

# Immigrants Boost Texas' Communities And Economy

Texas is powered by immigrants. Texas is home to more than 4.9 million immigrants, the second largest population of any state in the U.S. Immigrants make every community across Texas stronger. Additionally, they help power major sectors of the state's economy, such as the restaurant industry, by driving innovation, creating American jobs, and boosting economic growth.

The restaurant industry in the United States is rapidly expanding. Immigrant workers are critical to its growth, as they provide a labor force at every level of the industry. 24% of the nation's restaurant workers are immigrants, many of whom work at the highest levels, such as head chefs or managers. In fact, 43% of chefs and 24% of restaurant managers are foreign-born. In Texas, these immigrants are a driving force behind the restaurant industry's success.

Immigrants in Texas also contribute billions in tax revenue at the federal, state, and local level. They enrich Texas' diverse communities in countless ways. Texas thrives when it supports policies that build a vibrant, inclusive, welcoming environment for immigrants of all backgrounds.

## Immigrants Strengthen Texas' Economy And Its Communities

- In 2014 alone, immigrants in Texas paid \$12.2 billion into Social Security and \$3.2 billion into Medicare.
- Immigrant-owned businesses in Texas employ 635,942 Texans and produce \$104.1 billion in sales annually.
- Immigrants in Texas are critical to the housing market. Approximately 19.8% of recent homebuyers in Texas are foreign-born. Immigrants in Texas pay \$8.8 billion in household rent, helping to bolster the housing market.
- Immigrants make up more than 25% of the labor force in Texas, and drive key sectors of the Texas economy, including energy, agriculture, healthcare, construction, nursery and landscaping, and the restaurant industry.

## Immigrants Power Texas' Restaurant Industry

- The restaurant industry will add approximately 1.6 million jobs to the labor market by 2030. 204,000 of these jobs will be in Texas.
- There are more than 48,000 eating and drinking establishments in Texas, employing more than 1,000,000 workers in the state.
- In 2018, Texas restaurants produced an estimated \$66 billion in sales.
- Immigrants are crucial to the restaurant industry in Texas. Nearly 27% of accommodation and food services workers in Texas are immigrants.
- In Houston, one-third of the food, arts, entertainment and accommodation workers are immigrants, and roughly half of these workers are undocumented. Providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented Texans, would strengthen Texas' restaurants and bolster the state's economy.

**\$112.8 billion**

Annual spending power of Texas immigrants

**\$38.6 billion**

Amount in federal, state, and local taxes Texas immigrants pay each year

**24%**

of the nation's restaurant workers who are immigrants

**30%**

of Houston-area workers in the food, arts, entertainment, and accommodation sectors who are immigrants

**635,942**

Number of workers employed by immigrant-owned businesses in Texas

**1,000,000**

Amount of Texans employed by eating and drinking establishments in the state as of 2018

## Texas Dreamers

DACA recipients are integral to the fabric of communities across Texas. Protecting Dreamers and ensuring that they and their family members can thrive is good for Texas families and good for Texas' economy.

- In Texas, DACA has allowed more than 107,000 young people to come forward, pass a background check, and live and work legally in the U.S.
- Texas Dreamers are entrepreneurs, teachers, nurses, engineers, and restaurant workers, and they live in, work in, and contribute to nearly every community across the state.
- Ending DACA, and failing to provide permanent protections for Dreamers, would cost Texas nearly \$6.3 billion in annual GDP losses.
- DACA-eligible Dreamers in Texas have an annual spending power of 2.9 billion.
- Texas' Dreamers pay more than \$244.6 million in state and local taxes annually.

## Undocumented Texans

Texas' undocumented residents are vital to the state's communities and economy. Policies that build a welcoming, inclusive Texas make the state stronger across the board.

- Providing a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented population in Texas could increase the state's GDP by \$144.6 billion and could boost the state's tax revenue by more than \$6.5 billion, both over a ten year period.
- Undocumented immigrants living in Texas contribute \$1.56 billion in state and local taxes and 2.6 billion in federal taxes every year.
- Texas' undocumented immigrants have an annual spending power of \$32.3 billion.

## TPS Holders

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders contribute to Texan communities and economy every day.

- Most TPS holders have lived and worked in the U.S. for decades. TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti – 90% of the current population – have lived in the U.S. for an average of 19 years, and have among them an estimated 273,000 U.S. citizen children. 49,000 of these children live in Texas.
- Texas is home to 53,740 TPS recipients; the third-largest TPS population in the U.S.
- TPS households in Texas contribute \$256.4 million in federal taxes and \$173.8 million in state and local taxes annually. Without Salvadoran, Haitian, and Honduran TPS holders, Texas' GDP would lose \$2.2 billion.
- 96.7% of TPS holders in Texas are employed and active in the state's labor force.

**\$32.3 billion**

Annual spending power of undocumented Texans

**Over \$4 billion**

amount in federal, state, and local taxes undocumented Texans pay each year

**107,730**

DACA recipients in Texas

**\$2.9 billion**

Annual spending power of DACA-eligible Dreamers in Texas

**\$1.4 billion**

Annual spending power of TPS households in Texas



***“More than 11 million undocumented individuals are living and working in the United States. Many are paying taxes and contributing to the economy and their communities. Numerous polls show that the public strongly supports a clear path to legalization for these workers. Restaurants support this too.”***

- National Restaurant Association

**FWD.us** is a bipartisan political organization that believes America's families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential.

**Sources:** Houston Public Media, Center for Houston's Future, National Restaurant Association, Texas Restaurant Association, American Immigration Council, Marketplace, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Center for American Progress, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, U.S. Congressional Research Service, CNN