New Americans in Portland, OR
A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the City

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

- Immigrant Share of Population, 2018: 13.5%

43,365
Immigrants who were Naturalized U.S. Citizens, 2018

- Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018: 50.2%

14,176
Immigrants who were Likely Refugees, 2018

- Share of Immigrants who were Likely Refugees, 2018: 16.4%

18,335
Undocumented Immigrants, 2018

- Undocumented Share of Immigrants, 2018: 21.2%

2,513
DACA-Eligible Immigrants, 2018

- DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018: 2.9%

**LANGUAGE**

Top Five Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAMESE</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINESE</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIAN</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMALI &amp; RELATED</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Immigrants</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Share of Workforce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,788</td>
<td>RESTAURANTS &amp; FOOD SERVICE</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,602</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION &amp; WAREHOUSING³</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>GROCERY STORES &amp; SUPERMARKETS</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,851</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

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

44,101
Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

28.2%
Immigrant Share 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,563</td>
<td>HOSPITALITY⁴</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,238</td>
<td>GENERAL SERVICES⁵</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,493</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,649</td>
<td>CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,831</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL &amp; BUSINESS SERVICES⁶</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,601</td>
<td>RETAIL TRADE</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.


3 These industries include rail, water, truck, and pipeline transportation, bus and public transit, postal service, couriers and messengers, warehousing and storage.

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.