

# The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the San Antonio Metro Area

---





## About the American Immigration Council

---

The [American Immigration Council](#) works to strengthen America by shaping how America thinks about and acts towards immigrants and immigration and by working toward a more fair and just immigration system that opens its doors to those in need of protection and unleashes the energy and skills that immigrants bring. The Council brings together problem solvers and employs four coordinated approaches to advance change—litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy, and communications. In January 2022, the Council and New American Economy [merged](#) to combine a broad suite of advocacy tools to better expand and protect immigrants' rights, more fully ensure their ability to succeed economically, and help make the communities they settle in more welcoming. Follow the latest Council news and information on [ImmigrationImpact.com](#) and BlueSky: [@immcouncil.org](#).

## About the City of San Antonio - Vibrant & Thriving

---

San Antonio is a vibrant city with a thriving economy, deep cultural heritage and communities that are compassionate, inclusive and proudly diverse. It is the seventh largest city in the United States and one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country, nurturing entrepreneurship, encouraging investment and funding infrastructure. The City fosters partnership and growth opportunities in aerospace, bioscience, arts, green technologies, healthcare, and information technology. San Antonio's famed River Walk and Alamo are the top tourist attractions in Texas, and its historic missions are a designated World Heritage Site - the first and only in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA®, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active-duty military and veterans, as well as mission-critical commands, including military medicine, cybersecurity, pilot training and basic training. For more information, visit [SA.gov](#) and follow [@COSAGov](#) on social.



## Acknowledgements

---

The City of San Antonio (COSA) was the grantor and manager of the project, selecting the American Immigration Council as the grantee of the report. The COSA was instrumental in coordinating the scope of research found within this report. The American Immigration Council performed the research and prepared this report.

## A Note from the City: Our Neighbors, Our City

---

The City of San Antonio values our diversity. It strengthens our community and helps us thrive. Aligned with our mission to deliver quality City services, we are committed to achieving San Antonio's vision of prosperity for our diverse, vibrant, and historic community. Immigrants are integral to the fabric of our city, and they have made and continue to make profound cultural, economic, and social contributions that enrich San Antonio. Their presence and participation are key to building a future where all San Antonio residents can thrive.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the American Immigration Council for their unwavering dedication, investing over a year in research and collaboration to bring this important report to fruition. Additionally, we express our appreciation to the four residents who courageously shared their impactful stories, illustrating how their diverse experiences contribute to making San Antonio a vibrant and thriving city. Our sincere thanks also go to the Texas Office for Refugees for their invaluable insights regarding refugee data, further enriching our understanding of the diverse backgrounds that shape our community.

This report highlights the contributions of our immigrant community within the San Antonio metro area.<sup>1</sup>

# The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the San Antonio Metro Area

## CONTENTS

---

Population and Demographics.....	6
Language Diversity.....	8
Economic Contributions of Immigrants.....	9
—Spotlight On: San Antonio Residents.....	10
—Spotlight On: San Antonio Residents.....	11
Refugees.....	11
—Spotlight On: Recent Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa Arrivals.....	12
Unlocking Potential: San Antonio’s Workforce.....	13
—Spotlight On: San Antonio Residents.....	13
—Spotlight On: Job Demand.....	15
Entrepreneurship.....	16
—Spotlight On: San Antonio Residents.....	15
Educational Opportunity.....	18
—Spotlight On: The Impact of International Students in San Antonio.....	18
Housing and Naturalization.....	19
H-1B and H-2B Visas.....	20
References.....	21



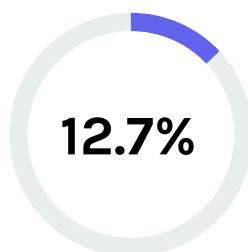


# The Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the San Antonio Metro Area

## POPULATION

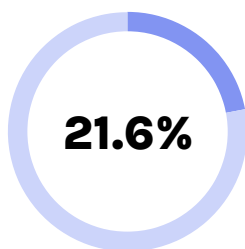
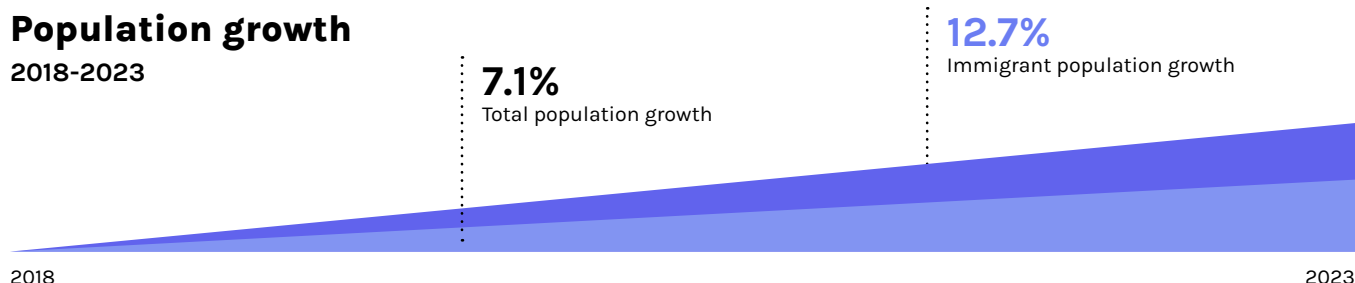
**344,100**

Number of immigrants<sup>2</sup> living in the San Antonio, Texas metro area in 2023



