

# Immigrants in East Texas

The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in East Texas Communities, including Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties.<sup>1</sup>

## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

**15,800**

Number of immigrant homeowners in 2021

**\$2.7B**

Total property value of immigrant households

**\$36.8M**

Total annual rent paid by immigrant households

**4,000**

Number of immigrant entrepreneurs in 2021

**15.6%**

Immigrant share of entrepreneurs in the region

**\$99.4M**

Business income generated by immigrant entrepreneurs in 2021

Immigrants were **61.7%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

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 2021:

**\$1.4B**

**\$188.4M** went to federal taxes.<sup>2</sup>

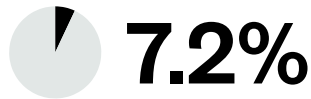
**\$123.8M** went to state & local taxes.<sup>3</sup>

Leaving them with **\$1.1B** in spending power, or **8.0%** of all spending power in the region.

DEMOGRAPHICS

**47,700**

Immigrant population in the region in 2021. This represents



of the total population.

**17,200**

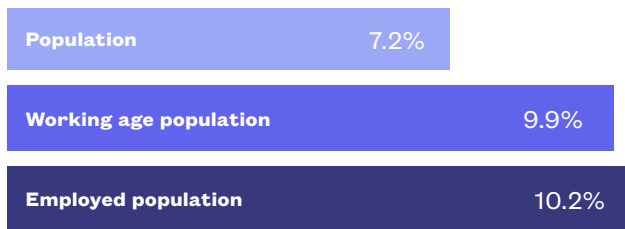
Number of immigrants eligible to vote in the region. This represents



of the immigrant population in the East Texas region.

Although immigrants made up **7.2%** of the region's overall population, they represented **9.9%** of its working age<sup>4</sup> population and **10.2%** of its employed population in 2021.

Immigrant shares of the...



**84.2%**

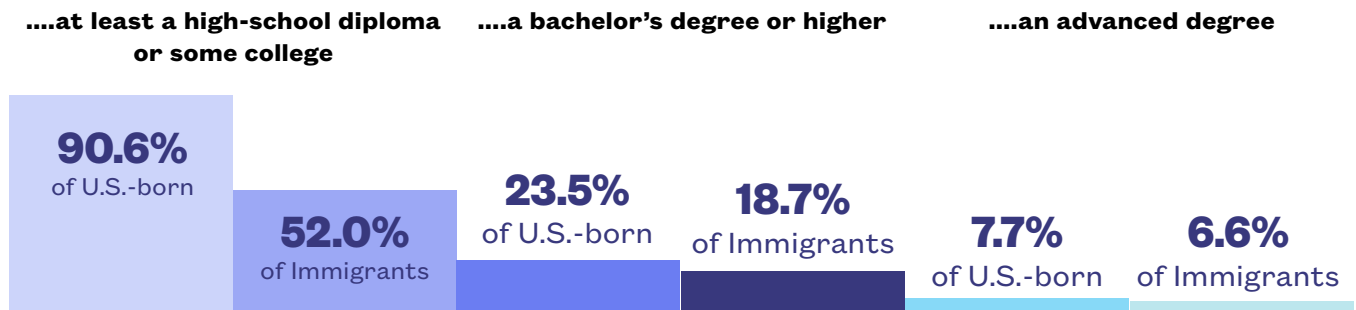
of the immigrant population were of working age, in contrast to

**59.5%**

of the U.S.-born population.

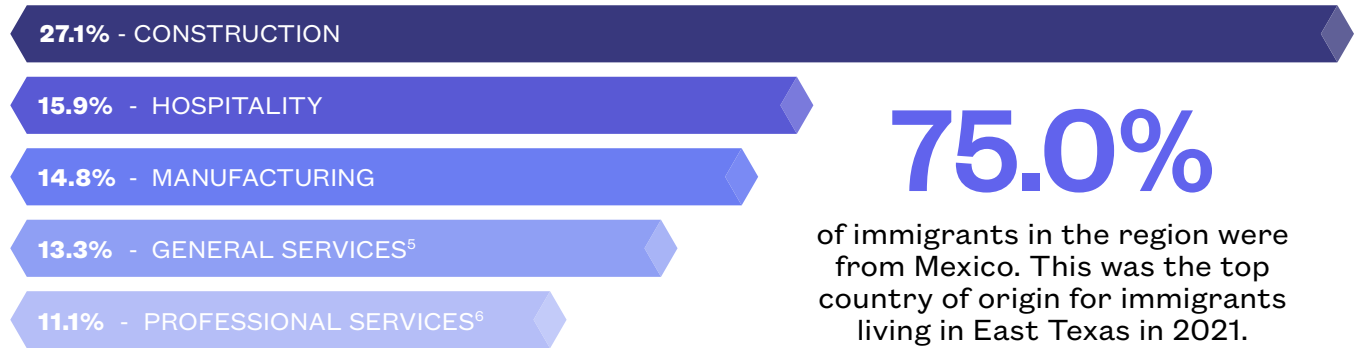


Share of the region's population aged 25 or older that, in 2021, held....



**DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)**

Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the region. The industries with the largest number of immigrant workers were:



**75.0%**

of immigrants in the region were from Mexico. This was the top country of origin for immigrants living in East Texas in 2021.

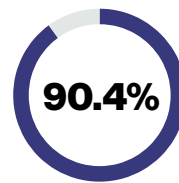
**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

**20,300**

Undocumented immigrants\* lived in East Texas in 2021. They made up

**42.6%**

of the region's immigrant population.



.... Share of undocumented immigrants who were of working age

The labor force participation rate<sup>7</sup> of undocumented immigrants was **75.1%** and their employment rate<sup>8</sup> was **95.4%**.

Amount earned by undocumented households in 2021:

**\$552.4M**

**\$31.9M**

went to federal taxes.

**\$25.1M**

went to state & local taxes.

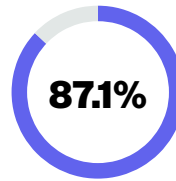
Leaving them with **\$495.5M** in spending power, or **3.6%** of the spending power in the region.

\*Undocumented immigrants are identified by applying the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas in his work: George Borjas, The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants (Harvard University, Labour Economics, volume 46, pages 1-3, 2017), <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/gborjas/files/le2017.pdf>. Immigrants who do not meet a set of criteria for legal status are identified as being undocumented. More on our methodology here: <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/methodology/>.

**DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION<sup>9</sup>**

**3,000**

immigrants, or **3.5%** of the immigrant population in the East Texas region, were eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)<sup>10</sup> in 2019.



... Employment rate of DACA-eligible immigrants in the region

Amount earned by DACA-eligible households<sup>11</sup> in 2019:

**\$35.0M**

**\$3.4M**

went to federal taxes.

**\$3.4M**

went to state & local taxes.

Leaving them with **\$28.2M** in spending power.

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2021 and figures refer to the counties of Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.
2. U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022) <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
3. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2018), <https://itexp.org/whopays>.
4. We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
5. General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
6. 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.
7. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the population aged 16 or older that is either working or actively looking for work.
8. The employment rate is the percentage of the labor force (working or actively looking for work) that is employed.
9. Data for the DACA-eligible population comes from the 2019 5-year samples of the American Community Survey.
10. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program established in 2012 which permits certain individuals who were brought to the United States while under the age of 16 and who have resided continuously in the United States since June 15, 2007, to remain in the U.S. and work lawfully for at least two years, so long as they meet certain eligibility requirements. Learn more here: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works>.
11. DACA-eligible households refer to those with a DACA-recipient as head of the unit.