



## Immigrants in Vermont

Vermont has a small but growing community of immigrants, the majority hailing from Canada. While nearly 5 percent of the state's residents are immigrants, they are a vital share of Vermont's labor force. The agriculture industry—an economic mainstay in Vermont—relies on immigrants for over 10 percent of its employees, while roughly 15 percent of all community and social service personnel are immigrants. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Vermont's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Immigrants make up over 4 percent of Vermont's population, while nearly 7 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 28,247 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 4.5 percent of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>
- Vermont was home to 13,395 women, 12,760 men, and 2,092 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Canada (14.9 percent of immigrants), Bosnia and Herzegovina (8.1 percent), Mexico (6.2 percent), Germany (5.1 percent), and Nepal (4.5 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 40,788 people in Vermont (6.7 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 Vermont are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 15,464 immigrants (54.8 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 6,485 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- The vast majority of immigrants (89.5 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants and natives in Vermont have similar levels of education.**

- Over one-third of adult immigrants had a college degree or more in 2015, while 15 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	36.9	36.9
Some college	27.5	25.7
High school diploma only	20.4	29.4
Less than a high-school diploma	15.1	8.0

**More than 1,000 U.S. citizens in Vermont live with at least one family member who is undocumented.<sup>9</sup>**

- In 2014, fewer than 5,000 undocumented immigrants lived in Vermont, comprising 8 percent of the immigrant population and 0.3 percent of the total state population.<sup>10</sup>
- 3,258 people in Vermont, including 1,199 born in the United States, lived with at least one undocumented family member between 2010 and 2014.<sup>11</sup>
- During the same period, 1 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (882 children in total).<sup>12</sup>

**Fewer than 100 Vermont residents have been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).<sup>13</sup>**

- In 2017, Vermont was home to an estimated 10 active DACA recipients,<sup>14</sup> while approximately 63 residents had applied for DACA to date.<sup>15</sup>

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

- 16,185 immigrant workers comprised 5 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,771
Manufacturing	2,402
Accommodation and Food Services	2,076
Retail Trade	1,444
Educational Services	1,348

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>17</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	12.8
Mining, Quarry, Oil & Gas Extract	10.9
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	10.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	7.8
Transportation and Warehousing	7.3

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

**Immigrants are critical to the Vermont labor force in a range of occupations.**

- In 2015, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:<sup>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Sales and Related	1,945
Transportation and Material Moving	1,697
Production	1,506
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	1,371
Community and Social Service	1,265

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>19</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Community and Social Service	14.5
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	13.4
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	9.3
Protective Service	8.4
Healthcare Support	8.4

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised less than half of one percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>20</sup>

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

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$134.4 million in federal taxes and \$57.9 million in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>21</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Vermont paid an estimated \$2.9 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$3.4 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>22</sup>
- [DACA recipients](#) in Vermont paid an estimated \$140,000 in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>23</sup>

### **As consumers, immigrants add hundreds of millions of dollars to Vermont's economy.**

- Vermont residents in immigrant-led households had \$462.5 million in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>24</sup>

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

- 2,640 immigrant business owners accounted for 5.3 percent of all self-employed Vermont residents in 2015 and generated \$55.4 million in business income.<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> American Immigration Council analysis of data from the 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year, using 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/).

<sup>10</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>11</sup> Silva Mathema, “State-by-State Estimates...”

<sup>12</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>13</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). “Approvals” refers to the cumulative number of initial requests for deferred action that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) had received, reviewed, and approved as of June 30, 2017. USCIS, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process Through Fiscal Year 2017, 3rd Qtr* (Washington, DC: Dept. of Homeland Security, September 20, 2017), Number of Form I-821D: Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by Fiscal Year Quarter [dataset], <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/immigration-forms-data/data-set-form-i-821d-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>.

<sup>14</sup> USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of September 4, 2017. USCIS 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>15</sup> Total initial requests for deferred action received by USCIS as of June 30, 2017. USCIS, *DACA Process Through Fiscal Year 2017*.

<sup>16</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>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Analysis 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>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.

<sup>21</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Vermont* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5,

<http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-vermont/>.

<sup>22</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>23</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>24</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Vermont*, 5.

<sup>25</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.