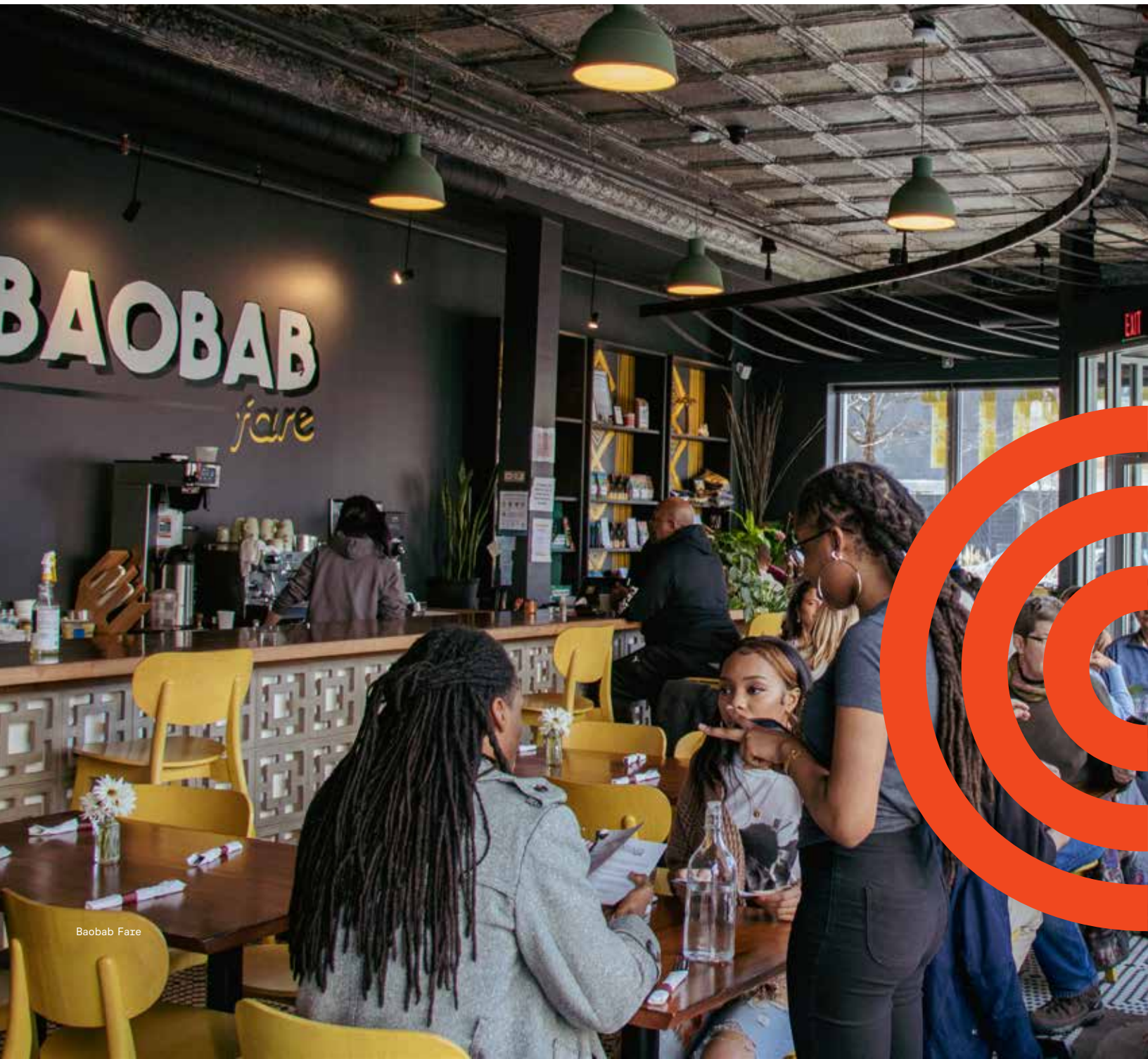


APRIL 2026

# Job Creators: How Immigrant and Diverse Entrepreneurs Drive Metro Detroit's Prosperity



Hamissi Mamba and Nadia Njimbere, Owners of Baobab Fare



Baobab Fare

This report was a joint effort of:



All photography courtesy of Global Detroit and ProsperUs Detroit.

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# Overview

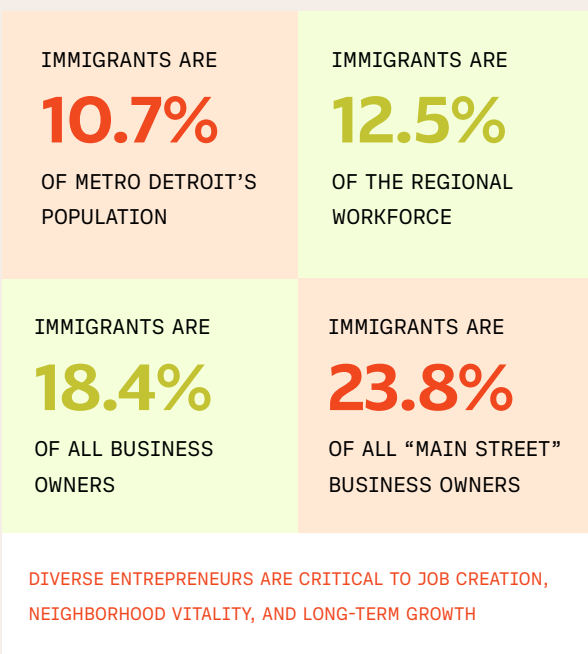


Diego Plata, Owner of Botánica Fe Y Amor

## About This Report

This report combines new data analysis, community insights, and policy recommendations to better understand how immigrant and diverse entrepreneurs contribute to Metro Detroit's economy. It is intended to inform business leaders, funders, policymakers, and community stakeholders seeking practical strategies for inclusive economic growth.

### Metro Detroit at a Glance



#### Bottom Line:

Immigrants and diverse entrepreneurs are critically important to Metro Detroit's economy today and are key to powering our region's prosperity moving forward.

A little more than a century ago, Detroit was one of America's fastest growing cities.

A hotbed of automotive innovation, the city doubled its population from 465,000 residents in 1910 to nearly one million in 1920. This population boom moved Detroit up the ranks from America's 9th largest city in population in the 1910 to its 4th largest by 1920. Thirty (30) percent of its residents were immigrants who came looking for freedom and economic opportunity. The boom also was driven, in part, by the arrival of Black and African American families whose presence rose over 600 percent from fewer than 6,000 residents in 1910 to over 40,000 by 1920. According to report Rick Haglund:

Detroit has been called the "Silicon Valley of the 1920s," for good reason. The innovations developed by Henry Ford and dozens of other auto pioneers during that era made Detroit the richest city in the country by 1949, as measured by household income, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.<sup>1</sup>

It was a time of enormous prosperity and potential. And while the Big Three would grow to be some of the largest employers in the world in the 1950s and 1960s, a significant number of those coming for economic opportunity would find themselves working as entrepreneurs, small business retailers, and suppliers, as well as self-employed craftsmen and tradespeople. It was an era before large retail chains and truly massive industrial or corporate employment.

Today, Americans celebrate entrepreneurs and small business growth. And for good reason. Whether one



Hamissi Mamba and Nadia Nijimberg, Global Detroit 2022 Community Entrepreneurs of the Year

goes back to 2010 or looks at the critical years coming out of the COVID pandemic (2021-2024), small businesses appear to be responsible for the majority of new jobs created. They also are critical to our tax base. But they add value beyond these economic statistics. “Main Street” businesses—restaurants, grocery stores, dry cleaners, barber shops and beauty salons, clothing boutiques—provide critical lifeblood to neighborhoods and can help define the culture of a community. Growth in Main Street businesses creates jobs, decrease property vacancy and blight, increases property values, generates tax revenue, decreases crime and enhances people’s sense of safety and builds community identity and character.<sup>2</sup>

This study investigates business ownership in Metro Detroit and the vital role that immigrants, women, Black and African Americans, Latino, Asian Americans and Native Americans play. The study reveals that immigrants are critical drivers of the small business economy and are well-represented among the region’s business owners despite their small share of the population. The facts rebut tropes that immigrants take jobs from U.S.-born workers. Immigrants expand the economy. When immigrants come to this country, they are both workers who help businesses thrive and consumers who expand the overall economy. And, they are business owners, helping drive neighborhood revitalization and employing people along the way.

Immigrants are more likely than others to be business owners in general. And, immigrants are playing a particularly strong role as business owners in key industries such as construction, technology (software development, as well as engineering and IT staffing firms) and manufacturing. Most strikingly, immigrants play a central role as Main Street business owners.

The study also investigates business ownership among women, Black and African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans. While these groups are often underrepresented in terms of the share of businesses they own relative to their share of the regional population, it is important to note that there are thousands of businesses in Metro Detroit owned by entrepreneurs from these communities. In fact, these entrepreneurs also demonstrate strong performance in key sectors of Metro Detroit’s economy. In fact, these entrepreneurs also demonstrate strong performance in key sectors of Metro Detroit’s economy. It is crucial that economic policies and business support organizations and strategies include these owners in their strategies, policies, practices and programs.



Erica Williams, Got Chocolate

ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

# Nicole Grant

## MG Studio Salon

### Detroit, MI

“

Beauty is not just a profession for me; it's a lifelong journey!

— NICOLE GRANT



Nicole Grant, Owner of MG Studio Salon

Nicole Grant has always been passionate about beauty and creating a personalized experience for each client.

Nicole grew up in Detroit wanting to be a hair stylist. She opened MG Studio in 2008, offering a unique personalized experience to her customers. Nicole's goal is simple: she wants her clients to love and enjoy their hair, offering a space where each person receives one-on-one attention.

In 2023, she expanded to open MG Studio Salon and began to develop her own hair products. As a licensed cosmetologist with over 30 years of

experience and a self-taught chemist, driven by a strong passion for healthy hair, Nicole formulated and packaged over 20 unique products to ensure the integrity and health of every strand. Nicole believes that healthy hair is integral to a healthy lifestyle. She hopes to keep growing her business and even open a second location one day.

“Beauty is not just a profession for me; it's a lifelong journey!”

As part of that journey, Nicole has been engaged with ProsperUs Detroit since 2022, through technical assistance and capital programming, gaining support to further strengthen and expand her business.

