



# New Americans in Houston

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metro Area<sup>1</sup>

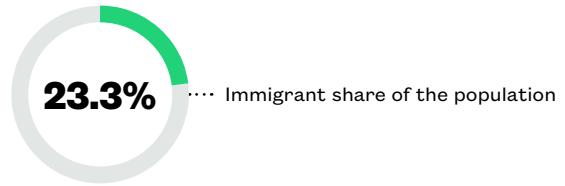
## POPULATION

**6.8M**

Total population in 2016

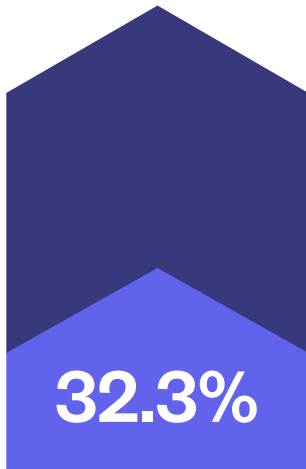
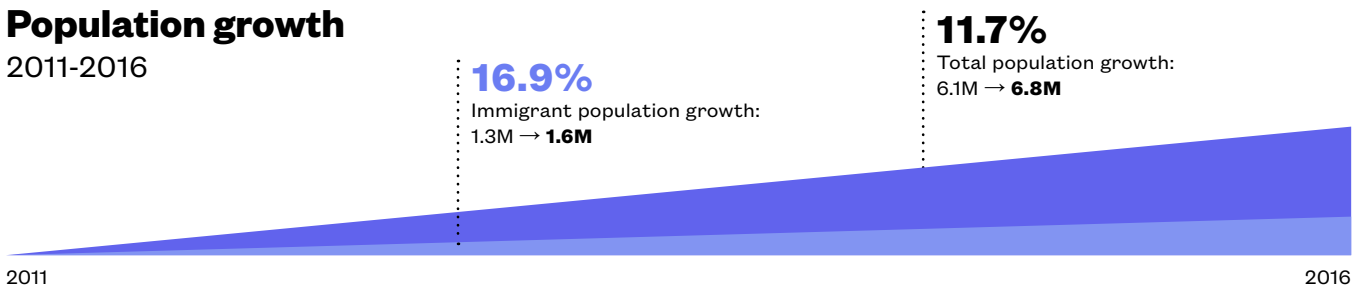
**1.6M**

Immigrant population



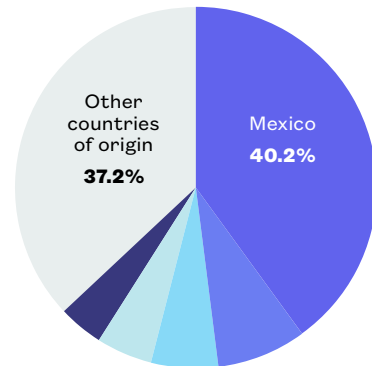
## Population growth

2011-2016



Share of total population growth in Houston attributed to immigrants

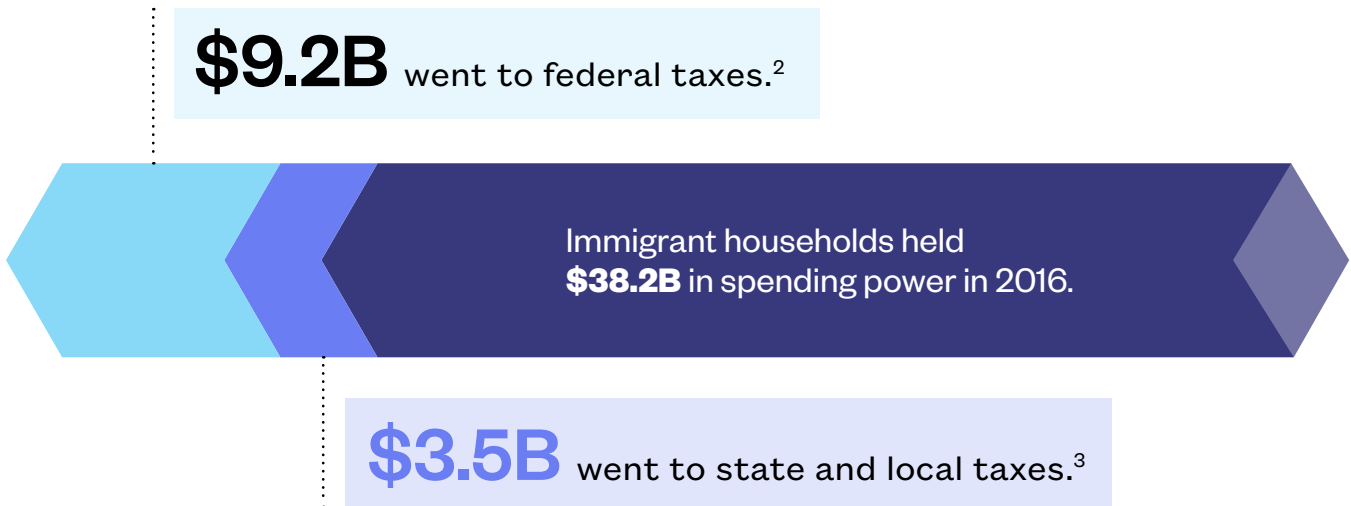
## Top five countries of origin:



- 1 Mexico . . . . . 40.2%
- 2 El Salvador . . . . . 7.6%
- 3 Vietnam . . . . . 5.9%
- 4 India . . . . . 5.5%
- 5 Honduras . . . . . 3.6%

## TAX CONTRIBUTIONS & SPENDING POWER

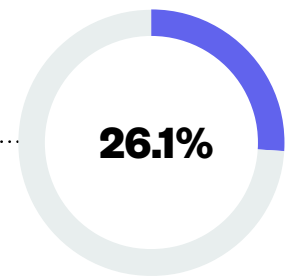
Foreign-born residents in the metro area hold significant **economic power**. In 2016, immigrant households in Houston earned **\$50.9B**.



Total GDP in the Houston metro area was **\$478.6B** in 2016.

**\$124.7B** of that was contributed by foreign-born residents.

This means Houston immigrants contributed 26.1% of the metro area's GDP.<sup>4</sup>



## Foreign-born residents also support federal social programs.

In 2016, immigrants in the Houston metro area contributed **\$5B** to Social Security and **\$1.4B** to Medicare.

**17.4%** of immigrants in the area received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **29.4%** of U.S.-born residents in 2016.



About **51%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **17.5%** had public healthcare coverage.<sup>5</sup>

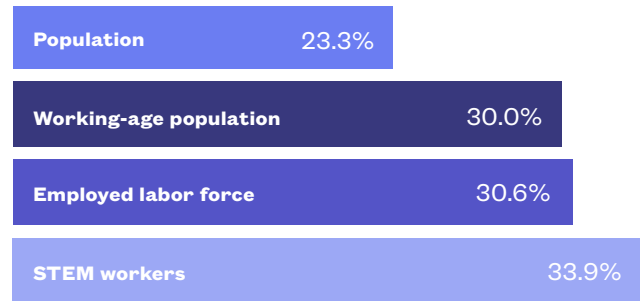


## LABOR FORCE

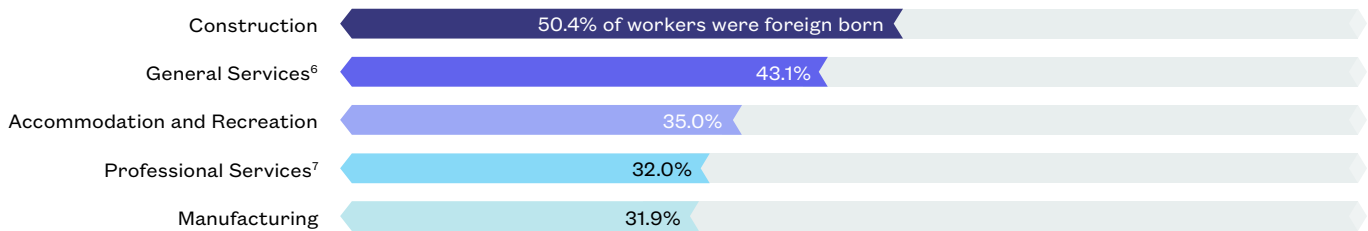
Although the foreign-born made up **23.3%** of the metro area's overall population, they represented **30%** of its working-age\* population, **30.6%** of its employed labor force, and **33.9%** of its STEM\*\* workers in 2016.

