New Americans in El Paso, Texas
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area

POPULATION GROWTH

202,200
immigrants² lived in
the metro area in 2019,
making up

24.1%
of the overall population.

90.8%
of the immigrant population was from Mexico.

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the metro area:

1. Mexico ....................... 90.8%
2. Philippines .................. 1.0%
3. Germany .................... 0.9%
4. Korea ......................... 0.7%
5. India ......................... 0.5%

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Immigrants in the metro area hold considerable economic power. In 2019, immigrant residents in El Paso contributed $8.6B to the metro area’s GDP.³

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

$4.8B

$591.8M went to federal taxes.⁴

$440.7M went to state & local taxes.⁵

Leaving them with $3.8B in spending power, or 29.2% of all spending power in El Paso.
Spending Power and Tax Contributions (continued)

In 2019, immigrants in the metro area contributed:

$437.6M to Social Security and
$108.3M to Medicare.

Share of residents receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of healthcare coverage</th>
<th>U.S.-born</th>
<th>Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of healthcare coverage for immigrant residents in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of healthcare coverage</th>
<th>Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage</th>
<th>Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workforce

2019 immigrant shares of the...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Working-Age Population</th>
<th>Employed Labor Force</th>
<th>STEM Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigrants play a critical role in several key industries in the metro area. This includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General services§</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigrants tend to concentrate in these occupations in the metro area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driver/sales workers and truck drivers</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and building cleaners</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care aides</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General construction workers</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that, by 2019, immigrants living in the metro area had helped create or preserve **9,300 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise been eliminated or moved elsewhere.7
13,000 immigrants worked for their own businesses, generating $285.1M in business income.

In the metro area, immigrants were 109.7% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

1,711 students enrolled in colleges and universities in the metro area were temporary residents in 2020. These students supported 600 local jobs and contributed $46.5M in spending in the 2020-21 academic year.

Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or older that held a:

**Bachelor's Degree or Higher**
- Immigrants: 16.1%
- U.S.-born: 27.3%

**Advanced Degree**
- Immigrants: 5.4%
- U.S.-born: 8.6%
HOUSING WEALTH

Share of residents in El Paso who owned their homes in 2019:
- 60.1% U.S.-born
- 62.5% immigrants

The total property value of immigrant households in 2019 was $7.4B

Share of immigrant residents in El Paso who rented their homes in 2019:
- 37.5%

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households in 2019 was $257.2M

Share of immigrants living in:
- 69.0% Houses
- 23.0% Apartments
- 8.0% Other

NATURALIZATION

In 2019, 95,200 immigrants, or 47.1% of the immigrant population in the metro area, were naturalized citizens.

32,800 immigrants, or 16.2% of immigrants in the El Paso Metro Area were potentially eligible for naturalization in 2019.
New Americans in El Paso, Texas

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

In 2019, approximately **46,200** undocumented immigrants lived in the metro area, making up **22.8%** of the immigrant population. Mexico was the most common country of origin for undocumented immigrants in the metro area. **95.0%** of the undocumented population is Mexican-born.

Undocumented immigrants tend to concentrate and work in these industries in 2019:

- **13.9%** Construction: 13.9 percent of undocumented immigrants worked in this industry in 2019
- **13.2%** Hospitality
- **12.6%** Health Care and Social Assistance
- **11.9%** Manufacturing
- **10.9%** Professional Services

Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2019:

- **$757.4M**
- **$35.2M** went to federal taxes
- **$37.5M** went to state & local taxes
- **$684.7M** left in spending power

REFUGEES

0.4% of the immigrant population, or less than 1,000 people, were refugees in 2019.
ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey (ACS) from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to the El Paso, TX metropolitan statistical area.

2. Except where otherwise noted (e.g., “undocumented immigrant” or “DACA-eligible”), we define an immigrant as anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who resides in the United States. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, individuals with temporary immigration status, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.

3. 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 on GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.


6. General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.


8. Data on total student enrollment in the metro area 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.

9. Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.

10. An immigrant is eligible to naturalize if they are documented, have resided in the United States for five years or more, and speak English well or fluently, as well as immigrants in military service who meet certain requirements such as speaking English well. Those who do not fit these criteria are deemed to be not eligible or currently ineligible to naturalize.


12. 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.
