

New Americans in Montgomery County

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

MARCH 2022



Population

25,400

immigrants lived in Montgomery County, Ohio in 2019.³

Immigrants made up



of the total population in the county in 2019.

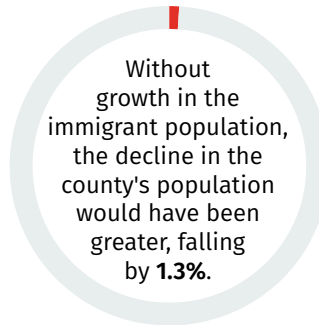
Between 2014 and 2019, the total population in the county decreased by



The immigrant population increased by

+21.6%

during the same time period.



Demographics

About



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



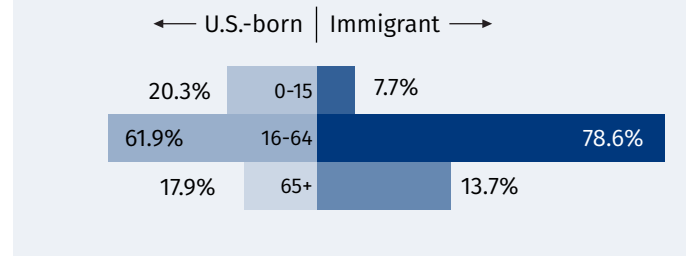
of immigrants in the county have resided in the United States for longer than 5 years.

In the county, immigrants are

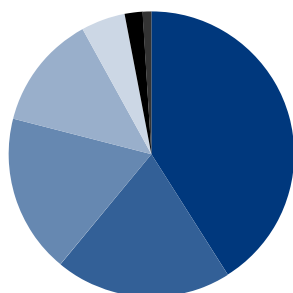
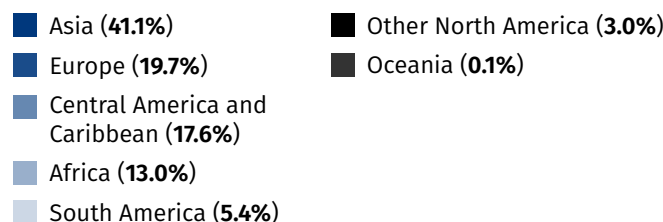


more likely to be of working-age⁴ than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.

Shares of population by age groups:⁵



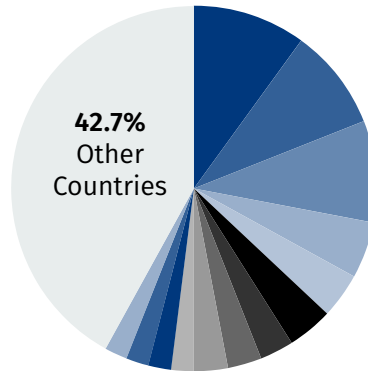
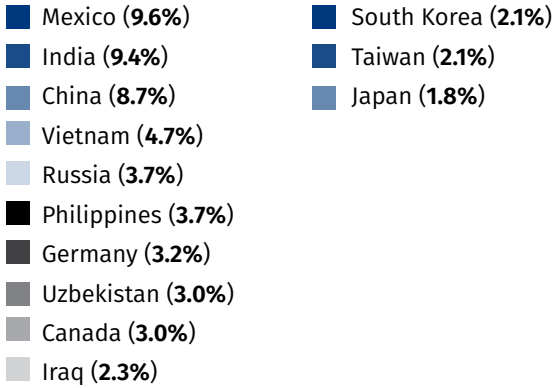
Breakdown of immigrants living in the county by regions of origin:



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Montgomery County, Ohio.
- 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*

Top countries of origin for immigrants living in the county:



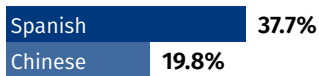
5,200

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



of the immigrant population.⁶

Among them, the top languages spoken at home other than English were:⁷



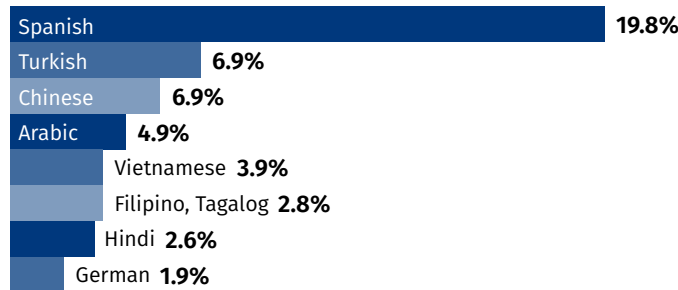
261,200

commuters worked in the county. Of these, 13,700, or

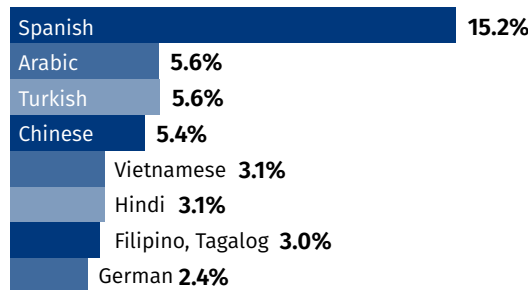


were foreign-born.

