## New Americans in Grand Rapids Metro Area, MI

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in 2017

## **OVERVIEW**

70,955 Immigrant Residents

**6.8%** 

Immigrant Share of Population

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Similar to the United States as a whole, immigrants in most cities are more likely to be of working age defined as being between the ages of 16 and 64 than the native-born population. This allows them to contribute to U.S. entitlement programs and also assume roles helping seniors as they age.

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.SBorn Population Share
0-15	8.4%	22.7%
16-64	80.7%	63.8%
65+	10.9%	13.5%

New American Economy

# 2,503

Immigrant Entrepreneurs

\$461.6M

Immigrant Taxes Paid, 2017 Immigrant Spending Power, 2017

## WORKFORCE

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. As baby boomers retire, younger immigrants are filling critical gaps in the market. Nationally, immigrants are more likely to hold an advanced degree than the U.S.-born. 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.SBorn Population
Less Than High School	32.9%	7.5%
High School & Some College	40.9%	60.2%
Bachelor's Degree	14.9%	21.8%
Graduate Degree	11.4%	10.6%



## **TAXES & SPENDING POWER**

Nationwide, immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal income, state, and local taxes nationwide and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, even at a local level, where they help support local communities as consumers and taxpayers.

## 83

.**4**B

Immigrant Household Income

**Total Spending Power** 

#### **TOP INDUSTRIES WITH HIGHEST SHARE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS**

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	35.7%
Manufacturing	13.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	9.4%
Construction	8.7%
Tourism, Hospitality, and Recreation	8.5%

## **HOME OWNERSHIP**

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.

14,994 Immigrant Homeowners

Total Taxes Paid	\$461.6M
Federal Taxes Paid	\$313M
State & Local Taxes Paid	\$148.6M

**5461.6IVI** 

### **VOTING POWER**

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 already in some states and cities, foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding the outcome of local elections.

## 27,706

Immigrants Eligible to Vote

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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 cities across the country.