Immigrant<sup>3</sup> share of the metro area's population

### Population growth 2018-2023

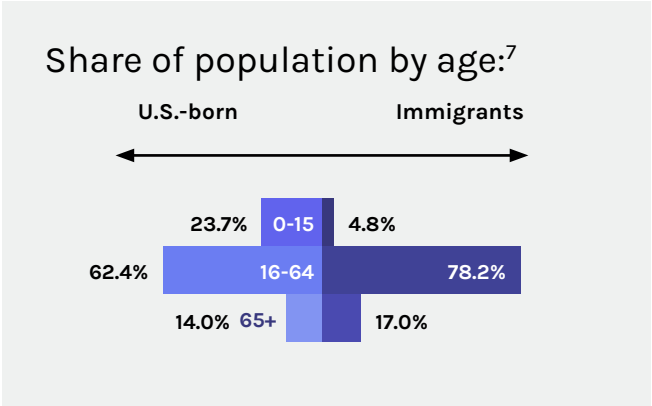
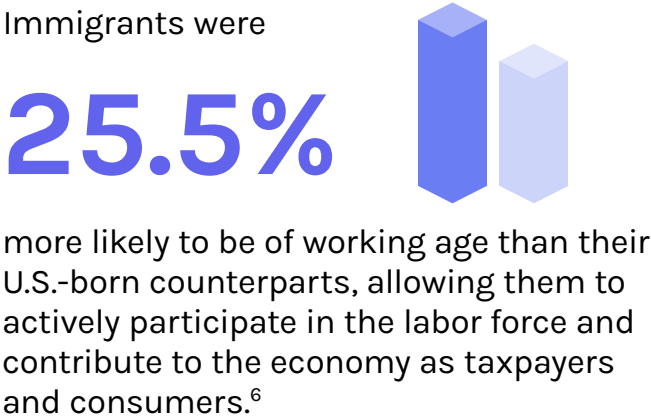
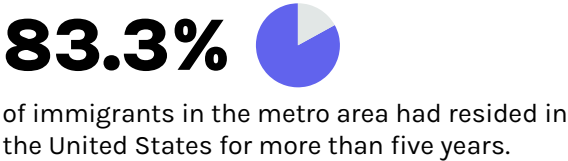
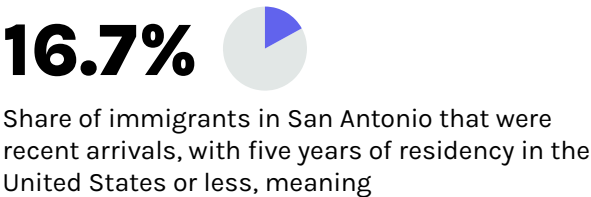
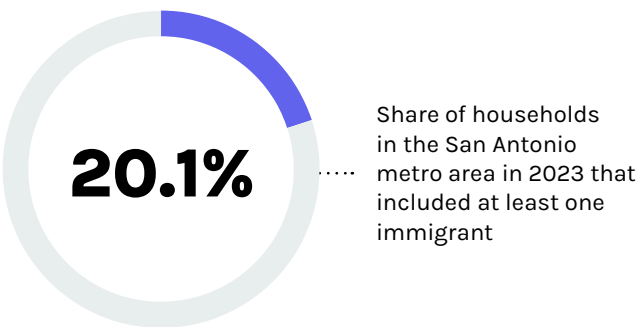


Share of population growth attributable to immigrants

**8,720**

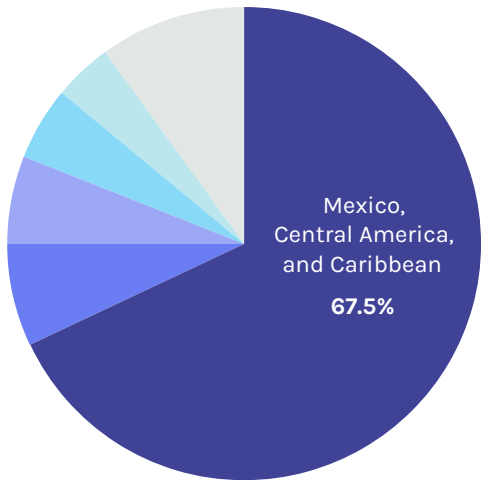
Number of immigrants living in the San Antonio, Texas metro area that were likely refugees<sup>4</sup> in 2023. This represented **2.5%** of the immigrant population.<sup>5</sup>

DEMOGRAPHICS



The top regions of origin for immigrants living in the metro area:

- 1 Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean...67.5%
- 2 India and Southwest Asia.....7.0%
- 3 South America.....5.8%
- 4 Southeast Asia .....5.3%
- 5 East Asia.....3.5%

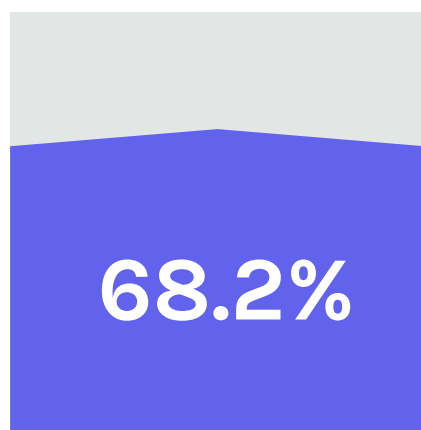
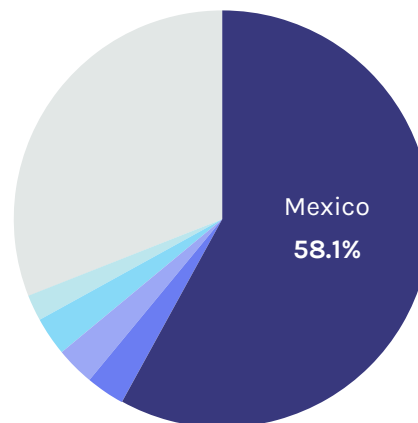




## DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)

The top countries of origin for immigrants living in the San Antonio metro area:

1	Mexico.....	58.1%
2	India .....	3.4%
3	Philippines .....	3.1%
4	Honduras.....	2.6%
5	Venezuela.....	2.1%



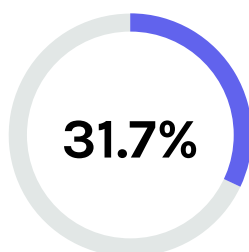
**Spanish** was the top language spoken at home other than English for immigrants living in the metro area. Other top languages included **Filipino**, **Tagalog** (2.3%), **Vietnamese** (1.4%), **Arabic** (1.1%), and **Korean** (1.1%).

## LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Language diversity is the heart of San Antonio's vibrancy.

# 108,400

Number of immigrants in the metro area who had limited English proficiency.



