



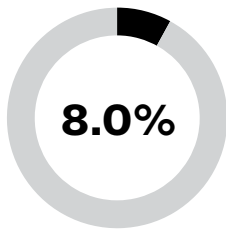
New Americans in Omaha-Council Bluffs

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area¹

POPULATION GROWTH

73,900

immigrants lived in the metro area in 2019, making up 8.0% of the overall population.



Between 2014 and 2019, the overall population in the metro area increased from 836,500 to 929,200, or

11.1%



During the same period, the foreign-born population increased from 58,900 to 73,900, or

25.4%



Growth in the foreign born population accounted for **16.1%** of the overall population growth during that period

Top countries of origin for immigrants living in the metro area:

1. Mexico **33.2%**
2. India.....**6.5%**
3. Guatemala.....**4.3%**
4. Myanmar.....**3.6%**
5. El Salvador.....**3.4%**

SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

The foreign-born population in the metro area holds considerable economic power. In 2019, foreign-born residents in the metro area contributed **\$5.1 billion** to the metro area's GDP.²

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2019:

\$1.9B

\$301.8M

 went to federal taxes.³

\$182.0M

 went to state & local taxes.⁴

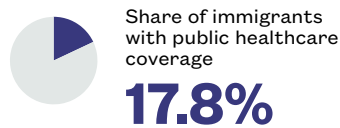
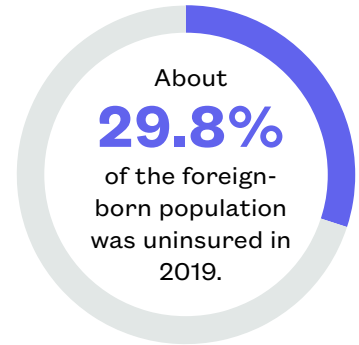
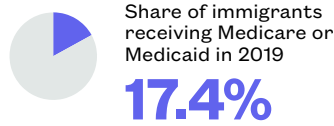
Leaving them with **\$1.4B** in spending power, or **6.4%** of all spending power for the metro area.



SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

Foreign-born residents also supported federal social programs.

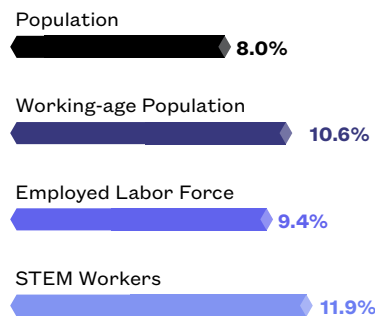
In 2019, immigrants in the metro area contributed **\$211.6M** to Social Security and **\$55.8M** to Medicare.



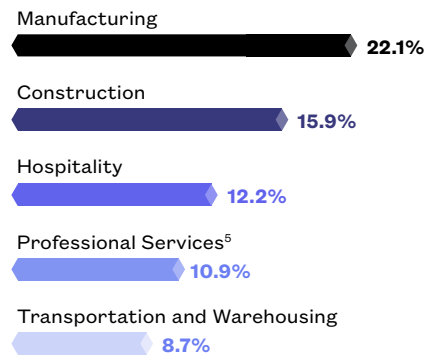
WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born population made up **8.0%** of the metro area's overall population, they represented **10.6%** of its working-age population, **9.4%** of its employed labor force, and **11.9%** of its STEM workers in 2019.

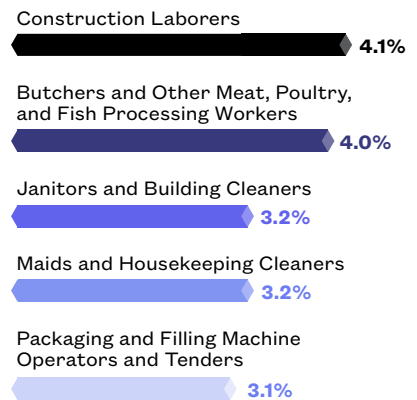
Immigrant shares of the...



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



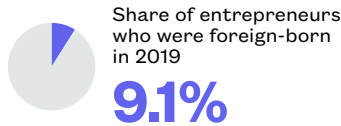
Immigrants tend to concentrate in these occupations in the metro area:



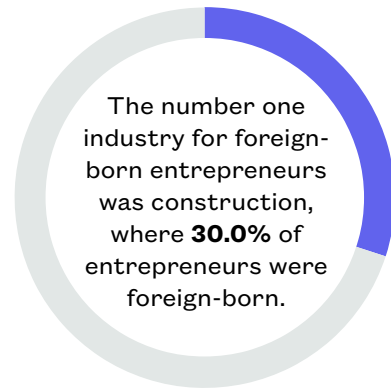
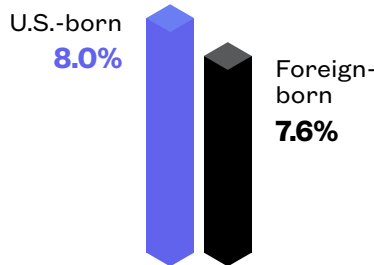
Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that, by 2019, immigrants living in the metro area had helped create or preserve **3,400 local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.⁶

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Despite making up **8.0%** of the overall population, immigrants made up **9.1%** of the entrepreneurs in the metro area in 2019.



Share of the population who were self-employed:



About **3,500** immigrants worked for their own businesses, generating **\$79.9M** in business income.

