

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



MAINE 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 Maine'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 Maine

- Immigrant Population: 49,686 (3.7% of residents). This is about equal to the combined populations of Augusta, Kennebunk and Scarborough
- 6% of Maine's children have at least one immigrant parent (14,000)
- Nearly 36% growth in foreign-born population from 2000-2014 compared with a 3% growth in the US-born Maine population
- Many of Maine's cities and towns remained untouched by immigration, while others, including Portland, Lewiston, and Auburn, have experienced rapid, transformational demographic changes in the last 15 years

Lewiston's Story

About 3,500 Somali migrants moved to Lewiston between 2001 and 2007, mostly from other states, and are now 10% of the city's population. This is the highest concentration of Somalis per capita in the United States.

Contributions of Immigrants to Maine Communities

Immigrants contribute to Maine by working and paying taxes, starting businesses, voting, buying homes, revitalizing communities and filling critical roles in particular sectors of Maine's labor market, including healthcare and social assistance.



BUSINESS

- About 3.2% of business owners in Maine are foreign-born.
- Immigrant-owned businesses in Maine generated total net income of \$120 million in 2010
- The 2014 purchasing power of Maine's Latinos totaled \$424 million—an increase of 650% since 1990. Asian buying power totaled \$504 million—an increase of 522% since 1990

EDUCATION

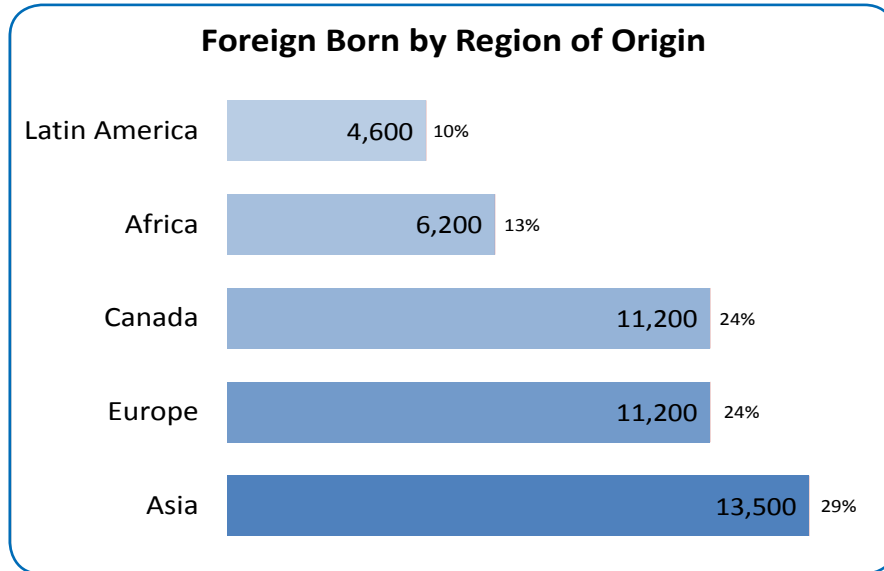
- 34% of Maine's foreign-born population age 25 and older had at least a bachelor's degree in 2011, compared to 28.2% of native-born persons age 25 and older

ECONOMICS

- The sizable growth of the immigrant population in Cumberland County between 2000-2010 added about \$72 million in housing wealth
- Foreign-born Latinos contributed \$11.7 million to Social Security and \$2.7 million to Medicare in 2013
- Unauthorized immigrants in Maine paid \$3.7 million in state and local taxes in 2010, including \$2.8 million in sales taxes, \$464,000 in state income taxes, and \$432,000 in property taxes, according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy

Maine's Immigrants Relocate from Across the Globe

The number of foreign-born residents living in Maine peaked in 1910 at 16%. Since then this number has steadily declined and since 1990 has leveled off at about 4%. Additionally, while the populations from Africa, Asia, and Latin America have increased, the populations from Europe and Northern America have decreased. The graph below provides the current number of foreign born people living in Maine by region of origin.



Projected Long Term Impact of Immigrants in Maine

Maine is the nation's "oldest" state with a median age of 43.5 years. With an aging native-born population, immigrants and the children and grandchildren of immigrants will become ever more important to the labor force. In the near future, the state will rely heavily upon its newer residents for a healthy tax base and a thriving economy

- Over the next two decades, the ratio of seniors to prime-working-age adults (25 to 64) will grow by 93%. In 2000, there were about 4.2 Mainers of working age for each Mainer over age 65. By 2027, demographers project that there will be just 2.1 Mainers of working age for each Mainer over age 65
- Maine's African-born immigrants, in particular, are notably younger (median age: 28.6 years old) than native Mainers (43.4 years old)
- The number of foreign-born Mainers in the workforce grew by 26% from 2000-2014, compared with a 2 percent growth in the number of US-born workers during that same time period

References and Resources

- [Migration Policy Institute: State Immigration Data Profiles, Maine](#)
- [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy: Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions](#)
- [American Immigration Council: New Americans in Maine](#)
- [Maine Department of Labor: The Maine Labor Force -- Aging and Slowly Growing \(Research Brief\)](#)
- [CentralMaine.com: "African Immigrants to Maine are young, educated and integrating"](#)
- [American Immigration Council: Maine: Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Innovation and Welcoming Initiatives in the Pine Tree State](#)
- [Map the Impact of Immigration Across the Nation: Maine](#)
- [United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014: Maine \(Data Profiles\)](#)
- [Where We Came from and Where We Went, State by State; from The New York Times, 2014](#)