



News from the Fiscal Policy Institute

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New from FPI: www.fiscalpolicy.org/immigration.html

Report: Immigrants Now 20% of Long Island Economy *Nearly a Quarter of Small Business Owners Are Immigrants*

June 2, 2015. There are 526,000 immigrants living on Long Island, making up 18 percent of the region's population and 20 percent of the economic output of Long Islanders, according to a study released today by the Fiscal Policy Institute. The analysis is based on the most recent data available from the Census Bureau, the American Community Survey of 2013, and includes both authorized and unauthorized immigrants.

Half of immigrants overall (51 percent) work in white-collar jobs, the study found, and the large majority (61 percent) live in families earning over \$80,000 a year. Immigrants represent significant numbers of the people in more highly paid jobs such as professionals (23 percent), technicians (24 percent), and registered nurses pharmacists and health therapists (23 percent), as well as significant numbers in less well-paid jobs such as construction laborers (32 percent), food preparation services workers (33 percent), and sales clerks and cashiers (21 percent).

The report also includes tabulations of a Migration Policy Institute analysis estimating the number of unauthorized immigrants on Long Island to be 98,000—48,000 in Nassau and 50,000 in Suffolk. The analysis shows that a quarter of unauthorized immigrants work in construction and the other three quarters work in jobs from food services to retail to child care and more.

“The story of immigration on Long Island is not without its rough spots,” said David Dyssegaard Kallick, director of the Fiscal Policy Institute's Immigration Research Initiative. “Many immigrants are struggling to get by, and some communities wrestle with how to integrate the newcomers. But this report really shows what a big and varied role immigrants are playing in the Long Island economy.”

“Often, widely held stereotypes about immigrants are not grounded in the reality of the demographics and data,” added Ron Deutsch, executive director of the Fiscal Policy Institute. “Immigrants on Long Island contribute substantially to every aspect of life in the two

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counties, they represent 23 percent of all small business owners, 23 percent of the workforce and are responsible for 20 percent of Long Island's overall economic output. Their contributions are vital to the economic vitality of Long Island and this report shows we should not take that contribution for granted."

A version of this report will be issued next week in *Regional Labor Review*, an academic journal published by Hofstra University. Gregory DeFreitas, editor in chief of the journal and director of Hofstra's Center for Study of Labor and Democracy, noted: "This new report provides invaluable research findings on the growing importance of immigration to the Long Island economy. Everyone interested in the region's future and in current migration policy debates can benefit from reading it."

The report includes extensive county-level data for Nassau and Suffolk, and also includes data about Long Island towns.

The Fiscal Policy Institute (www.fiscalpolicy.org) is a nonpartisan research and education organization that focuses on tax, budget, and economic public policy issues, particularly issues that affect the quality of life and the economic well being of New York State residents FPI's Immigration Research Initiative looks at immigration issues in New York State and around the country.