



## Immigrants in North Dakota

North Dakota has a small but growing community of immigrants, with many hailing from the Philippines. Roughly 5 percent of the state population was born in another country, while another 5 percent 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 or eligible for naturalization.

Foreign-born residents are increasingly vital to North Dakota's labor force, with immigrants accounting for 13 percent of the state's production employees and 11 percent of residents working in the manufacturing industry. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of North Dakota's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **One in 20 North Dakota residents is an immigrant, while another 1 in 20 residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2018, 35,824 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 5 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- North Dakota was home to 16,536 women, 16,204 men, and 3,084 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (8 percent of immigrants), Bhutan (8 percent), Nepal (8 percent), Canada (6 percent), and Liberia (6 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018, 38,312 people in North Dakota (5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **Nearly half of all immigrants in North Dakota are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 15,942 immigrants (45 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and 6,401 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- Nine in ten (91 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in North Dakota tend to be college educated.**

- More than one-third (35 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while one-fifth (21 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	35	29
Some college	24	38
High school diploma only	20	26
Less than a high school diploma	21	7

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

**Over a thousand U.S. citizens in North Dakota live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 5,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 23 percent of the immigrant population and 1 percent of the total state population in 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- 4,050 people in North Dakota, including 1,532 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, about 1 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (961 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**North Dakota is home to over a hundred Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.**

- 120 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in North Dakota as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 72 people in total since 2012.<sup>12</sup>

**Immigrants are an important part of the state’s labor force across industries.**

- 25,558 immigrant workers comprised 6 percent of the labor force in 2018.<sup>13</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	6,245
Educational Services	4,690
Manufacturing	3,501
Retail Trade	2,156
Wholesale Trade	2,036

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>14</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Wholesale Trade	13
Manufacturing	11
Educational Services	10
Transportation and Warehousing	9
Health Care and Social Assistance	8

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 North Dakota workforce in a range of occupations.**

- In 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:<sup>15</sup>

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	3,332
Educational Instruction and Library	2,969
Transportation and Material Moving	2,729
Sales and Related	2,011
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	2,008

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>16</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Production	13
Healthcare Support	13
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	12
Educational Instruction and Library	10
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	10

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 1 percent of North Dakota's workforce in 2016.<sup>17</sup>

**Immigrants in North Dakota have contributed over \$200 million in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$156.1 million in federal taxes and \$71 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>18</sup>
- North Dakota [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$243,000 in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>19</sup>

**As consumers, immigrants add hundreds of millions of dollars to North Dakota's economy.**

- North Dakota residents in immigrant-led households had \$736.9 million in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.<sup>20</sup>

**Immigrant entrepreneurs in North Dakota generate tens of millions of dollars in business revenue.**

- 1,506 immigrant business owners accounted for 3 percent of all self-employed North Dakota residents in 2018 and generated \$66.8 million in business income.<sup>21</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. 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).
14. Ibid.
15. 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).
16. Ibid.
17. Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016,” 2019.
18. 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/>.
19. 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>.
20. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power.
21. “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.