

January 2012

**NEW AMERICANS IN MARYLAND:
The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians
in the Old Line State**

Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians account for growing shares of the economy and electorate in Maryland. Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up roughly 1 in 7 Marylanders, and nearly half of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. “New Americans”—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account for 1 in 10 registered voters in the state. Immigrants are not only integral to the state’s economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$26.4 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$15.6 billion and employed more than 96,000 people at last count. As high-skilled workers, immigrants accounted for more than one-quarter of all scientists in the state, and more than one-fifth of all health care practitioners. At a time when the economy is in a slump, Maryland can ill-afford to alienate such a critical component of its labor force, tax base, and business community.

Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Maryland’s population and electorate.

- **The foreign-born share** of Maryland’s population rose from 6.6% in [1990](#),¹ to 9.8% in [2000](#),² to 13.9% in [2010](#),³ according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Maryland was home to 803,695 immigrants in [2010](#),⁴ which is nearly the total population of [San Francisco, California](#).⁵
- **44.9% of immigrants (or 360,932 people) in Maryland were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2010](#)**⁶—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **10.4% (or 294,065) of registered voters** in Maryland were “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2008 Census Bureau data by [Rob Paral & Associates](#).⁷

Roughly 1 in 7 Marylanders are Latino or Asian.

- **The Latino share of Maryland’s population** grew from 2.6% in [1990](#),⁸ to 4.3% in [2000](#),⁹ to 8.2% (or 474,451 people) in [2010](#).¹⁰ **The Asian share of the population** grew from 2.9% in [1990](#),¹¹ to 4.0% in [2000](#),¹² to 5.5% (or 318,229 people) in [2010](#),¹³ according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Latinos accounted for 3.5% (or 91,000) of Maryland voters** in the 2008 elections, and Asians 2.4% (62,000), according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).¹⁴

- In Maryland, **87.1% of children with immigrant parents were U.S. citizens** in [2009](#), according to data from the Urban Institute.¹⁵
- In [2009](#), **85.1% of children in Asian families** in Maryland were U.S. citizens, as were **89.6% of children in Latino families**.¹⁶

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Maryland's economy.

- **The 2010 purchasing power of Latinos in Maryland totaled \$13 billion**—an increase of 627.7% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$13.4 billion**—an increase of 427% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) at the University of Georgia.¹⁷
- Maryland's 35,881 **Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$11.3 billion and employed 71,408 people** in 2007, the last year for which data is available.¹⁸ The state's 25,774 **Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$4.3 billion and employed 25,019 people** in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.¹⁹

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Immigrants comprised **17.9% of the state's workforce** in [2010](#) (or 572,584 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.²⁰
- **Immigrants accounted for 9% of total economic output in the Baltimore metropolitan area** as of 2007, according to a study by the [Fiscal Policy Institute](#).²¹
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised **6.2% of the state's workforce** (or 190,000 workers) in [2010](#), according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.²²
- **Immigrants were 1 in 3 workers** in Montgomery County, **1 in 4 workers** in Prince George's County, and **1 in 5 workers** in Howard County in [2006](#),²³ according a study by the Urban Institute.
- Roughly **27% of all scientists in Maryland were foreign-born in 2006**, as were **21% of health-care practitioners**, and **19% of mathematicians and computer specialists**, according to the [same study](#).²⁴
- Immigrant households paid **18% (or \$4.0 billion) of all taxes collected in Maryland in 2000**, according to a study by the Urban Institute.²⁵ This included:
 - \$2.9 billion in federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes.
 - \$562 million in state income, sales, and auto taxes.
 - \$536 million in local property, income, sales, auto, and utility taxes.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Maryland, **the state would lose \$15.3 billion in economic activity, \$6.8 billion in gross state product, and approximately 73,267 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#).²⁶

Unauthorized immigrants pay taxes.

- Unauthorized immigrants in Maryland paid **\$275.2 million** in state and local taxes in [2010](#), according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy,²⁷ which includes:
 - \$76 million in state income taxes.
 - \$22.1 million in property taxes.
 - \$177.1 million in sales taxes.

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as students.

- Maryland's 14,498 **foreign students contributed \$419 million** to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2009-2010 academic year, according to the [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#).²⁸

Immigrants excel educationally.

- In Maryland, **46.6% of foreign-born persons** who were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2009](#) **had a bachelor's or higher degree**, compared to 33.3% of noncitizens. At the same time, only 11.9% of naturalized citizens lacked a high-school diploma, compared to 31.5% of noncitizens.²⁹
- The number of immigrants in Maryland with a college degree **increased by 47.3%** between 2000 and 2009, according to [data](#) from the Migration Policy Institute.³⁰
- **39.8% of Maryland's foreign-born population** age 25 and older **had a bachelor's or higher degree** in [2009](#), compared to 34.9% of native-born persons age 25 and older.³¹
- In Maryland, **87.1% of children with immigrant parents** were considered "English proficient" as of [2009](#), according to data from the Urban Institute.³²
- The English proficiency rate among **Asian children in Maryland was 85%**, while for **Latino children it was 84.5%**, as of [2009](#).³³

Endnotes

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Foreign-Born Population: 2000](#), December 2003.

² Ibid.

³ 2010 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Rob Paral and Associates, [The New American Electorate: The Growing Political Power of Immigrants and Their Children](#) (Washington, DC: Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation, October 2010).

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Hispanic Population: 2000](#), May 2001.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ 2010 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Asian Population: 2000](#), February 2002.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ 2010 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

¹⁴ U.S. Electoral College, [2008 Presidential Election: Popular Vote Totals](#).

¹⁵ [The Urban Institute](#), data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.

¹⁶ Ibid.

-
- ¹⁷ Jeffrey M. Humphreys, *The Multicultural Economy 2010* (Athens, GA: Selig Center for Economic Growth, University of Georgia, 2010).
- ¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, *Estimates of Business Ownership by Gender, Ethnicity, Race, and Veteran Status: 2007*, June 2011.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ 2010 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- ²¹ David Dyssegaard Kallick, *Immigrants in the Economy: Contribution of Immigrant Workers to the Country's 25 Largest Metropolitan Areas* (New York, NY: Fiscal Policy Institute, December 2009), p. 11.
- ²² Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, *Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, February 1, 2011), p. 24.
- ²³ Randy Capps and Karina Fortuny, *The Integration of Immigrants in Maryland's Growing Economy* (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, March 2008).
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Randy Capps, Everett Henderson, Jeffrey S. Passel, and Michael Fix, *Civic Contributions: Taxes Paid by Immigrants in the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area* (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, May 2006).
- ²⁶ The Perryman Group, *An Essential Resource: An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Undocumented Workers on Business Activity in the US with Estimated Effects by State and by Industry* (Waco, TX: April 2008), p. 69.
- ²⁷ The Immigration Policy Center, *Unauthorized Immigrants Pay Taxes, Too* (Washington, DC: April 2011).
- ²⁸ NAFSA: Association of International Educators, *The Economic Benefits of International Education to the United States for the 2009-2010 Academic Year: A Statistical Analysis* (Washington, DC: NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 2010).
- ²⁹ Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, *Maryland: Language & Education*.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² *The Urban Institute*, data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.
- ³³ Ibid.