New Americans in Pittsburgh

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants[1] in the City[2]

Population

27,100

the number of immigrants living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 2019.[3]

Immigrants made up

9.0%

of the total population of the city in 2019.

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

1.3%

The immigrant population increased by

+18.9%

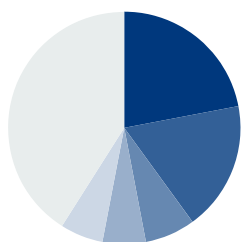during the same time period.

Without immigrants moving to the city, the total population would have decreased by

2.7%

Demographics

10.9%

of households in Pittsburgh in 2019 had at least one immigrant.

The top regions of origin for immigrants living in the city:

- East Asia (**22.2%**)
- India and Southwest Asia (**18.3%**)
- Southeast Asia (**7.4%**)
- Central/Eastern Europe (**6.4%**)
- Europe: Baltic States and other former USSR (**6.2%**)
- Other (**32.1%**)

38.7%

of immigrants in Pittsburgh were recent arrivals, with five years of residency in the United States or less, meaning
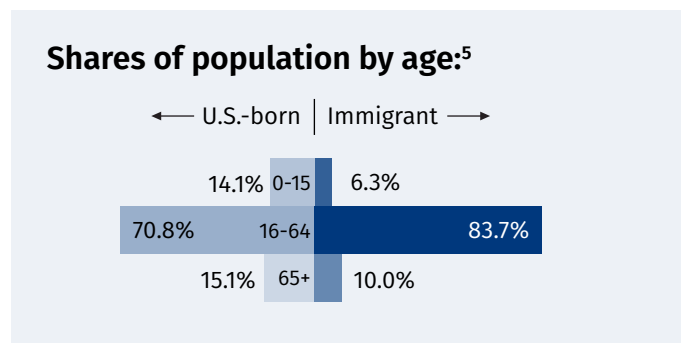
61.3%

of immigrants in the city had resided in the United States for more than five years.
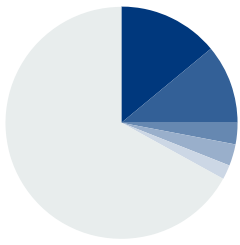
In the city, immigrants were

18.3%

more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.[4]
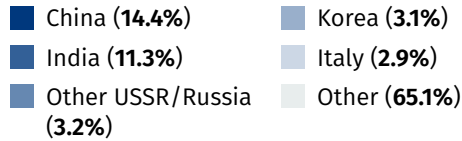
Shares of population by age:[5]

	← U.S.-born	Immigrant →
0-15	14.1%	6.3%
16-64	70.8%	83.7%
65+	15.1%	10.0%

Demographics *(continued)*

The top countries of origin for immigrants living in the city:

- China (**14.4%**)
- India (**11.3%**)
- Other USSR/Russia (**3.2%**)
- Korea (**3.1%**)
- Italy (**2.9%**)
- Other (**65.1%**)

The top languages spoken at home other than English among immigrants:

Language	Percent
Chinese	13.3%
Spanish	8.7%
Nepali	4.8%
Bantu	4.4%
Hindi	4.3%

Immigrants with Limited English Language Proficiency

3,800

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

14.3%

of the immigrant population.[6]

Immigrants with limited English language proficiency

Among those with limited English language proficiency, educational attainment was as follows:

- Less than a high-school diploma (**45.3%**)
- A high-school diploma or some college (**26.1%**)
- Other (**28.6%**)
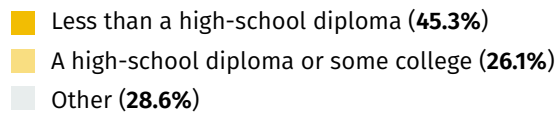
5. *Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.*

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

Spending Power and Tax Contributions

Immigrants paid a significant amount in federal, state, and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.
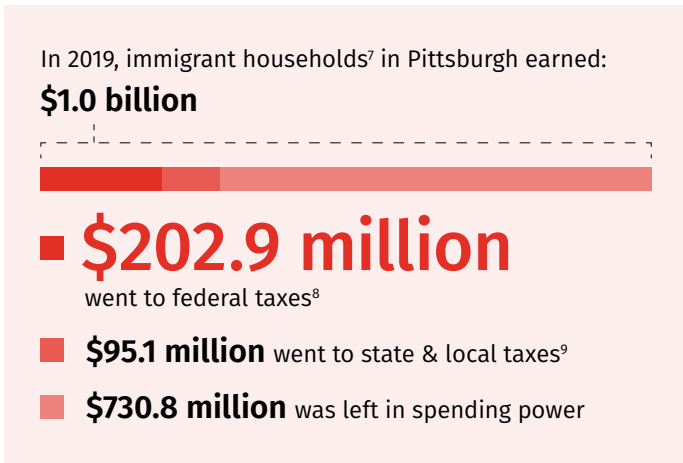
In 2019, immigrant households[7] in Pittsburgh earned:
$1.0 billion

$202.9 million
went to federal taxes[8]

$95.1 million went to state & local taxes[9]

$730.8 million was left in spending power

This means that immigrant households held

10.1%

of all spending power in the city.

