A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas

Arkansas has a rapidly growing but small immigrant population.

82% increase in immigrant population

Arkansas ranked No. 4 in immigrant population growth.

Approximately 5% of our population are immigrants.

Of Arkansas Immigrants in 2010

- 44% lived in Washington, Benton, and Sebastian counties
- 17% lived in Pulaski County where Little Rock is located
- 39% lived in rural counties spread throughout Arkansas

Immigrants are Vested in Arkansas

Immigrant Latino Men had the highest employment rate of any immigrant or native-born group.

- 88% of Latino immigrants owned their own homes.
- 57% of non-Latino immigrants owned their own homes.

The length of time that Arkansas immigrants have lived in the US is now longer.
Immigrants Benefit Arkansas

Immigrants are now keeping Arkansas young and vibrant. The non-Hispanic white population is aging with the most rapid growth over age 45.

From 2000 to 2010, the number of Latino* children increased by 38,000 and non-Hispanic White* children decreased by 23,000.

*Including both children of immigrants and children of natives

The Latino immigrant share of workers doubled from 2% to 4% between 2000 and 2010.

In 2010, immigrants contributed more economically than Arkansas state and local governments spent on essential services to their households.

Cumulative Contributions*
$3.9B - $555M = $3.4 Billion
Consumer spending plus tax contributions
Essential services
Net economic contribution

Per Capita Contributions*
$16,300 - $2,300 = $13,900
Consumer spending plus tax contributions
Essential services
Net economic contribution

*Excludes federal taxes

For every dollar Arkansas state and local governments spend on immigrants, the state’s economy gains seven.

Arkansas needs to invest in the futures of immigrants if the state is to benefit from their culture, productivity, and economic contributions.

To read the three volumes of A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas that analyze the population of immigrants and Marshall Islanders in Arkansas, visit www.wrfoundation.org.