

Immigrants Drive the Texas Economy

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Immigrants of all statuses contribute to the Texas economy, pay tuition at state colleges and universities, and participate as active members of our society.

Our state’s tradition of common-sense immigration policies has been critical to our economic prosperity and competitiveness.

Texas should continue to lead with smart policies that provide pathways to opportunity for all immigrants in Texas.

Immigrants Contribute to Our Economy

- Immigrants of all statuses made up 20.6 percent of the Texas labor force in 2015, and are most heavily concentrated as providers of educational, health care and social assistance services.¹
- Immigrants contribute to the Texas economy as small business owners and entrepreneurs: 9.4 percent of immigrants in Texas are self-employed, compared to just 5.8 percent of the Native-born population.²
- Immigrants in Texas earned \$119 billion in wage, salary, and self-employment income in 2015.³
- Undocumented immigrants in Texas pay about \$1.5 billion in state and local taxes annually.⁴

Share of Texas Labor Force by Industry, 2015 - Top 5 Industries⁵

INDUSTRY	Native Born	Foreign Born
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	23.2%	16.0%
Construction	5.9%	14.7%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	10.8%	11.9%
Manufacturing	8.5%	11.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	8.3%	11.2%
All Other Industries	43.3%	34.8%

Facts about Immigrants in Texas

- There were 4.3 million immigrants living in Texas in 2014, comprising 16.5 percent of the total Texas population.⁶
- Of the 4.3 million immigrants living in Texas in 2014, an estimated 1.7 million were undocumented immigrants.⁷
- Undocumented immigrants made up an estimated six percent of the total Texas population in 2014.⁸

This fact sheet refers to Texas immigrants as any foreign-born resident regardless of immigration or U.S. citizenship status.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0501, https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0501/0400000US48.

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0501, https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0501/0400000US48.

³ CPPP estimate based on data the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

⁴ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions, February, 2016, http://itep.org/itep_reports/2016/02/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-1.php.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0501, https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0501/0400000US48.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0501, https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0501/0400000US48.

⁷ Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), <http://www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-trends/>.

⁸ CPPP estimate based on data from the Pew Research Center and U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.