WHY THIS REPORT MATTERS:

# Building a Prosperous Regional Economy



Ribbon Cutting in Detroit/Hamtramck Banglatown

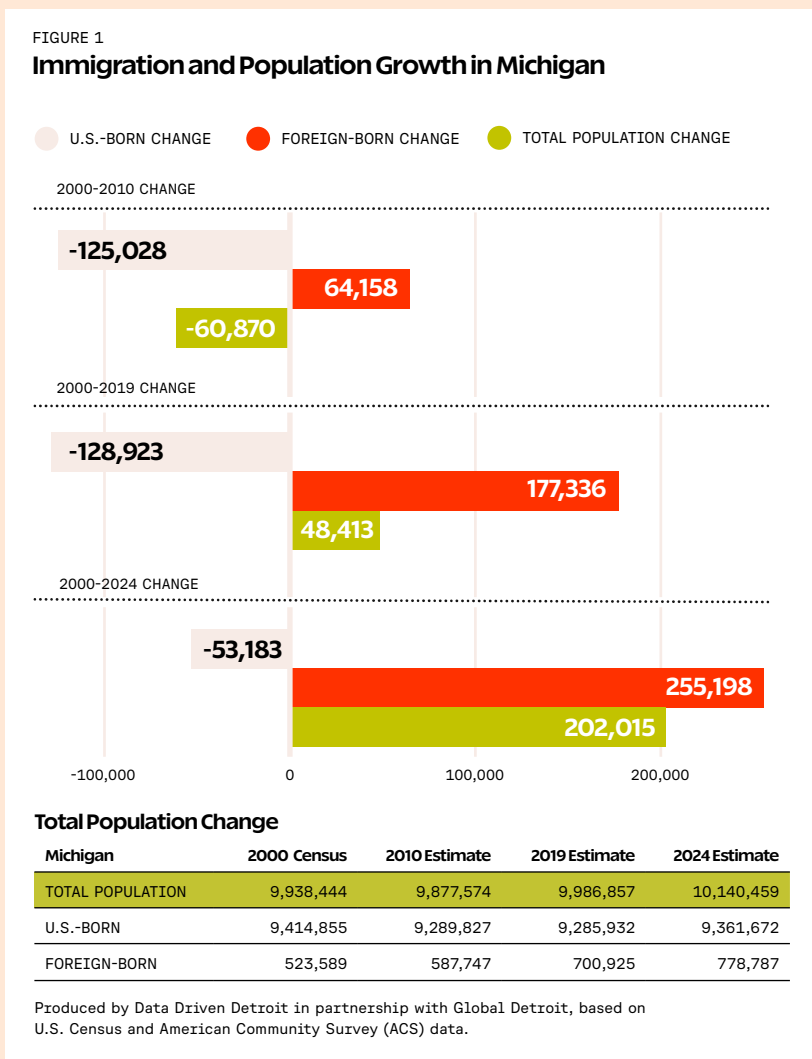
Global Detroit was launched in 2010 with the financial support of the New Economy Initiative, Detroit Regional Chamber and Skillman Foundation based on the economic research that immigrants and immigration were significant contributors to the regional economy.

Global Detroit was founded on the principle that the intentional inclusion of immigrants and immigration in our region's community and economic development strategies, policies, practices and programs would spark economic growth and expand the region's shared prosperity.

Immigration has been the most important driver of population growth in Southeast Michigan, across the state of Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes region. In Metro Detroit, according to Census Bureau analysis from researchers at Kennesaw State University, the population of Metro Detroit grew 1.2 percent or by a little more than 50,000 residents from 2010 to 2023.<sup>3</sup> During that period the U.S.-born population decreased by nearly 59,000 people, but the foreign-born<sup>4</sup> population of the metro region grew by over 109,000 accounting for all of the net population growth.

The same impacts—immigration accounting for all net population growth—exists on the state level. Whether one looks back to 2000, 2010 or 2020, *all* of the state's net population growth is due to more immigrants moving to the state.<sup>5</sup>

Immigration accounted for more than 70 percent of U.S. population growth in the Census Bureau's population estimate for July 2025, which included five months of data under President Trump's second term in which his administration implemented numerous policies restricting immigration and supporting mass deportation.<sup>6</sup>



At the national level, immigrant population growth declined from a net increase of 2.7 million residents between July 2023 and July 2024 to a net increase of 1.3 million residents between July 2024 and July 2025. The Census Bureau projects that the 2026 Census will likely reflect much smaller growth, dropping to little more than a 300,000 net increase in the number of immigrants, while the Congressional Budget Office and Brookings Institution project even smaller growth rates. Yet, immigration has been a cornerstone of U.S. population growth and while the current presidential administration has put the most significant

restrictions on immigration in more than a century, it seems unlikely that this significant decline in the number of new immigrants is likely to continue for more than a few years given changing public attitudes on immigration and the president's current approach on the issue.

Immigrants add much more to our region than simple population statistics. They are more likely to be of working age and for that reason have higher labor force participation rates, and are more likely to be working.

Contrary to anti-immigrant stereotypes, immigrants are less likely to be using public benefits than U.S.-born neighbors of similar incomes.<sup>7</sup> More than perhaps



Bengal Auto Sales, Hamtramck



Bengal Auto Sales, Hamtramck

any of these economic metrics, immigrants add to our region's culture, our innovative spirit, our diversity, and our sense of opportunity. Immigrants are often the most passionate advocates for and believers in the American Dream—a driving spirit that if you work hard and invest in your future and your community, opportunity and prosperity will follow.

ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

# Gias Uddin Talukder

Bengal Auto Sales, LLC—Hamtramck, MI



“I was not a businessman, for me, the business happened coincidentally.”

— GIAS TALUKDER



Gias Talukder, Owner of Bengal Auto Sales

Gias Talukder embodies the diverse pathways that lead immigrants to business ownership.

Originally from Bangladesh, Gias arrived in the United States in 1998 and spent more than a decade working in the pharmaceutical industry in New York before relocating to Florida. His path shifted unexpectedly after his brother joined him there. While helping him purchase a car, Gias was introduced to the used auto sales industry in 2009 and saw opportunities to improve on their service and to do good. He gradually developed his own dealership.

“I was not a businessman,” Gias told ProsperUs Detroit in 2022. “For me, the business happened coincidentally.”

Now, Gias is the owner of Bengal Auto Sales in Hamtramck, Michigan. He is driven by a vision to give back to the community. Since relocating and opening in Hamtramck in 2013, Gias has donated upwards of 35 cars to individuals in need, free of charge, as part of community efforts and events.

In 2019, Gias worked with ProsperUs Detroit to secure a loan that helped him expand his inventory, support that helped him through the pandemic. He has also utilized ProsperUs Detroit’s Amanah interest-free loan product that is compliant with Islamic financial principles. Gias’s journey highlights how the right support at the right time can help entrepreneurs not only grow their businesses but give back in meaningful ways.

ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

# Hamissi Mamba & Nadia Nijimbere

Baobab Fare—Detroit, MI



Hamissi Mamba and Nadia Nijimbere in midst of renovating the space that would become Baobab Fare



“Detroit welcomed us as refugees. That is important because it has become our home. A place that welcomed us with open arms and because of that we have the responsibility to encourage enrichment of the city, through immigration from international countries. We also share our stories and many others through our food, and through our community space. It’s where conversations and understanding intersect.”

-HAMISSI MAMBA & NADIA NIJIMBERE

Detroit has been enjoying the award-winning food from Mamba and Nadia’s Baobab Fare for nearly a decade.

These asylum seekers have contributed to Detroit’s economy and neighborhood resurgence as Main Street entrepreneurs opening Baobab Fare, a popular East African-inspired restaurant in Detroit’s New Center neighborhood, as part of a resurgence of new retail activity in this neighborhood.

Originally from Burundi, Mamba and Nadia came to the United States seeking asylum after Nadia—a women’s rights activist—was forced to flee the country due to persecution. As asylum seekers in Freedom House, Mamba and Nadia met Global Detroit who helped introduce them to ProsperUs Detroit.

Working with ProsperUs Detroit in 2017, Baobab Fare began with pop-up events and catering. They competed in the Hatch Detroit entrepreneurship contest and won the \$50,000 prize which they used to help open their brick-and-mortar establishment in newly renovated space in 2021. In February 2023, Mamba won an episode of Chopped and by 2024, Baobab Fare was a James Beard Award finalist as one of the nation’s outstanding restaurateurs.

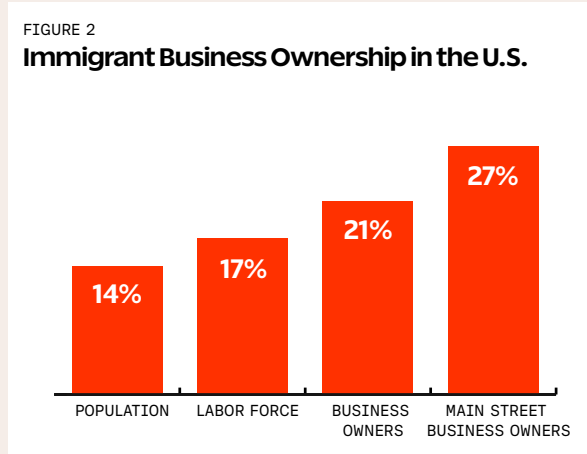
In addition to Baobab Fare, Mamba and Nadia own Soko, an East African market that seeks to combat the harmful narratives about Africa in the United States, as well as Waka, a 100% halal food truck that makes the food at Baobab Fare more convenient and accessible to Detroiters. They also are in the process of opening a second location for the restaurant in the East Warren Corridor and in Eastern Market.

# Key Findings of the Research



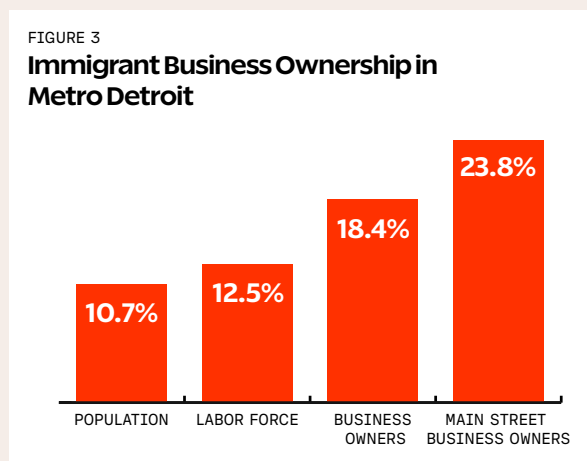
# 1 Business Ownership Rates and the Propensity to Own Businesses

The research in this study is based upon a larger national research project undertaken by Global Detroit's E Pluribus program,<sup>8</sup> Immigration Research Initiative and Build from Within Alliance in March 2026 that highlighted immigrant business ownership on the national level.<sup>9</sup> That study chronicled the 1.3 million immigrant business owners who comprise 21 percent of all the business owners in America. Nationally, immigrants comprise 14 percent of the population, 18 percent of the workforce, 21 percent of the business owners and 27 percent of the Main Street business owners. These statistics are a conservative estimate of the impact that immigrant entrepreneurship—and that of minority entrepreneurs—have on the U.S. economy as that study, like this one, is based upon Census data of owners of incorporated businesses. That study did not measure self-employed entrepreneurs whose businesses are unincorporated or other entrepreneurs working in the information economy.



