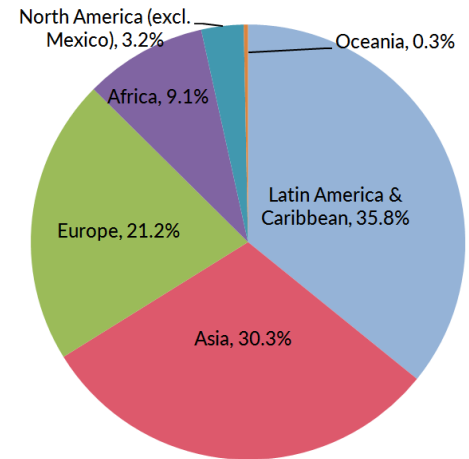


## Immigrants are our Commonwealth

### The world comes to Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>

- 1 in 6 Massachusetts residents is foreign-born: 1.1 million people, or **16% percent** of the population; another 1 in 7 are U.S.-born but have at least one foreign-born parent.
- Nearly half of our state's immigrants and refugees (48%) have **arrived since 2000** – and 1 in 5 since 2010.
- More than half (52%) are **naturalized U.S. citizens**.
- 28.5% of children in Massachusetts **have at least one immigrant parent**, and **80% of children of immigrants** under 18 are U.S.-born.
- The top countries of origin for immigrants in Massachusetts include **China, India, Brazil, Portugal, Haiti, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, El Salvador and Canada**.
- The most immigrant-rich communities in Massachusetts are Chelsea (44%), Malden (43%), Everett (41%), Lawrence (37%), Revere (35%), Lynn (32%), and Randolph (30%).



### Immigrants and refugees strengthen our economy<sup>2</sup>

- 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.
- Mass. immigrant and refugee households **earn \$37 billion a year** and pay **\$6.5 billion in federal** and **\$3 billion in local and state taxes**, plus Social Security and Medicare.
- **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.
- 27% of science, technology, engineering and medicine (STEM) jobs in Massachusetts – a major economic driver – are held by immigrants; in addition, 30.5% of STEM master's students and 36% of STEM Ph.D. students are foreign nationals.
- Immigrants play a key role in a **wide range of occupations**: they're 59% of medical and life scientists, 42% of physical scientists, 44% of chefs and head cooks, and 65% of custodial staff.

#### The world's inventors thrive in Mass.

MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) leads the U.S. in patents, with 168 in 2011 alone – and 72% of those were by foreign-born inventors.

**Find more facts about immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts:**  
[www.miracoalition.org/facts](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.<sup>3</sup>

Three quarters (73%) of the state's net population growth in 2000–2015 involved foreign-born people.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

## Undocumented immigrants are a vital part of our economy<sup>6</sup>

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's economy would lose **\$9 billion**, or 2% of our GDP, and about 55,000 jobs.

### Undocumented immigrants pay state and local taxes

Along with federal taxes, in 2015, undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts paid an estimated \$81.8 million in sales and excise taxes, \$42.5 million in personal income tax, and \$60.3 million in local property taxes.

## Immigrants are law-abiding people

Several studies have shown that immigration is associated with lower crime rates in major U.S. cities.<sup>7</sup>

Immigrants also 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.<sup>8</sup>

# Immigrants make our Commonwealth stronger!

*Note: This factsheet was last updated on Oct. 17, 2017.*

<sup>1</sup> Most data here are taken from the Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/MA>, supplemented by the American Immigration Council, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-massachusetts>, and city-by-city data from the U.S. Census Bureau, [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

<sup>2</sup> The Partnership for a New American Economy, 2017, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>. Source for box: Mass. Technology Leadership Council, <http://www.masstlc.org/immigration>.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.tbf.org/videos/2017/april/~media/TBFOrg/Files/Forum%20materials/Importance%20of%20Immigrants%204_19_17.pdf).

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Center for American Progress, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/09/21/143408/removingunauthorized-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](http://itep.org/itep_reports/2017/03/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2.php#.WNqAyG_yvGg).

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/fact-check-immigration-doesnt-bring-crime-u-s-data-say/>.

<sup>8</sup> Cato Institute, 2017, <https://www.cato.org/blog/immigration-myths-crime-number-illegal-immigrants>.