\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.  
 \*\* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

### Immigrant shares of the...

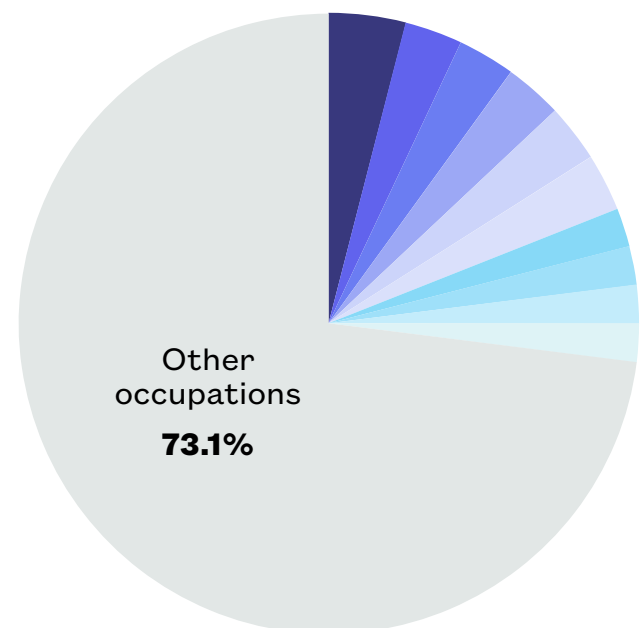


## Immigrants played a critical role in several key industries in the metro area. This includes:



## Immigrants in the metro area tend to concentrate in these **occupations**:

- 1 Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners... 3.7%
- 2 Construction Laborers... 3.4%
- 3 Cooks... 3.0%
- 4 Janitors & Building Cleaners... 2.8%
- 5 Truck Drivers... 2.7%
- 6 Carpenters... 2.6%
- 7 Ground Maintenance Workers... 2.4%
- 8 Registered Nurses... 2.2%
- 9 Cashiers... 2.2%
- 10 Miscellaneous Managers<sup>8</sup>... 1.9%



## LABOR FORCE CONT.

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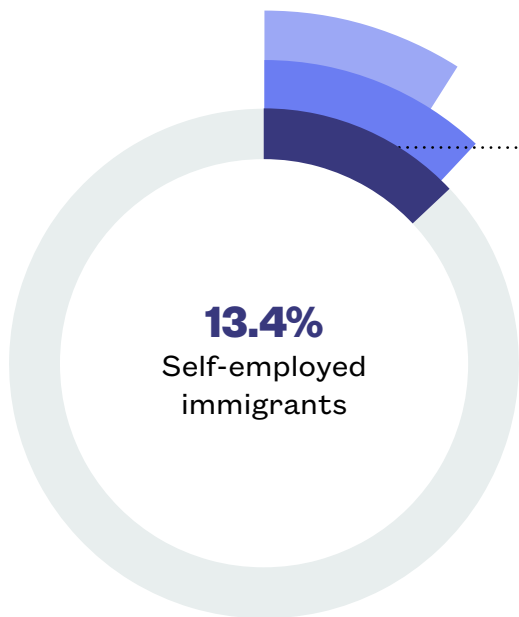
Immigrants fill critical gaps in the workforce, allowing companies to keep jobs on U.S. soil. By 2016, immigrants had helped **create or preserve**

# 72,576 local manufacturing jobs

that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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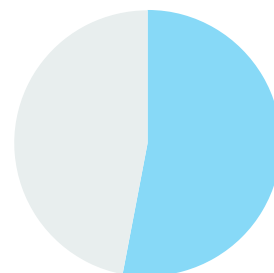
In 2016, **13.4%**, or **131,535**, of employed immigrants in Houston were **self-employed**.

Compared to...