Share of the metro area's immigrant population who had limited English proficiency<sup>8</sup>

Among immigrants with limited English proficiency, the top language spoken at home other than English was **Spanish** (88.5%).<sup>9</sup>

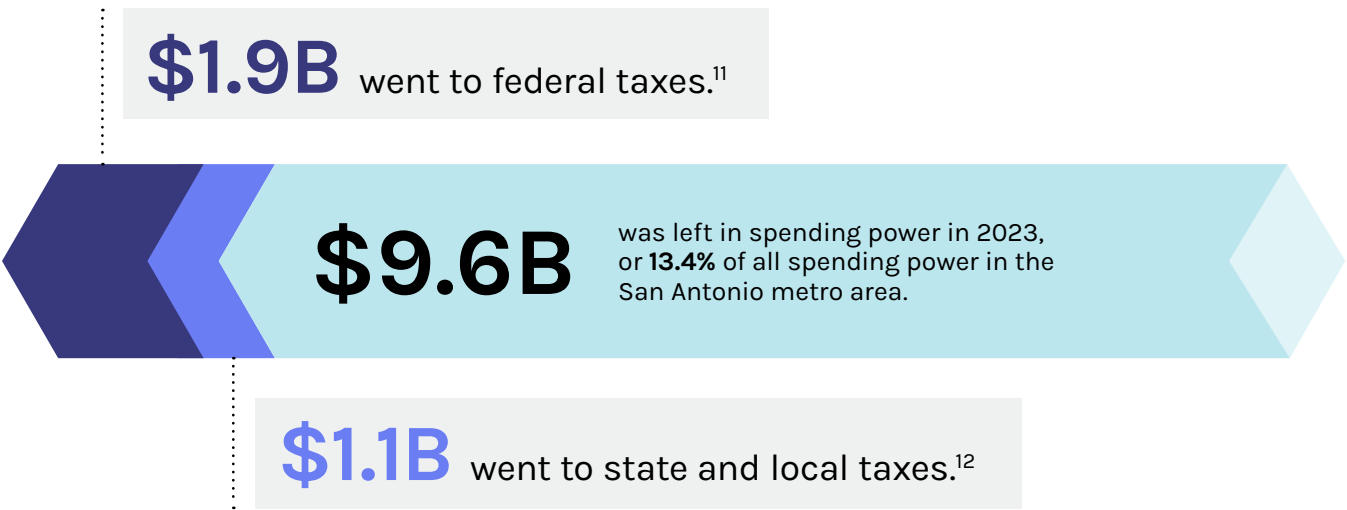


ECONOMIC IMPACT

Immigrants drive growth and strengthen federal, state, and local infrastructure.

Immigrants play a crucial role in fueling economic growth, contributing significantly to federal, state, and local taxes. They pay a wide range of taxes, including property taxes and sales taxes, which help support and strengthen infrastructure at all levels of government. These contributions are vital to sustaining the public services and resources that benefit all San Antonio residents.

In 2023, immigrant households<sup>10</sup> in the San Antonio metro area earned **\$12.6B**.

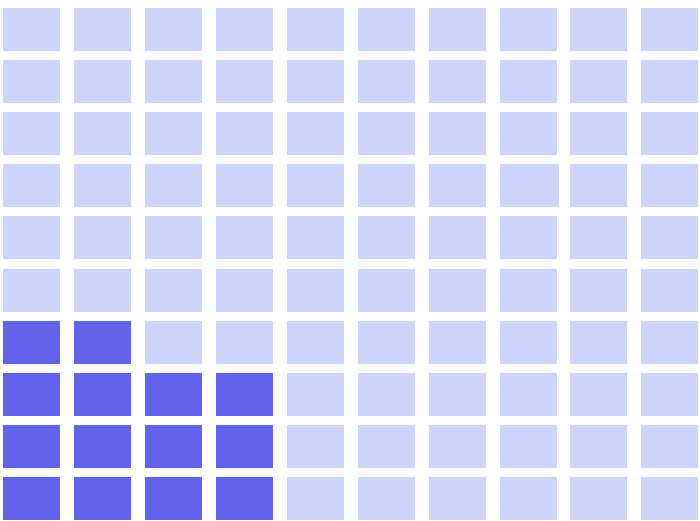


**\$25.6B**

Amount contributed to the San Antonio metro area's gross domestic product (GDP) by immigrants in 2023.

**14.1%**

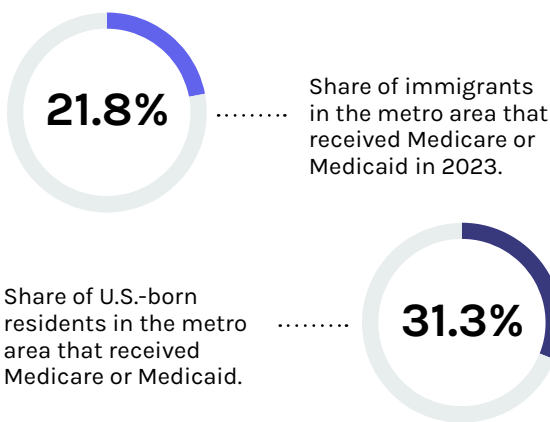
Immigrant share of the total GDP in the metro area for 2023.<sup>13</sup>



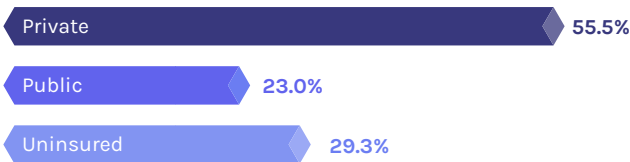
ECONOMIC IMPACT (CONTINUED)

Immigrants also support federal social programs.

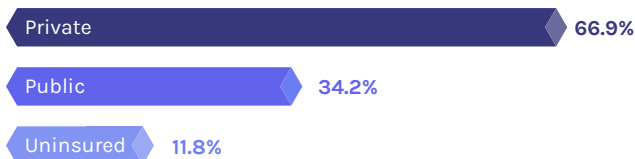
In 2023, immigrants in the San Antonio metro area contributed **\$1.2B** to Social Security and **\$314.2M** to Medicare.



About **55.5%** of immigrants had private health care coverage, while **23.0%** had public health care coverage.<sup>14</sup> **29.3%** of immigrants in the metro area were uninsured.



About **66.9%** of U.S.-born residents had private health care coverage, while **34.2%** had public health care coverage. **11.8%** of U.S.-born residents in the metro area were uninsured.



SPOTLIGHT

Anusha\*

*\*Identifying names and details have been changed to protect privacy.*

In 2019, Anusha and her family traveled to San Antonio from India for Christmas vacation. On Christmas Eve, a robber attacked her husband and beat him with a gun. After her husband was released from the hospital, he decided to stay in the United States to help the police with the investigation. Anusha also saw the attack, and their family received a visa meant for crime victims.

“I wanted to go home. But in Indian culture, a woman is expected to stand by her husband and follow his decisions,” Anusha says.

Anusha’s husband became addicted to drugs. He started to behave violently, and physically and sexually abused Anusha. This situation traumatized their children, and at one point, Anusha’s daughter was in the hospital for a month. Anusha had no money, no friends, and no way to return home. She feared it would be too shameful to tell her family in India what was happening.

With support from a domestic violence shelter, local ministries, and San Antonians, Anusha healed and eventually found a part-time job at a candy store. By this time, her husband had left. “People are really caring. They came forward with a meal or some clothes, or if we needed someone to be with us,” she says. “They helped me so much that today I am safe, and we are healing.”

