



## Immigrants in Florida

Florida has long been home to a large number of immigrants, many of whom hail from the Caribbean. One in five residents in the state is an immigrant, together making up more than a fourth of Florida's labor force. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Florida's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **One in five Florida residents is an immigrant, while nearly one in eight is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 4.1 million immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 20.2 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- Florida was home to 2 million women, 1.8 million men, and 219,060 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Cuba (22.8 percent of immigrants), Haiti (8.3 percent), Mexico (6.8 percent), Colombia (6 percent), and Jamaica (5 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 2.5 million people in Florida (12.5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).<sup>4</sup>

### **Over half of all immigrants in Florida are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 2.2 million immigrants (53.7 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 784,395 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- The majority (72.4 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Florida are distributed across the educational spectrum.**

- More than one in four adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while more than one in five had less than a high school diploma.<sup>8</sup>

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	26.7	29.0
Some college	22.8	32.4
High school diploma only	28.3	29.5
Less than a high-school diploma	22.2	9.1

**Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens in Florida live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 850,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 20 percent of the immigrant population and 4.2 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 909,104 people in Florida, including 336,151 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, 1 in 14 children in the state was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (280,133 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**More than 25,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Florida.**<sup>12</sup>

- As of 2016, 55 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Florida, or 39,843 people, had applied for DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 20,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 10,000 would be eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

**Immigrants make up a quarter of the labor force in Florida and are integral to a range of industries.**

- 2.5 million immigrant workers comprised 25.4 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>15</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	368,473
Retail Trade	314,035
Accommodation and Food Services	290,263
Construction	247,988
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	194,458

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:<sup>16</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	45.4
Other Services (except Public Administration)	32.5
Construction	30.9
Transportation and Warehousing	29.3
Wholesale Trade	27.9

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 Florida workforce in a range of occupations.**

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Sales and Related	309,896
Office and Administrative Support	303,738
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	245,424
Management	234,953
Construction and Extraction	209,964

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:<sup>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	54.4
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	43.0
Construction and Extraction	35.6
Healthcare Support	34.8
Production	31.2

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 6.2 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

**Immigrants in Florida have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$17 billion in federal taxes and \$6.4 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Florida paid \$598.7 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$658.5 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>
- [DACA recipients](#) in Florida paid an estimated \$100 million in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

**As consumers, immigrants add tens of billions of dollars to Florida's economy.**

- Florida residents in immigrant-led households had \$73.1 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>23</sup>

**Immigrant entrepreneurs in Florida generate billions of dollars in business revenue.**

- 381,117 immigrant business owners accounted for 30.7 percent of all self-employed Florida residents in 2015 and generated \$5.6 billion in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 61.6 percent of business owners in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale/Miami Beach metropolitan area, 23.7 percent in the Orlando metro area, and 21.7 percent in the Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater metro area.<sup>25</sup>

## 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](http://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. Ibid.
9. Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” November 3, 2016, [www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/](http://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, [www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/03/16/427868/state-state-estimates-family-members-unauthorized-immigrants/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Florida* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-florida/>.
21. Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), *Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, [www.itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/](http://www.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 Florida*, 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.
25. American Immigration Council analysis of 2016 CPS data. Flood, King, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.