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-20th Century population decline)

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

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

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Here are the Cities that Rebounded *Without* an Increase in Immigrant Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Here are the Cities that Rebounded *Without* an Increase in Immigrant Population

There are none
Here are the Cities that Rebounded *Without* an Increase in Immigrant Population

There are none

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

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
The only cities that rebounded from mid-20th 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

[Graph showing population trends from 1950 to 2013, with columns representing Foreign-born (red) and U.S.-born (tan) populations.]

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

13%

Population
In the United States
Immigrant Share of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
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</table>
In the United States

Immigrant Share of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Business Owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the United States

Immigrant Share of

- Population: 13%
- Labor Force: 16%
- Business Owners: 18%
- Main Street Business Owners: 28%
“Main Street” businesses

grocery stores
“Main Street” businesses

grocery stores

restaurants
“Main Street” businesses

- grocery stores
- restaurants
- retail shops
“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

- Groceries 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.