

New Americans in Northeast Ohio

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Region ^{1,2}

JANUARY 2022



GLOBAL CLEVELAND
WE STRENGTHEN OUR CITY - BY WELCOMING OUR WORLD.

Population

156,800

immigrants lived in Northeast Ohio in 2019.³

Immigrants made up



of the total population in the region in 2019.

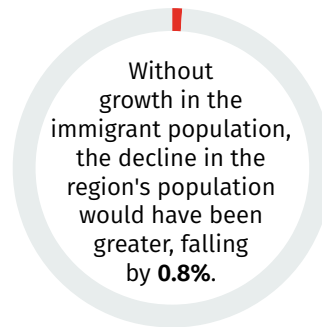
Between 2014 and 2019, the total population in the region decreased by



The immigrant population increased by

+7.3%

during the same time period.



Demographics



of immigrants in Northeast Ohio are recent arrivals, with no more than 5 years of residency in the United States, meaning



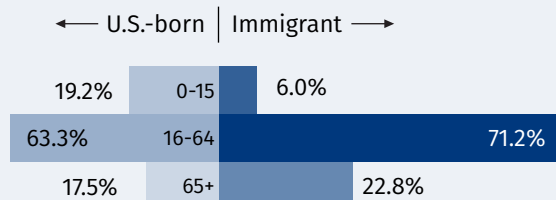
of immigrants in the region have resided in the United States for longer than 5 years.

In the region, immigrants are



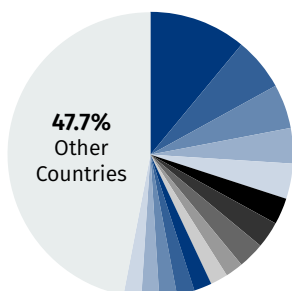
more likely to be of working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.⁴

Shares of population by age groups:⁵



The top fifteen countries of origin for immigrants living in the region:

- India (10.6%)
- Mexico (5.8%)
- China (5.3%)
- Ukraine (3.9%)
- Germany (3.5%)
- Canada (3.2%)
- Romania (2.8%)
- Russia (2.7%)
- Italy (2.4%)
- Philippines (2.4%)
- Bhutan (2.4%)
- Nepal (2.0%)
- South Korea (1.9%)
- Vietnam (1.7%)
- Poland (1.7%)



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to the Northeast Ohio region, including Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Summit, Medina, Lorain and Portage counties.
- 2 Estimates provided in this report may slightly undercount the immigrant population. The American Community Survey historically undersamples the foreign-born population, especially among lower income, more recently arrived, and less English-fluent immigrant populations.
- 3 We define "immigrant" as any non-citizen or any naturalized U.S. citizen. They include naturalized citizens, green card holders, temporary visa holders, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
- 4 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
- 5 Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Demographics *continued*

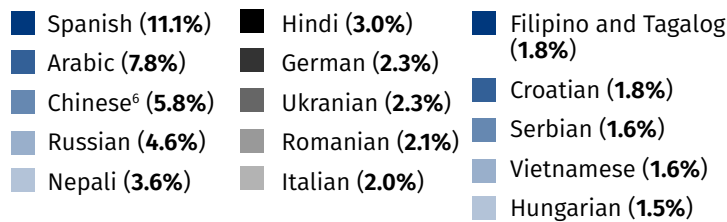
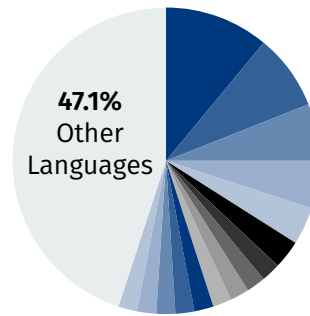
1.4 million

commuters worked in the region in 2019.



or **82,200** commuters, were foreign-born.

The top fifteen languages spoken at home other than English for immigrants living in the region:



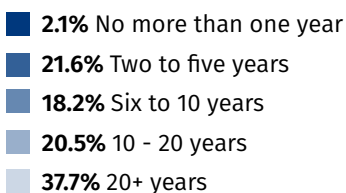
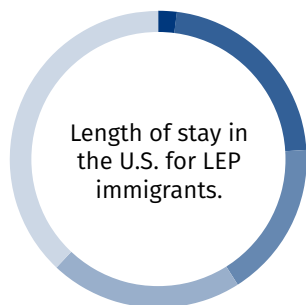
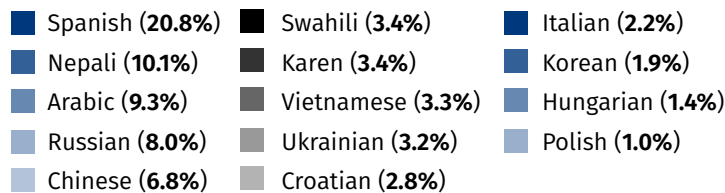
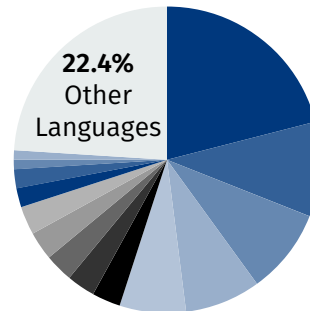
26,700

immigrants living in the region had limited English language proficiency, making up

