



Immigrants in Ohio

Ohio is home to a growing community of immigrants, many of whom hail from India. Five percent of the state's residents were born in another country, while another five percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. Ohio benefits from immigrants' active participation in the economy: immigrants account for one in seven Ohioans working in computer sciences as well as one in eight workers in the life, physical, and social sciences. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Ohio's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Five percent of Ohio residents are immigrants, while another 5 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 555,583 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 5 percent of the population.¹
- Ohio was home to 260,454 women, 252,902 men, and 42,227 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were India (11 percent of immigrants), Mexico (8 percent), China (6 percent), the Philippines (3 percent), and Canada (3 percent).³
- In 2018, 532,398 people in Ohio (5 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 Ohio are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 293,426 immigrants (53 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 84,885 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.⁶
- More than four in five (84 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Ohio tend to be college educated.

- More than two in five (42 percent) adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while fewer than one in five (17 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	42	28
Some college	19	30
High school diploma only	22	33
Less than a high school diploma	17	9

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

More than 50,000 U.S. citizens in Ohio live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 90,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 17 percent of the immigrant population and 1 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 115,651 people in Ohio, including 50,264 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about 1 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (36,970 children in total).¹¹

Ohio is home to nearly 4,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- 3,860 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Ohio as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 4,630 people in total since 2012.¹²
- As of 2019, 46 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Ohio had applied for DACA.¹³
- Fewer than 2,000 additional Ohio residents would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than 1,000 would be eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

Immigrants make up 6 percent of the labor force in Ohio and are integral to a range of industries.

- 338,637 immigrant workers comprised 6 percent of the labor force in 2018.¹⁵
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	68,968
Health Care and Social Assistance	56,444
Retail Trade	37,186
Educational Services	33,717
Accommodation and Food Services	30,593

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)
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8
Transportation and Warehousing	7
Manufacturing	7
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	7
Finance and Insurance	7

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

Immigrants are a vital part of the Ohio 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
Production	41,927
Transportation and Material Moving	39,135
Office and Administrative Support	30,204
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	28,692
Management	27,632

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)
Computer and Mathematical	14
Life, Physical, and Social Science	12
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	11
Architecture and Engineering	10
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	8

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 Ohio's workforce in 2016.¹⁹

Immigrants in Ohio have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$3.8 billion in federal taxes and \$1.9 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Ohio paid an estimated \$236.1 million in federal taxes and \$127.5 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.²¹
- Ohio [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$11.9 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²²

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

- Ohio residents in immigrant-led households had \$14 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Ohio generate hundreds of millions of dollars in business revenue.

- 30,432 immigrant business owners accounted for 6 percent of all self-employed Ohio residents in 2018 and generated \$891.7 million in business income.²⁴
- In the following Ohio metropolitan areas in 2018, at least one in ten business owners was an immigrant. Immigrants accounted for:
 - 18 percent of business owners in the Columbus metro area,
 - 12 percent in Cleveland/Lorain/Mentor, and
 - 9 percent in Cincinnati/Middleton (which spans Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana).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%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.
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.