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:



In fall 2019,

1,732 students

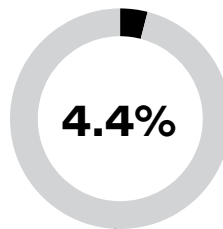
enrolled in colleges and universities in the metro area were temporary residents.⁷ These students supported

400 local jobs

and contributed

\$50.2M

in spending in the 2019 academic year.⁸



Share of public school students under 18 who were born abroad

HOUSING WEALTH

In 2019, **45.6%** of immigrant households in the metro area owned their homes, compared to **66.6%** of U.S.-born households.

54.4% of immigrant households were renters.

60.2% of immigrant households lived in houses, while **35.5%** lived in apartments.

The total property value of immigrant households

\$2.5B

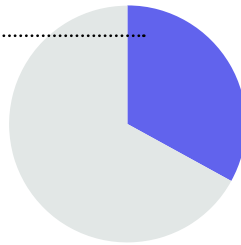
The total annual rent paid by immigrant households

\$132.6M

NATURALIZATION

Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens
33.3%

This represents a total of **24,600** immigrants.

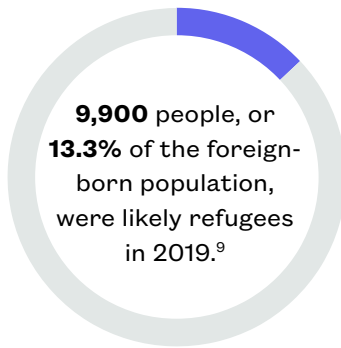


Share among the 49,000 non-citizen immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize

9.4%

This represents a total of **7,000** immigrants.

REFUGEES



9,900 people, or **13.3%** of the foreign-born population, were likely refugees in 2019.⁹



31.5%

of refugees in the metro area were naturalized U.S. citizens, or **3,100**.



15.8%

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

\$35,000

The median household income of the refugees in the metro area in 2019.



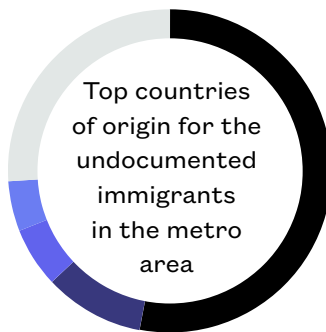
40.6%

of refugees worked in the **manufacturing industry**.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

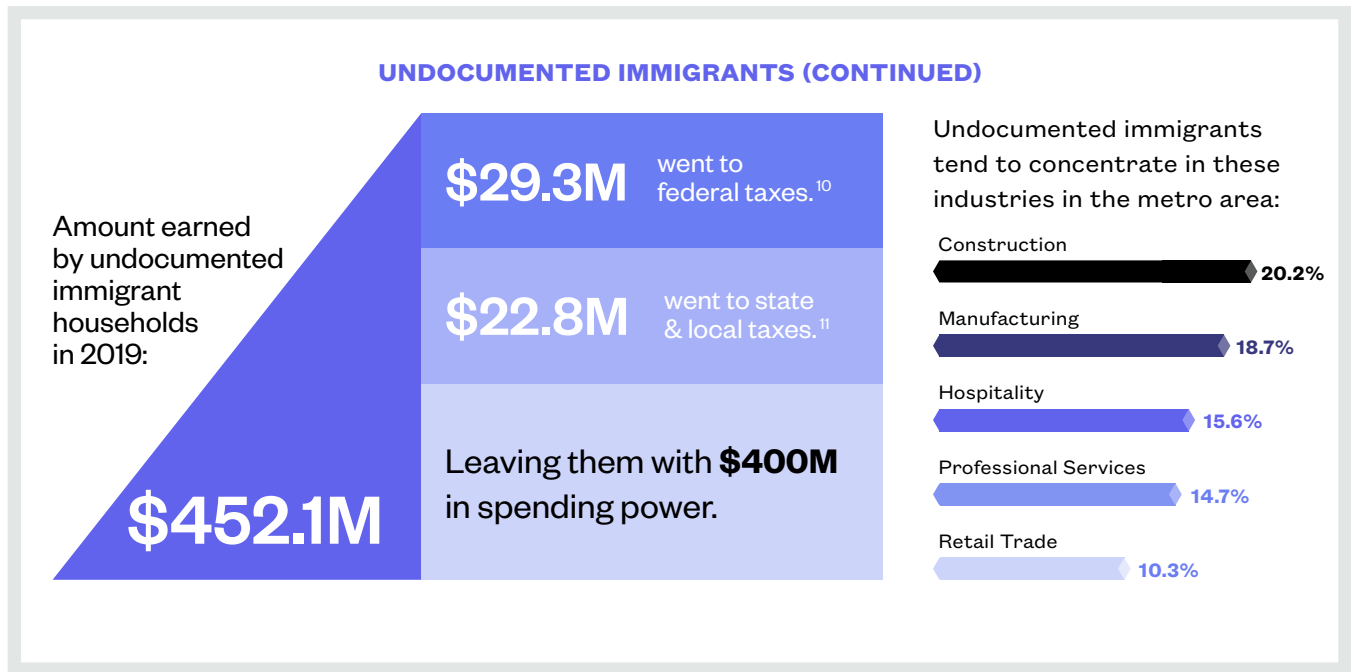
25,000

Estimated number of undocumented immigrants in 2019, or **33.8%** of the immigrant population.



Top countries of origin for the undocumented immigrants in the metro area

- Mexico **52.7%**
- Guatemala **10.2%**
- El Salvador **6.3%**
- India **5.3%**



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 metropolitan statistical area of Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA.
- 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.
- 3 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."
- 4 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 5 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.
- 6 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market"; New American Economy.
- 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.
- 8 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 9 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."
- 10 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2020. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2017."
- 11 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."