New Americans in Odessa
The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area

In 2019, foreign-born residents in Odessa contributed $2.3B to the metro area's GDP, or 17.7% of the total.

The foreign-born population in Odessa holds considerable economic power.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

- $117.7M went to federal taxes.
- $56.7M went to state & local taxes.

Leaving them with $513M in spending power, or 16.9% of all spending power in Odessa, more than their 13.5% share of the population.
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SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Immigrants in Odessa also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed $72.3M to Social Security and $19.6M to Medicare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>U.S.-born</th>
<th>Immigrants</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
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</tbody>
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WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up 13.5% of the metro area's overall population, they represented 18.1% of its working-age population, 17.6% of its employed labor force, and 8% of its STEM workers in 2019.

Immigrants played a critical role in these key industries in the metro area:

- Construction: 30.7%
- General Services: 22.6%
- Health Care and Social Assistance: 21.5%
- Hospitality: 20.2%
- Transportation and Warehousing: 19.2%

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

- Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers: 9%
- Construction Laborers: 5.8%

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 1,000 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.6
**Entrepreneurship**

Despite making up 13.5% of the overall population, immigrants made up 28.2% of the entrepreneurs in the metro area in 2019.

- **2,100** foreign-born people worked for their own businesses, generating **$112.7M** in business income.
- In the metro area, immigrants were 84.2% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

**Education and Long-term Economic Impacts**

- Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or older that held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019:
  - Foreign-born: 12.7%
  - U.S.-born: 16%

- Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or older that held an advanced degree in 2019:
  - Foreign-born: 3%
  - U.S.-born: 4.2%

In fall 2019, **179 students** enrolled in colleges and universities in the city were temporary residents. 7

**Housing Wealth**

- In 2019, 62.5% of immigrant households in Odessa owned their homes, compared to 65.4% of U.S.-born households.
- 37.5% of immigrant households were renters.
- 58% of immigrant households lived in houses, while 19% lived in apartments.

- The total property value of immigrant households: **$724.7M**
- The total annual rent paid by immigrant households: **$34.5M**
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### Naturalization

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens: **35.2%**

This represents a total of **7,600** immigrants.

Share among the **14,000** non-citizen immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize: **10.8%**

This represents a total of **2,300** immigrants.

### Undocumented Immigrants

**7,400**

Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or **34.2%** of the immigrant population.

Undocumented immigrant households earned **$138.5M** in 2019.

- **$9.7M** went to federal taxes
- **$6.4M** went to state and local taxes

Leaving them with **$122.3M** in spending power.

Undocumented households held **23.8%** of foreign-born spending power in Odessa.

83.2% of undocumented immigrants in the metro area were from **Mexico**.

Undocumented immigrants tend to concentrate in these industries in the metro area:

- **Construction** 26.6%
- **Hospitality** 15.8%
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 Odessa Metropolitan Area.

2 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 of GDP from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S.


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


7 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.