To help find purpose, Anusha started volunteering to help other domestic violence victims. She began sharing her story online after her son suggested it could help others. She now gives public talks and does interviews.

“If I can give voice to these other people, I would live through the trauma again and again,” she says.

Her children are thriving. Her son, now 13, is on a youth advisory council for family violence prevention services. Her daughter, now 9, is on the student council.

“Every week, I get to help two or three survivors,” Anusha says. “So, this is my home now. People know me. I know everyone. We feel good here.”

SPOTLIGHT

## Essa\*

*\*Identifying names and details have been changed to protect privacy.*

Essa moved from Afghanistan to Houston in 2007. He joined his brothers, who had come to the United States after helping the U.S. military in Afghanistan. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in finance, but he chose to work in disaster management.

"It gives me inner satisfaction to help people," he says.

In 2021, he moved to San Antonio to open a restaurant with his brother. He also started helping refugees. At the time, large numbers of refugees were arriving in San Antonio after U.S. troops left Afghanistan.

Essa began volunteering with Catholic Charities. He helped refugees with translation, finding housing, and filling out complex forms. He began catering meals, too, and soon he became well-known in the community. "I didn't realize it would get to the point where I would receive calls at midnight," he says.

Essa is not complaining about these late-night calls. Refugees are new to the country and often don't speak the language. They call Essa for help when their child is sick and they don't have transportation. Or when they need help with housing, applying for a job, or accessing insurance.

These families are trying to earn a living, but interpretation or translation services can be expensive. Essa, who speaks five languages, helps them for free.

Now, Essa runs a grocery store and restaurant that serves as a community hub. "It really becomes a village," he says. "A place where anyone will come and get the help they need."

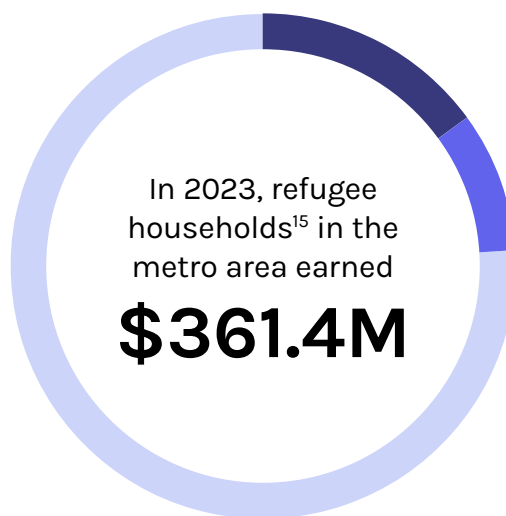
Like the city and other nonprofit organizations, Essa faces challenges. Delays in renewing work authorization by the federal government create problems, and so do things like language barriers for workers, such as independent drivers who rely on service ratings.

Despite these challenges, Essa says, "the city and the people are very welcoming." He sees that Afghan refugees work hard. "Even when they're sick, they're not taking days off. They just want to work and earn a living."

## REFUGEES

# 8,720

Number of immigrants living in the San Antonio metro area in 2023 that were likely refugees. This represented **2.5%** of the immigrant population.



**\$52.6M**  
went to federal taxes.<sup>16</sup>

**\$31.6M**  
went to state and local taxes.<sup>17</sup>

**\$277.2M**  
was left in spending power.

SPOTLIGHT

# Recent Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)<sup>18</sup> Arrivals<sup>19</sup>

From Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2024, San Antonio-New Braunfels metro area welcomed **1,937 refugee** and **2,438 SIV arrivals**.

### Top Languages Spoken:

1	Pashto	41.3%
2	Dari	15.6%
3	Spanish	11.0%
4	Arabic	3.8%
5	Kinyamulenge	3.8%

### Top Five Countries of Origin:

1	Afghanistan	64.0%
2	Democratic Republic of the Congo	12.9%
3	Venezuela	5.0%
4	Burma	3.8%
5	Guatemala	3.3%

### Age Breakdown:

1	Age 0-4	14.1%
2	Age 5-18	41.9%
3	Age 19-64	43.3%
4	Age 65+	0.7%

SPOTLIGHT

# Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) Arrivals Fiscal Year 2022<sup>20</sup>

There were **1,985 OAW arrivals** in the San Antonio-New Braunfels metro area during Fiscal Year 2022.

### Age Breakdown:

1	Age 0-4	16.1%
2	Age 5-17	32.7%
3	Age 18-59	50.6%
4	Age 60+	0.6%

### Gender Breakdown:

1	Female	39.4%
2	Male	60.6%



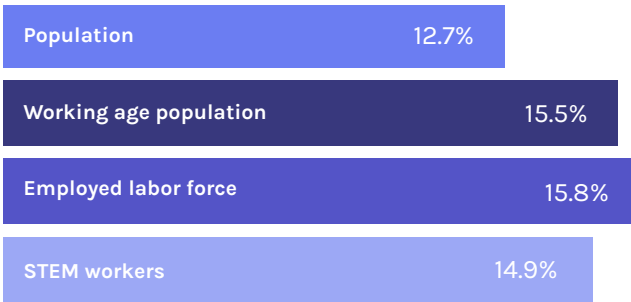
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Immigrant talent energizes San Antonio’s workforce.

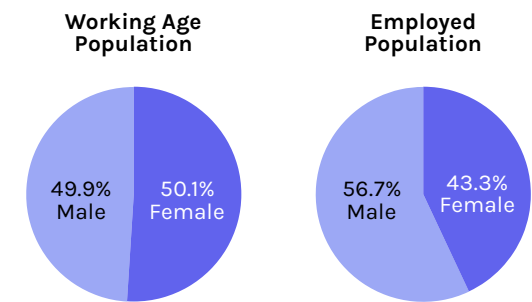
Immigrants bring a wealth of diverse talent, skills, and innovation, providing San Antonio companies and businesses with a unique opportunity to drive economic growth.

Although immigrants made up 12.7% of the metro area’s total population, they represented 15.5% of its working age population, 15.8% of its employed labor force, and 14.9% of its workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in 2023.<sup>21</sup>

Immigrant shares of the...



Immigrants by sex:



In 2023, there were **7.0 open STEM job postings** for every unemployed STEM worker in the metro area.<sup>22</sup>

SPOTLIGHT

G.\*

*\*Identifying names and details have been changed to protect privacy.*

G. has spent her life trapped in legal limbo.

Although her parents—both U.S.-citizens—legally adopted her from Mexico as an infant, a documentation error effectively labeled her an “undocumented immigrant.” It is a label that has brought significant hardship, but also spurred her into action.