In 2019, immigrant residents in the city contributed

$3.5 billion

to the city's gross domestic product (GDP), or **11.1%** of total GDP for that year.[10]

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

$93.9 million to Social Security

$26.8 million to Medicare
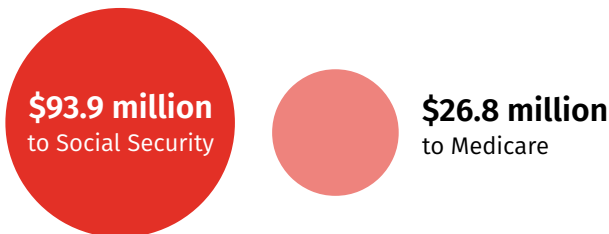
20.6%

of immigrants in the city received Medicare or Medicaid in 2019, compared with

35.7%
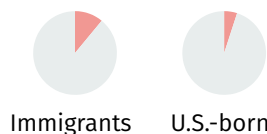
of U.S.-born residents.

About **75.8%** of immigrants had private health care coverage, while **20.6%** had public health care coverage.

Private   Public

About **72.0%** of U.S.-born residents had private health care coverage, while **35.7%** had public health care coverage.[11]

Private   Public
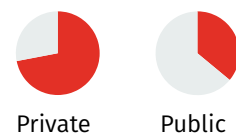
Approximately **10.8%** of immigrants and **5.3%** of U.S.-born residents had no healthcare coverage.

Immigrants   U.S.-born

7. *Immigrant households refer to those with an immigrant as head of the unit.*

8. *U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022),* https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

9. *Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018),* https://itep.org/whopays.

10. *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.*

11. *Including people who have both public and private health care coverage.*

New Americans in Pittsburgh

Workforce

Although immigrants made up **9.0%** of the city's total population, they represented **10.4%** of its working age population, **9.2%** of its employed labor force, and **17.7%** of its workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in 2019.[12]

Immigrant shares of the…

Population
9.0%

Working Age Population
10.4%

Employed Population
9.2%

STEM Workers
17.7%
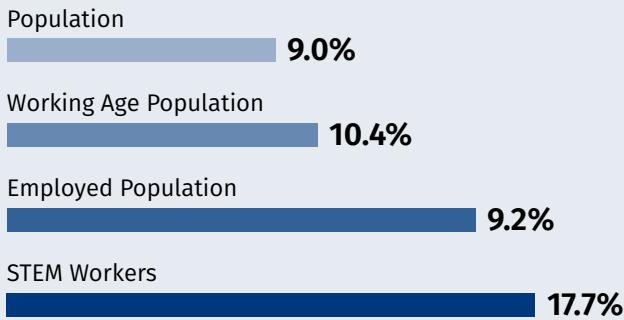
The immigrant working-age population was **55.4%** female and **44.6%** male.

- Female
- Male

The immigrant employed population was **38.0%** female and **62.0%** male.

- Female
- Male

Immigrants in the city were

18.3%
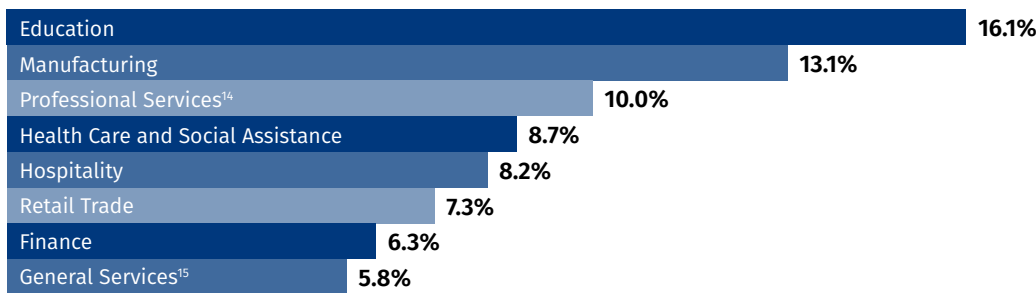
more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts.