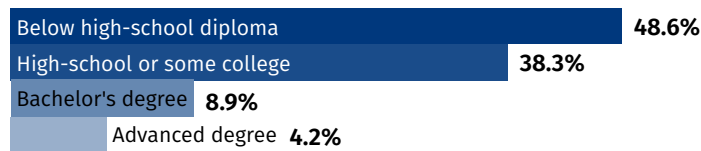


of the immigrant population.⁷

The top languages spoken at home other than English for LEP immigrants:



Educational attainments for LEP immigrants:



of LEP immigrants lived at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold.

⁴ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

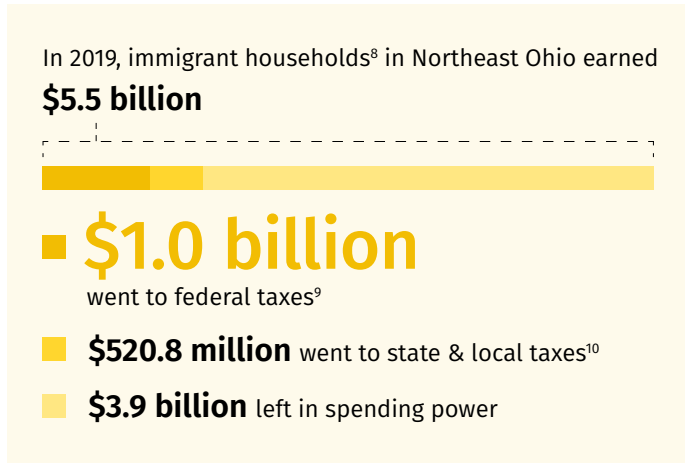
⁵ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

⁶ This includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and other Chinese dialects.

⁷ For the purpose of this report, we define people with limited English language proficiency as the ones who do not speak English at all or do not speak English well.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions

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



This means that foreign-born households held



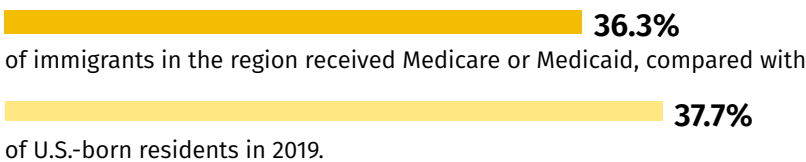
of all spending power in Northeast Ohio.

In 2019, foreign-born residents in the region contributed

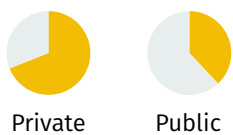
\$11.8 billion

to the region's GDP, or **6.8%** of the total.¹¹

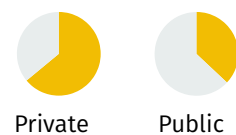
Immigrants in the region also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed



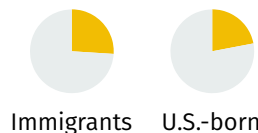
About **69.2%** of U.S.-born had private healthcare coverage¹², while **38.4%** had public healthcare coverage.



About **63.9%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **36.6%** had public healthcare coverage.



Given their household incomes, **26.1%** of immigrants live at or below 150% of the federal poverty threshold as compared to **21.8%** of U.S.-born residents.



⁸ Immigrant households refer to people living in a housing unit with an immigrant being the head of their unit.

⁹ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

¹⁰ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

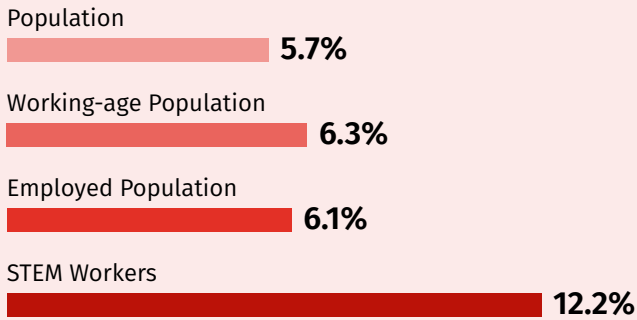
¹¹ These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2019 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

¹² Including people who have both public and private healthcare coverage.

Workforce

Although the foreign-born made up **5.7%** of the region's overall population, they represented **6.3%** of its working-age population, **6.1%** of its employed labor force, and **12.2%** of its STEM¹³ workers in 2019.

Immigrant shares of the...



In 2019, there were

12.8

open STEM job postings for every available unemployed STEM worker in the region.

