



## Immigrants in Vermont

Vermont has a small but growing community of immigrants, many of whom hail from Canada. While 1 in 20 Vermonters was born in another country, immigrants are a vital share of the state's labor force. The agriculture industry—an economic mainstay in Vermont—relies on immigrants for 10 percent of its employees, while 16 percent of all workers in computer and math occupations are foreign-born. The majority of immigrants speak English well and are naturalized citizens. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Vermont's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Five percent of Vermont residents are immigrants, while 6 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2018, 30,813 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 5 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- Vermont was home to 15,768 women, 12,388 men, and 2,657 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Canada (20 percent of immigrants), Nepal (7 percent), Jamaica (6 percent), the Philippines (6 percent), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018, 39,080 people in Vermont (6 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **Three in five immigrants in Vermont are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 18,713 immigrants (61 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and 5,554 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- More than nine in ten (92 percent) immigrants reported speaking English “well” or “very well.”<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Vermont tend to be college educated.**

- Half (50 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while 12 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	50	38
Some college	22	27
High school diploma only	17	29
Less than a high school diploma	12	6

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

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

- The fewer than 5,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) in Vermont comprised 4 percent of the immigrant population in 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- 3,258 people in Vermont, including 1,307 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 (882 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**Vermont is home to few Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.**

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

**Immigrants are an important part of the Vermont workforce across industries.**

- 19,803 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	5,198
Retail Trade	3,914
Educational Services	3,006
Manufacturing	1,721
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,647

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)
Finance and Insurance	10
Health Care and Social Assistance	9
Transportation and Warehousing	8
Retail Trade	8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	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 an integral part of the Vermont 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
Sales and Related	2,395
Management	2,269
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	2,060
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2,053
Office and Administrative Support	2,013

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)
Computer and Mathematical	16
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	10
Legal	9
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	9
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	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 less than half a percent of Vermont's workforce in 2016.<sup>17</sup>

### **Immigrants in Vermont have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$194.2 million in federal taxes and \$88.9 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>18</sup>
- Vermont [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$49,000 in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>19</sup>

### **As consumers, immigrants add more than a half-billion dollars to Vermont's economy.**

- Vermont residents in immigrant-led households had \$608.4 million in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.<sup>20</sup>

### **Immigrant entrepreneurs in Vermont generate tens of millions of dollars in business revenue.**

- 1,335 immigrant business owners accounted for 3 percent of all self-employed Vermont residents in 2018 and generated \$25.7 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.