Michigan Immigrants Fact Sheet

- Michigan’s foreign-born were more than three times as likely as U.S.-born Michigan residents to start a new business between 1996 and 2007.¹

- 32.8 percent of all high-tech startups in the state between 1990 and 2005 had an immigrant founder, ranking Michigan 3rd among the 50 states and making Michigan’s foreign-born more than six times as likely to start a high-tech firm than U.S.-born residents.²

- The total economic value generated by Michigan’s farm sector and its related industries was $6.69 billion in 2006; crops that use migrant labor account for almost 58% of the total economic activity.³ Migrant farmworkers in Michigan are predominantly foreign-born.

- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Michigan, the state would lose $3.8 billion in economic activity, $1.7 billion in gross state product, and approximately 20,339 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time.⁴

- Arab American employment accounted for $7.7 billion in total earnings in the four counties of the Detroit metropolitan area in southeast Michigan, generating an estimated $544 million in state tax revenue in 2005.⁵ Arab American business and consumer spending supported an estimated 141,541 jobs in the four-county region in 2005.⁶

- Michigan’s 21,589 Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of $7.7 billion and employed 66,293 people in 2007.⁷

- The state’s 10,770 Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of $3.9 billion and employed 18,508 people in 2007.⁸

- The number of children in Michigan with one or more foreign-born parent was 247,701 (11% of children under 18) in 2009.⁹

- In Michigan, 86.6% of children with immigrant parents were considered “English proficient” as of 2009.¹⁰

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⁵ Center for Urban Studies. “Arab American Economic Contribution Study: Gauging the economic contributions that persons of Arab ancestry have on Southeast Michigan’s Economy.” Wayne State University, March 2007.
⁶ Center for Urban Studies, “Arab American Economic Contribution Study.”
⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners.
⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners.
¹⁰ The Urban Institute, data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2009 American Community Survey.