

Bringing Vitality to Main Street

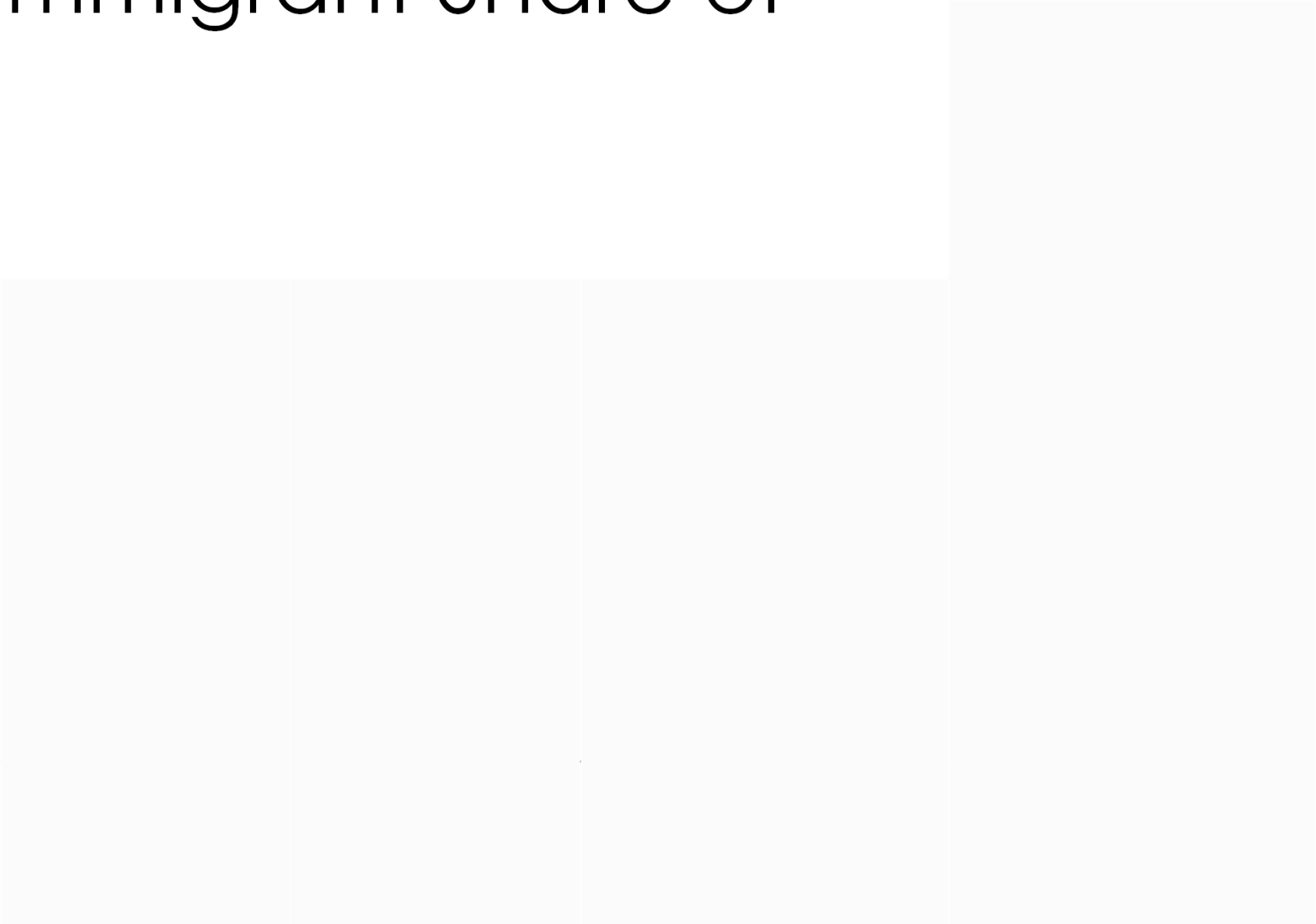
How Immigrant Small Businesses Help Local Economies Grow