The problem? Adoption lawyers did not tell her parents that her birth certificate needed their last name—the name they would give their days-old baby—in place of the birth mother’s name. They’ve spent 22 years and thousands of dollars trying to fix the mistake.

In the meantime, G. has walked the tough path of an undocumented immigrant. In high school, she was falsely told that she couldn’t go to college. She then struggled to get work and housing. She even avoided reporting a sexual assault and a car accident to police, for fear she would be the one who would get into trouble.

Once, after being rejected from an apartment, the landlady pointed to a Walmart parking lot and told her she could sleep in her car.

“This was impactful,” G. says. “People don’t talk about these little things that make a huge difference.”

Not only did these experiences fail to deter G., but they drove her to educate others. In college, she and a friend formed organizations to help undocumented immigrants. She wanted undocumented students to know that they have rights, particularly when it comes to their safety. And she wanted U.S. citizens to know that undocumented immigrants have value.

The first year, a student approached her and said, “I don’t like undocumented people,” claiming they were criminals. Two years later, that same student found her and apologized. “I was wrong,” he said. “And I’m glad I got to meet you, and this organization, because it changed my perspective.”

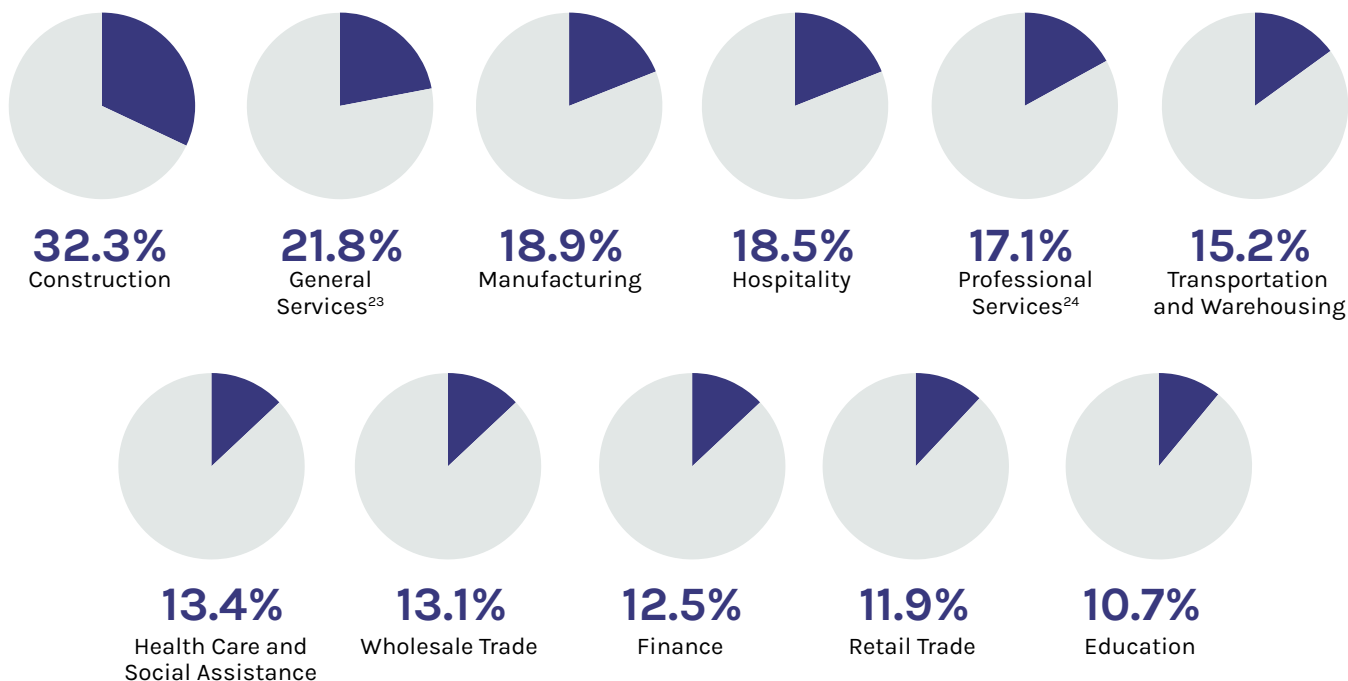
“I went home and I cried. Wow. Because that doesn’t really happen,” G. says. “Now he’s an ally.”

Next on G.’s plate? Law school. As a lawyer, she can help others caught in legal limbo. And she’ll continue to advocate for immigrants.

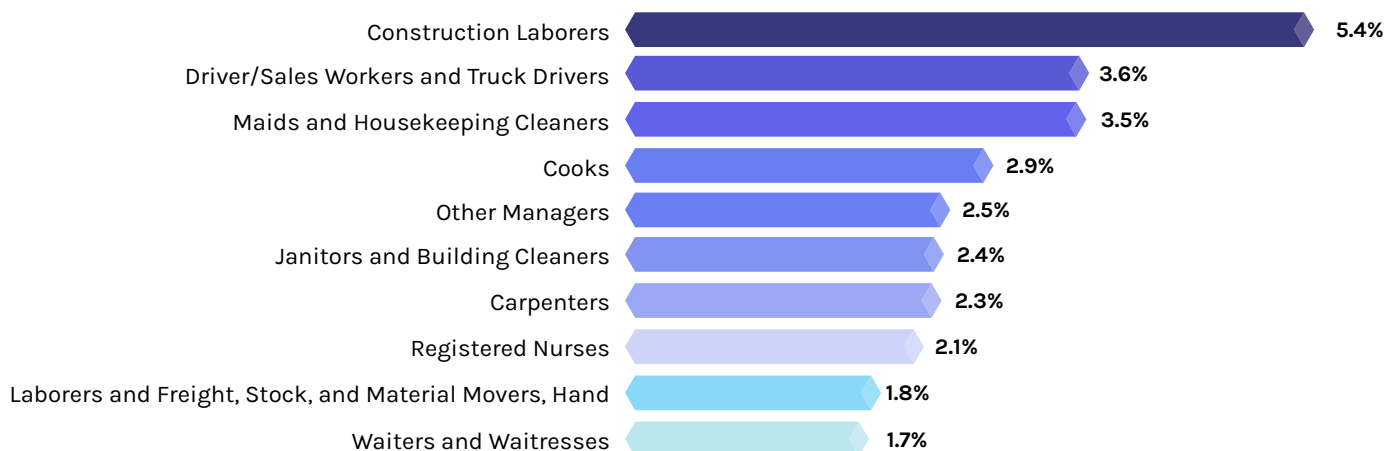
“My thing is, let’s educate people,” she says. “Let’s not argue with people.”

