

Economic Implications of Pennsylvania's Foreign-Born Population

Fact Sheet 3: Earnings and Income Among Rural Pennsylvania's Foreign-Born Workforce

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Research findings

- On average, foreign-born members of the workforce in rural Pennsylvania earned \$34,784 per year in wage and salary income across the 2012-2016 period, which was more than \$10,000 greater than the average among native-born members of the rural workforce (\$24,348).

However, the poverty rate among the rural foreign-born workforce was 21.1 percent, nearly 9 percentage points higher than the 12.6 percent rate among the native-born rural workforce. These results suggest the rural foreign-born workforce is characterized by high levels of inequality.

- Both native- and foreign-born members of the rural workforce earn less, on average, in wage and salary income than their urban counterparts. However, the foreign-born advantage in wage and salary income is unique to rural Pennsylvania. In urban areas, native-born workers (\$35,326) have a slightly higher average wage and salary income than foreign-born workers (\$35,132).
- Among the rural workforce in Pennsylvania, native-born adults are much more likely to own businesses and receive business income than foreign-born adults. On average, native-born rural adults earned \$27,818 and \$22,144 in non-farm and farm business income per year, respectively, and foreign-born adults earned \$24,000 and \$0, respectively.
- On average, rural foreign-born adults received slightly more income from welfare (\$1,800) than native-born adults (\$1,349); but native-born rural adults received more income from social security (\$11,948), SSI (\$7,225), unemployment benefits (\$6,032) and disability benefits (\$11,772) than rural foreign-born adults (\$10,449, \$5,075, \$4,032, and \$0, respectively).

PA Workforce Personal Incomes, 2013-2017 (\$)

	PA Total	Non-Metropolitan Foreign-born	Native-born	Metropolitan Foreign-born	Native-born
Wage and salary income	33,827	34,784	24,345	35,132	35,326
Non-farm business income	29,597	24,000	27,818	31,280	29,597
Farm business income	9,645	--	22,144	4,104	6,624
Child support	4,920	7,200	3,794	6,004	5,176
Alimony	11,169	8,372	1,638	--	13,040
Assistance	8,455	--	3,130	20,557	7,343
Social security	12,162	10,449	11,948	11,582	12,248
Welfare	2,595	1,800	1,349	2,969	2,742
SSI	8,123	5,075	7,225	8,777	8,246
Unemployment benefits	6,077	4,032	6,032	5,334	6,129
Worker's compensation	10,554	--	7,429	10,742	11,380
Veteran's benefits	11,725	--	18,581	2,692	11,424
Survivor's benefits	13,547	11,368	4,330	6,692	15,043
Disability	11,334	--	11,772	10,117	11,350
Retirement	25,264	6,113	22,430	18,379	26,332
Interest	1,784	2,204	1,680	2,119	1,775
Dividends	3,567	4,436	3,144	3,600	3,615
Rent	7,704	1,006	4,375	6,400	8,426
Educational assistance	7,777	5,000	4,441	8,214	8,187
Other, not specified	2,989	--	1,433	2,584	3,274

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 2013-2017. Note: Numbers represent mean values. Assistance is regular assistance from family members or relatives. All numbers were rounded to the nearest dollar. All mean values only account for those who reported income greater than \$0.

Data and methods

This profile is from the study, *Economic Implications of Pennsylvania's Foreign-Born Population*, which analyzed individual-level data from the 2013-2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey. The survey collects data on income during the prior year, which corresponds to the 2012-2016 period. The sample was limited to individuals aged 16-64 years. Individuals were classified as rural residents if they lived in a non-metropolitan county,

as defined by the U.S. Office for Management and Budget. For the poverty analysis, individual-level data from the 2016 American Community Survey 1-year sample were analyzed. The sample was limited to members of the workforce, defined as individuals aged 16-64 years. The research classified individuals as rural residents if they lived in a PUMA with a population density below the Pennsylvania-wide average. The report, *Economic Implications of Pennsylvania's Foreign-Born Population*, is available at www.rural.palegislature.us.

