

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



VERMONT 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 Vermont'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 Vermont

- Immigrant population: 25,578 (4.1% of total population)
- 6% of Vermont's children have at least one immigrant parent (7,000)
- There was 10% growth in Vermont's foreign-born population from 2000-2014 compared to 2.6% growth in Vermont's U.S.-born population from 2000-2014
- 59.5% of Vermont's foreign-born population are naturalized U.S. citizens

Raising Home Values

Between 2000 and 2010, more than 1,800 immigrants arrived in Chittenden County. That influx of immigrants added \$212 to the value of the average home in the county, or more than \$13 million to housing wealth overall. In 2014, about 12,000 people born outside the U.S. lived in Chittenden County.

Contributions of Immigrants to Vermont Communities

Immigrants contribute to Vermont by working, paying taxes, starting businesses, voting, buying homes, revitalizing communities, and filling critical gaps in certain sectors of the labor market, including healthcare, agriculture (about 80% of VT's farm product is milk), STEM, and social assistance. This is especially vital given that Vermont's population is stagnant and the workforce is declining.



BUSINESS

- From 2006 to 2010, there were 1,700 new immigrant business owners in Vermont who had total net income of \$84 million. This amounts to 3.8% of all net business income in the state.
- In 2010, 4.2% of all business owners in Vermont were foreign-born
- Immigrants comprised 4.4% of the state's workforce in 2013 (or 15,426 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau

EDUCATION

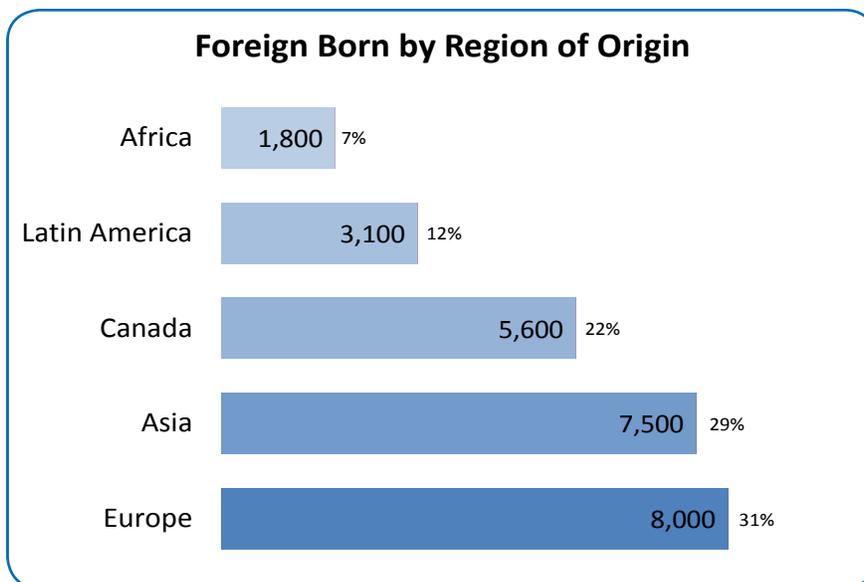
- 38.8% of Vermont's foreign-born population age 25 and older had a bachelor's or higher degree in 2011, compared to 35.2% of native-born persons age 25 and older
- As of 2009, 95.8% of children with immigrant parents were considered "English proficient"

ECONOMICS

- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Vermont, the state would lose \$249.4 million in economic activity, \$110.8 million in gross state product, and approximately 1,800 jobs

Vermont's immigrants relocate from across the globe

In 1990 there were approximately 17,000 foreign born people living in VT. Since then, the number has grown to nearly 26,000 and areas of origin have shifted. There has been an increase in the number of immigrants in VT who were born in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, along with a decline in the number of immigrants born in Europe, North America, and Oceania. The graph below provides the current number of foreign born people living in Vermont by region of origin.



Projected Long Term Impact of Immigrants in Vermont

Immigrants will help ensure Vermont's growth and prosperity. With an aging population, a fertility rate lower than the national average, and a net population growth of only 0.1% over the past 5 years, Vermont will face gaps in the workforce that immigrants can help fill.

- Although in 2014 Vermont's median age was approximately 42, nearly 17% of the state's U.S. born population was aged 65 or older. Projections estimate that by 2030 there will be over 50,000 Vermonters age 65-69, a 70.7% change increase since 2010
- By 2020, Vermont will need to fill 16,810 new STEM jobs
- Over 25% of Vermont's doctors are over 60 and likely to retire in the next 5 years. Additionally, according to the federal government Vermont will be short 2,149 registered nurses by 2030

References and Resources

- [American Immigration Council: New Americans in Vermont](#)
- [Map the Impact of Immigration Across the Nation: Vermont](#)
- [The Pew Charitable Trusts: Immigrant Employment by State and Industry, Vermont](#)
- [The United States Census Bureau: Quick Facts, Vermont](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute: Children in U.S. Immigrant Families \(By Age Group and State, 1990 versus 2014\), Vermont](#)
- [The Washington Post: "Is Vermont the Solution to the Border Crisis?" by Jaime Fuller \(July 17, 2014\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Commerce, Vermont: 2010 Summary Population and Housing Characteristics \(2010 Census of Population and Housing\)](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute, Data Hub: State Immigration Data Profiles, Vermont](#)
- [Burlington Free Press: "Vermont Immigration Trends Differ Dramatically from U.S. Picture" by Art Woolf \(February 20, 2014\)](#)
- [Burlington Free Press: "Anemic Population Growth a Problem in Vermont" by Art Woolf \(April 2, 2015\)](#)
- [United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014: Vermont \(Data Profiles\)](#)
- [Vermont Population Projections 2010-2030, August 2010](#)
- [Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office: The Challenges of Projecting Vermont's Population](#)