New Americans in Arlington
A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the City

POPULATION GROWTH

82,600
82,600 immigrants lived in the city in 2019, making up 20.5% of the overall population.

6.5%
Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the city increased from 377,200 to 401,900, or 6.5%.

11.2%
During the same period, the foreign-born population increased from 74,300 to 82,600, or 11.2%.

33.6%
Growth in the foreign born population accounted for 33.6% of the overall population growth during that period.

Top countries of origin for immigrants living in the city:
1. Mexico .................. 39.3%
2. Vietnam .................. 11.9%
3. Nigeria ................... 5.3%
4. El Salvador ............... 4.3%
5. India ..................... 3.5%

SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

The foreign-born population in the city of Arlington holds considerable economic power.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

$2B

$299.1M went to federal taxes.²

$176.7M went to state & local taxes.³

Leaving them with $1.5B in spending power, or 19.9% of all spending power in Arlington.
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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 city had helped create or preserve 3,800 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁵

### SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Immigrants in Arlington also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed $235.5M to Social Security and $57.4M to Medicare.

![Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019](chart)

- 14.2%

![Share of U.S.-born receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019](chart)

- 28.1%

![Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage](chart)

- 51.1%

![Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage](chart)

- 14.7%

### WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up 20.5% of the city’s overall population, they represented 26.4% of its working-age population, 25.9% of its employed labor force, and 22.7% of its STEM workers in 2019.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Immigrant shares of the...</th>
<th>Population 20.5%</th>
<th>Working-age Population 26.4%</th>
<th>Employed Labor Force 25.9%</th>
<th>STEM Workers 22.7%</th>
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Immigrants played a critical role in these key industries in the city:

- Construction 45.9%
- General Services⁴ 40.6%
- Manufacturing 32%
- Hospitality 27.7%
- Transportation and Warehousing 24.6%

Immigrants tend to concentrate in these occupations in the city:

- Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 3.8%
- Construction Laborers 3.6%
- Carpenters 3.1%
- Cooks 3%
- Manicurists and Pedicurists 2.8%

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce...
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Despite making up 20.6% of the overall population, immigrants made up 35.1% of the entrepreneurs in the city in 2019.

In Arlington, immigrants were 54.7% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Immigrant entrepreneurs play a critical role in several key industries:

- General Services: 24.7%
- Construction: 23.6%
- Professional Services: 15.8%
- Retail Trade: 10.1%

Nearly 5,900 immigrants worked for their own businesses, generating $135.1 million in business income.

**EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Share of the city’s population aged 25 or older that held a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2019:

- Foreign-born: 24.3%
- U.S.-born: 30.9%

Share of the city’s population aged 25 or older that held an advanced degree in 2019:

- Foreign-born: 7.6%
- U.S.-born: 10.2%

In fall 2019, 4,788 students enrolled in colleges and universities in the city were temporary residents. These students supported 1,800 local jobs and contributed $134.7M in spending in the 2019 academic year.

**HOUSING WEALTH**

- In 2019, 51.4% of immigrant households in Arlington owned their homes, compared to 57.2% of U.S.-born.
- 48.6% of immigrant households were renters.
- 62.3% of immigrant households lived in houses, while 35.9% lived in apartments.

The total property value of immigrant households: $3B

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households: $157.3M
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**Naturalization**

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens

- **41%**
  - This represents a total of **33,800** immigrants.

Share among the 48,700 non-citizen immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize

- **7.5%**
  - This represents a total of **6,200** immigrants.

**Refugees**

- **10,500** people, or **12.7%** of the foreign-born population, were likely refugees in 2019.

- **78.3%** of refugees in the city were naturalized U.S. citizens.

- The median household income of the refugees in the city in 2019 is **$55,300**.

- **23.4%** of refugees ages 25 and above held a bachelor's degree or higher.

- **4.9%** of refugees ages 25 and above held an advanced degree.

Refugees tend to concentrate in these occupations in the city:

- **General Services**: 18.7%
- **Manufacturing**: 16.2%
- **Health Care and Social Assistance**: 12.5%
- **Retail Trade**: 11.5%
- **Transportation and Warehousing**: 11.5%
31,000
Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or 37.5% of the immigrant population.

Undocumented immigrant households earned $505.2M in 2019.
$29M went to federal taxes and $24.1M went to state and local taxes, leaving them with $452M in spending power.

Undocumented households held 29.5% of foreign-born spending power in Arlington.

Top countries of origin for the undocumented immigrants in the city:
- Mexico: 59.7%
- El Salvador: 6.6%
- Nigeria: 5.6%
- Honduras: 3.8%
- Vietnam: 2.6%

Undocumented immigrants tend to concentrate in these industries in the city:
- Construction: 24.3%
- Hospitality: 18.7%
- Manufacturing: 12.1%
- Professional Services: 11.5%
- General Services: 10.2%

ENDNOTES
1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to the City of Arlington.
4 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 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.
8 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.