



Immigrants in El Paso

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area¹

POPULATION

202,200

immigrants² lived in the El Paso metro area in 2019. Immigrants made up



of the total population in the metro area in 2019.

361,600

people worked in the El Paso metro area in 2019. Of these,



or 98,600 workers in the metro area were immigrants.

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%

Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the metro area grew from **827,100** to **839,900**, or **1.5%**. During the same period, the immigrant population in the region decreased from **215,000** to **202,200**, or **-6.0%**.

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

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

In 2019, immigrant households⁴ in the El Paso metro area earned:

\$4.8B

\$591.8M went to federal taxes.⁵

\$440.7M went to state & local taxes.⁶

Leaving them with **\$3.8B** in spending power, or **29.2%** of all spending power in the El Paso metro area.



SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

In 2019, immigrants in the metro area contributed:

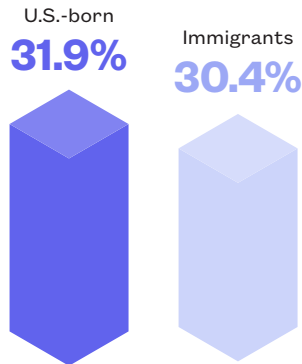
\$437.6M

to Social Security and

\$108.3M

to Medicare.

Share of residents receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019:



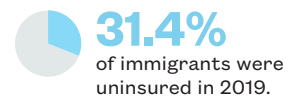
Share of immigrant residents in the El Paso metro area with...

Only private healthcare coverage: **37.5%**

Only public healthcare coverage: **25.4%**

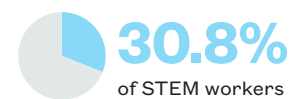
Both private and public healthcare coverage: **5.7%**

...in 2019.

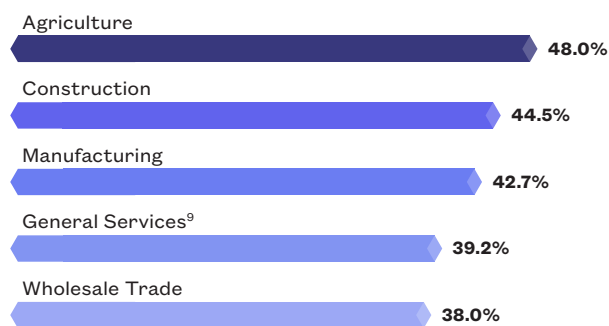


WORKFORCE

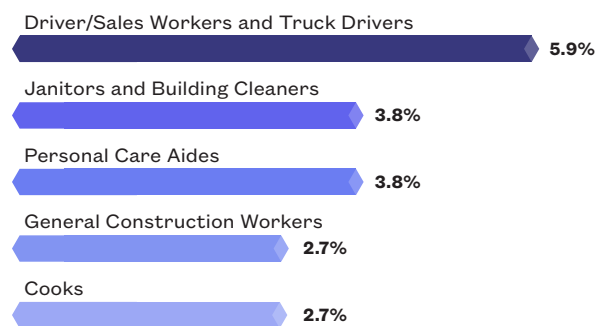
In 2019, immigrants in the El Paso metro area comprised...



The industries with the largest number of immigrant workers were:⁸



The occupations with the largest number of immigrant workers were:¹⁰



Immigrants play a critical role in our workforce by helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil. Our research shows that immigrants living in the metro area helped create or preserve **9,300 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise been eliminated or moved elsewhere by 2019.¹¹

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

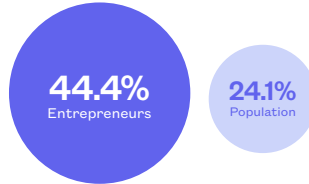
13,000

immigrants entrepreneurs in the El Paso metro area generated

\$285.1M

in business income in the metro area.

Immigrants represented **44.4%** of the business owners in the metro area despite making up **24.1%** of the population.