= 54.4

In 2019, there were 54.4 open STEM job postings for every available unemployed STEM worker in the city.[13]

Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the city. The industries with the largest number of immigrant workers were:

Industry	
Education	16.1%
Manufacturing	13.1%
Professional Services[14]	10.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	8.7%
Hospitality	8.2%
Retail Trade	7.3%
Finance	6.3%
General Services[15]	5.8%

The occupations with the largest number of immigrant workers were:

- Postsecondary Teachers (**13.7%**)
- Physicians (**6.2%**)
- Software Developers (**4.1%**)

76.0%
Other
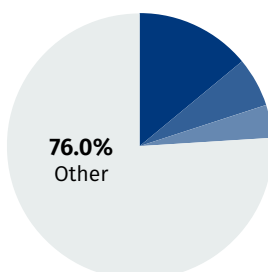
12.   STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in science, technology, engineering, and/or math.

13.   Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

14.   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.

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

Workforce *(continued)*

The occupations with the largest number of female immigrant workers were:

Postsecondary Teachers...**10.6%**

The occupations with the largest number of male immigrant workers were:

Postsecondary Teachers...**15.7%**
Physicians **6.9%**
Software Developers..**5.4%**

Due to the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, our research shows that immigrants living in the city helped create or preserve

1,200

manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise been eliminated or moved elsewhere by 2019.[16]

SPOTLIGHT **Job Demand In Pittsburgh In 2022**

Not only were immigrants more likely to be of working age than the U.S.-born, but they were also a crucial part of the city's economy and helped meet the needs of its fastest growing and most in-demand fields.[17]

The top in-demand jobs in the city in 2022 were:

1. Software Developers

2. Registered Nurses

3. Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products

4. Retail Salespersons

5. Managers, All Other

The top skills listed for these in-demand jobs were:
Communications, Sales, Customer Service, Management, and Registered Nurse (RN).

Immigrants help fill many high-demand roles, especially as the need for bilingual and culturally competent public service and healthcare workers increases.

The top five industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers:[18]

1. Insurance Carriers

2. Computer Systems Design and Related Services

3. Employment Services

4. Colleges, Universities, and Professional Services

5. Individual and Family Services

16. Jacob Vigdor, *Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market* (New York, NY: AmericasSociety/ Council of the Americas and New American Economy, 2013), https://www. newamericaneconomy. org/wp-content/ uploads/2013/09/ revival-of-american- cities.pdf.

17. Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

18. Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

$429.0M

Education

Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that had **less than a high school education** in 2019:

7.1%
of U.S.-born
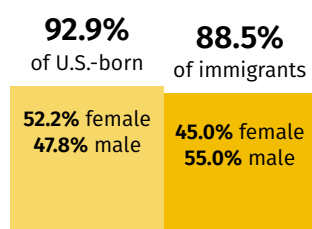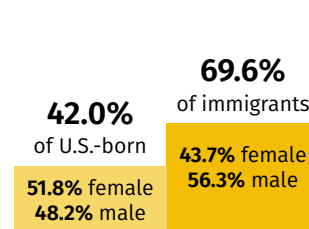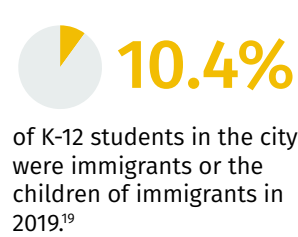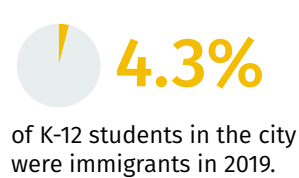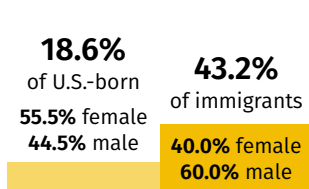**50.0%** female
50.0% male

11.5%
of immigrants
54.6% female
45.4% male
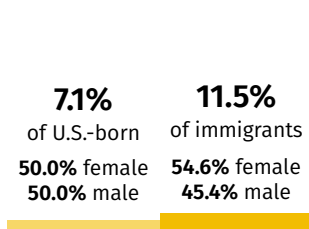
Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that had **at least a high school education or some college** in 2019:

92.9%
of U.S.-born
52.2% female
47.8% male

88.5%
of immigrants
45.0% female
55.0% male

Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that held **a bachelor's degree or higher** in 2019:

42.0%
of U.S.-born
51.8% female
48.2% male

69.6%
of immigrants
43.7% female
56.3% male

Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that held **an advanced degree** in 2019:

18.6%
of U.S.-born
55.5% female
44.5% male

43.2%
of immigrants
40.0% female
60.0% male

4.3%

of K-12 students in the city were immigrants in 2019.

