

# Bringing Vitality to Main Street

How Immigrant Small Businesses Help Local Economies Grow



*A report of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Americas Society/Council of the Americas*

# Cities with Declining Population 1960 to 1980

(29 of the 50 Largest Cities saw a mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century population decline)

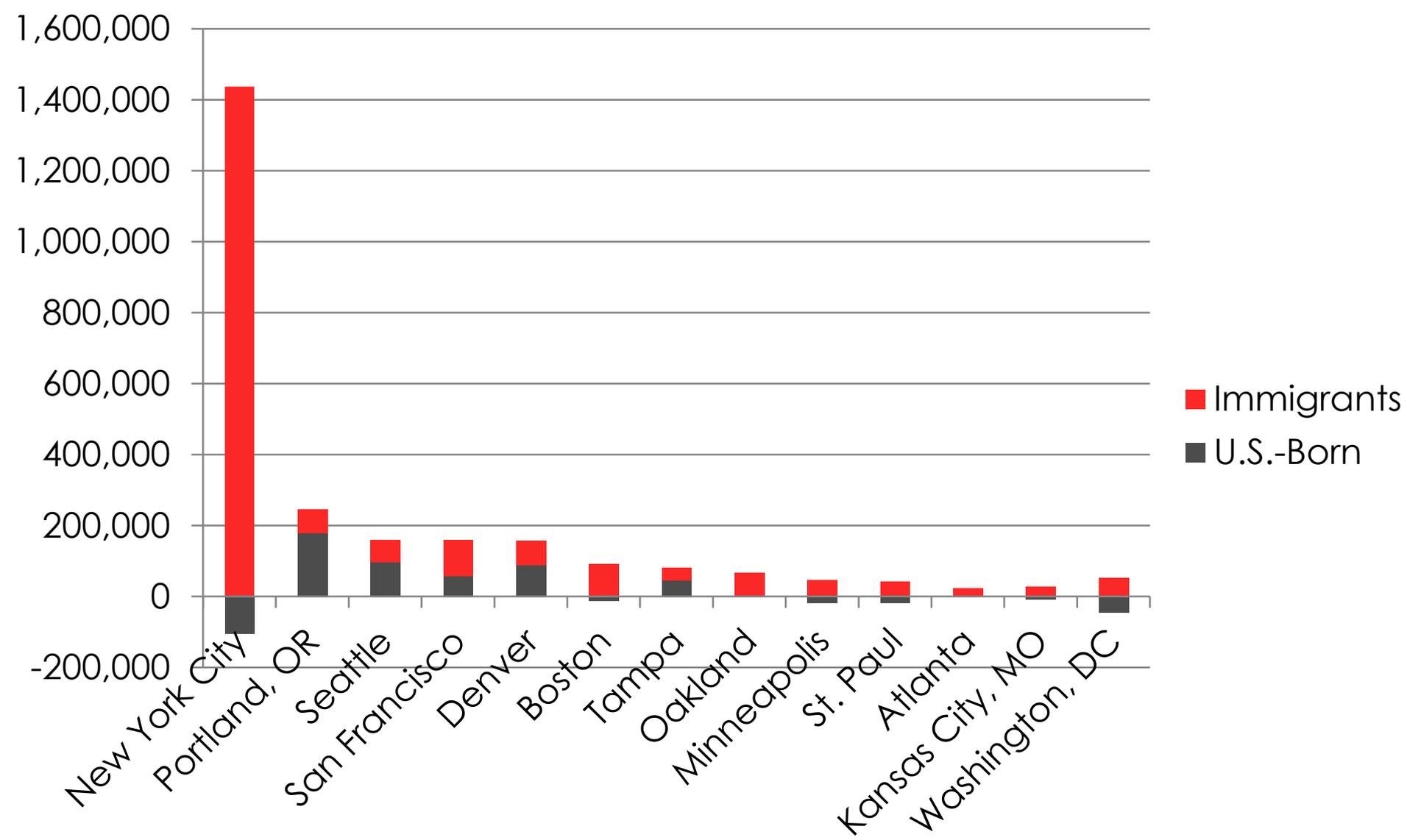
St. Louis	-40%	Newark	-19%	Seattle	-11%
Cleveland	-34%	Birmingham	-17%	New Orleans	-11%
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>-33%</b>	Washington, DC	-16%	New York City	-9%
Pittsburgh	-30%	Baltimore	-16%	San Francisco	-8%
Detroit	-28%	Philadelphia	-16%	Oakland	-8%
<b>Rochester</b>	<b>-24%</b>	Chicago	-15%	Kansas City	-6%
Louisville	-24%	Milwaukee	-14%	Portland, OR	-2%
Cincinnati	-23%	St. Paul	-14%	Tampa	-1%
Minneapolis	-23%	Atlanta	-13%	Denver	-0.3%
Boston	-19%	Norfolk	-13%		

