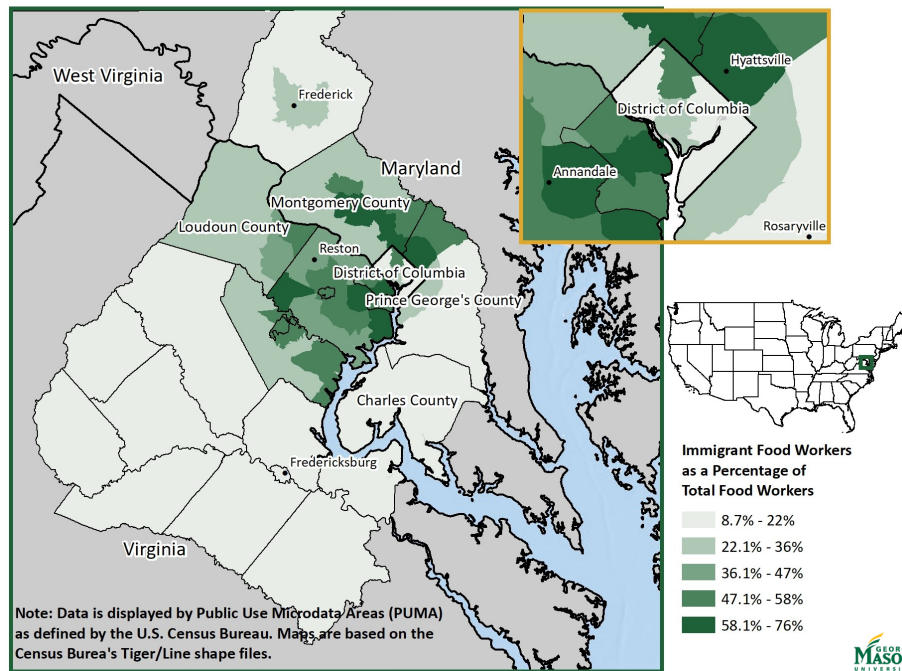


Immigrant Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

Figure 1. Immigrant Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area



2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants¹ living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **1,888,500:** Approximate number of immigrants employed as food workers² living in the U.S. (22% of food workers in the country)
- **65,500:** Approximate number of immigrants employed as food workers living in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area (47% of food workers in the metro area)
- **33,700:** Approximate number of female immigrants employed as food workers living in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area (51% of immigrant food workers in the metro area)

Distribution of Immigrant Food Workers Living in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

Figure 1 shows where immigrants employed as food workers live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The northwestern portion of Prince George's County and the southeastern region of Montgomery County in Maryland, and areas near the cities of Hyattsville and Annandale report higher percentages of immigrant food workers relative to other regions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Country of Birth

Foreign-born food workers in the Washington, D.C. metro area come from a variety of countries (Figure 2). There are significantly larger shares of male and female immigrant food workers from El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala in the Washington, D.C. metro area compared to the remainder of employed immigrants in the region.³

Figure 2. Top Five Countries of Birth Among Immigrant Food Workers

Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area				All Other Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area, Excluding Food Workers			
	Overall	Male	Female		Overall	Male	Female
El Salvador	32%	31%	32%	El Salvador	15%	17%	12%
Honduras	7%	7%	7%	India	7%	8%	7%
Mexico	5%	5%	5%	Vietnam	4%	3%	5%
Guatemala	5%	5%	5%	Mexico	4%	5%	3%
Bolivia	3%	4%	3%	Ethiopia	4%	4%	4%
Estimated Immigrant	65,542	31,877	33,665	Estimated Immigrant	809,049	445,058	363,991

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, unless otherwise noted.

¹Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

²Foreign-born food workers include immigrants age 16 to 65 who are employed as chefs and head cooks; first-line supervisors and food preparation and serving workers; cooks; food preparation workers; bartenders; combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food; counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop; waiters and waitresses; nonrestaurant food servers, miscellaneous food preparation and serving related workers; dishwashers; host and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop.

