

# New Americans in Miami-Dade County

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County<sup>1</sup>

JUNE 2021



## Population

**1,500,000**

immigrants lived in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in 2019.

Immigrants made up



of the total population in the county in 2019.

Between 2014 and 2019, the population in the county increased by



The immigrant population increased by



during the same time period.

Without growth in the immigrant population, the county's total population would have shrunk by



## Demographics



of immigrants in Miami-Dade County are recent arrivals, with less than 5 years of residency in the United States, meaning

In the county, immigrants are

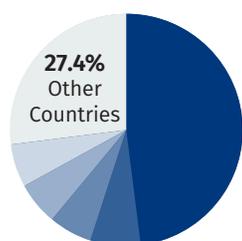
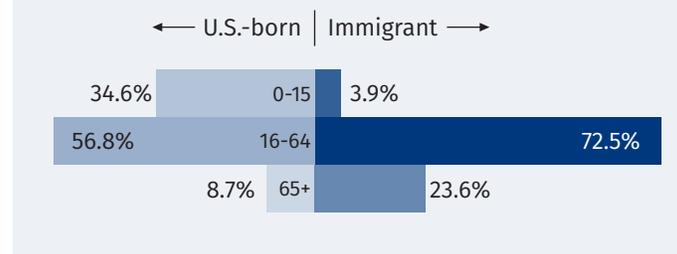


more likely to be of working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts, allowing them to actively participate in the labor force and contribute to the economy as taxpayers and consumers.<sup>2</sup>



of immigrants in the county have resided in the United States for longer than 5 years.

### Shares of population by age groups:<sup>3</sup>



The top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the county:

- Cuba (**47.7%**)
- Venezuela (**6.1%**)
- Nicaragua (**5.7%**)
- Colombia (**7.1%**)
- Haiti (**6.0%**)

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Miami-Dade County, Florida.

2 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

3 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

## Demographics *continued*

**523,200**

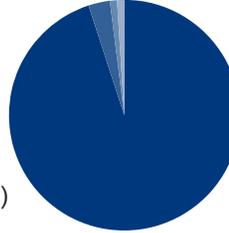
immigrants living in the county had limited English language proficiency, making up

**35.5%**

of the immigrant population.

Among them, the top five languages spoken at home other than English were:

- Spanish (**95.0%**)
- French or Haitian Creole (**3.3%**)
- Portuguese (**0.5%**)
- Other Languages (**1.2%**)



## Spending Power & Tax Contributions

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

In 2019, immigrant households in the county earned **\$44.5 billion**

■ **\$7.6 billion**

went to federal taxes<sup>4</sup>

■ **\$3.0 billion** went to state & local taxes<sup>5</sup>

■ **\$33.9 billion** left in spending power

This means that foreign-born households held

**60.3%**

of all spending power in the county.

Breakdown by race and ethnicity:

| Immigrant Households      | Total Household Income | Federal Taxes   | State & Local Taxes | Spending Power   | Median Household Income |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| White                     | \$4,600,000,000        | \$1,000,000,000 | \$243,300,000       | \$3,300,000,000  | \$80,000                |
| Black or African American | \$3,300,000,000        | \$498,000,000   | \$229,700,000       | \$2,500,000,000  | \$46,800                |
| AAPI                      | \$1,200,000,000        | \$236,900,000   | \$73,100,000        | \$894,700,000    | \$51,000                |
| Mixed or Other Race       | \$217,800,000          | \$33,500,000    | \$15,300,000        | \$169,000,000    | N/A                     |
| Hispanic                  | \$35,000,000,000       | \$5,800,000,000 | \$2,400,000,000     | \$27,000,000,000 | \$50,000                |

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

<sup>5</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

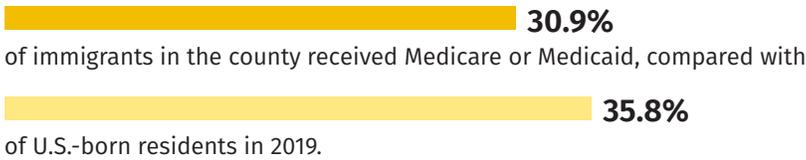
## Spending Power & Tax Contributions *continued*

In 2019, foreign-born residents in the county contributed

**\$103.9 billion**

to the county's GDP, or **59.1%** of the total.<sup>6</sup>

Immigrants in the county also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed



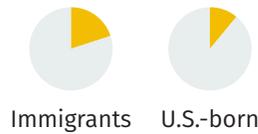
About **56.7%** of U.S.-born had private healthcare coverage, while **36.5%** had public healthcare coverage.<sup>7</sup>



About **52.1%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **31.1%** had public healthcare coverage.



