At a Glance: Refugee Integration and Economic Contributions

Many refugees have an entrepreneurial spirit that is beneficial not only for them and their families, but also for the economic wellbeing of communities throughout the United States. As taxpayers and consumers, they have contributed billions of dollars into the U.S. economy, including $21 billion in taxes in 2015 alone.

In addition, they have helped to fill workforce gaps in various sectors, including healthcare and manufacturing, their average workforce participation rate is 81.8 percent, well above the national rate of 62 percent, and their median household income increases from year to year, ultimately surpassing the national average of $53,000.

Breakdown of Refugees in the Workforce, By Industry, 2015

In 2015, more than 1 in 5 refugees were working in the manufacturing industry.


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