Top languages spoken by immigrants at home other than English:



Top non-English languages spoken at home by immigrants proficient in English:

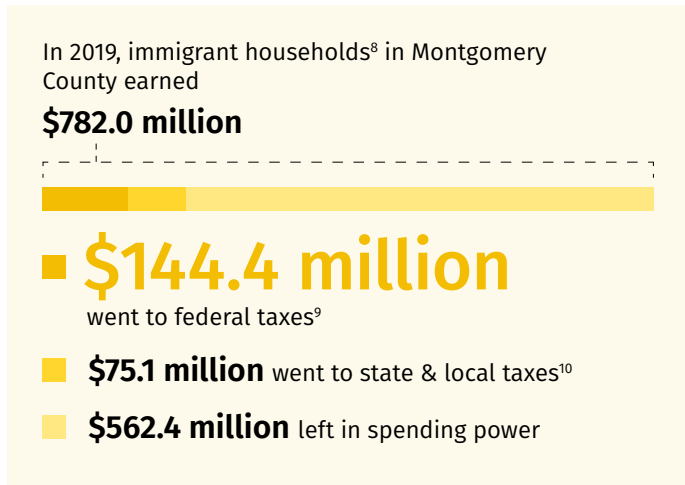


⁶ For the purpose of this report, we define people with limited English language proficiency as the ones who do not speak English at all or do not speak English well.

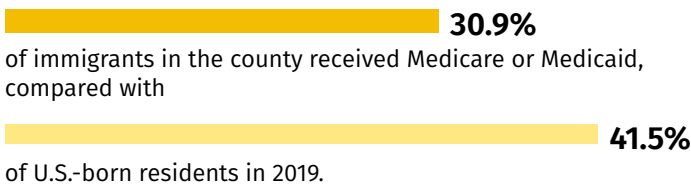
⁷ Due to small sample size, we are unable to release our estimates of immigrants with limited English proficiency who spoke other languages at home, including Turkish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Tagalog, Arabic, and Albanian.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions

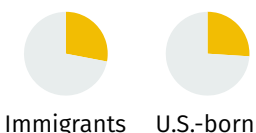
Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.



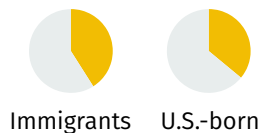
Immigrants in the county also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed



Given their household incomes, **27.6%** of immigrants live at or below 150% of the federal poverty threshold as compared to **26.1%** of U.S.-born residents.



Given their household incomes, **40.8%** of immigrants live at or below 200% of the federal poverty threshold as compared to **35.8%** of U.S.-born residents.



This means that foreign-born households held



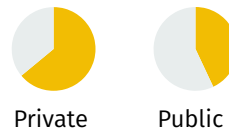
of all spending power in Montgomery County.

In 2019, foreign-born residents in the county contributed

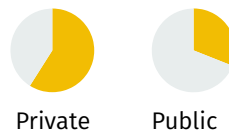


to the county's GDP, or **6.2%** of the total.¹¹

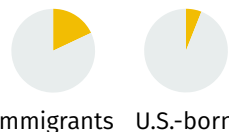
About **64.3%** of U.S.-born had private healthcare coverage, while **42.7%** had public healthcare coverage.¹²



About **59.1%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **31.3%** had public healthcare coverage.



About **6.3%** of U.S.-born residents (**31,700 people**) and **18.1%** of immigrant residents (**4,600 people**) had no public or private healthcare coverage.



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."

