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- 1 Unless noted otherwise, all figures reported in this document are based on tabulations made by the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), at the University of Southern California, of 2008-2010 pooled American Communities Survey data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2010.
- 2 Meyers, Dowell. (2008). Immigrants' Contributions in an Aging America. *Communities & Banking*, 19(3): Retrieved from: http://csii.usc.edu/documents/myers_immigrants_contribution.pdf
- 3 These figures are based on immigrants and children of immigrants who live in the same household, thus they likely understate the share of the overall state population that is made up of first and second generation immigrants.
- 4 Use of the term "Asian" here and throughout refers to both Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- 5 Only detailed occupations with a large enough sample size for reasonable statistical reliability are reported. Thus, there may be other detailed occupations in each sector in which immigrants are equally or, in some cases, more highly represented than those listed, but that were not reported on due to a small sample.
- 6 An unskilled job is defined as an occupation that requires no more than a high school diploma (or equivalent), no work experience in a related occupation, and no more than moderate on-the-job training as described by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved from: http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_112.htm

- 7 Information on contributions to California's GDP was determined using averaged industry-specific GDP information over the same period (2008-2010) for California from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. These figures were applied to the percentages of immigrant workforce in each industry as found using ACS data. After the immigrant contributions per sector were found, the figures were aggregated to the state level. Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2011). *Gross Domestic Product by State*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bea.gov/regional/gsp/>.
- 8 Fortune/CNN Money: Retrieved from: http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2011/full_list/
- 9 Numbers of immigrants eligible to naturalize are based on CSII analysis of data from the Office of Immigration Statistics on all Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) attaining status between 1985 and 2010. All such LPRs that attained status in 2005 or earlier and had not naturalized as of 2010 are considered to be eligible to naturalize, while those attaining status between 2006 and 2010 are considered to be eligible to naturalize within five years. There are important limitations to these data such that they are more useful for making relative comparisons between counties and regions than for assessing absolute numbers.
- 10 Pantoja, Adrian; Ramirez, Ricardo; Segura, Gary. (2001). Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos. *Political Research Quarterly*, 54(4).
- 11 This information is from the 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year estimates, retrieved directly from American FactFinder online at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. In the list of cities reported, East Los Angeles is actually not a city but something referred to in the census as a Census Designated Place (CDP), which is an unincorporated area that is identifiable by name and has a concentration of housing and population.

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LOOKING FORWARD

IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOLDEN STATE



The following information about immigrants in California was drawn from recent research and presents a summary of key facts about our state's newcomer population.

According to the 2008-2010 American Community Survey, more than one quarter (27%) of California residents are immigrants, a rate higher than any other state and significantly higher than New York which has the second highest rate at 22%. This amounts to over 9.9 million immigrant residents in California.¹

DEMOGRAPHICS

45% of California's immigrants are citizens. The number of immigrants choosing California as their destination is leveling and those who decide to stay are staying longer.² As immigrants remain in CA, poverty rates decrease and homeownership rises. The poverty rate for immigrants drops to 10% when we consider only those who arrived before 1980 compared to 21% for those who arrived after 1990. Similarly, the homeownership rate for pre-1980 immigrant households (69%) is more than twice as high as the rate for post-1990 immigrant households (31%).

FARMING, FISHING, AND FORESTRY	Agricultural workers and animal breeders (84%) Graders and sorters of agricultural products (83%) Supervisors of agricultural workers (66%)
GROUNDS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE	Maids and housekeeping cleaners (79%) Grounds maintenance workers (64%) Janitors and building cleaners (53%)
PRODUCTION	Sewing machine operators (92%) Pressers for textiles and related materials (89%) Textile cutting machine workers (81%)
PERSONAL CARE AND SERVICE	Gaming service workers (51%) Personal care aides (46%) Personal and home care aides (45%) Child care workers (41%) Personal appearance workers (62%)
CONSTRUCTION	Plasterers and stucco masons (68%) Drywall installers (60%) Roofers (60%) Painters, construction, and maintenance (58%)
FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING	Cooks (64%) Dishwashers (64%) Chefs and head cooks (56%)
TRANSPORTATION	Hand packers and packagers (74%) Cleaners of vehicles and equipment (57%) Taxi drivers and chauffeurs (49%)

CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants and their children make up 41% of California's population. Of all children in California, 48% have at least one immigrant parent.³

Most non-citizens (72%) live in households that also have citizens. About 78% of non-citizen Latinos live in households with citizens and about 60% of Asian non-citizens live in mixed-status households.⁴

LABOR & OCCUPATIONS

Immigrants comprise more than one-third of California's labor force (34%). They figure prominently in the agriculture, manufacturing, and repair and personal service industries.

In terms of occupations, immigrants make up the majority of those involved in farming, fishing, and forestry (81%), grounds cleaning and maintenance (63%), production (58%), construction (43%), food preparation and serving (42%), transportation (41%), and personal care and service (37%) jobs. Within these job sectors, several positions are held primarily by immigrants⁵.

Immigrants participate in the labor force at higher rates than non-immigrants, with 61% of immigrants and 57% of non-immigrants over age 16 employed in California. For Latino and Asian men, this difference is even greater. About 82% of all Latino and Asian immigrant men of working age (25-64) are employed, compared with 74% of U.S. born Latino and Asian men.

In California, immigrants are entrepreneurial and are more likely to create their own jobs (or be self-employed) than native born workers. For the working age population (age 25 to 64) Latino and Asian immigrants both have a self-employment rate of 12%, which is higher than the rates for non-immigrant Latinos and Asians (7% and 8%, respectively). This relative

difference in entrepreneurship persists across education levels (for those with and without a Bachelor's degree or higher).

Immigrant workers represent a source of untapped labor market

potential. As a share of those over age 25 who are employed in California, immigrants are more likely to be over-skilled (21%) than native born workers (16%) – that is, holding a Bachelor's degree or higher and working in an unskilled job.

Immigrant workers are important to the California economy. They contribute about 33% of California's GDP.⁷ This amounts to over \$600 billion, a figure well over the total revenue of Walmart in 2011.⁸

Immigrants account for 38% of all residents with a Ph.D degree.⁶

Immigrant households make up 27% of the total household income in California, and thus represent a substantial share of all spending power in the state.

There were over 2 million immigrants who were eligible to naturalize in California as of 2010, and almost 1.1 million that would be able to naturalize within the following 5 years, together making up a substantial share of the current voting-eligible population (14%).⁹ This will add to the base of the voting-eligible population who are naturalized immigrants (20%). Such newly naturalized immigrants could have more political impact than suggested

simply by their numbers: research has shown that, at least for Latinos, those who naturalize in a politically charged environment on immigrant issues such as California vote at rates substantially higher than native or longer-term naturalized citizens.¹⁰

VOTERS & VOTING

In California, a full 18% of the voting-age population is non-citizen.

In almost half (26) of California's 65 cities with more than 100,000 people, non-citizens make up more than 20% of the voting-age population. In five of those cities, non-citizens make up more than 30% of the voting-age population, including: Santa Ana, East Los Angeles, El Monte, Salinas, and Oxnard. Among these five cities, the share non-citizen among the voting-age population is highest in Santa Ana (45%) and lowest in the city of Oxnard (33%).¹¹

The top regions of origin for California's immigrants are Latin America (55%), Asia (34%), and Europe (8%).

43% of Californians speak a language other than English at home. Throughout California, immigrants speak more than 99 languages.

