Texas
Newcomers and Neighbors

Texas is home to nearly 5 million immigrants—17% of the state’s population and 1 in 6 residents.¹

35% of children in Texas have at least one immigrant parent. Of these children, 31% are U.S.-born citizens.²

Geographic Context

Although it is an area with extremely high need, the Texas border region is chronically underresourced and underserved. Meanwhile, many urban centers have thriving immigrant communities, pro-immigrant policies, and strong immigrant justice infrastructure.

Texas has the highest number of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees in the country.⁵

Migrant encounters with U.S. Border Patrol increased 509% from 2020 to 2021 in the Rio Grande Sector.⁷

A grassroots campaign led the Austin City Council to provide Covid-19 cash assistance to undocumented workers.⁴

San Antonio ranks first among Texas cities in policies that help immigrants integrate.⁶

Nearly one in four Houston area residents was born outside the U.S.⁸
Immigrants make up a significant percentage of workers in industries deemed essential during the Covid-19 pandemic. Immigrants led households in the state paid:

- $26.3 billion in federal taxes
- $12.3 billion in state and local taxes

Employment/Economic Contributions

429,414 immigrant business owners accounted for 29% of all self-employed Texas residents in 2018 and generated $10.8 billion in business income.

Employment and Poverty Rates by Immigration Status

- U.S.-born: Employed 60%, Living in Poverty 20%
- Naturalized citizens: Employed 50%, Living in Poverty 15%
- Noncitizens: Employed 40%, Living in Poverty 35%

Legal Status of Texas’s Foreign-Born Population

- Naturalized citizens: 38%
- Undocumented: 33%
- Other Legal Status (including green card and visa holders): 29%
- 107,000 DACA Recipients

Regions of Birth of Texas’s Foreign-Born Population

- Latin America 66.1%
- Asia 22.8%
- Africa 5.9%
- Europe 4%
- Oceania 0.3%
- Northern America 1.1%

- Texas has the largest population of immigrants from Africa in the U.S.
- Asians are the fastest growing immigrant group in Texas.

Immigrants accounted for 23% of the state’s labor force.
Endnotes