

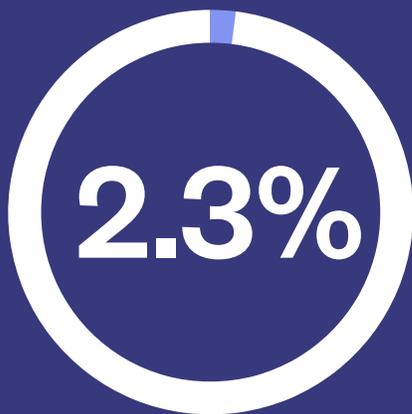
New Americans in Missoula

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Missoula Region¹



State & Local

POPULATION GROWTH



Immigrant share of the population, 2016²

Between 2011 and 2016, the population in the region grew by 1.7%.

The immigrant population decreased by 4.3%.

Total population

195,816 → 199,194

1.7%

Immigrant population

4,865 → 4,654

-4.3%

In 2016, **89,806** commuters worked in the Missoula region.



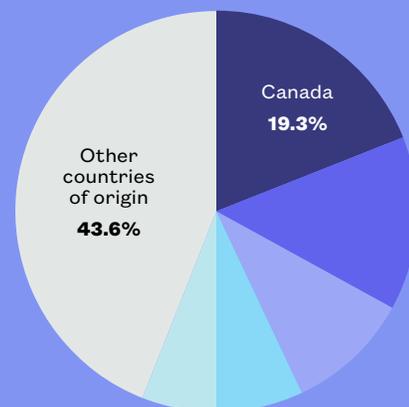
Of these, **2.9%**, or **2,572**, were foreign-born.

Number of immigrants living in the Missoula region in 2016:

4,654

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the Missoula region:

- 1 Canada19.3%
- 2 Germany.....14.2%
- 3 Korea.....10.2%
- 4 China.....7.0%
- 5 Philippines5.7%

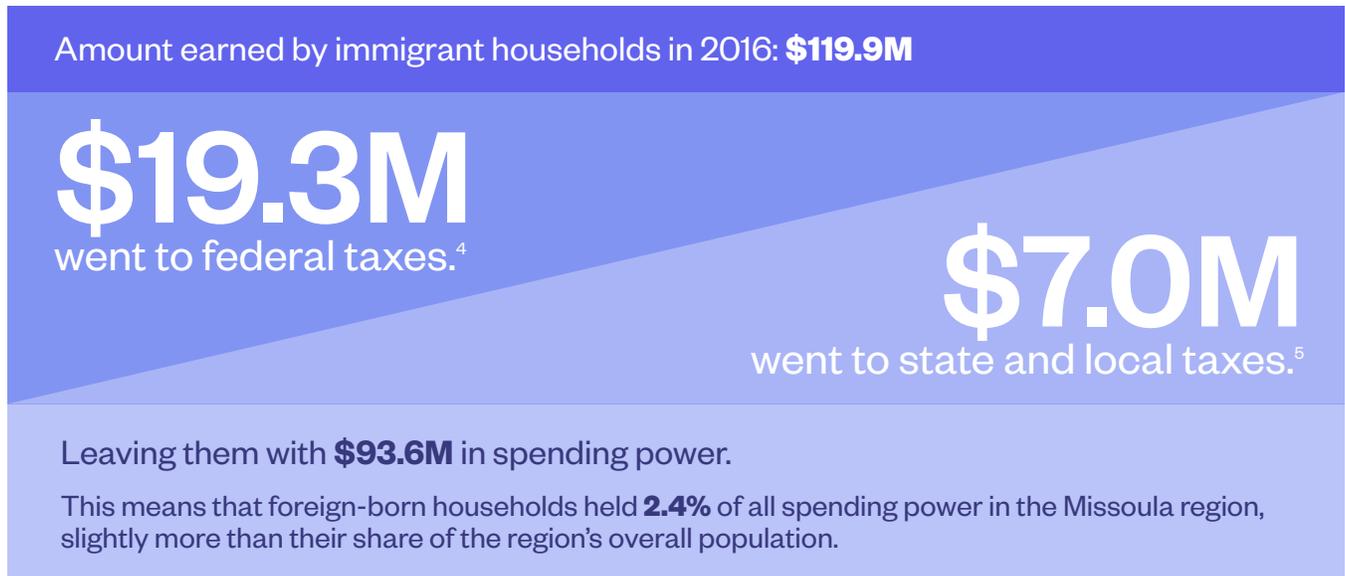


Note: Except where otherwise noted, we define an immigrant as anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is living here and counted by the census. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, temporary visa holders, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.

