

Immigrants are our Commonwealth



Immigrants bring diversity to Massachusetts¹

Immigrants bring a diverse range of skills to the United States, contributing to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the country. Immigrants in the United States bring **cultural diversity, multilingualism, entrepreneurship, educational drive, and a strong work ethic.**

Immigrants in Massachusetts total 1.2 million (over 18%) of the state's population, or about **1 in every 6 residents.** An estimated 23,736 of Massachusetts immigrants are naturalized citizens.² The top countries of origin of immigrants in Massachusetts are Brazil (9.7%), China (7.7%), Dominican Republic (7.7%), India (6.9%), and Haiti (4.7%).

Immigrants are vital to Massachusetts' economy and key industries

Immigrants make up a significant proportion of Massachusetts' workforce, with **1 in 5 workers being an immigrant.** Massachusetts' immigrant population tends to be college educated with approximately **41.4% of immigrants in Massachusetts have a bachelor's degree or higher.**³

The top 3 industries of immigrant workers in MA in 2024 were educational and social services (26.8%), professional, scientific, and management services (17.2%), and manufacturing (11%).³ Immigrant business owners make a significant contribution to Massachusetts' economy. Our 91,400 immigrant entrepreneurs in the state **generate \$3.1B in business income.**

Nationally, 231 of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or children of immigrants. Massachusetts is home to 17 of the Fortune 500 companies, including 8 founded by immigrants or children of immigrants: General Electric, TJX Companies (T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods), Thermo Fisher Scientific, Moderna, Global Partners, Boston Scientific, Wayfair, and Biogen.⁴

Immigrants strengthen our economy

International immigration in Massachusetts no longer offsets domestic out-migration. Massachusetts faced significant outmigration, ranking fourth in the nation with 57,000 residents leaving in 2022. The largest group of those who moved out were individuals aged 26 to 35. During this period, **the state lost approximately \$4.3 billion in adjusted gross income.** In the same year, international immigration rebounded after a four-year decline, with 43,880 new immigrants in Massachusetts.⁵



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Immigrants have significant spending power

In 2023, immigrants in Massachusetts had **\$51.8 billion in spending power**, with refugees and temporary protected status holders having \$2.5B and \$463.5M in spending power, respectively.

Additionally, immigrant-led households paid an estimated \$5.7 billion in rent. With 281,000 immigrant homeowners in Massachusetts, there is an approximate **\$200.6B in housing wealth** held by immigrant households.

Immigrants contribute to our tax revenue

In 2023, immigrants in Massachusetts paid a total of **\$20.4B in taxes**, of which \$13.8B went to federal taxes and \$6.6B went to state and local taxes. In 2022, **undocumented immigrants contributed \$649.8 million in state taxes**.⁶

Immigrants contribute to our safety net

In 2023, immigrants in Massachusetts **contributed \$6.8B to Social Security and \$1.9B to Medicare**. This is so even though immigrants are often ineligible for public benefits.

Immigrants have strong voting power

In 2024, approximately **683,507 immigrants in Massachusetts were naturalized citizens eligible to vote** in federal and state elections.⁷ As of August 2024, there are approximately **340,641 green card holders who are eligible to become U.S. citizens**.⁸



Note: This fact sheet was last updated in March 2026.

1. Unless otherwise noted, data in this factsheet was gathered from American Immigration Council, <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/massachusetts/#>
2. *Naturalization Statistics | USCIS*. 24 Jan. 2025, <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/naturalization-statistics>.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry Into the United States." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables*, Table S0502, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2024.S0502?q=Massachusetts+immigrants>. Accessed on 1 Mar 2026.
4. "Nearly Half of Fortune 500 Companies in 2025 Were Founded by Immigrants or Their Children." *American Immigration Council*, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/report/fortune-500-companies-founded-by-immigrants-2025/>. Accessed 1 Mar. 2026.
5. *Update: Massachusetts' Demographic Trends Threaten our Talent Pipeline and Economic Strength*. (2023, December). Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.masstaxpayers.org/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11/MTF%20Demographics%20Update.pdf>
6. Davis, Carl, et al. *Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants*. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 2024, <https://sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/itep/ITEP-Tax-Payments-by-Undocumented-Immigrants-2024.pdf>.
7. U.S. Census Bureau. "Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables*, Table B05001, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2024.B05001?t=Native+and+Foreign-Born&g=010XX00US_040XX00US25. Accessed on 2 Mar 2026.
8. *Eligible to Naturalize Dashboard | USCIS*. 12 Aug. 2024, <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/eligible-to-naturalize-dashboard>.