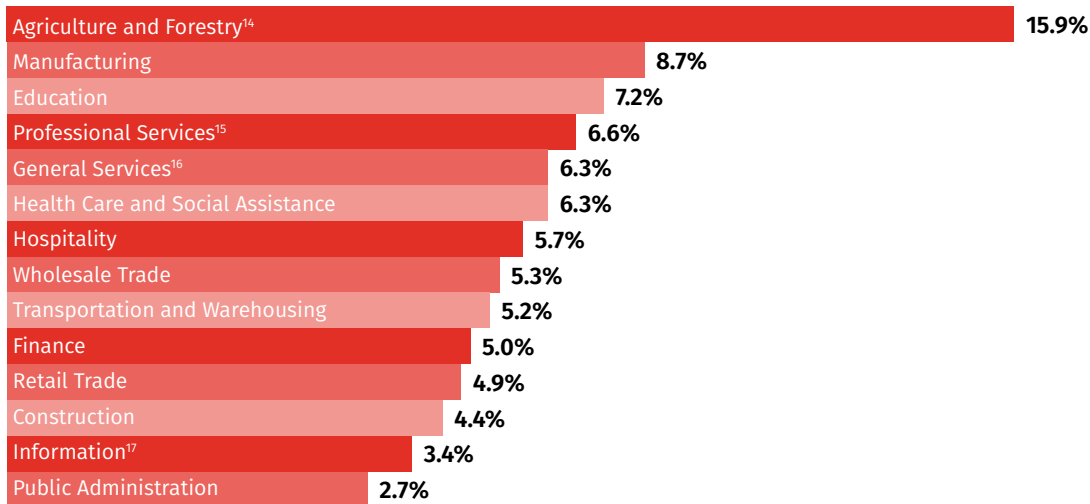
The immigrant working-age population was **50.6%** female and **49.4%** male.



The employed immigrant population was **44.1%** female and **55.9%** male.



Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the Northeast Ohio region. Here are the percentages of immigrant workers in these industries:



¹³ STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math.

¹⁴ Agriculture and forestry includes crop production, animal production and aquaculture, forestry and logging, fishing, hunting and trapping, and support activities for agriculture and forestry.

¹⁵ Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

¹⁶ General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

¹⁷ This includes: Newspaper, magazine, book, and directory publishers, software publishing, motion pictures and video industries, sound recording industries, broadcasting (except internet), internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals, wired telecommunications (telephone) carriers, telecommunications (cell phone and mobile) except wired telecommunications carriers, data processing, hosting, and related services, and libraries and archives.

Workforce *continued*

SPOTLIGHT ON Immigrant Essential Workers

Immigrants have also been playing vital roles in critical industries that have kept the country functioning throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Immigrants in the Northeast Ohio region continue working in these frontline and essential industries:

Agriculture¹⁸

Immigrants made up



Essential Manufacturing¹⁹

1,600
immigrants made up



Food Manufacturing²⁰

Immigrants made up



Essential Wholesale Trade²¹

Immigrants made up



Essential Services²²

3,000
immigrants made up



Food Service²³

5,800
immigrants made up



Healthcare²⁴

11,100
immigrants made up



Essential Retail Trade²⁵

3,100
immigrants made up



Transportation and Warehousing²⁶

2,500
immigrants made up



Construction²⁷

3,100
immigrants made up



18 This includes crop production, animal production, and aquaculture.

19 This includes manufacturing industries such as petroleum refining, pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing, and cleaning compound manufacturing.

20 This includes food industries such as dairy product manufacturing, animal slaughtering and processing, and fruit and vegetable preserving.

21 This includes wholesale trade industries such as drugs, sundries, and chemical and allied products merchant wholesalers, farm product raw material merchant wholesalers, and petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers.

22 This includes services essential for daily living, such as building cleaning, waste management, auto repair, and veterinary services.

23 This includes restaurants, drinking places, and other food services.

24 This includes healthcare facilities such as offices of physicians, hospitals, outpatient care centers, nursing care facilities, and home health care services.

25 This includes retail trade stores such as groceries, health and personal care stores, and gas stations.

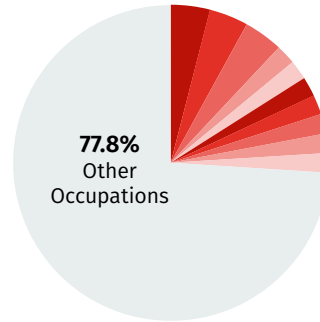
26 This includes transportation industries including air, rail, water, and truck transportation, bus services and urban transit, and taxi service, as well as postal service and warehousing and storage.

27 This includes industries engaged in the construction of buildings or non-building projects (such as highways, bridges, and railroads), and related specialty trade contractors.

