Profile of the foreign-born population in
Los Angeles, California

Immigrant population

The foreign-born population in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metro Area and California represent an important and diverse share of their local communities, many of whom live in mixed-status families.

Los Angeles Metro Area

- 4.5 million immigrants reside in the Los Angeles metro area, or 34 percent of the total population.
- 2.2 million non-citizens residing in the Los Angeles metro area are potentially at risk of deportation.

California

- 10.7 million immigrants reside in California, or 27 percent of the total population.
- 5.3 million non-citizens residing in California are potentially at risk of deportation.

Children and families

Los Angeles Metro Area

- There are 1.6 million children in the Los Angeles metro area with at least one immigrant parent.
- Four in seven children in the Los Angeles metro area have at least one immigrant parent.
- The vast majority of children with at least one immigrant parent in the Los Angeles metro area are U.S. citizens.

California

- There are 4.3 million children in California with at least one immigrant parent.
- One in two children in California has at least one immigrant parent.
- The vast majority of children with at least one immigrant parent in California are U.S. citizens.

Local community ties

- 3 million immigrants in the Los Angeles metro area have lived in the United States for more than 15 years.
- 771,900 immigrants in the Los Angeles metro area are homeowners.
- 398,400 immigrants in the Los Angeles metro area are entrepreneurs.
- 432,100 immigrants in the Los Angeles metro area are students enrolled in pre-K through college or graduate school.
Economic and labor force contributions

Immigrants in the Los Angeles metro area and California contribute critical tax dollars to the local economy and are indispensable members of the workforce.

**Los Angeles Metro Area**

- **$128B** immigrant-led households earned **$128 billion**.
- **$10.5B** immigrants contributed **$10.5 billion** in combined state and local taxes.
- **$23.7B** immigrants contributed **$23.7 billion** in federal taxes.

This means immigrant-led households have an estimated **$93.7 billion** in spending power.

**California**

- **$367.6B** immigrant-led households earned **$367.6 billion**.
- **$30B** immigrants contributed **$30 billion** in combined state and local taxes.
- **$69.4B** immigrants contributed **$69.4 billion** in federal taxes.

This means immigrant-led households have an estimated **$268.3 billion** in spending power.

**Labor force participation**

**Los Angeles Metro Area**

- **2.6 million** immigrant workers comprise 41 percent of the metro’s labor force, or **two in five**.
- **64 percent** of the metro’s immigrants participate in the labor force, comparable to the share among the metro’s native-born population (65 percent).

**California**

- **6.3 million** immigrant workers comprise 34 percent of the state’s labor force, or **one in three**.
- **64 percent** of the state’s immigrants participate in the labor force, comparable to share among the state’s native-born population (63 percent).

**Sources**

U.S. Census Bureau:


“Age and Nativity of Own Children under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Nativity of Parents,” 2016 ACS 1-Year Estimates, available through factfinder.census.gov.

New American Economy (NAE):