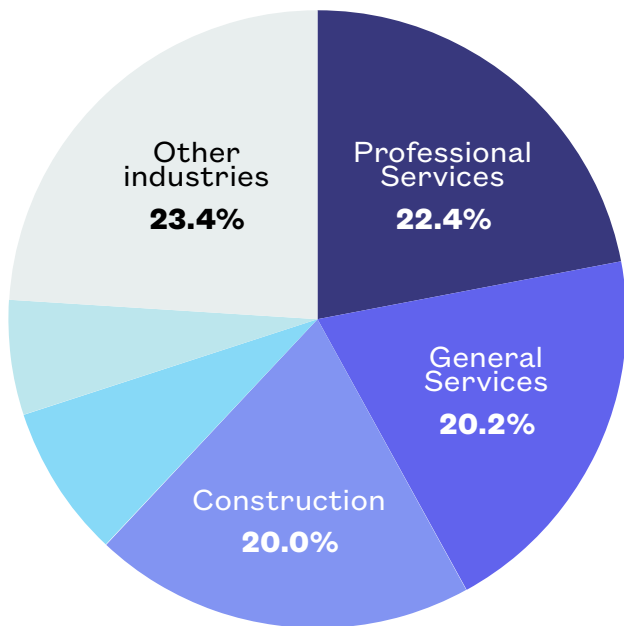
- **11.9%** Immigrant national average
- **8.8%** U.S.-born average

That year, they generated **\$3.2B** in business income.

Immigrants in the area were **53.2%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.



**Immigrant entrepreneurs tend to own businesses in these key industries in the metro area:**



- 1 Professional Services ..... 22.4%
- 2 General Services ..... 20.2%
- 3 Construction ..... 20.0%
- 4 Healthcare ..... 7.6%
- 5 Retail Trade ..... 6.4%

**In 2012...**

African American-owned businesses in the metro area generated

**\$4.4B**  
in sales and paid  
**38,862**  
employees.

38,862

Asian-owned businesses generated

**\$26.9B**  
in sales and paid  
**122,315**  
employees.

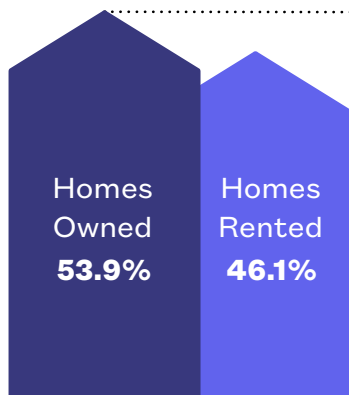
122,315

Hispanic-owned businesses generated

**\$22.7B**  
in sales and paid  
**105,700**  
employees.<sup>10</sup>

105,700

**HOUSING**



In 2016, **53.9%** of immigrant households owned their homes in the metro area. That's **359,440** homes.

**46.1%** of immigrant households were renters.

**59.2%** of immigrant households lived in **houses**, while **33.6%** lived in **apartments**.

**\$78.4B**

Total property value

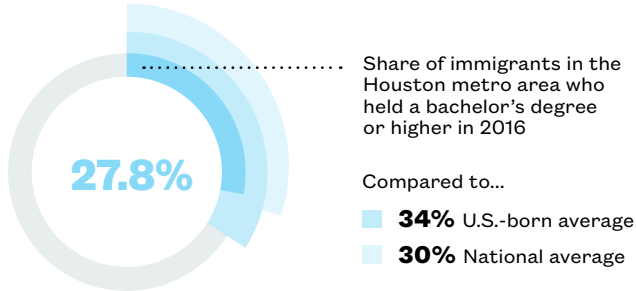
**\$3.1B**

Total Annual Rent

## EDUCATION

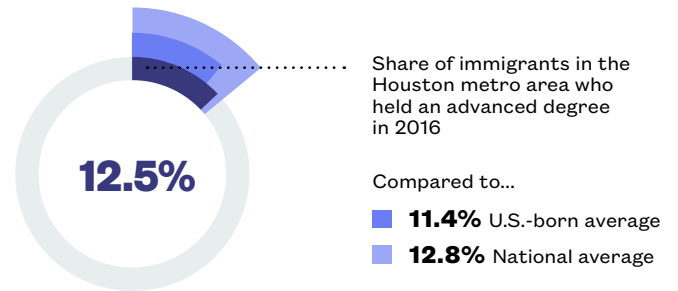
### BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Among immigrants 25 years and older



### ADVANCED DEGREE

Among immigrants 25 years and older



In fall 2015, there were **20,063 international students** at colleges and universities in the Houston metro area.<sup>11</sup>

International students supported

**5,255**

local jobs...