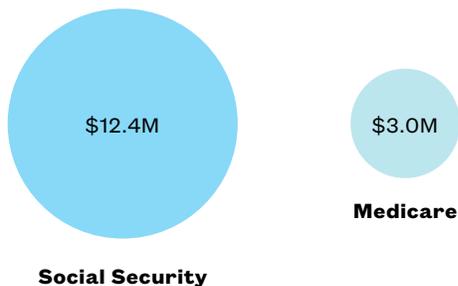
SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2016, foreign-born residents in the Missoula region contributed **\$219.9M** to the area's GDP.³

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



Immigrants in the Missoula region also support federal social programs. In 2016, they contributed **\$12.4M** to Social Security and **\$3.0M** to Medicare.



Their contributions made up **3.0%** of the total contributions to Social Security and **2.9%** to Medicare.

U.S.-born residents contributed **\$397.5M** to Social Security and **\$100.4M** to Medicare.

25.8% of immigrants in the region received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **35.3%** of the U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **64.8%** of the immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **26.3%** had public healthcare coverage.



In the same year, **62.4%** of U.S.-born residents had private healthcare coverage, while **36.7%** had public healthcare coverage.



21.1% of immigrants were uninsured, compared to **14.1%** of U.S.-born residents.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Eduardo Capulong

Professor, *Alexander Blewett III School of Law*

Eduardo Capulong’s father, a prominent politician in the Philippines, had already endured one imprisonment when the family found their house ransacked by police and military forces one October evening. It was 1979, seven years after Ferdinand Marcos—notorious for torturing and killing his opponents—had imposed a martial-law dictatorship. “We fled here,” recalls Capulong, then 14. “It was quite sudden and traumatic.”

The family received political asylum in the United States, and, when the Marcos regime collapsed in 1986, Romeo Capulong returned to his homeland to enjoy a long and groundbreaking career as “the people’s lawyer,” expanding legal services for the poor.

In America, Eduardo Capulong has followed largely in his father’s footsteps—to the benefit, now, of Montanans. Capulong, a professor at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, oversees the school’s clinics, which, by way of giving law students practical experience, provide free legal services to Missoulians who might otherwise be unable to afford representation.

At the mediation clinic, law students under Capulong’s guidance take as many as 40 cases a semester, often divorce and custody disputes headed for family court. Mediation affords people more control, and saves taxpayers and clients money. “What we try to do is take the best interests of the children at heart,” says Capulong. “We try to intervene in a way that’s thoughtful and ask, What can we do here to make this a collaborative effort, and not just adversarial.” Other clinics offer free expertise in Indian, tenant, veteran, and environmental land laws. Capulong has also pioneered a program whereby first-year classes help represent real clients at no cost.

Capulong’s career has been auspicious from the start. Raised in New York, he landed a prestigious clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and practiced public interest and civil rights law before entering academia. After fielding several good offers, he chose the University of Montana. The law school has long been a leader in clinical education, and Missoula seemed an ideal spot for a young family. “We just fell in love with it,” he says. “My children are Montanans.”

LABOR FORCE GROWTH

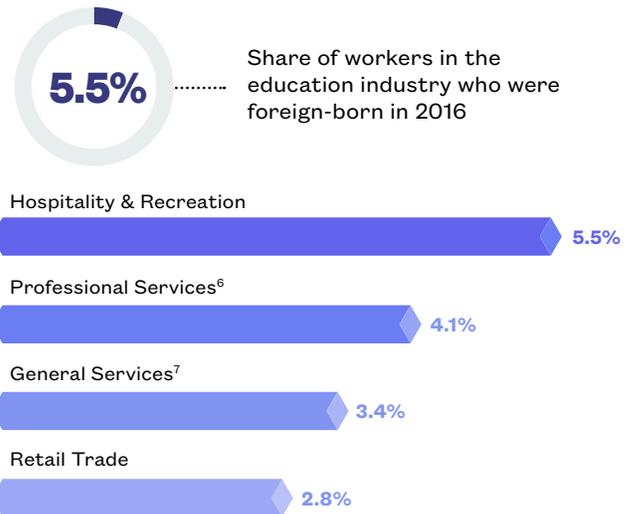
Although the foreign-born made up **2.3%** of the region’s overall population, they represented **2.6%** of its working-age* population, **2.8%** of its employed labor force, and **3.3%** of its STEM** workers in 2016.

Immigrant shares of the...



* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.
** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the region. This includes:

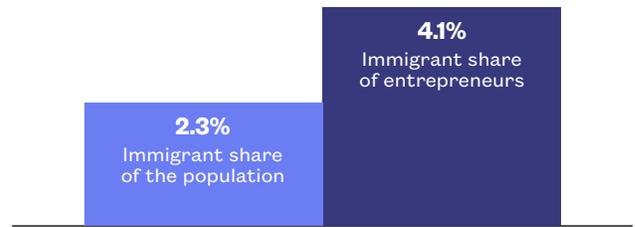


Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that by 2016, immigrants living in the region helped create or preserve

214
local manufacturing jobs
that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁸

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

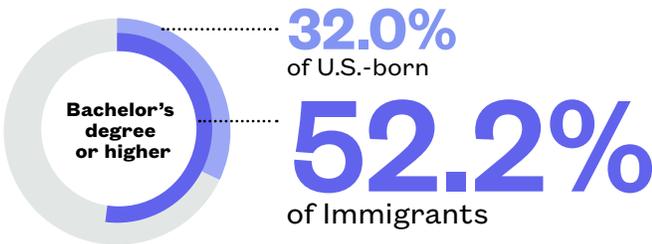
Despite making up **2.3%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **4.1%** of the entrepreneurs in the Missoula region in 2016.



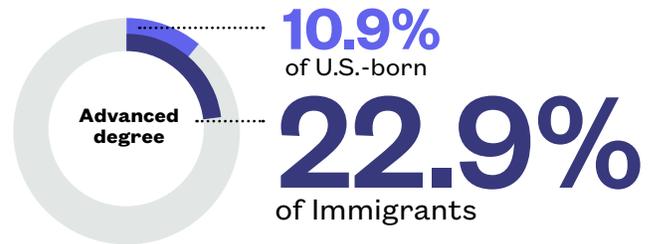
EDUCATION

In the Missoula region, immigrants were much more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to have a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016.

Share of the population over age 25 with a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2016:



Share of the population over age 25 with an **advanced degree** in 2016:



Immigrants made up **0.3%** of students under age 18 who attended public schools in the region in 2016.

481 students enrolled in colleges and universities in the region during the fall of 2015 were temporary residents.⁹

International students supported **173 local jobs** and contributed **\$13.6M** in spending in the 2016-17 academic year.¹⁰

NATURALIZATION

Number of immigrants in the region who were naturalized citizens in 2016:

2,870

Naturalized share of all immigrants

61.7%

REFUGEES

2.9%

of the immigrant population in the region were likely refugees in 2016.¹¹

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

10.6%

of the immigrant population in the region were undocumented immigrants in 2016.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Wilmot Collins

Mayor, *Helena, MT*

Wilmot Collins knew nothing about cold weather. A Liberian, he had spent his life in sub-Saharan Africa. Now, at age 30, he was escaping civil war and moving to Montana, where his wife had spent a year during high school. So when a relative gave him two pairs of long johns at a New Jersey layover and said, “Put everything on,” Collins did exactly that. “I was the only one on the plane sweating.”

Collins has since adapted to life in America—and then some. Twenty-three years after landing in Helena, Collins was elected the city’s mayor. The night he won—on a progressive platform against a four-term Republican incumbent—a reporter told him he had made history: No black person, let alone a refugee, had ever won a mayorship in Montana.

Collins has never set out to make history. He simply sees politics as an effective way to help his city. “Whatever I can do to make Helena a better place, I’m going to strive to do that,” he says. First up on the agenda: More firefighters, more police, more affordable housing. “This community picked me up when I was at my lowest point. This community did not shy away from me. The only thing I can do to say, Thank you, is to keep serving.”

Collins gives frequent talks—often many in a week—detailing just how carefully refugees are screened; his own application took 31 months. “For me, it is very important to explain to people,” he says.

Prior to assuming office, Collins worked as a child protection officer for the state, and as a teacher and a Veterans Affairs administrator. He has been a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve for 22 years, and has completed his doctoral coursework in forensic psychology. His wife, a nurse for the VA, serves in the Army Reserve. His son graduates from college this year. His daughter is on active duty with the U.S. Navy in the Middle East. “We’re service oriented,” says Collins. “Because this country has given so much to my family and other refugees.”

For more city, district, and state-level data, visit MapTheImpact.org and explore our interactive map.



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2011 and 2016 and figures refer to the Western Montana region that includes Missoula, Sanders, Mineral, Lake, and Ravalli counties.
- 2 Except where otherwise noted, we define an immigrant as anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is living here and counted by the census. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, temporary visa holders, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
- 3 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2016 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.
- 4 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 5 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 6 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.
- 7 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 8 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." New American Economy.
- 9 Data on total student enrollment in the region 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.
- 10 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 11 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."