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

Of the 29 Declining Cities, 14 Rebounded  
with an Increase in Population 1980 to 2013

# Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population

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Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

# Here are the Cities that Rebounded **Without** an Increase in Immigrant Population

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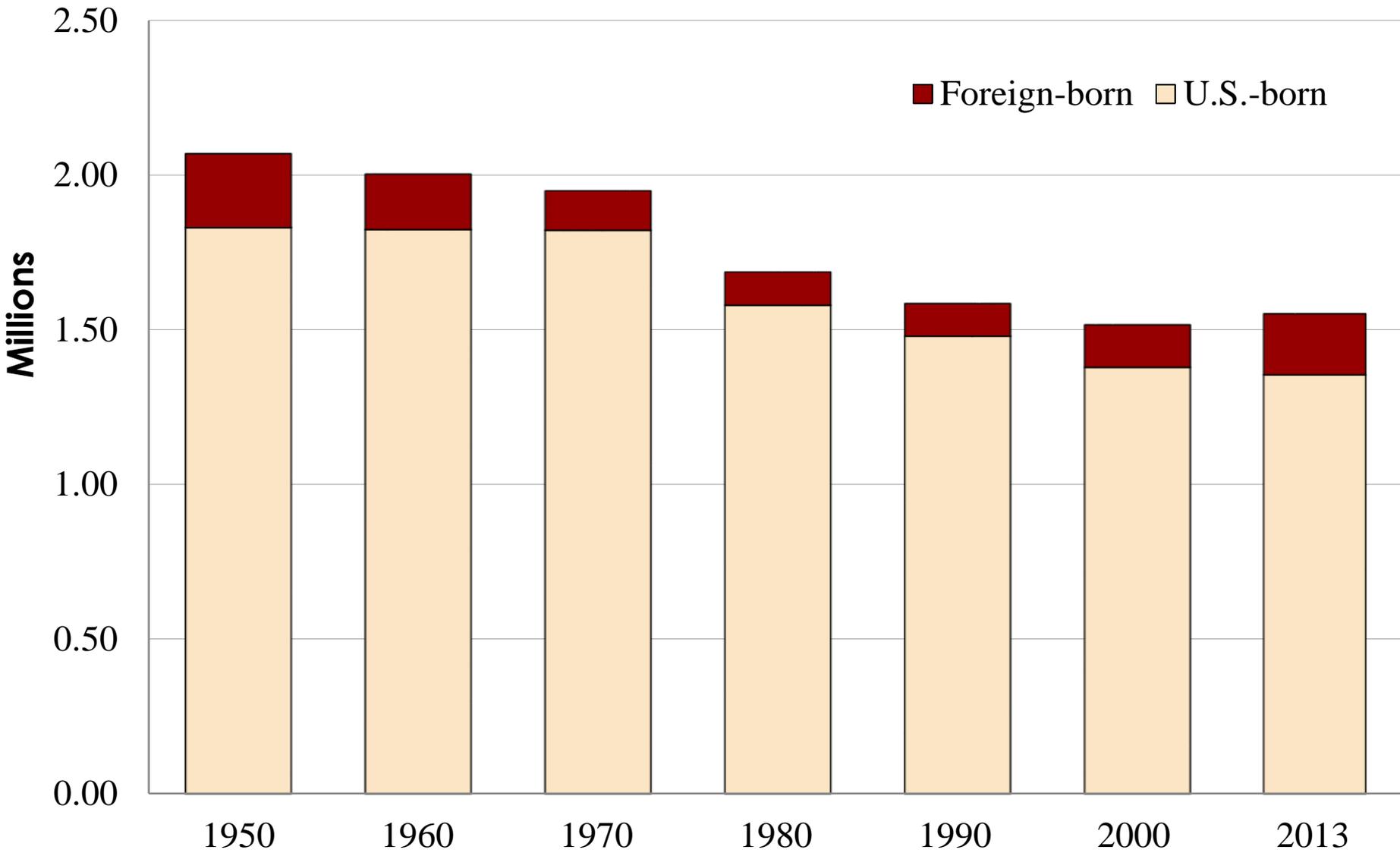
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The only cities that rebounded from mid-20<sup>th</sup> century population loss did so with a net increase in immigrant population.

This doesn't prove that immigrants cause growth. It may also be that immigrants are drawn to growth.

