



A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas

*Changing Workforce and
Family Demographics*

VOLUME 1

COMMISSIONED BY THE WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
<i>I Introduction</i>	9
<i>How Has the Context for Immigrant Settlement in Arkansas Changed Since 2007, When the Last Report Was Released?</i>	10
<i>II Methods</i>	13
<i>A. How Is the Immigrant Population Defined and Measured?</i>	13
<i>B. What Data Sources Are Employed in This Analysis?</i>	13
<i>III Findings</i>	17
<i>A. How Do Immigration Trends in Arkansas Compare with Those in Other Southeastern States?</i>	17
<i>B. How Are Immigrants Contributing to Population Growth and Demographic Change in Arkansas?</i>	18
<i>C. What Are the Characteristics of Arkansas Immigrants in Terms of Their Countries of Origin, Legal Status, and Length of US Residence?</i>	22
<i>D. Where Do Most Immigrants Live in Arkansas, and Are Their Settlement Patterns Changing?</i>	25
<i>E. How Is Immigration Affecting Public School Enrollment in Arkansas?</i>	28
<i>F. How Do Immigrants and Latinos Fare Economically Compared to Other Major Population Groups in Arkansas?</i>	33
<i>G. How Are Immigrants and Latinos Faring in Terms of Health Insurance Coverage and Health Outcomes?</i>	39
<i>H. How Many Immigrant Workers Are There and What Types of Jobs Do They Hold?</i>	43
<i>I. How Much Do Immigrant Workers Earn and What Are Their Skill Levels?</i>	51
<i>IV Conclusion</i>	63
Endnotes	64
Glossary	69
Works Cited	70
About the Authors	74
Acknowledgments	76



Executive Summary

This report provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of Arkansas immigrants and their children, including a description of immigrant workers in the Arkansas economy. It is the first in a three-volume set commissioned by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in Little Rock. Volume 2, *A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas: Economic and Fiscal Benefits and Costs*, presents an analysis of immigrants' impact on the Arkansas economy and on state and local budgets. Both these volumes are based on the most recently available data from the US Census Bureau. Volume 3, *A Profile of the Marshallese Community in Arkansas*, focuses on Marshall Islanders — a group that is important to Arkansas, but inadequately described in national Census Bureau surveys. (Marshallese individuals are admitted to the United States to live, work, and study as nonimmigrants, and generally do not have a path to permanent residency or citizenship. Since they are not considered “immigrants,” we do not use this term to describe them in the reports' three volumes.) These volumes build upon a previous study of the Arkansas immigrant population commissioned and published by the Foundation in 2007.

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This newest research describes the current and future roles that immigrants and their children play in the Arkansas economy. Despite the fact that immigrants make up a small share of the total Arkansas population currently, they make up significant shares of workers in major industries such as manufacturing, construction, and agriculture, where they contribute to the state's economic competitiveness and tax base. The children of immigrants, who are overwhelmingly born in the United States, comprise a large share of the state's total child population and are thus important to future population growth.

These mostly citizen children (more than 80 percent were born in the United States) will age into the labor force in large numbers regardless of whether future immigration flows rise or decline. Investments in these, and indeed all, children represent an investment in the future of Arkansas.

The findings of Volume 1 are best understood against the backdrop of slowing national and state economies, the recent involvement of state and local police in enforcing immigration laws — particularly in Northwest Arkansas — and the lengthening time span of immigrants' residence in the state. Arkansas remains a relatively poor state, with incomes below the national average, but the state has experienced comparatively strong employment and economic growth since the recession. At the same time, immigrants remain a small share of the total Arkansas population: approximately 5 percent, as compared to 13 percent of the overall US population.

The questions addressed in this volume are:

- How do immigration trends in Arkansas compare with other Southeastern states?
- How are immigrants contributing to population growth and demographic change in Arkansas?

- What are the characteristics of Arkansas immigrants in terms of their countries of origin, legal status, and length of US residence?
- Where do most immigrants live in Arkansas, and are their settlement patterns changing?
- How is immigration affecting public school enrollment in Arkansas?
- How do immigrants — and Latinos overall — fare economically compared to other major population groups in Arkansas?
- How are immigrants and Latinos faring in terms of health insurance coverage and health outcomes?
- How many immigrant workers are there and what types of jobs do they hold?
- How much do immigrant workers earn and what are their skill levels?

The findings in this volume are based on analysis by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) of data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) for 2010, which was the most recent year available at the time of the report's writing, with trend analysis going back to the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Data from the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health are also employed. An advisory group of state and local experts from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors provided guidance and context for the findings.

Among the top findings:

IMMIGRANTS ARE INTEGRATING INTO ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMY, JUST AS PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS HAVE DONE.

- The length of settlement for Arkansas immigrants is expanding: In 2010, fifty-seven percent had lived in Arkansas or elsewhere in the United States for 10 years or more, compared with 51 percent in 2000.
- Immigrants represented approximately 7 percent of Arkansas workers in 2010, versus approximately 5 percent of the state's total population.
- Latino immigrant men had the highest employment rate of any immigrant or native-born group: 88 percent.
- Half of Latino immigrants and two-thirds of non-Latino immigrants owned their own homes. Arkansas immigrants are just as likely to own homes as immigrants nationally despite lower incomes.
- The relatively strong economy and low cost of living in Arkansas continue to attract immigrants and facilitate their integration into the state. In 2010, Arkansas had an unemployment rate of 8 percent versus 10 percent nationally, while the average value of a house in Arkansas was \$105,000 versus \$188,000 nationally.

ARKANSAS, LIKE OTHER STATES, IS FACING AN AGING NATIVE-BORN POPULATION; IMMIGRATION CAN REJUVENATE THE STATE'S POPULATION AND SUPPORT FUTURE WORKFORCE GROWTH.

- Two-thirds of immigrants in Arkansas are from Latin America, and Latinos (including immigrants and their children) are the state's fastest-growing demographic group. The Latino immigrant share of workers doubled from 2 to 4 percent from 2000 through 2010.
- The non-Hispanic white population is aging, with the most rapid growth occurring in the population over age 45. Retirement of non-Hispanic white Arkansas workers will accelerate with the aging of the baby boomers, who are now mostly ages 45 to 65.
- From 2000 through 2010, the number of Latino children (including both children of immigrants and children of natives) grew by 38,000, while the number of non-Hispanic white children fell by 23,000. The number of Asian and African American children grew modestly.
- Latino immigrants and their mostly US-born children form a growing share of the Arkansas population, making them potential key contributors to Arkansas's future workforce and economic growth.

IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE TO KEY INDUSTRIES IN THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION, AND AGRICULTURE.

- Immigrants from all origins comprised 13 percent of manufacturing workers in the 2008–10 period, with about half of immigrants employed in poultry and other animal-processing jobs. Latinos were 74 percent of the immigrants employed in manufacturing.
- Manufacturing has been shedding employees since the mid-1990s and the share of immigrant workers in the industry is rising. From 2000 through 2010, the number of US-born manufacturing workers fell by 50,000 while the number of immigrant workers in the industry rose by 4,000.
- Construction experienced the most dramatic increase in employment from 2000 through 2008–10, with the foreign-born share of workers rising from 2 to 16 percent.
- Immigrants were 9 percent of agricultural workers in the 2008–10 period, not including a few thousand migrant workers who typically are not counted in the Census Bureau data.
- Large numbers of immigrants are employed in certain high-skilled occupations; 17 percent of physicians and surgeons were foreign-born during the 2006–10 period. Latino immigrants, however, are a small share of workers in these high-skilled occupations.
- Immigrant employment in manufacturing, construction, and health-care has held up well despite the recession, as the numbers of immigrants in all three industries held steady or rose from 2005–06 through 2008–10.

DESPITE RAPID RECENT GROWTH, THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS IN ARKANSAS IS RELATIVELY MODEST COMPARED TO OTHER STATES.

- In 2010, immigrants were approximately 5 percent of the state's population, a much smaller share than the national average of 13 percent.
- Unauthorized immigrants represented 42 percent of all immigrants in Arkansas and 2 percent of the total state population.
- Arkansas ranked fourth among the states in immigrant population growth from 2000 through 2010, with the foreign-born population increasing by 82 percent.
- Immigration to Arkansas has slowed just as it has nationally, but the 11 percent growth in the Arkansas foreign-born population since the recession (i.e., from 2007 through 2010) is about double the growth experienced nationwide (5 percent). Most other Southeastern states also continued to experience relatively strong immigrant population growth after 2007.

IMMIGRANTS ARE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE URBAN AREAS OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS AND LITTLE ROCK, AND THESE AREAS RECEIVE THE LARGEST IMMIGRANT ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS.

- In 2010, 44 percent of immigrants lived in the three Northwest counties of Benton, Washington, and Sebastian — an area that spans Rogers, Springdale, Fayetteville, and Fort Smith. Another 17 percent lived in Pulaski County, where Little Rock is located.
- Foreign-born populations continue to grow substantially in most Northwest and Western Arkansas counties, except for recent slowdowns in Benton and Sebastian counties.
- A handful of rural communities in Western Arkansas — led by Yell and Sevier counties — have significant immigrant populations; the foreign-born share of the population is under 2 percent in the vast majority of Southern and Eastern counties.
- The presence of so many immigrants has supported population and workforce growth in Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas, where the economy has been relatively healthy. It is likely that the absence of immigrants in most parts of rural Arkansas means that populations there are aging more rapidly, potentially threatening future economic growth and government revenues.

LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND MARSHALL ISLANDERS FACE SIMILAR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AS OTHER LOW-INCOME WORKING POPULATIONS IN ARKANSAS.

- During the 2008–10 period, Latino immigrants had a median household income of \$33,000, above the median for African Americans (\$25,000), but below the median for US-born whites and Asians (\$42,000).

- The poverty rate for Latino immigrants was 30 percent, lower than for African Americans, but much higher than for non-Hispanic whites and Asians. Poverty rose by 1 to 3 percentage points for all groups from 2000 through 2008–10.
- Nearly one-quarter of Latino immigrants lived in crowded housing (defined by the Census Bureau as more than one person per room — including bedrooms and all other rooms except bathrooms), a far higher rate than for any other group.
- Sixty-three percent of Latino immigrants under age 65 had no health insurance, a figure that is far higher than for African Americans and US-born Latinos — both groups with high rates of public coverage through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known in Arkansas as ARKids First. Sixty-three percent of the Marshallese survey respondents had health insurance, mostly through their employers.
- Field research suggests that the Marshallese community faces similar employment prospects, neighborhood conditions, living standards, and needs for health-care and other services to those experienced by the Latino immigrant population.
- As a result of the common socioeconomic conditions they confront, Latino immigrants, Marshallese individuals, US-born Latinos, and African Americans should benefit from similar work support, housing, and poverty-reduction strategies.





I. Introduction

In 2007, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation released a two-volume report discussing the key demographic and economic factors influenced by immigrants in Arkansas.¹ That report included a first volume that focused on the demographic characteristics of immigrants and their families, along with their contributions to the workforce and their impacts on public schools in the state. The report's second volume described immigrants' contributions to the Arkansas economy, their purchasing power, tax contributions, and fiscal costs. The report was based on 2000 Census data, with updates where possible through 2005. It was recognized as an objective source of data and widely cited in policy deliberations around immigration and related issues at the state and local levels.

This report updates the previous study with 2010 data. As in the first report, Volume 1 addresses demographic changes and Volume 2 describes economic and fiscal impacts. A third volume describes the population of Marshall Islanders living in Northwest Arkansas and the issues they confront, based on a survey conducted as part of this project. The individual reports, as well as a report summary, can be downloaded at www.wrfoundation.org.

During the 1990s, Arkansas's immigrant population grew at the fourth-fastest rate observed in all states; Arkansas also had the fourth-fastest growth from 2000 through 2010.

This report is intended to provide a broad, data-driven description of the state's immigrant and Marshallese population for a general audience and to lay the foundation for policy deliberations.

The first volume of the report addresses the following questions:

- How do immigration trends in Arkansas compare with other Southeastern states?
- How are immigrants contributing to population growth and demographic change in Arkansas?
- What are the characteristics of Arkansas immigrants in terms of their countries of origin, legal status, and length of US residence?
- Where do most immigrants live in Arkansas, and are their settlement patterns changing?
- How is immigration affecting public school enrollment in Arkansas?
- How do immigrants — and Latinos overall — fare economically compared to other major population groups in Arkansas?
- How are immigrants and Latinos faring in terms of health insurance coverage and health outcomes?
- How many immigrant workers are there, and what types of jobs do they hold?
- How much do immigrant workers earn, and what are their skill levels?

The second volume describes economic and fiscal impacts and addresses the following questions:

- What is the estimated impact of immigrant spending on the state, regional economies, and individual counties?
- What are the major public costs of immigrants to Arkansas?
- What are the direct and indirect immigrant tax contributions to the state?
- What is the net benefit or cost of immigrants on the state budget?
- How important are immigrants to Arkansas's overall economic output?
- What local business opportunities exist to serve immigrants?
- How will the economic impact of Arkansas immigrants evolve in the future?

And the third volume focuses on the employment, educational attainment, health-care access, and civic integration of the Marshallese community in Springdale, which is home to more than 80 percent of the Marshallese population in Arkansas. This volume provides some comparisons with other foreign-born populations in Arkansas, particularly Latinos, and addresses questions such as:

- How well educated is the Marshallese population?
- How well are Marshallese individuals integrated politically?
- What types of jobs do Marshallese individuals hold, and how do they view the Arkansas economy?
- What are their patterns of health insurance and health-care access?

HOW HAS THE CONTEXT FOR IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT IN ARKANSAS CHANGED SINCE 2007, WHEN THE LAST REPORT WAS RELEASED?

The context of immigrant settlement and integration, both in Arkansas and across the nation, has changed somewhat since the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation released its first set of reports in 2007. Not long after the first report was released, the United States entered a severe and prolonged economic downturn, from which the labor market has yet to fully recover. A dramatic downturn in immigration, particularly from Mexico, has accompanied the recession. From 2005 through 2010, just as many migrants returned to Mexico as came to the United States.² This represented the first significant period in decades during which the Mexican immigrant population did not grow. The unauthorized immigrant population in the United States has also stopped growing, with apprehensions of unauthorized migrants at the Southwestern border with Mexico reaching their lowest level since the 1970s.³

During the 1990s, Arkansas's immigrant population grew at the fourth-fastest rate observed in all states; Arkansas also had the fourth-fastest growth from 2000 through 2010. Northwest Arkansas witnessed unusually rapid economic growth leading up to the recession and has continued to experience strong growth since. A relatively strong economy has continued to attract immigrants to the state, especially to Little Rock and the Northwest. Yet the state remains a small one (32nd in total population) and home to relatively few immigrants (37th in size): In 2010, it had 133,000 immigrants, or 0.3 percent of the 40 million immigrants in the United States.⁴ The economic impact analysis in Volume 2 provides an estimate of the state's immigrant population that is slightly (10 percent) higher: 146,000. Volume 1's population estimate is based on 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data, which provide unique social, economic, and housing information about immigrants, while Volume 2's estimate derives from the 2010 Census, which provides sufficient samples to conduct economic impact analyses at the local level.

Since 2007, the debate around immigration has arguably become more divisive, both nationally and in the states. There has been a stalemate in Congress regarding the status of more than 11 million unauthorized US immigrants. Dissatisfaction with federal immigration policies and concerns about the impact of immigrants on states and local communities have led to a backlash against immigrant populations — particularly in many of the Southeastern and Southwestern states that experienced rapid immigration before the recession. Oklahoma, Arizona, Georgia, and Alabama all passed laws restricting the access of unauthorized immigrants to government services and facilitating partnerships between the federal authorities and state and local law enforcement agencies to identify, detain, and deport unauthorized immigrants.⁵

While Arkansas has not passed such laws, four jurisdictions in Northwest Arkansas — the cities of Rogers and Springdale and the counties of Benton and Washington — entered into an agreement with federal authorities to identify immigrants who have committed crimes or immigration violations and to remove them from the country. The law enforcement partnership in Northwest Arkansas led to the deportation of several thousand immigrants and has sparked fear and controversy in communities there.⁶ Cooperation between federal immigration authorities and local police has expanded with the Secure Communities program, which identifies unauthorized immigrants when they are fingerprinted in local jails during routine booking. This program identifies more than 75,000 of the nearly 400,000 people deported from the United States annually.⁷ Since its inception in Arkansas in August 2010, Secure Communities has identified 2,800 mostly unauthorized immigrants for deportation, and about 500 of these immigrants have been deported. Benton and Washington counties, where the local-federal law enforcement partnership has been active, account for 43 percent of these deportations.⁸

The combination of economic recession, community backlash, and increasingly aggressive enforcement of immigration laws has arguably made the context for immigrant integration more challenging than it was five years ago. At the same time, immigrants are playing more significant roles in the state's workforce and civic life. Schools and other public institutions — along with community leaders and grassroots service providers — are gaining more experience in working with immigrant populations.



BUSINESS ETIQUETTE

II. Methods

A. HOW IS THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION DEFINED AND MEASURED?

We use the term “immigrants” to refer to the foreign-born, that is, those who were not US citizens at birth. This includes naturalized US citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary immigrants (such as students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees), and the unauthorized — that is, people illegally present in the United States (see Figure 4 later in this volume). Natives are those who were born in one of the following areas — the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands, or the Northern Mariana Islands — or were born abroad to at least one parent who is a US citizen.⁹

In our analysis, we generally disaggregate the following groups:

*Most children of
immigrants in Arkansas
(82 percent)
are US-born citizens.*

- Latino (or Hispanic) immigrants
- Latinos (or Hispanics) born in the United States — includes the US-born children of Latino immigrants
- Asians — includes Pacific Islanders, with Asian immigrants and the US-born Asian population disaggregated where samples permit
- African Americans — combines foreign-born and US-born blacks, as Arkansas has very few black immigrants¹⁰
- Non-Hispanic whites and other immigrants — includes immigrants primarily from Europe, Canada, and Australia
- Non-Hispanic whites and other natives — includes whites and Native Americans

Our findings do not disaggregate other foreign-born groups, including Marshall Islanders, who are not directly identified in the American Community Survey (ACS) data. To describe the Marshallese population, we rely on a survey of more than 100 adults in Springdale, which was collected as part of this project and whose results are published in Volume 3.

