



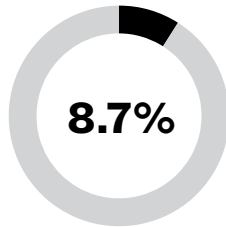
New Americans in Waco

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area¹

POPULATION GROWTH

23,500

immigrants lived in the metro area in 2019, making up **8.7%** of the overall population.



Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the metro area increased from 257,300 to 269,200, or

4.6%



During the same period, the foreign-born population increased from 21,800 to 23,500, or

7.9%



Growth in the foreign born population accounted for

14.5%

of the overall population growth during that period.

Of the **119,800** people working in the metro area, **14,000**, or



12%,

were foreign-born.²

Top countries of origin for immigrants living in Waco:

1. Mexico **71.9%**
2. Canada..... **2.4%**
3. China..... **1.9%**
4. Germany..... **1.7%**
5. El Salvador..... **1.6%**

SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2019, foreign-born residents in Waco contributed **\$1.2B** to the metro area's GDP, or **8.9%** of the total.³

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

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

\$538.9M

\$72.5M

 went to federal taxes.⁴

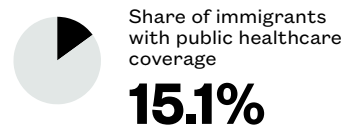
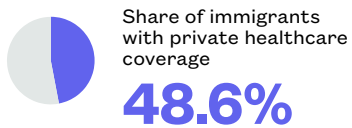
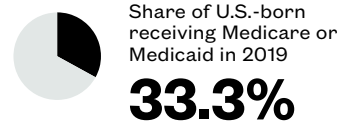
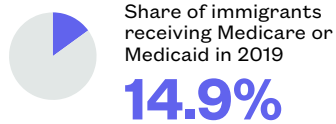
\$48.8M

 went to state & local taxes.⁵

Leaving them with **\$417.7M** in spending power, or **8.8%** of all spending power in Waco, more than their **8.7%** share of the population.

SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

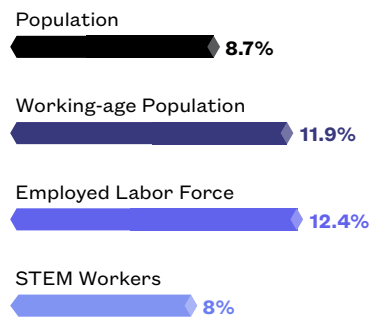
Immigrants in Waco also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed **\$52.8M** to Social Security and **\$13.1M** to Medicare.



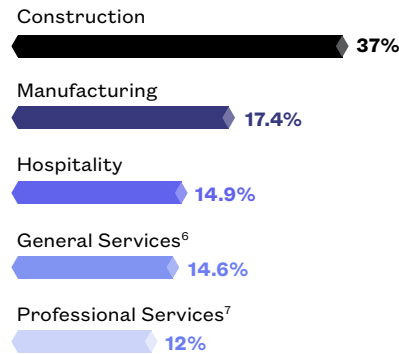
WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up **8.7%** of the metro area's overall population, they represented **11.9%** of its working-age population, **12.4%** of its employed labor force, and **8%** of its STEM workers in 2019.

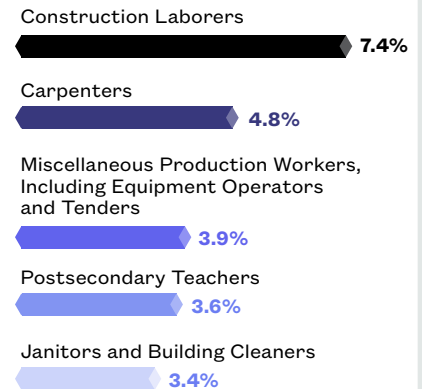
Immigrant shares of the...



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



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



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 **1,100 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁸

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

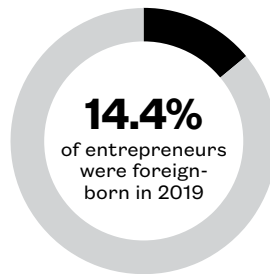
1,400

foreign-born people worked for their own businesses, generating

\$23.7M

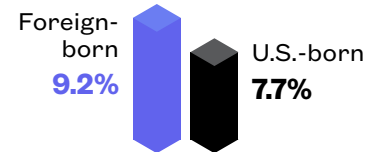
in business income.

Despite making up **8.7%** of the overall population, immigrants made up **14.4%** of the entrepreneurs in the metro area in 2019.



In the metro area, immigrants were **18.6%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Share of the population who were entrepreneurs:

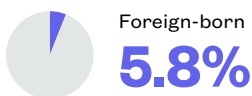


EDUCATION AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or older that held a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2019:



Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or older that held an **advanced degree** in 2019:



950 students

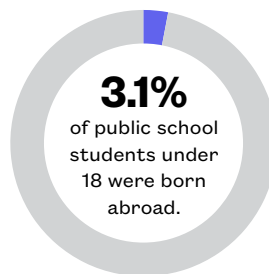
enrolled in colleges and universities in the metro area were temporary residents in fall 2019.⁹ These students supported

800 local jobs

and contributed

\$56M

in spending in the 2019 academic year.¹⁰



HOUSING WEALTH

In 2019, **66.7%** of immigrant households in Waco owned their homes, compared to **59.1%** of U.S.-born households.

33.3% of immigrant households were renters.

80.1% of immigrant households lived in houses, while **14%** lived in apartments.

The total property value of immigrant households

\$806.9M

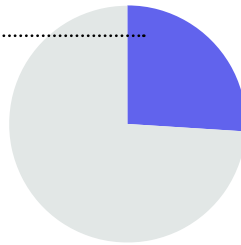
The total annual rent paid by immigrant households

\$24M

NATURALIZATION

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens
26.2%

This represents a total of
6,200 immigrants.



Share among the **17,400** non-citizen immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize

10.8%

This represents a total of
2,500 immigrants.

REFUGEES

600

people, or



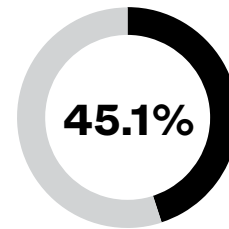
2.4%

of the foreign-born population, were likely refugees in 2019.¹¹

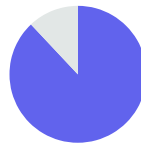
UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

10,600

Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or **45.1%** of the immigrant population.



45.1%



88.2%

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

Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2019:

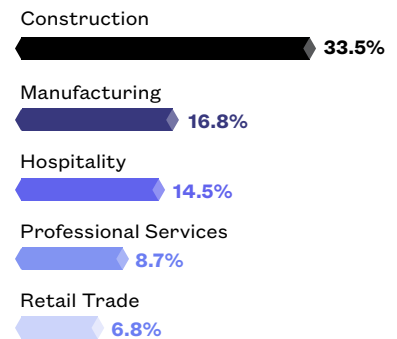
\$182.7M

\$9M went to federal taxes.¹²

\$9M went to state & local taxes.¹³

Leaving them with **\$164.7M** in spending power, or **39.4%** of all foreign-born spending power in Waco.

Undocumented immigrants played a critical role in these key industries:



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 Waco Metropolitan Area.
- 2 Due to the data limitations of the Public Use Microdata Area for locations of people's primary workplace, the data does not include people working in parts of the Waco Metropolitan Area that are likely to have a very small number of workers, resulting in a slight undercount of the overall number of workers.
- 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 of GDP from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S..
- 4 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 5 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 6 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 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." *New American Economy*.
- 9 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.
- 10 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 11 *New American Economy*. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."
- 12 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 13 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."