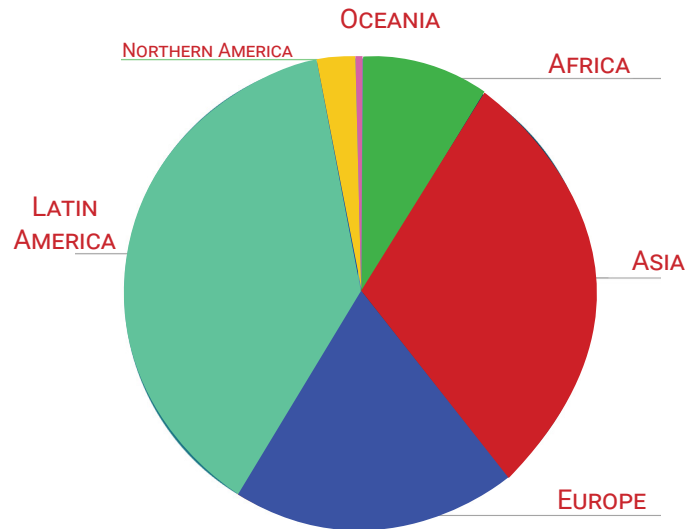




Immigrants are our Commonwealth

THE WORLD COMES TO MASSACHUSETTS¹

- More than **one-sixth** of Massachusetts residents are foreign-born: almost **1.2 million people**, or **17.4%** of the population.
- **More than half (53.7%)** of the foreign-born population are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **32.3%** of children in Massachusetts have at least one foreign-born parent and **84%** of children of immigrants in Massachusetts are U.S.-born.
- Massachusetts' foreign-born population is particularly diverse. The top countries of origin for immigrants here include **China, Brazil, India, Portugal, Haiti, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, El Salvador and Canada.**
- The most immigrant-rich communities in Massachusetts are **Chelsea (45%), Malden (43%), Everett (43%), Lawrence (41%), Revere (39%), Lynn (37%), Quincy (33%) and Randolph (32%).**



IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY²

- Immigrants are 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 **\$36.4 billion** in spending power.
- Immigrant and refugee households in Massachusetts earn **\$51.5 billion** a year and pay **\$10.6 billion** in federal and **\$4.5 billion** in local and state taxes, plus Social Security and Medicare.
- There are **71,372 immigrant entrepreneurs** in Massachusetts; they employ more than **168,790 people** and generate **\$2.3 billion** in business income. In addition, **58%** of Massachusetts-based Fortune 500 businesses were founded by immigrants or their children.³
- Immigrants are employed in a wide range of industries in Massachusetts. Immigrants make up **56%** of workers in building and dwelling services, **52%** in private households, **51%** in taxi and limousine services, **49%** in traveler accommodation, **43%** in personal care services, **27%** in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), **37%** of health aids and **14.5%** of nurses.
- Frontline workers in Massachusetts are more likely to be immigrants. **23%** of all frontline workers, including health care workers, in Massachusetts are foreign-born. For example, people who work in building services – janitors and cleaners – are almost **three times** as likely to be foreign born as workers overall in Massachusetts. These workers are also **three times** as likely to not have health insurance.⁴



UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE VITAL TO OUR ECONOMY AND OUR COMMUNITIES

- There are an estimated **215,000 undocumented immigrants** in Massachusetts.⁵
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the foreign-born population in Massachusetts was more likely to be employed than the U.S.-born population.⁶ **87.4%** of undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts are of working age and there are **9,829 undocumented entrepreneurs** in the state.
- Mixed status households earn **\$5.8 billion in income**. Undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts pay **\$252.5 million** in state and local taxes and **\$593.6 million** in federal taxes. Their total spending power in the Commonwealth is **\$4.9 billion**.⁷
- Undocumented immigrants are most likely to work in accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment, and recreation; professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management service; construction; health services and social assistance; or manufacturing.

DACA AND TPS ARE ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

- There are **5,490** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients⁸ and **17,069** Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders⁹ in Massachusetts. Because of these programs, they are able to receive work permits and contribute to our economy.
- Massachusetts DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$20.1 million in state and local taxes in 2018.¹⁰
- With DACA's reinstatement, **more than 15,000** Massachusetts residents could be immediately eligible for enrollment.¹⁰

FIND MORE FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN MASSACHUSETTS: WWW.MIRACOALITION.ORG/FACTS

NOTE: THIS FACT SHEET WAS LAST UPDATED IN JANUARY 2021.

¹ 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

² Most data from <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>

³ <https://www.masstlc.org/immigration/>

⁴ https://www.bostonindicators.org/article-pages/2020/april/frontline_workers

⁵ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/MA>

⁶ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/forbrn.nr0.htm/labor-force-characteristics-of-foreign-born-workers-summary>

⁷ <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>

⁸ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

⁹ <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/RS20844.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

¹¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-massachusetts>