We also describe the population of “children of immigrants,” which we define as children under age 18 residing with at least one foreign-born parent. Most children of immigrants in Arkansas (82 percent) are US-born citizens, but the rest are foreign-born and mostly noncitizens — some of whom are unauthorized like their parents.

B. WHAT DATA SOURCES ARE EMPLOYED IN THIS ANALYSIS?

The findings in this report are based primarily on analysis of data from the US Census Bureau: the 1990 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing, as well as six years of the ACS — 2005 through 2010. The 2010 ACS provides the most recent data on the foreign-born population, while the 2010 Census includes only basic data on race and ethnicity. Some findings in the report are based on more than one year of data and are labeled as such

(for example, “during the 2008–10 period” or “in the 2006–10 period”) because the ACS has small annual samples, making it difficult to produce statistically valid estimates of small populations. In a few cases, we provide mid-decade estimates using data from the 2005 ACS. Unless otherwise stated in the report, all results in Volume 1 come from Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of decennial census or ACS data.

The ACS data are based on surveys of about 1 percent of the population annually. In Volume 2, the authors extrapolate from the ACS to the 2010 Census, which yields a slightly (10 percent) higher estimate of the total number of immigrants. The demographic profile in Volume 1 adopts the published number of 133,000 in the ACS in large part because of social, economic, and housing characteristics that are uniquely available in the ACS and critical to our understanding of immigrant integration. Volume 2’s estimate of the immigrant population (146,000) derives from the 2010 Census, due to the fact that only the Census — and not the ACS — provides sufficient samples to conduct economic impact analyses at the local level. We also obtained data from the Arkansas Department of Education on Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, language minority students, Latino students, and other populations in the K–12 public schools. Data from the Arkansas Department of Health and other sources are used to analyze health outcomes for Latinos and other ethnic groups in the state. The education and health data sources do not disaggregate immigrants from natives, and so our analysis here is based on race/ethnicity instead of nativity.

Our data and results were discussed by a group of experts representing businesses, the public sector, and the nonprofit sector from across the state. These experts provided context for the data in the report and links to other sources of information about immigrants in Arkansas.

The length of settlement for Arkansas immigrants is expanding. An increasing share of the state's immigrants — well over half — have been in the country for more than ten years. More settled immigrants are more likely to form families, own homes, and invest in their local communities. The share of immigrants remains relatively small statewide — approximately 5 percent (and in most of Eastern and Southern Arkansas, 2 percent or less). The impacts of immigration are heavily concentrated in Northwest Arkansas, the Little Rock metropolitan area, and a handful of smaller cities and rural communities mostly in Western Arkansas. Immigrants continue to move into the more urbanized and prosperous parts of the state, though their migration has slowed in recent years, particularly into Benton and Sebastian counties.



III. Findings

This report begins with a description of immigration trends in Arkansas, with a focus on Latinos, the largest immigrant group. We then discuss the characteristics of immigrants — their origins, legal status, and length of US residency — and where they live in the state. We examine demographic changes in the Arkansas child population and what these changes mean for the state’s public K–12 schools. We turn next to the economic well-being of immigrants, reviewing their household income, poverty, health insurance coverage, homeownership, and housing conditions. In the report’s final section, we describe the types of jobs that immigrants hold, along with their earnings and skill levels.

Despite rapid growth over two decades, approximately 5 percent of the state’s population was foreign-born in 2010, below the national share of 13 percent.

A. HOW DO IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN ARKANSAS COMPARE WITH THOSE IN OTHER SOUTHEASTERN STATES?

Arkansas’s immigrant population has grown rapidly over the past two decades. From 1990 through 2010, the number of immigrants increased by 429 percent, a rate surpassed by only two other states: North Carolina and Georgia. Seven of the 10 states with the fastest foreign-born population growth are located in the Southeast (see Figure 1).

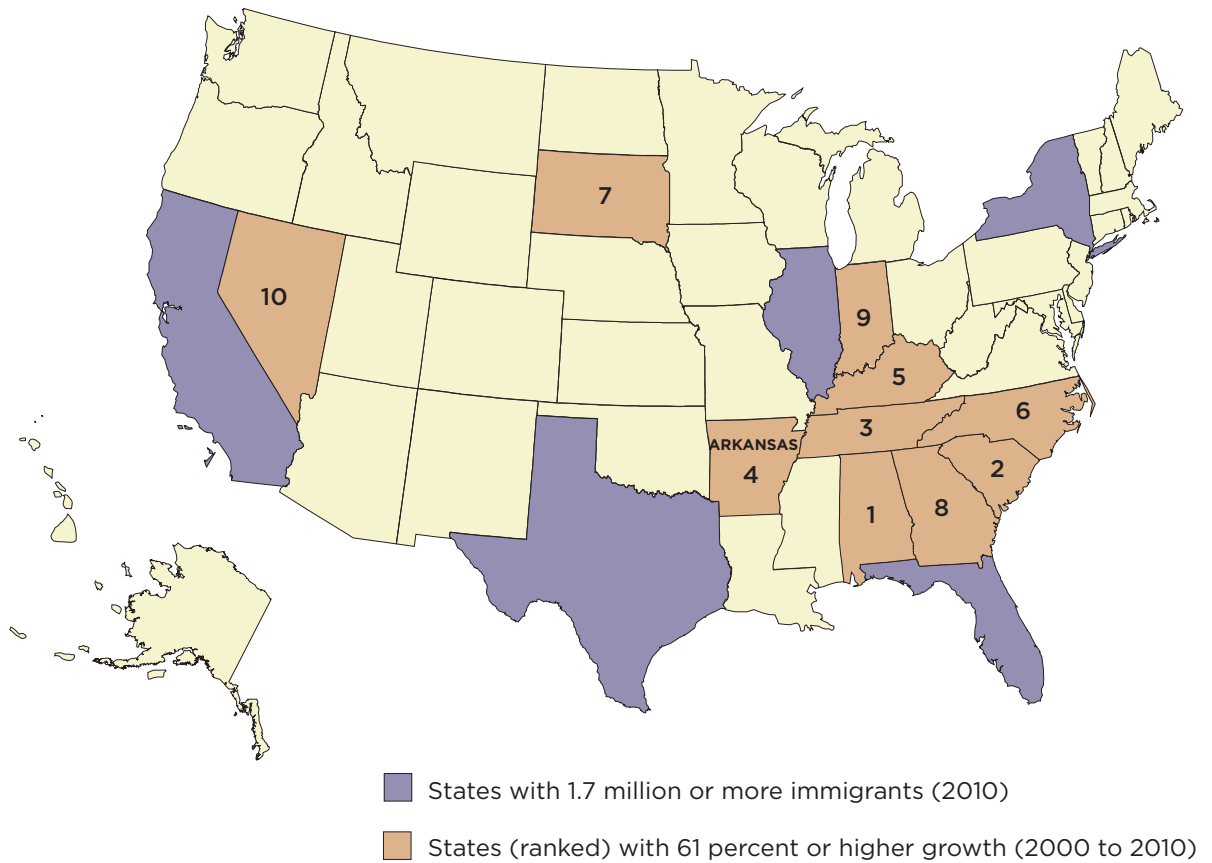
The relatively strong economic growth, low cost of living, and high quality of life available in the region’s smaller cities and rural communities attracted large numbers of immigrants to the Southeast during the 1990s. The US immigrant population increased 57 percent during the decade, as several Southeastern states — including Arkansas — experienced growth above 100 percent.

ARKANSAS RANKED FOURTH IN FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION GROWTH FROM 2000 THROUGH 2010

Foreign-born population growth slowed to 28 percent nationally from 2000 through 2010, and growth slowed in all the Southeastern states. During this decade, the fastest growth occurred in Alabama (92 percent), followed by South Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. North Carolina and Georgia saw the growth of their immigrant populations slow considerably. However, these two states had much larger immigrant populations than Arkansas (and higher foreign-born population growth in *absolute* numbers). In 2010, the immigrant population in Arkansas totaled 133,000, compared with 943,000 in Georgia and 719,000 in North Carolina.

Growth in the immigrant population slowed further during the last few years of the decade, during and after the recession. From 2007 through 2010, the immigrant population grew 5 percent nationally and 11 percent in Arkansas.¹¹ Immigrant population growth was generally faster in Southeastern states than nationally during this period.

FIGURE 1. STATES WITH THE LARGEST AND FASTEST-GROWING IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS, 2000 THROUGH 2010



SOURCE: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of US Census Bureau 2000 Decennial Census and 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

B. HOW ARE IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTING TO POPULATION GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN ARKANSAS?

Immigration has led to rapid demographic change in Arkansas, and immigration to the state has continued since the recession. The Latino population is now the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in absolute numbers. The African American and native-born white populations continue to grow, but much more slowly. Almost all of the growth in the native-born white population is among older adults near or over retirement age, while the number of white children is falling.

1. ARKANSAS'S FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION INCREASED 82 PERCENT FROM 2000 THROUGH 2010

In 2010, there were 133,000 immigrants in Arkansas, representing an increase of 82 percent from 2000 (see Table 1). Almost half of this increase (28,000 of 60,000) occurred from 2005 through 2010, suggesting that immigration to the state continued after the recession.¹² Immigration to Arkansas has slowed somewhat since the 1990s, when the rate of increase was 188 percent. Nonetheless, the immigrant population grew more rapidly in absolute numbers after 2000 than it did during the 1990s (60,000 versus 48,000). Despite rapid growth over two decades, approximately 5 percent of the state's population was foreign-born in 2010, below the national share of 13 percent.

TABLE 1. GROWTH IN ARKANSAS POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY, 1990 THROUGH 2010

	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2010 ACS	% CHANGE 1990-2000	% CHANGE 2000-2010
TOTAL POPULATION	2,344,200	2,672,300	2,921,600	14	9
Foreign-Born	25,300	72,900	132,800	188	82
Native-Born	2,318,900	2,599,400	2,788,800	12	7
LATINOS	20,600	85,300	181,600	314	113
Foreign-Born	4,900	39,600	83,300	708	110
Native-Born	15,700	45,700	98,300	191	115
ASIANS	10,700	21,300	37,400	99	76
Foreign-Born	7,700	15,400	25,500	100	66
Native-Born	3,000	5,800	11,800	93	103
AFRICAN AMERICANS	371,200	422,900	475,800	14	13
WHITES AND OTHERS	1,941,700	2,142,800	2,226,800	10	4
Foreign-Born	11,100	15,800	22,100	42	40
Native-Born	1,930,600	2,127,000	2,204,700	10	4
% Foreign-Born	1.1	2.7	4.5	1.6	1.8
% Latino	0.9	3.2	6.2	2.3	3.0
% African American	15.8	15.8	16.3	0.0	0.5
% Asian	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.3	0.5
% Whites and Others	82.8	80.2	76.2	-2.6	-4.0

NOTES: Latinos include people of any race who reported Latino/Hispanic ethnicity; all other groups include those who did not report Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. African Americans reported their race as black alone or in combination with any other race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites and others include Native Americans. Sample sizes are not large enough to disaggregate black immigrants.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of Census and ACS data, various years.

Immigration to Arkansas has spurred a rapid rise in the state's Asian and Latino populations. From 1990 through 2010, the state's Asian population more than tripled, while the Latino population increased ninefold. Marshall Islanders contributed strongly to Asian population growth, making up 4,300 of the 25,500 individuals in the Asian foreign-born population in 2010. Latinos were 6 percent of Arkansas's total population and Asians just over 1 percent — well below the national averages of 16 and 6 percent, respectively.¹³ The African American population also grew, while its share of the total remained at 16 percent. The non-Hispanic white population grew slowly over the decade, but still represented over three-quarters of the state's total population in 2010.

The Latino population is increasing most rapidly among children, while the non-Latino population — especially the white population — is aging.

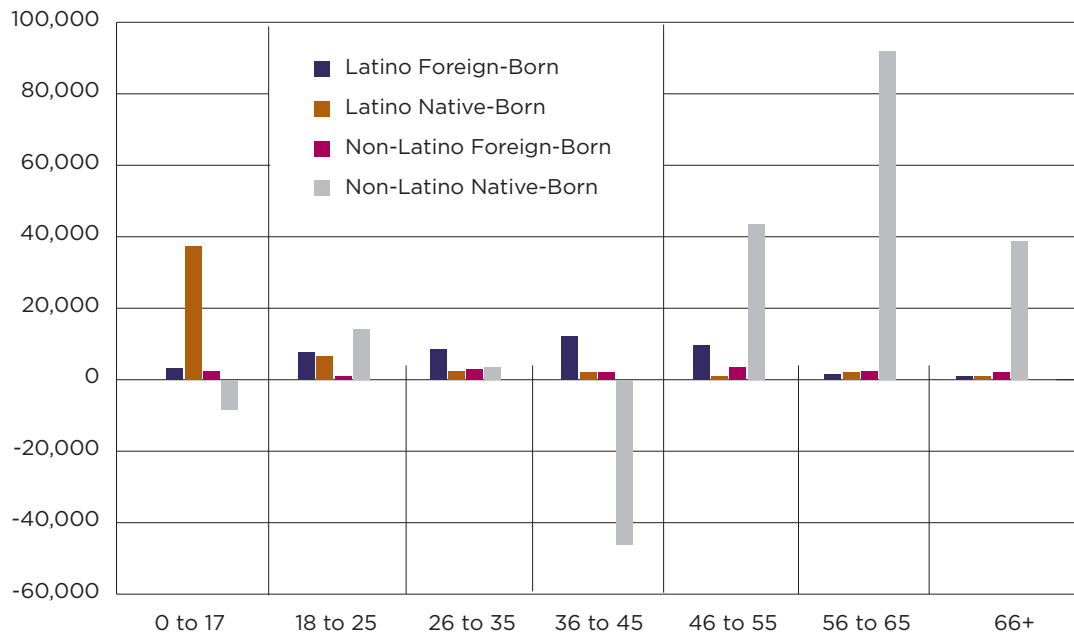
The population of Arkansas residents from immigrant backgrounds who are born in the United States, also known as the second generation, is also increasing rapidly. From 2000 through 2010 the numbers of US-born Latinos and US-born Asians in the state both more than doubled. Many of these US-born Latinos and Asians are second-generation children with immigrant parents.

Over the most recent decade, Latinos experienced the largest absolute population growth (96,000), followed by non-Hispanic whites (84,000) and African Americans (53,000). Thus, while Latinos are the fastest-growing group, population growth in the state remains well balanced among these three major racial/ethnic groups.

2. ARKANSAS'S LATINO CHILD POPULATION IS GROWING WHILE THE NON-LATINO CHILD POPULATION SHRINKS

The Latino population is increasing most rapidly among children, while the non-Latino population — especially the white population — is aging. From 2000 through 2010, the number of US-born Latino children in Arkansas grew by 37,000, while the number of US-born non-Latino children (including white, black, and Asian children) fell by 8,000 (see Figure 2).¹⁴ Few immigrants come to the United States as children, and so most children in immigrant families are US-born. As a result, there are few foreign-born children in Arkansas.

FIGURE 2. ARKANSAS POPULATION GROWTH, BY AGE, NATIVITY, AND LATINO ETHNICITY, 2000 THROUGH 2010



Source: MPI analysis of 2000 Census and 2010 ACS data.

Latinos also contribute to population growth among young adults. Latino immigrants contributed the most to growth in the 26-to-35 and 36-to-45 age groups, while both Latino immigrants and natives contributed substantially to growth among youth ages 18 to 25. The number of non-Latino natives in the 36-to-45 age group declined sharply, while the number of older non-Latino natives rose by 43,000 among those ages 46 to 55, 92,000 among those ages 56 to 65, and 39,000 among those ages 66 and older.

This increase in the older non-Latino population corresponds with the aging of the baby boom generation that will see a large movement out of the labor force into retirement in the coming years and decades. Both immigrants and their children will play larger roles in the workforce as natives age.

C. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANTS IN TERMS OF THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, LEGAL STATUS, AND LENGTH OF US RESIDENCE?

Like many Southeastern states with rapidly growing immigrant populations, Arkansas has a relatively large share of immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries. The state also has a relatively high share of unauthorized immigrants and a low share of naturalized citizens. The immigrant population in Arkansas, however, is becoming more long-term.

During the 2008–2010 period, 66 percent of Arkansas immigrants were born in Latin America and 51 percent in Mexico.

1. OVER HALF OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANTS HAVE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE

The length of settlement for Arkansas immigrants is expanding. In 2010, 57 percent of the state's immigrants had been in the United States for at least a decade, up from 51 percent in 2000. The average length of US residence increased from 13.6 years to 14.9 years. As immigrants' time in the United States lengthens, they are more likely to form families, buy their own homes, advance in the labor market, and contribute more to the tax base.¹⁵ It is observed that their tax contributions have increased significantly in recent years (see Volume 2).

2. TWO-THIRDS OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANTS WERE BORN IN LATIN AMERICA, HALF OF THEM IN MEXICO

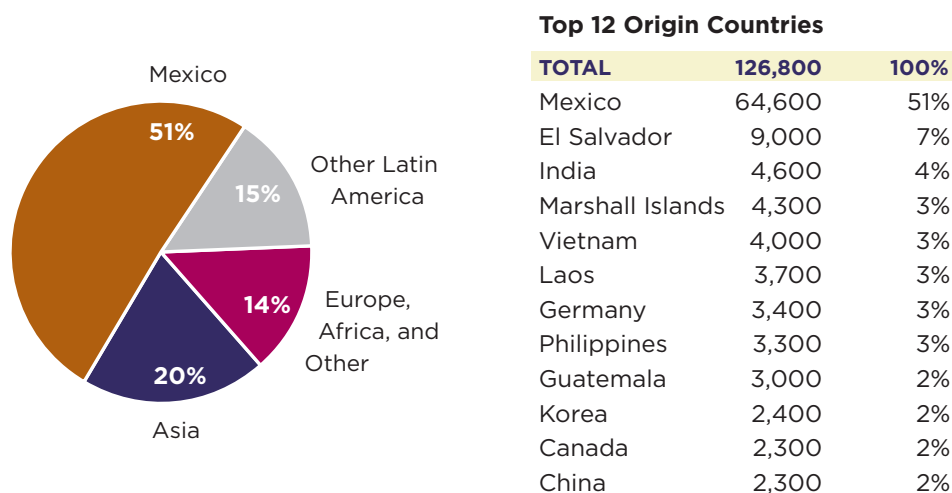
During the 2008–10 period, 66 percent of Arkansas immigrants were born in Latin America and 51 percent in Mexico (see Figure 3). Nationwide, 53 percent were born in Latin America and 30 percent in Mexico.