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL (CONTINUED)

The immigrant share of workers was highest in the following **industries**:



Immigrant workers were concentrated in the following **occupations**:



The occupations with the largest share of female immigrant workers were **Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners** (6.7%), **Registered Nurses** (4.2%), and **Cooks** (4.2%).

The occupations with the largest share of male immigrant workers were **Construction Laborers** (9.0%), **Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers** (6.1%), and **Carpenters** (4.1%).

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL (CONTINUED)

Immigrants play a critical role in our workforce by helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil. Our research shows that immigrants living in the metro area helped create or preserve

# 15,800 manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise been eliminated or moved elsewhere by 2023.<sup>25</sup>

### SPOTLIGHT

## Job Demand in San Antonio in 2023

Immigrants not only represented a larger share of the working age population compared to their U.S.-born counterparts, but they also played a vital role in fueling San Antonio's economy, helping to address the demands of its fastest-growing and most in-demand industries.<sup>26</sup>

**The top in-demand jobs in the metro area, by number of open job postings in 2023, were:**

1. Registered Nurses: 19,300
2. Retail Salespersons: 6,000
3. Customer Service Representatives: 5,700
4. Maintenance and Repair Workers, General: 3,900
5. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers: 3,800

The top requested skills listed for these in-demand jobs were **Registered Nurse (RN), Communication, Customer Service, Nursing, and Sales.**

Immigrants play a crucial role in filling high-demand positions, particularly as the need for bilingual and culturally competent public services and healthcare workers continue to grow.

**The top five industries with the highest demand for bilingual workers:<sup>27</sup>**

1. Health Care and Social Assistance
2. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
3. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
4. Retail Trade
5. Accommodation and Food Services

**The top in-demand jobs for bilingual workers in the city, by number of open job postings, were:**

- Customer Service Representatives: 690
- Registered Nurses: 370
- Retail Salespersons: 300
- Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive: 290
- Medical and Health Services Managers: 260

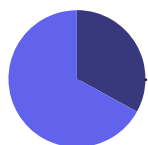
## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# 31,200

immigrant entrepreneurs in the San Antonio metro area generated/created

# \$791.4M

in business income in 2023.

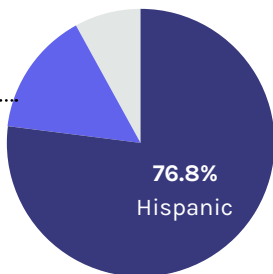


Immigrant entrepreneurs self-identified as **33.0%** female and **67.0%** male.

Immigrant entrepreneurs by race and ethnicity:

**14.7%**

Asian  
American  
and Pacific  
Islander



The top country of origin for immigrant entrepreneurs in the metro area was **Mexico** (61.1%).

## SPOTLIGHT

### Adolfo\*

*\*Identifying names and details have been changed to protect privacy.*

For many years, Adolfo sold electronics in Mexico. He often visited his children in the United States but never thought about moving to the country.

In 2008, things changed when one of his sons, a U.S. citizen, got visas for Adolfo and his wife. By then, all five of their children lived in the United States and Adolfo saw more job opportunities in Texas than in Juárez, Mexico.

After moving to the United States, Adolfo soon found work as a landscaper. He also started a church that met in his basement to continue the Pentecostal ministry he had done in Mexico.

In 2011, the city of San Antonio helped Adolfo get a loan to open a family-run electronics store. Over time, this business turned into a successful heating and air conditioning business in the city.

"It's been a blessing that the city and institutions like the bank have been ready to support us," says Adolfo. "We try to hold up our end of the bargain by having the business be a good member of the community."

At the same time, his church has grown and now has 70 members. The church partners with other organizations in the city, like the food bank, to help expand its impact.

"We help everyone in the community," says Adolfo. His church members provide food, toys, classes, and legal aid. They connect people to other resources and help people without housing or who are dealing with drug addiction.

"I would like to keep helping my community and my city of San Antonio until I'm no longer in the world," he says. "I feel passionate about helping my community."



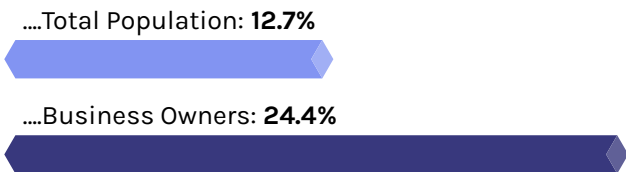
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (CONTINUED)

Immigrants were  
**72.5%**  
more likely to be  
entrepreneurs than  
their U.S.-born  
counterparts.

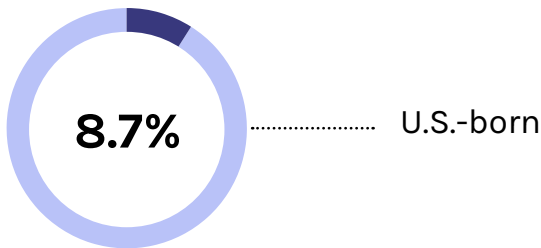
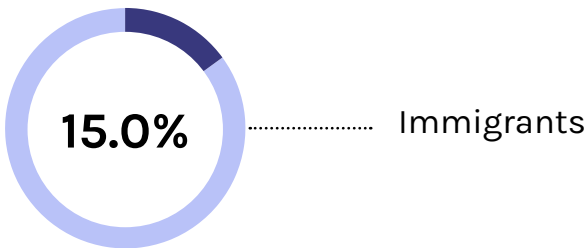


Immigrants represented 24.4% of  
business owners in the metro area  
in 2023 despite making up only  
12.7% of the population.

Immigrant share of San Antonio's....



Share of the population who owned their own businesses:<sup>28</sup>



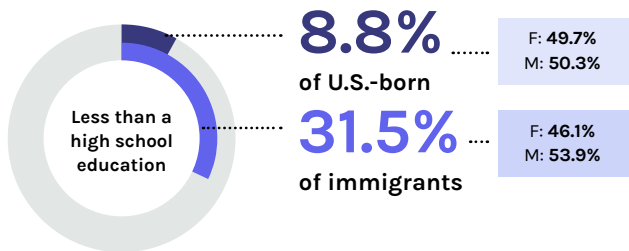
The industries with the highest share of immigrant entrepreneurs were:



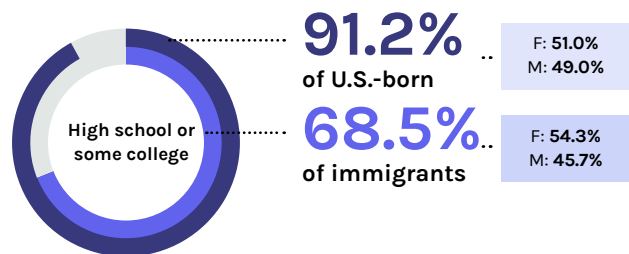
## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The vital role of immigrants in shaping San Antonio's future.