Workforce *continued*

Immigrants tended to work in these occupations in the Northeast Ohio region in 2019. Here are the percentages of immigrants who work in these occupations:

- Postsecondary Teachers (3.7%)
- Physicians (3.7%)
- First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers (2.0%)
- Cashiers (1.9%)
- Registered Nurses (1.9%)
- Other Managers (1.9%)
- Janitors and Building Cleaners (1.9%)
- Software Developers (1.8%)
- Truck Drivers (1.7%)
- Cooks (1.7%)



Top Occupations for Female Workers:

- Registered Nurses..... 3.6%
- Postsecondary Teachers..... 3.4%
- Physicians 2.8%

Top Occupations for Male Workers:

- Physicians 4.3%
- Postsecondary Teachers..... 3.9%
- Truck Drivers 3.0%

Due to the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in the region had helped create or preserve

7,200 manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2019.²⁸

SPOTLIGHT ON Job Demand in the Northeast Ohio Region In 2021

Not only are immigrants more likely to be of working age in the region, but they are also a crucial part of the region's economy, and could help meet the needs of its fastest growing and most in-demand fields.²⁹

In 2019, there were

5.2

open job postings for every available unemployed retail salesperson.

Immigrants have helped fill many of these roles, especially as the need for bilingual and culturally competent public services and healthcare increases.

In 2019, there were

4.9

open job postings for every available unemployed customer service representative.

The top 5 industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers:³⁰

1. Health Care and Social Assistance
2. Retail Trade
3. Finance and Insurance
4. Information
5. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

²⁸Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.

²⁹Data is obtained from Burning Glass Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

³⁰Data is obtained from Burning Glass Technologies for the time period between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Entrepreneurship

8,300

immigrant entrepreneurs generated

\$204.8 million

in business income for Northeast Ohio.

Despite making up 5.7% of the population, immigrants made up

8.1%

of the business owners in the region in 2019.

While

7.4%

of the U.S.-born population were entrepreneurs,

10.0%

of foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses.

In the region, foreign-born residents were

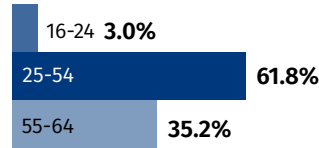
34.8%

more likely to be an entrepreneur than the U.S. born population.

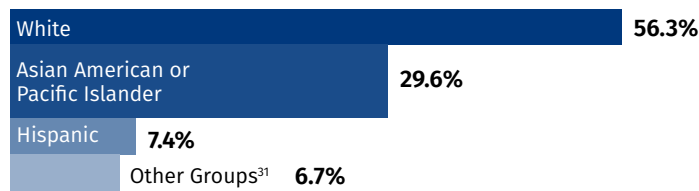
Immigrant entrepreneurs self-identified as **33.7%** female and **66.3%** male.



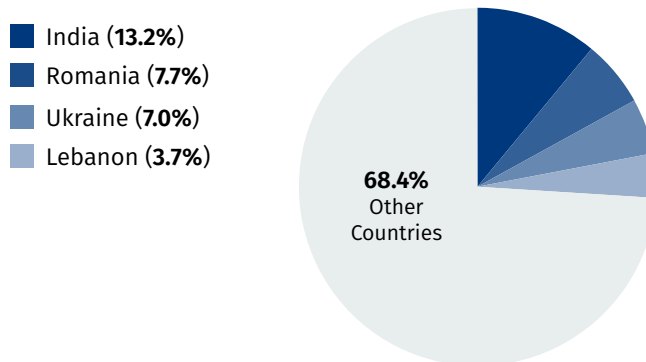
Age breakdown of immigrant entrepreneurs:



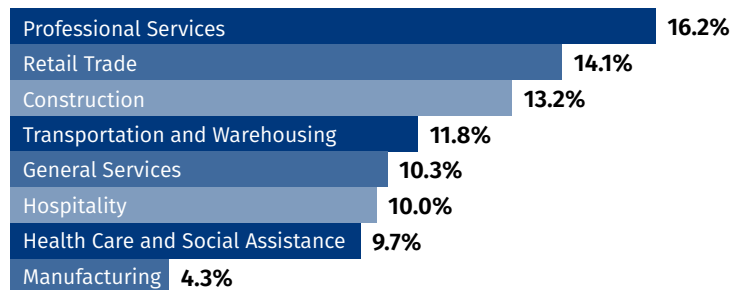
Immigrant entrepreneurs by race and ethnicity:



The top countries of origin for immigrant entrepreneurs:



Immigrant entrepreneurs tended to work in these key industries in the Northeast Ohio region in 2019. Here are the percentages of immigrant entrepreneurs who work in these industries:



³¹ Because of limitations with small sample size, we are unable to provide estimates for other racial and ethnic groups, including Black or African American, Native American, mixed race, and other races and ethnicities.

