FOREIGN-BORN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
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The Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry in the United States is a major contributor to the national economy. This fact sheet explores foreign-born contributions to M&E in terms of film production, broadcasting, sound recording, sports & performance arts using data from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

THE WORKFORCE

Out of the 2,232,589 people in the & Entertainment (M&E) workforce in 2012, foreign-born workers accounted for 11.1%. This amounted to 247,589 immigrants working as designers, writers, news analysts, photographers, radio equipment workers, and athletes. The top five occupations among foreign-born workers were: musicians and singers (8.1%), artists and related workers (6.7%), producers and directors (5.8%), managers (4.3%) and telecommunications line installers 3.6%).

In 2012 immigrants were 11.1% of the M&E workforce.

$9.1 BILLION = TOTAL WAGES OF FOREIGN BORN WORKERS IN M&E

Workers in the M&E industry earned $76.2 billion in 2012, with foreign-born workers accounting for 11.9%, or $9.1 billion, of the earnings. On average, immigrant workers made $36,722 annually, slightly higher than the industry average.

Average Annual Earnings for Foreign-Born M&E Workers

- Independent Artists, Motion Pictures and Video Industries: $24,991.99
- Sound Recording Industries: $38,023.00
- Broadcasting, except Internet: $48,088.91

Earning values range from $0 to $633,000 in the sample.
38% OF FOREIGN BORN M&E WORKERS ARE WOMEN

Of the 247,589 immigrant workers in the M&E industry, 94,198 are women. Of these women, 7.9% worked as artists, 6.9% as producers and directors, and 5.1% as musicians and singers.

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST
Arianna Huffington (1950-) was born in 1950 in Greece and became a naturalized citizen in 1990. She is the chair, president and editor-in-chief of Huffington Post Media Group.

ACTOR & FILMMAKER
Salma Hayek (1966-) was born in Mexico. The award winning actress is also a director, producer and activist.

FASHION DESIGNER
Oscar de la Renta (1932-2014) was born in the Dominica Republic and became an American citizen in 1971. His designs have been worn by First Ladies such as Jacqueline Kennedy, Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush.

ATHLETE
Meb Keflezighi (1975-) was born in Eritria, but fled with his family during a civil war. The three-time Olympian marathon runner became a naturalized citizen in 1998.

32% LIVE IN CALIFORNIA

Top 5 Countries of Origin for Foreign-Born M&E Workers

- Mexico: 39,855, 16.1%
- Canada: 13,7564, 5.6%
- Philippines: 9,491, 3.8%
- Korea: 7,887, 3.2%
- Cuba: 7,224, 2.9%

States with the Highest Concentration of Foreign-Born Workers in the Media & Entertainment Industry

- California: 32%
- New York: 25%
- Florida: 4%
- Texas: 6%
- New Jersey: 12%
- Illinois: 3%
- Georgia: 2%
- All Other States: 16%