

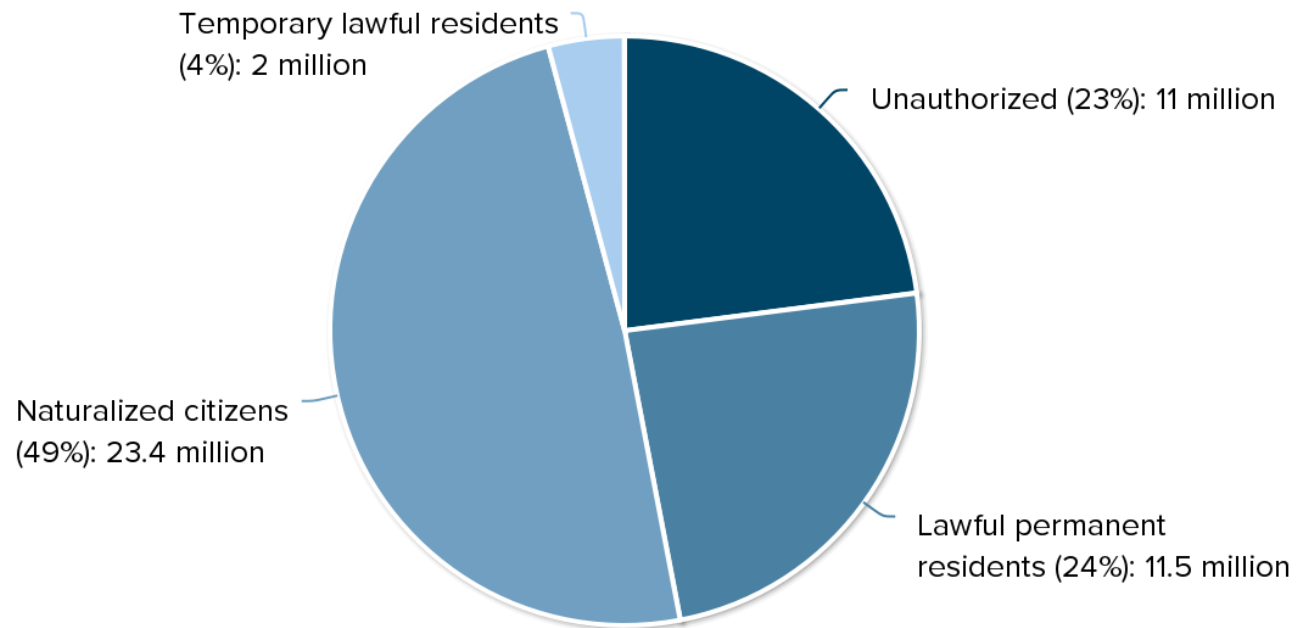
EPI and immigration

- *Immigration is a labor issue!*
- Intersection of immigration and labor, with a focus on improving labor standards for all workers
- Employment-based aspects of the immigration system
- Immigrant workers' rights
- Impact of immigration policies on economy / workforce
- Status-blind labor standards enforcement
- Structural analysis of employment-based pathways, programs, and statuses
 - EB green cards
 - Temp work visa programs
- Precarious statuses and value of work permits