10.4%

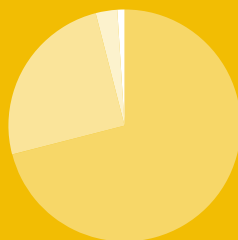of K-12 students in the city were immigrants or the children of immigrants in 2019.[19]

SPOTLIGHT   University Population

In fall 2021,

9,651

students enrolled in colleges and universities in Pittsburgh were temporary U.S. residents.[20]

The breakdown of international students is as follows:

- Full-time graduate students (**6,871**)
- Full-time undergraduate students (**2,424**)
- Part-time graduate students (**290**)
- Part-time undergraduate students (**66**)

The universities with the largest international student populations were:

Carnegie Mellon University — **6,027 international students**

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Campus — **2,798 international students**

Duquesne University — **431 international students**

In the 2020-21 academic year,

2,572

degrees were awarded to international students with a primary major in a STEM field, and **60** degrees were awarded to international students with a secondary major in a STEM field.

International students supported

5,502

jobs in the city and these students contributed

$429.0M

to the economy in the 2021-22 academic year.[21]

19. Children of immigrants includes both U.S.-born and immigrants who are under the age of 18 with at least one immigrant parent.

20. Data on student enrollment in the city 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.

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

Housing

In 2019, **30.6%** of immigrant households in Pittsburgh owned their own homes, compared with **48.3%** of U.S.-born households.

Immigrant   U.S.-born

Total property value of immigrant households was

$978.7M

The average household size for immigrants in 2019 was **2.1** compared to **1.8** for U.S.-born residents.

Immigrant households

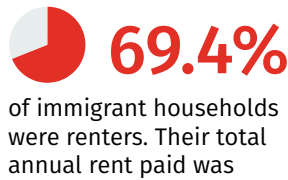U.S.-born households

Immigrant Households in Pittsburgh

- ■ Lived in houses (**4,700**, or **37.4%**)
- ■ Lived in apartments (**7,900**, or **62.4%**)
- ■ Other types of housing[22] (**0.2%**)

69.4%

of immigrant households were renters. Their total annual rent paid was
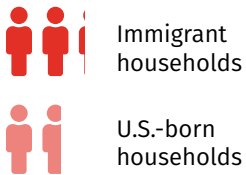
$114.1M

86.7% of immigrant households in the city had access to broadband connection in their place of residence compared with **87.3%** of U.S.-born households that did in 2019.[23]

Immigrant   U.S.-born

Naturalization

Immigrants in Pittsburgh in 2019

- ■ **34.0%** Naturalized[24] citizens (9,200)
- ■ **13.1%** Likely eligible to naturalize (3,600)
- □ **52.9%** Not eligible to naturalize (14,300)

- ■ Naturalized
- ■ Likely Eligible
- □ Not Eligible

Nationally, **48.7%** of immigrants are naturalized citizens, **15.9%** are likely eligible to naturalize, and **35.4%** are not yet eligible to naturalize.

When eligible immigrants naturalize, their income increases by

+8.9%[25]

on average.

Top five countries of origin for naturalized citizens in Pittsburgh were:

Country	Percent
India	8.2%
Other USSR/Russia	7.3%
Italy	5.3%
China	5.3%
Philippines	3.7%
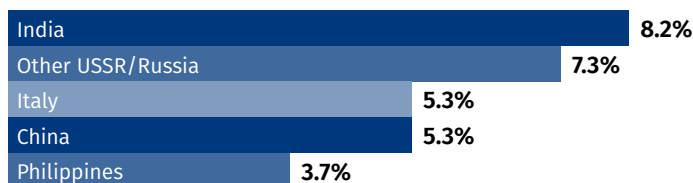
22. "Other" housing includes mobile homes, trailers, boats, tents, vans, and housing that is not considered a single-family home or multi-family building.

23. 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.

24. Naturalization is the process through which one can become a U.S. citizen, dependent on certain eligibility requirements. Learn more here: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works.

25. Maria E. Enchautegui and Linda Giannarelli, The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities, Urban Institute, 2015, https://www.urban.org/research/publication/economic-impact-naturalization-immigrants-and-cities.

Refugees

1,900

immigrants, or **7.0%** of the immigrant population in Pittsburgh, were likely refugees[26] in 2019.[27]

In 2019, refugee households[28] in the city earned:
$53.3 million

■ **$9.6 million**
went to federal taxes[29]

■ **$5.2 million** went to state & local taxes[30]

■ **$38.5 million** was left in spending power

Undocumented Immigrants

4,100

undocumented immigrants[31] lived in Pittsburgh in 2019. They made up

▶ **15.1%**

of the city's immigrant population.

About

86.0%

were of working age in the city.[35]

In 2019, undocumented immigrant households[32] earned:
$106.9 million

■ **$9.8 million**
went to federal taxes[33]

■ **$5.0 million** went to state & local taxes[34]

■ **$92.1 million** was left in spending power

26. Refugees are admitted to the United States based upon an inability to return to their home countries because of a "well-founded fear of persecution" due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. Learn more here: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works.

27. New American Economy, From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America, (New York, NY: 2017), https://research. newamericaneconomy.org/report/from-struggle-to-resilience-theeconomic-impact-of-refugees-in-america/.

