



Immigrants in Michigan

Michigan has a small but growing immigrant community. While less than 7 percent of the state's residents were born in another country, they make up a vital, educated share of Michigan's labor force. Nearly 40 percent of immigrants in the state possess a college or higher degree, and more than four in five report speaking English well. Michigan benefits from the various ways immigrants participate in the economy—from lending their skills as engineers and architects to making up nearly 11 percent of the state's healthcare practitioners, technologists, and technicians. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Michigan's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Nearly 7 percent of Michigan residents are immigrants, while almost 1 in 12 residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 652,090 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 6.6 percent of the state's population.¹
- Michigan was home to 308,432 women, 295,273 men, and 48,385 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (11.5 percent of immigrants), India (10.1 percent), Iraq (8.1 percent), China (5.9 percent), and Canada (5.4 percent).³
- In 2016, 762,606 people in Michigan (7.7 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

More than half of all immigrants in Michigan are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 342,465 immigrants (52.5 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 124,804 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- The vast majority of immigrants (82.2 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Most immigrants in Michigan have pursued education at or above the college level.

- Two-fifths of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while over a fifth had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	39.9	26.7
Some college	18.9	34.2
High school diploma only	19.7	30.3
Less than a high-school diploma	21.4	8.8

More than 70,000 U.S. citizens in Michigan live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 130,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 20 percent of the immigrant population and 1.3 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 157,529 people in Michigan, including 60,448 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 2 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (52,748 children in total).¹¹

More than 5,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Michigan.¹²

- As of 2016, 72 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Michigan, or 7,339 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 3,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 2,000 would be eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

Immigrants are an important part of Michigan’s labor force across industries.

- 377,024 immigrant workers comprised 7.7 percent of the labor force in 2015.¹⁵
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	94,152
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,561
Educational Services	40,166
Accommodation and Food Services	37,409
Retail Trade	35,211

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)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	16.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10.5
Manufacturing	9.9
Wholesale Trade	8.6
Accommodation and Food Services	8.0

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

Immigrants are vital members of Michigan's 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
Production	41,006
Management	38,124
Sales and Related	34,974
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	33,764
Office and Administrative Support	33,231

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)
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	20.4
Architecture and Engineering	19.3
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	17.9
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	16.6
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	10.6

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 1.7 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Michigan have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$3.8 billion in federal taxes and \$1.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Michigan paid an estimated \$86.7 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$113.9 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients in Michigan](#) paid an estimated \$15.9 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

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

- Michigan residents in immigrant-led households had \$14.2 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Michigan generate over a half-billion dollars in annual business revenue.

- 37,299 immigrant business owners accounted for 8.7 percent of all self-employed Michigan residents in 2015 and generated \$683.8 million in business income.²⁴
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 20.3 percent of business owners in the Detroit/Warren/Livonia metropolitan area and 17.3 percent in the Grand Rapids/Wyoming metro area.²⁵

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 Michigan* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-michigan/>.

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 Michigan*, 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.