



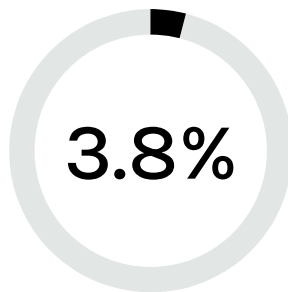
New Americans in the Akron-Canton Region

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants¹ in the Region²

POPULATION

58,400

the number of immigrants living in the Akron-Canton region in Ohio, in 2023.³



Immigrant share of the total population in the region in 2023.

While the total population of the region remained constant between 2018 and 2023, the immigrant population increased from 52,500 to 58,400, or



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



DEMOGRAPHICS



of households⁴ in the Akron-Canton region in 2023 included at least one immigrant.



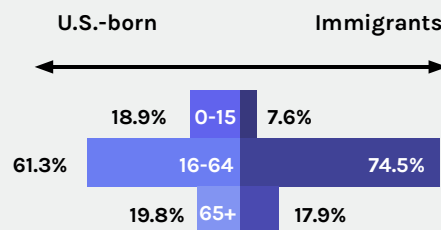
of immigrants in the region were recent arrivals, with five years of residency in the United States or less.



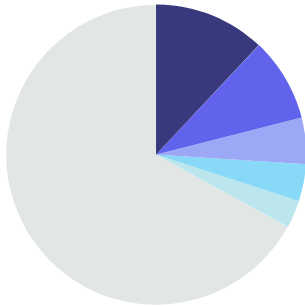
of immigrants in the region had resided in the United States for more than five years.

In the region, immigrants were **21.6% 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.⁵

Share of population by age:⁶



DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)



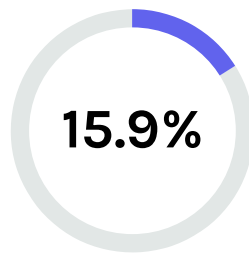
The top languages spoken at home other than English among immigrants in 2023:

- 1 Spanish 11.7%
- 2 Nepali..... 9.3%
- 3 Arabic..... 4.8%
- 4 Chinese..... 4.2%
- 5 Filipino, Tagalog..... 2.6%

IMMIGRANTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

9,200

immigrants living in the Akron-Canton region had limited English language proficiency.



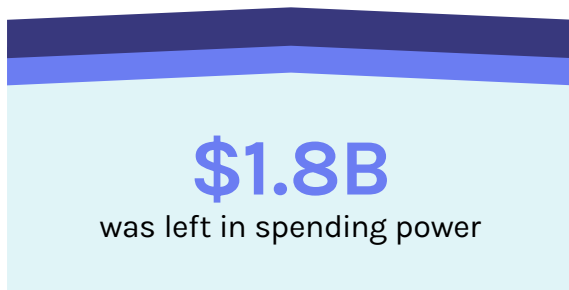
Share of the region's immigrant population who had limited English proficiency.⁷

Among those with limited English language proficiency, the top languages spoken at home other than English were **Nepali** (25.9%) and **Spanish** (18.6%).

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

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

In 2023, immigrant households in the Akron-Canton region earned **\$2.5B**.



In 2023, immigrants in the region contributed **\$5.0 billion** to the region's gross domestic product (GDP), or 5.0% of total GDP for that year.¹⁰

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Immigrants in the region also supported federal social programs. In 2023, they contributed **\$218.8 million to Social Security** and **\$63.4 million to Medicare**.

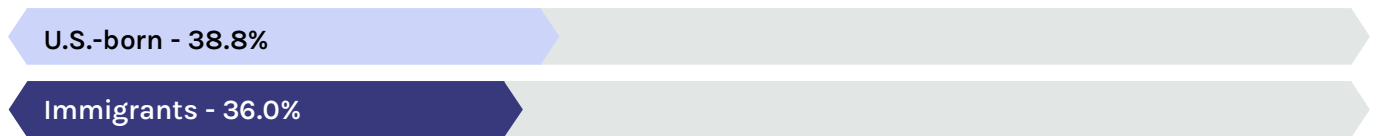
In 2023, about 68.4% of U.S.-born residents had private healthcare coverage, while 38.8% had public healthcare coverage. Approximately 6.1% of U.S.-born residents did not have health insurance.¹¹

In 2023, about 59.7% of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while 36.0% had public healthcare coverage. About 12.8% of immigrants did not have health insurance.

Private healthcare coverage



Public healthcare coverage

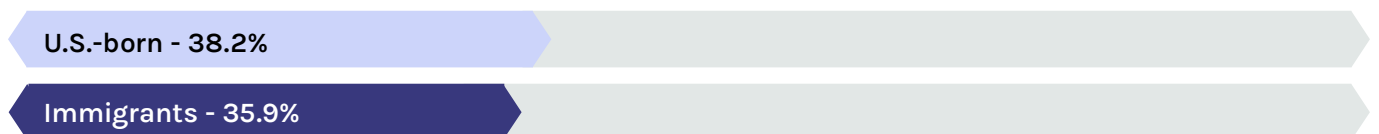


Uninsured



35.9% of immigrants received Medicare or Medicaid in 2023, compared with 38.2% of U.S.-born residents.

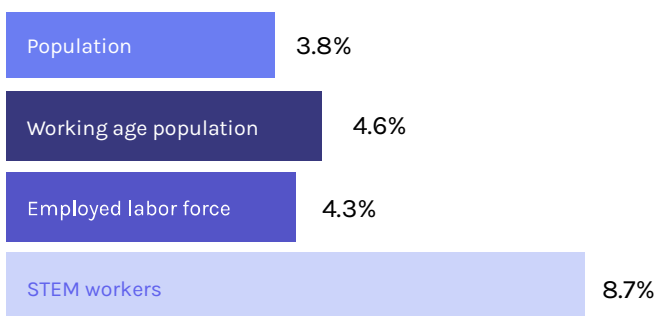
Medicare or Medicaid



WORKFORCE

Although immigrants made up 3.8% of the Akron-Canton region's total population in 2023, they represented 4.6% of its working age population, 4.3% of its employed labor force, and 8.7% of its workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.¹²

Immigrant shares of the...



Immigrants play a critical role in our workforce by helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil. Our research shows that immigrants living in the Akron-Canton region helped create or preserve approximately **2,700 manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise been eliminated or moved elsewhere by 2023.¹⁵

Immigrants in the region were

21.6%

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

Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the region. The immigrant share of workers was highest in the following industries:

1. Manufacturing - 6.0%
2. Transportation and Warehousing - 5.9%
3. General Services¹³ - 5.6%
4. Education - 5.0%
5. Professional Services¹⁴ - 4.5%
6. Hospitality - 4.4%
7. Health Care and Social Assistance - 3.7%
8. Construction - 3.1%
9. Retail Trade - 2.9%
10. Finance - 2.6%

Immigrant workers were concentrated in the following occupations:

1. Hand Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers - 3.8%
2. Postsecondary Teachers - 3.5%
3. Miscellaneous Production Workers, including Equipment Operators and Tenders - 3.2%
4. Other Managers - 2.8%

Spotlight: Job Demand in Akron-Canton in 2024

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 region’s economy, and helped meet the needs of its fastest growing and most in-demand fields.¹⁶

The top in-demand jobs in the region, by number of job postings, were:

1. Registered Nurses: 11,300
2. Retail Salespersons: 5,600
3. Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers: 4,800
4. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers: 3,500
5. Hand Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers: 3,300

The top in-demand industries in the region, by number of job postings were:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance: 30,800
2. Administrative and Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services: 24,000
3. Retail Trade: 18,400
4. Manufacturing: 14,800
5. Accommodation and Food Services: 8,700

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

The top five industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers by number of job postings:¹⁷

1. Retail Trade
2. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
3. Manufacturing
4. Finance and Insurance
5. Health Care and Social Assistance

The top five occupations with the highest demand for bilingual workers by number of job postings:

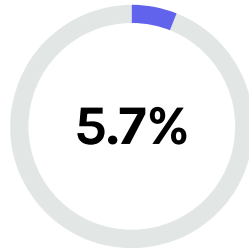
1. Retail Salespersons
2. Customer Service Representatives
3. Interpreters and Translators
4. Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education
5. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2023, 3,800 immigrant entrepreneurs generated

\$166.9M

in business income in the Akron-Canton region.



Immigrants represented 5.7% of the business owners in the region despite making up **3.8%** of the population

Immigrants were

35.9%

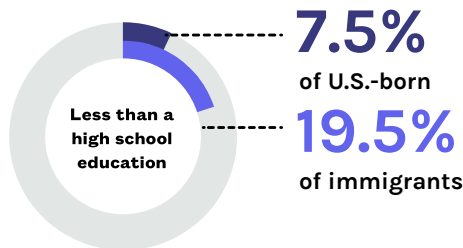
more likely to be an entrepreneur than their U.S.-born counterparts.



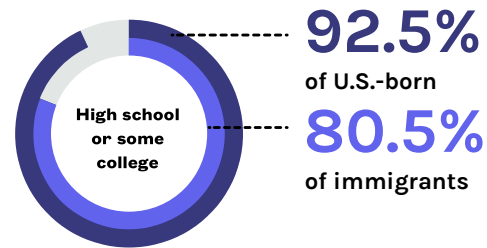
11.8% of immigrants worked for their own businesses, while **8.7%** of the U.S.-born population were entrepreneurs.¹⁸

EDUCATION

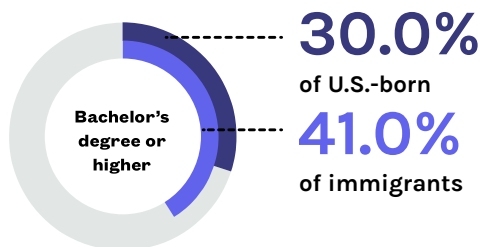
Share of the region's population aged 25 or above with **less than a high school education** in 2023:



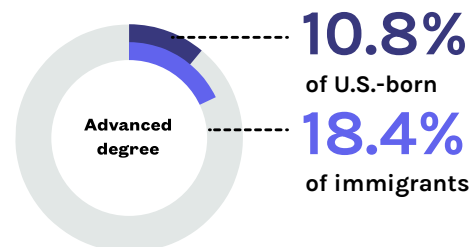
Share of the region's population aged 25 or above with **at least a high school education or some college** in 2023:



Share of the region's population aged 25 or above with **a bachelor's degree or higher** in 2023:



Share of the region's population aged 25 or above with **an advanced degree** in 2023:



SPOTLIGHT

University Population

In fall 2023, 3,089 students¹⁹ enrolled in colleges and universities in the Akron-Canton region were temporary U.S. residents.²⁰

The universities with the largest international student populations were:

1. Kent State University at Kent (2,076 international students)
2. University of Akron Main Campus (522 international students)
3. The College of Wooster (266 international students)

The breakdown of international students is as follows:

1. 1,130 full-time undergraduate students
2. 1,546 full-time graduate students
3. 216 part-time undergraduate students
4. 197 part-time graduate students

In the 2022-2023 academic year, 213 bachelor's and advanced degrees were awarded to international students with a primary major in a STEM field, and 4 degrees were awarded to international students with a secondary major in a STEM field.

International students supported 849 jobs in the region and these students contributed \$104.7 million in spending to the region during the 2023-24 academic year through tuition, housing, goods and services, and entertainment purchases.²¹

HOUSING

In 2023,

59.7%

of immigrant households in the region owned their own homes, compared to **71.4%** of U.S.-born households.

In 2023, the total property value of immigrant households was

\$4.5B

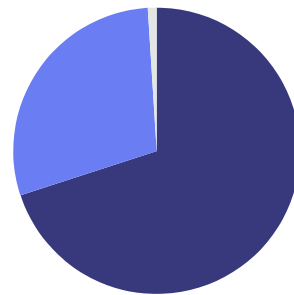
In 2023,

40.3%

of immigrant households in the region were renters. Their total annual rent paid was

\$102.5M

Immigrants in the Akron-Canton region live in...



- Houses (17,100, or **70.5%**)
- Apartments (6,900, or **28.5%**)
- Other types of housing²² (8,600, or **1.0%**)

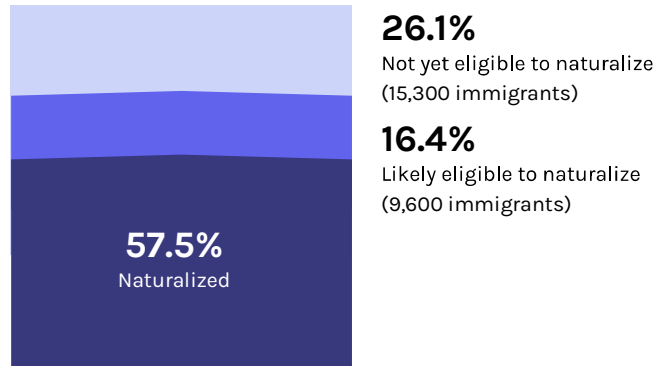
NATURALIZATION

In 2023,

57.5%

of immigrants in the Akron-Canton region were naturalized U.S. citizens.²³ This represents a total of 33,600 immigrants.

Naturalization rate in the Akron-Canton region in 2023



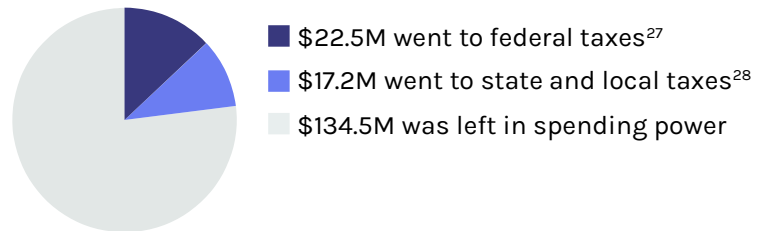
REFUGEES

5,900 immigrants, or 10.1% of the immigrant population in the Akron-Canton region, were likely refugees²⁴ in 2023.²⁵

81.4%

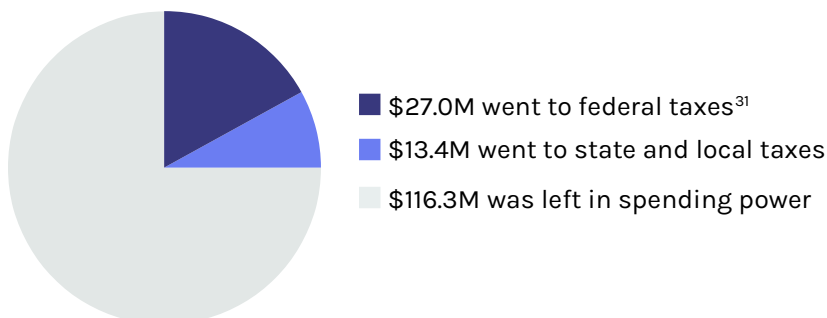
of refugees were naturalized U.S. citizens.

In 2023, refugee households²⁶ in the region earned: **\$174.3M.**



UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

In 2023, undocumented immigrant households³⁰ earned **\$156.7 million.**



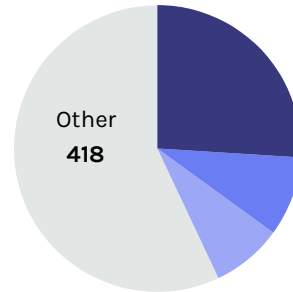
Undocumented immigrant workers were concentrated the most in the **Manufacturing** industry (**30.0%**).

H-1B AND H-2B VISAS

718

H-1B visas were certified²⁹ in the Akron-Canton region during Fiscal Year 2023.

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

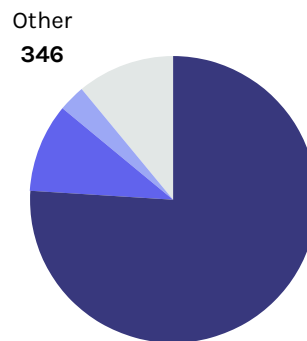


	# of certifications
1 Software Developers	184
2 Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	62
3 Mechanical Engineers	54

935

H-2B visas were certified³⁰ in the Akron-Canton region during Fiscal Year 2023.

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



	# of certifications
1 Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers.....	711
2 Fast Food and Counter Workers	96
3 Helpers - Roofers.....	26

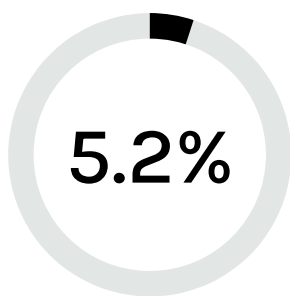
New Americans in the Akron Region

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants³¹ in the Region³²

POPULATION

45,600

the number of immigrants living in the Akron region in Ohio, in 2023.³³



Immigrant share of the total population in the region in 2023.

While the total population of the region increased by 0.1 percent between 2018 and 2023, the immigrant population increased by



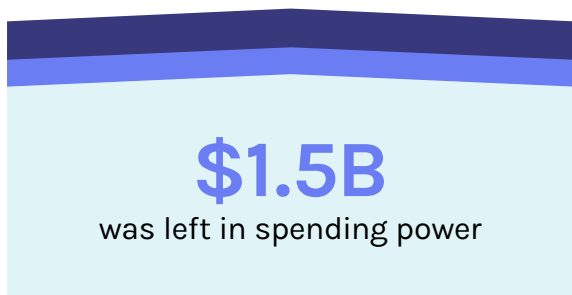
Without immigrants moving to the region, the total population would have decreased by



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 2023, immigrant households³⁴ in the Akron region earned **\$2.0B**.



\$364.7M went to federal taxes³⁵

\$182.7M went to state and local taxes³⁶

This means that immigrant households held **5.6%** of all spending power in the region.

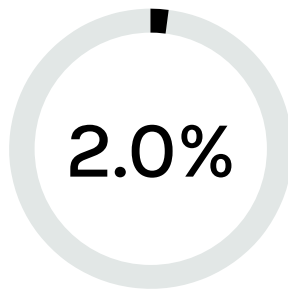
New Americans in the Canton Region

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants³⁷ in the Region³⁸

POPULATION

12,800

the number of immigrants living in the Canton region in Ohio, in 2023.³⁹



Immigrant share of the total population in the region in 2023.

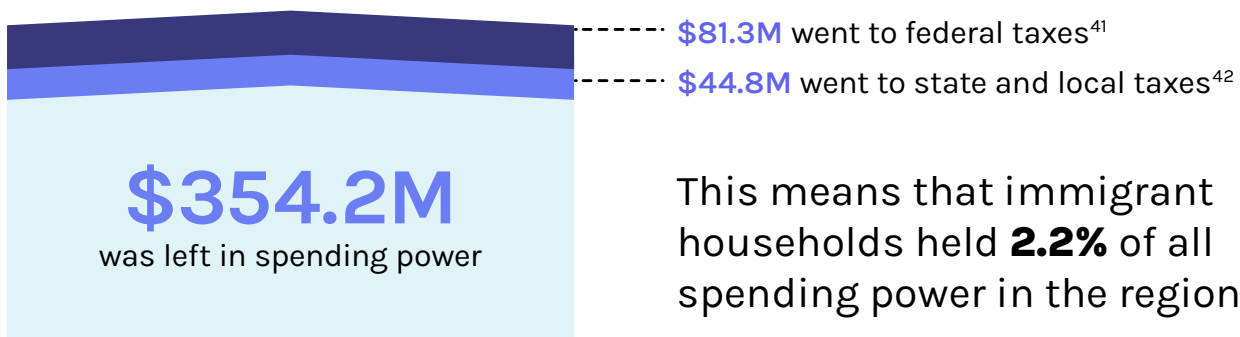
While the total population of the region decreased by -0.2 percent between 2018 and 2023, the immigrant population increased by



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 2023, immigrant households⁴⁰ in the Canton region earned **\$480.3M**.



This means that immigrant households held **2.2%** of all spending power in the region.

ENDNOTES

1. Estimates provided in this report may slightly undercount the immigrant population. The American Community Survey historically under-samples the immigrant population, especially among lower income, more recently arrived, and less English-fluent immigrant populations.
2. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 3-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2016-2018 and 2021-2023 and figures refer to a region defined by Stark, Wayne, Holmes, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Portage, Summit, and Medina counties, Ohio.
3. 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.
4. Immigrant households refer to those with an immigrant as head of the unit.
5. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
6. Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
7. 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 fluently.
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: 2024), <https://itep.org/whopays>.
10. These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 3-year ACS sample from 2023 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
11. Including people who have both public and private healthcare coverage.
12. STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in science, technology, engineering, and/or math.
13. General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
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. Jacob Vigdor, Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market (New York, NY: Americas Society/ Council of the Americas and New American Economy, 2013), <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/revival-of-american-cities.pdf>.
16. Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Accessed on February 7, 2025.
17. Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Accessed on February 7, 2025.
18. 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 region.
19. Data on student enrollment in the region is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics, accessed February 7, 2025.
20. 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: the Association of International Educators. Accessed February 7th, 2025
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. 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>.
24. 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>.

ENDNOTES

25. 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.
26. Refugee households refer to those with a refugee as head of the unit.
27. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
28. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2024), <https://itep.org/whopays>.
29. 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 foreign-born 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>.
30. 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 foreign-born 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>.
31. Estimates provided in this report may slightly undercount the immigrant population. The American Community Survey historically under-samples the immigrant population, especially among lower income, more recently arrived, and less English-fluent immigrant populations.
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42. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2024), <https://itep.org/whopays>.