Arkansas's Mexican immigrant population appears to be growing still — it increased by 30 percent from 2005 through 2010 (from 50,000 to 65,000). This rate of increase may be lower than in previous years, but it stands in contrast to the national pattern. The most recent estimates suggest that the US Mexican immigrant population did not grow during the same period, mostly because of the economic downturn, demographic and economic changes in Mexico, as well as stricter US–Mexico border enforcement.¹⁶

The balance of Arkansas's foreign-born population is very diverse: No country besides Mexico accounts for more than 7 percent. After Mexico, the leading origin countries are El Salvador, India, the Marshall Islands, Vietnam, Laos, Germany, and the Philippines. Twenty percent of immigrants were born in Asia and 14 percent in Europe, Africa, and other world regions.

Most of these countries are common origins for immigrants across the United States. Less common is the population of Marshall Islanders in Arkansas, which is second in size only to the Marshallese population in Hawaii. Arkansas is home to 4,300, or 19 percent, of the nationwide Marshallese population (see Volume 3).¹⁷

FIGURE 3. ORIGINS OF ARKANSAS FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2008-10



SOURCE: US Census Bureau, 2008-10 ACS three-year estimates, "Table B05006: Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population in the United States," American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>; US Census Bureau, "The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010" (2010 Census Briefs C2010BR-12, US Census Bureau, Washington, DC, May 2012), www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-12.pdf.

3. FORTY-TWO PERCENT OF IMMIGRANTS IN ARKANSAS AND 2 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL STATE POPULATION ARE UNAUTHORIZED

Like other new growth states in the Southwest and Southeast, Arkansas has a relatively high share of unauthorized immigrants and a low share of naturalized US citizens. The Pew Hispanic Center estimated that the unauthorized population of Arkansas was 55,000 in 2010 — representing 42 percent of the state's immigrant population and over half of noncitizens (see Figure 4).¹⁸ Pew Hispanic Center's estimates of the Arkansas unauthorized population ranged from 35,000 to 75,000 (27 percent to 57 percent of all immigrants in the state). The size of this range reflects the small sample surveyed, as well as the methodology used to create the estimate.¹⁹

Nationally, 28 percent of the total immigrant population was unauthorized in 2010. However, the unauthorized share of the *total population* was lower in Arkansas than nationally (2 percent versus 4 percent), because Arkansas has a much lower share of immigrants overall.

The Pew Hispanic Center also estimated that Arkansas's unauthorized population held steady, at 55,000, from 2007 through 2010.²⁰ Nationally, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has estimated that the number of unauthorized immigrants did not grow during the most recent five-year period for which data are available (2006-11) — due to the US recession, heightened US-Mexico border enforcement, and demographic and economic changes in Mexico.²¹

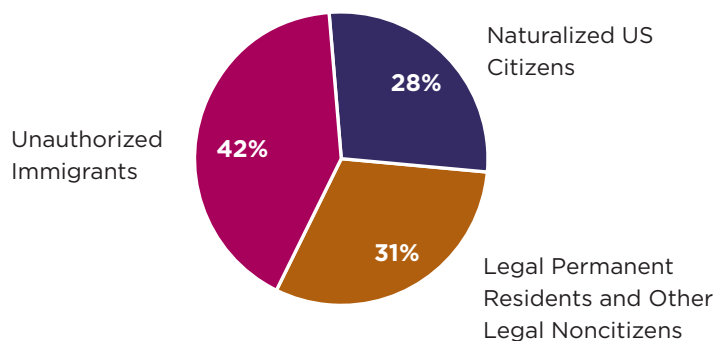
If the national pattern of little to zero net Mexican migration continues, it could further slow Mexican migration to Arkansas — unless the state appears significantly more attractive to Mexican immigrants than do other US or regional destinations. Illegal immigration appears already to have slowed to near zero in the state.

Most unauthorized immigrants face significant barriers to becoming US lawful permanent residents (LPRs) or citizens due to the restrictions of current immigration law. However, the Obama administration recently implemented a policy of deferring deportation of unauthorized youth who are under age 31, who entered the United States before age 16, have at least five years of continuous US residence, are enrolled in school or have graduated from high school or served in the military, have not committed a felony or significant misdemeanor crime, and do not represent a national security or public safety threat. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative implemented by DHS on August 15, 2012, provides a two-year grant of relief from deportation for qualifying unauthorized youth. Though the policy confers no legal status, it will allow beneficiaries to stay in the United States for two years (with the possibility of renewal) and attend school or work during that time.²² According to MPI estimates, the number of unauthorized youth in Arkansas eligible for the two-year deportation relief ranges from 1,000 to 10,000, with a midpoint of 5,500.²³

Relatively few Arkansas immigrants have become US citizens. In 2010, the share of naturalized citizens among the Arkansas immigrant population was 28 percent, versus 44 percent nationally.²⁴ Immigrants' lack of citizenship status reduces their voting and political power and access to public-sector jobs.

Unauthorized immigrants generally cannot access government services and benefits, and they are vulnerable to Secure Communities and other immigration enforcement activities. Unauthorized immigrants cannot obtain driver's licenses, meaning they cannot drive legally in Arkansas — a relatively rural state with few public transportation options. Lack of driver's licenses also makes unauthorized immigrants vulnerable to enforcement, as they can be picked up and their legal status screened when caught driving without a license. Unauthorized immigrants who are enrolled in college are ineligible for federal and state scholarships, which may limit their ability to pay for and attend college. DHS's new deferred action policy, however, has the potential to help unauthorized youth find work and may help them attain eligibility for some college scholarships.

FIGURE 4. CITIZENSHIP AND LEGAL STATUS OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANTS, 2010



NOTE: The “Legal Permanent Residents and other Legal Noncitizens” group includes a small number of legal immigrants with temporary visas, including students and temporary workers, who are estimated at less than 1 percent of the total immigrant population in Arkansas. Total adds up to 101 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, 2010 ACS “Table B05002: Place of Birth by Citizenship Status,” American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>; Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, *Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2011), www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/133.pdf.

D. WHERE DO MOST IMMIGRANTS LIVE IN ARKANSAS, AND ARE THEIR SETTLEMENT PATTERNS CHANGING?

Immigrants remain heavily concentrated in the most urbanized areas of Arkansas, with almost two-thirds residing in either the Northwest region of the state or the Little Rock metropolitan area. There are also significant concentrations in small towns and rural areas, most of them in Western Arkansas.

1. THREE NORTHWEST COUNTIES (WASHINGTON, BENTON, AND SEBASTIAN) ACCOUNT FOR 44 PERCENT OF IMMIGRANTS

In 2010, three counties in Northwest Arkansas accounted for 44 percent of all immigrants in the state: Washington, Benton, and Sebastian (see Table 2). These three counties include the Fayetteville–Springdale–Rogers and Fort Smith metropolitan areas. Pulaski County, where Little Rock is located, accounted for another 17 percent of all immigrants. These four counties together accounted for 61 percent of the state’s immigrant population, but only 29 percent of the total Arkansas population. Based on the geographic concentration of immigrants, one would expect their economic and fiscal impacts to be greatest in these four counties (see Volume 2).

Washington County had the highest share of immigrants among the largest counties — 12 percent, or near the national average of 13 percent. Shares of immigrants were also at or above the statewide average of approximately 5 percent in Benton County (10 percent), Sebastian County (9 percent), Pulaski County (6 percent), and Garland County (5 percent). Immigrant populations more than doubled from 2000 through 2010 in most of the counties with the largest numbers of immigrants. The exceptions were Sebastian, Craighead, and White counties.

TABLE 2. TOP TEN ARKANSAS COUNTIES WITH THE MOST IMMIGRANTS, 2010

	TOTAL POPULATION	IMMIGRANT POPULATION	% IMMIGRANTS	% CHANGE 2000-2010	% OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANTS IN COUNTY
Arkansas Total	2,922,000	132,000	5	79	100
Washington	204,000	25,000	12	114	19
Pulaski	384,000	23,000	6	113	17
Benton	223,000	22,000	10	122	17
Sebastian	126,000	11,000	9	39	8
Garland	96,000	5,000	5	117	4
Craighead	97,000	3,000	3	88	2
Faulkner	114,000	3,000	3	114	2
Saline	108,000	3,000	3	173	2
Lonoke	69,000	2,000	3	186	2
White	77,000	1,000	1	0	1
All Other Counties	1,424,000	34,000	2	34	26

NOTE: Sampling variability and rounding may affect relative county rankings at populations below 10,000.

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, "Table DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," and "Table DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, Census 2000 Summary File 3 Sample Data," American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

2. IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT PATTERNS CONSISTENT FROM 2000 THROUGH 2010

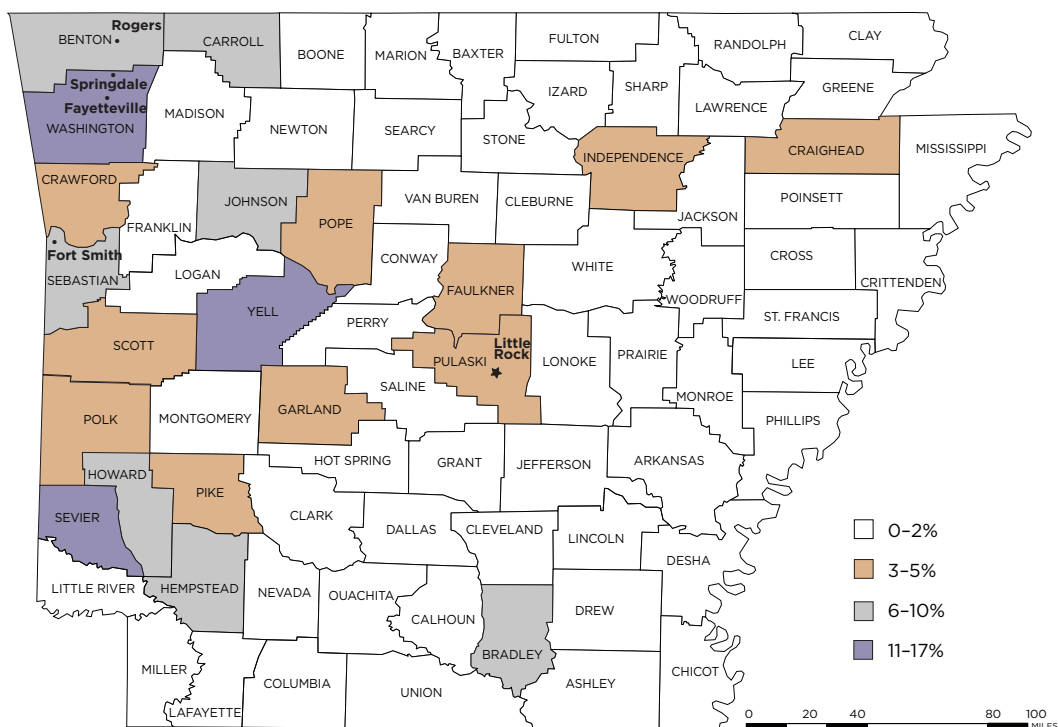
The pattern of immigrant settlement in 2010 remained remarkably similar to patterns of concentration observed in 2000 and 2005, except that the pace of immigration to Benton and Sebastian counties slowed somewhat after 2005.²⁵ The shares of immigrants statewide and in most of the largest counties — including Washington and Pulaski — increased slightly from 2005 through 2010, but there was a decline in the share of immigrants (from 11 to 10 percent) in Benton County, while the share of immigrants remained constant at close to 9 percent in Sebastian County. After several years of steep increases, the numbers of immigrants changed little from 2005 through 2010 in Benton County (20,000 versus 22,000) and Sebastian County (11,000 in both periods), while immigrant populations grew more in Washington County (by 7,000) and Pulaski County (by 9,000).²⁶

There are also some small pockets of high immigrant concentrations outside the major urban counties. In the 2006–10 period, Yell and Sevier counties had immigrant population shares of more than 11 percent, while Carroll, Johnson, Howard, Hempstead, and Bradley counties had shares ranging from 6 through 10 percent (see Figure 5).²⁷ As previously noted, the largest immigrant concentrations are in the Little Rock metropolitan area and the urban and rural Northwest and Western regions of the state. Immigrant shares are 2 percent or lower in most of the remainder of the state, including Eastern and Southern Arkansas.

The reasons for the relative slowdown in immigration in Benton and Sebastian counties are unclear, but could include the decline in construction industry jobs as well as sustained immigration enforcement — Northwest Arkansas has been the center of enforcement activities through the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs since 2007.²⁸ Despite these slowdowns in the second half of the decade, both counties showed strong growth in immigrant populations from 2000 through 2010 overall.



FIGURE 5. IMMIGRANT SHARE OF TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION, ARKANSAS COUNTIES, 2006-10



Source: US Census Bureau, "Table B05006: Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates," American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

E. HOW IS IMMIGRATION AFFECTING PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN ARKANSAS?

Children with immigrant parents represent one of the fastest-growing groups in the Arkansas population. From 1990 through 2000, the number of children with at least one immigrant parent increased by 171 percent, and the number of these children more than doubled again from 2000 through 2010 (see Table 3). In 2010, 82 percent of children with immigrant parents were US-born citizens; the rest were foreign-born and mostly noncitizens, some of whom were unauthorized like their parents. From 1990 through 2000, the number of children with only US-born parents rose by only 4 percent, and that number fell by 1 percent in the most recent decade.

1. LATINO CHILDREN WITH IMMIGRANT PARENTS ARE THE FASTEST-GROWING GROUP OF CHILDREN

The most rapid rise occurred among Latino children with immigrant parents: There were 2,000 such children in 1990 and 48,000 in 2010. Increases in the numbers of Asian children and white children in immigrant families were substantial, but much more modest. The number of white children in native-born families fell slightly over the 20-year period.

The rapid pace of immigration brought the Latino share of Arkansas children from 1 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 2010, still well below the national average of 23 percent. The African American share of children held steady at about 20 percent over the 20-year period, while the share of white children dropped from 77 percent to 68 percent.

TABLE 3. GROWTH IN ARKANSAS CHILD POPULATION, BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND PARENTAL NATIVITY, 1990 THROUGH 2010

	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2010 ACS	% CHANGE 1990-2000	% CHANGE 2000-2010
ALL CHILDREN	591,400	637,000	663,800	8	4
At least one immigrant parent	12,400	33,600	68,500	171	104
Native-born parents only	579,000	603,400	595,300	4	-1
LATINO CHILDREN	6,400	29,400	67,600	359	130
At least one immigrant parent	1,900	19,100	47,900	905	151
Native-born parents only	4,500	10,300	19,700	129	91
ASIAN CHILDREN	3,400	5,200	9,200	53	77
AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN	124,100	126,400	133,600	2	6
WHITE AND OTHER CHILDREN	457,400	476,000	453,400	4	-5
At least one immigrant parent	6,400	8,200	12,300	28	50
Native-born parents only	451,000	467,800	441,100	4	-6
% Children with Immigrant Parents	2.1	5.3	10.3	3.2	5.0
% Latino Children	1.1	4.6	10.2	3.5	5.6
% Asian Children	0.6	0.8	1.4	0.2	0.6
% African American Children	21.0	19.8	20.1	-1.1	0.3
% White and Other Children	77.3	74.7	68.3	-2.6	-6.4

NOTES: Children are ages 17 and under with at least one parent in the home. Latinos include people of any race who reported Latino/Hispanic ethnicity; all other groups include those who did not report Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. African Americans reported their race as black alone or in combination with any other race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites and others include Native Americans. Sample sizes are not large enough to disaggregate black or Asian children with immigrant parents.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of Census and ACS data, various years.

The entire decline in Arkansas's white child population occurred from 2000 through 2010, when that population fell by 5 percent, or 23,000 children. During this decade, the number of Latino children rose by 38,000, while the number of Asian children increased by 4,000 and the number of African American children (black alone or in combination with any other race) rose by 7,000. It is likely that the increase in the overall Marshallese population substantially contributed to the rise in the number of Asian children, though it is not possible to disaggregate the number of children with Marshallese or other Pacific Islander parents.

2. IMMIGRATION HAS LED TO A RAPID INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH LEARNERS IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

These rapid demographic changes have led to increases in the number of Latino and Asian students in Arkansas public elementary and secondary schools and an increase in English learners, those termed Limited English Proficient (LEP) by the Arkansas Department of Education. More specifically, LEP students are defined as those who are foreign-born, Native American, migrant, or otherwise come from an environment in which a language other than English affects their English proficiency, and whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English affect their classroom performance and achievement on state tests.²⁹

From the 2003–04 school year through the 2011–12 school year, the number of LEP students in Arkansas more than doubled from 15,900 to 33,100, and their share within the entire student population rose from 4 to 7 percent.³⁰ The larger population of “language minority students” — those who reported speaking a language other than English in home language surveys (some of whom were LEP and some English proficient) — almost doubled, from 23,600 in 2003–04 to 43,800 in 2011–12 (accounting for 9 percent of all students). These figures suggest that the impact of immigration on Arkansas public schools is increasing rapidly, as the cost of educating immigrants' children has roughly doubled since 2004 (see Volume 2).

During the 2011–12 school year, 87 percent of the language minority students in Arkansas public schools spoke Spanish at home, 5 percent spoke Marshallese, and no other language accounted for more than 2 percent. The significant share of students speaking Marshallese again suggests that the group is an important part of the story of demographic change in the Arkansas child population.

