

New Americans in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

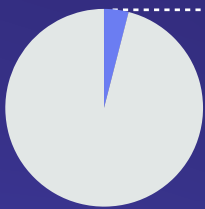
The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County¹



State & Local

Population Growth

Immigrants made up



4.4%
of the total population in Linn County, Iowa, in 2017.

47.1%
of total population growth in the county was attributable to immigrants.

Between 2012 and 2017, the immigrant population in the county increased by:

61.8%

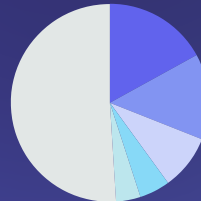
The overall population grew by:

3.7%

9,576

immigrants lived in the county in 2017. Their top five countries of origin were:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. India..... | 17.0% |
| 2. Mexico..... | 13.6% |
| 3. Vietnam..... | 8.8% |
| 4. Canada..... | 5.1% |
| 5. China..... | 4.3% |



Spending Power & Tax Contributions

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2017:

\$305.6M

\$53.9M

went to federal taxes.²

FEDERAL

\$26.1M

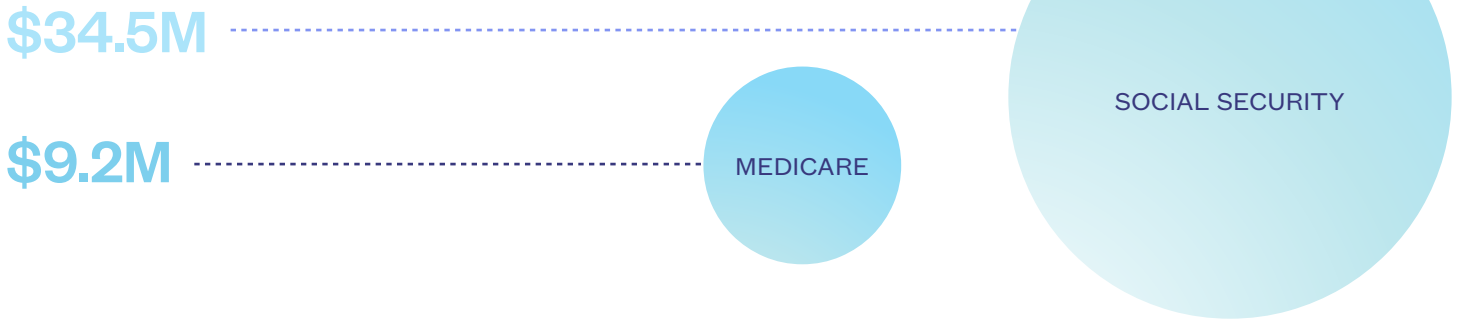
went to state and local taxes.³

STATE AND LOCAL

Leaving them with **\$225.6M** in spending power.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions (Continued)

Immigrants in the county also supported federal social programs. In 2017, they contributed **\$34.5M** to Social Security and **\$9.2M** to Medicare.



18.7%

of immigrants in the county received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with

30.6%

of U.S.-born residents in 2017.

IMMIGRANTS



U.S.-BORN



PRIVATE



PUBLIC



78.2%

of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while

18.7%

had public healthcare coverage in 2017.

Workforce

Although the foreign-born made up **4.4%** of the county's overall population, they represented **5.3%** of its working-age⁴ population, **5.0%** of its employed labor force, and **15.1%** of its STEM⁵ workers in 2017.

Immigrant shares of the...



SPOTLIGHT ON

Minouche Bandubaila

HOME VISITOR, YPN AFRICA PARENT CAFE

Minouche Bandubaila won the Diversity Visa Lottery in 2007—a lucky break she couldn't refuse despite the circumstances. Some 13.2 million people globally applied for the shot at a U.S. Green Card that year; 50,000 won.

Bandubaila was 23, married, and pregnant. And, for financial reasons, her husband would have to stay behind in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they are both from. He would not join her for seven years, after she became a U.S. citizen. "When I came here I was pregnant, I stayed home with the baby, I didn't have much support," she recalls. "It was hard, especially the medical system."

The visa lottery was created in 1990 to help diversify the immigrant population, and is offered only in countries with low levels of immigration to the United States. Winners must pass a security and health screening and be able to support themselves financially. Beyond those assurances, however, it is largely up to receiving communities to help these new Americans integrate and thrive.

Bandubaila had an undergraduate law degree and an uncle in Cedar Rapids she could live with. But, while fluent in French, Swahili and Lingala, she spoke no English, and was lost when it came to navigating the medical system. It took her more than two years to find her way to English classes and work as a hotel housekeeper. Afterward, she thrived, going on to work as a certified nursing assistant and dedicating her free time to helping other new immigrant mothers.