A report of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Americas Society/Council of the Americas

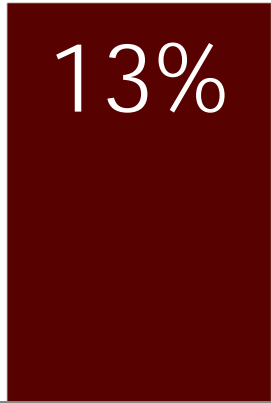
In the United States

Immigrant Share of



In the United States

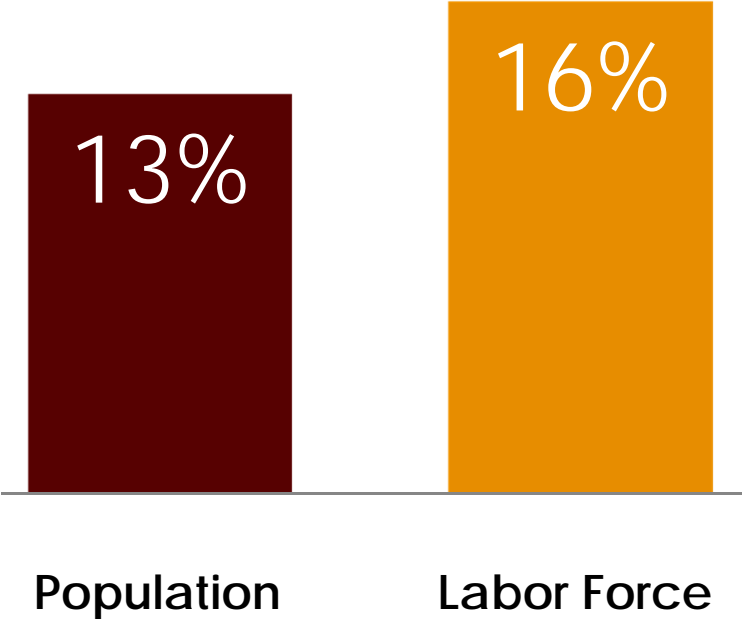
Immigrant Share of



Population

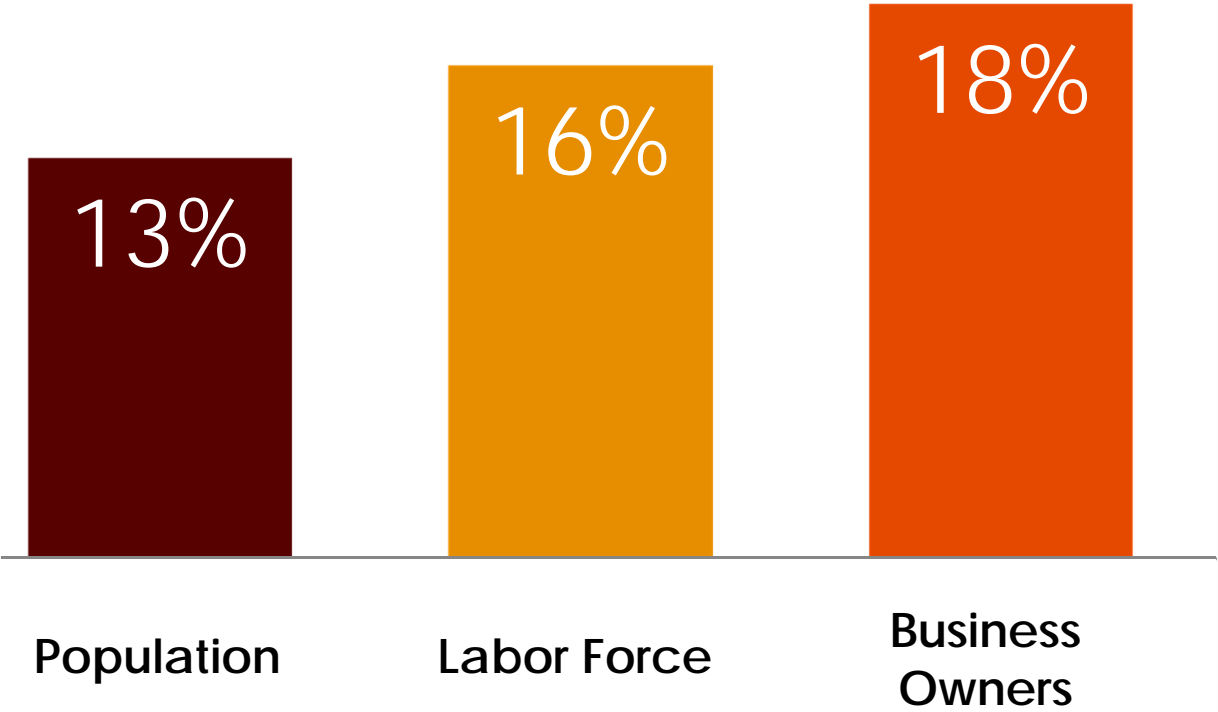
