



## Immigrants in Maryland

Maryland has a large immigrant community, with many individuals hailing from El Salvador. Roughly one in seven Maryland residents was born in another country, while one in eight is a native-born American who has at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants support Maryland's economy across sectors: nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, for example, are immigrants, as are more than a third of the state's building maintenance workers and groundskeepers. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Maryland's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

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

- In 2018, 915,191 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 15 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- Maryland was home to 451,208 women, 408,820 men, and 55,163 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were El Salvador (11 percent of immigrants), India (6 percent), China (5 percent), Nigeria (5 percent), and the Philippines (4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018, 760,379 people in Maryland (13 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **More than half of all immigrants in Maryland are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 489,731 immigrants (54 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and 146,228 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- More than four in five (83 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Most immigrants in Maryland have pursued education at or above the college level.**

- More than two in five (43 percent) adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while roughly one in five (19 percent) had less than a high school diploma.<sup>8</sup>

| Education Level                 | Share (%) of All Immigrants | Share (%) of All Natives |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| College degree or more          | 43                          | 40                       |
| Some college                    | 19                          | 27                       |
| High school diploma only        | 19                          | 26                       |
| Less than a high school diploma | 19                          | 7                        |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

### Over 126,000 U.S. citizens in Maryland live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 275,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 29 percent of the immigrant population and 5 percent of the total state population in 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- 289,091 people in Maryland, including 126,383 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, about 7 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (88,150 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

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

- 7,870 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Maryland as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 9,932 people in total since 2012.<sup>12</sup>
- As of 2019, 38 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Maryland had applied for DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 5,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than a thousand would become eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

### One in five workers in Maryland is an immigrant, together making up a vital part of the state's labor force in a range of industries.

- 646,170 immigrant workers comprised 20 percent of the labor force in 2018.<sup>15</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

| Industry   | Number of Immigrant Workers |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Health Care and Social Assistance                | 119,261                     |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 75,786                      |
| Construction                                     | 75,266                      |
| Accommodation and Food Services                  | 69,572                      |
| Retail Trade                                     | 60,993                      |

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:<sup>16</sup>

| Industry   | Immigrant Share (%)<br>(of all industry workers) |
|--|--|
| Construction   | 30   |
| Accommodation and Food Services                                      | 26   |
| Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services | 24   |
| Other Services (except Public Administration)                        | 24   |
| Health Care and Social Assistance                                    | 23   |

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 Maryland workforce in a range of occupations.**

- In 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:<sup>17</sup>

| Occupation Category                    | Number of Immigrant Workers |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Construction and Extraction            | 59,287                      |
| Management                             | 59,235                      |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical | 54,025                      |
| Office and Administrative Support      | 53,525                      |
| Sales and Related                      | 52,001                      |

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:<sup>18</sup>

| Occupation Category                         | Immigrant Share (%)<br>(of all workers in occupation) |
|---|---|
| Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | 35  |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science          | 34  |
| Construction and Extraction                 | 34  |
| Healthcare Support                          | 32  |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related        | 26  |

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 6 percent of Maryland's workforce in 2016.<sup>19</sup>

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

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$8.0 billion in federal taxes and \$4.1 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Maryland paid an estimated \$373.5 million in federal taxes and \$242.3 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.<sup>21</sup>
- Maryland [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$33.7 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>22</sup>

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

- Maryland residents in immigrant-led households had \$27.6 billion in spending power (after-tax income) in 2018.<sup>23</sup>

**Immigrant entrepreneurs in Maryland generate nearly \$2 billion in business revenue.**

- 66,350 immigrant business owners accounted for 23 percent of all self-employed Maryland residents in 2018 and generated \$1.7 billion in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2018, immigrants accounted for 31 percent of business owners in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area (encompassing D.C. and parts of Maryland and Virginia), and 18 percent in the Baltimore/Towson/Columbia 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, 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>.
5. 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, [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 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/](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 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\\_performance\\_data\\_fy2020\\_qtr2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performance_data_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](http://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](http://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](http://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.
25. American Immigration Council analysis of 2018 CPS data. Flood, King, Rodgers, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.