28. Refugee households refer to those with a refugee as head of the unit.

29. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2021), https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

30. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), https://itep.org/whopays/.

31. Undocumented immigrants are identified by applying the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas in his work: George Borjas, The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants (Harvard University, Labour Economics, volume 46, pages 1-3, 2017), https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/gborjas/files/le2017.pdf. Immigrants who do not meet a set of criteria for legal status are identified as being undocumented. More on our methodology here: https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/methodology/.

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

33. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2021), https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

34. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), https://itep.org/whopays/.

35. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

8

David Hajayandi

Vice President, Burundians Community Association of Pittsburgh

After resettling in the United States, David Hajayandi set out on his own to find employment without guidance or support for navigating the American job market. He showed up unannounced at a clothing store, but instead of giving him a job application, workers threatened to call the police. Years later, this experience would contribute to Hajayandi's work creating resources to support other newcomers.

In 1991, when Hajayandi was in second grade, civil unrest forced his family to flee their home in Burundi. His family fled to a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and then to Tanzania, where they stayed for 13 years. In 2008, when Hajayandi was 25 years old, his family was approved for refugee status, and upon landing in New York, a refugee resettlement group drove them to an apartment in Allentown.

After his failed attempt at finding employment at the clothing store, Hajayandi continued his job search, but every business turned him away. "I didn't know much about what life was like in America, but I was surprised it was this difficult," he says.

Eventually, a local Methodist pastor helped Hajayandi find work washing dishes at a fried chicken restaurant, and he got a second job sorting materials at a recycling center. But when his extended family suggested he join them in Pittsburgh, Hajayandi moved. At first, he cleaned office buildings and hotel rooms. After a few years as the hotel's driver, he enrolled in trucking school and became a driver for a few different trucking companies. "I was grateful for this job, but I didn't have much community at the time," he says.

While shopping and socializing in Pittsburgh, Hajayandi occasionally heard people speaking Kirundi, one of Burundi's official languages. He began collecting phone numbers and, in 2021, started a WhatsApp group for Burundians in the city. The group officially launched the Burundians Community Association of Pittsburgh, and elected Hajayandi vice president. The group, which has grown from 30 members to over 150, provides a community for Burundians in the city and helps newcomers find work.

"We want Burundians here to know and help each other," Hajayandi says. "In a country where we don't know much, we can teach each other."

Brent Rondon

Senior Consultant, Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence's Small Business Development Center - University of Pittsburgh

Although born in Fargo, North Dakota, Brent Rondon has experienced first-hand the obstacles of coming to the United States, learning a new language, and finding your place in a new community. Rondon and his twin brother spent most of their early lives in their parents' native Peru where the family moved when Rondon was 5 years old. After graduating with a degree in agriculture engineering from a university in Lima, a family friend in Harrisburg, invited the brothers to study English in America.

"My father died in a tragic car accident when we were young," Rondon recalls. "And our family struggled financially. My dad had wanted us to return to America at some point, so my mom saved up enough money for us to go and fulfill his dream."

After arriving in Pennsylvania, Rondon enrolled in an English class at the Hispanic American Cultural Center, and his teacher helped him find work cleaning warehouse floors. "Our money was drying up, and my English wasn't good, so I was willing to take any job," he says. The hours were long, and he'd come home exhausted every night. About a year later, a coworker expressed shock that Rondon had an engineering degree and was cleaning floors. She encouraged him to apply for a data entry job at the state's department of transportation. In 1989 at the age of 26, he was hired.

After five years, Rondon returned to school to obtain a master's degree in public administration with a focus on international trade and economic development at the University of Pittsburgh. He was impressed by the city's diversity and felt overjoyed after attending the university's Latin American Festival. "It was a dream," Rondon says. "I met other people from Peru. For the first time, I found the space I was looking for."

After graduating, he worked in international business development before becoming a senior consultant for the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence's Small Business Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh. In this role, he helps make entrepreneurship more accessible to immigrants. He provides one-on-one consulting, helps clients find lawyers and consultants who speak their language, and gives webinars on how to open a business. "Immigrant entrepreneurs are optimists for life," he says. "They will not stop at any obstacles. It doesn't matter if interest rates or inflation are high, they just move forward."