"I was assisting getting them to hospital, I would stay all night through the birth," she says. "I don't want them to go through what I went through, just doing it by myself."

Bandubaila is now a home visitor for YPN's Africa Parent Cafe—work that is straightforward yet has profound implications: finding a mom a ride to the grocery store; or telling a new arrival about jobs that match their training and desire.

"When you are coming to the U.S., it depends on where you land," she says, "But you are the only agent of your happiness and success."

SPOTLIGHT ON

Rohan Bhatnagar

SENIOR ENGINEERING MANAGER,
COLLINS AEROSPACE

Rohan Bhatnagar is originally from Jaipur, a city in India rich in cultural heritage. He spent his school years, however, in Lagos, on the coast of Nigeria, where his father took a finance job. And, after graduation, Bhatnagar pursued his own professional passion on yet another continent, enrolling in 2008 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, where he earned an engineering degree and an MBA. "I've had an interesting journey," he says.

Bhatnagar is now a senior engineering manager at Collins Aerospace, where he leads a team of 13 engineers who bring their own varied stories. "My diverse background has contributed to my success," Bhatnagar says. "Once you've seen so many things in your life, and assimilated into completely different cultures, you begin to see people really well."

In Nigeria, Bhatnagar saw disease outbreaks, dictatorship, coups, and war. "I've driven to school and seen bodies on the road," he says. When he landed in America at age 18, he was put in a small dorm suite with five other freshmen, "every one of them white and from the United States."

"Initially it was rough because I was kind of the lone wolf," he says. "They were not able to grasp the kind of background I came from, the kind of poverty and illiteracy I experienced."

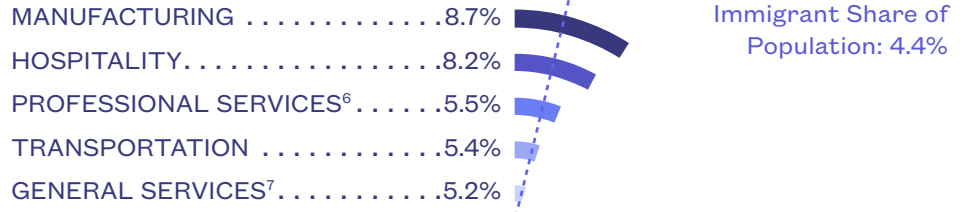
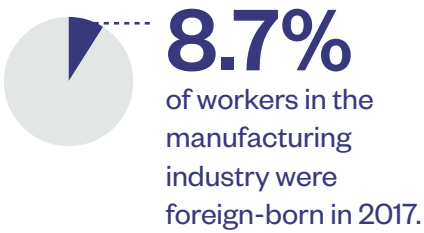
"But they welcomed me with open arms. They learned a lot about me, my culture, and I learned a lot about them. That really eased the transition for me."

The pattern repeated itself in Cedar Rapids, where his colleagues embraced him and he met a local woman whose American family did as well. They are now married with a new baby. He is working with the Friends of India Association, and would like to see Cedar Rapids organizations actively reach out to include other new Americans.

