

New Americans in the Silver State

The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in Nevada.

Nearly 15% of registered voters in Nevada are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

- **The foreign-born share** of Nevada's population rose from 8.7% in [1990](#) [1], to 15.8% in [2000](#) [1], to 18.9% in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Nevada was home to 490,717 immigrants in [2008](#) [2], which is roughly equal to the total population of [Atlanta, Georgia](#) [3].
- **36.8% of immigrants in Nevada (or 180,554 people) were naturalized U.S. citizens** in [2008](#) [2]—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **14.8% (or 133,890) of all registered voters** in Nevada are “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of large-scale immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2006 Census Bureau data by [Rob Paral & Associates](#) [4].

Latinos make up one quarter of all Nevadans—and they vote.

- The **Latino share of Nevada's population** grew from 10.4% in [1990](#) [5], to 19.7% in [2000](#) [5], to 25.7% (or 668,243 people) in [2008](#) [2]. The Asian share of the population grew from 2.9% in [1990](#) [6], to 4.5% in [2000](#) [6], to 6.0% (or 156,010 people) in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Latinos comprised 11.6% (or 119,000) of Nevada voters** in the 2008 elections, and **Asians 3.4% (or 35,000)**, according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) [7]. The numbers of Latino and Asian voters exceeded Barack Obama's margin of victory over John McCain ([120,909 votes](#) [8]) in this electoral battleground state.
- In Nevada, **nearly three-fifths (or 58%) of the children in immigrant families were U.S. citizens** in [2007](#) [9], according to the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at the University of Albany.

Immigrants are essential to Nevada's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Immigrants comprised **24.1% of the state's workforce** in [2008](#) [10] (or 333,302 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Latino immigrants in Nevada paid roughly **\$2.6 billion in federal taxes** and **\$1.6 billion in state and local taxes** (including \$500 million in sales taxes) in 2005. The money that Latino immigrants “earn and spend in Nevada accounts for about 25% of the State's Gross State Product,” and Latino immigrant “employment, income and spending results in the creation of

108,380 jobs in Nevada,” according to a [2007 report](#) [11] from the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada.

- Latino immigrants comprised about **16% of the state’s entire workforce** in 2005, and an even higher share in select industries: 81% of the agricultural workforce, 47% of the construction and mining workforce, and 22% of the entertainment and tourist services workforce, according to a [2007 report](#) [11] from the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada.

Unauthorized immigrants are integral to Nevada’s economy as workers and consumers.

- Unauthorized immigrants comprised **12.2% of the state’s workforce** in [2008](#) [12] (or 170,000 workers), according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Nevada, **the state would lose \$9.7 billion in economic activity, \$4.3 billion in gross state product, and approximately 45,533 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#) [13].

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Nevada’s economy.

- **The 2009 purchasing power of Nevada’s Latinos totaled \$14.3 billion**—an increase of 955.3% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$6.1 billion**—an increase of 980.7% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) [14] at the University of Georgia.
- Nevada’s 9,741 [Latino-owned](#) [15] **businesses** had sales and receipts of \$1.6 billion and employed 12,874 people in 2002, the last year for which data is available. The state’s 8,872 [Asian-owned](#) [16] **businesses** had sales and receipts of \$2 billion and employed 12,713 people in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Survey of Business Owners.

Immigrants are important to Nevada’s economy as students.

- Nevada’s 3,006 **foreign students contributed \$70.5 million** to the state’s economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#) [17].

Naturalized citizens excel educationally.

- In Nevada, **27.3% of foreign-born persons** who were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2008](#) [18] **had a bachelor’s or higher degree, compared to 13.2% of noncitizens**. At the same time, only 22.6% of naturalized citizens lacked a high-school diploma, compared to 46.5% of noncitizens.
- The number of immigrants in Nevada with a college degree **increased by 136.7%** between 2000 and 2008, according to [data](#) [18] from the Migration Policy Institute.
- In Nevada, **74.1% of all children between** the ages of 5 and 17 in families that spoke a language other than English at home also spoke English “very well” as of [2008](#) [18].

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[1] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-34.pdf>

[2]

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?_bm=y&-context=st&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_S0501&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&-CONTEXT=st&-tree_id=307&-redoLog=false&-geo_id=04000US32&-format=&-_lang=en

[3] <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13/1304000.html>

[4]

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/../../../../../images/File/specialreport/NewCitizenVotersWEBversion.pdf%2523page%3D24>

[5] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf>

[6] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kbr01-16.pdf>

[7] http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/cps2008/Table_4b.xls

[8] <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2008/popular-vote.html>

[9] <http://mumford.albany.edu/children/reports/Data>

Briefs/AECF_immigrant_families_brief_nevada.pdf

[10]

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?_bm=y&-context=st&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_S0501&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&-CONTEXT=st&-tree_id=308&-redoLog=true&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US32&-format=&-_lang=en

[11] <http://planevada.welovebob.org/images/PDFs/vital.pdf>

[12] <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/107.pdf#page=40>

[13]

http://americansforimmigrationreform.com/files/Impact_of_the_Undocumented_Workforce.pdf#page=69

[14] <http://www.terry.uga.edu/selig/docs/GBEC0903q.pdf>

[15] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200cshisp.pdf>

[16] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200csasian.pdf>

[17] http://www.nafsa.org/_File/_eis09/nevada.pdf#page=2

[18] <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/state2.cfm?ID=nv>

[19]

http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New_Americans_in_the_Silver_State_2010.pdf