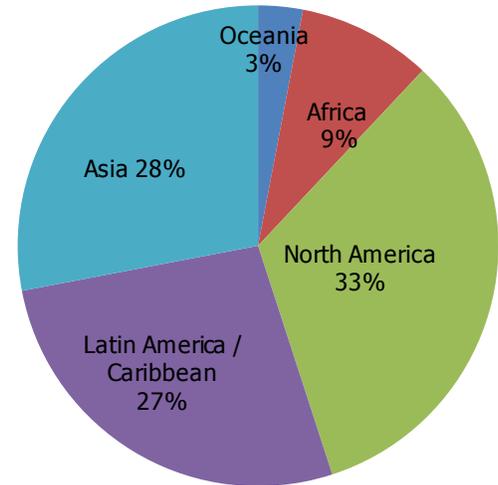


Immigrants are our Commonwealth

The world comes to Massachusetts¹

- More than 1 million immigrants and refugees live in Massachusetts – that’s about **16% percent of our state’s total population**.
- About half of our state’s immigrants and refugees have **arrived since 2000**.
- More than half (52%) are **U.S. citizens**.
- **16% of registered voters in Massachusetts are naturalized immigrants** or the U.S.-born children of immigrants.
- 28% of children in Massachusetts **have at least one immigrant parent**, and **78% of children of immigrants** under age 18 are U.S.-born.
- The top countries of origin for immigrants in Massachusetts are **China, India, Brazil, Portugal, Haiti** and **Cape Verde**, with the **Dominican Republic** and **El Salvador** close behind.

Where immigrants in Mass. come from



Immigrants and refugees strengthen our economy²

- Immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts are **likelier to be of working age** than U.S.-born residents– 71% vs. 51%.
- They’re a significant part of our workforce: **1 in 5 workers** in the Commonwealth was born in another country.
- Immigrants and refugees living in Massachusetts have over **\$27 billion in spending power** each year.
- **65,000 entrepreneurs** in Massachusetts, or 21% of the total, are foreign-born; they **employ over 134,000 people** and generate **\$1.7 billion in business income**.
- 58% of Massachusetts-based **Fortune 500 businesses** were founded by immigrants or their children; those firms generate **\$136.8 billion in annual revenue** and **employ more than 466,000 people** globally.
- Massachusetts immigrant and refugee households **earn \$37 billion** per year and pay **\$6.5 billion in federal** and **\$3 billion in local and state taxes**, plus Social Security and Medicare.

Global residents, global impact

In 2011, MIT earned almost 168 patents. Almost three quarters (72%) of them had at least one foreign-born inventor.

Find more facts about immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts:

<http://www.miracoalition.org/facts>.



Immigrants and refugees strengthen our society

Even as the U.S. population ages, **immigrants are keeping Boston and Massachusetts young and growing**. The median age in Boston is only 32, compared with 38 for the U.S. and 39 for Massachusetts.³ Three quarters (73%) of the state's net population growth in 2000–2015 involved foreign-born people.⁴ Immigrants and refugees also keep our **knowledge-based economy thriving**; without them, there would be an ever bigger shortage of STEM and healthcare professionals in the Commonwealth.⁵

Immigrants make cities safer

Study after study shows that **immigration is associated with lower crime rates** in major U.S. cities.⁶ Immigrants have significantly **lower rates of incarceration** than U.S. citizens: 0.47% for documented immigrants vs. 1.53% for U.S. citizens; the rate for undocumented immigrants is 0.85%, or 0.5% if immigration-related detentions are excluded.⁷

Undocumented immigrants are a vital part of our economy⁸

Most undocumented immigrants are in the U.S. to work and support their families. They very often **pay taxes**, but they are barred from obtaining the public benefits programs that their tax dollars support, such as Social Security and Medicare.

Undocumented immigrants work throughout our economic sectors, including high-skilled and STEM jobs. More than 13,000 business owners in Massachusetts are undocumented.

If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Massachusetts, the state would lose \$9 billion, or 2% of our GDP, and about 55,000 jobs.

Undocumented immigrants pay taxes

Undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts paid \$197 million in state and local taxes in 2012.

Immigrants make our Commonwealth stronger!

All data accurate as of May 1, 2017. Data sources:

¹ Migration Policy Institute, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/MA>. Percent of children of immigrants who are U.S.-born is from <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/children-immigrant-families>.

² The Partnership for a New American Economy, 2017, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>.

³ *The Importance of Immigrants to Boston's Continued Prosperity*, presentation by Alvaro Lima, Director of Research, Boston Planning & Development Agency, at a Boston Foundation forum, April 2017. http://www.tbf.org/videos/2017/april/~media/TBFOrg/Files/Forum%20materials/Importance%20of%20Immigrants%204_19_17.pdf.

⁴ Migration Policy Institute, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/MA>.

⁵ The Partnership for a New American Economy, 2017, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>.

⁶ <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/fact-check-immigration-doesnt-bring-crime-u-s-data-say/>

⁷ Cato Institute, 2017, <https://www.cato.org/blog/immigration-myths-crime-number-illegal-immigrants>.

⁸ Center for American Progress, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/09/21/143408/removing-unauthorized-workers-harms-states-and-industries-across-the-country/>; Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, http://itep.org/itep_reports/2017/03/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2.php#.WNqAyG_yvGg.

