

Immigrants Make Us Great

As we get closer to the national election and hear more rhetoric about immigration, it is important to know the facts about immigrants and the contributions they make to our communities.

New York is one of the world's greatest cultural hubs, welcoming immigrants long before the days of Ellis Island. Immigrants make significant contributions to New York State:

- In New York State, immigrants account for 22.8 percent of the state's population and make up 27.4 percent of its labor force.
- Immigrants account for 34.1 percent of entrepreneurs, 27.6 percent of STEM workers, and 28.3 percent of nurses in New York.
- Over half a million U.S. citizens in New York live with at least one family member who is undocumented.
- Immigrant-led households in New York pay more than \$35 billion in federal taxes and \$21 billion in state taxes.
- Undocumented immigrants in New York pay more than \$2 billion in federal taxes and \$1 billion in state taxes.

In Buffalo, immigrants and refugees have been instrumental in driving population growth and improving quality of life:

- In the 2020 U.S. census, Buffalo gained population for the first time in 70 years, largely due to an influx of immigrants and refugees.
- The foreign-born population in Buffalo contributes more than \$400 million in federal taxes and \$223 million in state and local taxes.
- Foreign-born residents contribute more than \$3 billion to the GDP of the Buffalo metro area.
- Immigrants in Buffalo help companies fill their workforce needs, including making up 9.4% of manufacturing jobs and 6.1% of health care jobs.
- Between 2000 and 2014, immigration to Buffalo increased the total housing value in the region by \$964.5 million.
- More than 2,500 immigrants in Buffalo are self-employed, generating more than \$121 million in income.

Sources:

American Immigration Council, "Immigrants in New York"

New American Economy, "New Americans in Buffalo and Syracuse"