The findings in this study for Metro Detroit similarly highlight tremendous contributions and importance of immigrant business owners. There are more than 14,000 immigrants who are business owners of

incorporated firms in Metro Detroit. Immigrants in Metro Detroit comprise 10.7 percent of the population, 12.5 percent of the workforce, 18.4 percent of the business owners and 23.8 percent of the Main Street business owners. Simply put, immigrants make up a larger share of the region's workforce than their share of the population and an even bigger share of the business owners. They are twice as likely to be Main Street business owners than their share of the regional population.



While business ownership rates for U.S.-born workers in Metro Detroit are slightly below national averages, foreign-born workers in Metro Detroit are significantly more likely to be business owners than not only U.S.-born workers, but even substantially above national averages for foreign-born workers across the U.S. Across Metro Detroit 32 of every 1,000 U.S.-born workers own a business, slightly less than the national propensity of U.S.-born workers to own a business (35 of every 1,000 U.S.-born workers across the U.S. own a business). 53 of every 1,000 foreign-born workers in the Metro Detroit workforce are business owners, a rate 20 percent than the national average (44 of every 1,000 foreign-born workers are business owners).

National and Metro Detroit research data documents that the longer immigrants are in the U.S., the more likely they are to become business owners. During their

FIGURE 4

**Propensity to Own a Business in Metro Detroit vs. Nationally**

U.S.-Born	Metro Detroit	Nationally
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	88%	83%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	82%	79%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	32 PER 1,000	35 PER 1,000
Immigrants	Metro Detroit	Nationally
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	12.5%	17%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	18.4%	21%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	51 PER 1,000	44 PER 1,000
Total Population	Metro Detroit	Nationally
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	34 PER 1,000	37 PER 1,000

first ten years in the U.S., foreign-born workers in Metro Detroit have a .026 propensity to own a business. In other words, during their first decade in the U.S., 26 out of every 1,000 immigrant workers in Metro Detroit own a business. That propensity to own a business grows to 46 out of every 1,000 workers during their second decade in the U.S. (years 11-20). Metro Detroit's foreign-born workers who have been in the U.S. for 21 or more years have business ownership rates of an incredible 69 out of every 1,000 workers—a rate three times as high as Metro Detroit's U.S.-born workers.

## 2 Business Earnings and Sectors of the Economy

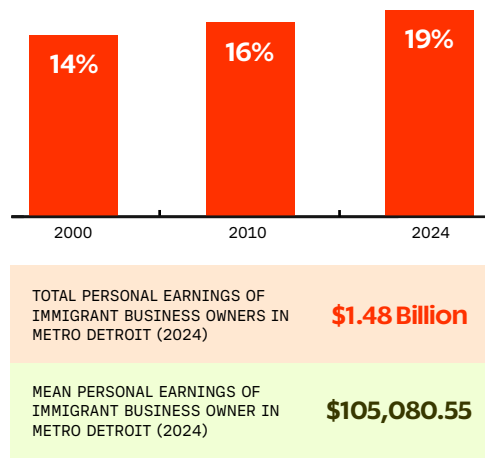
Over 14,000 immigrants in Metro Detroit are business owners. They own businesses in virtually every sector of the economy and these businesses comprise a substantial part of the regional economy. While our research did not enable us to identify the number employees working for immigrant-owned businesses in the region, it did reveal that not only do immigrants in Metro Detroit have higher propensities to be businesses owners, immigrant business owners account for an even larger share of individual business earnings in the region.

Immigrant earnings from business ownership in Metro Detroit were nearly \$1.5 billion in 2024 and accounted for 19 percent of all the individual earnings from business ownership in the region, an amount even greater than immigrant's share of business ownership in the region. In short, immigrant business earnings were greater than the overall average.

FIGURE 5

**Immigrant Businesses' Share of Total Earnings in Metro Detroit Over Time**

INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS FROM BUSINESS, INFLATION-ADJUSTED



As noted, immigrant businesses touch virtually every sector of Metro Detroit's economy. Yet, there are some industries and types of business ownership where immigrant businesses make up a disproportionate share of the total. Figure 6 ranks the type of businesses immigrants own by the number of businesses.<sup>10</sup> The most common businesses are trucking and construction firms where immigrants have over 1,500 such incorporated businesses in the region. This amounts to over half (53 percent) of the trucking firms in the region. Third on the list is restaurants and cafes where there are over 750 restaurant business owners in the region, amounting to 25 percent of the region's restaurateurs. Large numbers of Main Street businesses include (in order) pharmacies and drug stores, convenience retailers, car dealers, health and personal care retailers (not including pharmacies), beauty salons, supermarkets and grocery stores, automotive repair and maintenance, as well as nail salons and personal care services.

The list is not limited to Main Street or industry. It also includes important portions of the knowledge economy, professional services and the innovation

FIGURE 6

**Types of Businesses Owned by Immigrants in Metro Detroit**

Rank	Type of Business	Immigrant-Owned Businesses	U.S.-Born Owned Businesses	Total Metro Detroit Businesses	Immigrant Share of Industry
1	TRUCK TRANSPORTATION	1,514	1,360	2,874	53%
2	CONSTRUCTION	1,505	8,965	10,470	14%
3	RESTAURANTS AND CAFES	777	2,356	3,133	25%
4	PHYSICIANS' OFFICES	689	1,178	1,867	37%
5	DENTISTS' OFFICES	544	939	1,483	37%
6	MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL CONSULTING	441	2,489	2,930	15%
7	COMPUTER SYSTEMS DESIGN	416	1,030	1,446	29%
8	INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY SERVICES	368	288	656	56%
9	ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES	278	1,217	1,495	19%
10	PHARMACIES AND DRUG STORES	237	174	411	58%
11	AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	229	841	1,070	21%
12	CONVENIENCE RETAILERS AND VENDING MACHINE OPERATORS	229	136	365	63%
13	INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SERVICES	228	627	855	27%
14	HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES	228	222	450	51%
15	CAR DEALERS	227	482	709	32%

economy. Physician's and dentist's offices rank 4th and 5th, respectively, on this list. Architects, engineers, accountants, legal services, and management and technical consulting are on the list of Top 25 types of businesses.

There also are businesses that are critical to Southeast Michigan's current economy and economic future, including computers and automotive. There are over 400 immigrant-owned computer systems design firms accounting for 29 percent of the industry in Metro Detroit. There also are significant numbers of car dealers (32 percent of the industry), navigational and control manufacturers, and automotive supply.

FIGURE 7

**Types of Businesses Owned by Immigrants in Metro Detroit by Share of Industry**

Rank	Industry	Type of Business	Immigrant-Owned Businesses	U.S.-Born Owned Businesses	Total Metro Detroit Businesses	Immigrant Share of Industry
1	PHARMACIES AND DRUG STORES	FORGING AND STAMPING	237	174	411	58%
2	INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY SERVICES	CONVENIENCE RETAILERS AND VENDING MACHINE OPERATORS	368	288	656	56%
3	TRUCK TRANSPORTATION	RESIN, SYNTHETIC RUBBER, AND ARTIFICIAL AND SYNTHETIC FIBERS AND FILAMENTS MANUFACTURING	1,514	1,360	2,874	53%
4	HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES	PHARMACIES AND DRUG STORES	228	222	450	51%
5	COURIERS AND MESSENGERS	INVESTIGATION AND SECURITY SERVICES	200	249	449	45%
6	PHYSICIANS' OFFICES	TRUCK TRANSPORTATION	689	1,178	1,867	37%
7	DENTISTS' OFFICES	APPAREL AND NOTIONS WHOLESALERS	544	939	1,483	37%
8	CAR DEALERS	BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR RETAILERS	227	482	709	32%
9	COMPUTER SYSTEMS DESIGN	HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES	416	1,030	1,446	29%
10	RESTAURANTS AND CAFES	SUPERMARKETS AND GROCERY STORES	777	2,356	3,133	25%
11	AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	BARBER SHOPS	229	841	1,070	21%
12	ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES	NON-RETAIL BAKERIES	278	1,217	1,495	19%
13	MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL CONSULTING	HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE RETAILERS (NOT INCLUDING PHARMACIES)	441	2,489	2,930	15%
14	CONSTRUCTION	COURIERS AND MESSENGERS	1,505	8,965	10,470	14%
15	ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING	GAS STATIONS	208	1,400	1,608	13%

Finally, this industry list highlights the importance of immigrant businesses to the region's health care industry. As noted, immigrants own substantial numbers of physician and dentist businesses and account for 37 percent of all such businesses in the region. They account for over half of all the pharmacies and drug store business owners in the region.<sup>11</sup> They also are over half of the home health care business owners in Metro Detroit.

## Immigrant Ownership of Main Street

As noted, immigrants represent a critical set of business owners of Main Street businesses.

While immigrants account for 18.4 percent of all the business owners in the region, they are 23.8 percent of the business owners of Main Street businesses, far above their 10.7 percent share of the region's population. Figure 8 chronicles the top types of Main Street business owners by the number of immigrant business owners in the region.

What is clear that immigrants play a disproportionate role in the ownership of numerous Main Street



businesses that are critical to the lifeblood of a community and neighborhood. Excluding doctors, dentists and other professional services (accountants, lawyers, business consultants)—which also help populate neighborhood retail districts, shopping malls and downtowns—immigrants account for approximately half of the business owners of supermarkets and grocery stores, convenience store, pharmacies, gas stations, as well as hotels and motels in the Metro Detroit. They are nearly one-third of all the car dealers and nail salon owners and more than one quarter of restaurant, electronic goods, dry cleaner, jeweler, luggage and leather goods store owners. And immigrants are disproportionately owners of flower shops, beauty salons, specialty food retail shops and hardware stores.

