

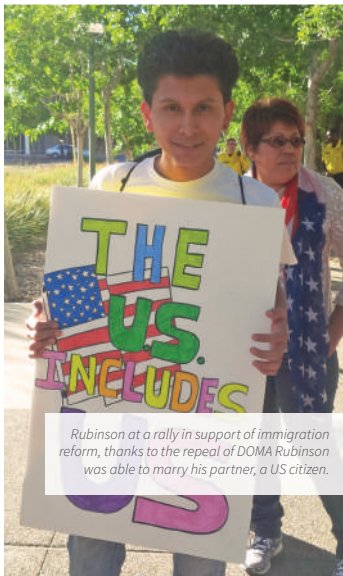


Assemblyman Joe Hogan stands outside of Sal's Furniture with its owner. Assemblyman Hogan participated in "Walk a Day" and learned what it was like to run local immigrant Sal's business.

"From the early ages, there has always been someone before us, someone we have displaced, someone who has marginalized us, someone against whom we have fought and someone with whom we eventually mixed."

Victor Hugo Acuna
Praise for an Immigrant, 1999

Still Vital Beyond Belief: The Economic Contributions of Immigrants in Nevada



Rubinson at a rally in support of immigration reform, thanks to the repeal of DOMA Rubinson was able to marry his partner, a US citizen.



Original DREAMer parents were honored at a ceremony at UNLV.



Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada 2015

PLAN dedicates this report to Senator Harry Reid, in gratitude for his leadership to keep our families together in Nevada and across the country.



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PLAN Member Group List

American Association of University Women, Nevada / American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada / American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees / Culinary Workers Union, Local 226 / Food Bank of Northern Nevada / Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada / Gender Justice Nevada / Great Basin Resource Watch / Great Basin Water Network / Human Services Network / Label GMO Nevada / Latino Research Center / NAACP Reno-Sparks / Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates / National Association of Social Workers, NV Chapter / Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty / Nevada Justice Association / Nevada Lawyers for Progressive Policy / Nevada State Education Association / Nevada Women's Lobby / Northern Nevada HOPES / Planned Parenthood, Mar Monte / Planned Parenthood, Rocky Mountain / ProgressNow Nevada / Reno-Sparks Indian Colony / SEIU Local 1107 / Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter / TrailSafe Nevada / Transgender Allies Group (TAG) / Unitarian Universalists Fellowship of Northern Nevada / Unitarian Universalists Congregation of Las Vegas

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau Projections Show a Slower Growing, Older, More Diverse Nation a Half Century from Now, available at: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb12-243.html> (Dec. 12, 2012).

² U.S. Census Bureau, International Migration is Projected to Become Primary Driver of U.S. Population Growth for First Time in Nearly Two Centuries, available at: <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2013/cb13-89.html> (May 15, 2013).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Steve Kanigher, Study: Most children in Nevada belong to racial minorities, available at <http://lasvegassun.com/news/2011/apr/06/study-most-children-nevada-belong-racial-minorities/> (April 6, 2011).

⁵ Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, *Vital Beyond Belief: The Demographic and Economic Facts about Hispanic Immigrants in Nevada*, available at: <http://www.planevada.org/publications-and-resources/> (2007).

⁶ Unless otherwise stated, the data analysis presented in this report is from the Economic Policy Institute's (EPI) analysis of 2009-2011 American Community Survey data.

⁷ Pew Research Center, 15 states with the highest share of immigrants in their population, available at: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/05/14/15-states-with-the-highest-share-of-immigrants-in-their-population/> (May 14, 2014) and *Vital Beyond Belief* (2007).

⁸ EPI analysis drawn from Robert Warren and John Robert Warren. *Unauthorized Immigration to the United States: Annual Estimates and Components of Change, by State, 1990 to 2010*, available at: (June 2013). <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.12022/supplinfo>

⁹ Astrid Silva, Thank you, Mr. President, available at: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/11/21/astrid-silva-immigration-obama-amnesty-column/19357475/> (Nov. 22, 2014).

