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**NEW AMERICANS IN NORTH DAKOTA:
The Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in the Peace Garden State**

Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians account for growing shares of North Dakota's population and economy. Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up 2.5% of the state's population, and nearly two-fifths of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. Immigrants not only contribute to the state's economy as workers, but also account for millions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$745.3 million in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$171.8 million and employed more than 2,100 people at last count. At a time when the economy is in a slump, North Dakota would be ill-advised to alienate a significant component of its tax base and business community.

Immigrants and their children are growing shares of North Dakota's population.

- **The foreign-born share** of North Dakota's population rose from 1.5% in [1990](#),¹ to 1.9% in [2000](#),² to 2.5% in [2010](#),³ according to the U.S. Census Bureau. North Dakota was home to 16,639 immigrants in [2010](#).⁴
- **37.2% of immigrants (or 6,190 people) in North Dakota were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2010](#)**⁵—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **1.1% (or 4,384) of registered voters** in North Dakota 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](#).⁶

More than 20,000 North Dakotans are Latino or Asian.

- **The Latino share of North Dakota's population** grew from 0.7% in [1990](#),⁷ to 1.2% in [2000](#),⁸ to 2.0% (or 13,467 people) in [2010](#).⁹ **The Asian share of the population** grew from 0.5% in [1990](#),¹⁰ to 0.6% in [2000](#),¹¹ to 1.0% (or 6,909 people) in [2010](#),¹² according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- In North Dakota, **80.9% of children with immigrant parents were U.S. citizens in [2009](#)**, according to data from the Urban Institute.¹³

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs to North Dakota's economy.

- **The 2010 purchasing power of Latinos in North Dakota totaled \$423.2 million**—an increase of 1,209.1% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$322.1 million**—an increase of 711.9% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) at the University of Georgia.¹⁴
- North Dakota's 287 **Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$20.5 million and employed 651 people** in 2007, the last year for which data is available.¹⁵ The state's 412 **Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$151.3 million and employed 1,469 people** in 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.¹⁶

Immigrants are important to North Dakota's economy as workers.

- Immigrants comprised **2.5% of the state's workforce** in [2008](#) (or 9,129 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.¹⁷

Unauthorized immigrants contribute to North Dakota's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Unauthorized immigrants comprised less than **0.5% of the state's workforce** (or fewer than 10,000 workers) in [2010](#), according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.¹⁸
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from North Dakota, **the state would lose \$55.1 million in economic activity, \$24.5 million in gross state product, and approximately 360 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#).¹⁹

Immigrants contribute to North Dakota's economy as students.

- North Dakota's 2,884 **foreign students contributed \$57.4 million** to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2009-2010 academic year, according to [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#).²⁰

Immigrants excel educationally.

- The number of immigrants in North Dakota with a college degree **increased by 18.9%** between 2000 and 2009, according to [data](#) from the Migration Policy Institute.²¹
- In [2009](#), **31.5% of North Dakota's foreign-born population** age 25 and older had a bachelor's or higher degree, **compared to 25.6% of native-born persons** above age 25.²²
- In North Dakota, **77.8% of children with immigrant parents** were considered "English proficient" as of [2009](#),²³ according to data from the Urban Institute.

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.

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- ⁶ 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).
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, [*The Hispanic Population: 2000*](#), May 2001.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ 2010 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- ¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, [*The Asian Population: 2000*](#), February 2002.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² 2010 Census Summary File 1.
- ¹³ [The Urban Institute](#), data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.
- ¹⁴ Jeffrey M. Humphreys, [*The Multicultural Economy 2010*](#) (Athens, GA: Selig Center for Economic Growth, University of Georgia, 2010).
- ¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, [*Estimates of Business Ownership by Gender, Ethnicity, Race, and Veteran Status: 2007*](#), June, 2011.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ 2008 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).
- ¹⁸ 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.
- ¹⁹ 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.
- ²⁰ 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).
- ²¹ Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, [North Dakota: Language & Education](#).
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ [The Urban Institute](#), data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.