New Americans in San Antonio
The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the City

Population Growth

Immigrants made up 13.5% of the total population in the City of San Antonio in 2017.

8.7% of total population growth in the city was attributable to immigrants.

Between 2012 and 2017, the population in the city increased by: 8.2%, from 1,373,247 to 1,485,672.

200,081 immigrants lived in the city in 2017. Their top five countries of origin were:

1. Mexico .................................... 64.8%
2. India .......................................... 4.4%
3. Philippines ..................................... 2.4%
4. Afghanistan ................................... 1.6%
5. El Salvador ................................... 1.6%

The immigrant population grew by: 5.2%, from 190,265 to 200,081.

Spending Power & Tax Contributions

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

Amount earned by immigrant households in 2017:

$4.6B

Spending Power:

$674.8M went to federal taxes.²

$369.2M went to state and local taxes.³

Leaving them with $3.6B in spending power.
Foreign-born households held **14.1% of all spending power** in the city, more than their **13.5% share** of the population.

Imigrants in the city also supported federal social programs. In 2017, they contributed **$531.7M** to Social Security and **$134.5M** to Medicare.

- **21.9%** of immigrants in the city received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **32.0%** of U.S.-born residents in 2017.

**Workforce**

Although the foreign-born made up **13.5%** of the city's overall population, they represented **16.1%** of its working-age population, **16.6%** of its employed labor force, and **19%** of its STEM workers in 2017.
Workforce Continued

Immigrants played a critical role in several **key industries** in the city. This included:

- **34.8%** of workers in the construction industry were foreign-born in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
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**Immigrant Share of Population:** 13.5%

Immigrants tended to work in these **occupations** in the city in 2017:

- **SHARE OF IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**
  - 5.9%
- Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners: 4.6%
- Cooks: 4.4%
- Hand laborers & Material Movers: 2.9%
- Janitors & Building Cleaners: 2.9%
- Truck drivers: 2.6%
- Carpenters: 2.6%
- Other Occupations: 74.1%

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that:

**Immigrants living in the city had helped create or preserve 9,204 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2017.**
Entrepreneurship

Despite making up 13.5% of the population, immigrants made up 30.3% of the business owners in the city in 2017. This is higher than the national average of 21.1% of business owners.

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF POPULATION IN THE CITY

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF ENTREPRENEURS IN THE CITY

IMMIGRANT SHARE OF ENTREPRENEURS IN THE U.S.


$360.7M in business income was generated for the city by immigrant entrepreneurs that year.

Immigrant entrepreneurs tended to work in these key industries:

- CONSTRUCTION ................................ 25.4%
- GENERAL SERVICES ................................ 23.0%
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ..................... 17.2%
- HOSPITALITY ...................................... 7.9%
- TRANSPORTATION .................................. 7.4%
- OTHER INDUSTRIES ............................... 19.1%

Education

Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017:

- 27.6% of U.S.-born

Share of the city's population aged 25 or above that held an advanced degree in 2017:

- 22.2% of Immigrants
- 10.1% of U.S.-born
- 8.9% of Immigrants
Education Continued

3,005 students who were enrolled in colleges and universities in the city during the fall of 2015 were temporary residents.9

797 local jobs were supported by international students.

$85.7M was spent by international students in the 2017-18 academic year.10

3.6% of public school students under 18 were born abroad.

Housing Wealth

In 2017, 53.4% of immigrant households in the city owned their own homes, compared to 56.5% of U.S.-born households. 46.6% of immigrant households were renters.

Immigrant Households

- 66.6% Lived in Houses
- 31.4% Lived in Apartments
- 2.0% No response

Total property value of immigrant households: $6.9B

Their total annual rent paid: $343.6M
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Naturalization

Share of immigrants in the city who were naturalized U.S. citizens. This represents a total of **83,064** immigrants. Nationally, **49.4%** of all immigrants are naturalized.

Refugees

**9,328** immigrants were likely refugees in 2017.

**4.7%** of the foreign-born population were likely refugees.

Their median annual income: **$54,000**

Undocumented Immigrants

**31.6%** of the foreign-born population were undocumented.

**63,157** undocumented immigrants lived in the city in 2017. Their top five countries of origin were:

1. Mexico ........................................... 75.6%
2. India ............................................ 4.4%
3. Pakistan ........................................ 2.6%
4. Guatemala ..................................... 2.0%
5. Honduras ..................................... 1.8%

Share among the 117,017 who were not citizens but potentially eligible for naturalization. This represents a total of **35,465** immigrants.
Undocumented Immigrants Continued

Amount earned by undocumented immigrant households in 2017:

$1.1B

After taxes, this left them with $974.3M in spending power.

Undocumented immigrants tended to work in these key industries in 2017:

- **Construction**: 28.3%
- **Hospitality**: 18.0%
- **Professional Services**: 12.1%
- **General Services**: 10.0%
- **Finance**: 6.4%
- **Other Industries**: 25.2%

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1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2012 and 2017 and figures refer to the City of San Antonio, Texas.
4. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
5. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
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.
9. Data on total student enrollment in the city 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.