Entrepreneurship *continued*

SPOTLIGHT ON Small Business Recovery from the Pandemic

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, entrepreneurs within particularly vulnerable industries in the metro area face severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Hospitality

Of the **3,400** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



Retail Trade

Of the **7,700** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



Healthcare

Of the **4,800** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



Manufacturing

Of the **4,900** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



General Services

Of the **12,300** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



Construction

Of the **17,800** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up



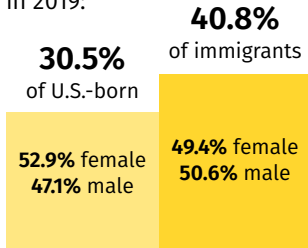
Professional and Business Services

Of the **24,100** entrepreneurs, immigrants made up

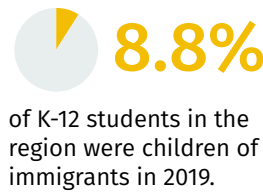
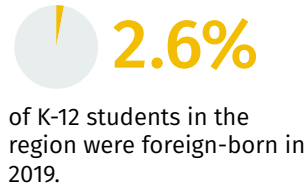
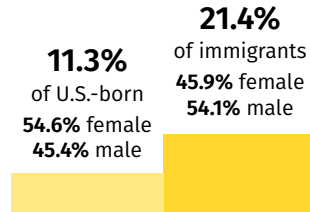


Education

Share of the region's population aged 25 or above that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2019:



Share of the region's population aged 25 or above that held an **advanced degree** in 2019:



SPOTLIGHT ON University Population

6,861

students enrolled in colleges and universities in Northeast Ohio in fall 2019 were temporary residents.³²

International students supported

2,977 jobs

in higher education and other areas including accommodations, food, and transportation.

1,063

international students graduated with STEM degrees from colleges and universities in the region in the 2018-19 academic year.

Overall

\$279.1 million

was spent by international students in the 2019-2020 academic year.³³

6,133 students, 89.4% were full-time

728, or 10.6% were part-time.

3,508 students, or 51.1%, were undergraduates.

3,175 were full-time

333 were part-time.

3,353 students, or 48.9%, were graduate students.

2,958 were full-time

395 were part-time.

³² 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.

³³ Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.

Housing

In 2019, **61.1%** of immigrant households in Northeast Ohio owned their own homes, compared to **65.4%** of U.S.-born households.

The total property value of immigrant households was

\$8.7 billion

38.9%

of immigrant households were renters. Their total annual rent paid was

\$260.1 million



- Lived in Houses **46,100, or 65.4%**
- Lived in Apartments **23,600, or 33.5%**
- Lived in Other Types of Housing **1.1%**

86.0%

of immigrant households in the Northeast Ohio region had access to broadband connection in their homes as compared to

86.1%

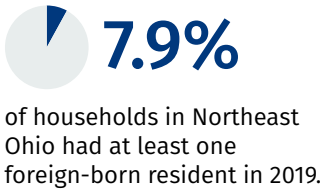
of U.S.-born households in 2019.³⁴

The geographic breakdowns of immigrant households that owned their homes in the region and immigrant households that were renters in the region:

	% of immigrant homeowners	% of immigrant renters
Lorain County (North)--Elyria & Lorain Cities	2.3%	2.5%
Lorain County (South)--Avon, Avon Lake & North Ridgeville Cities	4.3%	--
Cuyahoga County--Olmsted Township, Bay Village, North Olmsted & Westlake Cities	6.1%	3.2%
Cuyahoga County (West)--Berea, Brook Park, Lakewood & Rocky River Cities	6.8%	8.6%
Cuyahoga County (South)--Broadview Heights, North Royalton & Strongsville Cities	7.7%	4.8%
Cuyahoga County (South Central)--Brooklyn, Parma, Parma Heights & Seven Hills Cities	8.9%	5.5%
Cleveland City (West)	4.6%	6.7%
Cleveland City (Central)	4.0%	9.9%
Cuyahoga County (Southeast)--Bedford, Garfield Heights & Maple Heights Cities	2.1%	1.4%
Cleveland City (East) & Bratenahl Village	2.2%	6.4%
Cuyahoga County (Northeast)--Euclid, Cleveland Heights & South Euclid Cities	4.7%	8.0%
Cuyahoga County (East)--Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Shaker Heights & Solon Cities	12.8%	9.8%
Lake County (West)--Eastlake, Wickliffe, Willoughby & Willowick Cities	4.8%	2.6%
Lake County (East)--Mentor, Painesville Cities & Madison Village	3.7%	3.2%
Geauga & Lake (South) Counties	2.7%	--
Portage County	3.4%	4.4%
Summit County (North & Northwest)--Hudson, Twinsburg & Macedonia Cities	5.6%	2.5%
Summit County (East Central)--Cuyahoga Falls (Southeast), Stow & Tallmadge Cities	2.1%	4.0%
Summit County (Central)--Akron City (East)	2.9%	7.9%
Summit County (Central)--Akron (West) & Cuyahoga Falls (West) Cities	1.9%	3.7%
Summit County (South)--Barberton, Green & New Franklin Cities	2.2%	--
Medina County	4.2%	1.9%

³⁴ This data point reports whether the respondent or any member of their household subscribed to the Internet using broadband (high speed) Internet service such as cable, fiber optic, or DSL service.