### 3 Immigrant Business Ownership by National Origin

Immigration, the nature of the immigrant communities that comprise our population and the impacts that immigrants have on our regional economy are often unexplored and lost in the sensationalist debates on immigration policy. For example, many are surprised to learn that India is the single largest source of immigrants in Metro Detroit with nearly 60,000 residents having been

FIGURE 8

#### Types of Immigrant Main Street Businesses in Metro Detroit

Main Street Businesses with Immigrant Ownership Proportional to their Share of Metro Detroit Population (10.7%)	Main Street Businesses with Immigrant Ownership Twice the Share of Population (@25%)	Main Street Businesses with Immigrant Ownership Four Times the Share of Population (@50%)
FLORISTS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFES	SUPERMARKETS AND GROCERY STORES
HARDWARE STORES	DRYCLEANERS AND LAUNDRY SERVICES	CONVENIENCE STORES
BEAUTY SALONS	ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCE RETAILERS	PHARMACIES
BUILDING SUPPLY, RETAIL	JEWELRY, LUGGAGE AND LEATHER GOODS RETAILERS	GAS STATIONS
SPECIALTY FOOD RETAIL	NAIL SALONS AND PERSONAL CARE	BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR STORES
	CAR DEALERS	HOTELS AND MOTELS

born in India. And while most are generally aware of the region's large Middle Eastern populations, many would be surprised that there are more residents who were born in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen each than there are Metro Detroiters who were born in Canada.

The largest number of immigrant business owners in Metro Detroit were born in Iraq. This comes as no surprise to leaders in the Chaldean community who have long documented the tremendous entrepreneurial spirit within the Chaldean community and who have established institutions like the Chaldean Chamber of Commerce and the Chaldean Free Loan Fund to support the start and growth of businesses within the Chaldean community, including those who have arrived as immigrants and refugees over the last several decades fleeing violence and persecution in Iraq.

Observers might be surprised to learn that India ranks as the second most common country of origin for business owners in Metro Detroit. Many likely would be surprised that Romania ranks third on this list. Lebanon, Mexico, China, Canada, Germany, Korea and Ukraine round out the top 10 countries of origin. These top 10 countries only account for roughly 60 percent of the 14,098 immigrant business owners in the metro area, meaning that there are nearly 6,000 business owners who come from more than 60 other countries. Immigrant business ownership is diverse and reflects the region's immigrant population, which originates from a wide range of countries and regions across the Middle East, Asia, Europe, North and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Australasia.

The number of immigrant business owners who were originally born in a particular country is the product of the size of that population in Metro Detroit and the propensity within that community to own a business. Said another way, the number of business owners from a country of origin divided by the number of residents in the workforce from that country gives us a propensity of business ownership for that country. As noted, the propensity to be a business owner for U.S.-born residents in Metro Detroit is 32 for every 1,000

FIGURE 9

### Top Countries of Origin of Metro Detroit's Immigrant Business Owners

MINIMUM 200 BUSINESS OWNERS PER COUNTRY

Rank	Birthplace	Total Population	Labor Force Population	Business Owners	Propensity of Owning a Business
1	IRAQ	51,948	27,491	2,221	81 PER 1,000
2	INDIA	59,650	42,333	1,735	41 PER 1,000
3	ROMANIA	7,258	5,116	834	163 PER 1,000
4	LEBANON	25,157	14,755	822	56 PER 1,000
5	MEXICO	38,030	24,074	605	25 PER 1,000
6	CHINA	17,325	11,262	500	44 PER 1,000
7	CANADA	22,110	11,546	473	41 PER 1,000
8	GERMANY	8,892	4,395	464	106 PER 1,000
9	KOREA	10,616	6,356	454	71 PER 1,000
10	UKRAINE	6,471	4,357	434	100 PER 1,000
11	YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (NORTH)	25,568	10,011	380	38 PER 1,000
12	SYRIA	7,804	3,225	344	107 PER 1,000
13	ALBANIA	12,147	8,428	332	39 PER 1,000
14	ECUADOR	770	548	317	578 PER 1,000
15	BANGLADESH	20,793	11,261	292	26 PER 1,000
16	JORDAN	4,676	2,248	285	127 PER 1,000
17	PAKISTAN	8,279	4,811	275	57 PER 1,000
18	PHILIPPINES	13,303	8,132	208	26 PER 1,000

residents in the workforce, slightly below the national average of 35 per 1,000. For foreign-born residents in Metro Detroit, the business ownership rate is 51 per 1,000 workers, roughly 1.5 times that of U.S.-born residents in the region and higher than the national average for immigrants (44 business owners per 1,000 workers).

Figure 10 highlights that among countries with over 200 business owners in Metro Detroit, Ecuador, Romania and Jordan have the highest propensity of business owners followed by Syria, Germany and Ukraine, all of whom have at least 100 business owners for every 1,000 immigrants from that country in the workforce. This a rate of business ownership three times that of U.S.-born residents. Iraq, Korea and Italy all have business ownership rates roughly twice that of the region's U.S.-born population. Pakistan, Lebanon, China, India and Canada also rank among the top business ownership propensities among countries with larger populations in the region. Albania and Yemen

ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

# Manish Senta

TekWissen



Global Detroit Board Member Tati Amare presents Manish Senta, Tekwissen with 2024 Corporate Leadership Award



“When international students stay in the United States, and bring skill sets, they are helping employers reach certain objectives.”

-MANISH SENTA

Southeast Michigan is home to a diverse and expanding community of immigrant entrepreneurs. Among them are more than 1,700 Indian American business owners contributing to the region's economic growth and innovation.

Their journeys reflect a broader narrative—one shaped not by necessity alone, but by curiosity, ambition, and a willingness to engage with global opportunity.

Manish Senta's path reflects this perspective. In 2005, he and his brothers left India to pursue graduate studies at Purdue University. Contrary to a common assumption that immigration is primarily driven by a lack of opportunity at home, his motivation was different. As Senta explains, the decision to move to the United States was rooted in a desire to explore new environments, ideas, and possibilities.

Today, Manish resides in Ann Arbor and leads TekWissen as its Founder and Global CEO. Under his leadership, the company has evolved into a global workforce and technology consulting firm with a presence across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Portugal, the United Arab Emirates, India, and Australia. With a workforce of more than 1,800 professionals and U.S. revenues exceeding \$218 million, TekWissen delivers services spanning artificial intelligence consulting and implementation, Global Capability Centers (GCCs), workforce solutions, procurement, change management, and broader technology consulting.

A central component of TekWissen's model is enabling American companies to access highly skilled talent while maintaining operational strength within the United States. This includes connecting employers with individuals who are already authorized to work in the country—such as immigrants, refugees, and international students graduating from U.S. universities. These professionals bring specialized capabilities that support business objectives, accelerate innovation, and strengthen organizational competitiveness.

As Manish notes, international graduates who remain in the United States contribute meaningfully to the workforce by applying advanced skill sets in critical industries. Their presence helps employers meet evolving demands, particularly in areas requiring technical expertise and adaptability.

TekWissen's growth also illustrates the broader role of immigrant-owned businesses beyond traditional “Main Street” enterprises. Immigrant entrepreneurs are active across professional sectors, including healthcare, legal services, accounting, and technology. These businesses not only generate economic value but also create employment opportunities and contribute to the development of local and national ecosystems.

The experience of companies like TekWissen underscores a key insight: immigrant entrepreneurship is not confined to a single narrative. It spans industries, scales across geographies, and plays a significant role in shaping the future of work. In regions like Southeast Michigan, this contribution continues to influence both economic resilience and long-term growth.

also rank among countries of origin with more than 200 business owners. Vietnam and Nigeria also rank high in terms of business ownership rates when we expand the list to countries with a population over 5,000 residents.

What is striking about this list is its geographic reach. Europe, the Middle East, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Africa are all represented. When one considers countries whose immigrant populations in Metro Detroit are below 5,000 residents, then even more African, Latin American and Middle Eastern countries get added to the list, even further enhancing the geographic diversity of the region's immigrant business owners.

**FIGURE 10**  
**Top Countries of Origin by Propensity of Business Ownership**

MINIMUM 200 BUSINESS OWNERS PER COUNTRY

Rank	Birthplace	Total Population	Labor Force Population	Business Owners	Propensity of Owning a Business
1	ECUADOR	770	548	317	578 PER 1,000
2	ROMANIA	7,258	5,116	834	163 PER 1,000
3	JORDAN	4,676	2,248	285	127 PER 1,000
4	SYRIA	7,804	3,225	344	107 PER 1,000
5	GERMANY	8,892	4,395	464	106 PER 1,000
6	UKRAINE	6,471	4,357	434	100 PER 1,000
7	IRAQ	51,948	27,491	2,221	81 PER 1,000
8	KOREA	10,616	6,356	454	71 PER 1,000
9	PAKISTAN	8,279	4,811	275	57 PER 1,000
10	LEBANON	25,157	14,755	822	56 PER 1,000
	ALL IMMIGRANT GROUPS	476,064	278,843	62,417	51 PER 1,000
11	CHINA	17,325	11,262	500	44 PER 1,000
12	INDIA	59,650	42,333	1,735	41 PER 1,000
13	CANADA	22,110	11,546	473	41 PER 1,000
14	ALBANIA	12,147	8,428	332	39 PER 1,000
15	YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (NORTH)	25,568	10,011	380	38 PER 1,000
	UNITED STATES/NON-IMMIGRANTS	4,429,964	2,232,529	62,417	32 PER 1,000
16	BANGLADESH	20,793	11,261	292	26 PER 1,000
17	PHILIPPINES	13,303	8,132	208	26 PER 1,000
18	MEXICO	38,030	24,074	605	25 PER 1,000

## 4 A Deeper Dive into Business Ownership by Gender, Race and Ethnicity

There are nearly 35,000 business owners in Metro Detroit who are women, Black and African American, Asian American, Latino/a or Native American. Within each group there are U.S.-born and foreign-born owners. While each of these demographic groups have lower propensities to be business owners than the propensity of business ownership among U.S.-born residents of Metro Detroit, they collectively represent nearly half (45 percent) of all business owners in the region. Each of these groups have faced systemic barriers to business ownership and success and their prevalence suggests that business support organizations, business lenders and others seeking to grow the region's entrepreneurship would do well to design their strategies, policies, practices and programs to include these growing communities of business ownership.

Below we analyze the propensity of business ownership for each group. Within each group we document that immigrant workers within that demographic have higher propensities to own businesses than the U.S.-born workers within that group.

### 4a. Women Business Ownership

There are over 24,000 business owners who are women in Metro Detroit, roughly 32 percent of all the business owners, while accounting for 47 percent of the region's workforce. Overall, 22 of every 1,000 women in the workforce are business owners, compared to the regional overall rate of 34 of every 1,000. The propensity of women in Metro Detroit to own businesses is slightly less than the national rate of 26 for every 1,000 women workers. That lower propensity is similar to the overall lower propensity across all Metro Detroit workers.

