

New Americans in the Old Line State

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

Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Maryland's population and electorate.

- **The foreign-born share** of Maryland's population rose from 6.6% in [1990](#) [1], to 9.8% in [2000](#) [1], to 12.4% in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Maryland was home to 697,609 immigrants in [2008](#) [2], which is more than the total population of [Memphis, Tennessee](#) [3].
- **46.2% of immigrants (or 322,504 people) in Maryland were naturalized U.S. citizens** in [2008](#) [2]—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **6.5% (or 176,805) of registered voters** in Maryland were “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2006 Census Bureau data by [Rob Paral & Associates](#) [4].

1 in 9 Marylanders are Latino or Asian.

- The **Latino share of Maryland's population** grew from 2.6% in [1990](#) [5], to 4.3% in [2000](#) [5], to 6.6% (or 371,817 people) in [2008](#) [2]. The **Asian share of the population** grew from 2.9% in [1990](#) [6], to 4.0% in [2000](#) [6], to 5.1% (or 287,313 people) in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Latinos accounted for 3.5% (or 91,000) of Maryland voters** in the 2008 elections, and Asians 2.4% (62,000), according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) [7].
- In Maryland, **more than four in five (or 85% of) children in immigrant families were U.S. citizens** in [2007](#) [8], according to the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at the University of Albany.

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

- **The 2009 purchasing power of Latinos in Maryland totaled \$11.1 billion**—an increase of 516.5% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$12.1 billion**—an increase of 372.5% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) [9] at the University of Georgia.
- Maryland's 26,184 **Asian-owned [10] businesses** had sales and receipts of \$7.1 billion and employed 50,471 people in 2002, the last year for which data is available. The state's 15,353 **Latino-owned [11] businesses** had sales and receipts of \$2.4 billion and employed 18,751 people in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Immigrants comprised **15.9% of the state's workforce** in [2008](#) [2] (or 501,158 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Immigrants accounted for 9% of total economic output in the Baltimore metropolitan area** as of 2007, according to a study by the [Fiscal Policy Institute](#) [12]. In fact, "immigrants contribute to the economy in direct relation to their share of the population. The economy of metro areas grows in tandem with the immigrant share of the labor force."
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised **6.7% of the state's workforce** (or 200,000 workers) in [2008](#) [13], according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.
- Immigrants were **1-in-3 workers** in Montgomery County, **1-in-4 workers** in Prince George's County, and **1-in-5 workers** in Howard County [in 2006](#) [14], according to a study by the Urban Institute.
- Roughly **27% of all scientists in Maryland were foreign-born in 2006**, as were **21% of health-care practitioners**, and **19% of mathematicians and computer specialists**, according to the [same study](#) [15].
- Immigrant households paid **18% (or \$4.0 billion) of all taxes collected in Maryland in 2000** [16], according to a study by the Urban Institute. This included:
 - \$2.9 billion in federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes.
 - \$562 million in state income, sales, and auto taxes.
 - \$536 million in local property, income, sales, auto, and utility taxes.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Maryland, **the state would lose \$15.3 billion in economic activity, \$6.8 billion in gross state product, and approximately 73,267 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#) [17].

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as students.

- Maryland's 14,232 **foreign students contributed \$390.2 million** to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to the [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#) [18].

Immigrants excel educationally.

- In **Maryland, 46.6% of foreign-born persons who were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2008** [19] **had a bachelor's or higher degree, compared to 35.7% of noncitizens**. At the same time, only 11.3% of naturalized citizens lacked a high-school diploma, compared to 28.6% of noncitizens.

New Americans in the Old Line State

Published on Immigration Policy Center (<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org>)

- The number of immigrants in Maryland with a college degree **increased by 45.3%** between 2000 and 2008, according to [data](#) [19] from the Migration Policy Institute.
- **41.2% of Maryland's foreign-born population** age 25 and older **had a bachelor's or higher degree** in [2008](#) [19], compared to 34.1% of native-born persons age 25 and older.
- In Maryland, **78.8% 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](#) [19].

UPDATED: JULY 2010

Published On: **Thu, Dec 17, 2009** | [Download File](#) [20]

- [Just the Facts](#)
- [Policy](#)

Source URL: <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-old-line-state>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-34.pdf#page=3>
[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=04000US24&-format=&-_lang=en
[3] <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/47/4748000.html>
[4] <http://immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/NewCitizenVotersWEBversion.pdf#page=24>
[5] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf#page=4>
[6] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kbr01-16.pdf#page=5>
[7] http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/voting/cps2008/Table_4b.xls
[8] http://mumford.albany.edu/children/reports/DataBriefs/AECF_immigrant_families_brief_maryland.pdf
[9] <http://www.terry.uga.edu/selig/docs/GBEC0903q.pdf>
[10] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200csasian.pdf#page=23>
[11] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200cshisp.pdf#page=23>
[12] http://www.fiscalfpolicy.org/ImmigrantsIn25MetroAreas_20091130.pdf#page=18
[13] <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/107.pdf#page=40>
[14] http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411624_immigrants_in_MD.pdf
[15] http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411624_immigrants_in_MD.pdf#page=2
[16] http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411338_civic_contributions.pdf#page=54
[17] http://americansforimmigrationreform.com/files/Impact_of_the_Undocumented_Workforce.pdf#page=69
[18] http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/eis09/maryland.pdf#page=2
[19] <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/state2.cfm?ID=md#5>
[20] http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New_Americans_in_the_Old_Line_State_2010.pdf