³All other employed immigrants age 16—65 in the Washington, D.C. metro area excluding immigrant food workers

Immigrant Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

Language

Across the Washington, D.C. metro area, the most common languages spoken at home among immigrant workers are Spanish and English (Figure 3). Foreign-born food workers in the Washington, D.C. metro area are significantly more likely to speak Spanish at home, relative to immigrants employed in all other occupations in the region.

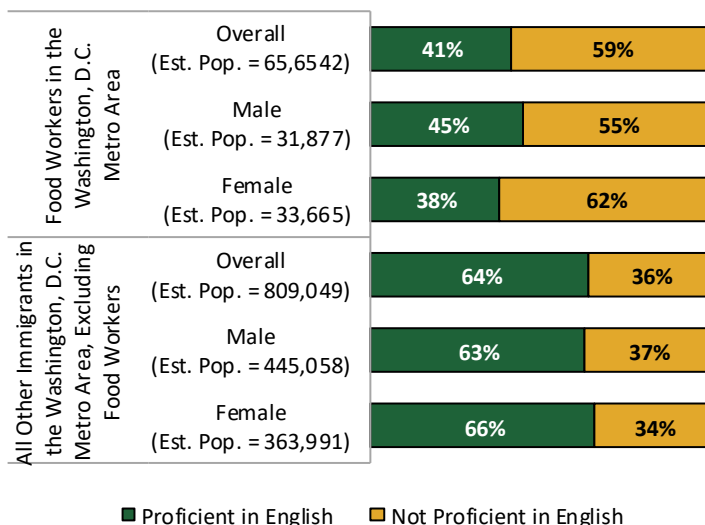
 **Figure 3. Top Five Languages Among Immigrant Food Workers**

Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area				All Other Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area, Excluding Food Workers			
	Overall	Male	Female		Overall	Male	Female
Spanish	55%	54%	57%	Spanish	34%	37%	29%
English	11%	11%	12%	English	18%	17%	19%
Hindi and related	5%	5%	4%	Hindi and related	7%	8%	6%
Chinese	4%	5%	4%	Chinese	5%	4%	5%
Amharic, Ethiopian, etc.	3%	2%	5%	Sub-Saharan Africa	4%	4%	5%
Estimated Immigrant Population	65,542	31,877	33,665	Estimated Immigrant Population	809,049	445,058	363,991

English Proficiency

Overall, immigrant food workers living in the Washington, D.C. metro area are significantly less likely to be proficient in English (speaks only English or speaks English very well) compared to immigrants employed in all other occupations. Unlike immigrants employed in all other occupations in the Washington, D.C. metro area, female food workers are significantly less likely to be proficient in English relative to males.

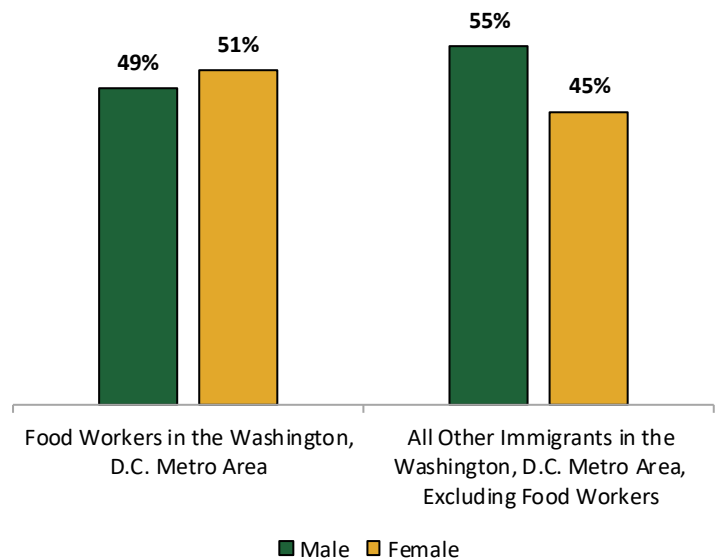
 **Figure 4. English Proficiency Among Immigrant Food Workers**



Sex

Figure 5 shows that immigrant food workers in the Washington, D.C. metro area are more likely to be female compared to immigrants employed in all other occupations in the area (51% versus 45%). More than half of immigrant food workers living in the Washington, D.C. metro area are female.

