ECONOMIC EXPERIENCE OF AFGHANS WHO ARRIVED THROUGH OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME

An estimated 54% of the 41,040 Afghan arrivals are working age adults.

*Between ages 18 - 64

TOP INDUSTRY SECTORS

- 2.7% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting
- 5.7% Health Care & Social Assistance
- 6% Construction
- 8% Administrative Support & Waste Management
- 10% Food Manufacturing
- 12.3% Manufacturing
- 13.7% Retail Trade
- 10.9% Transportation & Warehousing
- 9.7% Other
- 21% Accommodation & Food Service

JOB PLACEMENT

- Average number of days from arrival to first job: 126
- Average wage per hour: $16.67
- Average projected income during first year of work: $34,673

GENDER BREAKDOWN

- 16% of job placements were female
- 84% of job placements were male

Male clients earned $1.36 more per hour.

PROJECTED ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- $1.4 billion: Potential annual earnings
- $189 million: Potential estimated taxes paid

*Using an average federal income tax rate of 13.29%

TOP JOB TITLES

1. General Production
2. Warehouse Worker
3. Food Preparer
4. Driver
5. Security Guard
6. Cashier
7. Sales Associate
8. Dishwasher
9. Housekeeper/Janitor
10. General Labor
ATLANTA | Mamoon arrived in Atlanta with his wife and three children in April of 2022. Upon Mamoon’s arrival, Atlanta’s early employment team connected Mamoon to a contact at Open Hand Atlanta, a non-profit dedicated to delivering 5000 healthy meals per day. Mamoon worked with IRC staff to prepare before each segment of a multiple-round interview. In June of 2022, Open Hand hired Mamoon as the Human Resource Assistant. Mamoon makes $19.71 an hour with full benefits.

Atlanta’s career pathways team is working with Mamoon to enroll him in a self-paced Professional of Human Resources certification course to increase his growth potential. Mamoon is excited to be reconnected with a position in his field and happy to work with an organization that allows him to serve his new American neighbors.

DENVER | Zahra arrived in the U.S. in February 2022 with the goal of becoming independent and successful. She began utilizing several IRC services, including financial literacy classes and coaching, psychosocial support programming, ESL classes in the community that IRC referred her to, and IRC online job classes. She attended class with her younger sister and her mother, making this a multigenerational class! With the help of the employment team, who took her to the interview and made the initial connection, Zahra secured a job working in a food preparation company at the airport. Congrats Zahra!

BOISE | M (wished to remain anonymous) was an officer in the Afghan National Army for seven years training soldiers and three years as a pilot and officer in the Afghan Air Force. When he was evacuated to the US, he arrived at a US military base with other Afghans. While his case was processed, he completed legal training to allow him to provide legal humanitarian services to other evacuated Afghans. He is devoted to serving others regardless of the situation he finds himself in. His goal is to obtain his CDL permit, train as a driver, and start work in commercial driving to support his family.
**SACRAMENTO** | Qurishi was referred to the IRC Vocational ESL program in Sacramento. Qurishi and her spouse were receiving Refugee Cash Assistance through the DHA office, but it was insufficient to cover her family’s expenses, and paying rent was a serious concern. She was motivated to start working and help meet her family’s financial needs but faced many barriers to employment when she joined the program. She did not have any work experience in Afghanistan and only knew a few words of the English language. In meetings with the Sacramento employment team, Qurishi developed a plan to address these barriers and reach her employment goal. She was referred to and enrolled in job readiness training designed explicitly for Afghan clients to help prepare her for the job market. Despite some interruptions due to family obligations, Qurishi completed job readiness training. She was also enrolled in vocational ESL classes to improve her English language skills.

Qurishi was a quick learner and was able to quickly expand her English vocabulary and carry basic conversation. The employment team supported her by referring her to job fairs, finding appropriate job opportunities, transportation to interviews, and in-language resources to help her secure a learner’s permit to start driving. Despite some setbacks, she continued working toward her goal by participating in mock interviews and attending job search workshops. Finally, through her strong work ethic, resilience, and determination, she was hired at the Residence Inn as a housekeeper. She is happy and proud now, knowing that her hard work paid off and she can directly contribute to supporting her family financially.

**DALLAS** | Noorullah fled Afghanistan with his parents and eight siblings in August of 2022. After their time at the safe haven, Noorullah was resettled in Dallas through the IRC Afghan Placement and Assistance Program. They are receiving Refugee Cash Assistance and employment and case management services through the Refugee Social Services program.

As part of the employment program, Noorullah and his father attended a local job fair with IRC staff. They were introduced to FreshPoint, a local food manufacturer. They were able to complete applications and interviews on-site. One week later, he was informed that he got the job and could start working right away. The IRC employment team helped them navigate transportation and language barriers, and Noorullah started working shortly thereafter.

Noorullah is happy with his current job and plans to continue learning English to open up more employment opportunities and allow him to be fully self-sufficient and support his family.