

## New Americans in the Magnolia State

The Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in Mississippi.

### ***Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Mississippi's population.***

- **The foreign-born share** of Mississippi's population rose from 0.8% in [1990](#) [1], to 1.4% in [2000](#) [1], to 2.1% in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Mississippi was home to 60,555 immigrants in [2008](#) [2].
- **30.4% of immigrants (or 18,419 people) in Mississippi were naturalized U.S. citizens** in [2008](#) [2]—meaning that they are eligible to vote.

### ***2.8% of Mississippians are Latino or Asian.***

- The **Latino share of Mississippi's population** grew from 0.6% in [1990](#) [3], to 1.4% in [2000](#) [3], to 2.0% (or 58,772 people) in [2008](#) [2]. The **Asian share of the population** grew from 0.5% in [1990](#) [4] to 0.8% (or 23,509 people) in [2008](#) [2], according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- In Mississippi, **more than four-in-five (or 85% of) children in immigrant families were U.S. citizens** in [2007](#) [5], 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 thousands of jobs to Mississippi's economy.***

- **The 2009 purchasing power of Latinos in Mississippi totaled \$1.6 billion**—an increase of 902.8% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$862.1 million**—an increase of 564.4% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) [6] at the University of Georgia.
- Mississippi's 1,326 **Latino-owned** [7] **businesses** had sales and receipts of \$213 million and employed 2,080 people in 2002, the last year for which data is available. The state's 2,921 **Asian-owned** [8] **businesses** had sales and receipts of \$1.2 billion and employed 9,232 people in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.

### ***Immigrants contribute to Mississippi's economy as workers.***

- Immigrants comprised **2.8% of the state's workforce** in [2008](#) [2] (or 38,786 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

### ***Unauthorized immigrants contribute to Mississippi's economy as workers and taxpayers.***

- Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly **1.8% of the state's workforce** (or 25,000 workers) in [2008](#) [9], according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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- Unauthorized immigrants in Mississippi contributed **\$44.2 million** in taxes in [2005](#) [10], according to a 2006 study by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Mississippi, **the state would lose \$583 million in economic activity, \$259 million in gross state product, and approximately 4,680 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#) [11].

### ***Immigrants contribute to Mississippi's economy as students.***

- Mississippi's 2,589 **foreign students contributed \$44.3 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](#) [12].

### ***Naturalized citizens excel educationally.***

- In Mississippi, **28.8% of foreign-born persons** who were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2008](#) [13] **had a bachelor's or higher degree, compared to 24.1% of noncitizens**. At the same time, 23.3% of naturalized citizens lacked a high-school diploma, compared to 44.0% of noncitizens.
- The number of immigrants in Mississippi with a college degree **increased by 42.5%** between 2000 and 2008, according to [data](#) [13] from the Migration Policy Institute.
- In Mississippi, **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](#) [13].

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- [Just the Facts](#)
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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=04000US28&-format=&-\\_lang=en](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=04000US28&-format=&-_lang=en)

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

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

[5] [http://mumford.albany.edu/children/reports/DataBriefs/AECF\\_immigrant\\_families\\_brief\\_mississippi.pdf](http://mumford.albany.edu/children/reports/DataBriefs/AECF_immigrant_families_brief_mississippi.pdf)

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

[7] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200cshisp.pdf#page=24>

[8] <http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200csasian.pdf#page=24>

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

[10] <http://www.osa.state.ms.us/documents/performance/illegal-immigration.pdf>

[11]

[http://americansforimmigrationreform.com/files/Impact\\_of\\_the\\_Undocumented\\_Workforce.pdf#page=69](http://americansforimmigrationreform.com/files/Impact_of_the_Undocumented_Workforce.pdf#page=69)

[12] [http://www.nafsa.org/\\_/File/\\_/eis09/mississippi.pdf#page=2](http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/eis09/mississippi.pdf#page=2)

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

[14]

[http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New\\_Americans\\_in\\_the\\_Magnolia\\_State\\_2010\\_0.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New_Americans_in_the_Magnolia_State_2010_0.pdf)