In 2011–12, 47 percent of all language minority students and 40 percent of LEP students were in grades 6–12.³¹ The higher share of language minority students versus LEP students reflects the fact that most students entering the early grades learn English by the time they reach middle school or high school. Nonetheless, there were 13,200 LEP students in middle or high school (grades 6–12) in 2011–12. A further complicating factor is that some language minority and LEP students arrive in the United States at older ages and go directly to high school, giving them fewer years of potential English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction before they graduate than students who arrive at younger ages.

By the 2010–11 school year, there were 47,600 Latino students or about 10 percent of all students in the Arkansas public schools,³² which was less than half the number of African

American students (98,600). Thus, while Arkansas public schools have experienced substantial demographic changes in the past several years, Latino and LEP students remain small minorities of the total student population statewide.

3. ENGLISH LEARNERS ARE OVER A THIRD OF THE STUDENTS IN A HANDFUL OF NORTHWEST AND WESTERN ARKANSAS DISTRICTS

In a handful of districts, shares of Latino students and English learners are much higher. These districts are generally located in the areas with high immigrant concentrations — both in those urban counties with large total immigrant populations and some of the rural counties with high shares of immigrants among their small total populations. For instance, during the 2011–12 school year, the two Arkansas school districts with the highest percentages of Latino/Hispanic students were DeQueen in Sevier County (59 percent) and Danville in Yell County (49 percent). Sevier and Yell are the two counties with the highest shares of immigrants in their total population (see Figure 5).³³ The larger districts of Springdale, Rogers, and Fort Smith all have relatively high shares of Latino students — and much larger numbers of these students than DeQueen or Danville (see Table 4). The Little Rock school district has the fourth-largest total number of Latino students after Springdale, Rogers, and Fort Smith. Latinos represent 10 percent of Little Rock students, about the statewide average (not shown in Table 4).

The four districts with the highest shares of Latino students also have the highest shares of LEP students: Springdale (43 percent), DeQueen (40 percent), Rogers (34 percent), and Danville (33 percent). Two small districts have student bodies that are 30 percent LEP: Green Forest and Decatur; no other district has over one-quarter of students who are LEP. Spanish-speaking students are common throughout these high-LEP districts, but the Marshallese-speaking students are heavily concentrated in just two: Springdale and Rogers.

The central form of support for English learners in Arkansas classrooms is the ESL program, which transitions them to an English-fluent status so that they can fully participate in their coursework in English. Home-language instructional support is also provided for students in some schools so that they can better learn math, science, and other content areas before they become fully proficient in English. To support these services, Arkansas provided public elementary and secondary schools with an additional \$299 per LEP student in the 2011–12 school year, mostly from the federal No Child Left Behind funding.³⁴

Some districts have developed extensive programs for English learners and their parents. Springdale — the district with the largest number of LEP students in the state — operates a family literacy program in 11 locations. The Springdale school district provides most of the funding for the program, which includes adult education, parental ESL, instructional support for children, and structured time for parents and children to learn English together. The program facilitates English language acquisition among children and their parents; it also encourages parental participation in schools and in their children's education. With its adult education program, the Springdale family literacy program aims to improve parents' employment opportunities and accelerate their integration into the communities in which they live.

TABLE 4. TOP 20 ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST SHARES OF HISPANIC AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS, 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	HISPANIC ENROLLMENT	% HISPANIC	LEP ENROLLMENT	% LEP
Arkansas Total	468,656	47,553	10	33,139	7
DeQueen School District	2,369	1,408	59	944	40
Danville School District	898	443	49	300	33
Springdale School District	19,376	8,359	43	8,279	43
Rogers School District	14,145	5,906	42	4,844	34
Green Forest School District	1,243	509	41	367	30
Decatur School District	491	161	33	145	30
Clarksville School District	2,559	792	31	393	15
Covenant Keepers Charter School	238	72	30	53	22
Dardanelle School District	1,941	583	30	469	24
Fort Smith School District	13,896	3,921	28	3,399	24
Hope School District	2,460	691	28	445	18
Hermitage School District	467	129	28	107	23
Siloam Springs School District	3,922	987	25	714	18
Cossatot River School District	1,125	274	24	207	18
Berryville School District	1,872	446	24	314	17
Horatio School District	866	205	24	111	13
Western Yell County School District	447	95	21	78	17
Warren School District	1,529	305	20	49	3
Buffalo Island Central School District	816	155	19	48	6
Nashville School District	1,947	363	19	245	13

NOTES: The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) uses the term “Hispanic” to identify Latino students. Sorted by percent Hispanic students.

SOURCE: ADE, “Enrollment by Race and Gender (2011–2012),” ADE Data Center, <http://adedata.arkansas.gov/statewide/Districts/EnrollmentRaceGender.aspx?year=22&search=&pagesize=10>; ADE, “Statewide Information System Reports — Student Status (2011–2012),” ADE Data Center, <http://adedata.arkansas.gov/statewide/Districts/StudentStatus.aspx>.

F. HOW DO IMMIGRANTS AND LATINOS FARE ECONOMICALLY COMPARED TO OTHER MAJOR POPULATION GROUPS IN ARKANSAS?

Arkansas median annual household income was \$39,000 in the 2008–10 period, substantially lower than the US average (\$51,000).³⁵ At the same time, gaps in household income among the major racial/ethnic groups were narrower in Arkansas than nationally. Latino immigrants have relatively low incomes, but non-Latino immigrants are the highest-income group in the state.

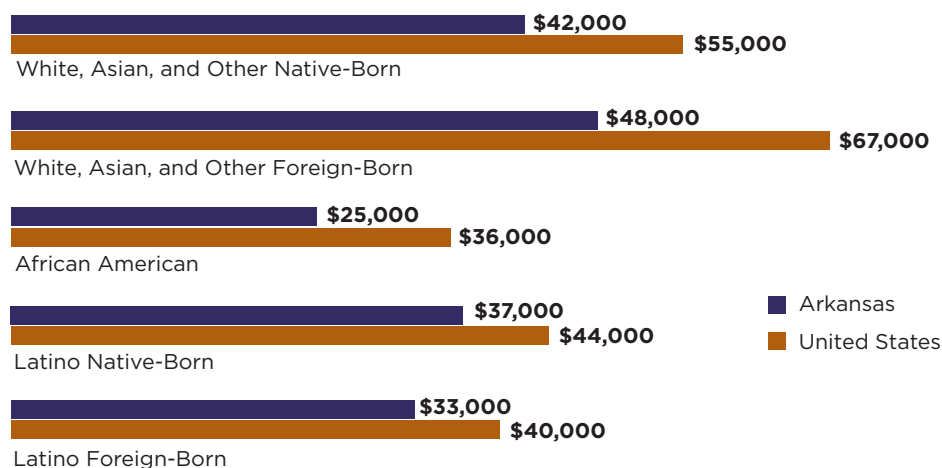
1. LATINOS HAVE LOWER HOUSEHOLD INCOMES THAN WHITES, BUT THE GAP IS NARROWER THAN NATIONWIDE

Latino immigrant households had a lower median income in the 2008–10 period than households headed by native-born whites and Asians (\$33,000 versus \$42,000), but foreign-born whites and Asians had the highest median income (\$48,000). Non-Latinos are very diverse and include both high- and low-income groups — for instance, Marshall Islanders and Southeast Asian refugees. They also include higher-income European, Chinese, and Indian immigrants.

The gap in household income between Latino immigrants and whites/other groups was \$9,000 in Arkansas versus \$15,000 nationally (see Figure 6). Latino native-born households had a slightly higher median income than Latino immigrant households, but again the gap versus white, Asian, and other racial/ethnic groups was smaller. African Americans had the lowest median household income both in Arkansas (\$25,000) and nationwide (\$36,000). Thus, while Latinos and African Americans have relatively low incomes, these may be somewhat offset by the lower cost of living in Arkansas — driven by the relatively low median incomes of all state residents.



FIGURE 6. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY NATIVITY AND ETHNICITY, ARKANSAS AND UNITED STATES, 2008-10



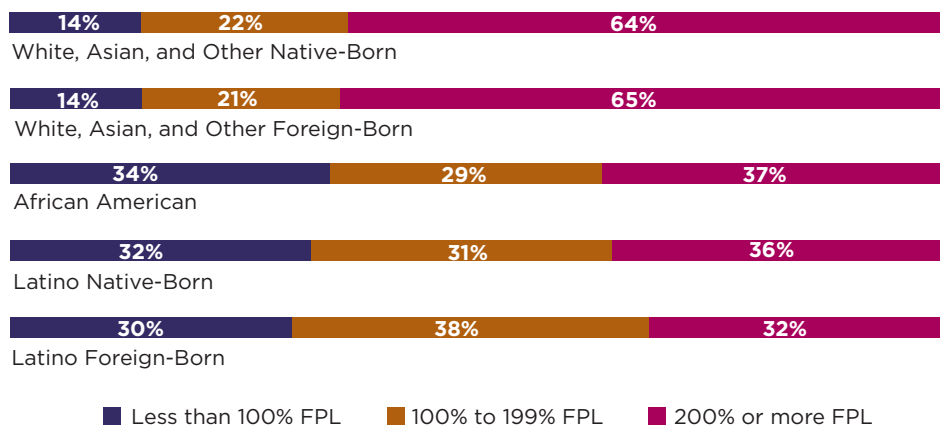
NOTES: Median income is calculated by pooling data from 2008, 2009, and 2010, with income adjusted over these three years to account for inflation. Foreign-born households have a foreign-born head and/or a foreign-born spouse; Latino households have a Latino/Hispanic head; and African American households have a non-Hispanic black head. Asian family income was not disaggregated due to small sample size, and households with zero and negative income were excluded.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

2. LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE RELATIVELY HIGH POVERTY RATES

The low incomes of Latino and African Americans in Arkansas are reflected in their relatively high poverty rates. During the 2008–10 period, 30 percent of Latino immigrants were poor (with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, FPL), and poverty rates were about a third for Latino natives and African Americans (see Figure 7).³⁶ About two-thirds (68 percent) of Latino immigrants had incomes below 200 percent of FPL — near the cutoff for federal assistance programs such as Medicaid health insurance coverage and free and reduced-price lunches in public schools. Latino natives and African Americans were slightly less likely to have incomes below twice the poverty level (63 percent for both groups). Poverty rates were lower for whites, Asians, and those from other racial/ethnic groups, with similar rates for immigrants and natives. Once again, the broad white-Asian group includes a significant number of Marshall Islanders who may have a relatively high poverty rate, but cannot be disaggregated in the data.

FIGURE 7. POVERTY AND LOW-INCOME RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS BY NATIVITY AND RACE/ETHNICITY, ARKANSAS 2008-10



NOTES: FPL = Federal poverty level, calculated based on household size and income. Latinos include people of any race who reported Latino/Hispanic ethnicity; all other groups include those who did not report Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. African Americans reported their race as black alone or in combination with any other race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites and others include Native Americans. The Asian poverty rate was not disaggregated due to small sample size.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

Poverty rates were higher for all groups in Arkansas than nationwide, and here gaps among racial/ethnic groups were somewhat larger. In Arkansas, Latino immigrants were 16 percentage points more likely to be poor than white, Asian, and other racial/ethnic groups; across the United States, this gap was 13 percent on average. The gap in poverty rates between African Americans and whites was also larger in Arkansas than nationally (20 versus 16 percent).

Why would Arkansas residents experience wider racial/ethnic gaps in poverty rates, but narrower income gaps than US residents overall? One possible explanation is the relatively small share of high-income whites and Asians in Arkansas. While whites and Asians have a low poverty rate in Arkansas, there are not as many high earners in this group as nationally, thus reducing the gap in income with other racial/ethnic groups.

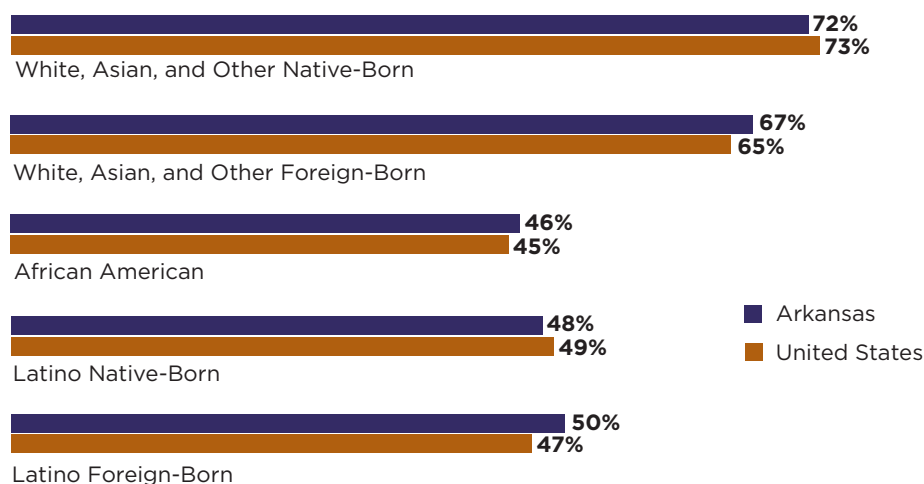
3. POVERTY ROSE SLIGHTLY FOR BOTH IMMIGRANTS AND NATIVES FROM 2000 THROUGH 2010

Poverty rose slightly from 2000 through 2010 for most groups of immigrants and natives in Arkansas. The poverty rate increased the most for native-born Latinos (by 3 percentage points). Poverty rose 2 percentage points among Latino immigrants and among whites and Asians. The African American rate increased by 2 percentage points, and that of white, Asian, and other immigrants fell by 1 percentage point. A slow rise in poverty likely reflects the recession's impact and is mirrored in national trends.

4. HALF OF LATINO IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS AND TWO-THIRDS OF OTHER IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS OWN THEIR HOMES

Homeownership rates reflect the pattern for household income, with lower rates among Latinos and African Americans. Nonetheless, in the 2008–10 period, the homeownership rate was 50 percent for Arkansas’s Latino immigrant households and slightly below 50 percent for Latino native-born and African American households (see Figure 8). White, Asian, and other households had higher homeownership rates (67 percent for immigrant and 72 percent for native-born households in this racial/ethnic group). Homeownership rates were similar in Arkansas and the United States. Nonetheless, two-thirds of non-Latino immigrant households in Arkansas lived in owned homes.

FIGURE 8. SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN OWNED HOMES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY, ARKANSAS AND UNITED STATES, 2008–10



NOTES: Foreign-born households have a foreign-born head and/or a foreign-born spouse; Latino households have a Latino/Hispanic head; and African American households have a non-Hispanic black head. Asian homeownership was not disaggregated due to small sample size.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008–10 three-year estimates.

Another measure of economic well-being is the proportion of income that people spend on housing. Where housing is more expensive, higher incomes are required in order to provide for household needs beyond housing. Households with a high housing burden may cut back on other necessities such as food, or double- or triple-up in crowded conditions. But in places with lower costs of living, like Arkansas, less income is required for housing and other basic necessities.

5. HOUSING COSTS ARE LOW IN ARKANSAS, AND HOUSING COST BURDENS ARE LOWER THAN NATIONWIDE

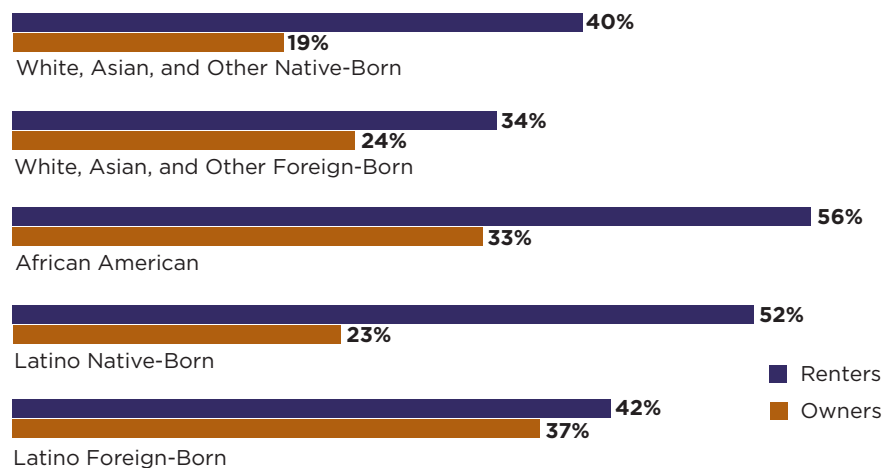
In the 2008–10 period, the share of households spending over 30 percent of their monthly incomes on housing costs (including mortgage payments and utilities) was 28 percent in Arkansas compared with 38 percent nationally.³⁷ Thirty percent is considered the cutoff for a “moderate” housing cost burden. The reason for the relatively low housing cost burden in Arkansas was the relatively low cost of housing in the state: \$105,000 versus \$188,000 nationally.

Housing cost burdens mostly follow the same pattern as poverty rates — with larger burdens among Latinos and African Americans. These burdens were also generally higher for households that rented than households living in owned homes.³⁸ During the 2008–10 period, over half of African American and Latino *native-born* renting households had moderate housing cost burdens (see Figure 9). The share of Latino *immigrant* renting households with moderate housing cost burdens was lower (42 percent) and near the rate for white, Asian, and other native households that rented (40 percent). Among renting households, housing cost burdens were lower in Arkansas than nationwide for all groups except African Americans.

