New Americans in Tarrant County
The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County

In 2019, foreign-born residents in Tarrant County contributed $19.9B to the county’s GDP, or 16.6% of the total.

The foreign-born population in Tarrant County holds considerable economic power.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

$9.5B

$1.6B went to federal taxes.

$783.3M went to state & local taxes.

Leaving them with $7.1B in spending power, or 15.6% of all spending power in Tarrant County.
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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 county had helped create or preserve **15,200 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.6

SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Immigrants in Tarrant County also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed **$1B** to Social Security and **$262.1M** to Medicare.

- **Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019**: 14.2%
- **Share of U.S.-born receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2019**: 27.4%
- **Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage**: 51.2%
- **Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage**: 14.6%

WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up **16.1%** of the county’s overall population, they represented **21.1%** of its working-age population, **20.5%** of its employed labor force, and **18.4%** of its STEM workers in 2019.

Immigrants played a critical role in these key industries in Tarrant County:

- **Construction**: 42.2%
- **General Services**: 29.1%
- **Manufacturing**: 27.4%
- **Hospitality**: 24%
- **Transportation and Warehousing**: 19.4%

Immigrants tend to concentrate in these occupations in the county:

- **Construction Laborers**: 4.4%
- **Cooks**: 3.6%
- **Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners**: 2.9%
- **Janitors and Building Cleaners**: 2.7%
- **Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers**: 2.6%

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**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Despite making up 16.1% of the overall population, immigrants made up 25% of the entrepreneurs in the county in 2019.

Immigrants entrepreneurs tended to work in these industries in Tarrant County:
- **Construction**: 24.3%
- **General Services**: 19.8%
- **Professional Services**: 15.3%
- **Retail Trade**: 12.4%
- **Hospitality**: 8.5%

22,000 foreign-born people worked for their own businesses, generating $592.2M in business income.

In the county, immigrants were 29.3% more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

**Share of the population who were entrepreneurs:**
- Foreign-born: 10.5%
- U.S.-born: 8.1%

EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Share of the county's population aged 25 or older that held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019:
- **Foreign-born**: 23.8%
- **U.S.-born**: 34.2%

Share of the county's population aged 25 or older that held an advanced degree in 2019:
- **Foreign-born**: 8.8%
- **U.S.-born**: 10.9%

6,578 students enrolled in colleges and universities in the county were temporary residents in fall 2019. These students supported 2,400 local jobs and contributed $190.1M in spending in the 2019 academic year.

5.1% of public school students under 18 were born abroad.
In 2019, 57.3% of immigrant households in Tarrant County owned their homes, compared to 61.1% of U.S.-born households.

The total property value of immigrant households: $14.7B

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households: $569.4M

70.4% of immigrant households lived in houses.

27.3% of immigrant households lived in apartments.

42.7% of immigrant households were renters.

57.3% of immigrant households owned their homes.

43% of foreign-born households.

57% of U.S.-born households.

42.7% of immigrant households were renters.

The housing wealth:

- 70.4% lived in houses.
- 27.3% lived in apartments.
- 42.7% were renters.

The total property value of immigrant households:

- $14.7B

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households:

- $569.4M

39.2% of immigrants were naturalized U.S. citizens. This represented 129,700 immigrants.

7.8% of non-citizen immigrants were likely eligible to be naturalized. This represented 25,800 immigrants.
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31,600 people, or 9.6% of the foreign-born population were likely refugees in 2019.

66.6% of refugees in the county were naturalized U.S. citizens.

$55,300 The median household income of the refugees in the county in 2019.

22.1% of refugees ages 25 and above held a bachelor’s degree or higher.

5.1% of refugees ages 25 and above held an advanced degree.

Refugees tend to concentrate in these occupations in the county:

- Manufacturing: 17.7%
- General Services: 15%
- Transportation and Warehousing: 13.8%
- Retail Trade: 11.5%
- Health Care and Social Assistance: 9.8%

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124,500 Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or 37.6% of the immigrant population.

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

- Mexico: 67.4%
- El Salvador: 4.4%
- Honduras: 3.3%
- Nigeria: 2.3%
- India: 2.2%
Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2019:

$147.8M went to federal taxes.¹

$105.5M went to state & local taxes.¹²

Leaving them with $2B in spending power, or 28.7% of all foreign-born spending power in Tarrant County.

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

- Construction: 27%
- Hospitality: 16.6%
- Manufacturing: 13.6%
- Professional Services: 10.1%
- Retail Trade: 8.9%

Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2019:

$2.3B

ENDNOTES

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Tarrant County.

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 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.

8 Data on total student enrollment in the county 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.

