New Americans in Saint Paul
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**

58,750
Immigrant Residents, 2018

29,220
Immigrants who were Naturalized U.S. Citizens, 2018

49.7%
Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018

27,943
Immigrants who were Likely Refugees, 2018

47.6%
Share of Immigrants who were Likely Refugees, 2018

9,286
Undocumented Immigrants, 2018

15.8%
Undocumented Share of Immigrants, 2018

2.2%
DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

**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>HMONG</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAREN</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMALI, OROMO, BEJA &amp; OTHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUSHITIC LANGUAGES</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMHARIC &amp; RELATED</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33.0% of immigrants, or 19,386, living in Saint Paul had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top five languages spoken at home other than English were:

- HMONG (26.1%)
- SPANISH (22.7%)
- KAREN (20.1%)
- SOMALI, OROMO, BEJA & OTHER CUSHITIC LANGUAGES (8.0%)
- VIETNAMESE (3.8%)
**FRONTLINE WORKERS**

Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning. In St. Paul, 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>5,288</td>
<td>FOOD SECTOR(^5)</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,426</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION &amp; WAREHOUSING(^6)</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,973</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HEALTHCARE COVERAGE**

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

20,902

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

**HOUSING CONDITIONS**

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

Among immigrant households in 2018...
- 31.5% Owned their own Homes (6,800)
- 68.5% were Renters (14,757)

Among U.S.-born households in 2018...
- 53.5% Owned their own Homes (48,917)
- 46.5% were Renters (42,526)

**ENDNOTES**

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to the City of St. Paul, Minnesota.
3. Amharic and related refers to Ethio-Semitic languages including Amharic, Tigrinya, Hareni, and Gurage.
4. The food sector includes agriculture, food processing, food wholesale trade, grocery stores and supermarkets, and restaurants and food services.
5. These industries include rail, water, truck, and pipeline transportation, bus and public transit, postal service, couriers and messengers, warehousing and storage.