

#Immigration

Article 1:

- Immigrants are an integral part of New York's diverse and thriving communities, making extensive contributions that benefit all. In 2018, 4.4 million immigrants made up 23% of the population, with the top countries being the Dominican Republic, China, Mexico, Jamaica, and India. Immigrants are distributed across the educational spectrum, with one-third having a college degree and 24% having less than a high school diploma.
- Over half a million U.S. citizens in New York live with at least one family member who is undocumented, with 725,000 undocumented immigrants making up 15% of the immigrant population and 4% of the total state population in 2016. DACA recipients live in New York, with 28,180 active and 40,807 granted since 2012. 2.8 million immigrant workers made up 28% of the labor force in 2018.
- Immigrants in New York have contributed billions to the economy, paying \$35.4 billion in taxes and \$21.8 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.

Article 2:

- The United States immigration system is based on four principles: reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) allows the United States to grant up to 675,000 permanent immigrant visas each year, and the president is required to consult with Congress and set an annual number of refugees. Once a person obtains an immigrant visa and comes to the United States, they become a lawful permanent resident (LPR). LPRs are eligible to apply for nearly all jobs and can remain in the country permanently, even if they are unemployed. Each year the United States also admits a variety of noncitizens on a temporary basis, such as tourists, foreign students, temporary workers, and tourist and student visas. Family unification is an important principle, and an unlimited number of visas are available.
- The family preference system is a limited number of visas available every year under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Prospective immigrants must meet standard eligibility criteria, and petitioners must meet certain age and financial requirements. Congress established a complicated system for calculating the available number of family preference visas for any given year, which is determined by starting with 480,000 and subtracting the number of immediate relative visas issued during the previous year and the number of aliens "paroled" into the United States. The number of immediate relatives often exceeds 250,000 in a given year and triggers the 226,000 minimum for preference visas. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, family-based immigrants comprised 68.8% of all new LPRs in the US.
- In order to be admitted through the family-based immigration system, a U.S. citizen or LPR sponsor must petition for an individual relative, establish the legitimacy of the relationship, meet minimum income requirements, and sign an affidavit of support. The individual relative must also meet certain eligibility requirements, such as submitting to a medical exam and obtaining required vaccinations, an analysis of any immigration or criminal history, and demonstrating that they will not become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence. The United States provides various ways for immigrants

with valuable skills to come to the country on either a temporary or a permanent basis. Temporary employment-based visa classifications permit employers to hire and petition for foreign nationals for specific jobs for limited periods. There are more than 20 types of visas for temporary nonimmigrant workers, such as L-1 visas for intracompany transfers and P visas for athletes, entertainers, and skilled performers. Permanent immigration classifications vary in terms of eligibility requirements, duration, whether they permit workers to bring dependents, and other factors.

- The overall numerical limit for permanent employment-based immigrants is 140,000 per year, and any unused family preference immigrant numbers from the preceding year are added to this cap to establish the number of visas available for allocation.
- Refugees are admitted to the United States based on a "well-founded fear of persecution" due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. The president determines the numerical ceiling for refugee admissions, which is broken down into limits for each region of the world. After September 11, 2001, the number of refugees admitted into the US fell drastically, but rose during the Obama administration.
- Applicants for U.S. citizenship must have had LPR status for at least five years, demonstrate continuous residency, demonstrate good moral character, pass English and civics exams, and pay an application fee.

Article 3:

- The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the role of immigrants in the U.S. economy, with immigrants making up approximately 1-in-7 residents, one-in-6 workers, and creating 1-4 of new businesses. They are diverse in terms of country of origin, race and ethnicity, education and occupation, and are more likely to be of prime working age.
- Immigrants disproportionately work in essential jobs, making them more likely to contract and die from COVID.
- Foreign-born workers account for more than 1-in-5 of all workers in the U.S. food supply chain, including farm laborers, graders and sorters, crop production, meat processing and commercial bakeries. Despite the pandemic and low pay, few policies have been enacted to improve conditions for migrant workers.
- Immigrants play an outsized role in the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic, making up 38% of home health aides, 29% of physicians and 22% of nursing assistants.
- Foreign-born workers disproportionately work in occupations that experienced the highest job loss during the COVID-19 contraction, making them integral to a speedy recovery.
- Immigrants have gained 656,000 jobs and 566,000 entered the labor force in the recovery from the coronavirus recession, while Native-born workers have lost 1.2 million jobs and 633,000 exited the labor force. Immigrants are not only workers, they are also consumers, with \$1.3 trillion in spending power in some of the largest state economies. They are younger, more likely to work in STEM, and are more likely to be of prime working age (between 25 and 54 years old). They are also less likely to be children, making them disproportionately workers and paying \$492 billion in state, local and federal taxes.

