Refugees in Pennsylvania

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Refugees



Refugees have an enduring legacy on the American communities they have come to call home, and cities and towns across the United States have seen firsthand the significant positive economic impact that has come with resettling this population. Refugees have entrepreneurship and homeownership rates that far exceed that of other immigrants. Many aging and once declining communities—from Utica, New York to St. Louis, Missouri—have credited young, entrepreneurial refugees with reinvigorating their local economy and commercial main streets.

POPULATION

68,333

Number of likely refugees in Pennsylvania in 2015

Top Five Countries of Origin of Refugees Resettled Between 2016 - 2018

1. DRC	18.8%
3. Bhutan	. 18.1%
4. Somalia	.8.2%
5. Ukraine	. 7.3%

Between 2016 - 2018 a total of

5,938

refugees were resettled in Pennsylvania

Year	Number of refugees resettled	
2016	3617	
2017	1489	
2018	832	

TAXES AND SPENDING POWER IN 2015

\$2.0B

\$1.5B

Refugee Household Income

Total Spending Power

State & Local Taxes Paid	\$173.9M
Federal Taxes Paid	\$356.6M



Total Taxes Paid \$530.5M

UNITED STATES IN 2015...

POPULATION

3.4M

Number of likely refugees

Share of refugees who have been in the U.S. for 16 to 25 years and became citizens



Share of refugees who have been in the U.S. for more than 25 years and became citizens



TAXES & SPENDING POWER

\$77.2B

\$56.3B

Refugee Household Income

Total Spending Power

State & Local Taxes Paid	\$6.4B
Federal Taxes Paid	\$14.5B

Total Taxes Paid

\$20.9B

WORKFORCE

Immigrants and refugees are more likely to be of working age than their counterparts.







Breakdown of Refugees in the Workforce by Industry

Manufacturing	20.3%
Health Care	14.2%
General Services	10.0%
Retail Trade	9.9%
Tourism	8.8%

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Rates of Entreprenuership, 2015

Non-Refugee Immigrants 11.5%

Refugees 13.0%

181,463

Refugee entreprenuers \$4.6B

Business Income of Refugee Entreprenuers