he could supplement his income in a way that also helped to improve the community. Within a few years of settling in Indiana, he started to purchase distressed homes and rehab them for resale. He has flipped a handful of homes so far, but he is excited about possibilities for growth. “I invest my own money and buy each house with cash. Then I do all the construction work myself. It’s growing little by little.”

Abdulameer never thought he’d have to leave his native Iraq, but he has committed to building a new life in the United States. “This is my country now,” he says. “I couldn’t live in Iraq again. America gave us almost everything in our life: a future, freedom.”

For more city, district, and state-level data, visit [MapTheImpact.org](http://MapTheImpact.org) and explore our interactive map.



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2011 and 2016. For the purpose of this report, the Michiana region refers to South Bend-Elkhart-Mishawaka, IN-MI Combined Statistical Area, including Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties in Indiana and Berrien and Cass counties in Michigan.
- 2 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2016 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.
- 3 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. “The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013.”
- 4 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. “Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States.”
- 5 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.
- 6 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2016 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.
- 7 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. “The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013.”
- 8 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. “Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States.”
- 9 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2016 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.
- 10 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. “The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013.”
- 11 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. “Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States.”
- 12 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. “Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market.” New American Economy.
- 13 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 14 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. “Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market.” New American Economy.
- 15 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. “Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market.” New American Economy.
- 16 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau
- 17 Data on total student enrollment in the region 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.
- 18 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.