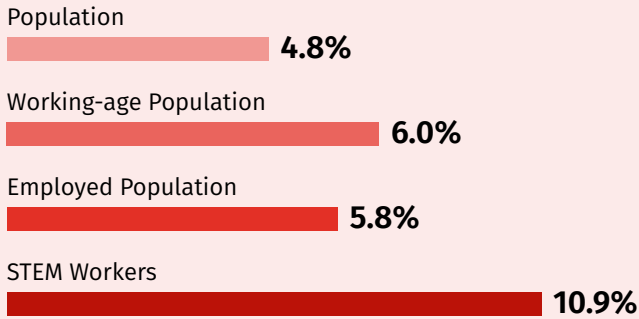
¹¹ These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2019 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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

Workforce

Although the foreign-born made up **4.8%** of the county's overall population, they represented **6.0%** of its working-age population, **5.8%** of its employed labor force, and **10.9%** of its STEM¹³ workers in 2019.

Immigrant shares of the...



Previous research has found that immigrants were much less likely to retire in their early 60s than their U.S.-born counterparts.¹⁴

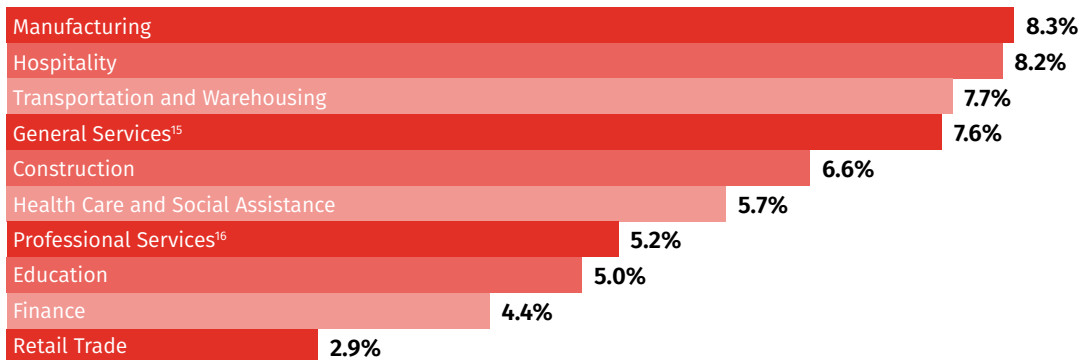
The immigrant working-age population was **49.0%** female and **51.0%** male.



The employed immigrant population was **42.4%** female and **57.6%** male.



Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in Montgomery County. 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 Lopez, M. J., & Slavov, S. (2020). "Do Immigrants Delay Retirement and Social Security Claiming?". *Applied Economics*, 52(10), 1105-1123.

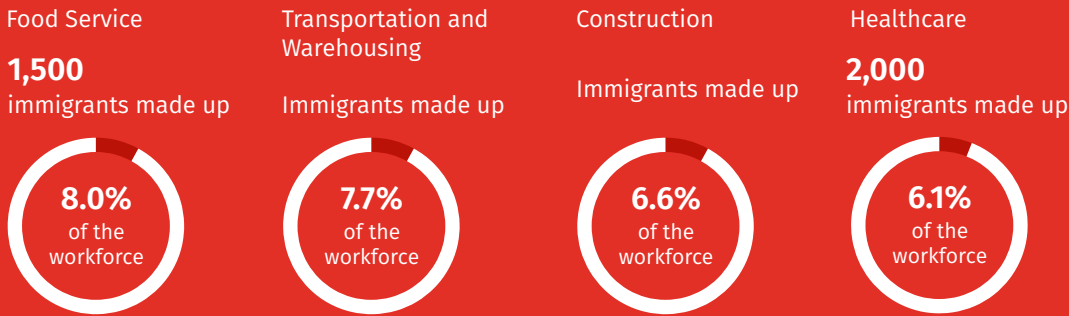
¹⁵ General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

¹⁶ 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.

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 county continue working in these frontline and essential industries:



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

1,200 manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2019.¹⁷

SPOTLIGHT ON Job Demand In Montgomery County In 2021

Not only are immigrants more likely to be of working age in the county, but they are also a crucial part of the county's economy, and could help us meet the needs of its fastest growing and most in-demand fields, especially as the need for bilingual and culturally competent public services and healthcare increases.

The top 5 industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers:¹⁸

1. Retail Trade
2. Information
3. Finance and Insurance
4. Health Care and Social Assistance
5. Transportation and Warehousing

¹⁷ Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.

¹⁸ Data is obtained from Burning Glass Technologies for the time period between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Entrepreneurship

1,100

immigrant entrepreneurs generated

\$38.9 million

in business income for Montgomery County.

Despite making up **4.8%** of the population, immigrants made up



of the business owners in the county in 2019.