Housing cost burdens were lower for owning households than renting households, and the pattern of these burdens was slightly different.³⁹ Among owning households, those headed by Latino immigrants had the highest share with moderate housing cost burdens (37 percent), followed closely by African Americans (33 percent). Non-Latino immigrants had relatively low housing cost burdens, among both owners and renters. The share of owning households with moderate cost burdens was higher nationally than in Arkansas for every racial/ethnic and nativity group except whites, Asians, and others.⁴⁰



FIGURE 9. SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING OVER 30 PERCENT OF INCOME ON HOUSING COSTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, NATIVITY, AND HOMEOWNERSHIP STATUS, ARKANSAS, 2008-10



NOTES: Housing cost burdens are calculated by the ratio of monthly housing costs (rent or mortgage plus utilities) to monthly household income. Foreign-born households have a foreign-born head and/or a foreign-born spouse; Latino households have a Latino/Hispanic head; and African American households have a non-Hispanic black head. Asian housing cost burdens were not disaggregated due to small sample size.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

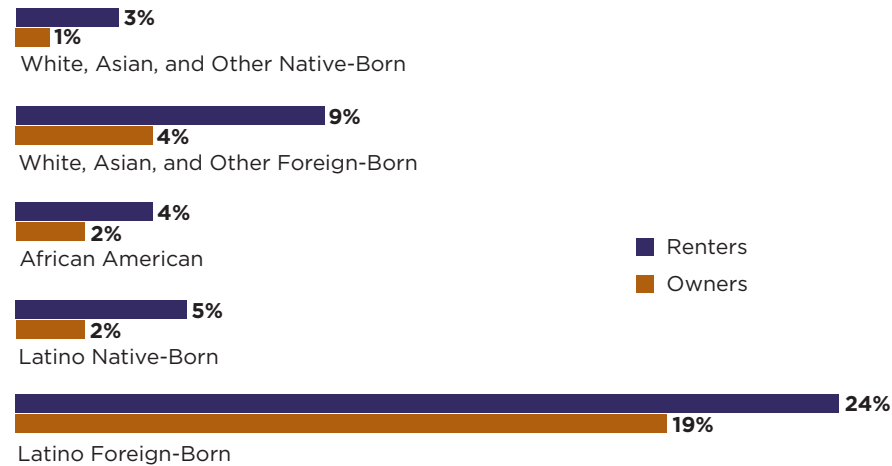
Nationally, Latino homeowners borrow at higher interest rates than their non-Latino counterparts, and their loans represent higher shares of their incomes.⁴¹ These relatively high housing cost burdens may put Latino homeowners at risk for foreclosure. The risk of foreclosure and potential impact of the housing crisis on Latino and immigrant homeowners, however, is lower in Arkansas than nationally — due to lower housing cost burdens in the state.

6. ALMOST ONE-QUARTER OF LATINO IMMIGRANTS LIVE IN CROWDED HOUSING

Overcrowding is another measure related to housing costs. The US Census Bureau defines housing as “crowded” if there is more than one person per room (this includes bedrooms and all other rooms in the house except bathrooms). Crowding is rare, with only 3.2 percent of units nationally and 2.5 percent in Arkansas including more than one person per room.⁴² Renters are more likely to live in crowded conditions than homeowners.

Crowding rates are uniformly low for all Arkansas households except those headed by Latino immigrants. In the 2008–10 period, crowding occurred in 24 percent of Latino immigrant households that rented and 19 percent that owned their homes (see Figure 10). Crowding occurred in 9 percent of white, Asian, and other immigrant households that rented, and 5 percent or less of all native-born households whether they rented or owned their homes.

FIGURE 10. SHARE OF ARKANSAS HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN CROWDED HOUSING BY RACE/ETHNICITY, NATIVITY, AND HOMEOWNERSHIP STATUS, 2008-10



NOTES: Crowded housing is defined as more than one person per room. Foreign-born households have a foreign-born head and/or a foreign-born spouse; Latino households have a Latino/Hispanic head; and African American households have a non-Hispanic black head. Crowding in Asian households was not disaggregated due to small sample size.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

Crowding represents an important economic survival strategy for low-income immigrant households. Having more adults in a household can also protect children if those adults participate positively in child care and supervision.

At the same time, crowded housing is linked to several risk factors for children's health, well-being, and development. When household members have different schedules, children may sleep less or have irregular sleep patterns, leading to poorer behavior and difficulty concentrating in school. Lack of privacy can create household stress and lead to less responsive parenting. Crowded housing has also been linked to a higher risk of infectious disease among children.⁴³

G. HOW ARE IMMIGRANTS AND LATINOS FARING IN TERMS OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES?

In Arkansas, as across the nation, Latino immigrants are much more likely to lack health insurance than other major racial/ethnic and nativity groups. A majority of white, Asian, and other individuals are covered by private health insurance — usually provided by their employers — while African Americans and US-born Latinos tend to have higher rates of public coverage through Medicaid and similar sources. Foreign-born and US-born Latinos

and African Americans tend to work in low-wage jobs that may not provide health-care benefits, thereby lowering their rate of employer and other private coverage. At the same time, many Latino immigrants are ineligible for Medicaid and other public insurance programs because they are unauthorized or are recent legal immigrants.

Despite lower health insurance coverage, Latinos and other immigrants tend to be healthy and often fare better on health indicators such as life expectancy and infant mortality than more-affluent groups (such as whites) and better-insured groups (such as African Americans). Researchers have used the term “epidemiologic paradox” to label the better health outcomes of immigrants despite their lower socioeconomic status. The paradox has been documented in many studies across the United States, particularly in studies of infant mortality, birth weight, and other birth outcomes.⁴⁴

In the 2008–10 period, almost two-thirds (63 percent) of nonelderly Latino immigrants in Arkansas lacked health insurance coverage, with one-third covered by their employers and other private sources, and just 3 percent participating in Medicaid, ARKids First, and other public programs.

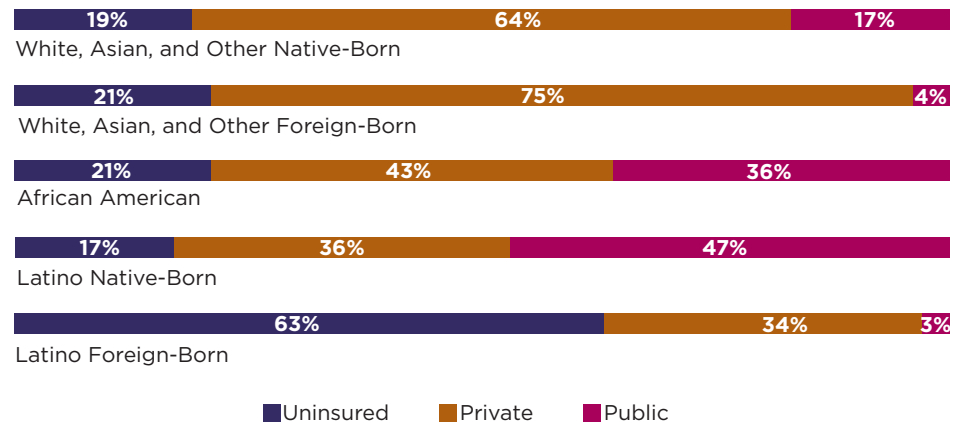
1. ONE-THIRD OF LATINO IMMIGRANTS HAVE PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND NEARLY TWO-THIRDS ARE UNINSURED

In the 2008–10 period, almost two-thirds (63 percent) of nonelderly Latino immigrants in Arkansas lacked health insurance coverage, with one-third covered by their employers and other private sources, and just 3 percent participating in Medicaid, ARKids First, and other public programs (see Figure 11).⁴⁵ Nationally, the same share (34 percent) of Latino immigrants was covered by private health insurance, but a higher share was covered by public programs nationwide than in Arkansas (11 versus 3 percent, see Figure 12). These data partially reflect the high share of unauthorized immigrants (see Figure 4) who are ineligible for Medicaid and other public health insurance programs, but may also indicate that eligible Latino immigrants face difficulties in accessing these programs.⁴⁶

Latino immigrants were even more likely to be uninsured in the other Southeastern states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee (all ranging from 71 to 74 percent). These states also have relatively low rates of employer-provided health insurance coverage for low-wage workers, high shares of unauthorized immigrants who are ineligible for Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, and high access barriers for Latino immigrants eligible to participate in these public health insurance programs.

African Americans and US-born Latinos were more likely than Latino immigrants to be covered by public health insurance programs, both in Arkansas and nationwide. But for both of these groups, public coverage was relatively high, and private coverage relatively low, in Arkansas — suggesting that a higher share of low-wage workers does not receive health benefits from their jobs. US-born Latino children are citizens and therefore eligible for Medicaid and ARKids First even if they have unauthorized or ineligible legal immigrant parents.

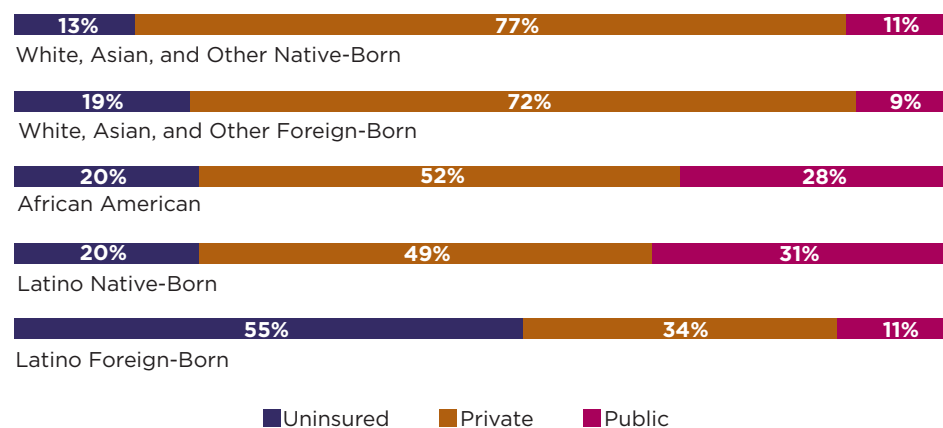
FIGURE 11. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY (UNDER AGE 65), ARKANSAS, 2008-10



NOTES: Asians, African Americans, whites, and others reported themselves as not Latino/Hispanic, and African Americans reported black race alone or in combination with any other race. Sample sizes were not large enough to disaggregate black immigrants or Asians. Private coverage included coverage through employers and coverage purchased individually through the market; public coverage included Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known in Arkansas as ARKids First, and other federal and state-funded programs. The private coverage group includes individuals with both public and private coverage. Individuals ages 65 and over were excluded from the analysis due to the large number with public coverage provided through Medicaid.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

FIGURE 12. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY (UNDER AGE 65), UNITED STATES, 2008-10



NOTE: See Figure 11.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

White, Asian, and other immigrants in Arkansas have relatively high rates of health insurance coverage. About three-quarters of immigrants working in poultry processing have employer- or union-provided health insurance coverage. Among our Marshallese survey respondents in Springdale, most of whom worked in poultry processing, over half of the adults ages 18 and over had employer-provided coverage — a higher rate than for Latino immigrants statewide (see Volume 3).

The relatively low health insurance coverage of Latino immigrants in Arkansas may increase emergency room and publicly funded clinic costs for the uninsured. Low private coverage generally may increase public costs through Medicaid, ARKids First, and other federal and state-funded health insurance programs, particularly for US-born Latinos and African Americans. The federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) has the potential to improve coverage for groups that are eligible for health insurance exchanges and tax benefits created by the law or its Medicaid expansion for low-income adults. The potential impact of ACA is especially large in Arkansas and other Southeastern states that have large uninsured populations. Unauthorized immigrants, however, are barred from all existing public health insurance programs and from the new programs in ACA.⁴⁷

During the 2000–2010 period, Latino immigrant men had the highest employment rate of any group (88 percent) and the lowest unemployment rate among men (5 percent).

Given their lack of access to health insurance through public and private sources, Latino immigrants are heavily reliant on health clinics and hospitals that serve the uninsured. Arkansas had a network of 12 federally qualified health centers serving patients at 70 sites in 2010, and there has been some expansion since that time.⁴⁸ In 2010, these clinics provided health-care to more than 150,000 patients, most of whom were uninsured or insured through Medicaid, ARKids First, and other public programs. Although most of the clinics were located in Eastern and Southern Arkansas, there are service locations in immigrant communities in Northwest Arkansas and the Little Rock metropolitan area. Rural areas in Western Arkansas are relatively underserved. Some clinics are staffed with health professionals speaking Spanish, Marshallese, and other common languages who have experience in serving these communities. In 2010, 12 percent of these clinics' patients were Latino, and 8 percent were served in a language other than English.⁴⁹ These federally qualified clinics, along with a handful of other clinics that do not have federal funding, form the health-care safety net for the uninsured, including immigrants. In general, these clinics are able to provide doctors' visits and other forms of primary health-care, but not substantial specialty care or ongoing care for chronic conditions such as cancer and diabetes.

2. LATINOS IN ARKANSAS HAVE A LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY THAN WHITES OR AFRICAN AMERICANS

The single most comprehensive measure of health is life expectancy at birth. In 2007, life expectancy was 79.2 years for Latinos in Arkansas, compared with 76.4 years for whites and 72.2 years for African Americans.⁵⁰ Life expectancy showed a similar pattern nationally, with

Latinos predicted to outlive the other two major racial/ethnic groups. Nationally, Asians are predicted to live the longest, but life expectancy data for this group are unavailable for Arkansas. The higher life expectancy of Latinos than of whites is remarkable given their lower socioeconomic status and substantially lower health insurance coverage.

Life expectancy is highest in the Arkansas counties that have the most immigrants, led by Benton, Washington, and the surrounding Northwest Arkansas counties.⁵¹ Pulaski County has an average life expectancy, but in general those counties with higher life expectancy also have relatively high shares of immigrants. Life expectancy is lowest in Eastern and Southern Arkansas, particularly those counties on the Mississippi River Delta. In 2012, Benton and Washington counties were ranked first and fourth in the state in overall population health.⁵² Latino and other immigrants tend to locate in the more prosperous areas of Arkansas, which in turn tend to have populations with relatively strong health outcomes and high life expectancy.

Latinos also have healthier babies than either whites or African Americans in Arkansas. Birth weight is a common indicator of infant health, and low birth weight is associated with health and developmental difficulties later in life. In 2009, only 6.2 percent of babies born to Latina mothers had low birth weights, versus 7.6 percent of babies born to white mothers and 14.8 percent of those born to African Americans.⁵³ Babies born to Latina mothers were slightly less likely to have low birth weight in Arkansas than the national average, while those born to white and African American mothers were more likely. These findings also reflect the epidemiologic paradox of better birth outcomes for Latinos, compared with the higher-socioeconomic-status white population in Arkansas.⁵⁴

Taken together, the favorable health data for Latinos in Arkansas suggest that they are resilient in the face of tough socioeconomic conditions and limited access to health-care. These measures do not account for all aspects of health, however, and national studies of Latinos have suggested that they often report lower health status than other groups, with self-reported health status declining among newer waves of immigrants — particularly those from Mexico.⁵⁵ The reasons for the differing health status and life expectancy of Latinos are not clear, but could include their socioeconomic status in the United States, their socioeconomic status in Mexico and other birth countries, discrimination, access to health-care in all locations, and the physical strength and endurance required to immigrate, particularly for those crossing the US–Mexico border. Nonetheless, the life expectancy and infant health data described here provide evidence that Latinos in Arkansas are among the healthier populations in the state.

H. HOW MANY IMMIGRANT WORKERS ARE THERE AND WHAT TYPES OF JOBS DO THEY HOLD?

Like the United States, the Arkansas economy has attracted large numbers of immigrants. For the past two decades, the agriculture and food-processing industries have been leading sectors

of immigrant employment, and job opportunities in them have driven migration to the state. Today, immigrants are employed in large numbers across a wide range of Arkansas industries.

1. THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS IS GROWING WHILE THE NUMBER OF US-BORN WORKERS DECLINES

The Arkansas workforce grew rapidly during the 1990s, but growth slowed after 2000 and came to a halt during the second half of the decade — in large part due to the recession. Immigrant workers led the expansion of the workforce during the 1990s, increasing by 205 percent, while the number of US-born workers rose just 15 percent (see Table 5).⁵⁶ From 2000 through 2010, the number of immigrant workers doubled, while the number of native-born workers rose only 2 percent. The number of native-born workers fell slightly (by less than a tenth of a percentage point) after 2005, while the number of immigrants continued to grow.

Growth in the number of Latino immigrant workers in Arkansas has been even more dramatic. Their number increased more than sixfold during the 1990s and more than doubled again after 2000. There were less than 3,000 Latino immigrant workers in the state in 1990; by 2010, there were more than 50,000. The number of Asian workers (who were mostly immigrants) nearly quadrupled over the 20-year period. There was much more modest growth among white and other immigrant workers.

Immigration has made the Arkansas workforce more diverse, as the share of white workers has fallen over the past 20 years. Within the native-born population, there have been substantial increases in Latino and African American workers from 1990 through 2000. The number of native-born white workers rose 13 percent during the 1990s, but fell by 2 percent after 2000. Their decline was sharper in the second half of the decade, with a 3 percent drop from 2005 through 2010. The aging of the native-born white population (see Figure 2) alongside the recession may have spurred this decline in native-born white workers. With this decline, the share of white and other workers fell from 87 percent in 1990 to 78 percent in 2010.

TABLE 5. GROWTH IN ARKANSAS WORKERS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND NATIVITY, 1990 THROUGH 2010

	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2005 ACS	2010 ACS	% CHANGE 1990-2000	% CHANGE 2000-2010
TOTAL WORKERS	944,800	1,113,000	1,160,900	1,169,400	18	5
Foreign-Born	12,700	38,700	61,700	77,100	205	99
Native-Born	932,100	1,074,400	1,099,200	1,092,300	15	2
LATINO WORKERS	8,500	32,100	56,200	72,500	278	126
Foreign-Born	2,800	21,200	41,500	51,800	657	144
Native-Born	5,700	10,900	14,700	20,700	91	90
AFRICAN AMERICAN WORKERS	112,200	140,600	149,700	164,600	25	17
ASIAN WORKERS	4,500	10,000	13,600	18,200	122	82
WHITE AND OTHER WORKERS	819,600	930,300	941,400	914,000	14	-2
Foreign-Born	5,100	7,900	8,700	9,400	55	19
Native-Born	814,500	922,400	932,700	904,600	13	-2
% Foreign-Born	1.3	3.5	5.3	6.6	2.1	3.1
% Latino	0.9	2.9	4.8	6.2	2.0	3.3
% African American	11.9	12.6	12.9	14.1	0.8	1.4
% Asian	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.7
% White and Other	86.7	83.6	81.1	78.2	-3.2	-5.4

NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed for any hours (i.e., part-time or full-time) in the civilian labor force. Asians, African Americans, whites, and others reported themselves as not Latino/Hispanic; African Americans reported black race alone or in combination with any other race. Asians included Pacific Islanders; whites and others included Native Americans. Sample sizes were not large enough to disaggregate black immigrants.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of Census and ACS data, various years.