Immigration pathways/statuses matter

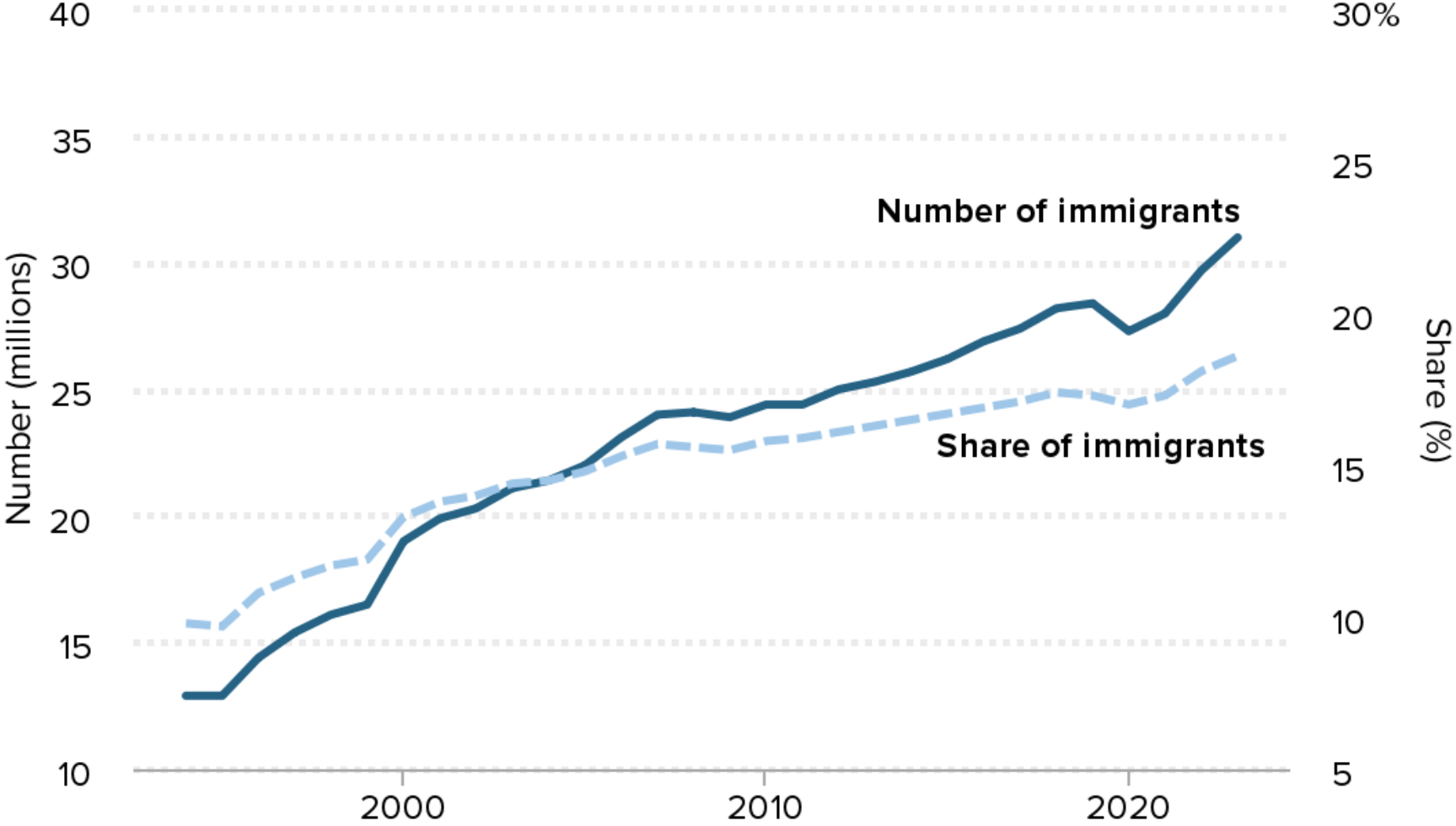
Nearly half of all immigrants in the United States are citizens, and one-quarter have green cards

Immigration statuses of the foreign-born population residing in the United States, 2022 (shares and totals, in millions)