¹⁰ Niraj Chokshi, Left and Right Agree: Immigrants Don't Take American Jobs, available at: <http://www.nationaljournal.com/congress/left-and-right-agree-immigrants-don-t-take-american-jobs-20130322> (March 22, 2013).

¹¹ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions*, available at: <http://www.itep.org/pdf/undocumentedtaxes.pdf> (July 2013).

¹² Center for American Progress, *The Economic Effects of Granting Legal Status and Citizenship to Undocumented Immigrants*, available at: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2013/03/20/57351/the-economic-effects-of-granting-legal-status-and-citizenship-to-undocumented-immigrants/> (March 20, 2013).

¹³ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Executive Actions on Immigration*, available at: <http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction> (Nov. 20, 2014).

¹⁴ National Immigration Law Center, *How the Obama Administration Can Use Executive Authority to Stop Deportations*, available at: <http://www.nilc.org/adminreliefable.html> (Dec. 2013).

¹⁵ Marshall Fitz, *The California TRUST Act: Take 2*, available at: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2013/10/04/76369/the-california-trust-act-take-2/> (Oct. 4, 2013).

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Labor, *Fact Sheet: The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division Will Expand Its Support of Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Crimes Seeking Immigration Relief from DHS*, available at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/fact-sheet/immigration/u-t-visa.htm>.



United State Senator Dean Heller, who voted in favor of immigration reform receives a pin with the image of Tomasa Macias, undocumented activist who passed away after fear of calling an ambulance because of her status.

No question, this has been a contentious debate. While the easy thing to do politically is nothing, the harder choice is to govern. I am pleased that both Democrats and Republicans were able to find ways to work together and pass (immigration reform) legislation that this great nation deserves."

Senator Dean Heller
July 27, 2013



Sammy holds a Thank You letter addressed to Congressman Steven Horsford for his support of undocumented families.

Still Vital Beyond Belief: The Economic Contributions of Immigrants in Nevada

The face of the nation is changing. In less than 30 years, people of color will make up the majority of the U.S. population.¹ This shift will come much sooner for the younger population and youth of color will be the majority of the under 18 population as soon as 2018.² And, for the first time in two centuries, the primary driver of population growth is immigration.³

The face of Nevada is also changing and nearly one in five Nevadans is an immigrant. While there are significant demographic shifts on the national level, the face of Nevada has been changing for a long time and the vast majority of immigrants have lived in the state for years. The state's youth population, under the age of 18, is already comprised of a majority people of color.⁴ Rather than disrupting communities or negatively impacting the economy, immigrants in Nevada have had the opposite effect. The state's economy benefits greatly from the immigrant population and immigrants have deep roots in communities across the state.

In 2007, PLAN released *Vital Beyond Belief: The Demographics and Economic Facts about Hispanic Immigrants in Nevada*, a report that analyzed the important contribution immigrants made to Nevada's economy. The report found that without the state's Hispanic immigration population, "the Nevada economy as we know it could not exist."⁵ The report also found that Hispanic immigrants paid more than \$4.2 billion in federal and state taxes, comprised 15.8 percent of the state's workforce, and accounted for a quarter of the state's Gross State Product.

Still Vital Beyond Belief: The Economic Contributions of Immigrants in Nevada updates the data in *Vital Beyond Belief* and expands the analysis beyond Hispanic immigrants to include all immigrants. Since 2007, immigrants have contributed even more to our economy and our communities:

- Over 19 percent of the state's population are immigrants
- Immigrants contributed nearly 20 percent of the state's annual economic output in 2012
- Nearly a quarter of the states workforce is comprised of immigrants
- Over 21 percent of small businesses in the state are owned by immigrants
- In 2010, unauthorized immigrants paid over \$123.8 million in state and local taxes
- There is no evidence that indicates immigration takes jobs away from citizens. In contrast, unauthorized workers are an important economic driver and paid over \$123.8 million in state and local taxes in Nevada in 2010
- Nevada's unauthorized population has been steadily declining since 2007.

The state's economy is stronger because of our immigrant community. The state's communities thrive because of the diversity in the state. Immigrants are integral to the future of Nevada and to the nation. They are our neighbors, our co-workers, and our leaders. They deserve the same opportunity and protection afforded to every Nevadan.



Community mothers ask President Obama, outside of the ICE offices, to pass administrative relief to keep them with their families. Shortly after, President Obama made the announcement for DAPA.

I have seen firsthand the devastation caused by our broken system. But each time I have the opportunity to speak with Nevadans about the urgent need for action on immigration I am reminded that this issue is personal. It's personal to me, just as it is personal to Maria and Jorge. And it's personal to 11 million other undocumented immigrants and tens of millions of their U.S. citizen relatives whose eyes are turned toward Washington and whose hearts are filled with hope.

Senator Harry Reid
July 26, 2013



DREAMers given a recognition by College of Southern Nevada for participation in a panel about undocumented students in higher education.



PLAN families support others who participated in a fast for immigration reform.



Evelyn, a United States citizen, during a trip to Carson City to defend her undocumented parents.

Policy Recommendations

The current immigration system is broken. Fixing it will take bold vision and action from federal, state, and local leaders. Millions of families and future citizens live in a constant state of fear and uncertainty and we must act now to create a system that works for all of us.

→ Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Nevada lawmakers in Washington must support comprehensive immigration reform legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency for unauthorized residents currently living and working in the U.S. Allowing our unauthorized residents legal status and protection will boost the economy by increasing tax revenue and creating consumer demand. Legal protection also prevents employers from exploiting these workers and helps stop the race to the bottom for wages.

→ Support President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration

Nevada must withdraw from the lawsuit challenging President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration. Well within the President's legal authority, the Executive Action will allow families to stay together by offering legal reprieve to the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have lived in the country for at least five years. It also expands the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for residents who arrived as children.¹³

→ Stop Deportations

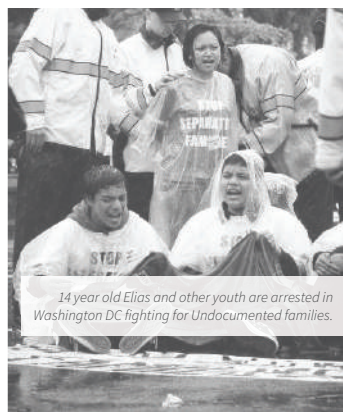
The President and Department of Homeland Security must stop deportation proceedings that currently separate more than 1,000 immigrants from their families and communities each day.¹⁴ The Administration has the legal authority to put an immediate end to this practice and stop tomorrow's citizens from suffering from Congress's inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

→ TRUST Act

Nevada should enact the Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools (TRUST) Act to prevent local entities from engaging in federal immigration enforcement. Enacting this Act would stop Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detainers, drawing a clear line for state and local law enforcement on how far to go in collaborating with federal agents on immigration enforcement.¹⁵ Enacting the TRUST Act would encourage unauthorized citizens to come out of the shadows, instead of fearing law enforcement, which helps build relationships that work to keep all of our neighborhoods safe. Connecticut and California have enacted TRUST Acts.

→ Visa Forms for Survivors of Trafficking

Law enforcement agencies should have policies on signing U and T visas, which provide protections to survivors of abuse and victims of human trafficking.¹⁶ By signing these visa forms, law enforcement agents can raise the veil of fear by providing an unauthorized citizen with a work permit. Having a policy on signing U and T visas also encourages unauthorized citizens to report crime and holds unscrupulous employers accountable, ensuring that the labor market is fair for all workers.



Again contrary to many stereotypes, immigrants do not work exclusively in low-skill occupations. As the table below shows, a third of immigrant workers are white-collar workers. The table also shows how essential immigrants are to the farming and service industries, where they comprise a substantial percentage of the workforce.

Table 8: Occupation Type

Occupation group	Count	Share of immigrant workers	Share of group that is immigrant workers
Blue-collar	83,354	27.0%	29.4%
Farming	9,423	3.1%	50.1%
Service	112,940	36.6%	42.4%
White-collar	102,730	33.3%	15.7%
Total	308,447	100.0%	

The varied distribution of both wage-levels and occupations suggests that immigrants are well-integrated into the state's economy and their contributions help make the state economically stronger.

Finally, there is no evidence that indicates immigration takes jobs away from citizens.¹⁰ In contrast, unauthorized workers are an important economic driver and they paid over \$123.8 million in state and local taxes in Nevada in 2010.¹¹ Comprehensive immigration reform that offered legal protections would increase the tax revenue by over \$10 million.

Moreover, a recent study found that granting legal status to unauthorized immigrants would actually create jobs.¹² Granting legal status could create 121,000 extra jobs nationally over the next 10 years and granting citizenship within five years of legal status could increase the number of jobs created to 159,000. When unauthorized workers are granted legal protection, they are more productive and earn higher wages. In turn, the increased wages can be spent on goods and services, increasing demand for goods and services, which then creates jobs and increases economic activity.

The Face of Immigration

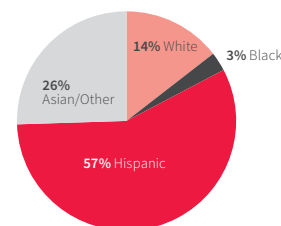
Immigrants play an integral role in the state and are deeply woven into the fabric of our communities. For over a decade, Nevada has ranked fifth in the nation in the percentage of immigrants in our population. Nearly one in five Nevadans are immigrants.⁶

Table 1: Immigration as a Percentage of Overall Population

State	2005	State	2012
California	27.2%	California	27.0%
New York	21.4%	New York	22.7%
New Jersey	19.5%	New Jersey	21.2%
Florida	18.5%	Florida	19.5%
Nevada	17.4%	Nevada	19.0%
Hawaii	17.2%	Hawaii	17.9%
Texas	15.9%	Texas	16.2%
Arizona	14.5%	Massachusetts	15.1%
Massachusetts	14.4%	District of Columbia	14.3%
Illinois	13.6%	Maryland	14.1%
District of Columbia	13.1%	Illinois	13.8%
Rhode Island	12.6%	Arizona	13.6%
Connecticut	12.5%	Rhode Island	13.5%
US Average	12.4%	Connecticut	13.5%
Washington	12.2%	Washington	13.2%
Maryland	11.7%	US Average	13.0%

Source: Pew Research Center ⁷

Immigration Demographics



While immigration is often painted as an issue impacting only Hispanics, Nevada's immigrant population is diverse. Hispanics make up the majority of the state's immigrant population but nearly 15 percent of immigrants in the state are white and over a quarter, 25.5 percent, are Asian/other.

While over 40 percent of immigrants in the state were born in Mexico, immigrants in Nevada were born all over the world. As seen on the next page, a significant population of immigrants was born in the Philippines and more immigrants are born in Germany than in Guatemala.



People Planet First day in Carson City where families from all over Nevada stood against Attorney General Adam Laxalt to protect undocumented families.



Karla, 8, and her undocumented parents who have an order of deportation. Karla is a United States citizen.

"The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Opulent and respected Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations and Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges..."

George Washington

Table 2: Top 10 Immigrant Places of Birth

Country	Percent of immigrant population
Mexico	42.3%
Philippines	13.3%
El Salvador	3.6%
China	2.6%
Cuba	2.5%
Germany	2.4%
Guatemala	2.2%
Canada	2.0%
Korea	2.0%
Vietnam	1.5%

Moreover, immigrants have deep roots in communities across the state. Not only is nearly one in five Nevadans an immigrant, but they also have been a part of the state's population for several years. An overwhelming majority of immigrants, 97 percent, arrived in Nevada before 2010.

Immigrants are also an important economic driver through their entrepreneurship. They are an important constituency within small business owners. Immigrants own over 21 percent of small business in the state that have collectively earned over \$571 million.

Table 5: Small Business Owners and Earnings

	Count	Share	Small business earnings	Share
Total population	38,446	100.0%	\$3,238,733,697	100.0%
U.S. born	30,328	78.9%	\$2,667,216,470	82.4%
Immigrants	8,118	21.1%	\$571,617,227	17.6%

In contrast to many stereotypes, immigrants in Nevada are not all low-wage earners. As the table below shows, the distribution of income levels among immigrant families is similar to that of U.S. born families. The majority of both immigrant families and U.S. born families make between \$20,000 and \$100,000.