While



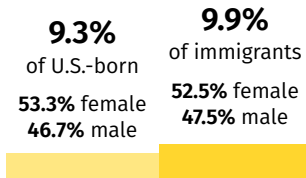
of the U.S.-born population were entrepreneurs,



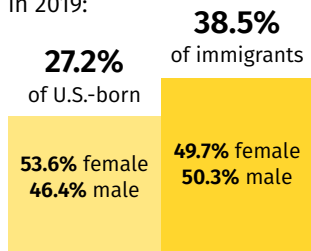
of foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses.

Education

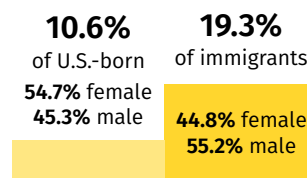
Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that did not have a **high school diploma** in 2019:



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:



2,700 students, or



of K-12 students in the county were foreign-born in 2019.

6,400 students, or



of K-12 students in the county were children of immigrants in 2019.

¹⁹ Data on total student enrollment in the county 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.

²⁰ Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the Association of International Educators.

SPOTLIGHT ON

University Population

1,591

students enrolled in colleges and universities in Montgomery County in fall 2019 were temporary residents.¹⁹

299

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

International students supported

875 jobs

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

\$70.6 million

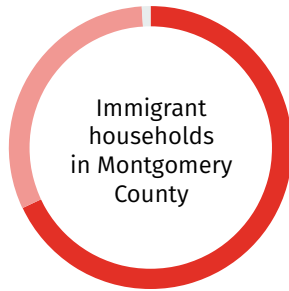
through tuition and living expenses in the 2019-20 academic year.²⁰

Housing

In 2019, **52.8%** of immigrant households in Montgomery County owned their own homes, compared to **60.7%** of U.S.-born households.



Immigrant U.S.-born



- Lived in Houses 6,800, or 68.0%**
- Lived in Apartments 3,100, or 30.5%**
- Lived in Other Types of Housing 1.5%**

The total property value of immigrant households was

\$944.6 million



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

\$40.2 million



of immigrant households in Montgomery County had access to broadband connection in their place of residence as compared to



of U.S.-born households in 2019.²¹

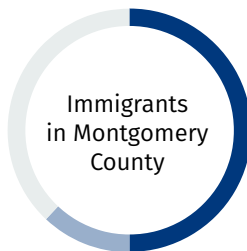
Naturalization



of households in Montgomery County had at least one foreign-born resident in 2019.

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

+8.9%²³



- 49.8% Naturalized Citizens (12,700)**
- 12.4% Likely Eligible to Naturalize²² (3,100)**
- 37.8% Not Eligible to Naturalize (9,600)**



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

²¹ 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.

²² An immigrant is eligible to naturalize if they are documented, have resided in the United States for five years or more, and speak English well or fluently, as well as immigrants in military service who meet certain requirements such as speaking English well. Those who do not fit these criteria are deemed to be not eligible or currently ineligible to naturalize.

²³ Enchautegui, Maria E. and Linda Giannarelli. 2015. "The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities." Urban Institute.

Refugees

2,000

refugees, or



of the foreign-born population in Montgomery County, were likely refugees in 2019.^{24, 25}

In 2019, refugee households²⁶ in Montgomery County earned

\$51.5 million

■ **\$7.7 million**

went to federal taxes²⁷

■ **\$5.2 million** went to state & local taxes²⁸

■ **\$38.6 million** was left in spending power

Undocumented Immigrants

5,400

undocumented immigrants in Montgomery County in 2019. They made up



of the foreign-born population.²⁹

44,788,044

undocumented immigrants in the United States in 2019. They made up



of the foreign-born population.³⁰

In 2019, undocumented immigrant households³¹ earned

\$88.4 million

■ **\$6.7 million**

went to federal taxes³²

■ **\$4.6 million** went to state & local taxes³³

■ **\$77.1 million** was left in spending power

Undocumented immigrants are highly active in the labor force. About



are of working-age in the county.

28.5%
of undocumented immigrants worked in **Manufacturing.**

²⁴ New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

²⁵ 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/>

²⁶ Refugee households refer to people living in a housing unit with a refugee being the head of their unit.

²⁷ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

²⁸ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

²⁹ The Pew Research Center estimates the undercount as 5% to 7% for undocumented immigrants and 2% to 3% for the overall immigrant population.

³⁰ New American Economy. 2022. "Map the Impact: United States of America." <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/national/>

³¹ Undocumented immigrant households refer to people living in a housing unit with an undocumented immigrant being the head of their unit.

