Immigrants in East Texas

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in East Texas Communities, including Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties.¹

**ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total annual rent paid by immigrant households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15,800</td>
<td>$2.7B</td>
<td>$36.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of immigrant homeowners in 2021</td>
<td>Total property value of immigrant households</td>
<td>paid by immigrant households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>$99.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of immigrant entrepreneurs in 2021</td>
<td>Immigrant share of entrepreneurs in the region</td>
<td>generated by immigrant entrepreneurs in 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigrants were 61.7% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

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

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2021:

- **$188.4M** went to federal taxes.²
- **$123.8M** went to state & local taxes.³

Leaving them with **$1.1B** in spending power, or **8.0%** of all spending power in the region.
Immigrants in East Texas

Although immigrants made up 7.2% of the region’s overall population, they represented 9.9% of its working age population and 10.2% of its employed population in 2021.

Immigrant shares of the...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>7.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working age population</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed population</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share of the region’s population aged 25 or older that, in 2021, held....

- **at least a high-school diploma or some college**: 90.6% of U.S.-born, 52.0% of Immigrants
- **a bachelor’s degree or higher**: 23.5% of U.S.-born, 18.7% of Immigrants
- **an advanced degree**: 7.7% of U.S.-born, 6.6% of Immigrants

---

DEMOGRAPHICS

47,700 Immigrant population in the region in 2021. This represents 7.2% of the total population.

17,200 Number of immigrants eligible to vote in the region. This represents 36.1% of the immigrant population in the East Texas region.

84.2% of the immigrant population were of working age, in contrast to 59.5% of the U.S.-born population.
Immigrants in East Texas

DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)

Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the region. The industries with the largest number of immigrant workers were:

27.1% - CONSTRUCTION
15.9% - HOSPITALITY
14.8% - MANUFACTURING
13.3% - GENERAL SERVICES
11.1% - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

75.0% of immigrants in the region were from Mexico. This was the top country of origin for immigrants living in East Texas in 2021.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

20,300
Undocumented immigrants* lived in East Texas in 2021. They made up

42.6% of the region’s immigrant population.

The labor force participation rate\(^5\) of undocumented immigrants was 75.1% and their employment rate\(^6\) was 95.4%.

Amount earned by undocumented households in 2021:

$552.4M

$31.9M went to federal taxes.

$25.1M went to state & local taxes.

Leaving them with $495.5M in spending power, or 3.6% of the spending power in the region.

---

Immigrants in East Texas

DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION

3,000 immigrants, or 3.5% of the immigrant population in the East Texas region, were eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2019.

Amount earned by DACA-eligible households in 2019:

- $3.4M went to federal taxes.
- $3.4M went to state & local taxes.
- Leaving them with $28.2M in spending power.

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2021 and figures refer to the counties of Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.
4. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
5. General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
6. 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.
7. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the population aged 16 or older that is either working or actively looking for work.
8. The employment rate is the percentage of the labor force (working or actively looking for work) that is employed.
9. Data for the DACA-eligible population comes from the 2019 5-year samples of the American Community Survey.
10. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program established in 2012 which permits certain individuals who were brought to the United States while under the age of 16 and who have resided continuously in the United States since June 15, 2007, to remain in the U.S. and work lawfully for at least two years, so long as they meet certain eligibility requirements. Learn more here: [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works).
11. DACA-eligible households refer to those with a DACA-recipient as head of the unit.