Immigrant women are far less likely to be represented in the Metro Detroit workforce overall, but among those in the workforce, their business ownership rates

are 33 per 1,000, close to the regional average for all persons and equal to the immigrant women propensity to own a business nationally.

While our local research did not include a breakdown of the industries in which women business owners are concentrated, the national research that Global Detroit's E Pluribus program, Build from Within Alliance and Immigration Research Initiative released in March 2026 chronicles the top industries for women



## 4b. Black and African American Business Ownership

Black and African American workers in Metro Detroit have business ownership propensity rates roughly half of those of the overall workforce in Metro Detroit. Black and African American workers represent 19 percent of the region's workforce and 10 percent of its business owners. Nationally, Black and African Americans are 12 percent of the U.S. workforce and 6 percent of the business owners. With approximately 1 million Black and African American residents who account for over 20 percent of the region's population, Metro Detroit ranks among the nation's most significant Black and African American regions.

FIGURE 11

### Women Business Ownership in Metro Detroit

Women Overall	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	47%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	32%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	23 PER 1,000
U.S.-Born Women	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	42%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	27%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	22 PER 1,000
Immigrants	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	5%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	5%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	33 PER 1,000

business owners and immigrant women business owners.<sup>12</sup> While women business owners account for 34 percent of all business owners nationally, they account for much larger shares of the owners of beauty salons (85 percent); outpatient care centers (62 percent); accounting and bookkeeping firms (47 percent); real estate brokerages and leasing firms (46 percent); building service firms (45 percent); restaurants (43 percent); physician's offices (38 percent); and management and technical consulting firms (36 percent). Immigrant women business owners are only 7 percent of all business owners in the U.S. and their top industries overlap with women overall, but they also are significant owners of nail salons and personal care businesses (28 percent); childcare services (26 percent); building services (19 percent) and dentist's offices (12 percent).

FIGURE 12

### Black and African American Business Ownership in Metro Detroit

Black and African Americans Overall	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	19%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	10%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	17 PER 1,000
U.S.-Born Black and African Americans	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	19%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	9%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	17 PER 1,000
Black Immigrants	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	0.5%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	0.4%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	24 PER 1,000



Kaylonni Turner, Owner of Yara Klair Book Series at Global Detroit supported pop-up shop at Detroit's Eastern Market

For every 1,000 workers in the Metro Detroit workforce who are Black or Black and African American, there are 17 business owners. This—like the other lower rates of business ownership across the board in Metro Detroit—is lower than the national average of 20 of every 1,000 Black and African American workers being a business owner. Black or Black and African American immigrant workers have a 24 in 1,000 propensity to be business owners.

While our local research did not include a breakdown of the industries in which Black and African American business owners are concentrated, the national research includes this breakdown for nation.<sup>13</sup> While Black and African American business owners account for 6 percent of all business owners nationally, they account for much larger shares of the owners of child care centers (22 percent); couriers and messenger services (18 percent); trucking firms (17 percent); beauty salons (14 percent); and services to buildings and dwellings (8 percent). One would expect these numbers to be greater in Metro Detroit where Black and African Americans represent a higher percentage of the region's business owners.

#### 4c. Latino/a Business Ownership

Metro Detroit has a smaller Latino/a population than national averages. Whereas Latinos/as are 19 percent of the U.S. workforce, they account for only 10 percent of Metro Detroit's workforce. In both cases, they are underrepresented as entrepreneurs to their overall presence in the population. Nationally, Latinos/as

account for 14 percent of the business owners, while in Metro Detroit they are 5 percent of the region's business owners, accounting for nearly 2,500 businesses.

For every 1,000 U.S.-born Latino/a workers in the region, 15 are business owners. Immigrant Latino/a workers, however, are 40 percent more likely to be business owners with a propensity of 21 per 1,000. Both U.S.-born and foreign-born Latino/a workers in Metro Detroit have lower propensities to be business owners than national rates—each at roughly two-thirds of the national business ownership rates for U.S.-born and foreign-born Latino/a workers, respectively.

FIGURE 13  
**Latino/a Business Ownership in Metro Detroit**

Latino/a Americans Overall	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	9.7%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	5.2%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	17 PER 1,000
U.S.-Born Latino/a Americans	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	6.2%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	2.9%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	15 PER 1,000
U.S.-Born Latino/a Immigrants	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	3.5%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	2.3%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	21 PER 1,000

Our local research did not include a breakdown of the industries in which Latino/a business owners are concentrated, the national research includes this breakdown for the entire country.<sup>14</sup> While Latino/a business owners account for 14 percent of all business owners nationally, they account for much larger shares of the owners of services to buildings and dwelling (30 percent); landscaping services (27 percent); trucking firms (24 percent); construction firms (20 percent); restaurants (20 percent); and automotive repair and maintenance businesses (19 percent). One would expect these numbers to be lower in Metro Detroit

which has a small proportion of Latino/a population, workers and business owners.

#### 4d. Asian American and Pacific Islander Business Ownership

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the one non-White racial group to have higher business ownership rates than White Americans. Accounting for roughly 8 percent of the U.S. population and nearly the same portion of the U.S. workforce, they account for as much as 11 percent of the business owners. In Southeast Michigan, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 6.3 percent of the workforce, but 7.7 percent of the business owners. There are nearly 5,000 AAPI business owners.

FIGURE 14

##### Asian American and Pacific Islander Business Ownership in Metro Detroit

AAPI Americans Overall	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	6.3%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	7.7%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	39 PER 1,000
AAPI Americans Overall	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	1.2%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	0.9%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	24 PER 1,000
AAPI Immigrants	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	5.1%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	6.8%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	43 PER 1,000

What is unique about these numbers is that a significant majority of AAPI residents in Southeast Michigan are foreign-born. In fact, more than two-thirds of AAPI residents in Southeast Michigan are foreign-born and only one-third were born in the U.S. Our research documenting higher business ownership rates among AAPI immigrants than AAPI U.S.-born workers suggests that immigrants account for 87.9 percent of all the AAPI business owners in the region.

U.S.-born AAPI workers have a 24 in 1,000 propensity to own businesses, slightly below the regional average. Immigrant AAPI workers, are nearly twice as likely to be business owners as U.S.-born AAPI workers and with a propensity of 43 out of every 1,000 workers as business owners, have significantly higher business ownership rates than the overall population in Metro Detroit.

Neither the national or local research breaks down the businesses by industry owned by Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

#### 4e. Native American Business Ownership

Native American business ownership statistics in Metro Detroit are a bit difficult to parse. The Census data tracks a Native American population of only 6,000 residents, but most experts identify the regional population as at least five times that. Tribal membership and Census racial classification as Native American are different statistical measures. Most likely either the Census is undercounting the region's Native American population and/or most residents of American Indian heritage are identifying either as mixed race (of which the Census counts over 180,000 residents in Metro Detroit) or within another racial category altogether.

Among those identifying in the Census as American Indian or Alaska Native, the propensity to own a business is extraordinarily high with 70 of every 1,000 workers owning a business. This rate of business ownership is twice the rate for the overall regional population.

FIGURE 15

##### Native American Business Ownership in Metro Detroit

Native Americans	
SHARE OF LABOR FORCE	0.1%
SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS	0.2%
PROPENSITY TO OWN A BUSINESS	70 PER 1,000

## 5 Self-Employment

The research in this report is a byproduct of the national research that Global Detroit's E Pluribus published with the Immigration Research Initiative and Build from Within Alliance.<sup>15</sup> Resource and time constraints dictated that our national research focus on those Census estimates of incorporated business owners. The use of this proxy to explore the extent and importance of immigrant, women, Black and African American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latino/a American and Native American entrepreneurs most likely understates the importance of these communities to regional entrepreneurship and job creation. As noted, the data presented here does not include self-employed persons with unincorporated businesses nor those who participate in the informal economy and do not in any way answer Census questions revealing their informal economic activity. The informal economy would include everything from babysitting, childcare, landscaping, car washing, painting and other construction work and other services that one does not report to Census takers (and maybe not even to the IRS for tax purposes). It also might include selling goods such as home-baked items or homemade arts and crafts or farm stands.

Metro Detroit has more than 175,000 persons who report being self-employed. Roughly 100,000 of these persons report as being self-employed without an incorporated business, while a little more than 75,000 report as being self-employed with an incorporated business. Immigrants in Metro Detroit comprise roughly 18 percent of all self-employed persons in the region—a ratio similar to their share of the number of business owners. Immigrants actually have a slightly higher share of self-employed persons with incorporated business entities (18.4 percent) than the share of self-employed persons with unincorporated businesses (17.6 percent). Immigrant self-employment is most strongly reflected in transportation and warehousing, but is also above the 18 percent average in manufacturing, retail, health care and construction.



Khurshed Ahmed, owner of Amar Pizza, Hamtramck

## 6 The Changing Nature of Entrepreneurship

American entrepreneurship and business ownership are increasingly diverse. Both the national research and Metro Detroit research document that, over time, as immigrants share of the regional population has grown, so has their share of the business owning population. As the share of immigrants in the country grows, so too does the share of immigrant business owners. In 2000, for example, immigrants made up 12 percent of the U.S. labor force and 14 percent of all business owners. By 2010, those figures increased to 16 percent of the U.S. labor force and 18 percent of business owners. Today, immigrants make up 17 percent of the U.S. labor force and 21 percent of business owners.

In 2000, immigrants made up 8 percent of Metro Detroit's population and 14 percent of the business owners. By 2010, immigrants were 10 percent of regional population and 17 percent of the business owners. As noted, in 2024 immigrants were 10.7 percent of Metro Detroit's Population and 18.4 percent of the business owners.

