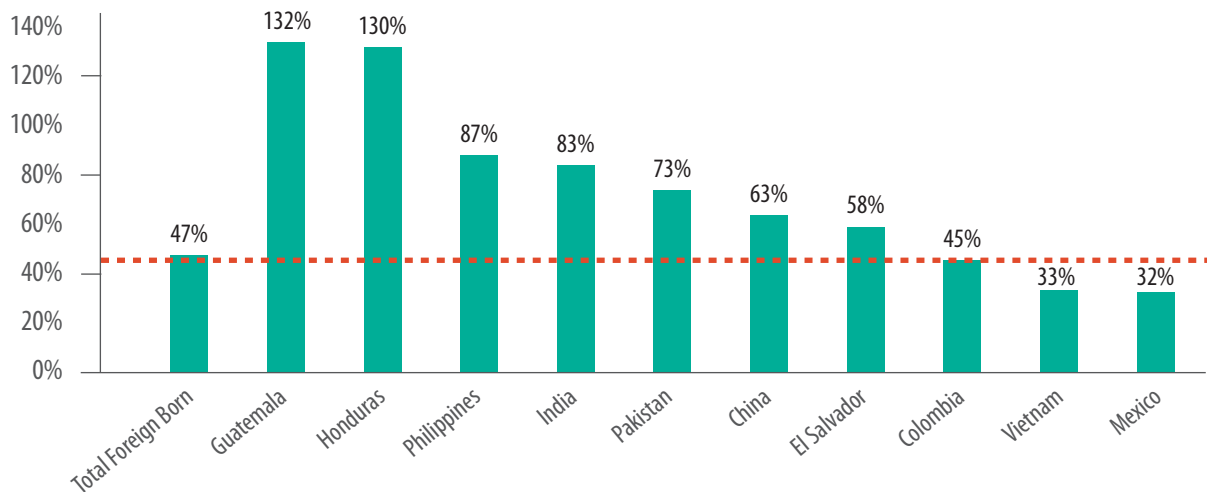


# Fact Sheet: Immigrants in Houston

**Houston is now more diverse than New York City.<sup>1</sup>**

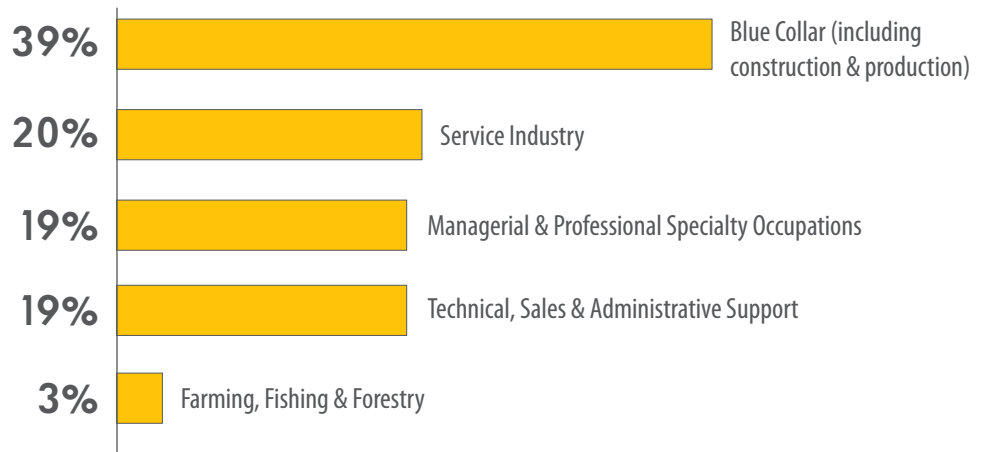
27.7 percent (596,000) of Houston's population of 2.2 million are immigrants, a dramatic growth from just 18 percent in 1980.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the immigrant population of Houston grew at twice the national rate between 2000 and 2013.<sup>3</sup> 22.2 percent of all immigrants in Texas live in Houston.<sup>4</sup> As of the 2010 Census, Houston has no majority racial or ethnic group. Non-Hispanic Whites represent 40 percent of the total population, Latinos 36 percent, Blacks 17 percent, and Asians 6 percent.<sup>5</sup>

**Immigrant Population Growth Rate in Houston Area by National Origin, 2000-12<sup>6</sup>**



## ■ Immigrants help drive the Houston economy.

Immigrants make up 29 percent of the labor force in Houston, and 31 percent of business owners.<sup>7</sup> They account for 21 percent of the Houston metro area's total economic output. Immigrants work across job sectors in Houston.<sup>8</sup>



# Fact Sheet: Immigrants in Houston

## ■ Immigrants in Houston range from the highly-educated to those without a high school diploma.

23 percent of immigrants in Houston have received a bachelor's degree or above (compared to 30 percent of U.S. born residents), 36 percent of immigrants have completed high school but not received a bachelor's degree (compared to 59 percent of U.S. born residents), and 41 percent of immigrants in Houston have not completed high school (compared to 11 percent of U.S. born residents).<sup>9</sup>

## ■ Only 45 percent of immigrants eligible for naturalization in Houston have become naturalized citizens as compared to 60 percent nationwide.<sup>10</sup>

Naturalized citizens earn 8.9 percent more than those who have not naturalized. If Houston's naturalization rates increased to the national average, aggregate earnings could increase by \$312 million annually. These earnings would also translate into \$93 million in additional tax revenues.

## ■ Almost half of Houston's estimated population of undocumented immigrants are currently eligible to stay in the United States and work legally.

An estimated 407,000 of Houston's immigrants are undocumented. 196,000 of those immigrants are eligible for either Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program or the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, which allow certain immigrants to legally work and stay in the United States.<sup>11</sup>

Immigrants  
in the State  
of Texas

4.2 MILLION  
Immigrants<sup>12</sup>

\$65  
BILLION

in Economic Output<sup>13</sup>

31.3% of NEW BUSINESSES<sup>14</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> LARGEST  
Highly-Educated  
Skilled Workforce  
in the Country<sup>15</sup>


### CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

CPPP is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at [CPPP.org](http://CPPP.org).

For more information, please contact Oliver Bernstein at [bernstein@cppp.org](mailto:bernstein@cppp.org) or call 512.823.2875.

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