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

POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2012 and 2017, the population in the county increased by 6.7%.
The immigrant population grew by 14.8%.

- Share of population growth attributed to immigrants, 2012-2017: 50.1%
- Share of the population: 24.5%
- Immigrant population: 640,376
- Share of commuters who were foreign-born, 2017: 27.8%
- Commuters: 1,597,401
- Foreign-born commuters: 443,452

Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the county:
- Mexico (53.4%), India (6.9%), El Salvador (6.4%), Vietnam (3.4%), and Honduras (3.2%)

SPENDING POWER & TAXES

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 foreign-born households in 2017:

- $17.5B

Leaving them with $13.4B in spending power.
This means that foreign-born households held 24.3% of all spending power in the area.
SPENDING POWER & TAXES (CONTINUED)

Amount contributed to GDP by the foreign-born

$71.8B

Share of total GDP contributed by the foreign-born

25%

In 2017, immigrants contributed $1.9B to Social Security and $483.5M to Medicare.

Share of immigrants receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2017

14.6%

Share of U.S.-born receiving Medicare or Medicaid in 2017

32.9%

Share of immigrants with private healthcare coverage

44.7%

Share of immigrants with public healthcare coverage

14.8%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immigrants tended to work in these occupations in the county in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Workers</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maids &amp; Housekeepers</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds Maintainers</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Drivers</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painters</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developers</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that immigrants living in the county helped create or preserve 29,457 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere by 2017.

WORKFORCE

Although the foreign-born made up 24.5% of the county’s overall population, they represented 32.1% of its working-age population, 32.2% of its employed labor force, and 31.2% of its STEM workers in 2017.

Immigrant shares of the...
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Despite making up 24.5% of the population, immigrants made up 40.0% of the business owners in county in 2017.

- Share of entrepreneurs who were foreign-born in 2017: 40%
- Share of the population who were entrepreneurs:
  - Foreign-born: 11.5%
  - U.S.-born: 8.2%

In 2012, African American-owned businesses in the county generated $2.3B in sales and 17,538 jobs.

Asian-owned businesses generated $10.4B in sales and 56,794 jobs.

Hispanic-owned businesses generated $7.1B in sales and 36,828 jobs.¹⁰

48,228 immigrant entrepreneurs generated $1.2B in business income for the county.

**EDUCATION**

Number of international students enrolled in colleges and universities in the county during the fall of 2015 who were temporary residents.¹¹

- 3,553

Local jobs supported by international students in the 2017-18 academic year

- 2,319

Spending contributions by international students in the 2017-18 academic year¹²

- $209.1M

Share of public school students under 18 who were born abroad

- 7.9%

**NATURALIZATION**

- Share of immigrants who were naturalized U.S. citizens: 29.4%
- Share of immigrants who were likely eligible to naturalize: 14.4%

This represents a total of 188,077 immigrants.

This represents a total of 92,009 immigrants.

**HOUSING WEALTH**

- Share of immigrant households who were homeowners: 47.2%
- Share of immigrant households who were renters: 52.8%

The total property value of immigrant households:

- $26.1B

The total annual rent paid by immigrant households:

- $1.5B
New Americans in Dallas County

**REFUGEES**

- **Share of immigrants who were likely refugees in 2017**: 5.5%
- **Share of refugees who were naturalized citizens in 2017**: 57.8%

**34,924** immigrants were likely refugees in 2017.

**20,172** refugees were naturalized citizens in 2017.

**Median household income of refugees in the county**: $38,800

- **Share of the county's refugee population aged 25 or older that held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017**: 24.3%
- **Share of refugees who were naturalized citizens in 2017**: 57.8%

**Share of the county's refugee population aged 25 or older that held an advanced degree in 2017**: 6.2%

**Top industries by undocumented share of workforce**: 
- **Construction**: 31.6%
- **Hospitality**: 15.9%
- **Professional Services**: 11.9%
- **Manufacturing**: 9.7%
- **Retail Trade**: 8.6%

**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

- **Number of undocumented immigrants in 2017**: 305,196
- **Share of immigrants who were undocumented in 2017**: 47.7%

**Top countries of origin for the undocumented in the county:**
- Mexico (60.4%)
- El Salvador (8.7%)
- Honduras (5.5%)
- India (4.7%)
- Guatemala (2.4%)

**Undocumented immigrant households earned $5.9B in 2017.**

- **$368.6M** went to federal taxes and **$249.9M** went to state and local taxes, leaving them with **$5.3B** in spending power.
1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2012 and 2017 and figures refer to Dallas County, Texas.


4 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 1-year ACS sample from 2017 and the statistics of GDP from the National Association of Counties.

5 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.

6 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

7 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

8 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.


10 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau

11 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.

12 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.