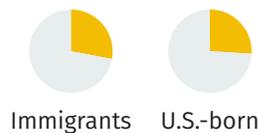
About **20.1%** of immigrants didn't have any healthcare coverage in the county in 2019, compared to **11.3%** of U.S.-born residents.



Breakdown by race and ethnicity:

| Immigrant Groups          | Private Healthcare Coverage | Public Healthcare Coverage |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| White                     | <b>68.1%</b>                | <b>24.0 %</b>              |
| Black or African American | <b>48.2%</b>                | <b>31.7 %</b>              |
| AAPI                      | <b>68.8%</b>                | <b>28.6 %</b>              |
| Hispanic                  | <b>51.0%</b>                | <b>31.6 %</b>              |

Given their household incomes, **28.1%** of immigrants live at or below 150% of the federal poverty threshold as compared to **26.1%** of U.S.-born residents.



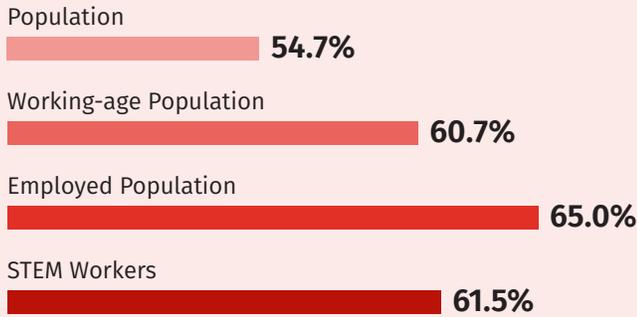
<sup>6</sup> These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 5-year ACS sample from 2019 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>7</sup> Including people who have both public and private healthcare coverage.

## Workforce

Although the foreign-born made up **54.7%** of the county's overall population, they represented **60.7%** of its working-age population, **65.0%** of its employed labor force, and **61.5%** of its STEM workers in 2019.<sup>8</sup>

### Immigrant shares of the...



Immigrants in the county are

**27.8%**

more likely to be working age or employed than their U.S.-born counterparts.

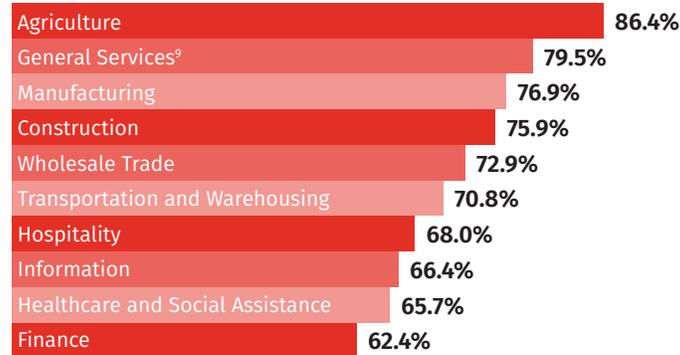
The immigrant working-age population was **51.4%** female and **48.6%** male.



The employed immigrant population was **47.5%** female and **52.5%** male.



Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the county.



### SPOTLIGHT ON Immigrant Essential Workers

Immigrants have also been playing vital roles in critical industries that have kept the country functioning throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Immigrants in the county continue working in these frontline and essential industries:

#### Essential Manufacturing

Immigrants made up **86.8%** of its workforce.

#### Agriculture

Immigrants made up **86.7%** of its workforce.

<sup>8</sup> STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math.