And spent

**\$509.9M**

in the 2016-17 academic year.<sup>12</sup>

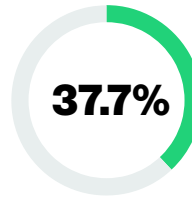
### Students under 18 who attended public schools in the area in 2016:



## NATURALIZATION

# 594,921

Number of foreign-born residents in Houston who had naturalized as of 2016

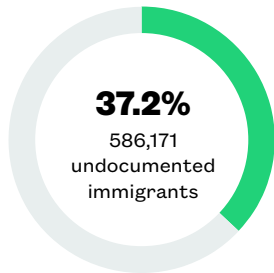


Share of foreign-born residents who had naturalized as of 2016

Among the **982,813** immigrants who were not citizens...

**22.2%**, or **217,815**, were likely eligible to naturalize.

## UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS



Share of immigrant population in Houston metro area that was undocumented in 2016

**6.1%**, or **96,669**, undocumented immigrants were likely to be **DACA-eligible**.

Undocumented immigrant households in Houston earned **\$11B** in total income in 2016.

**\$742.0M** went to federal taxes.<sup>13</sup>

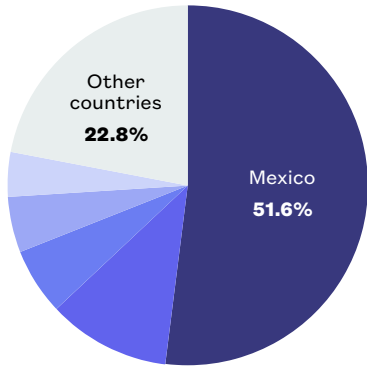
This left them with **\$9.8B** in spending power.<sup>14</sup>

**\$448.4M** went to state and local taxes.<sup>15 16</sup>

**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CONT.**

**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

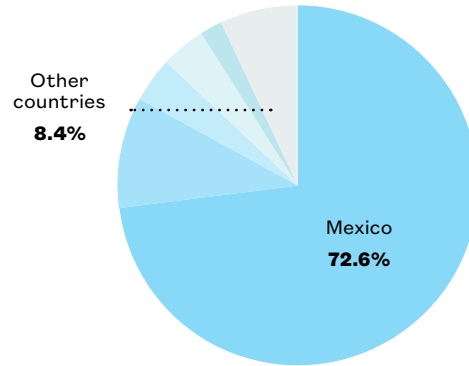
**Top Countries of Origin:**



- 1 Mexico .....51.6%
- 2 El Salvador ..... 11.1%
- 3 Honduras ..... 5.9%
- 4 Guatemala ..... 4.9%
- 5 India .....3.7%

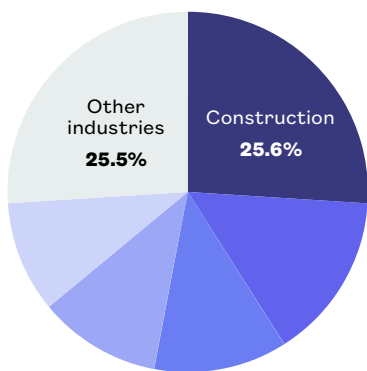
**DACA-ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS**

**Top Countries of Origin:**



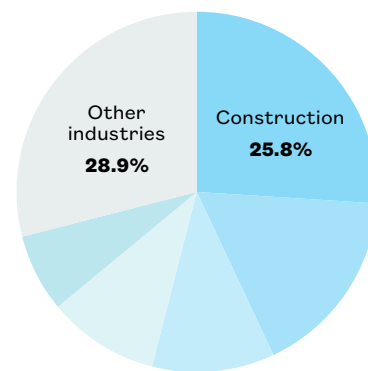
- 1 Mexico ..... 72.6%
- 2 El Salvador .....9.5%
- 3 Honduras ..... 4.1%
- 4 Guatemala ..... 3.9%
- 5 India .....1.5%

**Concentrated in the Following Industries:**



- 1 Construction ..... 25.6%
- 2 Accommodation & Recreation....15.4%
- 3 Professional Services .....12.2%
- 4 General Services .....10.9%
- 5 Retail Trade .....10.4%

