

The Impact of Immigration to Houston

OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS

Immigrants are central to Houston's growth and long-term economic strength. As of 2024, immigrants make up 18.4% of Texas's population (5,762,477 immigrant residents). In Houston, the immigrant population share 25.4% of the population (1,979,300 immigrant residents) reflecting the region's diversity.

(Source: Immigrants in Houston Metro Area - American Immigration Council and Immigrants in Texas - American Immigration Council)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Immigrants are a powerful economic driver in the Houston region. In 2023, immigrants contributed \$61.5 billion in spending power and \$20.5 billion in tax contributions. Foreign-born individuals make up 43% of entrepreneurs (166,500 people) in the Houston area playing a critical role in business development, driving new jobs and strengthening the region's economy. Houston's continued growth depends on attracting and retaining this workforce.

(Source: American Immigration Council)

DIVERSE NATIONALITIES

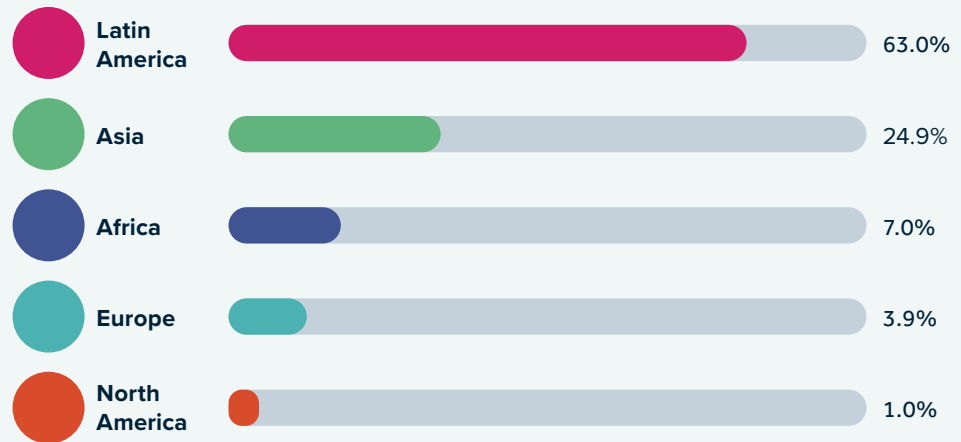
NEARLY
**ONE IN
FOUR**



**HOUSTONIANS
BORN OUTSIDE
THE U.S. (25.4%)**

Among the 1,979,300 foreign-born residents in the Houston metro area in 2024, 56.9% entered the United States before 2010.

TOP REGIONS OF BIRTH FOR FOREIGN-BORN



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey

Immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local taxes and spending power. As of 2023, immigrant households and entrepreneurs in Texas have generated: \$234.3 billion in household income, \$176.3 billion in total spending power, and \$19.3 billion in state and local taxes paid.

(Source: Immigrants in Texas - American Immigration Council)

Education outcomes further underscore immigrant contributions. In Houston, 15.1% of foreign-born residents age 25 and older earned a graduate degree, compared to 13.9% of the U.S. born residents, strengthening the region's workforce pipeline. DACA recipients have also contributed to strengthening Texas's economy, with more than 89,000 individuals statewide. The DACA contribution in Texas is estimated to be \$2.8 billion in federal/payroll taxes and \$1.9 billion in state/local taxes.

(Source: Texas Association of Business, FWD.us)

Houston offers vast opportunities and its as seen from its diverse immigrant background. It is important to continue creating business opportunities to welcome new talents across the world.

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR IMMIGRANTS



(Source: Immigrants in Houston Metro Area - American Immigration Council)

THE PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES

- **Work Visas** - Streamline, expand, and modernize worker visa programs to provide legal options and pathways for those who significantly impact the local, state, and federal economies.
- **Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA)** - Deliver a final resolution for those currently or potentially categorized as DACA recipients, granting these young adults with the stability and certainty in the only country they have ever known.
- **Borders** - Secure the southern border through the deployment of various methods and technologies, allowing for sector-by-sector operational control. Provide Customs and Border Protection with the staffing levels the agency needs to achieve its mission.
- **Education to work or coordination** - Consider synthesizing programs to incentivize coordination between education and industry in order to meet the workforce needs of today and tomorrow.

BOTTOM LINE

The federal responsibility in addressing these issues is clear and explicit. Texas businesses need clear, consistent immigration policies to support and drive local economies.

The Greater Houston Partnership encourages national policymakers, leaders, and appointees to actively seek resolution to these issues and foster an environment welcoming of immigrants and supportive of business needs. Leaders should work to protect and promote our nation's borders, people, and economy.

Reaching these priorities will require legislative reform and collaboration across legislative leaders, law enforcement agencies, and businesses.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- **DACA:** Prioritize policies reflecting the value of DACA recipients and Dreamers
- **Border Security:** Developing a new border framework and expanding access to humanitarian and labor pathways closer to the countries of origin
- **Visas:** Creating new visa pathways that are sector specific to ensure immigrants work in an industry
- **Connect with existing legislator/endorsements** (Dignity + Dream)