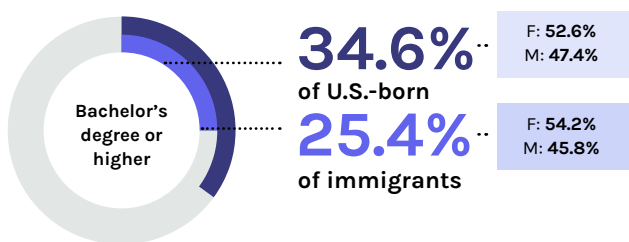
Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or above with **less than a high school education** in 2023:



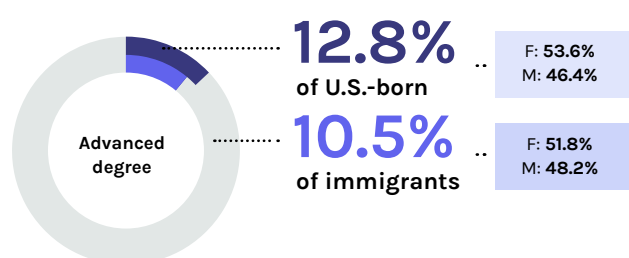
Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or above that held at least a **high school education or some college**:



Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or above that had a **bachelor's degree or higher**:



Share of the metro area's population aged 25 or above that held an **advanced degree**:



## SPOTLIGHT

### The Impact of International Students in San Antonio

In fall 2023, **2,071 students**<sup>31</sup> enrolled in colleges and universities in the San Antonio metro area were temporary U.S. residents.<sup>32</sup> These students are poised to address critical talent gaps and contribute to the city's economic growth, innovation, and development.

The universities with the largest international student populations were:

1. **The University of Texas at San Antonio** (942 international students)
2. **University of the Incarnate Word** (356 international students)
3. **St. Mary's University** (209 international students)

The breakdown of international students is as follows:

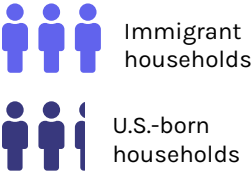
1. 1,038 full-time undergraduate students
2. 784 full-time graduate students
3. 100 part-time undergraduate students
4. 149 part-time graduate students

In the 2022-2023 academic year, **213 bachelor's and advanced degrees** were awarded to international students with a primary major in a STEM field, and **4 degrees** were awarded to international students with a secondary major in a STEM field.

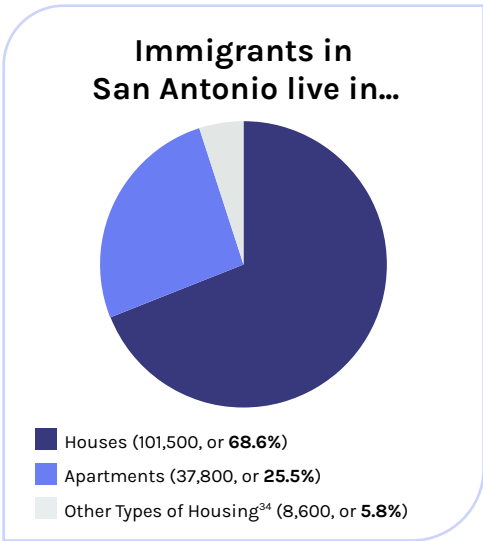
International students supported **621 jobs** in the metro area and contributed **\$40.1 million** to the local economy in the 2023-24 academic year.<sup>33</sup>

GROWING IMPACT OF IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS

The average size of immigrant households in the San Antonio metro area was **3.0** compared with **2.4** for U.S.-born households.



In 2023, **60.3%** of immigrant households in the metro area owned their own homes, compared to **64.8%** of U.S.-born households.



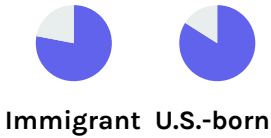
In 2023, the total property value of immigrant households was

**\$27.1B**

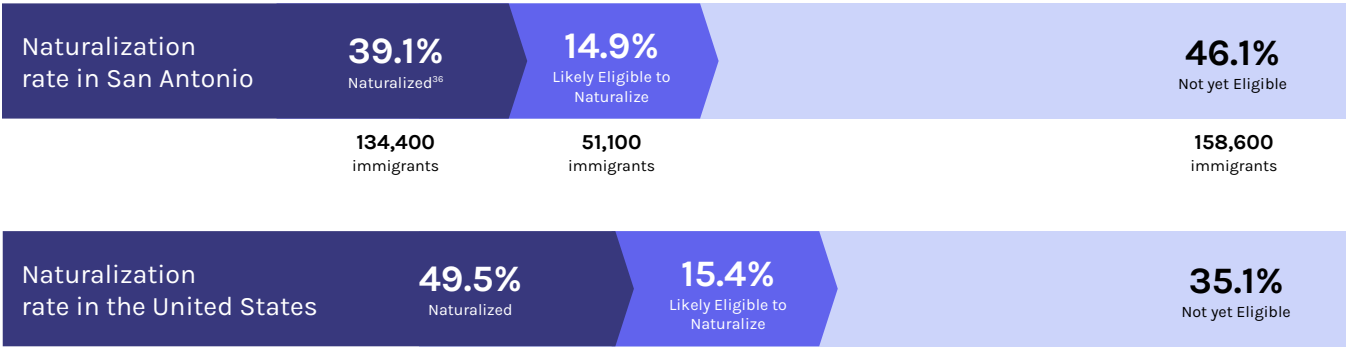
**39.7%** of immigrant households in the metro area were renters.

Their total annual rent paid was **\$753.3M**

**78.9%** of immigrant households in the metro area had access to broadband connection in their place of residence compared with **84.4%** of U.S.-born households.<sup>35</sup>



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATURALIZATION



The top five countries of origin for naturalized citizens in San Antonio were:

- 1 Mexico ..... 38.7%
- 2 Philippines ..... 6.1%
- 3 Germany ..... 3.6%
- 4 Vietnam ..... 3.5%
- 5 India ..... 2.9%

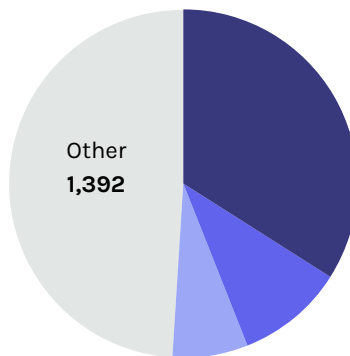
When eligible immigrants naturalize, their income increases by **8.9%** on average.<sup>37</sup> Becoming a U.S. citizen opens economic and civic doors for San Antonio residents and their families.