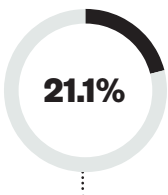


In the metro area, immigrants were

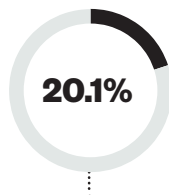
109.7%

more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

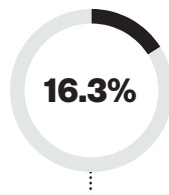
In 2019, the industries with the highest share of immigrant entrepreneurs were:



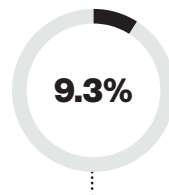
Construction



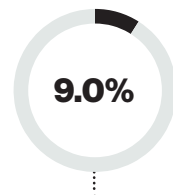
Professional Services¹²



General Services



Retail Trade



Health Care and Social Assistance

EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In 2020,

1,711

students enrolled in colleges and universities in the El Paso metro area.¹³ These students supported

600

local jobs and contributed

\$46.5M

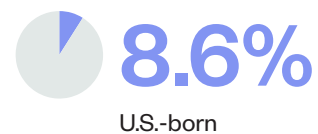
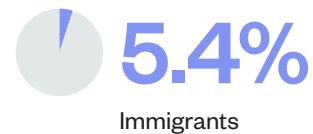
in spending in the 2020-21 academic year.¹⁴

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

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

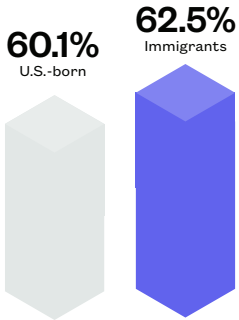


ADVANCED DEGREE



HOUSING WEALTH

Share of residents in the El Paso metro area who owned their homes in 2019:

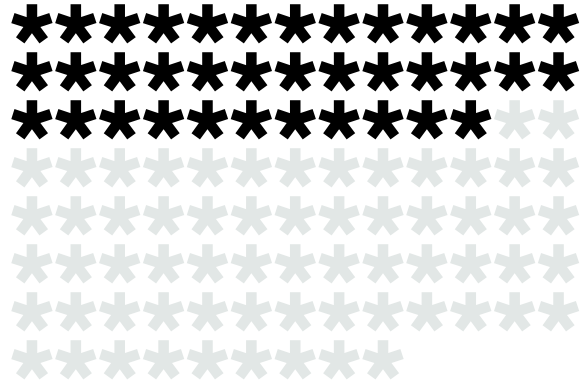


The total property value of immigrant households in 2019 was

\$7.4B

Share of immigrant residents in the El Paso metro area who rented their homes in 2019:

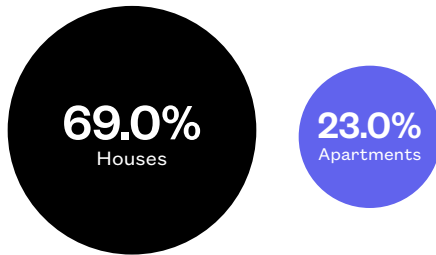
37.5%



The total annual rent paid by immigrant households in 2019 was

\$257.2M

Share of immigrants living in:



NATURALIZATION

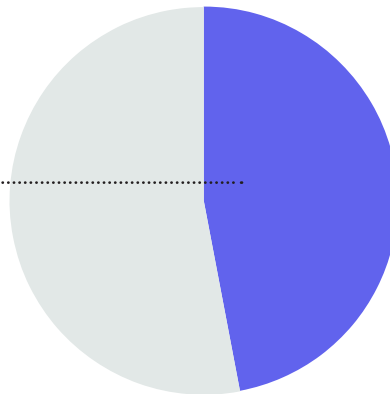
In 2019,

95,200

immigrants, or

47.1%

of the immigrant population in the El Paso metro area, were naturalized¹⁵ citizens.



32,800

immigrants, or

16.2%

of immigrants in the El Paso metro region were likely eligible for naturalization in 2019.¹⁶

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

In 2019, approximately

46,200

undocumented immigrants lived in the metro area, making up



of the immigrant population.

Mexico was the most common country of origin for undocumented immigrants in the metro area.



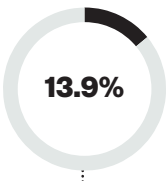
of the undocumented population was Mexican-born.

