

# New Americans in Los Angeles

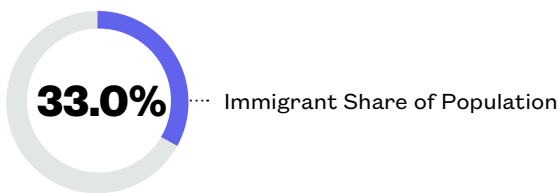
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area<sup>1</sup>



## OVERVIEW, LOS ANGELES

**4,410,399**

Immigrant Residents



**412,575**

Immigrant Entrepreneurs

**\$38.2B**

Immigrant Taxes Paid, 2017

**\$108.6B**

Immigrant Spending Power, 2017

## DEMOGRAPHICS, LOS ANGELES

In the United States, immigrants are more likely to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This is true for the Los Angeles metro area, as well for every metro area featured in [Map the Impact](#). This means immigrants are more likely to be active in the labor force, allowing them to contribute to the economy not only as consumers but also as taxpayers, helping fund social services and programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share
0-15	2.6%	27.7%
16-64	<b>78.6%</b>	61.5%
65+	18.8%	10.8%

Source: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## WORKFORCE, LOS ANGELES

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. Nationally, immigrants are more likely to hold an advanced degree than the U.S.-born, although this is not the case in the Los Angeles Metro Area. They are also more likely to have less than a high school education. In many cities across the country, their unique educational profile allows immigrants to fill labor shortages at both ends of the skill spectrum, from high-tech fields to more manual sectors like construction or food service.

Workforce Education	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less Than High School	<b>33.7%</b>	7.6%
High School & Some College	38.9%	<b>52.8%</b>
Bachelor's Degree	18.3%	<b>25.5%</b>
Graduate Degree	9.2%	<b>14.1%</b>

Source: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## TAXES & SPENDING POWER, LOS ANGELES

Nationwide, immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal income, state, and local taxes and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, especially in metro areas like Los Angeles, where they help support local communities as consumers and taxpayers.

**\$146.9B**

Immigrant Household Income, 2017

**\$108.6B**

Total Spending Power

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State & Local Taxes Paid

**\$12.0B**

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Federal Taxes Paid

**\$26.3B**

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**Total Taxes Paid**

**\$38.2B**

Sources: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample; ITEP, "Who Pays?"; Congressional Budget Office; U.S. Social Security Administration.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP, LOS ANGELES

It is hard to overstate the importance of entrepreneurship since new businesses are the main driver of job growth in the United States. Immigrants play a particularly important role in this—founding businesses at far higher rates than the U.S. population overall. Their knack for starting businesses is an important source of new job creation in Los Angeles and in other cities across the country.

**412,575**

Immigrant entrepreneurs

**39.4%**

How much more likely immigrants were to start a business than U.S.-born residents in 2017

Source: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## HOME OWNERSHIP, LOS ANGELES

Immigrant families have long played an important role helping to build housing wealth in the United States. In recent decades, the more than 40 million immigrants collectively in the country increased U.S. housing wealth by \$3.7 trillion. Much of this was possible because immigrants moved into neighborhoods once in decline, helping to revitalize communities and make them more attractive to U.S.-born residents.

**788,336**

Immigrant Homeowners

Source: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## TOP INDUSTRIES WITH HIGHEST SHARE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS, LOS ANGELES

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Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting 55.2%

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General Services 55.0%

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Construction 53.6%

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Manufacturing 52.7%

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Administrative Support 52.4%

Sources: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## VOTING POWER, LOS ANGELES

As more immigrants naturalize and become eligible to vote, they continue to gain power at the voting booth. The number of immigrant voters is only projected to rise in the next decade, but in some states and cities including Los Angeles and California, foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding the outcome of local elections.

**2,289,433**

Immigrants Eligible to Vote

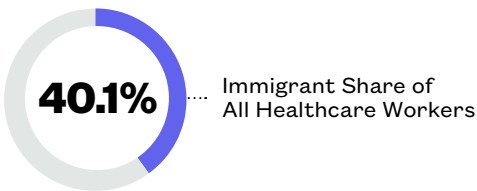
Source: NAE analysis of the 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Sample.

## HEALTHCARE, LOS ANGELES<sup>2</sup>

With pressure mounting on healthcare systems across the United States due to the coronavirus outbreak, it has been the country's larger population centers that have been especially hard hit. Cities are experiencing or anticipating severe shortages of healthcare workers and in many cases, immigrants are helping to fill those gaps. While immigrants make up 16.4 percent of all workers in the healthcare industry nationally, they make up nearly twice this share in the largest 15 metro areas in the United States, and over 40 percent of healthcare workers in the Los Angeles Metro Area.

# 233,270

Immigrant Healthcare Workers



# 8.4

Ratio of open healthcare jobs to unemployed healthcare workers, 2018

# 17.4

Ratio of open healthcare practitioner jobs to unemployed healthcare practitioners, 2018

Sources: Burning Glass Labor Insights and NAE Analysis of 5-year sample from the 2018 American Community Survey

### SHARES OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS, LOS ANGELES

Health Aides	56.3%
Nurses	45.2%
Physicians and Surgeons	41.5%
Respiratory Therapists	41.0%

Source: NAE Analysis of 5-year sample from the 2018 American Community Survey

### BILINGUAL IMMIGRANT HEALTHCARE WORKERS, LOS ANGELES

Health Aides	71.1%
Nurses	84.4%
Physicians and Surgeons	74.8%

Source: NAE Analysis of 5-year sample from the 2018 American Community Survey

## ENDNOTES

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from "Map the Impact: Los Angeles Metro Area" (2020). Link: <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/city/los-angeles/>

2 Healthcare data comes from "Immigrants on the Healthcare Frontlines: A Look at Local Data" (2020). Link: <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/immigrants-healthcare-metros/>