

New Americans in Portland, OR



State & Local



A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the City¹

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, local leaders in communities across the country have been working tirelessly to ensure that all community members have access to the services and support they need. The immigrant population is both essential to our country’s rapid response efforts and especially vulnerable to gaps in our social safety nets. Understanding this population will help better inform local leaders as they aim to implement inclusive emergency response policies.

OVERVIEW

86,356

Immigrant Residents, 2018



43,365

Immigrants who were **Naturalized** U.S. Citizens, 2018



Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018

14,176

Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018²



Share of Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018

18,335

Undocumented Immigrants, 2018



Undocumented Share of Immigrants, 2018

2,513

DACA-Eligible Immigrants, 2018



DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

LANGUAGE

Top Five Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

SPANISH	22.3%
VIETNAMESE	11.5%
CHINESE	8.9%
RUSSIAN	7.1%
SOMALI & RELATED	2.7%

28.4% of immigrants, or **24,510**, living in the city had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top five languages spoken at home other than English were:

- SPANISH (**32.0%**)
- VIETNAMESE (**21.3%**)
- CHINESE (**13.7%**)
- RUSSIAN (**8.8%**)
- UKRAINIAN & RELATED (**3.3%**)

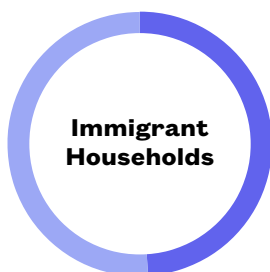
FRONTLINE WORKERS

Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning. In Portland, immigrants are working in frontline and essential industries during the Covid-19 crisis.

Number of Immigrants	Industry	Share of Workforce
5,788	RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE	21.1%
1,602	TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING ³	20.1%
1,523	GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS	16.0%
5,851	HEALTHCARE	14.9%

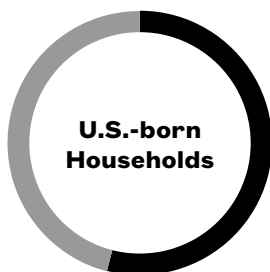
HOUSING CONDITIONS

The COVID-19 economic upheaval has highlighted the need for stable housing.



Among immigrant households in 2018...

- **48.6%** Owned their own Homes (16,882)
- **51.4%** were Renters (17,823)



Among U.S.-born households in 2018...

- **54.3%** Owned their own Homes (124,503)
- **45.7%** were Renters (104,896)

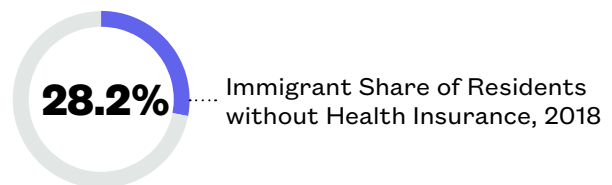
- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to the City of Portland, Oregon.
- 2 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."
- 3 These industries include rail, water, truck, and pipeline transportation, bus and public transit, postal service, couriers and messengers, warehousing and storage.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Access to healthcare and medical services remains critical during this pandemic.

44,101

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018



ENTREPRENEURS

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, **entrepreneurs within particularly vulnerable industries in the city face severe challenges posed by the crisis.**

Number of Entrepreneurs	Industry	Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants
1,563	HOSPITALITY ⁴	32.9%
4,238	GENERAL SERVICES ⁵	20.9%
3,493	HEALTHCARE	16.4%
3,649	CONSTRUCTION	15.9%
12,831	PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES ⁶	11.8%
2,601	RETAIL TRADE	11.0%

- 4 Hospitality includes accommodation and food services industries, such as hotels, camps, restaurants, and bars.
- 5 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 6 Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.