



News from the Fiscal Policy Institute

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New report: <http://www.fiscalspolicy.org/immigration.html#nysregions>

New report shows robust economic contribution of immigrants in the Hudson Valley

Immigrants' economic output is in proportion to their share of population

Immigrants in New York's Hudson Valley contribute to the local economy in direct proportion to their share of the population. In the 15-county Hudson Valley region, immigrants make up 13 percent of the population, and are responsible for 16 percent of total economic output.

"Immigrants are an important part of the Hudson Valley economy, working in jobs across the entire economic spectrum," says David Dyssegaard Kallick, director of the Fiscal Policy Institute's Immigration Research Initiative. "There is no job category that is only immigrant, and there is none without significant numbers of immigrants."

Although it is true that immigrants are more likely than U.S.-born workers to be in lower-wage occupations, that is far from the whole story. In the Hudson Valley, immigrants make up 19 percent of professionals such as doctors and engineers, and 18 percent of all registered nurses, pharmacists, and health therapists. Immigrants make up 14 percent of residents working in executive, managerial, and administrative positions. And, immigrants also play a significant role as entrepreneurs and business owners.

Immigrants are also more likely than U.S.-born workers to be in prime working age. Immigrants in the Hudson Valley make up 16 percent of the labor force—three percentage points more than their share of the population.

"The fact findings in this report illustrates the true picture of immigrants in our economy—they are significant contributors at every level," says Betsy Palmieri, executive director of the Hudson Valley Community Coalition. "It is good news for the

economic prospects of Hudson Valley businesses that we have a robust immigrant population.”

This report looks at all immigrants—from all countries, documented and undocumented, recent arrivals, long-term residents, and naturalized citizens. Although we cannot separate undocumented immigrants in this data, it is estimated that roughly one in five immigrants in the downstate suburbs (including Long Island and Westchester) are undocumented, as are about 16 percent of immigrants statewide.

The data for this report comes before the recession, but the immigrant share of the economy is unlikely to have changed substantially, though the economy overall has shrunk.

“A recession is a tough time for everyone,” says Kallick. “But, looking around the country, we can see that immigration goes hand in hand with economic growth. As the country gains its economic footing again, we can expect immigrants slowly to be drawn again to regions where there is growth, and to fuel further growth in those areas.”

The Hudson Valley is defined in this report as the 15-county area comprised of Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington, and Westchester counties.

The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) is a nonpartisan research and education organization that focuses on tax, budget, and economic public policy issues that affect the quality of life and the economic well being of New York State residents.

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