<sup>9</sup> General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

## Workforce *continued*

### SPOTLIGHT ON Immigrant Essential Workers *continued*

Essential Services<sup>10</sup>

**46,300**  
immigrants made up



Construction

**88,800**  
immigrants made up



Food Manufacturing

**6,900**  
immigrants made up



Essential Wholesale Trade

**12,000**  
immigrants made up



Transportation and Warehousing

**82,600**  
immigrants made up



Food Service

**62,600**  
immigrants made up



Healthcare

**94,100**  
immigrants made up

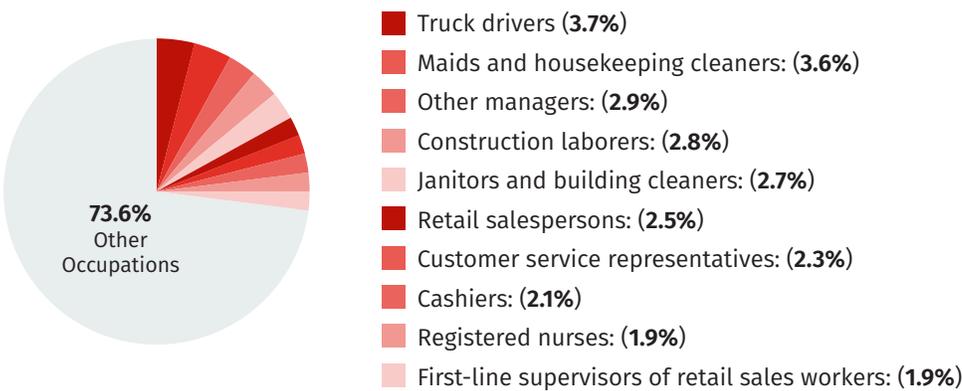


Essential Retail Trade

**33,900**  
immigrants made up



Immigrants tended to work in these occupations in the county in 2019:



Due to the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in the county had helped create or preserve

**68,300**

manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2019.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> These include services essential for daily living, such as building cleaning, waste management, auto repair, and veterinary services.

<sup>11</sup> Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.

## Workforce *continued*

| Top Occupations for Female Workers | Share of Workforce, Immigrant Female | Top Occupations for Male Workers | Share of Workforce, Immigrant Male |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Maids and housekeeping cleaners    | 7.1%                                 | Truck drivers                    | 6.6%                               |
| Customer service representatives   | 3.6%                                 | Construction laborers            | 5.2%                               |
| Janitors and building cleaners     | 3.5%                                 | Other managers                   | 3.5%                               |

### SPOTLIGHT ON Job Demand In Miami-Dade County In 2021

Not only are immigrants more likely to be of working age in the county, but they are also a crucial part of the county's economy, and could help us meet the needs of its fastest growing and most in-demand fields, especially as the need for bilingual and culturally competent public services and healthcare increases.

The top 5 industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers:<sup>12</sup>

1. Health Care & Social Assistance

2. Finance & Insurance

3. Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services

4. Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services

5. Retail Trade

## Entrepreneurship

145,100

immigrant entrepreneurs generated

\$2.9 billion

in business income for Miami-Dade County.

Immigrant entrepreneurs self-identified as **40.8%** female and **59.2%** male.



Immigrant entrepreneurs by race:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Hispanic                           | 87.5% |
| White                              | 6.7%  |
| Black or African American          | 3.6%  |
| Asian American or Pacific Islander | 1.8%  |

Immigrants made up

73.9%



of the business owners in the county in 2019.

While **10.7%** of the U.S.-born population were entrepreneurs, **16.3%** of foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses.



U.S.-born

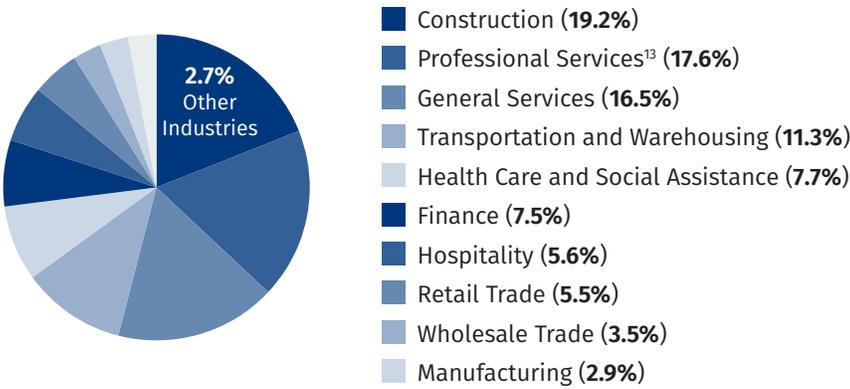


Immigrant

<sup>12</sup> Data is obtained from Burning Glass Technologies for the time period between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

## Entrepreneurship *continued*

Immigrant entrepreneurs tended to work in these **key industries**:



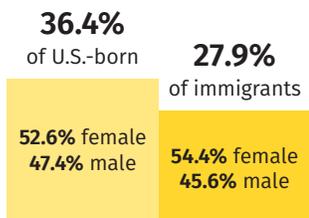
### SPOTLIGHT ON Small Business Recovery from the Pandemic

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, entrepreneurs within particularly vulnerable industries in the county face severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.