³² U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

³³ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

SPOTLIGHT ON

Juan Arias

In the late 1990s, at age 21, Juan Arias fled economic crisis in his native Ecuador. He landed in Richmond, Indiana, a small town with few Hispanic people. “When people saw me, they’d stare at me like I had a third eye,” he recalls. “It was isolating. I went from having friends and big holiday celebrations to no friends at all.”

A year later, when someone invited Juan to a local college party, he jumped at the chance. He quickly made friends his age, improved his English, and even met his future wife, Julie, an American. The two eventually married and moved to Dayton.

In the small city of Richmond, the couple felt out of place, but Dayton felt like home. Nobody stared; instead they saw diverse couples all around. Juan also began attending Sinclair Community College. The school’s bilingual counselor helped him get involved on campus, enroll in advanced English classes and take full advantage of the school’s resources like their computer labs, the library, pool and gym. “I was part of a community; I had my wife, my friends and a place where I belonged,” he says. In 2012, he graduated from the school’s aviation mechanic training program and was certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Juan and Julie have seen Dayton’s commitment to immigrants firsthand. When they first arrived, Julie worked for a small community center that hosted the Latino Connection, which convened community stakeholders – the library, community center, schools, churches and more – to support immigrants. Their work has helped bring interpretation and translation services to local healthcare providers and utilities. “Small things, like being able to understand your doctor or read your electric bill, can make a big difference,” Julie says.

Today, Juan and Julie are raising their two daughters in Dayton, and are regular congregants at Unity church and give back as much as possible. They’ve volunteered as medical interpreters and have previously taken in a Moroccan family experiencing homelessness to live with them until they found their own place. Juan often uses his mechanical skills to help neighbors fix things around their homes. “I love helping others the way others helped me when I was just starting out,” he says.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Eugenie Kirenga

In 2005, Eugenie Kirenga traveled with her one-year-old son from Rwanda to the United States to visit her two sisters who were attending school in Pittsburgh, PA. But as her return date approached, news broke that Rwandan soldiers, who had left the country during the genocide, were returning to the country. Kirenga decided to remain in America, but it was incredibly hard. Her husband was still in Rwanda, and she spoke no English. Her cash dwindled and she discovered that she could not work legally.

“I began the asylum process by writing my story in my native language and asking a local Rwandan to translate it for me,” she says. She also secured an interpreter to come along to her asylum interview. She was lucky to have found this support and wonders how she would have fared without an interpreter. “They asked me a lot of questions,” she said.

After receiving asylum, Kirenga worked in hotel housekeeping. After six months, her husband joined her. Eugenie attended Dayton’s Emmanuel Catholic Church, where she made many new friends. This included Josephine, an elderly congregant of a neighboring church, who happily tutored her in English and supplied her with essential items such as a washer and dryer and a dining room table. “She was like a grandmother, giving our children attention and love – even gifts at Christmas,” Kirenga says. They remained close until Josephine’s passing in 2016. “We miss her every day,” says Kirenga. “She was family.”

Today, Kirenga pays that generosity forward. For example, for seven years, as an Immigrant Resource Specialist at the City of Dayton’s Welcome Dayton Program, Kirenga worked closely with the city’s immigrant population. She helped them access affordable housing, apply for benefits, and find employment. She educated them about their civil rights. “Many immigrants and refugees don’t know how to navigate the American system; they need help,” she says.

Kirenga says that once newcomers integrate, they become tremendous contributors as workers, taxpayers, and entrepreneurs. “Whenever I help someone resolve an issue or access housing, food or healthcare, they are so grateful,” she says. “Their lives can finally begin; that’s because Dayton is committed to making that happen.”

New Americans in the City of Dayton

Population

6,900

immigrants lived in the City of Dayton, Ohio, in 2019.

Immigrants made up



of the total population in the city in 2019.

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



The immigrant population increased by

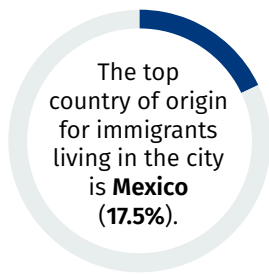
+25.9%

during the same time period.

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



Demographics

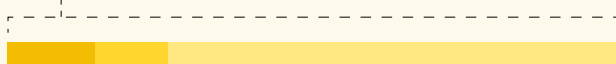


Spending Power & Tax Contributions

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

In 2019, immigrant households in Dayton earned

\$135.9 million



■ **\$18.9 million**

went to federal taxes³⁴

■ **\$14.2 million** went to state & local taxes³⁵

■ **\$102.8 million** left in spending power

This means that foreign-born households held



of all spending power in the city.

³⁴ U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

³⁵ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."