Naturalization



If all immigrants who are eligible to naturalize became U.S. citizens, their earning potential would increase by

+8.9%³⁵



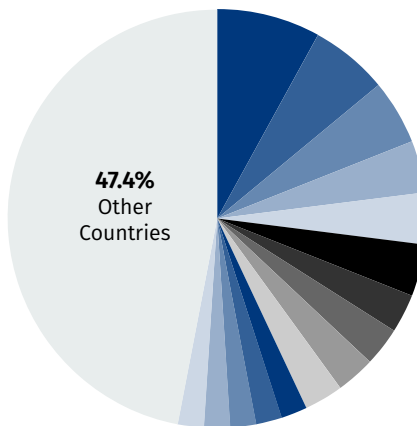
- **57.7%** Naturalized Citizens (90,400)
- **14.5%** Likely Eligible to Naturalize (22,700)
- **27.8%** Not Eligible to Naturalize³⁶ (43,700)



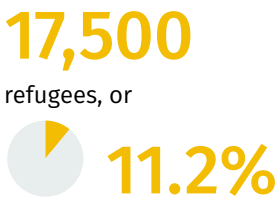
- **48.7%** Naturalized Citizens
- **15.9%** Likely Eligible to Naturalize
- **35.4%** Not Eligible to Naturalize

The top countries of origin for naturalized citizens:

- India (7.9%)
- Ukraine (5.7%)
- Germany (4.7%)
- Romania (4.2%)
- Russia (3.8%)
- China (3.5%)
- Italy (3.1%)
- Philippines (3.1%)
- Canada (2.9%)
- Mexico (2.6%)
- Poland (2.4%)
- South Korea (2.3%)
- Croatia (2.2%)
- Hungary (2.2%)
- Bosnia (2.0%)



Refugees



of the foreign-born population in Northeast Ohio, were likely refugees in 2019.^{37, 38}

About



of refugees in the area were **naturalized U.S. citizens.**

In 2019, refugee households³⁹ in the region earned **\$453.6 million**

■ **\$72.6 million**
went to federal taxes⁴⁰

■ **\$44.8 million** went to state & local taxes⁴¹

■ **\$336.2 million** was left in spending power, or **0.5%** of the total spending power in the region, or **8.6%** of the foreign-born spending power.

³⁵ Enchautegui, Maria E. and Linda Giannarelli. 2015. "The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities." Urban Institute.

³⁶ Immigrants who were not eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens are either because they have not met certain requirements such as residency, English proficiency, or age, or because they are undocumented, or because of application fees.

³⁷ New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

³⁸ Refugees are identified through an imputation method, similar to the work of Kallick and Mathema, "Refugee Integration in the United States," and Capps, R. and Newland K., et al. "The Integration Outcomes of U.S. Refugees." More on our methodology here: <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/methodology/>. The estimate of the refugee population includes anyone who is likely to have come to the United States as refugees originally.

³⁹ Refugee households refer to people living in a housing unit with a refugee being the head of their unit.

⁴⁰ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

⁴¹ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

Refugees



- 18.9% No more than five years
- 26.9% Six to 10 years
- 15.3% 10 - 20 years
- 38.8% 20+ years

About



of refugees held at least a **bachelor's degree**.

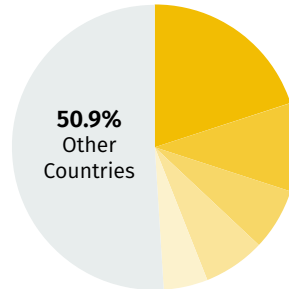
About



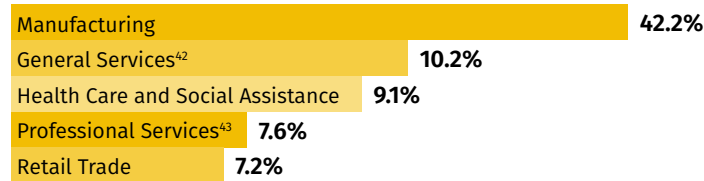
of refugees held an **advanced degree**.

The top countries of origin for the refugee population in the region:

- Bhutan (19.5%)
- Bosnia (9.7%)
- Nepal (7.0%)
- Vietnam (6.5%)
- Myanmar (6.4%)



Refugees tended to work in these key industries. Here are the percentages of refugee workers in these industries:



DACA-Eligible Population



of the immigrant population in Northeast Ohio was DACA-eligible in 2019.

⁴² General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

⁴³ Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc

Undocumented Immigrants

21,600⁴⁴

undocumented immigrants in Northeast Ohio in 2019. They made up



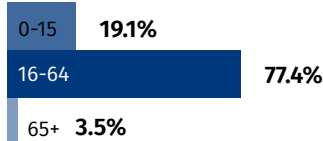
of the immigrant population.

Undocumented immigrants are highly active in the labor force. About

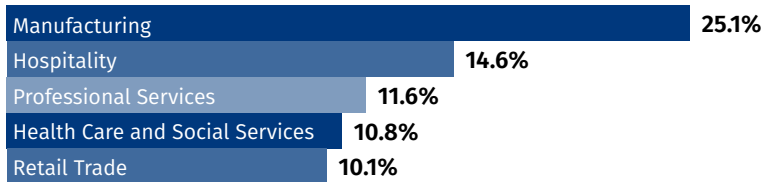


are of working-age in the region.