Table 6: Family Income 2011

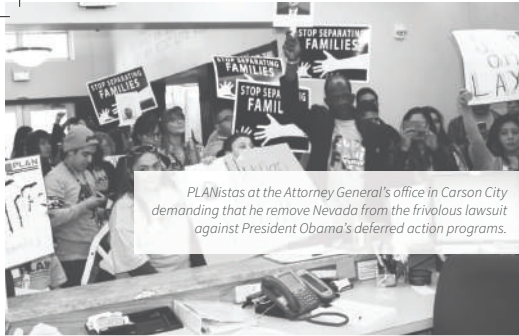
	Mean income	Median income
All Families	\$76,657	\$60,800
Non-Immigrant Families	\$81,445	\$64,800
Immigrant Families	\$71,038	\$56,339

Family income level	Immigrant Families	U.S-Born Families
1) Less than \$20,000	12.4%	10.7%
2) \$20,000-39,999	22.3%	17.6%
3) \$40,000-59,999	19.4%	18.1%
4) \$60,000-79,999	15.3%	15.5%
5) \$80,000-99,999	10.5%	12.1%
6) \$100,000-199,999	17.0%	21.5%
7) \$200,000+	3.1%	4.6%

There is, however, a wage disparity between immigrant workers and U.S. born workers. The average immigrant worker makes almost \$10,000 less per year than U.S. born workers. This wage gap prevents immigrant workers from reaching their full economic potential, limits their spending power, and hinders economic growth within the state.

Table 7: Mean Income

	Mean wage and salary income (2011\$)	Median wage and salary income (2011\$)	Mean total earned income (2011\$)	Median total earned income (2011\$)
Total population	\$58,211	\$44,053	\$58,981	\$44,683
U.S. born	\$59,505	\$46,000	\$60,301	\$46,433
Foreign born	\$51,715	\$36,115	\$52,355	\$36,115



PLANistas at the Attorney General's office in Carson City demanding that he remove Nevada from the frivolous lawsuit against President Obama's deferred action programs.

"When did the skin on our bodies, the difference in our voice, or the direction our heart takes us decide whether we should have human rights?"

Isabella Poretsis



Gwen Ifill (PBS) visits a PLANista family in their restaurant "La Casita de Dona Machi". The family members all have varied immigration statuses ranging from Undocumented, DACA, Green Cards to Citizens.



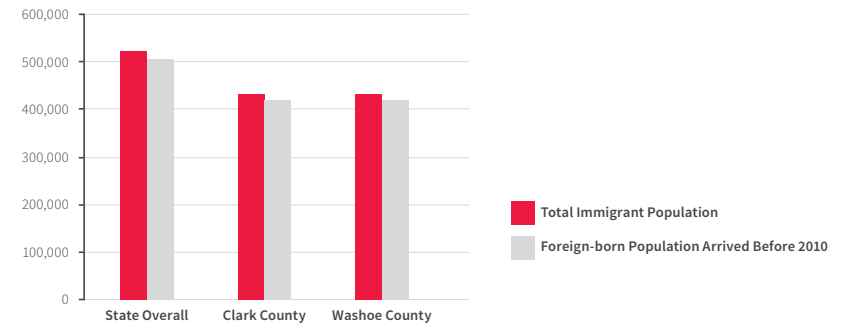
United States Minority Leader Harry Reid addresses attendees at the PLAN 20th Anniversary.

As the table below shows, the state's workforce has a slightly higher immigrant representation than the overall population because the immigrant population skews younger and is within the prime working age.

