**Immigrants Drive the HOUSTON ECONOMY**

Houston is home to 1.4 million immigrants (22.5 percent of the metro population). The immigrant population in Houston represents close to one-third of the entire immigrant population in the state of Texas.¹

Immigrants have played a leading role in Houston’s economic success and make up 29.3 percent of the total metro labor force. Houston immigrants work in a wide range of jobs, most heavily concentrated in education, health care and social services.²

Immigrants also power the Houston economy as job creators, small business owners and entrepreneurs. Immigrants make up 27.3 percent of the metro’s business owners with paid employees,³ and are self-employed at a higher rate (9.1 percent) than the Native-born population (5.1 percent).⁴

*This fact sheet refers to Texas immigrants as any foreign-born resident regardless of immigration or U.S. citizenship status. Houston data in this report is for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metro Area.

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**Where Houston Immigrants Work**

Top 5 Industries by Foreign-Born Participation

- **Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance**: 15.2% Foreign Born, 22.0% Native Born
- **Construction**: 15.1% Foreign Born, 6.3% Native Born
- **Professional, Scientific and Management, and Administrative and Waste Management Services**: 12.9% Foreign Born, 12.5% Native Born
- **Manufacturing**: 11.4% Foreign Born, 10.3% Native Born
- **Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Food Services**: 10.6% Foreign Born, 7.2% Native Born
- **All Other Industries**: 34.8% Foreign Born, 41.7% Native Born

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau⁵*
WHERE TEXAS IMMIGRANTS LIVE (METRO AREAS)

- HOUSTON-THE WOODLANDS-SUGAR LAND: 32.5%
- DALLAS-PLANO-IRVING: 19.8%
- AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK: 6.3%
- SAN ANTONIO: 6.2%
- FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON: 7.4%
- EL PASO: 5.0%
- MCALLEN-EDINBURG-MISSION: 5.4%
- OTHER: 17.4%

Endnotes

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.
2 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.
3 U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, Statistics for Owners of Respondent Employer Firms by Whether the Owner Was Born a U.S. Citizen by Sector, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Veteran Status, and Years in Business for the U.S., States, and Top 50 MSAs, Table SE1400CSCBO09. Includes firms with payroll at any time during 2014.
4 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.
5 Ibid.
6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.
7 Ibid.
8 CPPP calculated the estimated range of potential direct purchasing power using PUMS foreign-born income data, 1-Year Estimate, 2015 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau multiplied by the average annual expenditure rates from the 2015 Consumer Expenditure Survey, Table 1800. CPPP calculated the expenditure rates by dividing average annual expenditures by the average pre-tax incomes for the South (low end of range) and for the U.S. (high end of the range). The estimate includes average spending on housing, food, transportation, healthcare, and all other personal expenditures. For the full list of expenditure categories, see Consumer Expenditure Survey Table 1800. Texas immigrants earned nearly $119 billion in wage, salary, and self-employment income in 2015.