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## New study shows foreign-born workers have higher labor participation rates in NJ

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**A** new study shows foreign-born residents participate in the state's labor force at higher rates than native-born New Jersey residents, Stockton University said Friday.

According to data released by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton, foreign-born workers accounted for nearly 30% of the New Jersey labor force in 2022, higher than the record 18.1% participating in the national civilian labor force that year.

Statewide, foreign-born workers have greater labor force participation rates, at nearly 70%, than native-born workers, at nearly 65%, Stockton said in a news release.

Jobs commonly filled by foreign-born workers in New Jersey include software developers, registered nurses, construction laborers, maids, janitors, teachers, retail salespeople, drivers and cooks, the study found.

“Contrary to the negative perceptions around immigration and its impact on the economy, actual labor market trends suggest it’s a boon,” said Stockton economics professor Ramya Devan, who analyzed the data with student Madison Giusti. “The data shows that immigrant workers are vital to the New Jersey workforce.”

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Mercer and Atlantic counties had the highest gaps between foreign-born and native-born labor participation rates at 14 percentage points and 10 percentage points, respectively.

The data for the study was from the 2022 American Community Survey published by the U.S. Census. Foreign-born refers to anyone who isn't a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, temporary migrants or refugees, and unauthorized migrants.

For more information on the study, visit **[stockton.edu/hughes-center](https://stockton.edu/hughes-center)**.

By isaac.linsk

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