Undocumented immigrants by age group:



Undocumented immigrants tended to work in these key industries. Here are the percentages of undocumented workers in these industries:



In fiscal year 2021, **1,200 H-1B applications** filed by employers in the region were approved, which concentrated in these industries:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance (**28.7%**)
2. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (**24.7%**)
3. Manufacturing (**20.5%**)
4. Finance and Insurance (**10.9%**)
5. Educational Services (**9.6%**)

In 2019, undocumented immigrant households⁴⁵ earned

\$416.9 million

\$35.8 million

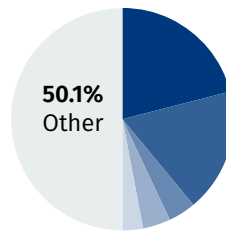
went to federal taxes⁴⁶

\$20.5 million went to state & local taxes⁴⁷

\$360.6 million was left in spending power, or **0.6%** of the total spending power in the region, or **9.2%** of the foreign-born spending power.

Top countries of origin for the undocumented in the region:

- Mexico (**20.8%**)
- India (**17.9%**)
- China (**4.3%**)
- Canada (**3.5%**)
- Saudi Arabia (**3.4%**)



⁴⁴The Pew Research Center estimates the undercount as 5% to 7% for undocumented immigrants and 2% to 3% for the overall immigrant population.

⁴⁵Undocumented immigrant households refer to people living in a housing unit with an undocumented immigrant being the head of their unit.

⁴⁶U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

⁴⁷Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

SPOTLIGHT ON

Su He

*Business Immigration Attorney,
Professor, and Community Leader*

Su He came from a family of physicians in Beijing, China, so when she developed a passion for international business law, she needed to find new role models. Fortunately, she found the support she needed at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, where she attended in 2008 for a master's degree in International Business Law. "Studying at Case, I had so many good mentors, and the law school really gave me a good foundation in terms of education, perfecting my English and networking," she says.

Su followed her master's with a Juris Doctor degree. In 2013, shortly after graduation, she had a chance to put her training into practice for herself. Her husband, a research fellow for the Cleveland Clinic, was eligible for his green card. "We prepared a lot of our paperwork and started to understand how complicated it is," says Su. After getting her own green card, Su helped hundreds of clients become permanent residents, but says it's nerve-racking that policies can change with each new administration and the process has become more difficult because of long waiting times.

In 2017, after the births of their two children, Sue opened her own law firm. Her firsthand experience navigating the U.S. immigration system proved to be an asset. "I always tell my clients, 'I have been through this,' so I understand how difficult the process can be." She believes removing unnecessary barriers would help clear up ongoing delays. "Immigrants pay taxes, buy homes and fill employment gaps," she says. "Clearing up the immigration backlog and streamlining the green card process will free them to invest even more in the U.S. and in Cleveland."

In February 2021, the Cleveland Professionals Twenty-Thirty Club named Su to its "Top 25 Under 35 Movers and Shakers" list. In June of 2021, she merged her practice with another local firm, Buckley King. She's kept busy with both employment and family-based immigration cases and works closely with other partners on business and employment law issues. She is also the executive director of the Greater Cleveland Chinese Chamber of Commerce. "We want the community to know us and the great services that our businesses provide," Su says.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Sudhir Achar

Technology and Community Leader

In 1991, Sudhir Achar emigrated from Bangalore, India to pursue his master's degree in industrial engineering at Cleveland State University. Between classes, he worked as an international student ambassador, helping newcomers integrate. After graduation, he was hired by Philips Medical Systems (PMS), where he helped implement the barcode system that has become the medical device industry standard for managing inventory.

As the first immigrant employee and one of PMS's youngest employees, Achar faced some initial resistance from his colleagues. "I remember some of them telling me to buzz off," he says. "They'd been working since I was in my diapers, and they didn't want my input." To win them over, Achar started bringing in donuts and working extra shifts. He even advocated to management on their behalf. "Once I began to win their trust and they understood I could help, life became a lot easier," says Achar. When his employer-sponsored green card came through, they threw him a celebration featuring an American flag-themed cake.

After 21 years in corporate engineering, Achar co-founded EOX Vantage, a software firm with Enterprise Operating System. It is a suite of unified cloud-based apps that Achar and his clients use to manage business operations all in one secure place. Some of EOX Vantage's clients include some of the world's largest companies, including Hyundai, Mercedes Benz, Volvo, and Amazon Logistics. They've since grown from 20 employees to 500, and in 2021, the Cleveland Plain Dealer named them one of the top places to work. "We are trying to create as many jobs as possible here in the area," says Achar.