In the United States

Immigrant Share of



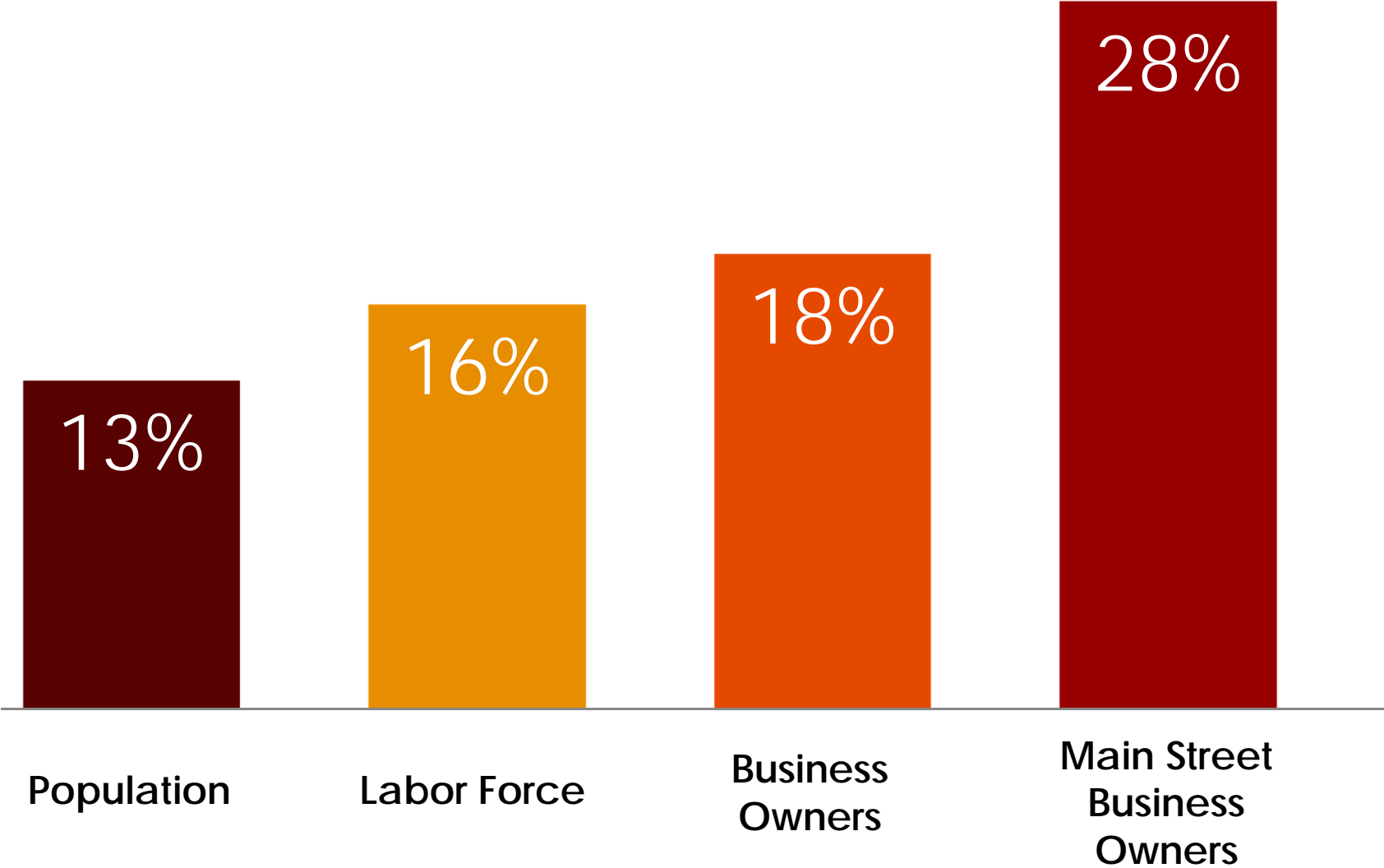
In the United States

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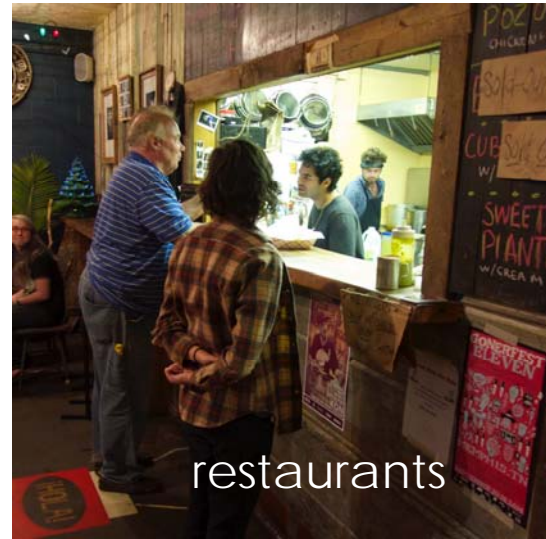


“Main Street” businesses



grocery stores

“Main Street” businesses



"Main Street" businesses



grocery stores