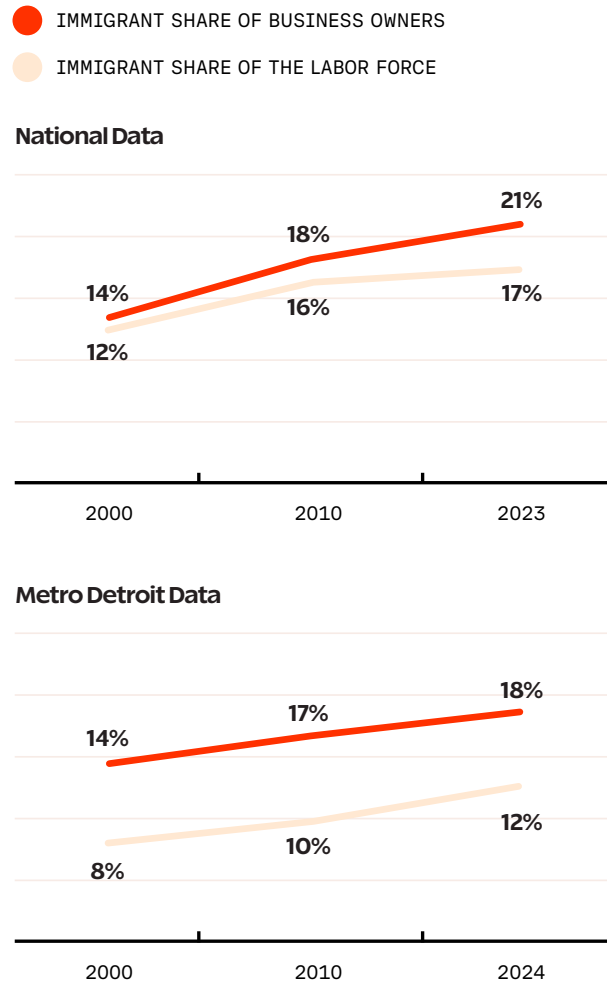
But it's not just immigrants that reflect the growing diversification of business ownership. For example, the Detroit Regional Chamber's 2026 State of the Region Report highlights that Black women have experienced significantly higher growth in the number of Black women-owned businesses than the growth rate of all women-owned businesses nationally.<sup>16</sup> Our own research on this topic reflects that nationally between 2000 and 2024, the number of women owners of incorporated businesses increased 110 percent and the propensity for business ownership among women workers grew from 16 per 1,000 workers to 27 per 1,000 workers.

Black women have faced and continue to face systemic barriers to the economy and business ownership. In 2000, only 6 out of every 1,000 Black women workers owned an incorporated business, a rate only 37.5 percent of White women. Black women, along with White women, have made significant progress at overcoming barriers that hinder their participation in the workforce, foreclose career opportunities and block business ownership. In 2024, Black women ownership rates of incorporated businesses had grown 269 percent since 2000 and risen to 16 of every 1,000 workers.<sup>17</sup> Yet, Black women's progress has narrowed, but not closed, the gap of business ownership and the 2024 ownership of incorporated businesses among Black women workers rate is still only 60 percent that of White women workers.

The tremendous progress made by Black women as owners of incorporated businesses highlights the thesis of this report—that the future of Metro Detroit's business ownership will be increasingly diverse and that those supporting the growth, development and success of the region's businesses should work to ensure that their lending and business capital programs, business planning efforts, technical assistance initiatives and other business support efforts are inclusive of immigrants and the growing diversity among business owners, including Black women.<sup>18</sup>

FIGURE 16

### As Immigration Increases, So Does Immigrant Business Ownership



ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

# Ameneh Marhaba

Little Liberia  
Detroit, MI



Vice President Kamala Harris visits Little Liberia



Ameneh Marhaba, Owner of Little Liberia



Ameneh Marhaba was born and raised in Liberia and lived in Lebanon before immigrating to the U.S. as a teenager.

Her culinary foundation was shaped by family, necessity, and tradition, learning to cook at a young age alongside her mother and relatives as part of daily life.

After losing her job, Ameneh began serving food through pop-up experiences. What would become Little Liberia started by borrowing space from other restaurants to host events, introducing customers to the rich and diverse flavors of Liberian cuisine. She later engaged with ProsperUs Detroit through the business training programming and ongoing technical assistance and received a character-based loan to help propel her business.

After searching and piecing together the resources she needed, Ameneh opened her restaurant along Detroit's revitalizing East Warren Corridor. With support using the City's Motor City Match and her Hatch Detroit prize funding, she was able to build out her new space, becoming one of the first immigrant sit-down restaurants in this corridor.

Little Liberia exists to honor and share the culture, cuisine, and values of Liberia through food, education, and community. Rooted in women and immigrant leadership, the restaurant celebrates African heritage with integrity and accessibility, introducing many guests to Liberian cuisine for the first time. Ameneh's cooking centers on honoring Liberia's distinct culinary identity while keeping the food accessible, welcoming, and grounded in culture.

# Recommendations



Robert Coronado, Corte Tropical Barbershop

The research contained in this report clearly defines the opportunities that immigrant business owners, as well as business owners from other demographic groups bring to our region, the regional economy and the vibrancy of our communities.

Too often business owners from these groups face barriers to accessing loans and grants or business support opportunities. There is ample evidence that resources are not provided and/or disbursed equitably across these diverse populations. Systemic discrimination in business lending and has been documented in study after study.<sup>19</sup> The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) implemented during COVID<sup>20</sup> and 2025 Small Business Administration lending data both provide recent evidence of these disparities.<sup>21</sup>

To address these disparities and to unleash the job creation, economic growth and community revitalization potential of immigrant and other diverse business owners, we recommend that more inclusive lending and business support strategies, policies, practices and programs be explored and implemented. This report chronicles federal policy recommendations, state and local policy recommendations and on-the-ground programmatic approaches that can be taken to realize this vision.

## **1 Stand Up for Federal Policies that Support Business Owners instead of Policies that Restrict Investment and Growth**

### **Protect Community Development Financial Institutions**

While our research highlights that immigrants are a critical and growing source of entrepreneurship and business ownership—creating jobs, providing a tax

base, and breathing life into our nation's and region's Main Streets—recent federal policy changes are making it more difficult, not less, for small business owners, and immigrant entrepreneurs in particular, to access capital and business support program.

Most significant has been the proposed cuts and/or elimination of the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) program. CDFIs work to ensure communities underserved by mainstream finance have access to affordable, responsible financial products and services. With a deep focus on serving rural, urban, and Native communities across the United States, America's 1,432 CDFIs operate in every U.S. state and territory, supporting small business owners, catalyzing private sector investment, and creating or retaining more than one million jobs annually.

### **Why This Matters to Michigan**

Between 2013-2022, CDFIs supported \$8.1 billion in investment in Michigan, ranking the state 9th in CDFI impact.<sup>22</sup> CDFI programs have significant penetration among non-traditional business borrowers like the ones described in this report. Detroit's CDFI community includes Detroit Development Fund, First Independence Bank, Invest Detroit, Michigan Women's Forward and ProsperUs Detroit.

### **Federal Actions Threatening Access to Capital**

In 2025, the Trump administration worked to dismantle the CDFI program in several ways. In March 2025, the president signed an Executive Order to wind down the CDFI Fund calling it an "unnecessary" part of federal bureaucracy.<sup>23</sup> Throughout the year CDFI spending was severely limited and little of the \$324 million allocated was actually spent. In October, during the temporary shutdown the administration proposed laying off all 83 federal staff members at the CDFI Fund, but a lawsuit halted that action. Recently, the president's FY 2027 budget proposed to cut \$204.5 million or 63 percent of the CDFI budget, leaving less than \$120 million for the program, while efforts are

still underway to spend dollars from the 2025 CDFI allocation.<sup>24</sup>

Dismantling the CDFI Fund would decimate local economies by cutting off critical financing for small businesses, from farms to restaurants to childcare centers, and could result in hundreds of thousands of painful job losses across the country. It also threatens local infrastructure projects and billions of dollars in private sector investment made possible because of the CDFI Fund and CDFIs. CDFIs manage \$304 billion in loans that support more than 4.3 million businesses, nearly 1 million families in accessing safe, stable, and affordable housing and some 5,000 community centers such as childcare centers, healthcare facilities, and schools.<sup>25</sup>

Those who see and believe in the potential economic value of ensuring that immigrant business owners and other entrepreneurs discussed in this report have meaningful access to business capital should join national advocacy efforts to advocate for the continuation of the federal CDFI program and its continued funding.

### Restore Access to SBA Lending

A second federal policy of concern relates to new policies adopted by the U.S. Small Business Administration in the first quarter of 2026. On March 9, 2026, the SBA announced new policies to restrict all its lending programs to U.S. citizens. Prior practices had made such programs available to lawful permanent residents, commonly known as green card holders.<sup>26</sup> About half of all immigrants in America are naturalized U.S. citizens and about one-fourth of the immigrant population are green card holders. In short, the new policy prohibits about one-third of the pool of potential immigrant borrowers from participating in SBA loan programs.

In its announcement of this policy shift, the SBA noted that in 2025 it had approved 3,358 loans to businesses owned by lawful permanent residents or about 4 percent of the totals. This shift in policy seems

driven solely by anti-immigrant sentiments rather than any specific criticism of green card holder business owners and the jobs they create or taxes or economic spending they generate. SBA lending programs should seek to support businesses and business owners who create jobs, invest in communities, activate our Main Street districts, pay taxes and spend resources in their communities—especially those with lawful permanent resident status.

## 2 Adopting State and Local Policies to Support Diverse Entrepreneurs

Beyond federal policy, state and local governments have significant opportunities to adopt policies that help immigrant and diverse business owners grow their businesses while expanding opportunity in low-income communities and neighborhoods of color. These barriers often fall hardest on first-generation, lower-wealth, and under-networked entrepreneurs.

In May 2024, the Build from Within Alliance released its State and Local Policy Playbook, outlining more than a dozen municipal and state policy strategies to support the growth of immigrant and minority-owned businesses.<sup>27</sup> The Playbook identifies common barriers facing entrepreneurs, highlights model policies adopted by communities across the country, and offers practical considerations for implementation.

Key Policy Opportunities Include:

- Reducing red tape and improving navigation by creating small business ambassadors and lowering barriers to accessing city hall;
- Expanding access to capital through grants, loans, credit-building tools, targeted outreach, and character-based lending models;
- Modernizing regulations and compliance systems by creating pathways for food trucks, street vendors, mobile vendors and cooperative approaches to code enforcement;
- Expanding access to retail space in disinvested

communities through incubators, public market spaces, and the activation of publicly owned properties; and

- Creating customers through procurement by broadening public contracting systems and supplier opportunities.

## A Growth Strategy That Benefits Everyone

A full review of all state and local policy options is beyond the scope of this report, but many of the strongest ideas are detailed in the Build from Within Alliance State and Local Policy Playbook. Importantly, these policies do not only benefit immigrant, women and business owners of color. In many cases, they improve the business climate for all entrepreneurs. This reflects the “curb cut effect”: when barriers are removed for excluded groups,<sup>28</sup> the resulting gains often create broader access and opportunity for everyone. Supporting diverse entrepreneurs should be seen not as a niche initiative, but as a mainstream economic development strategy that benefits the entire region.