In 2014, Rondon joined a newly-created board to form Welcoming Pittsburgh, a city initiative to help immigrants integrate into American life and that contributed to the creation of a permanent Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in 2021. He has watched the city make huge strides in immigrant inclusion but would like to see more city government signs in other languages and a larger budget for Welcoming Pittsburgh to hire staff and expand services. "That support is so important," he says. "I wish I had someone when I first came to guide me."
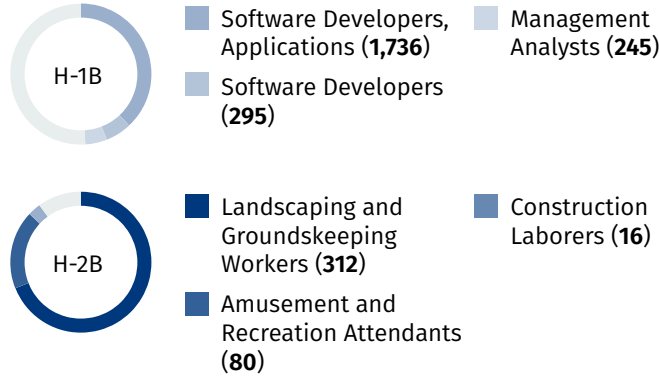
H-1B and H-2B Visas

4,589

H-1B visas were certified[36] in Pittsburgh during Fiscal Year 2022.

452

H-2B visas were certified[37] in Pittsburgh during Fiscal Year 2022.

The top occupations among certified H-1B and H-2B visa applications were:

H-1B

- Software Developers, Applications (**1,736**)
- Software Developers (**295**)
- Management Analysts (**245**)

H-2B

- Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers (**312**)
- Amusement and Recreation Attendants (**80**)
- Construction Laborers (**16**)

36. *Before an employer can file a petition with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to hire an employee using an H-1B visa, the employer must take steps to ensure that hiring the foreign worker will not adversely affect U.S. workers. To do this, employers file a labor condition application (LCA) to be certified by the Department of Labor (DOL), which ensures that employment of the H-1B worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. The number of certified H-1B visas is therefore a good indication of the demand for immigrant workers of a given occupation in a given region. More information on the H-1B process can be found here: https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/h-1b-specialty-occupations.*

37. *Similar to the H-1B process, in order for an employer to obtain an H-2B certification, the DOL must determine that there are not enough U.S. workers available to do the temporary job being petitioned for, and that employing H-2B workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similar workers. Additionally, the need for the worker must be temporary. Certified jobs are not necessarily the jobs filled, though they do indicate a level of demand for temporary immigrant workers in a particular occupation. More information on the H-2B process can be found here: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/programs/h-2b.*

New Americans in Allegheny County

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County[38]

Population

72,900

the number of immigrants living in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, in 2019.[39]

Immigrants made up

6.0%

of the total population of the county in 2019.

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

0.8%

The immigrant population increased by

+14.2%

during the same time period.

Without immigrants moving to the county, the total population would have decreased by

1.5%

Demographics

7.9%

of households in Allegheny County in 2019 had at least one immigrant.

24.4%

of immigrants in Allegheny County were recent arrivals, with five years of residency in the United States or less, meaning
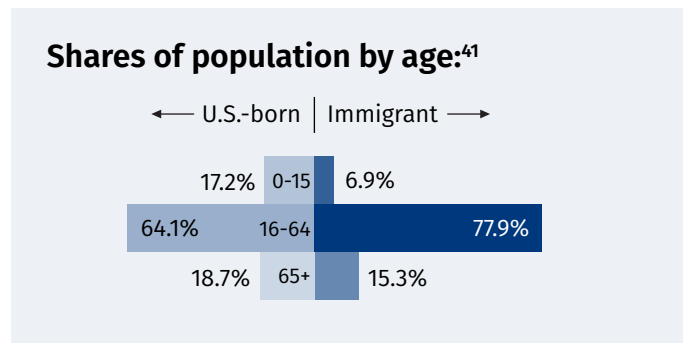
75.6%

of immigrants in the county had resided in the United States for more than five years.

In the county, immigrants are

21.5%

more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.[40]

Shares of population by age:[41]

← U.S.-born | Immigrant →

U.S.-born	Age	Immigrant
17.2%	0-15	6.9%
64.1%	16-64	77.9%
18.7%	65+	15.3%

38. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

39. 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

40. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

41. Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Spending Power and Tax Contributions

Immigrants paid a significant amount in federal, state, and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

In 2019, immigrant households[42] in Allegheny County earned:

$3.2 billion

■ **$625.5 million**
went to federal taxes[43]

■ **$297.4 million** went to state & local taxes[44]

■ **$2.3 billion** was left in spending power

This means that immigrant households held

6.9%

of all spending power in the county.

