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

**POPULATION GROWTH**

133,300 immigrants lived in the city in 2019, making up 15.8% of the overall population.

- Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the city increased from 754,400 to 846,100, or **12.2%**.
- During the same period, the foreign-born population increased from 121,600 to 133,300, or **9.6%**.
- Growth in the foreign born population accounted for **12.8%** of the overall population growth during that period.

- Top countries of origin for immigrants living in the city:
  1. Mexico ................. 58.2%
  2. Vietnam ................. 4.3%
  3. India ...................... 2.8%
  4. El Salvador ............... 2.2%
  5. Honduras ................ 2.2%

**SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

**Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:**

- **$3.4B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount went to</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal taxes</td>
<td><strong>$528.3M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; local taxes</td>
<td><strong>$296M</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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1. immigrants living in the city
2. went to federal taxes.
3. went to state & local taxes.
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 **6,100 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere. 

**SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)**

Immigrants in Fort Worth also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed **$374M** to Social Security and **$94.1M** to Medicare.

- **Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019:** 14.5%
- **Share of U.S.-born receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019:** 29.7%
- **Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage:** 45.8%
- **Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage:** 14.8%

**WORKFORCE**

Although the foreign-born population made up 15.8% of the city’s overall population, they represented 20.9% of its working-age population, 20.2% of its employed labor force, and 15.3% of its STEM workers in 2019.

**Immigrant shares of the...**

- **Population:** 15.8%
- **Working-age Population:** 20.9%
- **Employed Labor Force:** 20.2%
- **STEM Workers:** 15.3%

Immigrants played a critical role in these key industries in the city:

- **Construction:** 46.7%
- **Manufacturing:** 29.1%
- **General Services**: 26.8%
- **Hospitality:** 22.9%
- **Transportation and Warehousing:** 19.5%

Immigrants tend to concentrate in these occupations in the city:

- **Construction Laborers:** 5.9%
- **Cooks:** 3.8%
- **Janitors and Building Cleaners:** 3.4%
- **Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners:** 2.9%
- **Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers:** 2.6%

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Despite making up 15.8% of the overall population, immigrants made up 24.7% of the entrepreneurs in the city in 2019.

In the city, immigrants were 28.9% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Immigrant entrepreneurs play a critical role in several key industries:

- Construction: 30.1%
- General Services: 16.6%
- Professional Services: 14.1%
- Retail Trade: 13%
- Hospitality: 9.5%

Nearly 8,500 immigrants worked for their own businesses, generating $243 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: 17.5%
- U.S.-born: 32.2%

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

- Foreign-born: 6.1%
- U.S.-born: 10.2%

In 2019, 60.4% of immigrant households in Fort Worth owned their homes, compared to 59.9% of U.S.-born. 39.6% of immigrant households were renters. 76.9% of immigrant households lived in houses, while 20.7% lived in apartments.

The total property value of immigrant households: $4.9B

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households: $197.6M

In fall 2019, 1,770 students enrolled in colleges and universities in the city were temporary residents.

These students supported 700 local jobs and contributed $55.5M in spending in the 2019 academic year.

In the city, 4.7% of public school students under 18 who were born abroad...
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**NATURALIZATION**

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens

- **34.7%**

This represents a total of 46,200 immigrants.

Share among the 87,100 non-citizen immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize

- **7.9%**

This represents a total of 10,500 immigrants.

**REFUGEES**

- **11,100** people, or 8.3% of the foreign-born population, were likely refugees in 2019.

- **$54,870** The median household income of the refugees in the city in 2019.

- **54.5%** of refugees in the city were naturalized U.S. citizens.

- **16.6%** of refugees ages 25 and above held a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Refugees tend to concentrate in these occupations in the city:

- Manufacturing: 20%
- Transportation and Warehousing: 15.9%
- General Services: 13.1%
- Retail Trade: 12.1%
- Hospitality: 10%
54,400
Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or 40.8% of the immigrant population.

Undocumented immigrant households earned $991.8M in 2019.

- $62.6M went to federal taxes\(^6\) and
- $46.2M went to state and local taxes\(^11\)
leaving them with $883.1M in spending power.

Undocumented households held 34% of foreign-born spending power in Fort Worth.

Top countries of origin for the undocumented immigrants in the city:

- Mexico: 76.3%
- Honduras: 4%
- El Salvador: 3.3%
- India: 1.6%
- Nigeria: 1.1%

Undocumented immigrants tend to concentrate in these industries in the city:

- Construction: 33.1%
- Hospitality: 14.7%
- Manufacturing: 14.3%
- Professional Services: 9.2%
- General Services: 7.4%

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 Fort Worth.
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.