

# Immigrants in Utica

There are 21,000 immigrants living in the Utica-Rome metro area, making up eight percent of the total metro area population. The majority of the immigrants in the metro area live in the city of Utica, where people born in another country make up more than one out of every five residents, 21 percent of the city population.

Immigrants come to Utica from around the world, many of them coming as refugees welcomed by The Center, a refugee resettlement agency with a national reputation. And, indeed, Utica itself is known around the country as an area that has successfully integrated immigrants and refugees into the community.

While immigrants are an important part of the cultural and social life of the region, they are also an important part of the economy. Immigrants make up a slightly higher share of the labor force than their share of the population—largely reflecting the fact that immigrants are concentrated in prime working age. And, immigrants are highly entrepreneurial. Immigrants may bring foods, products, and services that could be of interest to consumers in the U.S. Immigrants may also turn to entrepreneurship if lack of language skills, discrimination by employers, or other factors make it hard to get a regularly paid job. Whatever the reasons, immigrants make up 11 percent of all business owners in the Utica-Rome metro area, serving customers, filling in business needs, and spurring growth in the local economy.

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## IMMIGRANTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE UTICA-ROME METRO AREA

	Immigrants	Immigrant Share
Population	21,000	8%
Labor Force	12,000	9%
Business Owners	500	11%

Fig 1. Immigration Research Initiative analysis of 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data.

Immigrants also work in a wider range of jobs than is commonly understood. Immigrants make up 38 percent of the dishwashers in the Utica-Rome metro area, 37 percent of home health aides, and 16 percent of janitors. Immigrants are also 37 percent of people working in computer occupations, 14 percent of registered nurses, and 13 percent of college professors.

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IMMIGRANT WORKERS ARE DISHWASHERS, NURSES, RETAIL SALES, COLLEGE PROFESSORS, AND MORE

	Immigrants	Immigrant Share
<b>Dishwashers</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>38%</b>
Home Health Aides	400	37%
<b>Computer Occupations</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>37%</b>
Janitors and Cleaners	400	16%
<b>Cooks</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>16%</b>
Registered Nurses	550	14%
<b>Retail Salespersons</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>14%</b>
Construction Laborers	200	13%
<b>College and University Professors</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>13%</b>
Cashiers	400	11%
<b>Truck Drivers</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>11%</b>
Customer Service Representatives	250	10%

Fig 2. Immigration Research Initiative analysis of 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data.

The economic role of immigrants has frequently been misunderstood. Immigrants are a big and important part of the economy. Immigrants are disproportionately concentrated in low-wage jobs, but also playing a big role in some higher-wage jobs. And, many immigrants work in positions in the middle.

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