Achar now considers himself a "very proud Clevelander". He's an alumni of the Civic Leadership Institute, a program that supports civic engagement in Cleveland. He was recently added as a Board Member for Greater Cleveland Sports Commission (GCSC). GCSC's Board and Associate Board aid the organization in achieving its mission to measurably improve the economy of Greater Cleveland. He also volunteers with the local American Red Cross and American Medical Association chapters and belongs to the Canterbury Golf Club, which he recently joined because, "I love meeting new people," he says.

Achar believes many immigrants are eager to invest in the community but don't know how to connect their skillset with the right job. "Immigrants often have no idea about local nonprofit organizations and how they could help," he says. He'd love to see the city establish a mentorship program to help bridge these gaps and advocate for international students to remain in the U.S. after graduation. "That would help employers like us secure and retain the best talent Northeast Ohio has to offer," Achar says.

New Americans in Cuyahoga County

Population

92,200

immigrants lived in Cuyahoga County in 2019.

Immigrants made up



of the total population in the county in 2019.

Between 2014 and 2019, the total population in the county decreased by



The immigrant population increased by



during the same time period.

Without the growth in the immigrant population, the decline in the county's population would have been greater, falling by



Demographics

About



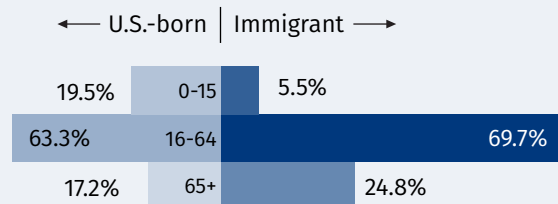
of immigrants in Cuyahoga County are recent arrivals, with no more than 5 years of residency in the United States, meaning



of immigrants in the county have resided in the United States for longer than 5 years.

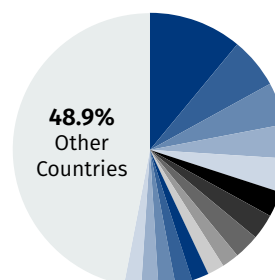
In Cuyahoga County, immigrants are more likely to be of working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.⁴⁸

Shares of population by age groups:⁴⁹



The top fifteen countries of origin for immigrants living in the region:

- India (10.8%)
- China (5.6%)
- Ukraine (5.3%)
- Romania (3.4%)
- Mexico (3.1%)
- Germany (3.1%)
- Russia (2.9%)
- Italy (2.7%)
- Philippines (2.7%)
- Canada (2.2%)
- Poland (2.0%)
- South Korea (1.9%)
- Lebanon (1.8%)
- Jamaica (1.8%)
- Albania (1.8%)

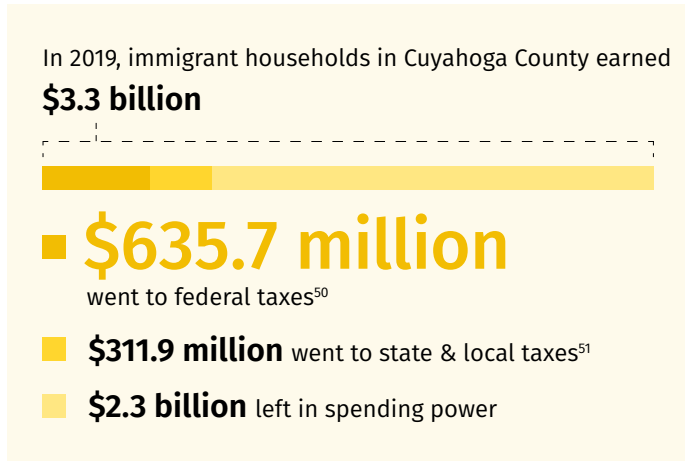


⁴⁸We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

⁴⁹Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions

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



This means that foreign-born households held



of all spending power in the county.

In 2019, foreign-born residents in the county contributed

\$9.3 billion

to the county's GDP, or **9.2%** of the total.⁵²

Immigrants in the county also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed



Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in Cuyahoga County in 2019. Here are the percentages of immigrant workers in these industries:



⁵⁰ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

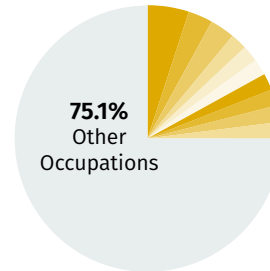
⁵¹ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

⁵² These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2019 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions *continued*

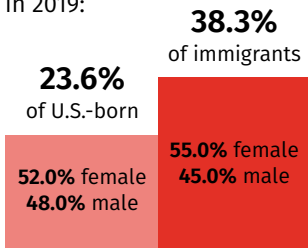
Immigrants tended to work in these occupations in Cuyahoga County in 2019. Here are the percentages of immigrants who work in these industries:

- Physicians (4.9%)
- Postsecondary Teachers (2.8%)
- Cashiers (2.7%)
- Janitors and Building Cleaners (2.4%)
- First Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers (2.3%)
- Registered Nurses (2.1%)
- Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners (2.0%)
- Cooks (2.0%)
- Other Managers (1.9%)
- Software Developers (1.8%)



Education

Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2019:



Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held an **advanced degree** in 2019:

