



Immigrants in Connecticut

Connecticut has a sizable community of immigrants, much of which hails from India and Poland. Nearly 15 percent of the state's population was born in another country, and over 14 percent of residents are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants support Connecticut's economy across sectors, comprising more than 25 percent of all computer and math sciences employees and one third of residents working in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Connecticut's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

More than one in seven Connecticut residents is an immigrant, while another one in eight is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 519,648 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 14.5 percent of the state's population.¹
- Connecticut was home to 250,118 women, 236,720 men, and 32,810 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were India (6.6 percent of immigrants), Poland (6.4 percent), Jamaica (6.3 percent), the Dominican Republic (5.1 percent), and Mexico (4.8 percent).³
- In 2016, 480,001 people in Connecticut (13.5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

Nearly half of all immigrants in Connecticut are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 253,505 (48.8 percent) immigrants had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 98,652 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- More than four in five immigrants (82.3 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Connecticut are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- One in three adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while one in five had less than a high-school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	34.0	39.3
Some college	20.4	25.4
High school diploma only	25.8	27.8
Less than a high-school diploma	19.8	7.6

Nearly 60,000 U.S. citizens in Connecticut live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 120,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 24 percent of the immigrant population and 3.4 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 143,784 people in Connecticut, including 47,220 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 5 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (40,931 children in total).¹¹

Nearly 4,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Connecticut.¹²

- As of 2016, half of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Connecticut, or 5,676 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- Another 2,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and up to 2,000 others would be additionally eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

One in six workers in Connecticut is an immigrant, together making up a significant part of the state’s labor force across industries.

- 341,718 immigrant workers comprised 17.6 percent of the labor force in 2015.¹⁵
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	53,245
Manufacturing	46,357
Retail Trade	38,514
Construction	34,518
Educational Services	29,782

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 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)
Construction	26.3
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	24.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	21.4
Manufacturing	20.6
Accommodation and Food Services	20.6

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

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

- In 2015, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:¹⁷

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	34,020
Sales and Related	32,916
Management	31,764
Production	31,588
Construction and Extraction	31,506

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 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)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	36.6
Construction and Extraction	29.1
Production	28.6
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	26.9
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	26.5

Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 4.7 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Connecticut have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$3.3 billion in federal taxes and \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Connecticut paid an estimated \$124.7 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$145.3 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients](#) in Connecticut paid an estimated \$17.6 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

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

- Connecticut residents in immigrant-led households had \$13.8 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs represent nearly one in four Connecticut business owners.

- More than 46,351 immigrant business owners accounted for 23.7 percent of all self-employed Connecticut residents in 2015 and generated \$1.2 billion 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, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. The American Immigration Council elected to use data from the 2015 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 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

⁴ Analysis of data from the 2016 Current Population Survey by the American Immigration Council, using IPUMS-CPS. Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Steven Ruggles, and J. Robert Warren, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 5.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2017).

⁵ 2015 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 August 2017, data.cmsny.org/state.html.

⁷ Figure includes immigrants who speak only English. Data based on survey respondents age 5 and over. Analysis of 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates by the American Immigration Council.

⁸ Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

⁹ Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” November 3, 2016, www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/.

¹⁰ 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, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/03/16/427868/state-state-estimates-family-members-unauthorized-immigrants/>.

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 “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) initiative began in 2012 and provides certain immigrants (those who were brought to the United States as children and meet specific requirements) with temporary relief from deportation, or deferred action. American Immigration Council, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: A Q&A Guide,” August 17, 2012, www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-qa-guide. The number of DACA recipients reflects USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of September 4, 2017. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services CLAIMS3 and ELIS Systems, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Population Data* (Washington, DC: Dept. of Homeland Security, September 20, 2017), Approximate Active DACA Recipients: State of Residence as of September 4, 2017 [dataset], <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>.

¹³ “DACA-eligible” refers to immigrants who were immediately eligible to apply for DACA as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), 2010-14 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), as cited in “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed June 2017, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Analysis of 2015 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 2015 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.

²⁰ New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Connecticut* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-connecticut>.

²¹ Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), *Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/>.

²² ITEP, *State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants* (Washington, DC: April 2017), Appendix 1, <https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants/>.

²³ New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Connecticut*, 5.

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 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.