 **Figure 5. Sex of Immigrant Food Workers**



Immigrant Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

Self Employment

Figure 6 shows that foreign-born food workers in the Washington, D.C. metro area are significantly less likely to be self employed relative to immigrants employed in all other occupations in the region. Immigrant female food workers are slightly less likely to be self employed compared to their male counterparts.

 **Figure 6. Self-Employment Status Among Immigrant Food Workers**

	Food Workers in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area			All Other Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area,		
	Overall	Male	Female	Overall	Male	Female
Self-employed	3%	4%	2%	10%	11%	10%
Works for Wages	97%	96%	98%	90%	89%	90%
Estimated Immigrant Population	65,542	31,877	33,665	809,049	445,058	363,991

Among self-employed immigrant food workers, foreign-born chefs and heads cooks reported the highest rate of self-employment. In fact, relative to native-born chefs and head cooks in the Washington, D.C. metro area, immigrant chefs and head cooks were slightly more likely to report being self employed (Figure 7).

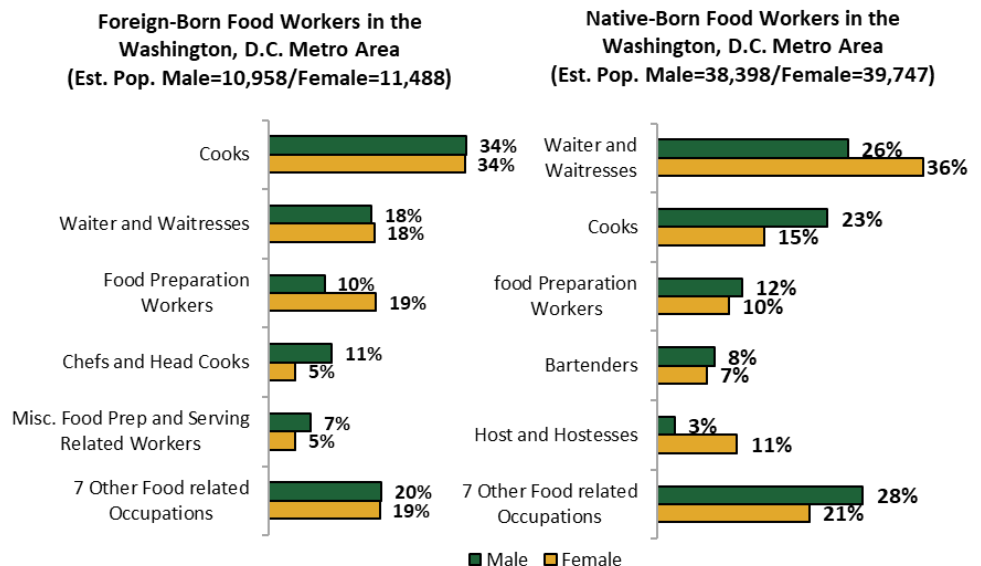
 **Figure 7. Self-Employment Status Among Chefs and Head Cooks**

	Foreign-Born Chefs and Head Cooks in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area			Native-Born Chefs and Head Cooks in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area		
	Overall	Male	Female	Overall	Male	Female
Self-employed	11%	13%	8%	9%	8%	11%
Works for wages	89%	87%	92%	91%	92%	89%
Estimated Population	4,915	3,324	1,591	3,764	2,862	902

Occupations

Relative to native-born food workers in the Washington, D.C. metro area, immigrant food workers are more likely to be in positions which may require less English proficiency, such as cooks, food preparation workers, or chef or head cooks (Figure 8). Immigrant females are less likely to be a chef or head cook compared to foreign-born male food workers. However, foreign-born female food workers are significantly more likely to be a food preparation worker, compared to their male counterparts.

 **Figure 8. Top Five Occupations Among Food Workers**



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