

Immigrants in Arkansas

Arkansas has a small but growing community of immigrants, representing 1 in 20 residents of the state. While relatively few in number, immigrants help support Arkansas in many ways. The state's manufacturing industry, for example, relies on immigrants for 14 percent of its workers, while nearly a quarter of Arkansas residents in life, physical, and social science jobs are immigrants. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Arkansas's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Five percent of Arkansas residents are immigrants, while another 5 percent are nativeborn U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 143,709 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 5 percent of the population.¹
- Arkansas was home to 66,509 women, 67,661 men, and 9,539 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (40 percent of immigrants), El Salvador (12 percent), India (5 percent), Vietnam (4 percent), and Guatemala (4 percent).³
- In 2018, 134,642 people in Arkansas (5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

More than a third of all immigrants in Arkansas are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 50,266 immigrants (35 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 26,831 immigrants were eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens in 2017.⁶
- Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."

Most immigrants in Arkansas have at least a high school education.

• One-fifth (20 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while more than a third (37 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives	
College degree or more	20	24	
Some college	16	31	
High school diploma only	27	34	
Less than a high school diploma	37	11	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.			

Tens of thousands of U.S. citizens in Arkansas live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 55,000 <u>undocumented immigrants</u> comprised 41 percent of the immigrant population and 2 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 85,888 people in Arkansas, including 42,170 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one <u>undocumented family</u> member between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about 1 in 20 children in the state was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (33,354 children in total).¹¹

Arkansas is home to thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- 4,480 <u>active DACA recipients</u> lived in Arkansas as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 5,479 people in total since 2012.¹²
- As of 2019, 58 percent of <u>DACA-eligible immigrants</u> in Arkansas had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 2,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than 1,000 would become eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

One in 14 Arkansas workers is an immigrant, making up a vital part of the state's labor force.

99,331 immigrant workers comprised 7 percent of the labor force in 2018.

Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers	
Manufacturing	31,525	
Construction	12,756	
Retail Trade	12,419	
Health Care and Social Assistance	8,412	
Accommodation and Food Services	8,378	
Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.		

The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following industries:¹⁶

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)	
Manufacturing	14	
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	12	
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	11	
Construction	11	
Other Services (except Public Administration)	9	
Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.		

Immigrants are an integral part of the Arkansas workforce in a range of occupations.

■ In 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:¹⁷

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers	
Production	21,416	
Transportation and Material Moving	12,223	
Construction and Extraction	12,215	
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	10,192	
Management	6,703	
Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.		

The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following occupation groups:¹⁸

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)	
Life, Physical, and Social Science	24	
Production	15	
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	14	
Construction and Extraction	14	
Architecture and Engineering	13	
Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.		

Undocumented immigrants comprised 3 percent of Arkansas's workforce in 2016.

Immigrants in Arkansas have contributed over a billion dollars in taxes.

- <u>Immigrant-led households in the state paid</u> \$705.6 million in federal taxes and \$389.7 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Arkansas paid an estimated \$85.5 million in federal taxes and \$69.1 million in <u>state and local taxes</u> in 2018.²¹
- Arkansas <u>DACA recipients</u> and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$13.7 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²²

As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Arkansas's economy.

 Arkansas residents in immigrant-led households had \$3.1 billion in <u>spending power</u> (after-tax income) in 2018.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Arkansas generate hundreds of millions of dollars in business revenue.

 12,843 immigrant business owners accounted for 8 percent of all self-employed Arkansas residents in 2018 and generated \$282.9 million in business income.²⁴

Endnotes

- 1. "Foreign born" does not include people born in Puerto Rico or U.S. island areas or U.S. citizens born abroad of American parent(s). U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. The American Immigration Council elected to use data from the 2018 ACS 1-Year estimates wherever possible to provide the most current information available. Since these estimates are based on a smaller sample size than the ACS 5-year, however, they are more sensitive to fluctuations and may result in greater margins of error (compared to 5-year estimates)
- 2. Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.
- 3. Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
- 4. Analysis of data from the 2018 Current Population Survey by the American Immigration Council, using IPUMS CPS. Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles and J. Robert Warren, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020), https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0.
- 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates.
- 6. Augmented IPUMS-ACS data, as published in "State-Level Unauthorized Population and Eligible-to-Naturalize Estimates," Center for Migration Studies data tool, accessed April 2020, <u>data.cmsnv.org/state.html</u>.
- Figure includes immigrants who speak only English. Data based on survey respondents age 5 and over. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-Year
 Estimates by the American Immigration Council.
- 8. Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. Ibid.
- 9. Pew Research Center, "U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016," February 5, 2019, www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/.
- Silva Mathema, "State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants," University of Southern California's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and the Center for American Progress, March 2017, www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/03/16/427868/state-state-estimates-family-members-unauthorizedimmigrants/.
- 11. American Immigration Council analysis of data from the 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year, using Silva Mathema's "State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants" and IPUMS-USA. Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2017).
- 12. The number of DACA recipients reflects USCIS' estimate of those with active DACA grants as of March 31, 2020. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "Approximate Active DACA Recipients: As of March 31, 2020" [dataset], July 22, 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Approximate%20Active%20DACA%20Receipts%20-%20March%2031%2C%202020.pdf. DACA grants reflect USCIS Form I-821D initial requests approved from Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020, as of April 2020. USCIS, "Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Status, by Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status: Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020, "July 22, 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performancedata_fy2020_qtr2.pdf.
- 13. Estimates of the DACA-eligible population as of 2019 include unauthorized immigrant youth who had been in the United States since 2007, were under the age of 16 at the time of arrival, were under the age of 31 as of 2012, and who met DACA eligibility requirements as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012-16 American Community Survey (ACS) pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), with legal status assignments by James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute, as cited in "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools," accessed April 2020, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.
- 14. Ibid.
- 15. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html.
- 16. Ibid
- 17. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm.
- 18. Ibid.
- 19. Pew Research Center, "U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016," 2019.
- 20. New American Economy analysis of 2018 ACS microdata using IPUMS. New American Economy, "Map the Impact," section Taxes and Spending Power, January 31, 2020, https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/.
- 21. Ibid. at sec. Undocumented Immigrants.
- 22. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants (Washington, DC: April 2018), Appendix 1, https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants.
- 23. New American Economy, "Map the Impact," section Taxes and Spending Power.
- 24. "Business owners" include people who are self-employed, at least 18 years old, and work at least 15 hours per week at their businesses. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.