



Immigrants in Indiana

Indiana has a small but growing community of immigrants, many of whom hail from Mexico. While 1 in 20 state residents was born in another country, foreign-born Hoosiers make up a vital, educated share of Indiana's labor force. Over one-third of immigrants in Indiana possess a college or higher degree, while more than four-fifths report speaking English well. Immigrants support the state's economy in many ways, accounting for 7 percent of business owners in Indiana and 13 percent of all computer and math employees. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Indiana's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

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

- In 2018, 354,348 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 5 percent of the population.¹
- Indiana was home to 160,232 women, 165,144 men, and 28,972 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (30 percent of immigrants), India (9 percent), China (7 percent), Myanmar (3 percent), and the Philippines (3 percent).³
- In 2018, 309,417 people in Indiana (5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

Two out of five immigrants in Indiana are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 144,767 immigrants (41 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 70,379 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.⁶
- More than four in five (82 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Indiana are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- More than one-third (35 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while over one-quarter (28 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	35	27
Some college	15	30
High school diploma only	23	34
Less than a high school diploma	28	10

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

Nearly 68,000 U.S. citizens in Indiana live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 100,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 29 percent of the immigrant population and 2 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 144,147 people in Indiana, including 67,700 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about 3 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (54,483 children in total).¹¹

Indiana is home to thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- Approximately 8,870 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Indiana as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to about 10,771 people in total since 2012.¹²

Immigrants are vital members of Indiana’s labor force across industries.

- 226,043 immigrant workers comprised 7 percent of the labor force in 2018.¹³
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	71,366
Educational Services	24,861
Health Care and Social Assistance	24,645
Accommodation and Food Services	23,046
Retail Trade	22,914

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:¹⁴

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17
Manufacturing	9
Accommodation and Food Services	8
Construction	7
Educational 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 Indiana workforce in a range of occupations.

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	39,528
Transportation and Material Moving	28,475
Office and Administrative Support	19,797
Food Preparation and Serving Related	18,996
Educational Instruction and Library	17,671

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:¹⁶

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Life, Physical, and Social Science	14
Computer and Mathematical	13
Architecture and Engineering	12
Production	9
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 2 percent of Indiana’s workforce in 2016.¹⁷

Immigrants in Indiana have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$1.9 billion in federal taxes and \$1 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.¹⁸
- Undocumented immigrants in Indiana paid an estimated \$151.7 million in federal taxes and \$111 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.¹⁹
- Indiana [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$21.4 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰

As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Indiana’s economy.

- Indiana residents in immigrant-led households had \$7.9 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.²¹

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Indiana generate nearly a half-billion dollars in annual business revenue.

- 18,583 immigrant business owners accounted for 7 percent of all self-employed Indiana residents in 2018 and generated \$497.9 million in business income.²²
- In 2018, immigrants accounted for 32 percent of business owners in the Chicago/Naperville/Joliet metropolitan area (which spans Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin); 9 percent in Cincinnati/Middleton (which spans Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana); and 6 percent in Indianapolis.²³

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. 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.
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.
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. Ibid. at sec. Undocumented Immigrants.
20. 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>.
21. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power.
22. “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.
23. American Immigration Council analysis of 2018 CPS data. Flood, King, Rodgers, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.