restaurants

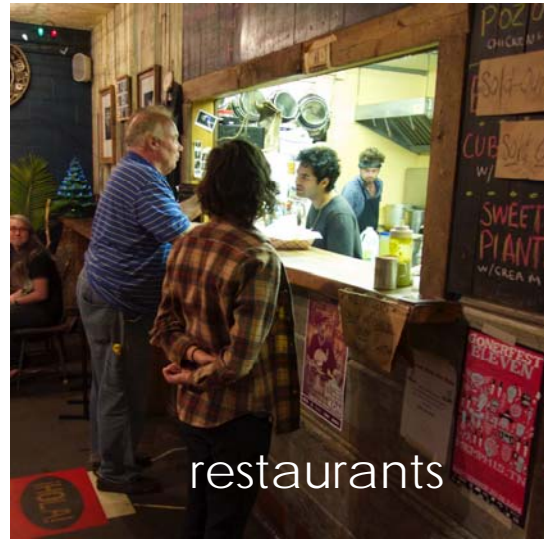


retail shops

"Main Street" businesses



grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons

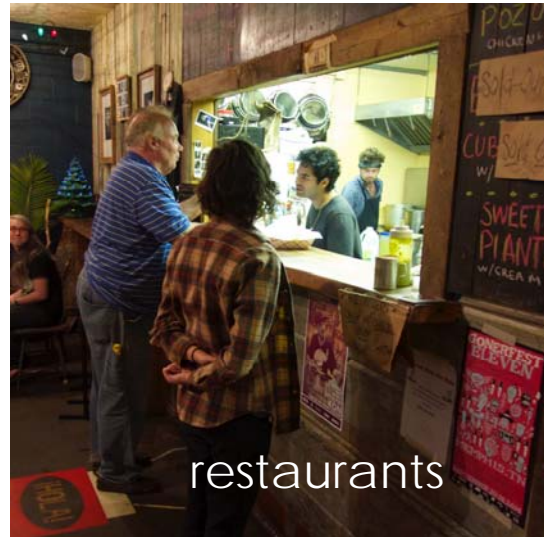


retail shops

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grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons



Dry cleaners

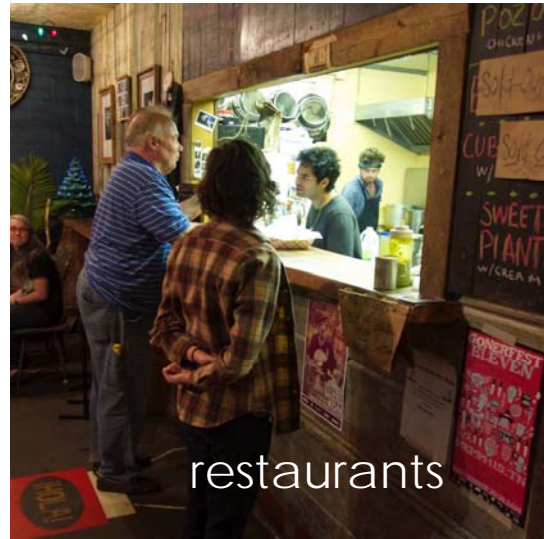


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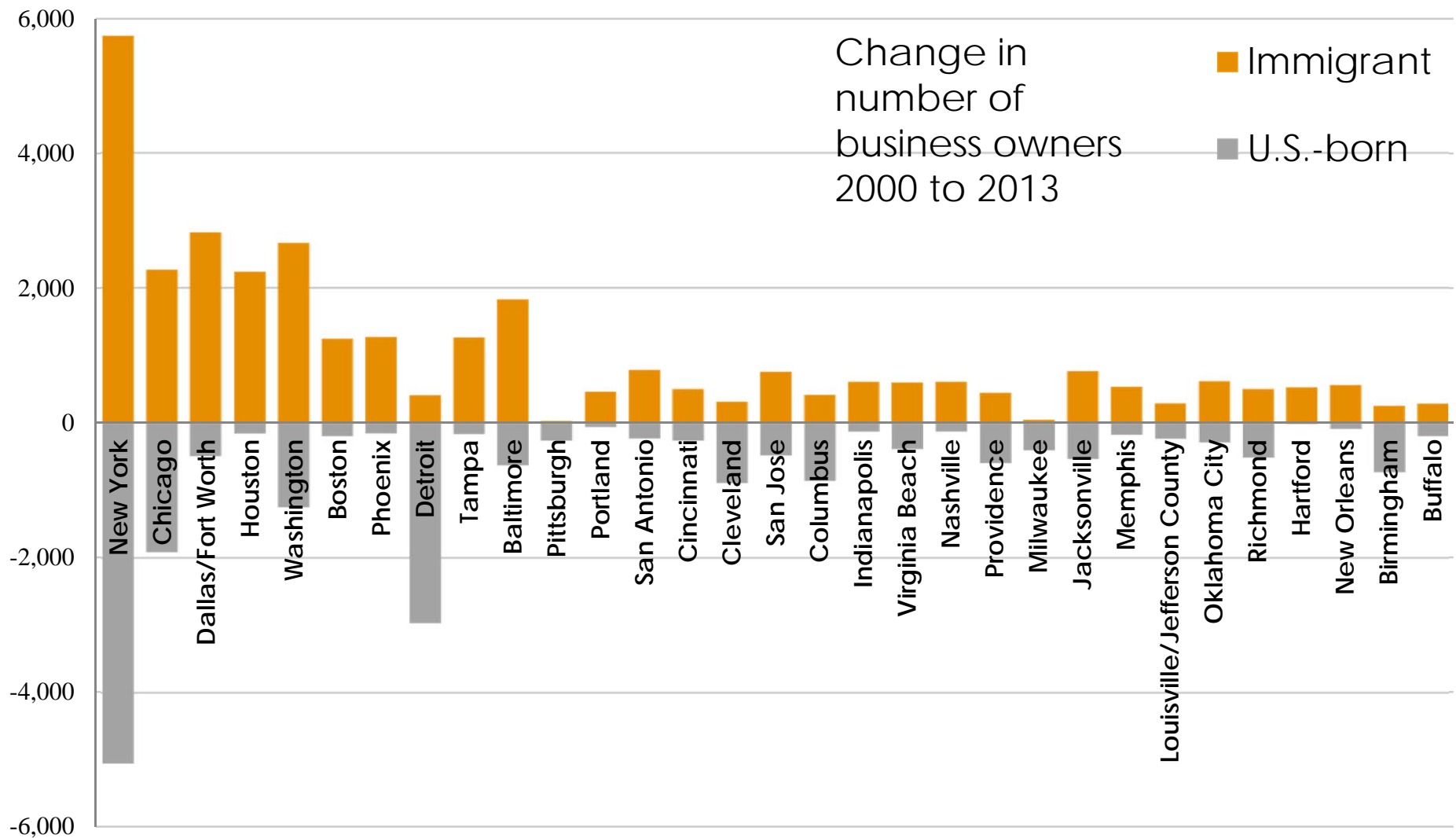
Dry cleaners



retail shops

Retail, Accommodations and Food Services,
Neighborhood Services (part of "other services")

In 31 of the 50 largest metro areas, *all net growth* in the number of Main Street business owners was due to immigrants



Cities with Declining Population 1960 to 1980

(29 of the 50 Largest Cities saw a mid-20th Century population decline)

St. Louis	-40%	Newark	-19%	Seattle	-11%
Cleveland	-34%	Birmingham	-17%	New Orleans	-11%
Buffalo	-33%	Washington, DC	-16%	New York City	-9%
Pittsburgh	-30%	Baltimore	-16%	San Francisco	-8%
Detroit	-28%	Philadelphia	-16%	Oakland	-8%
Rochester	-24%	Chicago	-15%	Kansas City	-6%
Louisville	-24%	Milwaukee	-14%	Portland, OR	-2%
Cincinnati	-23%	St. Paul	-14%	Tampa	-1%
Minneapolis	-23%	Atlanta	-13%	Denver	-0.3%
Boston	-19%	Norfolk	-13%		

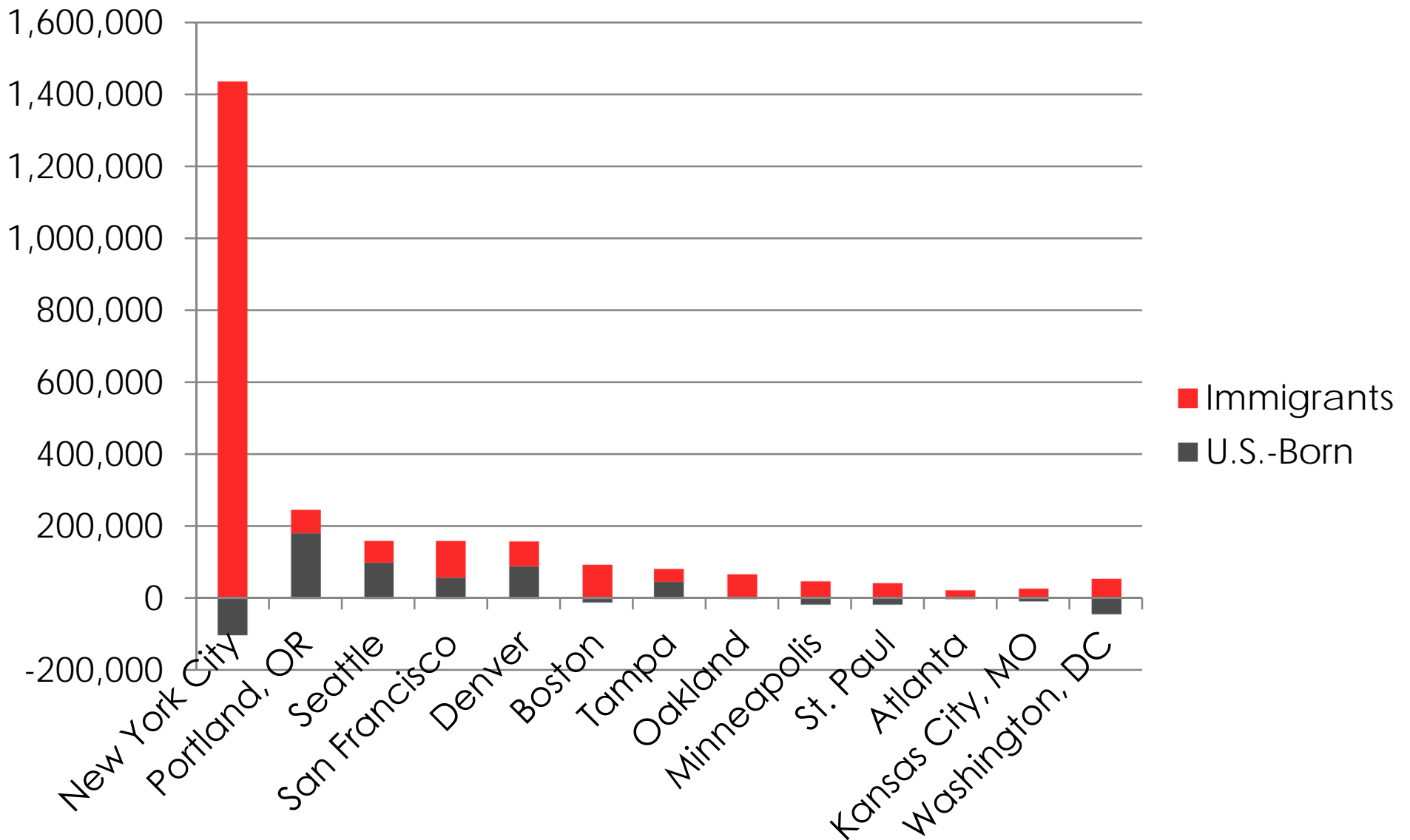
Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

Of the 29 Declining Cities, 14 Rebounded
with an Increase in Population 1980 to 2013

Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

Here are the Cities that Rebounded **Without** an Increase in Immigrant Population

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

There are none

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The only cities that rebounded from mid-20th century population loss did so with a net increase in immigrant population.

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The only cities that rebounded from mid-20th century population loss did so with a net increase in immigrant population.

This doesn't prove that immigrants cause growth. It may also be that immigrants are drawn to growth.

But if your city's plan is to grow *without* immigrants, it is useful to keep in mind that there are *no examples* of that among major cities in the United States over the past four decades.

What Can Municipalities Do to Encourage Immigrant Entrepreneurship?

- Establish a Climate of Welcoming
- Create a Government Office to Address Immigrant Integration
- Provide Culturally Competent Business Training and Services
- Make Sure Programs Are Open to All
- Be Attentive to the Challenges Unauthorized Immigrants Face
- Take Advantage of the Services Refugee Resettlement Agencies Offer
- Make Financing Innovative and Community-Based
- Link Financing to Training and Business Support
- Establish Some Incubators (Especially Commercial Kitchens!)
- Improve Licensing and Inspections for Everyone
- Use Place-Based Strategies to Help Main Street Businesses Build Neighborhoods
- Expand the Reach of Chambers of Commerce or Interest Groups
- Help Manage Cultural and Economic Tensions
- Pay Attention to Wages for Workers