



Immigrants in Nevada

Nevada has experienced positive growth throughout the state fueled by immigration. Nearly one-fifth of the state's residents were born in a foreign country, while one-sixth of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. The majority of immigrants speak English well and are naturalized citizens.

Immigrants are a vital part of the state's labor force across sectors, accounting for nearly two-fifths of all workers in the hotel and food services industry as well as nearly a third of those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Nevada's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

One in five Nevada residents is an immigrant, while one in six residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 587,686 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 19 percent of the population.¹
- Nevada was home to 297,865 women, 267,865 men, and 21,956 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (39 percent of immigrants), the Philippines (15 percent), El Salvador (4 percent), Cuba (3 percent), and China (3 percent).³
- In 2018, 465,843 people in Nevada (16 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

Half of all immigrants in Nevada are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 302,223 immigrants (51 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 109,304 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.⁶
- Three in four (76 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Nevada are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- More than one-fifth (22 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while more than one-fourth (29 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	22	26
Some college	23	38
High school diploma only	27	28
Less than a high school diploma	29	8

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

Nearly 136,000 U.S. citizens in Nevada live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 210,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 35 percent of the immigrant population and 7 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 254,400 people in Nevada, including 135,752 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about one in seven children in the state was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (95,973 children in total).¹¹

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

- 12,100 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Nevada as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 14,278 people in total since 2012.¹²
- As of 2019, 73 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Nevada had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 5,000 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 four Nevada workers is an immigrant, making up a vital part of the state’s labor force.

- 385,184 immigrant workers comprised 25 percent of the labor force in 2018.¹⁵

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Accommodation and Food Services	94,982
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	44,430
Retail Trade	42,877
Construction	40,746
Health Care and Social Assistance	39,381

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)
Accommodation and Food Services	37
Construction	32
Other Services (except Public Administration)	31
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	30
Administrative & Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	29

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 Nevada 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
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	61,040
Food Preparation and Serving Related	59,865
Sales and Related	43,872
Transportation and Material Moving	38,855
Construction and Extraction	37,727

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)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	60
Construction and Extraction	37
Food Preparation and Serving Related	36
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	35
Personal Care and Service	30

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 11 percent of Nevada's workforce in 2016.¹⁹

Immigrants in Nevada have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$3.1 billion in federal taxes and \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Nevada paid an estimated \$241.6 million in federal taxes and \$121.3 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.²¹
- Nevada [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$14.8 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²²

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

- Nevada residents in immigrant-led households had \$13.7 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Nevada generate over a billion dollars in business revenue.

- 43,704 immigrant business owners accounted for 30 percent of all self-employed Nevada residents in 2018 and generated \$1.3 billion in business income.²⁴
- In 2018, immigrants accounted for 30 percent of business owners in the Las Vegas/Paradise metropolitan 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, 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.
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/.
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/.
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%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.
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.
25. American Immigration Council analysis of 2018 CPS data. Flood, King, Rodgers, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.