In 2019, immigrants in the county contributed

$10.3 billion

to the county's gross domestic product (GDP), or **8.2%** of the total GDP for that year.[45]

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

$295.6 million
to Social Security

$88.0 million
to Medicare

Workforce

Although immigrants made up **6.0%** of Allegheny County's total population, they represented **7.2%** of its working age population, **6.5%** of its employed labor population, and **14.3%** of its workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in 2019.[46]
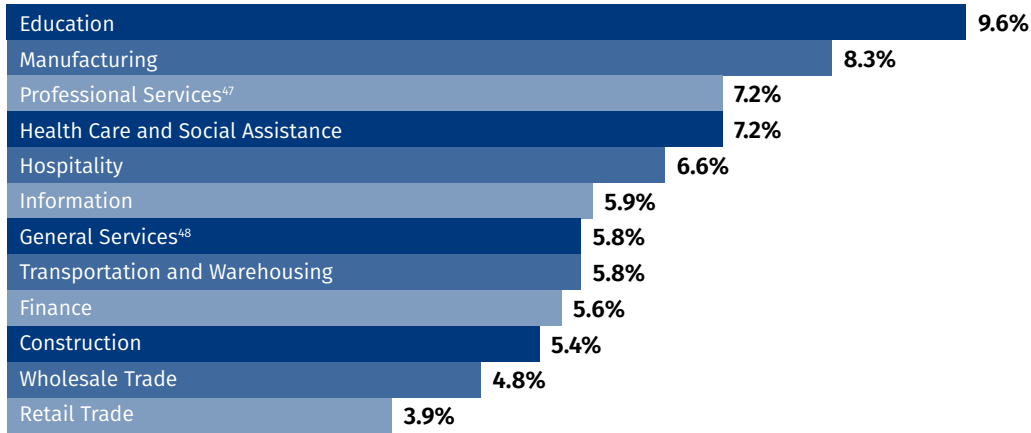
Immigrant shares of the...

Population
6.0%

Working Age Population
7.2%

Employed Population
6.5%

STEM Workers
14.3%
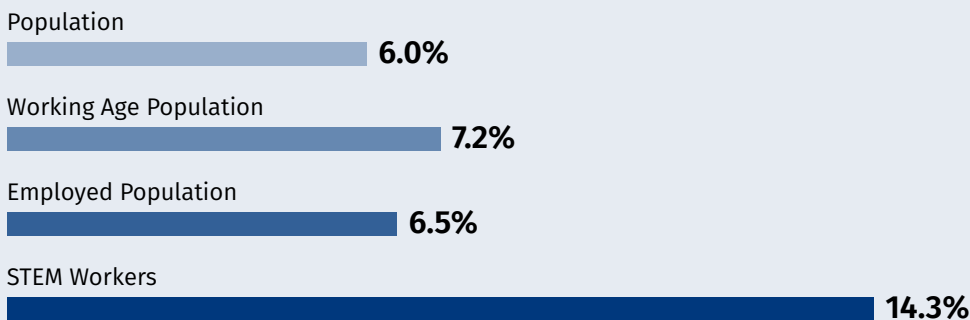
42. Immigrant households refer to those with an immigrant as head of the unit.

43. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022), https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

44. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), https://itep.org/whopays.

45. 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.

46. STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in science, technology, engineering, and/or math.

Workforce *(continued)*

Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the county. The industries with the largest number of immigrant workers were:

Industry	Percentage
Education	9.6%
Manufacturing	8.3%
Professional Services[47]	7.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	7.2%
Hospitality	6.6%
Information	5.9%
General Services[48]	5.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	5.8%
Finance	5.6%
Construction	5.4%
Wholesale Trade	4.8%
Retail Trade	3.9%

The occupations with the largest number of immigrant workers were:

- Postsecondary Teachers (**7.4%**)
- Physicians (**5.6%**)
- Software Developers (**5.0%**)
- Other Managers (**2.5%**)
- Retail Salespersons (**1.8%**)
- Physical Scientists, All Other (**1.7%**)
- Cooks (**1.7%**)
- Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners (**1.6%**)
- Registered Nurses (**1.4%**)
- Management Analysts (**1.4%**)
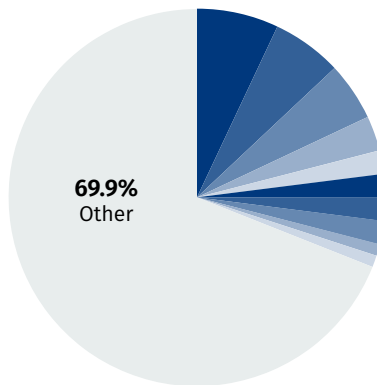
69.9%
Other

The occupations with the largest number of female immigrant workers were:

Postsecondary Teachers...6.3%
Physicians 5.4%
Retail Salespersons...2.9%

The occupations with the largest number of male immigrant workers were:

Postsecondary Teachers...8.1%
Software Developers..7.3%
Physicians 5.7%

47. *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.*

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

Entrepreneurship

3,400

immigrant entrepreneurs generated

$112.6 million

in business income in Allegheny County.

Immigrant entrepreneurs self-identified as **38.1%** female and **61.9%** male.