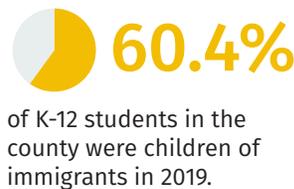
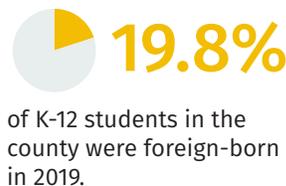
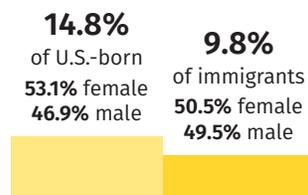


## Education

Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2019:



Share of the county's population aged 25 or above that held an **advanced degree** in 2019:



<sup>13</sup> Professional services: Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

## Education *continued*

### SPOTLIGHT ON University Population

**13,394**

students<sup>14</sup> enrolled in colleges and universities in Miami-Dade County in fall 2019 were temporary residents.<sup>15</sup>

**676**

international students graduated with STEM degrees from colleges and universities in the county in the 2018-19 academic year.

International students supported

**4,627**

jobs and contributed

**\$424.8 million**

million in the 2019-20 academic year.<sup>16</sup>

## Housing

In 2019, **48.8%** of immigrant households in Miami-Dade County owned their own homes, compared to **53.3%** of U.S.-born households.



Immigrant U.S.-born

The total property value of immigrant households was

**\$118.2 billion**

**51.2%** of immigrant households were renters. Their total annual rent paid was

**\$4.8 billion**



- Lived in Houses **314,800** or **51.2%**
- Lived in Apartments **290,700** or **47.3%**
- Lived in Other Types of Housing **9,100** or **1.5%**

**82.5%**

of immigrant households in the county had access to broadband connection in their place of residence as compared to **87.1%** of U.S.-born households in 2019.

**56.1%**

of immigrant households in the county were rent overburdened, paying more than **30%** of their income on rent.

<sup>14</sup> International students include individuals who are student visa holders, DACA recipients, and undocumented immigrant. Does not include U.S. citizens, permanent residents, refugees, or asylees.

<sup>15</sup> Data on total student enrollment in the city is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Temporary residents refer to people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

<sup>16</sup> Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.

## Naturalization



- **59.0%** Naturalized Citizens (875,700)
- **13.3%** Likely Eligible to Naturalize (196,700)
- **27.7%** Not Eligible to Naturalize (411,700)



Nationally, **48.7%** of immigrants are naturalized citizens, **15.9%** are likely eligible to naturalize, and **35.4%** are not yet eligible.



of households in Miami-Dade County had at least one foreign-born resident.

If all immigrants who are eligible to naturalize became U.S. citizens, their earning potential would increase by

**+8.9%**<sup>16</sup>

## Refugees

**3,500**

refugees, or **0.2%** of the foreign-born population in Miami-Dade County, were likely refugees.<sup>17</sup>

## TPS Holders

**19,600**

people, or **1.3%** of the foreign-born population in Miami-Dade County, were holders of temporary protection status.

<sup>16</sup> Enchautegui, Maria E. and Linda Giannarelli. 2015. "The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities." Urban Institute.

<sup>17</sup> New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

SPOTLIGHT ON

## Michael Burtov

In 1989, when Michael Burtov was nine, his family fled anti-Jewish persecution in the Soviet Union and resettled as refugees in Lynn, Massachusetts. “There was a lot of anti-Soviet, anti-Russian sentiment at the time, and I was bullied,” he recalls. But he was determined to seize American opportunity.

After graduating from Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass, Burtov served in the Peace Corps, worked for the Bill Clinton Foundation, and earned a master’s in economics and international relations from Southern New Hampshire University. After being laid off from his investment banking job during the Great Recession, he turned to entrepreneurship. “In entrepreneurship, your currency is your reputation, credibility, character,” says Burtov. “Not who you know or where you’re from.”

His three companies have generated millions. GeoOrbital, a wheel that transforms a traditional pedal-powered bicycle into an electric bike, even landed him on Shark Tank and Time magazine’s 2019 “best inventions” list.

That same year, he moved to Miami after falling in love with the community’s diverse and innovative tech scene. For instance, Burtov says the city is uniquely committed to helping underrepresented job seekers participate in the growing tech scene. He points to a municipal program (Data Science for All/Empowerment) to train and upskill workers in data science, and an app that will help streamline business licensing. “I’ve never seen this many Black, Latino, or women founders,” Burtov says. In Silicon Valley and Cambridge, “there’s so many ideas that never surface because nobody’s there, lending them a hand and saying, ‘I will give you a chance.’”

