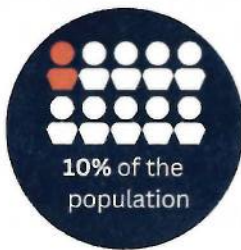


## Immigrants Power Colorado's Economy

Immigrants from every corner of the globe are the foundation of Colorado's thriving economy. They pay taxes, run businesses, serve in government, teach in classrooms, tend the agricultural lands that nourish us, and care for our health and well-being. They bring richness to our communities, sharing their cultures and experiences with us, and shaping the state into a more dynamic and inclusive place. Immigrants are the dreamers, the builders, the changemakers—working tirelessly to create a more prosperous future for everyone. Despite the challenges of an unjust and inhumane immigration system that limits their potential, they continue to drive our state's growth and success. Their contributions are undeniable, and with immigration policies that offer a clear path to citizenship, their impact could be limitless.



## Immigrant Workers and Entrepreneurs Fuel Economic Growth

More than half a million immigrants call Colorado home, filling across a wide range of industries and income levels. Immigrants make up **11.5%** of Colorado's workforce, including:

- **18%** of nursing assistants
- **16%** of software developers
- **23%** of cooks<sup>1</sup>
- **13%** of physicians
- **28%** of construction workers<sup>2</sup>
- **16%** of postsecondary teachers<sup>3</sup>

In addition to their roles as employees, immigrants are significant contributors to Colorado's business community. According to the latest census data, immigrants represent **11.5%** of workers, but make up **15%** of business owners. Collectively, these workers and business owners generate **\$54 billion** of economic output, with immigrant contributions to the state's GDP closely mirroring their share of the labor force.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://coloradofiscal.org/immigrants-are-a-vital-part-of-colorados-future/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://coloradofiscal.org/issues/immigration/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/colorado/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://coloradofiscal.org/immigrants-are-a-vital-part-of-colorados-future/>

**Immigration creates opportunity for all Coloradans.** When immigrants move to Colorado, they drive economic growth. This expansion doesn't take away jobs from U.S.-born residents; rather, it creates more opportunities by bringing in new consumers, workers, and business owners. Immigrants are also more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts, leading to higher labor force participation. This boost in workforce engagement translates into valuable tax contributions that directly support public programs and services— K-12 public schools, infrastructure, and our healthcare system—essential pillars that help build thriving communities.

## Immigrants Make Essential Tax Contributions to Colorado's Economy

Immigrants, regardless of status, contribute significantly to Colorado's economy through taxes. Immigrants pay **\$2 billion in state and local tax revenue** and \$4.6 billion in federal tax revenue annually. This includes \$2.6 billion in Social Security and \$697.2 million in Medicare contributions.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, undocumented immigrants contributed **\$436.5 million in Colorado state and local taxes** in 2022, a figure that would rise to \$537.8 million if these taxpayers were granted work authorization,<sup>6</sup> according to research from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.<sup>7</sup> Notably, in Colorado and 39 other states, undocumented immigrants pay higher state and local tax rates than the wealthiest 1% of households living within their borders. In Colorado, undocumented immigrants pay an effective tax rate of 7.8%, compared to the 7% paid by the top 1% of income earners.<sup>8</sup>

## Immigrant Spending Power

Immigrant households in Colorado possess significant spending power. They bring in **\$25.7 billion** in household income and hold **\$19.1 billion in spending capacity**.<sup>9</sup> For every dollar of income Immigrants earn, they generate \$1.60 of economic activity, reinforcing their essential role in Colorado's economic vitality.<sup>10</sup>

By recognizing and fully supporting the vital contributions of immigrants, Colorado can break down barriers and build a more inclusive, prosperous future for all. Ignoring their role is a missed opportunity—embracing their strength will drive economic growth, create new opportunities, and transform the state into a powerhouse of diversity and success.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/colorado/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://coloradofiscal.org/national-study-undocumented-immigrants-contribute-436-5-million-in-colorado-taxes-a-year/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://coloradofiscal.org/national-study-undocumented-immigrants-contribute-436-5-million-in-colorado-taxes-a-year/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/colorado/>

<sup>10</sup> Fiscal Policy Institute. (2018). "Only Wealthy Immigrants Need Apply": How a Trump Rule's Chilling Effect Will Harm New York. <https://fiscalpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NY-Impact-of-PublicCharge.pdf>

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### Immigrant Workers and Entrepreneurs Fuel Economic Growth

More than half a million immigrants call Colorado home, filling across a wide range of industries and income levels. Immigrants make up **11.5%** of Colorado's workforce, and immigrant labor power generates GDP in industries across Colorado's economy. In addition to their contributions as workers, immigrants make up **15%** of business owners in Colorado.

Industry	GDP	Immigrant Share of Labor Force	GDP of Immigrant Labor
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining <sup>1</sup>	\$22,003,489,000	2.4%	\$528,083,736
Construction	\$31,503,911,000	14%	\$4,410,547,540
Manufacturing	\$28,063,051,000	7.2%	\$2,020,539,672
Wholesale Trade	\$29,761,787,000	1.8%	\$535,712,166
Retail Trade	\$30,789,430,000	8.4%	\$2,586,312,120
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	\$25,276,113,000	6.7%	\$1,693,499,571
Information	\$31,116,363,000	2.4%	\$746,792,712
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and	\$110,533,234,000	5%	\$5,526,661,700

<sup>1</sup> Farmworker data is limited for workers regardless of immigration status, and farmworker data is often an underrepresentation of the overall number of workers, which similarly underestimates the number of farmworkers who are immigrants.

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Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	\$84,157,433,000	15%	\$12,623,614,950
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	\$36,064,114,000	19%	\$6,852,181,660
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	\$29,125,724,000	9.3%	\$2,708,692,332
Other services (except public administration)	\$12,173,239,000	6%	\$730,394,340
Public administration/Gov	\$59,058,634,000	2.5%	\$1,476,465,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$529,626,522,000</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>\$42,439,498,350</b>

\* Indicates unavailable data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0501, 2023. Bureau of Economic Analysis. CAGDP1 County and MSA gross domestic product (GDP) summary, 2023.

**Immigration creates opportunity for all Coloradans.** When immigrants move to Colorado, they drive economic growth. This expansion doesn't take away jobs from U.S.-born residents; rather, it creates more opportunities by bringing in new consumers, workers, and business owners. Immigrants are also more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts, leading to higher labor force participation. This boost in workforce engagement translates into valuable tax contributions that directly support public programs and services— K-12 public schools, infrastructure, and our healthcare system—essential pillars that help build thriving communities.

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