## H-1B AND H-2B VISAS

# 2,832

H-1B visas were certified<sup>38</sup> in the San Antonio metro area during Fiscal Year 2023.

The top occupations among certified H-1B visa applications were:



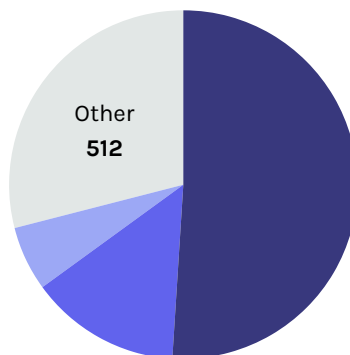
# of  
certifications

- 1 Software Developers ..... 956
- 2 Computer Systems Analysts..... 284
- 3 Computer Systems Engineers/Architects..... 200

# 1,776

H-2B visas were certified<sup>39</sup> in the San Antonio metro area during Fiscal Year 2023.

The top occupations among certified H-2B visa applications were:



# of  
certifications

- 1 Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers..... 900
- 2 Amusement and Recreation Attendants ..... 252
- 3 Helpers - Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers ... 112



## ENDNOTES

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 1-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and 2023 and figures refer to the San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texas Metropolitan Area.
- 2 Immigrants are defined as naturalized citizens, green card holders, temporary visa holders, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
- 3 Estimates provided in this report may slightly undercount the immigrant population. The American Community Survey historically under-samples the immigrant population, especially among lower-income, more recently arrived, and less English-fluent immigrant populations.
- 4 According to the American Immigration Council, refugees are admitted to the United States based upon an inability to return to their home countries because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. Learn more here: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works>.
- 5 To identify cases in microdata from the 2023 ACS that are likely to be refugees, we use an imputation method based on each foreign-born respondent’s country of birth and their year of arrival, similar to the work of Kallick and Mathema in “Refugee Integration in the United States,” <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/refugee-integration-in-the-united-states/>, as well as Capps et al in “The Integration Outcomes of U.S. Refugees: Successes and Challenges,” <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/integration-outcomes-us-refugees-successes-and-challenges>.
- 6 We define working age as 16-64 years of age.
- 7 Totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- 8 For the purpose of this report, we define people with limited English language proficiency as those who do not speak English at all or do not speak English well.
- 9 For additional information on the diversity of languages spoken in the metro area, please reference [SA.gov](https://sa.gov).
- 10 Immigrant households refer to those with an immigrant as head of the unit.
- 11 U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
- 12 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2024), <https://itep.org/whopays>.
- 13 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the 1-year ACS sample from 2023 and the statistics of GDP from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 14 Including people who have both public and private healthcare coverage.
- 15 Refugee households refer to those with a refugee as head of the unit.
- 16 U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019 (Washington, DC: 2022), <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
- 17 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States (Washington, DC: 2024), <https://itep.org/whopays/>.
- 18 Data on recent refugee, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), and Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) arrivals was provided by the Texas Office for Refugees and covers information spanning from Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2024.

## ENDNOTES

- 19** The Operation Allies Welcome data primarily focuses on Fiscal Year 2022 as most arrivals occurred during this time period. Learn more about Operation Allies Welcome: <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/operation-allies-welcome>.
- 20** The Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program was established to protect Afghan and Iraqi nationals who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces as a translator or interpreter in Iraq or Afghanistan and are now at risk because of their service. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/siv-iraqi-afghan-translators-interpreters.html>.
- 21** STEM refers to occupations that require background or expertise in science, technology, engineering, or math.
- 22** Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, accessed January 8th, 2025.
- 23** General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 24** 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.
- 25** Jacob Vigdor, Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market (New York, NY: Americas Society/Council of the Americas and New American Economy, 2013), <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/revival-of-american-cities.pdf>.
- 26** Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, accessed January 8th, 2025.
- 27** Data is obtained from Lightcast Technologies for the time period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, accessed April 1st, 2025.
- 28** Data obtained from the ACS may not capture those who work in informal jobs and businesses, and as a result may not capture immigrants' full entrepreneurial contributions within the metro area.
- 29** 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.
- 30** General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 31** Data on student enrollment in the metro area is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics, accessed January 8th, 2025.
- 32** Temporary U.S. residents refer to people who are not U.S. citizens and are in this country on a non-immigrant visa or temporary basis.
- 33** Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Accessed January 8th, 2025.
- 34** "Other" housing includes mobile homes, trailers, boats, tents, vans, and housing that is not considered a single-family home or multi-family building.
- 35** This data point reports whether the respondent or any member of their household subscribed to the internet using broadband (high speed) internet service such as cable, fiber optic, or DSL.
- 36** Maria E. Enchautegui and Linda Giannarelli, The Economic Impact of Naturalization on Immigrants and Cities, Urban Institute, 2015, <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/economic-impact-naturalization-immigrants-and-cities>.

## ENDNOTES

- 37** Naturalization is the process through which one can become a U.S. citizen, dependent on certain eligibility requirements. We identify immigrants who are potentially eligible for naturalization based on a set of criteria of eligibility identified by the USCIS, such as immigration status, age, English language proficiency, and length of stay in the United States. Learn more here: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works>.
- 38** Before an employer can file a petition with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to hire an employee using an H-1B visa, the employer must take steps to ensure that hiring the foreign worker will not adversely affect U.S. workers. To do this, employers file a labor condition application (LCA) to be certified by the Department of Labor (DOL), which ensures that employment of the H-1B worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. The number of certified H-1B visas is therefore a good indication of the demand for immigrant workers of a given occupation in a given region. More information on the H-1B process can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/h-1b-specialty-occupations>.
- 39** Similar to the H-1B process, in order for an employer to obtain an H-2B certification, the DOL must determine that there are not enough U.S. workers available to do the temporary job being petitioned for, and that employing H-2B workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similar workers. Additionally, the need for the worker must be temporary. Certified jobs are not necessarily the jobs filled, though they do indicate a level of demand for temporary immigrant workers in a particular occupation. More information on the H-2B process can be found here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/programs/h-2b>.