

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Using the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data for the sample period 2015-2019, this report focuses attention on the quantitative economic impact of first-generation, foreign-born individuals on the Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) economy as well as the Nebraska state economy in 2019.

While much of the report is focused on the total immigrant group, some particular attention is paid to those immigrants from Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean (henceforth labeled Latin American and Caribbean in origin), and their impact on the economies of interest. A few key findings are highlighted here:

- In 2019, immigrant spending resulted in \$2.4 billion worth of total production of goods and services (output) in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan statistical area (Omaha MSA) and supported 17,527 total jobs. Spending by Latin American and Caribbean immigrants generated \$981 million and supported 7,354 total jobs.
- In 2019, immigrant spending in Nebraska was \$4.0 billion worth of output and supported 30,441 total jobs. The Latin American and Caribbean spending was responsible for \$1.8 billion worth of production of goods and services and supported 14,715 total jobs.
- Immigrant labor in the construction, food services, and animal slaughtering and processing generate substantial impacts. In the Omaha MSA, this employment generated \$7.9 billion in production and 37,271 jobs. Latin American and Caribbean immigrants generated \$5.2 billion in production and 26,261 jobs.
- In Nebraska, total foreign-born employment generated \$22.0 billion in production and 94,409 jobs. Latin American and Caribbean immigrants generated \$16.1 billion in production and 79,516 jobs.

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- In Nebraska, the foreign-born population accounted for 5.8% of state contributions from income, sales, and gasoline taxes. This population accounted for 5.2% of total state expenditures on public assistance, Medicaid, and education. This suggests that the foreign-born in Nebraska paid into government accounts more than they took out in the form of public benefits in 2019.
- Latin American and Caribbean immigrants accounted for 2.6% of state contributions from income, sales, and gasoline taxes. This population accounted for 2.1% of total state expenditures on public assistance, Medicaid, and education. This suggests that this group also paid into government accounts substantially more than they took out in the form of public benefits in 2019.
- Between 2010 and 2019, the first-generation foreign-born group, as well as those born in Latin America and the Caribbean, increased its average income. This resulted in substantially increased impacts from their spending when compared to 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2019, employment in the three sectors, construction, animal slaughtering and processing, and food services, generally increased. This generally led to higher economic impacts state- and MSA-wide in 2019 relative to 2010.

Summary Table of Key Results

	Production Impact (\$ millions)	Impacts Employment Impact (# jobs)
Impact of Foreign-born Spending		
Omaha MSA	\$2,389	17,527
Nebraska	\$3,955	30,441
Impact of Foreign-born Employment		
Omaha MSA	\$7,893	37,271
Nebraska	\$21,971	94,409
Fiscal Contributions and Costs of the Foreign-Born		
Contributions		5.8%
Costs		5.2%
Ratio		1.10

Source: Author's estimates using IMPLAN. Figures reflect 2019 dollars.

