

**NEW AMERICANS IN THE OLD LINE STATE:
The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in Maryland**

Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians account for growing shares of the economy and electorate in Maryland. Immigrants make up one-in-eight Marylanders, and nearly half of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. “New Americans”—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account for 6.5% of registered voters in the state. Immigrants are not only integral to the state’s economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians wield nearly \$22.2 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$9.5 billion and employed nearly 70,000 people at last count. As high-skilled workers, immigrants accounted for more than one quarter of all scientists in the state and more than one fifth of all health care practitioners. At a time of economic recession, Maryland can ill-afford to alienate such a critical component of its labor force, tax base, and business community.

Immigrants and their children are growing shares of Maryland’s population and electorate.

- **The foreign-born share** of Maryland’s population rose from 6.6% in [1990](#),¹ to 9.8% in [2000](#),² to 12.4% in [2007](#),³ according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Maryland was home to 694,590 immigrants in [2007](#),⁴ which is more than the total population of [Memphis, Tennessee](#).⁵
- **45.5% of immigrants (or 315,892 people) in Maryland were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2007](#)**⁶—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- **6.5% (or 176,805) of registered voters** in Maryland were “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2006 Census Bureau data by [Rob Paral & Associates](#).⁷

1 in 9 Marylanders are Latino or Asian.

- The **Latino share of Maryland’s population** grew from 2.6% in [1990](#),⁸ to 4.3% in [2000](#),⁹ to 6.3% (or 353,956 people) in [2007](#).¹⁰ The **Asian share of the population** grew from 2.9% in [1990](#),¹¹ to 4.0% in [2000](#),¹² to 4.9% (or 275,299 people) in [2007](#),¹³ according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Latinos accounted for 3.5% (or 91,000) of Maryland voters** in the 2008 elections, and Asians 2.4% (62,000), according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).¹⁴

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add billions of dollars and tens-of-thousands of jobs to Maryland's economy.

- **The 2008 purchasing power of Latinos in Maryland totaled \$10.2 billion**—an increase of 465.1% since 1990. **Asian buying power totaled \$12.0 billion**—an increase of 366.2% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) at the University of Georgia.¹⁵
- Maryland's 26,184 **Asian-owned businesses** had sales and receipts of \$7.1 billion and employed 50,471 people in 2002, the last year for which data is available.¹⁶ The state's 15,353 **Latino-owned businesses** had sales and receipts of \$2.4 billion and employed 18,751 people in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners.¹⁷

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as workers and taxpayers.

- Immigrants comprised **15.5% of the state's workforce** in [2007](#) (or 471,219 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.¹⁸
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised **6.7% of the state's workforce** (or 200,000 workers) in [2008](#), according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.¹⁹
- Immigrants were **1-in-3 workers** in Montgomery County, **1-in-4 workers** in Prince George's County, and **1-in-5 workers** in Howard County [in 2006](#),²⁰ according a study by the Urban Institute.
- Roughly **27% of all scientists in Maryland were foreign-born in 2006**, as were **21% of health care practitioners**, and **19% of mathematicians and computer specialists**, according to the [same study](#).²¹
- Immigrant households paid **18% (or \$4.0 billion) of all taxes collected in Maryland in 2000**, according to a study by the Urban Institute.²² This included:
 - \$2.9 billion in federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes.
 - \$562 million in state income, sales, and auto taxes.
 - \$536 million in local property, income, sales, auto, and utility taxes.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Maryland, **the state would lose \$15.3 billion in expenditures, \$6.8 billion in economic output, and approximately 73,267 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#).²³

Immigrants are integral to Maryland's economy as students.

- Maryland's 14,232 **foreign students contributed \$390.2 million** to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to the [National Association of Foreign Student Advisers](#) (NAFSA).²⁴

Naturalized Citizens Excel Educationally.

- In Maryland, **48.1% of foreign-born persons** who were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2007](#) **had a bachelor's or higher degree**, compared to 35.7% of noncitizens. At the same time, only 12.6% of naturalized citizens lacked a high-school diploma, compared to 25.9% of noncitizens.²⁵
- The number of immigrants in Maryland with a college degree **increased by 44.3%** between 2000 and 2007, according to [data](#) from the Migration Policy Institute.²⁶
- **41.8% of Maryland's foreign-born population** age 25 and older **had a bachelor's or higher degree** in [2007](#), compared to 34.0% of native-born persons age 25 and older.²⁷
- In Maryland, **76.8% 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 [2007](#).²⁸

Endnotes

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Foreign-Born Population: 2000](#), December 2003.

² Ibid.

³ 2007 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Rob Paral and Associates, [The New American Electorate: The Growing Political Power of Immigrants and Their Children](#) (Washington, DC: Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation, October 2008).

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Hispanic Population: 2000](#), May 2001.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ 2007 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Asian Population: 2000](#), February 2002.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ 2007 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

¹⁴ U.S. Electoral College, [2008 Presidential Election: Popular Vote Totals](#).

¹⁵ Jeffrey M. Humphreys, [The Multicultural Economy 2008](#) (Athens, GA: Selig Center for Economic Growth, University of Georgia, 2008), p. 64.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, [Hispanic-Owned Firms: 2002](#), August 2006.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, [Asian-Owned Firms: 2002](#), August 2006.

¹⁸ 2007 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

¹⁹ Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, [A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States](#) (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 14, 2009), p. 30.

²⁰ Randy Capps and Karina Fortuny, [The Integration of Immigrants in Maryland's Growing Economy](#) (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, March 2008).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Randy Capps, Everett Henderson, Jeffrey S. Passel, and Michael Fix, [Civic Contributions: Taxes Paid by Immigrants in the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area](#) (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, May 2006).

²³ The Perryman Group, [An Essential Resource: An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Undocumented Workers on Business Activity in the US with Estimated Effects by State and by Industry](#) (Waco, TX: April 2008), p. 69.

²⁴ Association of International Educators, [The Economic Benefits of International Education to the United States for the 2008-2009 Academic Year: A Statistical Analysis](#) (Washington, DC: National Association of Foreign Student Advisors, 2009).

²⁵ Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, [Maryland: Language & Education](#).

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.