REFUGEES

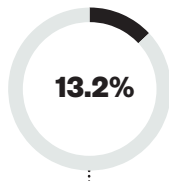


of the immigrant population, or less than 1,000 people, were refugees in 2019.¹⁷

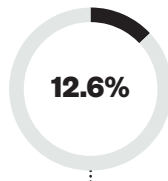
In 2019, the industries with the largest number of undocumented immigrant workers were:



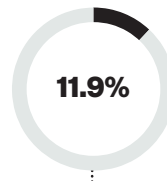
Construction



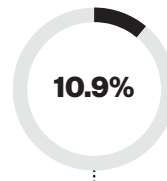
Hospitality



Health Care and Social Assistance

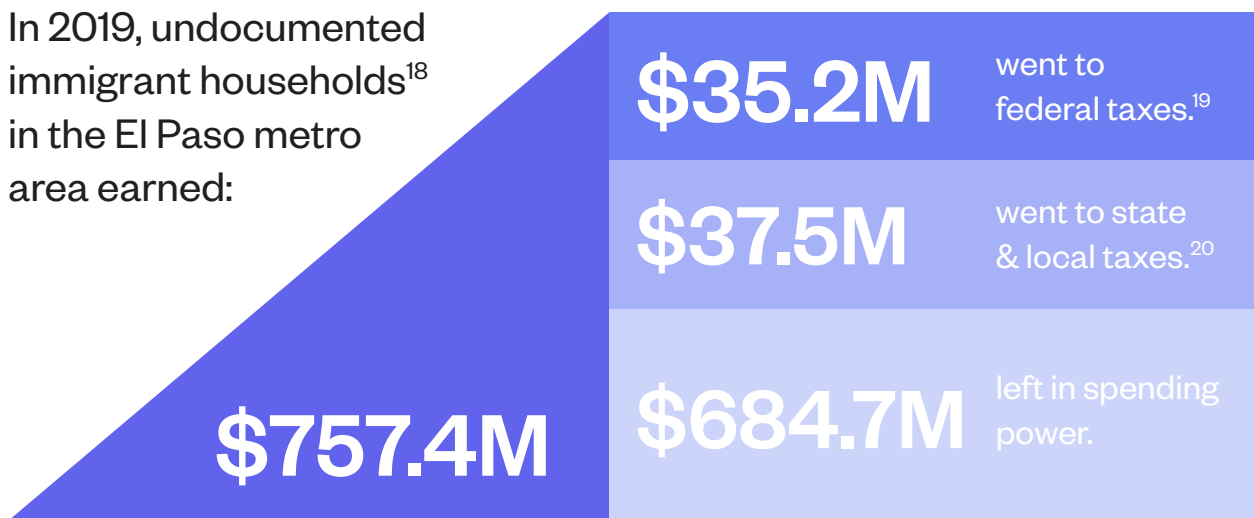


Manufacturing



Professional Services

In 2019, undocumented immigrant households¹⁸ in the El Paso metro area earned:



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.
4. Immigrant households refer to those with an immigrant as head of the unit.
5. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, *The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes*, 2018 (Washington, DC: 2021), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57404>.
6. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States* (Washington, DC: 2018), <https://itep.org/whopays/>.
7. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
8. The following are numerical estimates derived from the 5-year sample of the American Communities Survey from 2014 to 2019 and refer to the El Paso, TX, metropolitan statistical area.
9. General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
10. The following are numerical estimates derived from the 5-year sample of the American Communities Survey from 2014 to 2019 and refer to the El Paso, TX, metropolitan statistical area.
11. Jacob Vigdor, *Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market* (New York, NY: Americas Society/Council of the Americas and New American Economy, 2013), <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/revival-of-american-cities.pdf>.
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.
13. 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.
14. Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
15. Naturalization is the process through which one can become a U.S. citizen, dependent on certain eligibility requirements. Learn more here: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-unitedstates-immigration-systemworks>.
16. 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.
17. New American Economy, *From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*, (New York, NY: 2017), <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/from-struggle-to-resilience-the-economic-impact-of-refugees-in-america/>.
18. Undocumented immigrant households refer to people living in a housing unit with an undocumented immigrant being the head of their unit.
19. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, *The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes*, 2018 (Washington, DC: 2021), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57404>.
20. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States* (Washington, DC: 2018), <https://itep.org/whopays/>.