New Americans in Southwest Iowa
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Region

**POPULATION GROWTH**

- **5,100** immigrants lived in the region in 2019, making up 2.9% of the overall population.

- **40.4%** of the foreign-born population in the region came from Mexico.

- **74,600** people worked in Southwest Iowa, either commuting into or within the region. Of these, **6.4%** or **4,800** were foreign-born.

- Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the region shrunk from 181,200 to 179,300, or **-1.1%**.

- During the same period, the foreign-born population increased from 4,800 to 5,100, or **7.4%**.

- Without growth in the immigration population, the region's total population would have shrunk by **-1.3%** during that period.

**SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

- **$108.1M**

- **$15.3M** went to federal taxes. ²

- **$11.2M** went to state & local taxes. ³

Leaving them with **$81.6M** in spending power, or **2.2%** of all spending power for the region.
SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Foreign-born residents also supported federal social programs. In 2019, immigrants in the region contributed **$14.6M** to Social Security and **$3.5M** to Medicare.

- Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019: 16.7%
- Share of U.S.-born receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019: 39.9%
- Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage: 61.2%
- Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage: 16.7%
- 25.7% of the foreign-born population was uninsured in 2019.

WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up 2.9% of the region’s overall population, they represented 4.0% of its working-age population, and 3.9% of its employed labor force.

Immigrant shares of the...

- **POPULATION**: 2.9%
- **WORKING-AGE POPULATION**: 4.0%
- **EMPLOYED LABOR FORCE**: 3.9%

12.4% of all workers in the manufacturing industry were foreign-born in 2019.
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EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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

- Foreign-born: 13.8%
- U.S.-born: 20.7%

HOUSING WEALTH

- Share of immigrant households who owned their homes: 54.2%
- Share of U.S.-born households who owned their homes: 71.6%
- Share of immigrant households who were renters: 45.8%
- Share of immigrant households who lived in houses: 66.7%

- The total property value of immigrant households: $100.6M
- The total annual rent paid by immigrant households: $4.8M

NATURALIZATION

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens: 37.9%

This represents a total of 1,900 immigrants.

- 10.0% of non-citizen immigrants were potentially eligible to naturalize in 2019.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

30.5% of the immigrant population was undocumented in 2019.

ENDNOTES

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Southwest Iowa including the counties of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby.