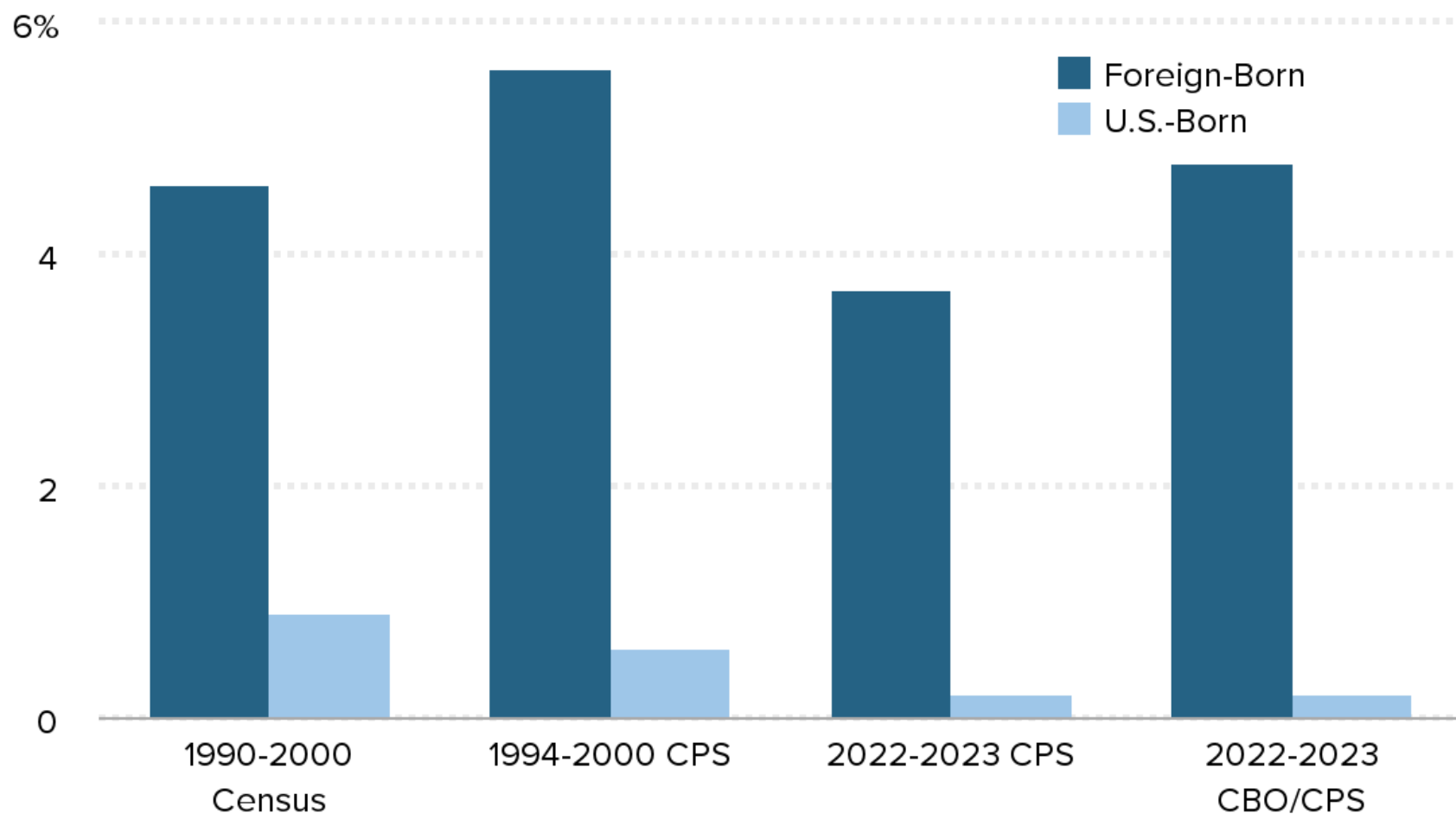
The immigrant workforce has steadily grown over three decades

The number and share of immigrants in the U.S. labor force, 1994–2023



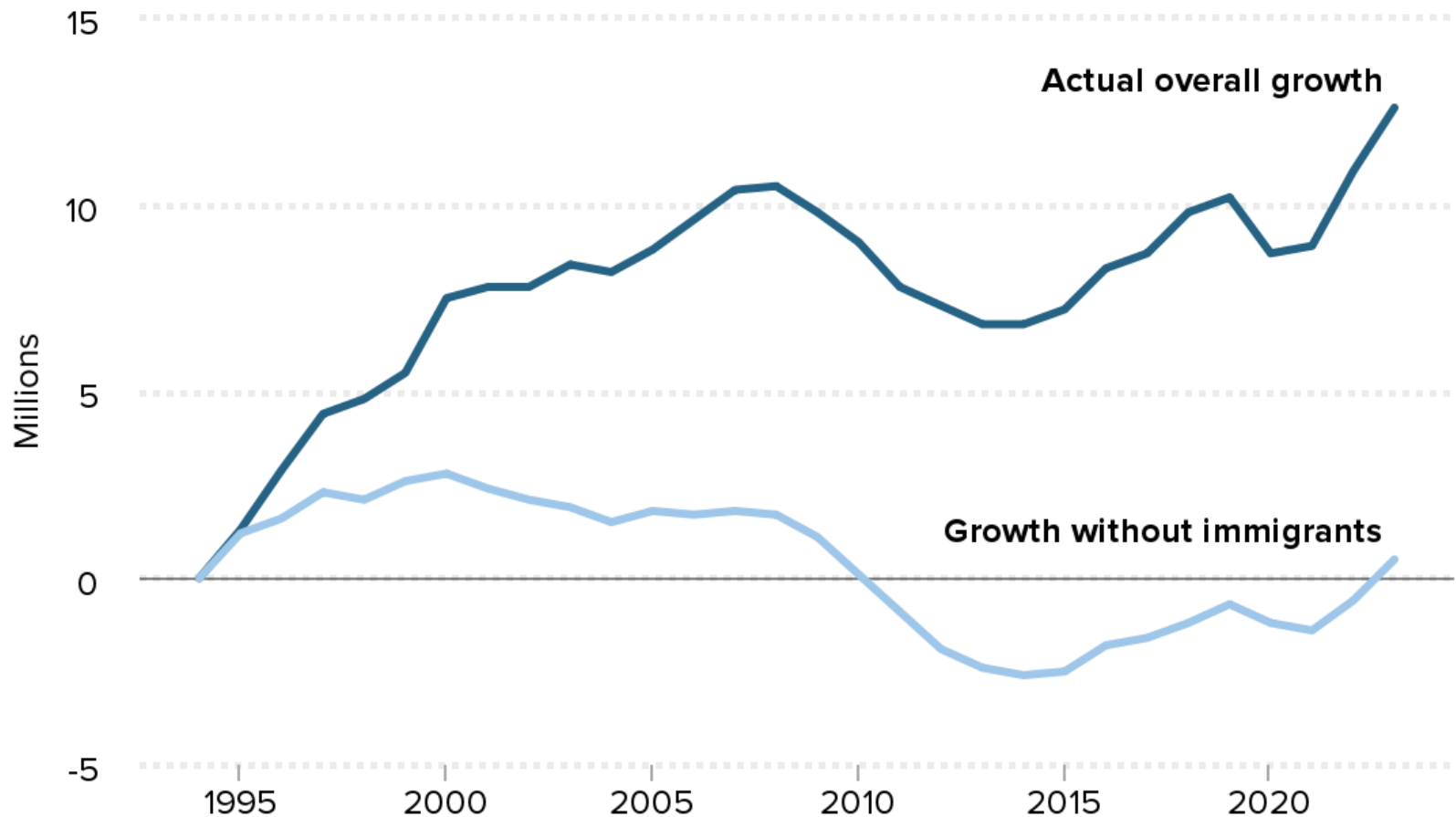
The current growth of the foreign-born population is not unprecedented