Table 4: Labor Force Participation

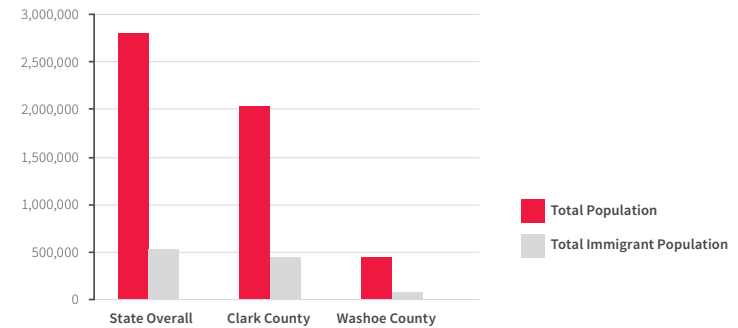
		Share of total	Labor force participation rate
Total population in labor force	1,376,557	100.0%	64.5%
U.S. born	1,028,546	74.7%	63.0%
Foreign born	348,011	25.3%	69.5%
		Share of total	
Total employment	1,199,650	100.0%	
U.S. born employment	891,603	74.3%	
Immigrant employment	308,047	25.7%	
		Share of total	Unemployment rate
Total unemployed	176,907	100.0%	12.9%
U.S. born unemployed	136,943	77.4%	13.3%
Immigrant unemployed	39,964	22.6%	11.5%

Immigrant Population Arriving before 2010



As the chart below shows, immigrant communities are concentrated in Clark County with a sizable community in Washoe County and smaller communities across the state. Immigrants are 19.10 percent of the population statewide, 21.80 percent of the population in Clark County and 14.9 percent of the Washoe County population.

Immigration Populations Statewide, Clark County, and Washoe County



Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Finally, contrary to anti-immigrant rhetoric, the majority of Nevada's immigrant population are legal residents. Nevada's unauthorized population has been steadily declining since 2007.⁸ But, we must remember that the unauthorized population in Nevada is also an important part of our communities. The story of Astrid Silva is not unique. As a small child, Astrid and her family came to Nevada in search of a better life.⁹ She grew up in Las Vegas and calls Nevada home. Her parents work hard to make a better life for their children, like most American families. Even though they are unauthorized, they work hard and their contribution helps the state succeed.



The first immigrants to Nevada came for the same reason current immigrants do: To seek a better life for their families.



Elias, 14, Astrid and Talia, 16 represented Nevada in being the first youths arrested for immigration reform in Washington, DC. Their mothers are citizens and their fathers were deported when they were 9 and 11 years old.



Rosa Molina, PLAN, gives a DACA/DAPA workshop in Reno, Nevada where we have a large population of undocumented immigrants.

Rosa Molina (pictured at right) came to the US as a political refugee from El Salvador. She has worked with PLAN and our immigrant rights program since 1999, helping thousands of dispossessed mothers, fathers and children stay together and work toward securing hope and security for their families—the American Dream.

The Economic Benefits of Immigration

Immigrants play a vital role in Nevada's economy. Immigrants are fundamental to Nevada's economic success and their contribution makes the state's economy stronger and healthier. The tables below highlight the economic importance of the immigrant workforce.

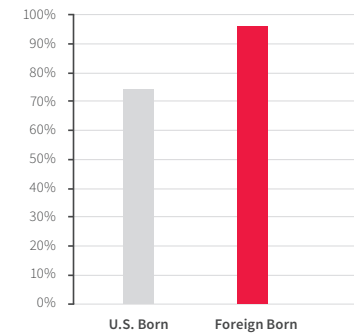
The first table shows that immigrants are responsible for nearly 20 percent of the state's economic output.

Table 3: Immigrant Share of Economic Output

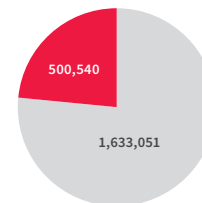
	Total wage & salary + business proprietor income (2011\$)	Share
Total population	\$40,652,440,780	100.0%
U.S. born	\$32,698,845,148	80.4%
Immigrant	\$7,953,595,632	19.6%

In addition, immigrants are a fundamental part of the state's workforce. Over a quarter of the state's workforce is comprised of immigrants. As the table and charts below show, a higher percentage of the immigrant population is between 18-64 than their U.S. born counterparts.

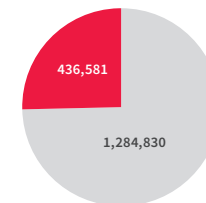
Percentage of Population that is Working Age



Population Aged 16+



Population in Prime Working Age



U.S. Born
Foreign Born