Immigrants Make Important Contributions to Kentucky Communities and Economy
March 2019

With data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
And research from Center for American Progress, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Fiscal Policy Institute, Center for Migration Studies, Migration Policy Institute, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.
About 1 in 27 Kentuckians Were Born Outside the U.S.

U.S.-Born and Foreign-Born as a Share of the Kentucky Population

Source: KCEP analysis of ACS 2017 5-yr data.
Kentucky Immigrants Come from All Over the World

Europe: 15%
Asia: 33%
Africa: 13%
Oceania: 1%
Americas: 38%

Source: KCEP analysis of 2017 ACS data.
Kentucky Immigrant Households Similar in Characteristics to U.S.-Born Kentucky Households

Slightly Larger Share of Immigrants Married

- U.S.-Born: 50%
- Foreign-Born: 57%

Slightly More Workers in Household

- U.S.-Born: 1.1
- Foreign-Born: 1.4

Source: KCEP analysis of 2017 ACS data.
Many Kentucky Immigrants are Homeowners

Share of the population renting versus owning a home

Immigrants
- Renters 55%
- Home Owners 45%

U.S.-Born
- Renters 31%
- Home Owners 69%

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of ACS 2017 data.
Kentucky Immigrants Learn English Over Time

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of ACS 2017 data.
More Kentucky Immigrants than Native-Born Kentuckians Have a College Degree

Also a Larger Share Never Graduated from High School

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of ACS 2017 data.
Median Household Income Similar for U.S-Born and Foreign-Born Kentuckians

Source: KCEP analysis of ACS 2017 5-yr estimates.

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Kentucky Immigrants' Contributions to the State’s Economy are Strong

Source: FPI analysis of ACS 2017 data.
Kentucky Immigrants' Share of State GDP is Slightly Larger than their Share of the Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of ACS 2017 data.
Kentucky Immigrants are Represented Across Occupations

- **Production, transportation, and material moving occupations**
  - Foreign-Born: 21%
  - U.S.-Born: 17%

- **Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations**
  - Foreign-Born: 13%
  - U.S.-Born: 9%

- **Sales and office occupations**
  - Foreign-Born: 15%
  - U.S.-Born: 24%

- **Service occupations**
  - Foreign-Born: 20%
  - U.S.-Born: 17%

- **Management, business, science, and arts occupations**
  - Foreign-Born: 31%
  - U.S.-Born: 33%

Source: KCEP analysis of ACS 2017 5-yr data.
Kentucky Immigrants Are Playing a Particularly Big Role in Several Industries

Source: FPI analysis of ACS 2017 data.
Report Finding: Immigration is integral to the nation’s economic growth. Immigration:

• Helps the US avoid challenges related to an aging workforce, and
• Boosts our capacity for innovation, entrepreneurship and technological change.

“Second generation children are fiscal powerhouses, out-earning and out-contributing their native-born peers.”

- National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2017
Research finds, for employers hiring refugees:

- Lower rates of turnover, translating to higher productivity
  - Manufacturing: 4% turnover for refugees, compared to 11% turnover for U.S.-Born workers.
  - Hotels: 29% versus 36%.
  - Meat-Packing: 25% versus 40%.

- More versatile management

Removing Immigrants Without Papers Would Harm Many Industries in Kentucky

Source: Center for American Progress, 2016.
Dreamers Tax Contributions Would Go Up with Dream Act, Down Without

State and local tax contributions in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current State and Local Taxes</td>
<td>$8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes if All Eligible Granted Citizenship</td>
<td>$12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes if DACA Protections Lost</td>
<td>$3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

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Dream Act Would Lead to Growth in Kentucky's GDP

Longterm annual increase in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Longterm Annual GDP Increase</th>
<th>Longterm Annual GDP Increase with Education Bump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$334</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for American Progress.

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What the research shows is that rather than creating new barriers for immigrants in Kentucky and the nation, we should be removing barriers and supporting individuals’ and families’ important contributions to our economy.