2. IMMIGRANTS ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE ARKANSAS WORKFORCE COMPARED TO THE TOTAL POPULATION

In 2010, immigrants were approximately 7 percent of the workforce and 5 percent of the total population (see Table 1). Latino immigrants were similarly overrepresented, at 4.4 percent of workers and 2.9 percent of the population. Immigrants, particularly Latinos, tend to be younger than the general population, so relatively few are retired. Unauthorized immigrants are not eligible for unemployment insurance and most other public benefits. As

a result of these factors, labor force participation is high among some groups of immigrants, especially Latino men.

3. LATINO IMMIGRANT MEN ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED AND LEAST LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED

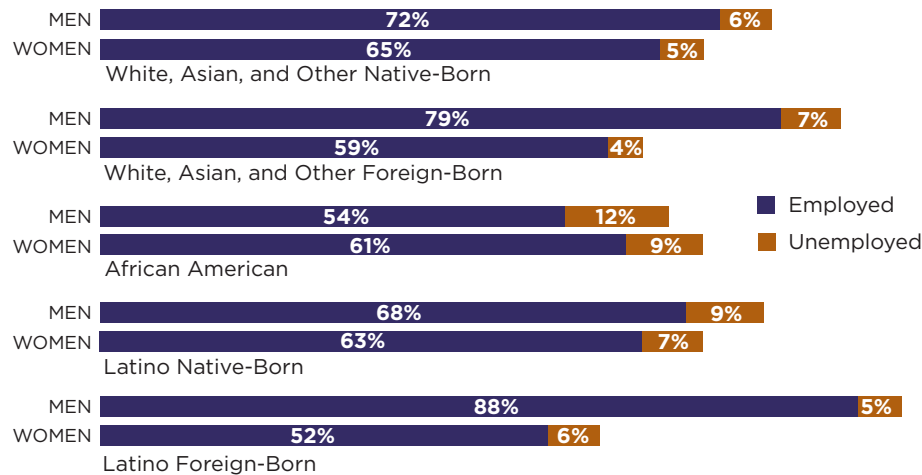
Since the recession began in late 2007, Arkansas has experienced low unemployment relative to the rest of the United States. In 2010, the unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in Arkansas versus 9.6 percent nationally. The employment rate — defined as the number of workers divided by the total population — however, was lower in Arkansas: 56.1 percent versus 58.5 percent nationally.⁵⁷ Thus, in general, Arkansas workers were less likely to be unemployed and looking for work than workers nationally, but more likely to be out of the workforce altogether.

Within Arkansas, workforce participation is higher (and unemployment lower) for immigrant men, particularly Latinos, than for native-born men. Immigrant women, however, are less likely than native-born women to work (see Figure 13). During the 2008–10 period, Latino immigrant men had the highest employment rate of any group (88 percent) and the lowest unemployment rate among men (5 percent). Other immigrant men also had a relatively high employment rate (79 percent) and low unemployment rate (7 percent). African American men were the least likely to be employed (54 percent) and the most likely to be unemployed (12 percent).

The employment pattern differs for women, as Latino immigrant women had the lowest employment rate (52 percent), followed by other immigrant women (59 percent). The highest employment rate was among white, Asian, and other native-born women (65 percent). However, other immigrant women were the least likely to be *unemployed* (4 percent), while African American women were the most likely to be unemployed (9 percent).



FIGURE 13. SHARE WORKING AND UNEMPLOYED AMONG ARKANSAS ADULTS (AGES 18 TO 64), 2008-10



NOTES: Asians, African Americans, whites, and others reported themselves as not Latino/Hispanic; African Americans reported black race alone or in combination with any other race. Sample sizes were not large enough to disaggregate black immigrants or Asians.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of ACS 2008-10 three-year estimates.

Arkansas's employment patterns are similar to nationwide patterns, as Latino immigrant men are the most likely to work and Latino immigrant women the least likely to work. Nationally, African Americans have the highest unemployment rates, followed by Latino natives. These patterns suggest a strong attachment to the labor force among immigrant families — particularly Latino immigrant families — as they almost all include at least one worker. It is notable that Latino immigrant men maintained such high employment and low unemployment rates during the 2008–10 period, when unemployment peaked nationally and in Arkansas.

High employment rates may also help explain the increase in immigrants' share of Arkansas workers from 2000 through 2008–10 (see Table 5). Immigrant employment increased or remained steady in every major industry group, and, in some industries, immigrants increased their share of workers considerably during the decade.⁵⁸

4. MANUFACTURING IS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF IMMIGRANTS IN ARKANSAS

Manufacturing continues to be the largest industry of employment for Arkansas immigrants: More than one-quarter of all immigrants (20,000 out of 74,000) worked in this sector during the 2008–10 period (see Table 6). Seventy-four percent of immigrants working in manufacturing during the 2006–10 period were Latino (see Table 7).⁵⁹

TABLE 6. IMMIGRANTS AS SHARES OF ALL ARKANSAS WORKERS, BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 2000 AND 2008-10

	2000			2008-10			% CHANGE IN IMMI- GRANTS 2000 THROUGH 2008-10
	NATIVE- BORN	IMMI- GRANTS	% IMMI- GRANTS	NATIVE- BORN	IMMI- GRANTS	% IMMI- GRANTS	
Total Civilian Employment	1,074,300	38,700	3.6	1,106,800	73,900	6.7	91
Selected Industries							
Manufacturing	207,000	16,200	7.8	157,300	20,200	12.8	25
Construction	77,600	1,900	2.4	73,800	11,700	15.9	516
Wholesale and Retail Trade	174,200	4,400	2.5	177,700	9,800	5.5	123
Information and Other Professional	132,400	2,800	2.1	148,500	7,800	5.3	179
Hospitality	58,900	2,700	4.6	76,700	7,500	9.8	178
Health-Care and Social-Assistance	127,000	2,900	2.3	160,200	5,400	3.4	86
All Other Industries	173,000	3,200	1.8	183,100	5,400	2.9	69
Education	89,700	2,600	2.9	103,600	3,700	3.6	42
Agriculture	34,500	2,000	5.8	26,000	2,400	9.2	20

NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed for any hours (i.e., part-time or full-time) in the civilian labor force. Education and health-care/social-assistance workers are private-sector workers; public-sector workers are included in the “all other industries” category. Employment totals may not match Tables 5 and 7 due to different data years.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2000 Census and 2008-10 ACS three-year estimates.

Manufacturing has been shedding employees since the mid-1990s, and the share of immigrant workers in the industry is rising. From 2000 through 2008–10, the number of US-born manufacturing workers fell by 50,000 while the number of immigrant workers in the industry rose by 4,000. This pattern continued through and after the recession, as comparisons from 2005–07 through 2008–10 show an increase in immigrant workers and a decline in native-born workers.

Almost half of all immigrants employed in manufacturing in Arkansas in the 2008–10 period (48 percent) were employed in animal (i.e., poultry and beef) processing. Forty-seven percent of all animal-processing workers were immigrants, compared with 13 percent of manufacturing workers overall. The poultry-processing industry includes major employers such as

Tyson Foods, George's, and Butterball, which have many processing plants in Northwest Arkansas — particularly in and around Springdale. Immigrants working in the animal-processing industry had a high rate of employer or union-provided health insurance (77 percent), suggesting that the industry's employers often provide benefits to their workers.⁶⁰ This industry has been one of the primary magnets for immigration to the state over the past two decades, and immigrant employment in it does not appear to have been affected by the recession. Poultry processing is also a dominant employer of the Marshallese community (see Volume 3).

TABLE 7. LATINO, ASIAN, AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS AS SHARES OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANT WORKERS, BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, 2006-10

	TOTAL IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT	% LATINO	% ASIAN	% OTHER IMMIGRANTS
Total Immigrant Civilian Employment	71,000	67	19	13
Selected Industries				
Manufacturing	19,800	74	18	8
Construction	11,400	95	<5	<5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	8,500	62	22	15
Hospitality	7,500	73	19	8
Information and Other Professional	7,000	59	26	16
All Other Industries	5,200	60	19	21
Health-Care and Social-Assistance	4,900	22	39	39
Education	4,000	28	35	38
Agriculture	2,700	74	19	<5

NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed for any hours (i.e., part-time or full-time) in the civilian labor force. Education and health-care/social-assistance workers are private-sector workers; public-sector workers are included in the "all other industries" category. Employment totals may not match Tables 5 and 6 due to different data years. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS five-year estimates.

About half of all immigrants employed in manufacturing work in industries other than animal processing. Their second-highest concentration is in fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing, where they represented 27 percent of all workers during the 2008-10 period.

Animal processing is also the most common manufacturing industry of employment for US-born workers in Arkansas, but they are more dispersed across a wide range of high- and low-skilled manufacturing industries such as:

- Navigational, measuring, electro-medical, and control instruments
- Construction, mining, oil, and gas field machinery
- Communications, audio, and video equipment
- Sawmills and wood products
- Clay products
- Furniture and related products

Immigrants represented less than 10 percent of workers in all of these industries.

5. CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCED THE MOST RAPID INCREASE IN IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT

The number of immigrant construction workers in Arkansas increased fivefold from 2000 through 2008–10, while the number of US-born workers in the industry fell slightly (by 5 percent). As the sector expanded, the foreign-born share of workers rose from 2 to 16 percent. During the decade, immigrants were hired in large numbers to build houses and commercial establishments in growing areas of the state — particularly in Rogers and other Northwest Arkansas cities. Here, too, immigrant employment rose in the latter part of the decade, despite the recession, while native-born employment fell. This stands in contrast to the national pattern, where the employment of immigrants and Latinos in the construction industry fell more sharply than the employment of US-born and non-Hispanic workers.⁶¹ Arkansas has not suffered the same degree of housing sales declines, price drops, or foreclosures as many other states — in part due to the state's relatively low cost of housing and low housing cost burdens. Immigrants working in construction in the 2006–10 period were almost entirely (95 percent) Latino (see Table 7).

Agriculture is a third, smaller, industry that saw immigrant employment rise and US-born employment fall over the decade. Here the share of immigrants rose from 6 to 9 percent, but the total number of immigrants in the industry remains relatively low at under 3,000.⁶² Seventy-four percent of immigrants working in the industry in the 2006–10 period were Latino.

In all other industries, both immigrant and native-born employment grew from 2000 through 2008–10. The number of immigrants working in hospitality and information/other professional jobs increased by almost 200 percent.

Among immigrants, Latinos predominate in most industries except education and health-care/social-assistance. In the 2006–10 period, Latinos were just 22 percent of immigrant

workers in health-care/social-assistance and 28 percent in education. There were roughly equal shares of Asian and other immigrants working in these two sectors.

There are also significant differences in employment patterns for immigrant men and women in Arkansas. Immigrant men were heavily concentrated in two industries: 28 percent in manufacturing and 26 percent in construction during the 2008–10 period. Immigrant women’s employment was somewhat more dispersed across industries; manufacturing accounted for 34 percent, and no other industry represented more than 15 percent. Virtually no women (either immigrant or native) worked in construction, while very few immigrant men worked in education or health-care/social-assistance.

I. HOW MUCH DO IMMIGRANT WORKERS EARN AND WHAT ARE THEIR SKILL LEVELS?

In the 2006–10 period, median annual earnings from wages, salaries, and self-employment were \$28,000 for US-born workers, but just \$21,000 for immigrants (see Figure 14).⁶³ Median earnings were \$20,000 for Latino immigrants, \$25,000 for Asian immigrants, and \$35,000 for other immigrants, the latter out-earning US-born workers on average.

Immigrants’ earnings were highest in health-care/social-assistance (\$38,000 on average), a sector that generally requires high levels of formal education. Immigrants’ earnings were lowest in hospitality (\$16,000), where part-time and seasonal work is common. Immigrants earned about the same (\$19,000 to \$22,000) in all the other sectors.

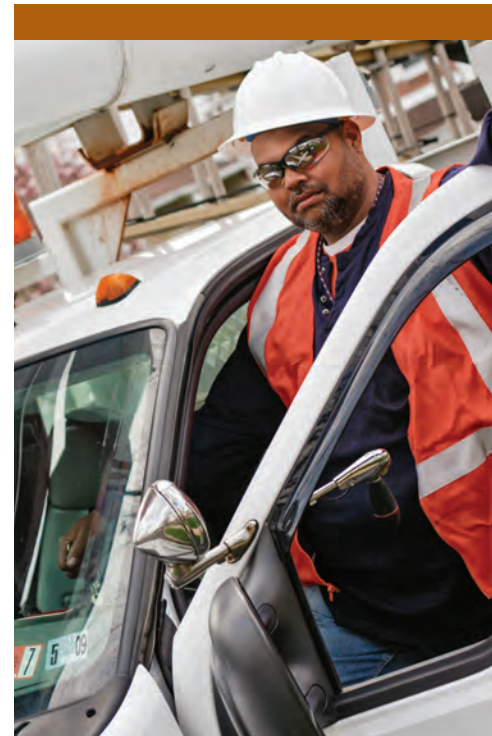
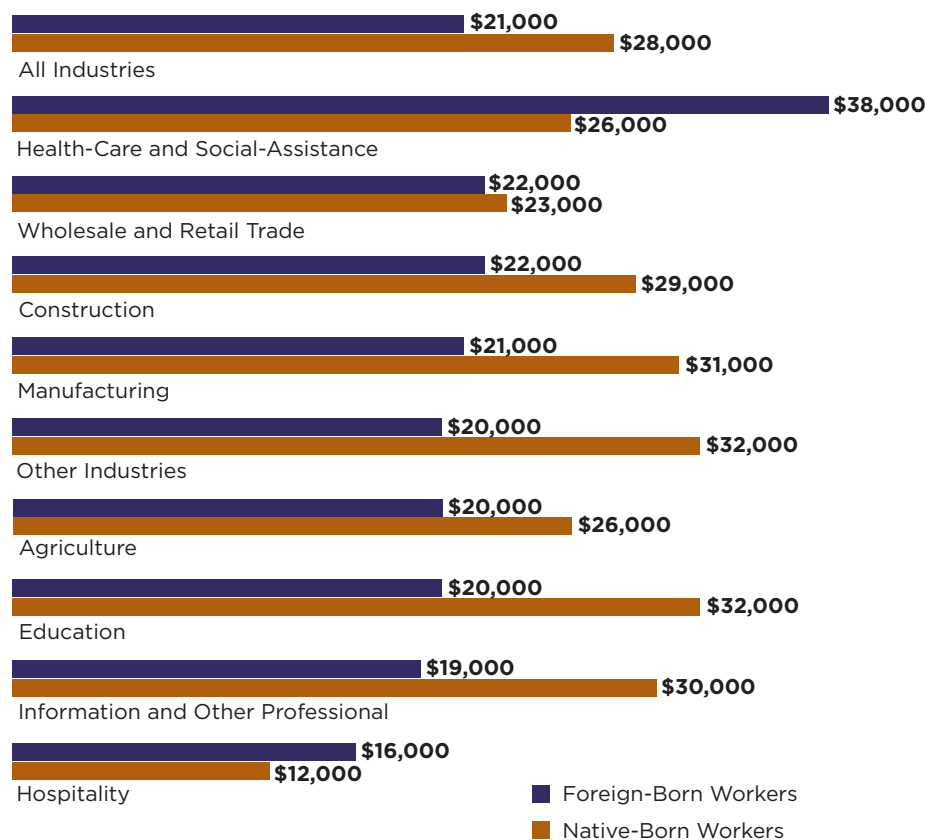


FIGURE 14. MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS FOR ARKANSAS WORKERS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP AND NATIVITY, 2006-10



NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed for any hours (i.e., part-time or full-time) in the civilian labor force. Earnings include salaries, wages, and self-employment income. Workers with negative and zero earnings were excluded.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS five-year estimates.

1. IMMIGRANTS EARN LESS THAN US-BORN WORKERS IN ALL INDUSTRIES EXCEPT HOSPITALITY AND HEALTH-CARE/SOCIAL-ASSISTANCE

Immigrants substantially out-earned their native-born counterparts in health-care/social-assistance (\$38,000 versus \$26,000). This large earnings gap in favor of immigrants may be explained by their higher average educational attainment and the higher share of immigrants than natives in higher-paying professional occupations. During the 2006-10 period, 17 percent of physicians and surgeons and 5 percent of registered nurses were foreign-born

compared with 3 percent of health-care/social-assistance workers overall. Almost half (47 percent) of immigrants working in the sector were physicians, surgeons, or registered nurses versus just 21 percent of US-born workers. Immigrants were also overrepresented among occupational and physical therapists. Latinos represented 22 percent of immigrant health-care/social-assistance workers and just 15 percent of immigrant physicians and surgeons.

Immigrants also out-earned US-born workers in hospitality, where they were substantially more likely to work year-round and full-time than natives. In all other sectors, US-born workers earned more than immigrants, with the largest gaps in manufacturing and information/professional jobs. Within the manufacturing sector, immigrants were more likely to work in animal processing (48 percent versus 12 percent of natives) and less likely to work in higher-paying sectors such as communications equipment, control instruments, and oilfield machinery manufacturing.

