



## Immigrants in New Jersey

New Jersey has a large immigrant community, much of which hails from India. More than 22 percent of the state's population was born in another country, while nearly 1 in 6 residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent. Foreign-born residents are vital to New Jersey's workforce, with immigrants accounting for nearly half of all workers in the computer and math sciences and roughly 44 percent of production employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of New Jersey's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **More than one in five New Jersey residents is an immigrant, while nearly one in six is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 2 million immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 22.1 percent of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>
- New Jersey was home to 958,560 women, 910,116 men, and 108,649 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were India (12.5 percent of immigrants), the Dominican Republic (8.4 percent), Mexico (6 percent), the Philippines (4.5 percent), and Korea (4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 1.5 million people in New Jersey (16.5 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 New Jersey are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 1.1 million immigrants (55.2 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 315,478 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- More than three-quarters of immigrants (76.4 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

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

- More than a third of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while 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	37.8	37.5
Some college	17.8	25.0
High school diploma only	24.5	30.1
Less than a high-school diploma	19.9	7.4

**More than a half-million U.S. citizens in New Jersey live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 500,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 24 percent of the immigrant population and 5.4 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 604,615 people in New Jersey, including 204,946 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 11 children in the state was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (180,580 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**More than 17,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in New Jersey.<sup>12</sup>**

- As of 2016, 49 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in New Jersey, or 25,650 people, had applied for DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 11,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 7,000 would be eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

**Immigrants are vital members of New Jersey’s labor force, accounting for a third of workers in multiple industries.**

- 1.3 million immigrant workers comprised 27.8 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	200,705
Manufacturing	145,192
Retail Trade	140,461
Accommodation and Food Services	130,889
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	125,281

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)
Accommodation and Food Services	35.9
Other Services (except Public Administration)	35.3
Transportation and Warehousing	34.9
Manufacturing	34.7
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	32.4

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 New Jersey 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
Management	136,449
Office and Administrative Support	132,520
Sales and Related	129,551
Transportation and Material Moving	124,910
Food Preparation and Serving Related	97,536

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)
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	48.6
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	44.9
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	44.8
Production	43.9
Healthcare Support	36.5

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 7.9 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

### **Immigrants in New Jersey have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$13.1 billion in federal taxes and \$6.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in New Jersey paid an estimated \$587.4 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$661.1 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>
- [DACA recipients](#) in New Jersey paid an estimated \$66 million in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

### **As consumers, immigrants add tens of billions of dollars to New Jersey's economy.**

- New Jersey residents in immigrant-led households had \$54.6 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>23</sup>

### **Immigrants account for a third of all self-employed business owners in New Jersey.**

- 139,240 immigrant business owners accounted for 32.9 percent of all self-employed New Jersey residents in 2015 and generated \$3.3 billion in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 35.2 percent of business owners in the New York/Northern New Jersey/Long Island metropolitan area (which spans New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) and 13.1 percent in the Philadelphia/Camden/Wilmington metro area (which extends from Pennsylvania into New Jersey and Delaware).<sup>25</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> “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).

<sup>2</sup> Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>6</sup> 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).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> 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/).

<sup>10</sup> 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/>.

<sup>11</sup> 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).

<sup>12</sup> 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>.

<sup>13</sup> “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).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> 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).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> 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).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.

<sup>20</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in New Jersey* (New York, NY: August 2016), 7, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-new-jersey/>.

<sup>21</sup> 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/>.

<sup>22</sup> 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/>.

<sup>23</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in New Jersey*, 7.

<sup>24</sup> “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.

<sup>25</sup> American Immigration Council analysis of 2016 CPS data. Flood, King, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.