Data Cited in *Laying Down Roots: The Power of Citizenship*

Immigrants own 27% of "Main Street" businesses, including more than 30% of grocery stores and restaurants (Immigration Research Initiative, 2026)

Becoming a U.S. citizen can increase individual earnings by 8.9% (Urban Institute, 2015)

Nearly half of all green cards in 2024 went to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (Migration Policy Institute, 2026)

Naturalization increases the likelihood of homeownership by 6.3 percentage points (Urban Institute, 2015)

An estimated 9 million lawful permanent residents are currently eligible to naturalize and become U.S. citizens (Migration Policy Institute, 2024)

Immigrants founded 59% of America's billion-dollar startups, collectively worth $5 trillion (National Foundation for American Policy, 2026)

Naturalizing half of eligible immigrants in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, could add almost $10 billion in combined earnings over ten years (Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), and USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), 2014)

Of the 50 million foreign-born people in the U.S., over half (51%) are naturalized U.S. citizens (Migration Policy Institute, 2026)

Other Research and Data Sources

Anderson, Stuart. *Immigrants and U.S. Billion-Dollar Companies.* National Foundation for American Policy, June 2026.

Batalova, Jeanne. *Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States*. Migration Policy Institute, March 12, 2026.

Enchautegui, Maria E., and Linda Giannarelli. *The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities.* Urban Institute, December 2015.

Estep, Sara, and Kennedy Andara. *Immigrants Make the Labor Market Great: Analysis of the February 2026 Jobs Day Release.* Center for American Progress, March 6, 2026.

Gelatt, Julia. *Immigrants and the U.S. Economy.* Migration Policy Institute, October 2024.

Hainmueller, Jens, Elisa Cascardi, Michael Hotard, Rey Koslowski, Duncan Lawrence, Vasil Yasenov, and David D. Laitin, *The socioeconomic returns to citizenship: A controlled trial,* PNAS Vol. 123 No. 5 e2516178123, 2026

Kallick, David Dyssegaard, Anthony Capote, Dr. Alaina Jackson, Chanell Scott Contreras, Steve Tobocman, *The Entrepreneurial Spirit: A Profile of Business Owners Across the United States,* Immigration Research Initiative, March 19, 2026.

Kerwin, Donald, and Robert Warren, *Putting Americans First: A Statistical Case for Encouraging rather than Impeding and Devaluing U.S. Citizenship,* Journal on Migration and Human Security 2019, Vol 7(4), 108-122.

Kramer, Stephanie, and Jeffrey S. Passel. *What the Data Says About Immigrants in the U.S.* PewResearch Center, August 21, 2025.

Lynch, Robert, and Patrick Oakford. *The Economic Effects of Granting Legal Status and Citizenship to Undocumented Immigrants*, Center for American Progress, March 20, 2013.

Morrow, Brandon, and Jeanne Batalova. *Naturalized Citizens in the United States,* Migration Policy Institute, July 10, 2024.

Orrenius, Pia M., Alan D. Viard, and Madeline Zavodny. *The Fiscal Impact of Immigration: An Update.* AEI Economic Perspectives, September 2025.

Pastor, Manuel, and Justin Scoggins. *Citizenship Gain: The Economic Benefits of Naturalization for Immigrants and the Economy.* USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), December 2012.

Peri, Giovanni, and Reem Zaiour. *Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth*. Center for American Progress, June 14, 2021.

Scroggins, Justin, and Mariana de Santibanes, Ursula Levelt, and Connie Razza, Citizenship, *A Wise Investment for Cities*, The Center for Popular Democracy, USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), The National Partnership for New Americans, Summer 2014.

Sumption, Madeleine, and Sarah Flamm. *The Economic Value of Citizenship for Immigrants in the United States.* Migration Policy Institute, September 2012.