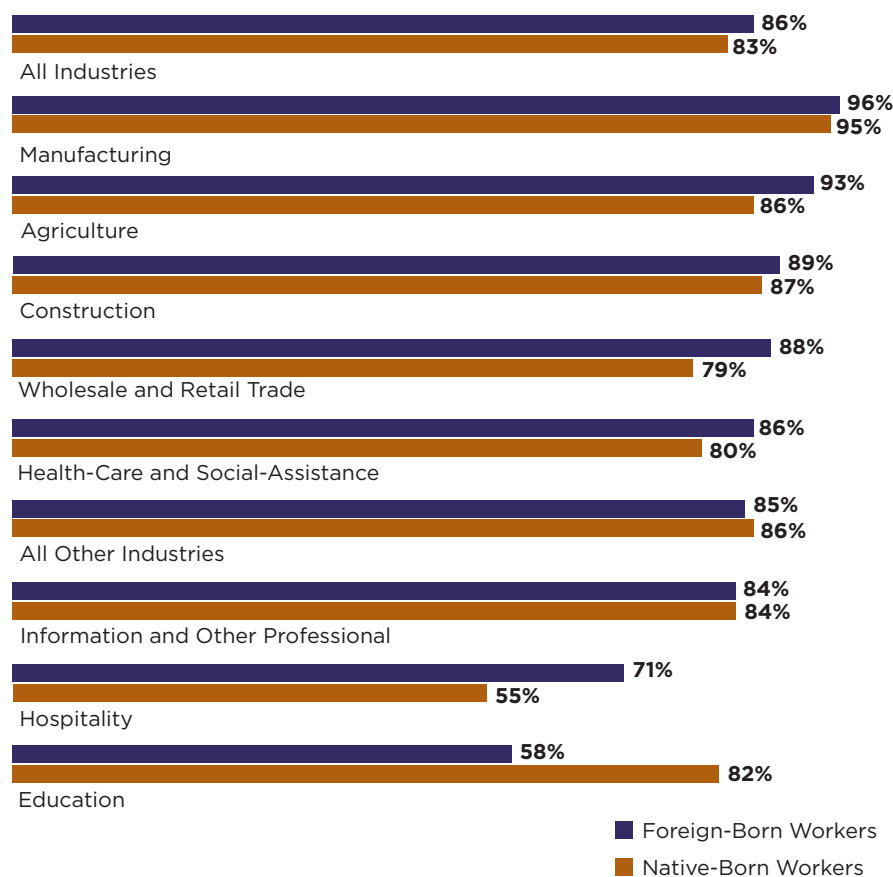
2. IMMIGRANTS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NATIVES TO WORK FULL-TIME

Immigrants in Arkansas show a high level of work effort; they are almost equally likely to work year-round and slightly more likely to work full-time than natives.⁶⁴ During the 2006–10 period, 79 percent of immigrant workers were employed year-round, and more than 70 percent of immigrants worked year-round in every sector except education and construction.

An even higher share of immigrants worked full-time (86 percent), and the share working full-time was slightly higher than for natives (83 percent). There were 61,000 immigrants working full-time representing 6 percent of all full-time workers in the state. There was little variation in the share working full-time among Latino, Asian, and other immigrant workers (87 to 84 percent).

Immigrants were most likely to work full-time in manufacturing and agriculture (both more than 90 percent). The largest numbers of immigrants working full-time were in manufacturing (19,000) and construction (10,000). The only two industries in which fewer than 80 percent of immigrants worked full-time were hospitality and education (see Figure 15). In education, immigrants were significantly less likely than natives to work full-time (58 versus 82 percent). In hospitality, they were more likely to work full-time (71 versus 55 percent).⁶⁵ Full-time employment rates were similar for immigrants and US-born workers in the other sectors. The low full-time employment rate for natives is a potential explanation for their low wages relative to immigrants in the hospitality industry.

FIGURE 15. FULL-TIME WORKERS IN ARKANSAS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP AND NATIVITY, 2006-10 (PERCENT)



NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed for any hours in the civilian labor force. Full-time workers were employed at least 35 hours per week.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS 5-year estimates.

3. IMMIGRANTS WORKING IN HEALTH-CARE/SOCIAL-ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION ARE BETTER EDUCATED THAN THEIR US-BORN PEERS

Differences in educational attainment are also part of the explanation for the gaps in earnings between immigrants and natives. In general, where immigrants are significantly better educated, they tend to earn more than US-born workers, but in most industries, they are less well educated and have lower earnings. Overall, 19 percent of immigrant workers had at least a four-year college education in the 2006–10 period, slightly below the rate for US-born workers (24 percent). The four-year college attainment rate for Latino immigrants was substantially lower (7 percent), but both Asian and other immigrant workers had higher rates than US-born workers (39 and 45 percent, respectively).

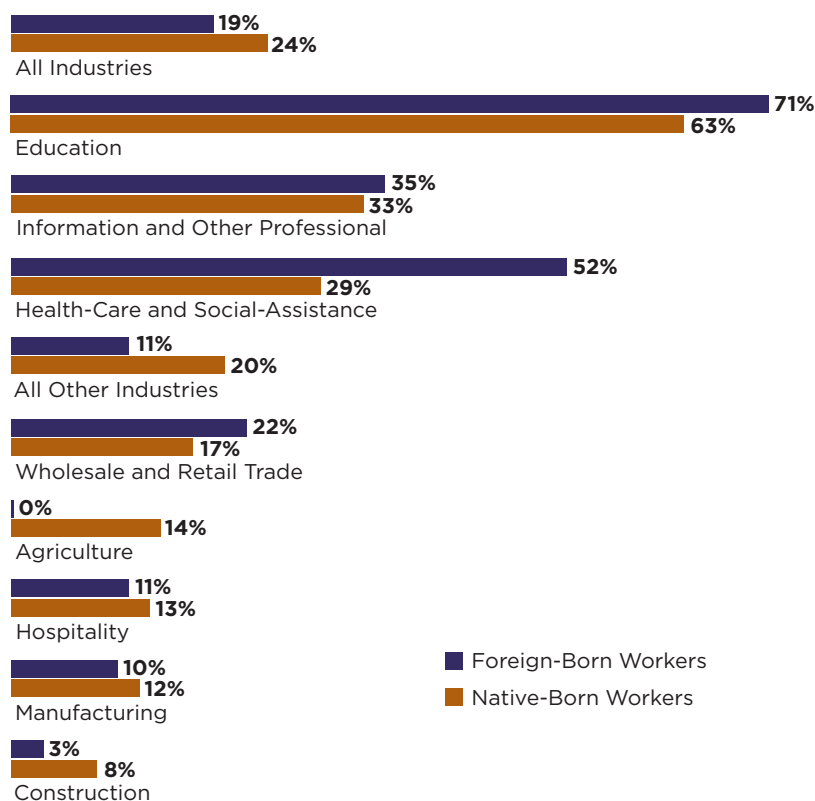
Immigrants who work in the education and health-care/social-assistance sectors in Arkansas are more likely than US-born counterparts to have a four-year college or higher degree (see Figure 16). The difference in college completion was highest in the health-care/social-assistance sector (52 percent for immigrants versus 29 percent for natives) during the 2006–10 period. This large gap in postsecondary education is associated with the employment of immigrants in more skilled health-care occupations (such as physicians, surgeons, nurses, and therapists) as well as their higher earnings. Immigrants earned less than natives in the education sector, despite the fact that they are more likely to have a college degree. This may be due to the relatively low rate of full-time employment for immigrants in education (see Figure 15).

Immigrants in the agriculture and construction industries (two generally low-skilled industries) were significantly less likely than US-born workers to have a four-year college education, but the shares with a college education were similar for immigrants and natives across most of the other industries in Arkansas.

Overall, 12,000 immigrant workers had at least a four-year college degree in the 2006–10 period, and immigrants represented 4.7 percent of Arkansas workers with this level of educational attainment. There were about 2,000 college-educated immigrants in the education, health-care/social-assistance, information/other professional, manufacturing, and wholesale and retail trade sectors — but fewer than 1,000 in each of the other sectors.



FIGURE 16. SHARE OF ARKANSAS WORKERS WITH AT LEAST A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE EDUCATION BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP AND NATIVITY, 2006-10



NOTE: Workers are defined as adults ages 25 to 64 in the civilian labor force.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS five-year estimates.

In Arkansas, college completion is generally associated with higher earnings for immigrant and US-born workers across the industries studied. A significant number of immigrants, however, are underemployed relative to their level of formal education. During the 2008-10 period, 20 percent of Arkansas's immigrants with a four-year college degree or more education were either unemployed or employed in unskilled jobs. Sixteen percent of college-educated workers born in the United States were similarly underemployed. These underemployment rates are similar to those at the national level, where college-educated Latin American and African immigrant workers are the most likely to be well educated, but employed in unskilled jobs due to English language barriers, racial/ethnic discrimination, and/or difficulties with transferring degrees and credentials from their home countries.⁶⁶

4. IMMIGRANT WORKERS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NATIVES TO LACK A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN EVERY SECTOR

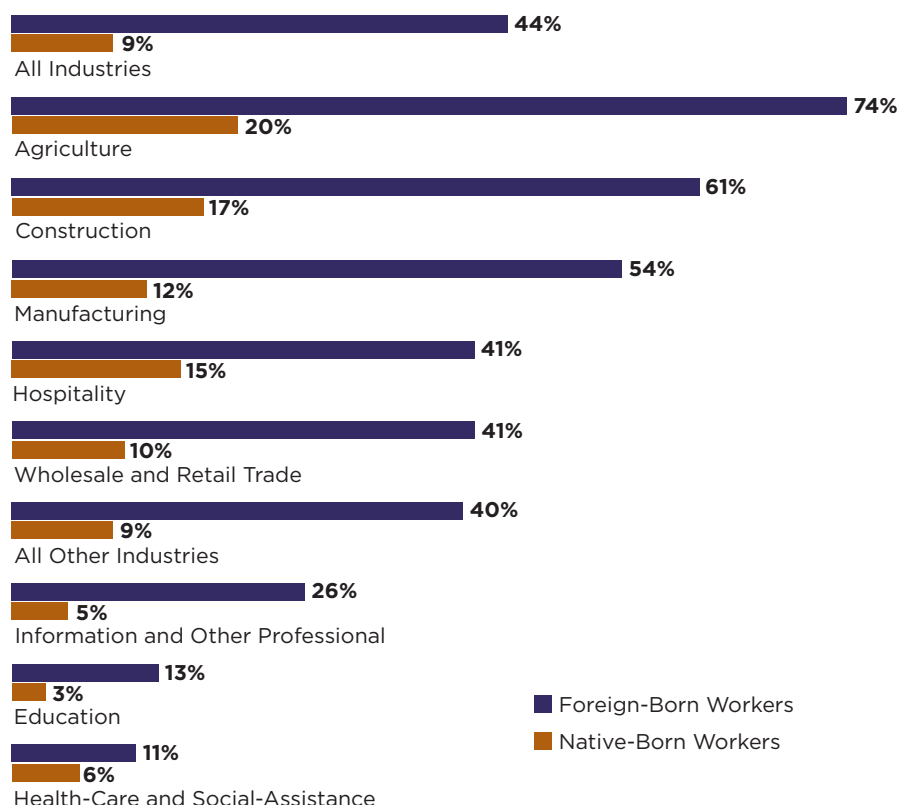
Immigrant workers are much more likely to lack a high school education than US-born workers. During the 2006–10 period, 44 percent of immigrant workers in Arkansas had this level of educational attainment versus 9 percent of US-born workers. There were 28,000 immigrant workers without a high school degree, representing 23 percent of all workers in this category.

Latino immigrants are more likely than other groups to lack a high school education. In the 2008–10 period, 61 percent of Latino immigrant adults (ages 18 and over) in Arkansas had less than a high school education. But the share of adults without a high school education dropped sharply, to 26 percent, for US-born Latinos, demonstrating a significant improvement in educational outcomes across the generations. Nonetheless, Latino natives were more likely to lack a high school degree than African Americans (23 percent). Less than 20 percent of white, Asian, and other immigrants lacked a high school education. This broader group also includes Marshall Islanders, with 35 percent lacking a high school education according to our survey in Springdale (see Volume 3).

Educational attainment is lowest in the sectors in which Latino immigrants are most likely to work. In the 2006–10 period, over half of immigrant workers in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing lacked a high school education — with the greatest gap versus natives in these industries. Low levels of formal education are associated with relatively low earnings for the immigrants working in these three industries, particularly manufacturing. Immigrants were about one-third of manufacturing workers without a high school education (10,000 out of 29,000). On the other hand, gaps in high school completion between immigrants and natives were lowest in health-care/social-assistance and education — two sectors in which very few workers lacked a high school degree.



FIGURE 17. SHARE OF ARKANSAS WORKERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP AND NATIVITY, 2006-10



NOTE: Workers are defined as adults ages 25 to 64 in the civilian labor force.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS five-year estimates.

5. ONE-QUARTER OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANT WORKERS ARE BILINGUAL, WHILE OVER HALF HAVE LIMITED ENGLISH SKILLS

Bilingualism represents an important asset of immigrant workers, particularly those in service sectors such as education and health-care/social-assistance. During the 2006–10 period, 26 percent of Arkansas immigrant workers were bilingual: They spoke a language other than English at home, but also spoke English very well (see Figure 18). Twenty percent of Latino immigrant workers were bilingual, as were 39 percent of Asian and 37 percent of other immigrant workers.

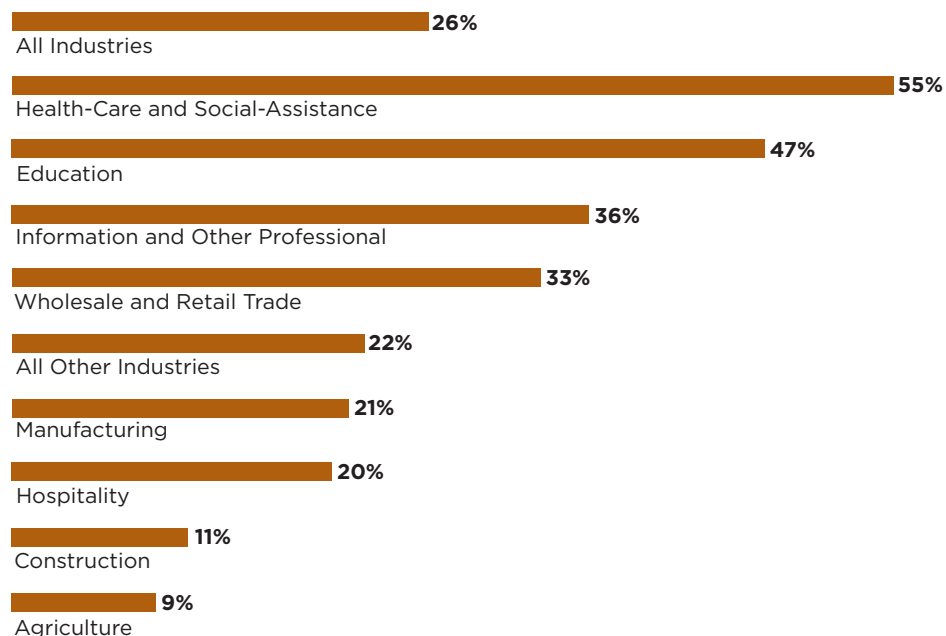
The bilingual share of immigrant workers rose to 47 percent in the education sector and 55 percent in health-care/social-assistance — the two sectors with the best-educated immigrant workers (see Figure 16). Bilingual shares were lowest in the four sectors with the least-educated workers: agriculture, construction, hospitality, and manufacturing. The

foreign-language abilities of immigrant workers in education and health-care/social-assistance represent important resources for the state as the immigrant population and its service needs continue to grow.

A larger number of immigrant workers, however, lack English proficiency. During the 2006–10 period, 61 percent of immigrant workers were LEP — that is, they spoke a language other than English and did not speak English very well (see Figure 19). Seventy-four percent of Latino immigrant workers were LEP, as were 47 percent of Asian and 13 percent of other immigrant workers. Immigrants employed in agriculture, construction, hospitality, and manufacturing were the most likely to be LEP. Those working in the health-care/social-assistance and education sectors were the least likely to have limited English skills.

LEP workers and those with low levels of formal education may experience limited mobility in the Arkansas labor force. It is also challenging to provide postsecondary education and workforce development services for these groups of immigrant workers. Improving the human capital of immigrant workers, though, will increase their productivity and tax payments — thereby generating benefits for the communities in which they live.

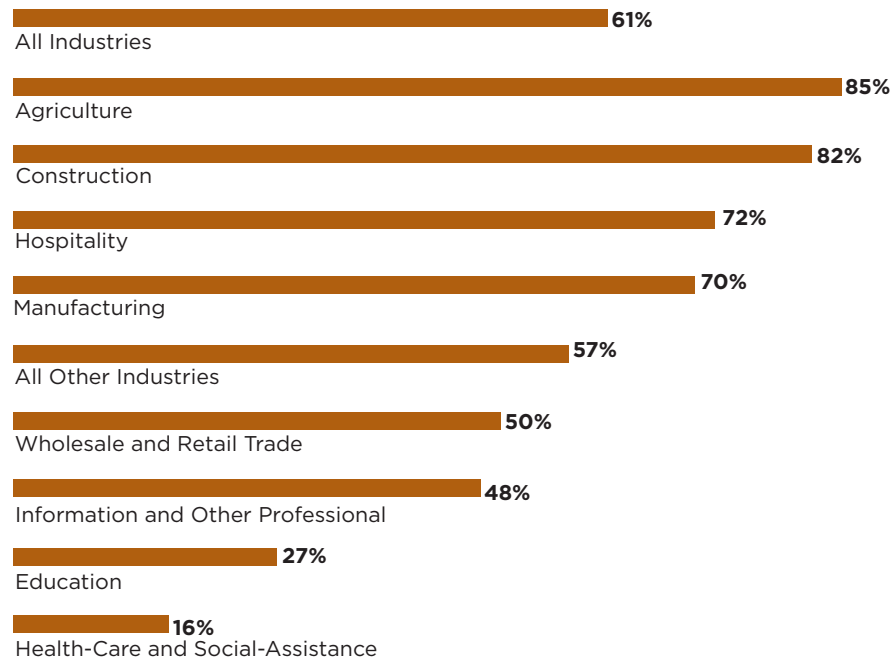
FIGURE 18. SHARE OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANT WORKERS WITH BILINGUAL SKILLS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY, 2006–10



NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed in the civilian labor force. Bilingual workers spoke a language other than English in the home and spoke English very well.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006–10 ACS five-year estimates.