**Concentrated in the Following Industries:**

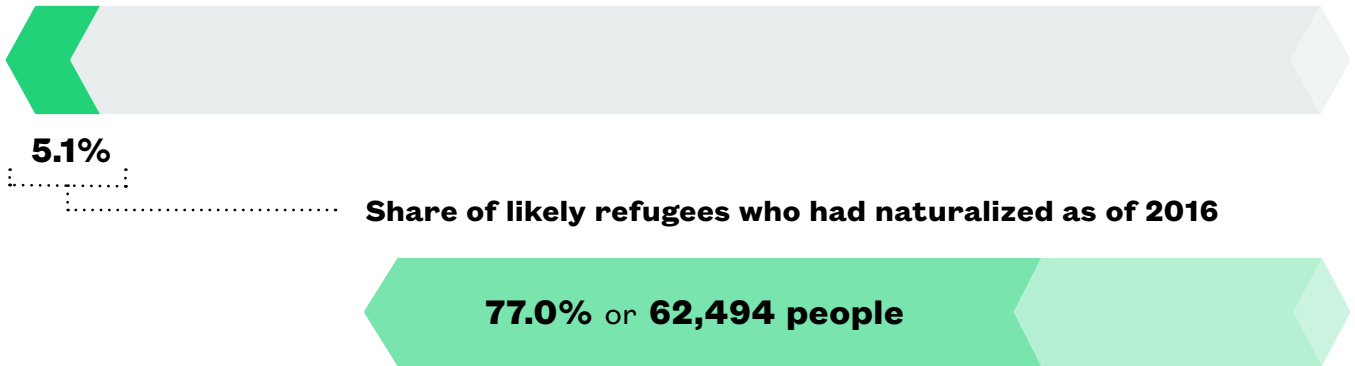


- 1 Construction ..... 25.8%
- 2 Accommodation & Recreation....17.3%
- 3 Professional Services .....11.0%
- 4 Retail Trade ..... 10.0%
- 5 General Services .....7.0%

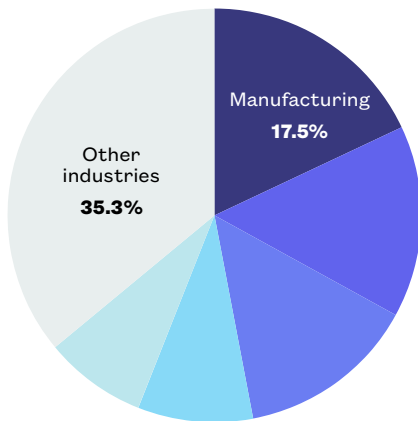


In 2016, **81,131 people**, or **5.1%** of the immigrant population in the area, were likely refugees.<sup>17</sup>

**Share of immigrants in Houston who were likely refugees**

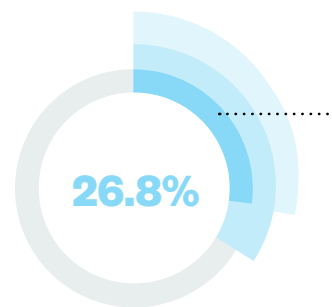


**Refugees in the Metro Area Work in the Following Industries:**



- 1 Manufacturing . . . . . 17.5%
- 2 Healthcare . . . . . 15.0%
- 3 General Services . . . . . 14.4%
- 4 Retail Trade . . . . . 9.4%
- 5 Professional Services . . . . . 8.4%

**Education in the Refugee Community:**



Share of likely refugees aged 25 and up who held a **bachelor's degree or higher**

Compare to...

- **34.0%** U.S.-born average
- **30.0%** National average

For more city, district, and state-level data, visit [MapTheImpact.org](http://MapTheImpact.org) and explore our interactive map.



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data are estimated from the 1-year sample of the American Community Survey from 2016 and figures refer to the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas, Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- 2 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 3 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 4 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants' share of wage income and self-employment income in the 1-year ACS sample from 2016 and GDP statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 5 The percentage of immigrants who had private healthcare coverage includes immigrants who had only private healthcare coverage and those who had both private and public healthcare coverage; likewise, for the percentage of immigrants who had public healthcare coverage.
- 6 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 7 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.
- 8 Miscellaneous managers include funeral service managers and postmasters and mail superintendents.
- 9 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." New American Economy.
- 10 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 11 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Educational Statistics
- 12 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 13 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 14 Estimates are based on federal tax rates from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and state and local tax rates from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.
- 15 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 16 Gee, Lisa Christensen, Matthew Gardener, and Meg Wiehe, 2016. "Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions," The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.
- 17 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."