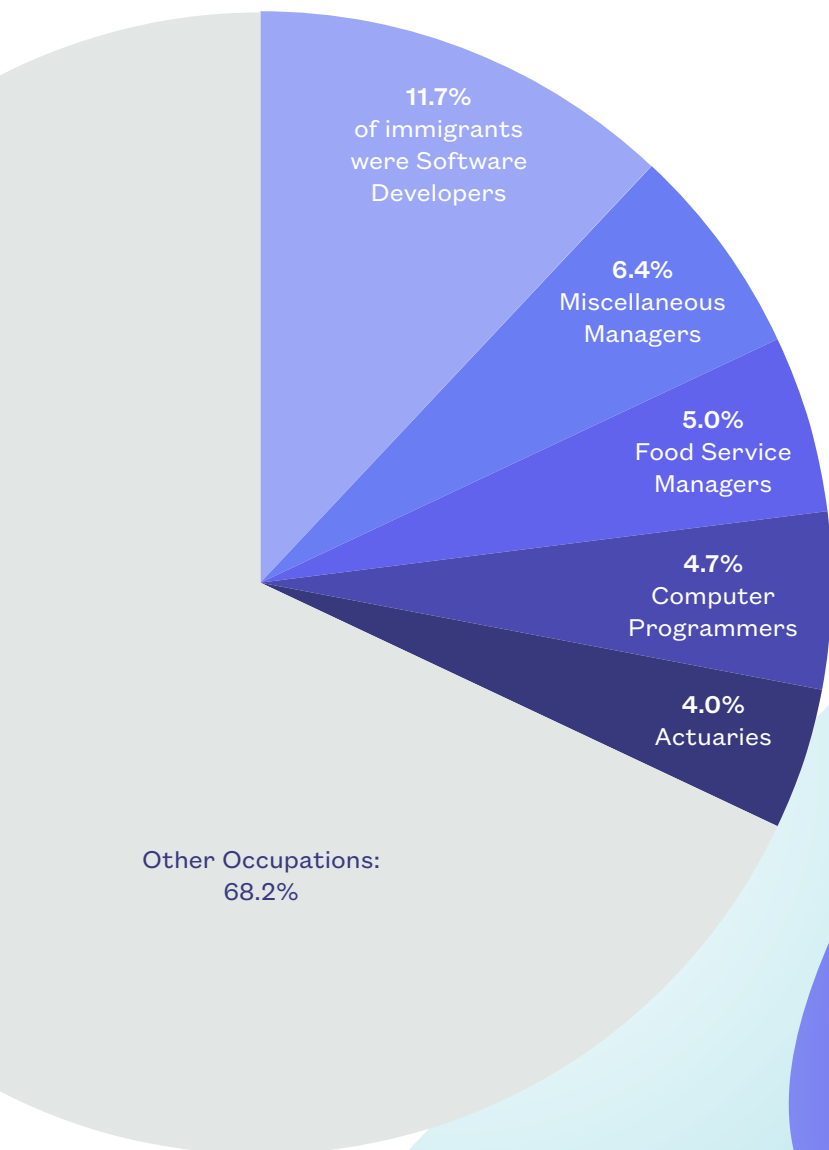
"People underestimate the importance of a strong social group for a new immigrant in the process of assimilation," Bhatnagar says. "That group that I had around me—my college friends, my work friends—it was instrumental. It's kind of the main thing that made me succeed and got me to where I am in the community."

Workforce (Continued)

Immigrants played an important role in several **key industries** in the county. This included:



Immigrants tended to work in these **occupations** in the county in 2017:

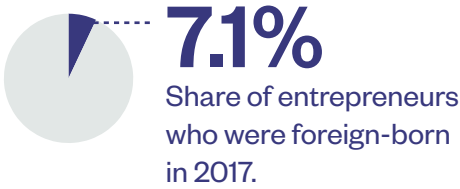


Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that:

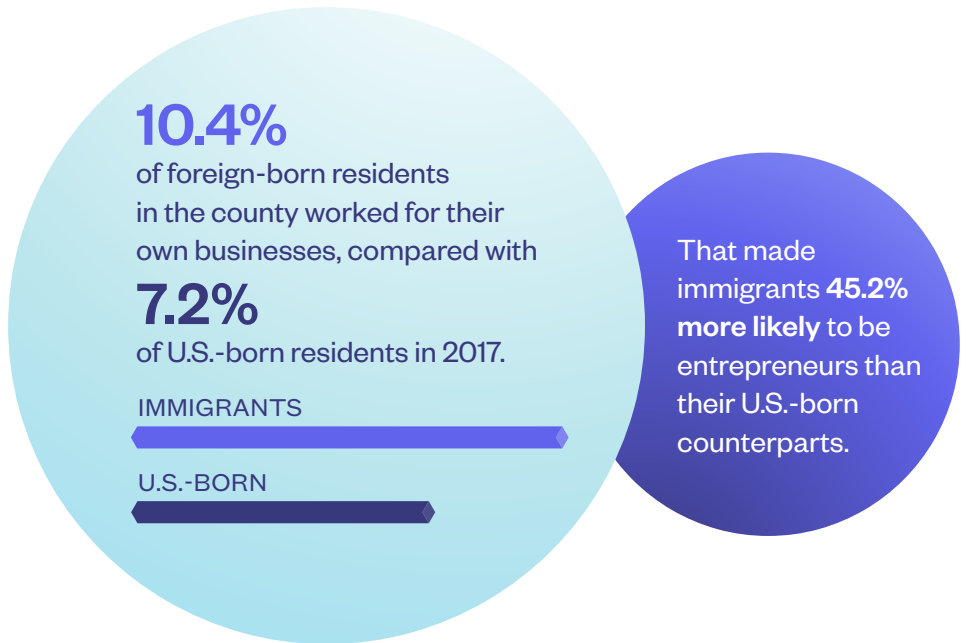
*Immigrants living in the city helped create or preserve **440 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2017.⁸*

Entrepreneurship

Despite making up **4.4%** of the population, immigrants made up **7.1%** of the business owners in county in 2017.