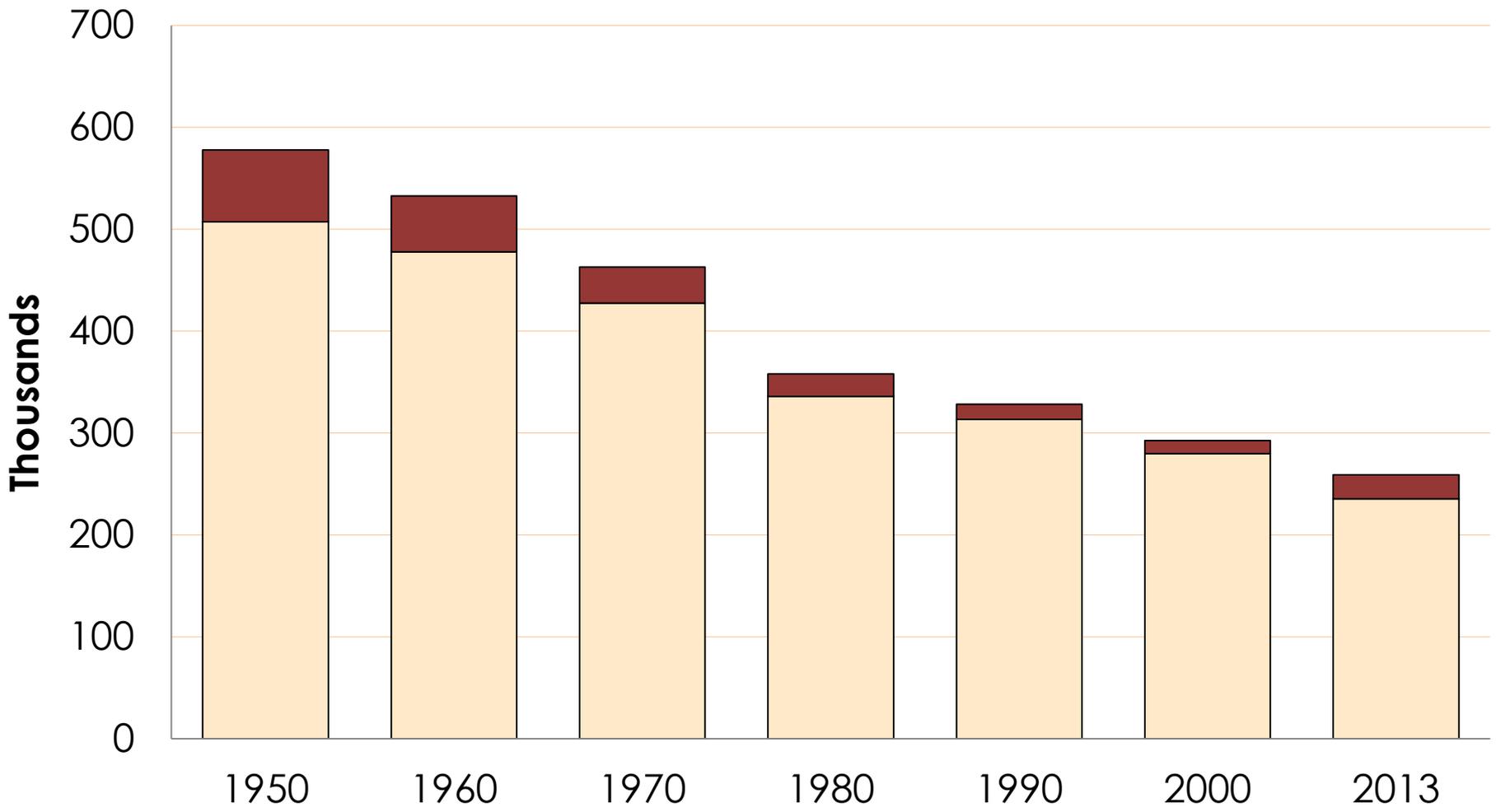
But if your city's plan is to grow **without** immigrants, it is useful to keep in mind that there are **no examples** of that among major cities in the United States over the past four decades.

