

STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND: A FUNDER'S BRIEFING (JUNE 2016)



NEW HAMPSHIRE FACT SHEET

Immigrants helped build many of the towns, cities, industries and small businesses that characterize northern New England. This fact sheet describes some of the ways that new Americans continue to contribute to New Hampshire's state and local economies and its vibrant culture. Funders, policymakers and community leaders also face a contemporary challenge. The migration patterns of today occur within a context of growing inequality, domestic policy limitations, an aging population and an increasingly globalized economy that demands ever higher levels of education and skills. These trends have inspired grantmakers across the nation to become better informed about the opportunities and challenges related to demographic change. These changes have not been as swift or as dramatic in northern New England as they've been in other regions of the United States. However, the future prosperity of many cities and towns in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont will hinge upon our ability to create welcoming communities that maximize the potential of the growing number of immigrant families.

Foreign-Born in New Hampshire

- Immigrant population: 73,412 (5.6% of the state)
This is about equal to the combined populations of Concord, Keene, North Hampton and Hampton Beach
- 10.4% of New Hampshire's children have at least one immigrant parent (27,000)
- Nearly 40% growth in foreign-born population from 2000-2013, compared with an overall population growth of 6.5% from 2000-2010

Spotlight on STEM

New Hampshire has invested heavily in growing the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workforce by developing career pipelines for the state's young people. But these programs are insufficient to fill NH's projected need of 38,500 new STEM jobs by 2020. Companies are increasingly relying on recruitment of foreign-born graduate students and highly skilled workers. Two out of three Engineering PhDs are immigrants. Maintaining a strong STEM workforce fosters entrepreneurship and innovation. One national report found that on average, every foreign-born STEM graduate that enters the workforce creates 2.62 American jobs.

Contributions of Immigrants to New Hampshire Communities

Immigrants contribute to New Hampshire by working, paying taxes, starting businesses, voting, buying homes, revitalizing communities, and filling critical gaps in certain sectors of the labor market, such as construction, agriculture, STEM, and healthcare.



BUSINESS

- Immigrant-owned businesses generate \$252 million in annual income
- 363 H-2B visas (to support a temporary, seasonal, non-agricultural foreign workforce) authorized in NH in 2013 supported 1,684 American jobs
- Immigrants are 1.5 times more likely to work in the construction and agricultural sectors in NH than native-born residents

EDUCATION

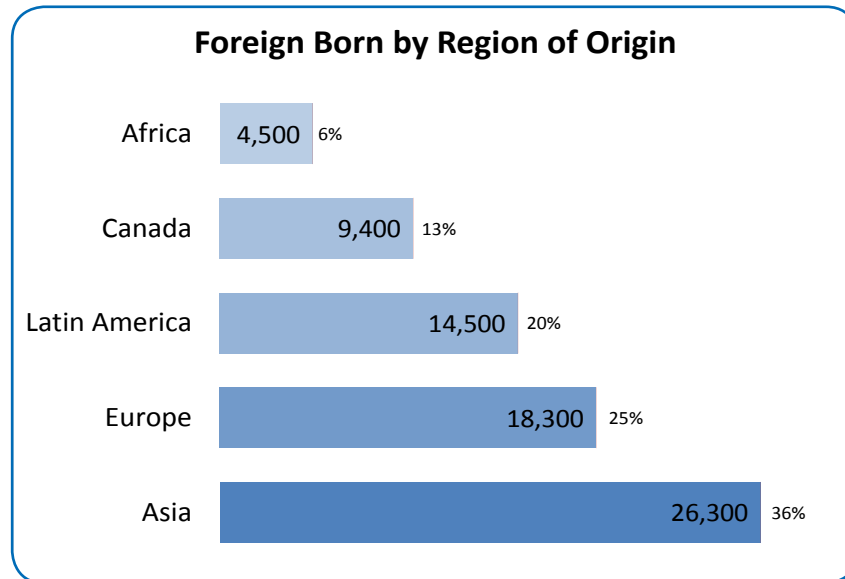
- 91% of children with immigrant parents in New Hampshire are considered English proficient
- 28.2% native-born NH residents are enrolled in college or graduate school compared to 49.1% foreign-born

ECONOMICS

- By 2012 and 2016, about 8,200 newly eligible Hispanic and Asian residents will be eligible to vote. Demographers predict that number will grow to about 17,000 by 2020
- Unauthorized immigrants pay \$8.8 million in state and local taxes every year

New Hampshire's Immigrants Relocate from Across the Globe

At the turn of the 20th century, nearly a quarter of the population of New Hampshire and half of the city of Manchester was foreign-born. Immigrants from Canada and Europe came to New Hampshire primarily to work in the mills. Today, only 6% of the state's population is foreign-born and regions of origin have shifted. There has been an increase in the number of immigrants from Asia, Latin America, and Africa. The graph below provides the current number of foreign born people living in New Hampshire by region of origin.



Projected Long Term Impact of Immigrants in New Hampshire

The rate of population growth in New Hampshire is slowing, and every year the state loses 2,000 people to domestic out-migration. In addition, the population is aging. Over time, as the native-born population ages, 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants will become more important to the labor force. The state will rely on immigrants for population growth, a healthy tax base and a thriving economy.

- Net population growth is down to <2000 new residents a year
- Birth rates are flat and are projected to decline from about 63,000 in the 2010 to 2015 period to 59,000 in the 2035 to 2040 period
- Domestic out-migration is negative (approximately 1,000 people move out of NH per year) but is off-set by foreign immigration, of approximately 2,000 people per year, for positive overall net migration
- The population age 65 and over will more than double from 2010 (from 178,268) to 2040 (projected at 410,999), requiring increased support from younger tax-paying workers

References and Resources

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- New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, Policy Notes: An Overview of New Hampshire's Foreign-Born Population (May 2015)
- The Pew Charitable Trusts: Immigrant Employment by State and Industry (Issue Brief, December 2015)
- National Equity Atlas: Population Growth Rates, New Hampshire
- American Enterprise Institute: Immigration and American Jobs, December 2011
- Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010, Census Briefs
- United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014: New Hampshire (Data Profiles)