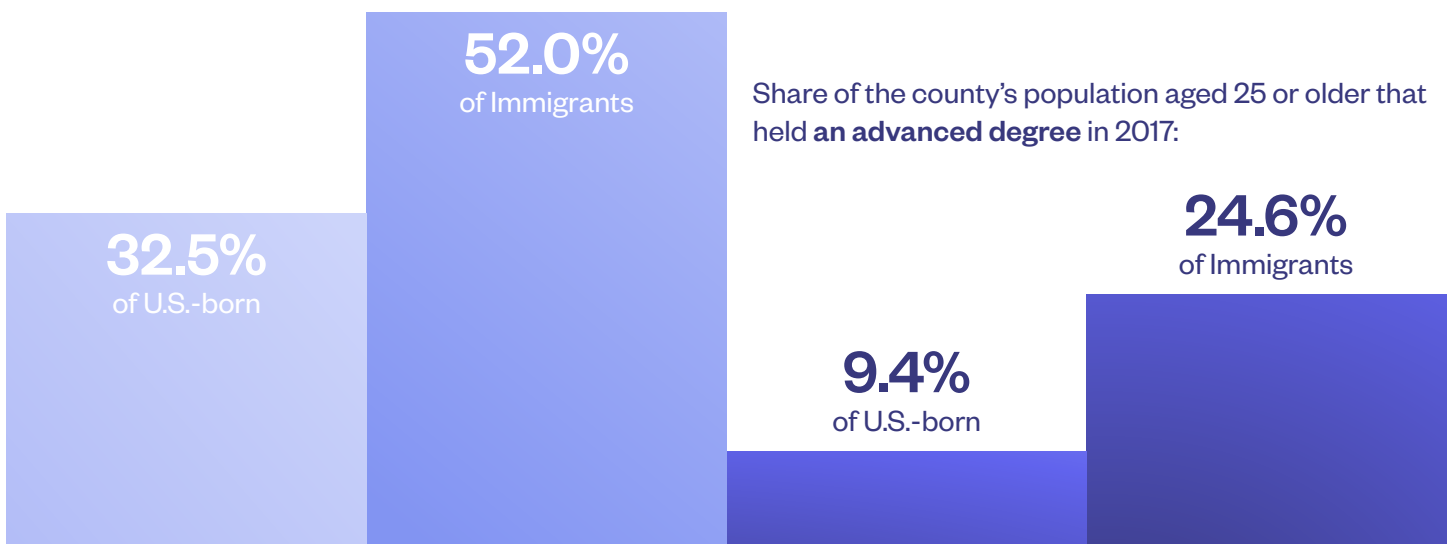


Businesses in the Region, 2012	Sales Revenue	Number of Paid Employees
AFRICAN AMERICAN-OWNED	\$15.3M	129
ASIAN-OWNED ⁹	\$84.7M	572



Education

Share of the county's population aged 25 or older that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2017:



Education (Continued)

535

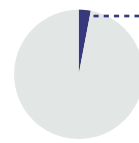
students who were enrolled in colleges and universities in the county during the fall of 2015 were temporary residents.¹⁰

66

local jobs were supported by international students.

\$13.2M

was spent by international students in the 2017-18 academic year.¹¹

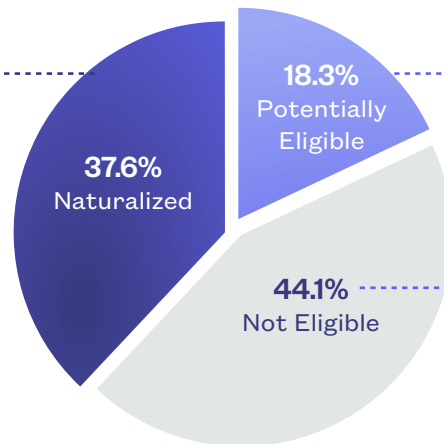


3.1%

of public school students under 18 were born abroad.

Naturalization

Share of immigrants in the county who were naturalized U.S. citizens.



Share of immigrants in the county who were likely eligible to naturalize.

Share of immigrants ineligible for naturalization for various reasons including: temporary visas, residency requirements, and undocumented.

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2012 and 2017 and figures refer to Linn County, Iowa.

2 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."

3 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

4 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

5 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

6 Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

7 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

8 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.

9 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau

10 Data on total student enrollment in the county is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Temporary residents refer to people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

11 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.