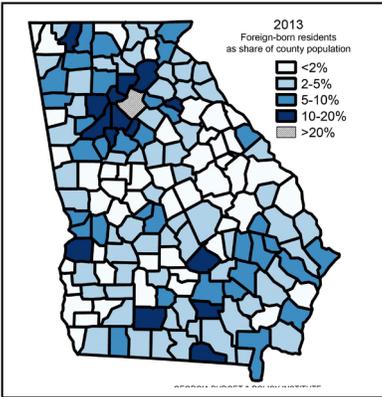




Business & Immigration for Georgia

The BIG Partnership is a statewide partnership of Georgia business and civic leaders committed to strengthening Georgia's economy by tapping the potential of the state's foreign-born community.

Georgia's Thriving Refugee and Immigrant Community. Immigrants and refugees make up **over 10% of Georgia's population** and play a critical role in the state's economy.



- Georgia has the **9th largest immigrant population in the U.S.**, with Atlanta ranked as **#2 region in the nation for foreign-born population growth.**
- In 2018, immigrants in Georgia held **\$26.3 billion in spending power** and paid **\$9.8 billion in local, state and federal taxes.**
- Georgians who are foreign-born make up a substantial portion of Georgia voters, with **nearly ½ million eligible to vote** in the state.
- Georgia has one of the **most successful refugee resettlement programs** in the country. Approximately, **90% of refugee households are working and self-sufficient within 6 months of arrival.**

The Vital Partnership Between Georgia's Business & Immigrant Communities.

Georgia businesses have developed a powerful partnership with the state's refugee and immigrant community, investing heavily in the foreign-born workforce. Refugee and immigrant workers are even more vital today, during a period of economic growth and workforce shortages.

- **1 in 7 Georgia workers is foreign-born.**
- Foreign-born Georgians **own 31% of Georgia's main street businesses**, despite comprising only 10% of the population.
- During today's rural healthcare crisis, more than **10% of nurses and medical assistants** and **17% of doctors** are immigrants.
- Georgia's poultry industry contributes more than **\$18.4 billion to the economy** each year and relies heavily on foreign-born labor.
- 73% percent of US businesses employing refugees reported a **higher retention rate for refugees than for other employees.**
- Today, Georgia refugee serving agencies report they can no longer fill the number of requests for refugee workers coming from businesses across the state.

Immigrants are Essential to Georgia's Workforce

1 in 7 workers in Georgia's labor force is an immigrant

 38.4% of farming, fishing and forestry	 27.4% of construction and extraction	 24.5% of computer and mathematical sciences	 17% of doctors

Refugees support Georgia's vital industries

Tourism	Manufacturing	Food Processing

Strengthening the partnership between Georgia's business & immigrant communities is good for Georgia's economy and for all Georgians.

The BIG Partnership's Policy Objectives include:

- **Removing barriers to employment for skilled immigrants** in health care and other high-demand professions, including by modernizing state occupational licensing requirements.
- **Addressing workforce shortages by improving access to education and vocational training for immigrants**, including by extending in-state tuition benefits to refugees and immigrants who served with the U.S. military overseas.
- **Strengthening Georgia small businesses**, by helping business owners connect with immigrant workers and supporting immigrant entrepreneurs who are creating greater economic opportunities for Georgians.
- **Boosting the rural economy** by helping new Americans live, work and contribute beyond the metro area, including in healthcare, IT and other areas of need for rural communities.
- **Establishing a legislative study committee** to consider the most effective ways to integrate Georgia's immigrant community into the state's economy, address growing workforce shortages in key industries, and develop strategies to sustain Georgia's economic growth by maximizing the potential of its New Americans.
- **Creating a Georgia Office of Opportunities for New Americans** to inventory and coordinate state policies, programs, and services that strengthen the partnership between the business and immigrant communities and promote Georgia prosperity.
- **Maintaining Georgia's tradition of welcoming refugees and immigrants and acknowledging their economic, social and cultural contributions to the lives of all Georgians.**