## 3 “Burn All Barriers” - Adopt Inclusive Business Strategies, Practices and Programs

### Create Clear Pathways to Opportunity

Global Detroit was launched with the belief that the intentional inclusion of immigrants into the region’s community and economic development strategies, policies, practices and programs would spark regional economic growth and expand shared prosperity. It’s a vision that grows the economic pie for everyone in the region. Global Detroit’s programs and initiatives are not exclusive to immigrants and, in fact, create new opportunities and positive impacts for U.S.-born families, workers, residents, entrepreneurs, neighborhoods and communities. While the recommendations in this report are largely focused on immigrant entrepreneurs, these actions will have

significant benefits to other entrepreneurs including the demographic groups chronicled above.

### Many Entrepreneurs Still Face Connection Barriers

“Burn All Barriers,” notes Memphis’ Epicenter program as one of its “nine truths”. Epicenter is a nonprofit initiative designed to promote and activate Memphis’ innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship. “Being a hub for entrepreneurship requires having multiple clear points of entry, frictionless access to information, and easy ways for new entrepreneurs to get connected to resources.” It’s a perfect encapsulation of the larger vision of creating a business support ecosystem in which every business owner and entrepreneur has access to the resources, capital and supports necessary to succeed.

For the immigrant and other business owners chronicled in this report, access to these services can feel difficult. A 2024 survey of 1,235 small business owners across Metro Detroit conducted by Detroit Future City and the New Economy Initiative found that “Lower-income individuals and lower-revenue businesses reported more difficult challenges, greater need for resources and support, and less knowledge of where to go for resources than higher-income individuals and higher-revenue businesses.”<sup>29</sup>

Global Detroit is fond of saying that Detroit is “resource rich, but connection poor.”<sup>30</sup> There are an endless variety of strategies, policies, practices and programs by which more connections can be built for the diverse array of business owners identified in this report. Building connections need not be expensive, but it often does require intention. And a little investment in connections often can go a very long way to building access and outcomes.

### Trusted Connectors as a Proven Model

One model of building connections is through what Global Detroit has labeled “Trusted Connectors”. This term is also used by the New Economy Initiative (NEI),

## ProsperUs Detroit: Detroit's Demonstration of the Build from Within Four-Pillared Model

ProsperUs Detroit is one example of the kind of “curb cut effect” that immigrant-inclusive economic development strategies, policies, practices and programs can foster. When Global Detroit was launched in 2010, its original research study and action plan identified that immigrant business owners were important parts of several Detroit neighborhoods, providing much-needed retail opportunities, jobs and tax base in neighborhoods in Southwest Detroit, Chadsey Condon, and Warrendale in Detroit, as well as in neighborhoods in Dearborn and Hamtramck. Yet, at that time, there were few, if any, business support organizations with bilingual staff or outreach strategies to specifically include or serve these immigrant business owners. We scoured the country for best practices that could more effectively help expand the growth of immigrant-owned Main Street businesses, but that also could offer opportunity to the majority of Detroiters who were Black and African American.

The Neighborhood Development Center in Minneapolis/St. Paul (NDC) offered a comprehensive four-pillar model of microenterprise and neighborhood development that included community-based business planning courses, character-based lending, ongoing technical assistance and real estate strategies designed to assist low-income diverse entrepreneurs in activating (often vacant) commercial spaces in targeted low-income neighborhoods. A key feature of the NDC-model was its focus on serving traditionally underserved immigrant, Black and African American, Latino, Asian, and Native American entrepreneurs and neighborhoods. The model was implemented through community partners in each of these many communities and had a proven track record of success across diverse demographic groups.

ProsperUs Detroit represents the first replication of the NDC model. Global Detroit helped coordinate launching the program at Southwest Economic Solutions where it would flourish before becoming an independent nonprofit corporation and certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). ProsperUs has demonstrated that microenterprise solutions originally envisioned to ensure immigrant

inclusion also benefit longtime Black and African American and non-immigrant Latino/a entrepreneurs. Since its launch in 2012, ProsperUs Detroit has provided:

### Business planning courses to over 2,000 aspiring entrepreneurs, including:

- Over 70 percent women entrepreneurs
- More than 95 percent entrepreneurs of color
- Nearly 80 percent low-income
- Over 10 percent immigrants
- Over 900 of these participating entrepreneurs incorporated businesses

### Technical assistance services beyond business planning to over 1,500 entrepreneurs:

- Over 75 percent women entrepreneurs
- More than 95 percent entrepreneurs of color
- Over 65 percent low-income
- Nearly 15 percent immigrants

### Trust-based business loans to over 375 borrowers totaling nearly \$9 million:

- Average credit score in low 600s
- Less than a 2 percent default rate and over 90 percent current on repayments
- Over 50 percent women borrowers
- 15 percent immigrant borrowers
- Nearly 95 percent borrowers of color

The success of ProsperUs Detroit's replication of the NDC four-pillar model in a city outside of Minnesota inspired NDC to support replication efforts with 16 partners in over 50 communities in 13 states. Most of the 16 partners serve several communities of women, Black and African American, Latino/a, Asian American, Native American or immigrant entrepreneurs. The network of those programs is the Build from Within Alliance.

a philanthropic collaboration and special project of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan that advocates for inclusive entrepreneurship and works to build a regional network of support for entrepreneurs and small businesses. NEI defines trusted connectors as “organizations that maintain trusted relationships with small businesses through community-based engagement while focusing on specific geographies, population segments, and/or industry sectors. Trusted connectors typically refer small business owners to other resources in the ecosystem but sometimes provide their own practical assistance services.”<sup>31</sup>

Global Detroit, working with the Build from Within Alliance, wrote a national best practice manual in 2024 to help spread the use of Trusted Connectors to better connect diverse business owners to business support opportunities and for business service organizations, lenders and others to expand their own reach and impact.<sup>32</sup> The manual helps make the case for using Trusted Connectors and identifies different models and elements to consider in deploying this strategy. While the specific recommendations and models are beyond the scope of this report, it's worth reprinting a portion of the study's Foreword that sets the case for Trusted Connectors:

Trusted connectors are a small strategy to do things differently, but one that we believe can have profound effects. Too often we create programs to tackle these large racial inequities and focus on big issues—like access to capital. Billions of dollars (or in the case of the Paycheck Protection Program \$350 billion in Round One funding alone) are made available and we spend endless amounts of time debating and deliberating about the terms of such capital and the process to distribute the funds with almost no effort thinking about the marketing, outreach, and engagement systems by which such programs are to utilize. Then we put these new programs out through the old engagement systems and find that, lo and behold, low-income communities and entrepreneurs of color have difficulty accessing the program we created.



We hope that this report revolutionizes the focus on how we engage and connect low-income communities and entrepreneurs of color with small business development opportunities.<sup>33</sup>

### Michigan Is Already Investing in This Strategy

NEI has invested in Trusted Connectors as a strategy to build a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem that reaches Black and African American, Arab American, immigrant and women entrepreneurs, among others. It has provided a series of Trusted Connector grants to more than a dozen community-based nonprofit organizations with proven track records of trust and leadership in diverse communities.

The Trusted Connector practice has expanded across the state of Michigan. In May 2025, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the state's economic development agency, awarded \$6.8 million in grants to organizations supporting under-represented small businesses and entrepreneurs including chambers of commerce, ethnic chambers, women's business groups and other nonprofit organizations.<sup>34</sup> Through this program rural business owners, women business owners, immigrant business owners, Black and African American business owners, Latino/a business owners and other diverse entrepreneurs will gain access and connection to resources and supports that too often they didn't know existed or which felt unattainable.

### Building Connections Can Start Small

Building access and connections doesn't require creating a formal grant program through a local foundation or public entity—although certainly such



Manish Senta, Founder and Global CEO, Tekwissen

programs provide scale and accountability in tracking results. But a local CDFI, nonprofit lender, credit union, community bank or even national financial institution can start by simply seeking out trusted connector organizations to meet and discuss opportunities. Ethnic chambers of commerce, Black business associations, ethnic community organizations, churches with Spanish language masses and/or mosques can be engaged to help facilitate a conversation between diverse business owners and business capital or business service providers. It can be as simple as sharing tea or coffee or a meal just to build connections and relations.

In Global Detroit's case the Trusted Connectors began with a small contract to help promote a business grant opportunity. For just a few thousand dollars, Global Detroit hired local residents—with no small business experience or expertise—to canvass their local business strip and explain the grant opportunity to immigrant business owners in their native tongue. Over time, our efforts grew into a much larger and complex operation with full-time nonprofit staff and relationships with dozens of partner organizations.

Beyond Trusted Connector programs, communities can create opportunities for diverse business owners by creating business support programs and organizations—or investing in existing programs and organizations—that directly serve specific communities.

## Layer Supports for Greater Impact

The four-pillar model utilized by the Build from Within Alliance and its 16 member organizations reflects a proven and more intensified effort to build the natural entrepreneurial talent that exists within diverse, underinvested communities. Across America concentrated poverty is on the rise and it's rising most significantly in communities of color. As the founder and former longtime executive director at the Neighborhood Development Center in Minneapolis/St. Paul and founder of the Build from Within Alliance, Mihailo Temali is fond of saying that “concentrated poverty needs concentrated opportunity.” By layering business planning, technical assistance, character-based lending and real estate strategies, the four-pillar Build from Within model is not à la carte. The four elements are used together to address the needs of each entrepreneur and to build communities from within.

## What Leaders Can Do Now

### Policymakers

- Reduce permitting and licensing friction
- Expand procurement access
- Support CDFIs and local lending tools
- Invest in main street entrepreneurship

### Funders

- Support Trusted Connector organizations
- Seed entrepreneur coaching and TA
- Back flexible small business capital pools
- Fund ecosystem coordination

### Business Leaders

- Mentor emerging firms
- Expand supplier diversity pipelines
- Sponsor entrepreneur support initiatives
- Advocate for inclusive growth policies

# Conclusion

## A Detroit Tradition of Reinvention

A century ago, Detroit attracted new residents from across the nation and across the world in pursuit of the American Dream. That tradition has continued throughout our history as Black Americans and immigrants have continued to migrate to our region seeking opportunity and helping to build the region's prosperity in return. Across generations, newcomers from the American South and from around the world have launched businesses, strengthened neighborhoods, and renewed the city's economic promise.

That story continues today through immigrant and diverse entrepreneurs across Metro Detroit.



Brandi FARR, Owner of Bee's Sweet Treats



Unidentified Banglatown vendor

## The Opportunity Ahead

Immigrant and diverse entrepreneurs are already helping drive Metro Detroit's economy through business creation, job growth, and neighborhood investment.