# Population Rebound in Philadelphia



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

# Lack of Rebound in Buffalo



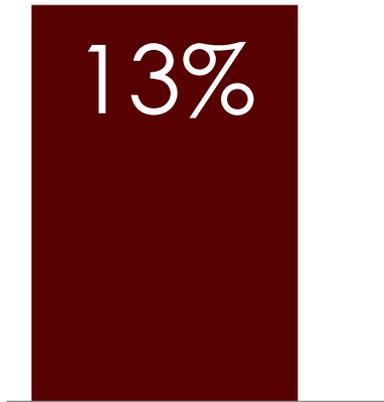
Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

In the United States

# Immigrant Share of

In the United States

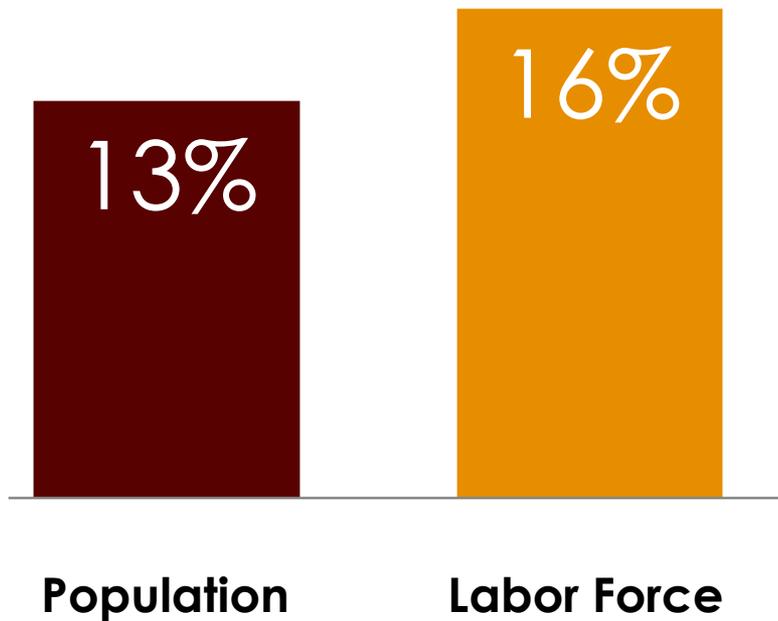
# Immigrant Share of



**Population**

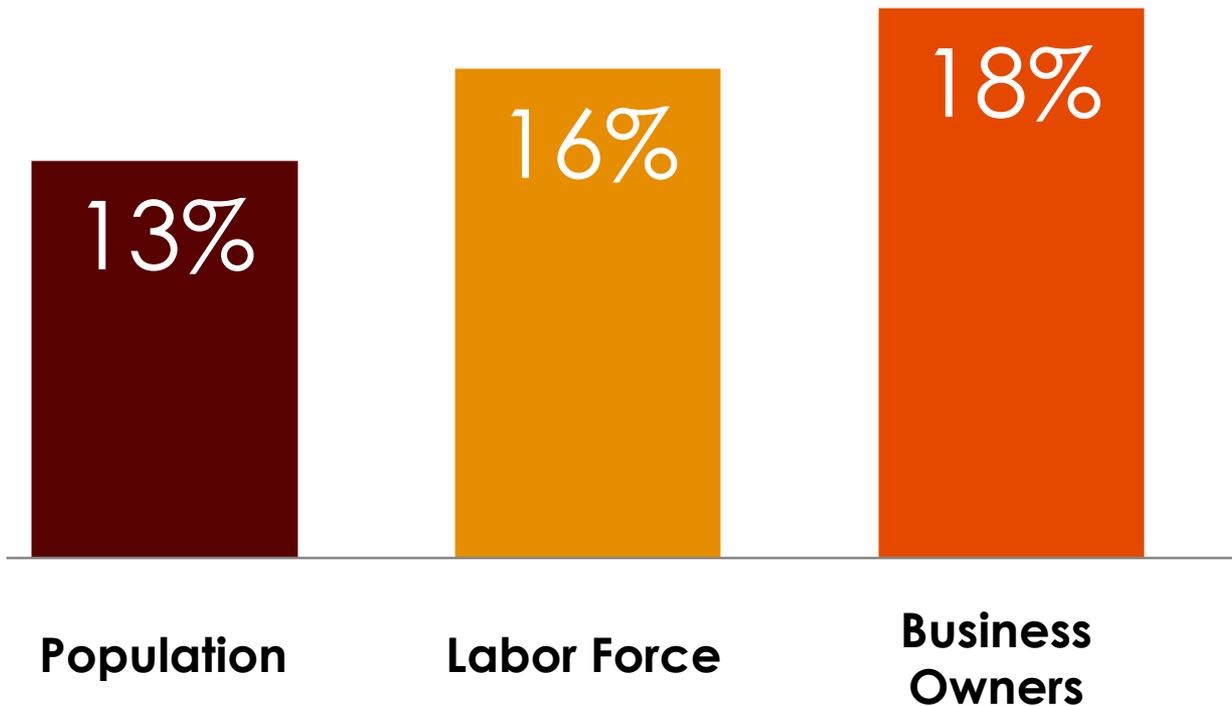
In the United States

# Immigrant Share of



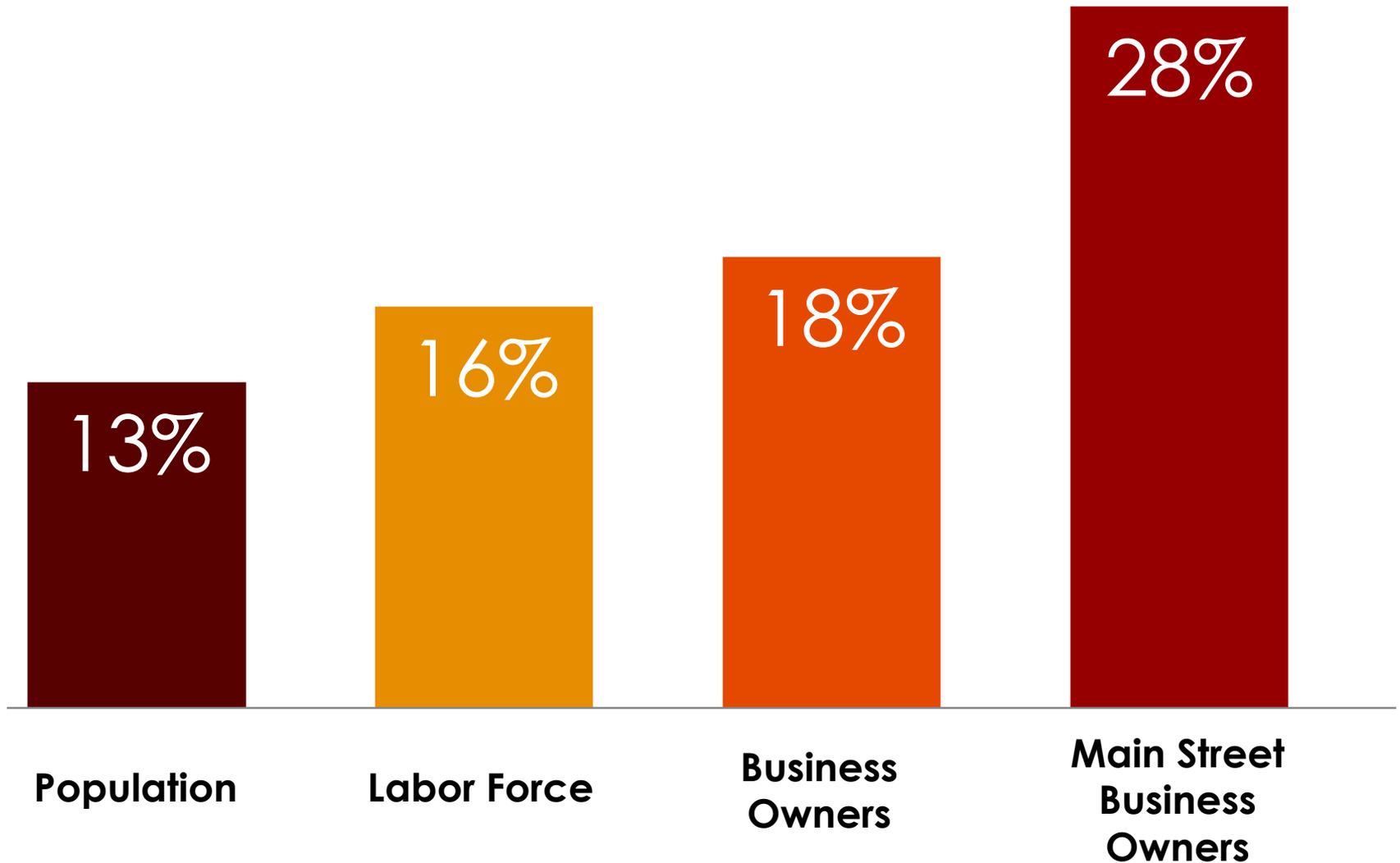
In the United States

# Immigrant Share of



In the United States

# Immigrant Share of



# “Main Street” businesses



grocery stores

# “Main Street” businesses



# “Main Street” businesses



# “Main Street” businesses



grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons



retail shops

# “Main Street” businesses



grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons



Dry cleaners



retail shops

# “Main Street” businesses



grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons



Dry cleaners



retail shops

Retail, Accommodations and Food Services,  
Neighborhood Services (part of “other services”)

In 31 of the 50 largest metro areas, *all net growth* in the number of **Main Street business owners** was due to immigrants

