



## Immigrants in Wyoming

Wyoming has a small but growing community of immigrants, many of whom emigrated from Mexico. While only 3 percent of the state's population was born in another country, foreign-born residents help support Wyoming's economy and are vital members of the state's labor force. For example, 10 percent of the state's healthcare support workers are immigrants, as are 8 percent of workers in food preparation and serving occupations. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Wyoming's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Three percent of Wyoming residents are immigrants, while 5 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2018, 17,528 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 3 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- Wyoming was home to 9,432 women, 7,815 men, and 281 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (40 percent of immigrants), China (12 percent), Germany (7 percent), England (4 percent), and Canada (4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018, 26,238 people in Wyoming (5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **More than a third of all immigrants in Wyoming are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 6,302 immigrants (36 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and 5,772 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- Four in five (80 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

**Immigrants in Wyoming are distributed across the educational spectrum.**

- About one-third (32 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while nearly one-fifth (19 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	32	27
Some college	18	38
High school diploma only	31	29
Less than a high school diploma	19	6

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

**Thousands of U.S. citizens in Wyoming live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 5,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 32 percent of the immigrant population and 1 percent of the total state population in 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- 8,166 people in Wyoming, including 4,218 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, about 3 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (3,532 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**Wyoming is home to hundreds of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.**

- 510 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Wyoming as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 662 people in total since 2012.<sup>12</sup>

**Immigrants are important members of Wyoming’s labor force in a range of industries.**

- 11,757 immigrant workers comprised 4 percent of the labor force in 2018.<sup>13</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Retail Trade	3,350
Educational Services	2,052
Accommodation and Food Services	1,868
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,502
Construction	1,111

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)
Retail Trade	8
Information	7
Accommodation and Food Services	6
Educational Services	5
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	5

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 Wyoming 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	2,037
Educational Instruction and Library	1,805
Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,805
Office and Administrative Support	1,624
Construction and Extraction	1,593

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 occupation groups:<sup>16</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Military Specific	10
Healthcare Support	10
Food Preparation and Serving Related	8
Educational Instruction and Library	7
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	7

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 2 percent of Wyoming's workforce in 2016.<sup>17</sup>

**Immigrants in Wyoming have contributed over \$150 million in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$125.4 million in federal taxes and \$36.9 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>18</sup>
- Wyoming [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$923,000 in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>19</sup>

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

- Wyoming residents in immigrant-led households had \$486.4 million in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.<sup>20</sup>

**Immigrant entrepreneurs in Wyoming generate millions of dollars in business revenue.**

- 534 immigrant business owners accounted for 2 percent of all self-employed Wyoming residents in 2018 and generated \$2.1 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 5-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.