Annual population growth by country of birth and time period



Immigration is the primary source of growth in the prime-age labor force

Labor force growth since 1994 for ages 25–54, overall and without immigrants (in millions)



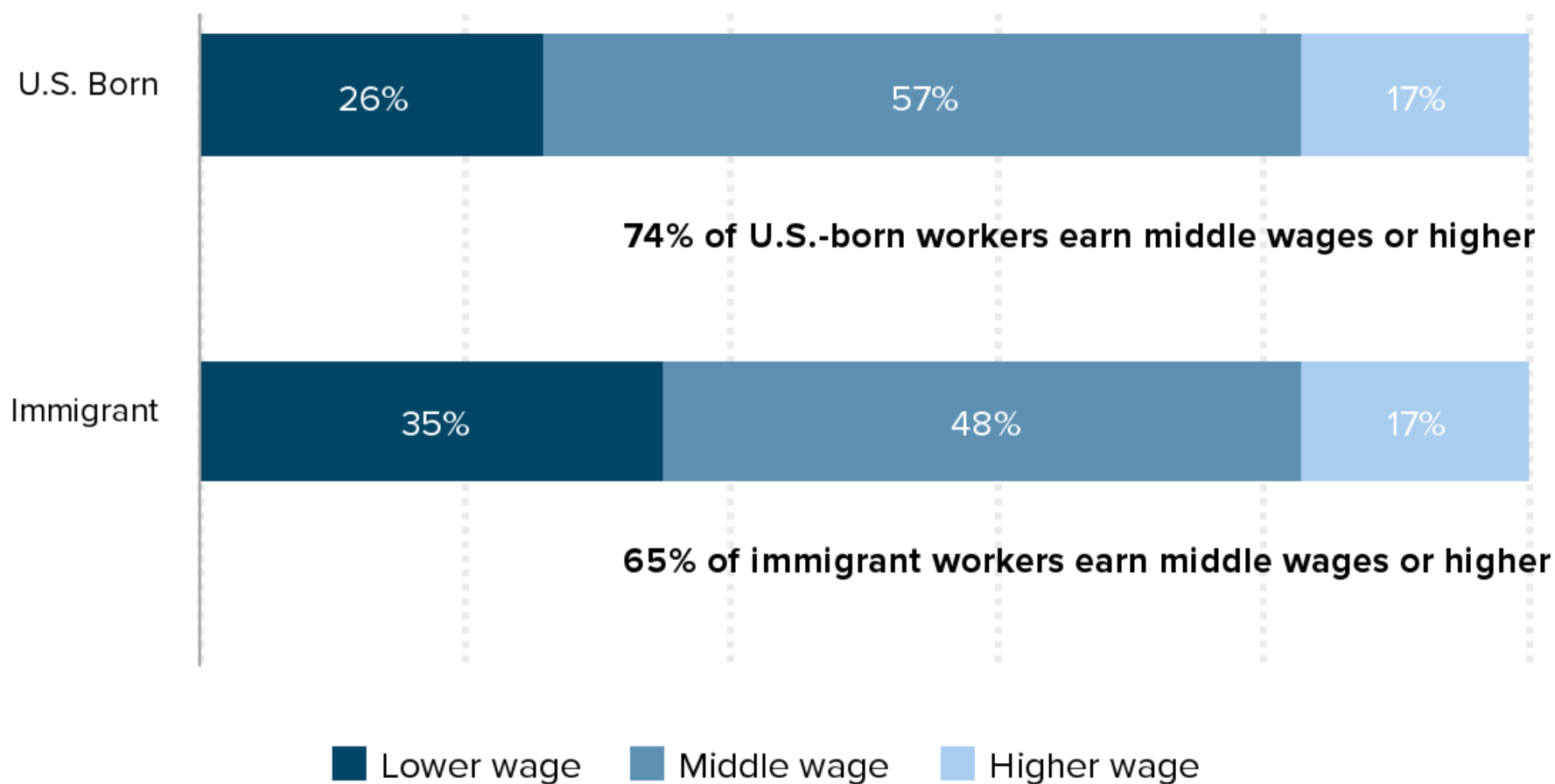
Immigrants comprise a significant share of workers in both high- and low-paying major occupations

