



Fact Sheet for “Immigrants and the New Mexico Economy: Working Hard for Low Wages”

- A higher percentage of immigrants (42.2 percent) than U.S.-born New Mexicans (24.7 percent) fall within the prime working age group of 25- to 44-years-old.
- A higher percentage of immigrants (10 percent) are self-employed than are U.S.-born New Mexicans (7.5 percent).
- Labor force participation rates are higher for immigrants (64.2 percent) than for U.S.-born New Mexicans (62.4 percent).
- Immigrants are more likely (80 percent) than U.S.-born New Mexicans (69 percent) to be employed in the private sector, while less likely (11 percent) than U.S.-born (23 percent) to be employed in the public sector.
- Native-born New Mexicans earn, on average, higher wages than the foreign-born, and naturalized citizen earn higher wages than non-citizens.
- Despite their lower earnings, immigrants receive very little in transfer payments (Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, etc.). Only 4 percent of such payments go to immigrants, while 96 percent go to native-born citizens.
- Although non-citizens are less likely than citizens to have private health insurance, they also had fewer emergency room visits in 2006 than did citizens. While 20 percent of adult citizens had ER visits in 2006, only 13 percent of non-citizens had.

The report and executive summary are available online at: www.nmvoices.org



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