The World Comes to Massachusetts

• 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 Economy

• 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.

• 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.
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) recipients** and **17,069 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders** 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

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

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