Top-10 occupations for immigrants by share of employment in the occupation, number of immigrants employed in each occupation, median wage for the occupation, and difference from national median wage for all workers

Occupation	Number of immigrants employed	Immigrant share of total employment in occupation	Median wage for the occupation	Difference from national median wage for all workers
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	2,199,000	40%	\$17.00	-32%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	380,000	39%	\$16.00	-36%
Construction and extraction	2,899,000	34%	\$24.75	-1%
Computer and mathematical science	1,737,000	27%	\$45.79	83%
Production	1,978,000	24%	\$22.00	-12%
Food preparation and serving related	1,964,000	24%	\$16.00	-36%
Health care support	1,212,000	24%	\$18.00	-28%
Life, physical, and social science	415,000	22%	\$37.50	50%
Transportation and material moving	2,561,000	22%	\$20.00	-20%
Personal care and service	887,000	21%	\$17.25	-31%

Two-thirds of immigrant workers earn middle wages or higher

Earnings distribution of full-time year-round workers in 2018–2022, for U.S.-born and foreign-born



Immigrant and U.S.-born shares of total U.S. economic output, 2018–2022

	Total wage, salary, and business proprietor income (2023\$)	Income share	Population share
U.S. born	\$9.1 trillion	82.6%	86.3%
Immigrant	\$1.9 trillion	17.4%	13.7%
Total population	\$11.0 trillion	100.0%	100.0%

Notes: All figures are in 2023 dollars. Economic output is derived from wages and salary and proprietors' income. The immigrant share is simply the total income from these sources attributable to immigrant workers and business owners.

Source: EPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey microdata accessed via Ruggles et al. 2024. IPUMS USA: Version 15.0 [2018–2022 ACS 5-year]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V15.0>. and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.

Economic Policy Institute



What you need to know about the Texas economy and immigrant workers

5.4 million immigrants reside in Texas, comprising 17.8% of the total population in the state. That's more than 1 out of every 6 Texans. 43% of immigrants in Texas are naturalized citizens. 3 million U.S.-born Texans live with at least one immigrant parent, accounting for 12% of the total U.S.-born resident population in the state.

Immigrant workers fill 22% of all jobs in Texas and contribute 20.1% of the state's economic output.

The top industries for immigrant workers in Texas include:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Construction | 39% |
| 2. Other services | 28% |
| 3. Manufacturing | 27% |
| 4. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting | 25% |
| 5. Professional and business services | 24% |

The occupations in Texas with the highest share of immigrant workers are:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Manicurists and pedicurists | 82% |
| 2. Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers | 73% |
| 3. Painters and paperhangers | 66% |
| 4. Brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons | 66% |
| 5. Cement masons, concrete finishers, and terrazzo workers | 65% |

Immigrants are not just workers but also entrepreneurs and business owners who are vital to the Texas economy and workforce.

- 448,000 immigrants in Texas are entrepreneurs, 29.4% of the state's entrepreneurs.