FIGURE 19. SHARE OF ARKANSAS IMMIGRANT WORKERS THAT WERE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) BY MAJOR INDUSTRY, 2006-10



NOTES: Workers are defined as adults ages 18 to 64 employed in the civilian labor force. Limited English proficient (LEP) workers spoke a language other than English in the home and did not speak English very well.

SOURCE: MPI analysis of 2006-10 ACS five-year estimates.

Bilingualism represents an important asset of immigrant workers, particularly those in service sectors such as education and health-care/social-assistance. During the 2006–10 period, 26 percent of Arkansas immigrant workers were bilingual: They spoke a language other than English at home, but also spoke English very well. A larger number of immigrant workers, however, lack English proficiency. During the 2006–10 period, 61 percent of immigrant workers were Limited English Proficient (LEP) — that is, they spoke a language other than English and did not speak English very well. LEP workers and those with low levels of formal education may experience limited mobility in the Arkansas labor force. Improving the human capital of immigrant workers will increase their productivity and tax payments — thereby generating benefits for the communities in which they live.



IV. Conclusion

This report updates an earlier profile of the Arkansas immigrant population published by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in 2007. Based on data for 2010, most of the findings in this report reflect trends that are consistent with those observed in that earlier report.

In addition to this volume, the report has two other companion volumes: the second on the economic and fiscal impacts of immigrants in the state, and the third describing results from a survey of the Marshallese population in Springdale.

Arkansas has continued to experience growth in its immigrant population and workforce, although that growth slowed during the recession and afterward. The state remains attractive to new immigrants due to its relatively low unemployment rate, low cost of housing, and high quality of life. At the same time, the climate of reception has become less favorable in Northwest Arkansas, where the state and local police have begun cooperating with federal immigration authorities. Unlike some states, however, Arkansas has not passed anti-immigrant legislation.

The length of settlement for Arkansas immigrants is expanding. An increasing share of the state's immigrants — well over half — have been in the country for more than ten years. More settled immigrants are more likely to form families, own homes, and invest in their local communities. The share of immigrants remains relatively small statewide — approximately 5 percent (and in most of Eastern and Southern Arkansas, 2 percent or less). The impacts of immigration are heavily concentrated in Northwest Arkansas, the Little Rock metropolitan area, and a handful of smaller cities and rural communities mostly in Western Arkansas. Immigrants continue to move into the more urbanized and prosperous parts of the state, though their migration has slowed in recent years, particularly into Benton and Sebastian counties.

Latino immigrants are one of the poorer groups in the state, and share many socioeconomic characteristics with US-born Latinos and African Americans. In particular, they have similarly low incomes and homeownership rates. Marshall Islanders are a smaller, also economically vulnerable, group. Work support, housing, and anti-poverty strategies that benefit Latino immigrants and the Marshallese community should also benefit African Americans and US-born Latinos.

Latinos, however, are one of the healthier populations in the state, when measured in terms of life expectancy and birth outcomes. The relatively good health of Latinos despite their lower socioeconomic status and health insurance coverage may be associated with local health-care costs and relatively high worker productivity.

Latino immigrants are the state's fastest-growing population, and the number of Latino children is increasing, even as the number of white children has declined since 2000. Latino immigrants and their children are therefore an increasingly important component of Arkansas's population and workforce growth. The importance of immigrants and their families can be seen in their growing economic impacts, as described in Volume 2. The second volume also describes the growing fiscal impact of immigrants, which not only includes a rapid increase in their tax payments, but also a rapid growth in state and local expenditures, particularly for public K–12 education.

Endnotes

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3. Michael Hoefer, Nancy Rytina, and Bryan Baker, *Estimates of the Unauthorized Population Residing in the United States: January 2011* (Washington, DC: US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, 2012), www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_ill_pe_2011.pdf.
4. Migration Policy Institute (MPI), “Number of Foreign Born by State: 1990, 2000, 2010,” MPI Data Hub, 2012, www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/files/MPIDataHub_ACS_2010-NumberForeignBorn.xlsx. US Census Bureau, “Table B01003: Total Population, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates,” American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
5. For a review of the impact of the Oklahoma law, one of the earliest and least controversial state immigration laws, see Robin Koralek, Juan Pedroza, and Randy Capps, *Untangling the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act: Consequences for Children and Families* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2009), www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001356_oklahoma_taxpayer.pdf.
6. Partnerships between US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local police departments or sheriff’s offices are referred to as Section 287(g) programs, for the section of the *Immigration and Nationality Act* that authorizes them. See Randy Capps, Marc R. Rosenblum, Cristina Rodríguez, and Muzaffar Chishti, *Delegation and Divergence: A Study of 287(g) State and Local Immigration Enforcement* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2011), www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/287g-divergence.pdf; Ajay Chaudry, Randolph Capps, Juan Pedroza, Rosa Maria Castaneda, Robert Santos, and Molly M. Scott, *Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2010), www.urban.org/publications/412020.html.
7. The Secure Communities program is a database link between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When people are booked into county jails, their fingerprints are sent to the FBI to check if they have committed crimes in other jurisdictions and now, with Secure Communities, if they are in the country illegally. See Marc R. Rosenblum and William A. Kandel, *Interior Immigration Enforcement: Programs Targeting Criminal Aliens* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011), www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R42057.pdf.
8. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), “Secure Communities: IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability: Monthly Statistics through May 31, 2012,” www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/sc-stats/nationwide_interop_stats-fy2012-to-date.pdf.
9. Luke J. Larsen, “The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2003” (Current Population Reports, P20–551, US Census Bureau, Washington, DC, August 2004), www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-551.pdf.
10. African Americans include people reporting their race as black alone or black in combination with any other race, and do not include those who describe their ethnicity as Latino or Hispanic.
11. US Census Bureau, “Table C05002: Place of Birth by Citizenship Status: 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates” and “Table B05012: Nativity in the United States” 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates,” American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
12. There may have been some undercount of immigrants in the 2005 ACS data, as the data were weighted back to the 2000 Census. The 2010 ACS numbers came in higher than expected (and significantly higher than in the immediately preceding years), when the data were weighted to the 2010 Census. Nationally and

- statewide in Arkansas, this may lead to an overestimate of the increase in the immigrant population from 2005 to 2010. See Jeffrey Passel and D’Vera Cohn, *U.S. Foreign-Born Population: How Much Change from 2009 to 2010?* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2012), www.pewhispanic.org/2012/01/09/u-s-foreign-born-population-how-much-change-from-2009-to-2010/. Nonetheless, the magnitude of population growth from 2005 to 2010 in Arkansas suggests a substantial ongoing level of immigration to the state.
13. US Census Bureau, “Table DP-1: Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Census Summary File 2,” American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
 14. The number of Latino children (including both children of immigrants and children of natives) rose 38,000, while the number of white children fell 23,000.
 15. Tomás R. Jiménez, *Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating Into Society?* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2011), www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/integration-jimenez.pdf.
 16. Using data from both the US Census Bureau and the Mexican Census and other surveys in Mexico, the Pew Hispanic Center has estimated that the number of Mexican immigrants coming to the United States equaled the number of those returning to Mexico during 2005–10. By contrast, a net of almost 2.3 million Mexican immigrants came to the United States during 1995–2000. See Passel, Cohn, and Gonzalez-Barrera, *Net Migration from Mexico Falls to Zero*.
 17. US Census Bureau, “The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010” (2010 Census Briefs C2010BR-12, US Census Bureau, Washington, DC, May 2012), www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-12.pdf.
 18. The Pew Hispanic Center generated this estimate by assigning unauthorized versus legal immigrant status to noncitizen immigrants based on characteristics such as country of origin, age, gender, educational attainment, and occupation. Pew Hispanic Center used data from the US Current Population Survey (CPS), which has small sample sizes in Arkansas and other small states. See Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, *Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2011), www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/133.pdf.
 19. Pew’s estimate, however, does take into account an undercount of unauthorized immigrants in the Census Bureau’s data, estimated at 10 to 15 percent.
 20. Ibid.
 21. Hoefler, Rytina, and Baker, *Estimates of the Unauthorized Population Residing in the United States*.
 22. Jeanne Batalova and Michelle Mittelstadt, *Relief from Deportation: Demographic Profile of the DREAMers Potentially Eligible under the Deferred Action Policy* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2012), www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/FS24_deferredaction.pdf.
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 24. US Census Bureau, “Table B05001: Citizenship Status in the United States: 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates,” American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
 25. Capps et al., *A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas*, 14.
 26. The possible undercount of immigrants in 2005 relative to 2010 makes the apparent slowdown in Benton and Sebastian counties stand out even more. For more see footnote 12.
 27. Here we used five years of data because the ACS single-year and three-year files do not provide data on all Arkansas counties.

28. The 287(g) program has been active in Benton and Washington counties since September 2007. More than 400 unauthorized immigrants were detained and referred to federal authorities for deportation during the first seven months of the 287(g) program's operation during 2007–08, stirring a wave of panic in Latino immigrant communities there. The pace of the 287(g) program slowed down by 2010, when 248 immigrants were arrested and referred for deportation. Fort Smith wanted to join the 287(g) program in 2010, but the federal government had stopped expanding the program by that time. The Secure Communities program began in Arkansas in August 2010, and was active in 17 Arkansas counties as of this report's publication. During the first year of the Secure Communities program, Benton County had the highest number of matches of booked inmates with immigration violations (448) and deportations (63), followed by Washington County (351 matches and 41 deportations), Pulaski County (222 matches and 44 deportations), and Sebastian County (144 matches and 20 deportations). Benton County was associated with 30 percent of all Secure Communities activity in the state during that year. See Chaudry et al., *Facing Our Future*; Capps et al., *Delegation and Divergence*; ICE, "Secure Communities: IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability: Monthly Statistics through May 31, 2012."
29. Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), *Programs for Language Minority Students 2011–2012* (Little Rock, AR: ADE, 2012), http://arktesol.org/uploads/HLS_State_Report_2011-2012_abv.pdf.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
32. ADE, "Enrollment by Race and Gender (2011–2012)," ADE Data Center, <http://adedata.arkansas.gov/state-wide/Districts/EnrollmentRaceGender.aspx?year=22&search=&pagesize=10>.
33. ADE refers to Latino students as "Hispanic," and so we use these two terms interchangeably when discussing the ADE data.
34. ADE, *Programs for Language Minority Students*.
35. Households often underreport income in the ACS and similar surveys, so median household incomes described here for Arkansas and the United States may be slightly higher in reality. See US Census Bureau, "Table DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics: 2008–2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates," American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
36. Here we define poverty rates for individuals based on the race/ethnicity and nativity of their households. Children of immigrants (those living in households with a foreign-born head and/or spouse) are included in the "foreign-born" group, and children of natives are in the "native-born" group. In most cases, children and parents have the same race/ethnicity, but in those cases where it differs, children are categorized by the race/ethnicity of the household head and/or spouse.
37. The moderate housing burden rate was much lower for households without mortgages, at 16 percent nationally and 11 percent in Arkansas. See US Census Bureau, "Table DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics: 2008–2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates," American Factfinder, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.
38. For renters, housing costs burdens are calculated based on rent plus utilities versus monthly income.
39. Housing burdens were higher in households renting rather than owning houses because renting households had lower incomes. In 2008–10, median household income was \$49,000 for homeowners and \$24,000 for renters in Arkansas, with similar gaps between homeowners and renters among immigrant and native-born households.
40. Lower cost burdens for homeowners in Arkansas and nationally were due to the lower cost of housing in Arkansas, which more than offset Arkansas households' lower incomes.

41. Rakesh Kochhar and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, *Through Boom and Bust: Minorities, Immigrants and Homeownership* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009), <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/109.pdf>.
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44. See, for instance, Kyriakos S. Markides and Jeannine Coreil, "The Health of Hispanics in the Southwestern United States: An Epidemiologic Paradox," *Public Health Reports* 101, No. 3 (1986): 253–65; Terry J. Rosenberg, Tanya Pagan Raggio, and Mary Ann Chiasson, "A Further Examination of the 'Epidemiologic Paradox': Birth Outcomes among Latinas," *Journal of the National Medical Association* 97, No. 4 (2005): 550–56.
45. Nonelderly individuals are those under age 65. We exclude individuals ages 65 and over because the vast majority have public health insurance coverage through Medicare.
46. Children and adults who are unauthorized immigrants are currently barred from receiving Medicaid and ARKids First coverage in Arkansas, as are lawful permanent residents who are not refugees or have been in the United States for less than five years. Unauthorized immigrants are generally ineligible for these public programs, but half of the states (not including Arkansas) provide Medicaid and CHIP coverage to legal immigrant children during their first five years in the United States. See Karina Fortuny and Ajay Chaudry, "Overview of Immigrants' Eligibility for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and CHIP" (ASPE Issue Brief, US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Washington, DC, March 2012), <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/11/ImmigrantAccess/Eligibility/ib.pdf>.
47. US Department of Health and Human Services, "Affordable Insurance Exchanges," www.healthcare.gov/law/features/choices/exchanges/index.html; Stephan Zuckerman, Timothy A. Waidmann, and Emily Lawton, "Undocumented Immigrants, Left Out of Health Reform, Likely to Continue to Grow as Share of the Uninsured," *Health Affairs* 30, No. 10 (2011): 1997–2004; Alison Siskin, *Treatment of Noncitizens under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011), www.ciab.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2189.
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52. Faulkner and Saline counties, which have smaller, but still significant, immigrant populations, were ranked second and third, respectively. See Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2012: Arkansas* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, Population Health Institute, 2012), www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/states/CHR2012_AR.pdf.
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56. Workers are defined as those employed for any number of hours, including part-time and full-time.
57. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “Regional and State Unemployment — 2010 Annual Averages” (news release, US Department of Labor, BLS, February 25, 2011), www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/srgune_02252011.htm.
58. We also examined data for 2005–07 and found employment gains from 2005–07 to 2008–10 for immigrants in every industry except agriculture and education (not shown in Table 6).
59. Here we combined five years of data (2006 to 2010) in order to maximize our sample and increase the precision of our estimates for earnings across the several major industry groups displayed. This period includes both expansionary and recessionary years.
60. Employer- or union-provided health insurance coverage of US-born workers in the animal-processing industry was even higher: 86 percent.
61. Rakesh Kochhar, *Latino Labor Report, 2008: Construction Reverses Job Growth for Latinos* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2008), www.pewhispanic.org/2008/06/04/latino-labor-report-2008-construction-reverses-job-growth-for-latinos/; Randy Capps, Michael Fix, and Serena Yi-Ying Lin, *Still an Hourglass? Immigrant Workers in Middle-Skilled Jobs* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2010), www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/sectoralstudy-Sept2010.pdf.
62. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are undercounted in the Census and ACS since they do not have fixed addresses and may not be present during the time of year when data are collected. A report for the federal Migrant Health Program estimated that there were 16,100 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Arkansas in 2000. See Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Arkansas* (Washington, DC: Health Resources and Service Administration, Migrant Health Program, 2000), www.ncfh.org/enumeration/PDF1%20Arkansas.pdf. No enumeration of Arkansas farmworkers has been conducted since 2000. The number of farmworkers may have dropped since 2000; the number of total agricultural workers counted in the Census has dropped since that time.
63. The most recent years of ACS data do not allow us to calculate hourly wages. The earnings figures provided here are for the entire year and include part-time as well as full-time workers. Workers with negative or zero earnings are excluded.
64. Year-round work is defined as 50 weeks or more during the year, while part-year work is fewer than 50 weeks. Full-time work is 35 hours a week or more, while part-time work is fewer than 35 hours per week.
65. Immigrants were also more likely than natives to work year-round in hospitality: 80 percent versus 65 percent.
66. Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix, *Uneven Progress: The Employment Pathways of Skilled Immigrants in the United States* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2008), www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/BrainWasteOct08.pdf.

Glossary

CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS: Children with at least one immigrant parent. Children can be either first generation (foreign-born) or second generation (US-born).

CROWDED HOUSING: Households with more than one person per room.

ENGLISH LEARNERS: Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in the K–12 public schools.

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL): A threshold for economic need set by the federal government according to household size and income. In 2009, the poverty level was \$22,050 for a family of four.

FOREIGN-BORN: *See immigrants.*

HOUSING COST BURDEN: Total housing costs (rent or mortgage plus utilities and other housing costs) are considered moderate if they are greater than 30 percent of monthly income.

IMMIGRANTS: People born outside the United States and not born to American parents. Does not include people born in Puerto Rico, Guam, or other US territories. Includes both naturalized citizens and noncitizens.

IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS: Households in which the head (usually the adult who pays the bills) and/or the spouse of the head is an immigrant (or both are immigrants); other members could be immigrants or US-born.

LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (LPRS): Noncitizens admitted legally for permanent residency, usually through family ties, employment, or as refugees. Legal permanent residents are sometimes known as green-card holders.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP): In the general population, people who speak a language other than English as their primary language and who do not speak English very well. In the public schools, LEP students are those who are foreign-born, Native American, or migrant, or who otherwise come from an environment in which a language other than English affects their English proficiency, and whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English affect their classroom performance and achievement on state tests.

NATIVES/NATIVE-BORN: *See US-born.*

NATIVE HOUSEHOLDS: *See US-born households.*

NATURALIZED CITIZENS: Legal permanent residents who have become US citizens, usually after passing the citizenship test. The waiting period to take the citizenship test is five years for most permanent residents and three years for those married to US citizens.

NONCITIZENS: Immigrants who have not yet become citizens. Noncitizens can be unauthorized immigrants, legal permanent residents, or, in a small number of cases, students and others with temporary visas or protection from removal.

UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS: Noncitizens who entered illegally, usually across the border from Mexico, or who entered legally but overstayed their visas.

US-BORN: People born in the United States or its territories (such as Puerto Rico and Guam), or born abroad to US citizen parents.

US-BORN HOUSEHOLDS: Households in which neither the head nor the head's spouse is an immigrant.

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To read the three volumes of *A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas* commissioned by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation that analyze the population of immigrants and Marshall Islanders in Arkansas, visit www.wrfoundation.org.



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