Yet barriers to capital, networks, and opportunity still limit what many businesses can achieve. The region's economic success will depend, in part, on its ability to spark, attract, retain and nurture a wide range of businesses from a diverse group of business owners. This report suggests that immigrants to the region are critical players to our current economy and that a wide range of other, traditionally under-represented, diverse founders play important roles in a variety of industries. A strong Metro Detroit business climate is one in which we "burn all barriers" and meaningful access and support is extended to all entrepreneurs and job creators. It is a business support ecosystem in which entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds can find their path.

The opportunity is clear—and already underway.

# Endnotes

- 1 Rick Haglund, "How Michigan Is Trying to Recapture Its Innovation Mojo," Michigan Advance, January 11, 2025 found at <https://michiganadvance.com/2025/01/11/how-michigan-is-trying-to-recapture-its-innovation-mojo/>
- 2 Karen Chapple and Rick Jacobus, "Retail Trade as a Route to Neighborhood Revitalization," Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects, Volume II (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution-Urban Institute, 2009).
- 3 Paul McDaniel and Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez, "Detroit's Population Grew in 2023, 2024 – A Strategy to Welcome Immigrants Helps Explain the Turnaround from Decades of Population Decline," The Conversation, May 25, 2025 found at <https://theconversation.com/detroits-population-grew-in-2023-2024-a-strategy-to-welcome-immigrants-helps-explain-the-turnaround-from-decades-of-population-decline-255557>.
- 4 This report uses the term "foreign-born" and "immigrant" interchangeably. We define immigrant consistent with the U.S. Census to include everyone born in another country who is living in the U.S., regardless of immigration status.
- 5 Michigan, like much of the Midwest and Great Lakes region, is a rapidly aging state and deaths outnumber births year-in and year-out shrinking the population. The 2025 Census data for Michigan was hailed as progress because, for the first time in 34 years, net domestic migration (the number of U.S.-born residents moving to Michigan from other states less the number of U.S.-born residents moving out of the state) was positive. Michigan gained 1,800 more U.S.-born residents than it lost. Sadly, deaths outpaced births by 5,000 or so and the state would have lost population in the 2025 Census, but immigration saved the state from population loss. More than 30,000 immigrants moved to Michigan than left and the state's net population growth was 27,000+. This 2025 Census included the first five months of President Trump's second term.
- 6 William Frey, "Reduced Immigration Slowed Population Growth for the Nation and Most States, New Census Data Show," Brookings Institution, February 11, 2026 found at <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/reduced-immigration-slowed-population-growth-for-the-nation-and-most-states-new-census-data-show/>.
- 7 Global Detroit Final Report, August 11, 2010, found at [https://globaldetroitmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Global\\_Detroit\\_Study-full\\_report\\_v2.pdf](https://globaldetroitmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Global_Detroit_Study-full_report_v2.pdf).
- 8 Global Detroit officially launched E Pluribus in 2024 as an umbrella for its national work going back a decade. E Pluribus seeks to build the field of local immigrant-inclusive economic development initiatives across America that also embrace the intentional inclusion of immigrant and immigration into local economic development strategies, policies, practices and programs. E Pluribus seeks to expand the field of practitioners and deepen the impact of this movement to spark the growth, revitalization and sustained prosperity of communities across America.
- 9 Anthony Capote, David Dyssegaard Kallick, Alaina Jackson, Chanell Scott Contreras and Steve Tobocman, "The Entrepreneurial Spirit: A Profile of Business Owners Across the United States," Build from Within Alliance, E Pluribus program at Global Detroit and Immigration Research Initiative, March 19, 2026 found at <https://immresearch.org/publications/the-entrepreneurial-spirit-a-profile-of-business-owners-across-the-united-states/>.
- 10 The Census data is not able to track business ownership with complete and total accuracy because of a variety of challenges in the science of surveying involved. As a result, we have sought not to report specific percentages or industry data where there are less than 200 business owners tracked in either a demographic or industry for Metro Detroit. Early drafts of this report did not honor this distinction and there may be occasions where we have not caught and eliminated those references.
- 11 This is different than the actual number of pharmacies and drug stores. Chain drug stores and drug stores embedded in supermarkets or large retail stores tend to predominate the industry in terms of number of retail establishments. The percentage is literally the percentage of the number of workers who identify as owners of incorporated businesses and, thus, this statistic probably indicates significant ownership of independent one-store pharmacies.
- 12 Capote et al at endnote 7.
- 13 Capote et al at endnote 7.
- 14 Capote et al at endnote 7.
- 15 Capote et al as noted in endnote 7.
- 16 "State of the Region 2026 Presentation," Detroit Regional Chamber (2026) p. 27 found at <https://www.detroitchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-State-of-the-Region-Presentation.pdf>
- 17 Noticeably, while the number of Black Women who were business owners grew 269 percent, the growth in rates of immigrant Black Women between 2000-2024 grew 448 percent, largely to significant growth in the number of immigrant Black Women in the workforce, but also a 225 percent growth rate in the portion of immigrant Black Women workers who own an incorporated business from 8 per 1,000 workers to 18 per 1,000 workers.
- 18 Several news reports over the past six to nine months have chronicled disturbing growth both in rising unemployment rates among Black Women and growing numbers of Black Women leaving the workforce altogether. These reports suggest that "last hire, first fired" tropes bear tremendous truth. They also suggest that business ownership may play a doubly-important role, not only as a means for wealth creation, but also as an economic necessity to talented Black Women who find employment doors blocked.
- 19 Lauren Wolters, "CFPB Study Confirms Advocates' Findings that Small Business Lending Has a Big Racial Discrimination Problem," National Community Reinvestment Coalition, November 15, 2024 found at <https://ncrc.org/cfpb-study-confirms-advocates-findings-that-small-business-lending-has-a-big-racial-discrimination-problem/>
- 20 The New York Federal Reserve observed that "Black-owned firms

- [were] less likely than observably similar white-owned firms to receive PPP funds.” See Sergey Chernenko, Nathan Kaplan, Asani Sarkar and David Scharfstein, “Applications or Approvals: What Drives Racial Disparities in the Paycheck Protection Program?” New York Federal Reserve, May 2023, p. 1 found at [https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff\\_reports/sr1060.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff_reports/sr1060.pdf?sc_lang=en).
- 21 In 2025, the SBA Section 7(a) program, which the SBA's primary program for providing financing to small businesses approved over 78,000 loans valued at over \$37 billion with an average loan size of \$477,000. Comparing the lending to our research in terms of the percentage of business owners from each demographic group reveals that only 28.4 percent of loans went to firms with women ownership (noting that one-third of all such loans went to firms where women were minority owners, meaning they owned less than 50 percent of the firm). These loans accounted for about 25 percent of the value of all SBA 7(a) loans. Both these numbers fall short of percentage of business owners that are women (34 percent).
- Similarly, SBA lending for Latino/a businesses falls short of the prevalence. Our research indicates that Latino/a business owners account for 14 percent of all U.S. business owners. Yet, in 2025, the SBA reported that Hispanic-owned firms accounted for 11.3 percent of 7(a) borrowers and accounted for 7.7 percent of all the 7(a) dollars lent. Finally, while Black or Black and African American business owners received a similar share of the 7(a) loans made (6.5 percent) to their prevalence among U.S. business owners (6 percent), the portion of dollars lent to Black or Black and African American-owned firms (4.2 percent) was lower than their prevalence among business owners (6 percent).
- See <https://sballmstab.sbalenderportal.com/t/ExternalSBA/views/7a504SummaryReport/Report?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no>.
- 22 Noah McDaniel and Brett Theodos, “CDFIs Are Pillars of Local Economic Growth for Rural and Urban Communities,” Urban Institute, March 19, 2025 found at <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/cdfis-are-pillars-local-economic-growth-rural-and-urban-communities>.
- 23 The White House, “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy,” Executive Order, March 14, 2025 found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>.
- 24 Lily Jin, “President’s FY17 Budget Requests Propose CDFI Funding Cuts, Congress to Determine Final Funding,” Opportunity Finance Network, April 10, 2026 found at <https://www.ofn.org/blog/presidents-fy27-budget-request-proposes-cdfi-fund-cuts-congress-to-determine-final-funding/>.
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- 26 “SBA Bans Foreign Nationals from Accessing SBA-Backed Loans: Agency Reserves Federally Guaranteed Lending for American Citizens,” Small Business Administration News Release 26-35, March 9, 2026 found at <https://www.sba.gov/article/2026/03/09/sba-bans-foreign-nationals-accessing-sba-backed-loans>.
- 27 Dan Cowen, Nourel-Hoda Eidy and Steve Tobocman, “State and Local Policy Playbook,” Build from Within Alliance, May 2024, found at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c73709d8dfc8c3e4eef05c7/t/666317825540fa79ddf726ac/171770118751/Build+From+Within+Policy+Playbook+May+2024-2.pdf>
- 28 The “curb cut effect” explains a philosophy that often when a strategy or solution is crafted to ensure the inclusion of one community it has additional benefits to other communities. Sidewalk curb cuts that changed curbs to ramps were originally implemented to assist persons with wheelchairs and others whose travel was impeded by sidewalk curbs. These ramps also benefited numerous others including bikers, skateboarders, roller bladers, the elderly, children and more. When an inclusion strategy for one community ends up providing additional access or benefits to other communities it is often referred to as the “curb cut effect.”
- 29 Kendall Nash, “State of Micro and Small Businesses in the Detroit Region,” Detroit Future City, May 2024, p. 123 found at [https://neweconomyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/State-of-Micro-and-Small-Businesses-in-the-Detroit-region\\_May\\_2024.pdf](https://neweconomyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/State-of-Micro-and-Small-Businesses-in-the-Detroit-region_May_2024.pdf)
- 30 This phrase was coined by former Global Detroit staff member Raquel Garcia.
- 31 2022 Annual Report, New Economy Initiative, 2022 at p. 19 found at [https://neweconomyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/NEI-2022-Annual-Report\\_3-24-23-FINAL.pdf](https://neweconomyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/NEI-2022-Annual-Report_3-24-23-FINAL.pdf)
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- 33 Ibid at p. 1.
- 34 By means of full disclosure, Global Detroit received a \$250,000 Trusted Connector grant and is included in the Press Release, “MEDC Announces \$8.8 Million in Grants for Organizations Supporting Under-Represented Small Business and Entrepreneurs,” Michigan Economic Development Corporation, May 21, 2025, found at <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2025/05/trusted-connector-entrepreneur-support/>



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