- ▮ Female
- ▮ Male

Immigrants represented **7.8%** of the business owners in the county in 2019 despite making up **6.0%** of the population.[49]

Immigrants were **21.8%** more likely to be an entrepreneur than their U.S. counterparts.

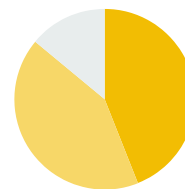**8.4%** of immigrants worked for their own businesses, while **6.9%** of the U.S.-born population were entrepreneurs.
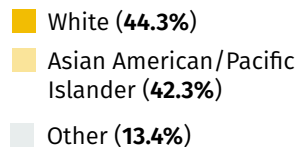
Immigrant   U.S.-born

Immigrant entrepreneurs by race and ethnicity:

- ▮ White (**44.3%**)
- ▮ Asian American / Pacific Islander (**42.3%**)
- ▮ Other (**13.4%**)

Refugees

6,300

immigrants, or **8.7%** of the immigrant population in Allegheny County, were likely refugees[50] in 2019.[51]

28.5% of refugees held at least a bachelor's degree, while **17.0%** held an advanced degree.

Bachelor's degree   Advanced degree

59.1% of refugees were naturalized U.S. citizens.

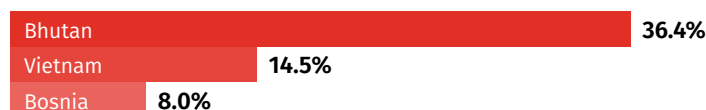In 2019, refugee households[52] in the county earned:
$179.2 million

- ▮ **$28.3 million** went to federal taxes[53]
- ▮ **$17.8 million** went to state & local taxes[54]
- ▮ **$133.0 million** was left in spending power

Top countries of origin for the county's refugee population:

Bhutan	36.4%
Vietnam	14.5%
Bosnia	8.0%

The industry with the largest number of refugee workers was:

- ▮ Health Care and Social Assistance (**24.4%**)

49. Data obtained from the ACS may not capture those who work in informal jobs and businesses, and as a result may not capture immigrants' full entrepreneurial contributions within the County.

50. Refugees are admitted to the United States based upon an inability to return to their home countries because of a "well-founded fear of persecution" due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. Learn more here: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works.

51. New American Economy, From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America, (New York, NY: 2017), https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/NAE_Refugees_V5.pdf.

52. Refugee households refer to those with a refugee as head of the unit.

53. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2021), https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

54. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), https://itep.org/whopays/.

DACA-Eligible Population

Approximately **800 immigrants**, or **1.2%** of the immigrant population in Allegheny County, were eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)[55] in 2019.[56]

In 2019, DACA-eligible households earned:
$31.4 million

$6.0 million
went to federal taxes[57]

$3.0 million went to state & local taxes[58]

$22.4 million was left in spending power

Undocumented Immigrants

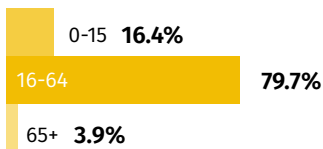**11,600** undocumented immigrants[59] lived in Allegheny County in 2019. They made up **15.9%** of the county's immigrant population.

79.7% of undocumented immigrants were of working age.[60]

Undocumented immigrants by age:[61]

0-15	**16.4%**
16-64	**79.7%**
65+	**3.9%**

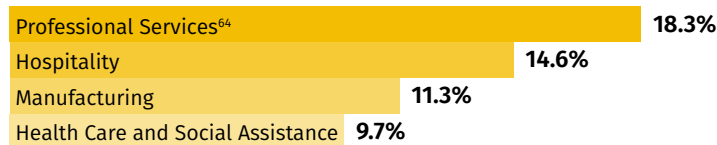In 2019, undocumented immigrant households earned:
$350.0 million

$33.8 million
went to federal taxes[62]

$16.3 million went to state & local taxes[63]

$300.0 million was left in spending power

Undocumented immigrants were highly active in the labor force. The industries with the largest number of undocumented immigrant workers were:

Professional Services[64]	**18.3%**
Hospitality	**14.6%**
Manufacturing	**11.3%**
Health Care and Social Assistance	**9.7%**

55. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program established in 2012 which permits certain individuals who were brought to the United States while under the age of 16 and who have resided continuously in the United States since June 15, 2007, to remain in the U.S. and work lawfully for at least two years, so long as they meet certain eligibility requirements. Learn more here: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works.

56. Due to ongoing legal challenges to the DACA program, any first-time DACA applications not granted as of July 16, 2021, are unable to be processed, though the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can still accept these applications. The current court ruling alongside the ongoing uncertainty about the future of the DACA program has resulted in a lack of afforded protections for those who are DACA-eligible but are unable to apply.

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

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

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

60. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

61. Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

62. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2021), https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353.

63. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), https://itep.org/whopays/.

64. 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.