Burtov is also helping to make entrepreneurship more accessible. In addition to consulting with early-stage startups, he teaches innovation courses at the MIT Enterprise Forum and is the author of the *Evergreen Startup*, a book helping underrepresented founders gain access to the funding usually reserved for the white and wealthy. At present, he’s also co-leading a virtual program aiming to help more foreign-born entrepreneurs start businesses in the U.S. “People in power tend to idealize equality: giving everyone the same size ladder to reach the top of the mountain, ignoring that some people are born on a hill and others in a ditch,” he says. Miami-Dade, however, “fights for equality. Here, we try to give people the exact size ladder they need.”

SPOTLIGHT ON

## Luisa Santos

In 1998, Luisa Santos’ family moved to Miami from Colombia to seek better opportunities. In America, Santos was awestruck by the fancy computers, book-filled libraries and even the air conditioning. In high school, she joined the Future Business Leaders of America and was elected to student government—opportunities that didn’t exist in her native country.

Then at 16, when she needed her social security number to launch a mentoring program, Santos learned she was undocumented. “To credit our public schools, there wasn’t much up to that point that made me realize I lacked this paper,” she says. “But it was a really dark and frustrating time.” She couldn’t get a driver’s license or an afterschool job. And college was a question mark. Santos was a straight-A student with enough extracurriculars to impress any admissions team, but prior to 2014, most schools didn’t allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition.

Luckily, Miami Dade Honors College offered her a partial scholarship. In 2011, Santos received an associate’s degree in International Relations and transferred to Georgetown. She completed a bachelor’s in Political Economy and worked for the Department of Education. “I got to see, not just practices in the classroom, what a difference policy can make,” she says.

She also launched Lulu’s Ice Cream, which makes hand-crafted seasonal ice cream using liquid nitrogen. In 2015, she opened a permanent shop in Miami and hired 17 employees. “Miami is still small enough that you can be anyone and come here and make meaningful changes,” she says. She was fortunate to become a permanent resident in 2011 and a citizen in 2016, after her grandmother sponsored the family. And she’d like to see the community do more to support small business owners who haven’t been as lucky and may unaware of available resources. “A lot of undocumented immigrants don’t know they can start a LLC with their TIN number,” she says.

Santos has used her own success to give back. She offers her teenage employees college advising and financial literacy training. And in November 2020, she became the youngest person ever elected to the Miami-Dade school board.

“There are very few formerly undocumented people anywhere in any level of elected office,” says Santos. “I am very proud to represent this perspective and show the world, if you give us the opportunity to fully participate, we are fully capable.”

## DACA-Eligible Population

**14,800**

DACA-eligible people lived in Miami-Dade County in 2019.

They made up



of the immigrant population.

In 2019, DACA-eligible households earned **\$282.0 million**

■ **\$29.0 million**

went to federal taxes<sup>18</sup>

■ **\$26.0 million** went to state & local taxes<sup>19</sup>

■ **\$227.0 million** left in spending power

## Undocumented Immigrants

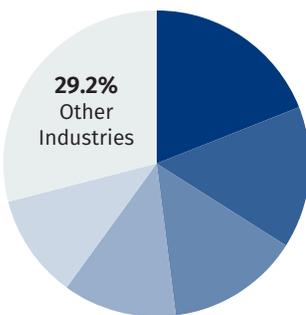
**226,600**

undocumented immigrants in Miami-Dade County, 2019.

Share of immigrants who were undocumented:

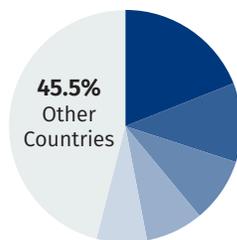


Undocumented immigrants tended to work in these key industries:



Hospitality (**18.7%**), Construction (**15.4%**), Professional services (**13.7%**), Retail trade (**12.1%**) General service (**10.9%**)

Top countries of origin for the undocumented in the county:



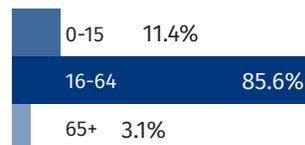
Venezuela (**19.1%**), Honduras (**10.9%**), Haiti (**9.4%**), Colombia (**7.6%**), and the Nicaragua (**7.5%**).

Undocumented immigrants are highly active in the labor force.



are of working-age in the county.

Undocumented immigrants by age groups:



In 2019, undocumented immigrant households earned **\$4.6 billion**

■ **\$361.5 million**

went to federal taxes<sup>20</sup>

■ **\$162.4 million** went to state & local taxes<sup>21</sup>

■ **\$4.1 billion** left in spending power

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

<sup>19</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."

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