Immigrants Are a Vital Part of Colorado's Future

Just as we came together from different places and races to build Colorado in past decades, a strong future for our state includes immigrants.

Immigrant workers and business owners grow Colorado's economy

More than half a million immigrants reside in Colorado. Immigrants work in low-wage, middle-wage, and higher-wage jobs in sectors across our state's economy.

11% of Coloradan workers are immigrants, including:

18% of Main Street business owners in Colorado are immigrants, operating storefront shops that help keep downtown areas vibrant.

18% of nursing assistants
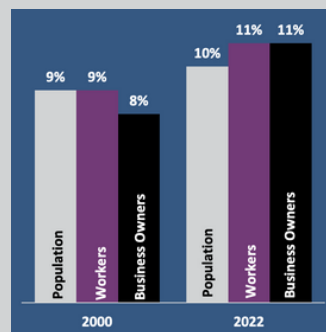
16% of software developers

23% of cooks

It turns out that immigrant workers and business owners generate **$54 billion of economic output** in Colorado. Immigrant contribution to GDP is about the same as immigrant share of the labor force.

Immigration increases opportunity for Coloradans

When immigrants move to Colorado, the economy grows. That doesn't mean fewer jobs, it means more jobs: there are more consumers, more workers, and more business owners. Study after study shows there is no fixed number of jobs in a state. Immigration creates opportunities that benefit U.S.-born workers too.

IMMIGRANTS ARE PART OF A GROWING COLORADO ECONOMY

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF:

	2000	2022
Population	9%	10%
Workers	9%	11%
Business Owners	8%	11%

As Coloradans age, we'll need more workers

As our population ages, new immigrants help keep our economy growing at a sustainable rate. Immigrants help meet growing needs for health care, home care, and supportive services that are key for older Coloradans to have a dignified retirement.

Some people try to scapegoat immigrants to keep us divided. We don't have to fall for it.

After decades of stagnating wages, today wage growth is starting to move in the right direction. We know how to create a good economy for workers. It requires uniting around policy choices like investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, and our care economy with strong labor standards. Regardless of race or country of birth, we all do better when we unite for policies that grow jobs and wages.

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Economic Policy Institute

For more information visit immresearch.org/publications/states