

“Canadian Immigrant Propaganda”

Canadians are not “immigrants,” to Maine, we are ***Native*** and ***Anthropological*** to Maine.

Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org>

Executive Summary

Maine’s immigrant population, though relatively small at about 53,000 people in 2023, has distinctive characteristics compared to those in other states and the nation at large. Canadians were among the earliest immigrants to Maine, and today one in five immigrants in the state was born in Canada. Thanks to a shared border, easier entry requirements for Canadians compared to other nationalities, and special treaties that allow Indigenous people to cross the border more freely, Canadian immigrants and visitors have a notable presence in the state and impact on its economy. But Maine’s immigrant population has also grown and diversified over time, including the recent arrival of immigrants from various countries in Africa and, in smaller proportions, from new sending countries in Asia and Latin America.

The challenges associated with migrant arrivals without strong U.S. ties—a focus of national media attention in recent years—might be predicted to be greater in a state such as Maine, where long-standing housing, transportation, and other infrastructure

challenges exist. However, a closer look indicates that only a sliver of Maine’s immigrants have strong service needs, and that a tapestry of immigrant-serving organizations has tailored the work they do as needs, like arrivals, have become more diverse. Rather, Maine’s immigrant communities represent a valuable resource for a state facing demographic challenges: providing essential labor and skills at a time when the U.S.-born workforce is shrinking, and cultural richness and support for newer arrivals’ ability to integrate and succeed.

Maine’s immigrant communities represent a valuable resource for a state facing demographic challenges.

This report draws primarily from Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2019–23 American Community Surveys, the most recent available, to examine the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Maine’s immigrant population. MPI researchers also interviewed staff of nine immigrant-serving organizations based in Maine to better understand the services needed by immigrants, including both newcomers and established communities.

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2019

Source: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-maine-immigrants-2025_final.pdf