

New Americans in the Green Mountain State

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

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

- **The foreign-born share** of Vermont's population rose from 3.1% in [1990](#) [1] to 3.9% in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Vermont was home to 24,525 immigrants in [2008](#) [2].
- **56.8% of immigrants (or 13,919 people) in Vermont were naturalized U.S. citizens** in [2008](#) [2]—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **4.3% (or 14,818) of registered voters** in Vermont 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](#) [3].

Roughly 2.5% of Vermonters are Latino or Asian.

- The **Latino share of Vermont's population** grew from 0.7% in [1990](#) [4], to 0.9% in [2000](#) [4], to 1.2% (or 7,455 people) in [2008](#) [2]. The **Asian share of the population** grew from 0.6% in [1990](#) [5], to 0.9% in [2000](#) [5], to 1.2% (or 7,455 people) in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- In Vermont, **more than nine-in-ten (or 94% of) children in immigrant families were U.S. citizens** in [2007](#) [6], according to the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at the University of Albany.

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add millions of dollars and hundreds of jobs to Vermont's economy.

- **The 2009 purchasing power of Latinos totaled \$251.6 million**—an increase of 441.7% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$178.7 million**—an increase of 402.8% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) [7] at the University of Georgia.
- Vermont's 434 **Asian-owned [8] businesses** had sales and receipts of \$67 million in 2002, the last year for which data is available. The state's 452 **Latino-owned [9] businesses** had sales and receipts of \$38 million and employed 229 people in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.

Immigrants are important to Vermont's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Immigrants comprised **4.1% of the state's workforce** in [2008](#) [2] (or 14,702 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

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Unauthorized immigrants comprised less than **0.5% of the state's workforce** (or fewer than 10,000 workers) in [2008](#) [10], according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

- More than half of the milk produced in the state comes from the **roughly 2,000 Hispanic migrant farm workers living and working in Vermont**, according to a [survey](#) [11] by the Vermont Farm Bureau.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Vermont, **the state would lose \$794.8 million in economic activity, \$294.6 million in gross state product, and approximately 5,143 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#) [12].

Immigrants are important to Vermont's economy as students.

- Vermont's 1,022 **foreign students contributed \$28.9 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](#) [13].

Immigrants excel educationally.

- **36.4% of Vermont's foreign-born population age 25 and older** had a bachelor's or higher degree in [2008](#) [14], compared to 31.9% of native-born persons age 25 and older.
- In Vermont, **83.3% 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](#) [15].

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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=04000US50&-format=&-_lang=en

[3]

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/.../default/files/docs/NewCitizenVotersWEBversion.pdf%2523page%3D24>

[4] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf#page=4>

[5] <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kbr01-16.pdf#page=5>

[6] http://mumford.albany.edu/children/reports/DataBriefs/AECF_immigrant_families_brief_vermont.pdf

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

[8] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200csasian.pdf#page=30>

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[9] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200cshisp.pdf#page=30>

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

[11] http://www.vtlife.com/current_issue/su08-f5-helping-hands.htm

[12]

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

[13] http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/eis09/Vermont.pdf#page=2

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

[15] <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/state2.cfm?ID=vt#5>

[16]

http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New_Americans_in_the_Green_Mountain_State_2010_1.pdf