



## Immigrants in Mississippi

Mississippi is home to a growing community of immigrants, many of whom emigrated from Mexico. While a small share of Mississippi's population was born in another country, foreign-born residents are an important part of the state and its labor force, especially in certain sectors. For example, 7 percent of employees in Mississippi's life, physical, and social science occupations are immigrants. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Mississippi's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Two percent of Mississippi residents are immigrants, while another 2 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2018, 70,860 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 2 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>
- Mississippi was home to 31,319 women, 33,991 men, and 5,550 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (23 percent of immigrants), Guatemala (10 percent), India (8 percent), the Philippines (4 percent), and Vietnam (4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018, 55,305 people in Mississippi (2 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **Nearly two out of five immigrants in Mississippi are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 26,595 immigrants (38 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,<sup>5</sup> and 8,616 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- Three-fourths (76 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Mississippi are concentrated at either end of the educational spectrum.**

- Nearly one-third (30 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while more than one-fourth (29 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	30	23
Some college	19	33
High school diploma only	22	30
Less than a high school diploma	29	14

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

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

- 20,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 35 percent of the immigrant population and 1 percent of the total state population in 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- 26,954 people in Mississippi, including 11,239 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 (8,876 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**Mississippi is home to more than a thousand Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.**

- 1,310 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Mississippi as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 1,607 people in total since 2012.<sup>12</sup>
- As of 2019, 41 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Mississippi had applied for DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- Fewer than 1,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than 1,000 would become eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

**Immigrants are important members of the Mississippi labor force across industries.**

- 41,320 immigrant workers comprised 3 percent of the labor force in 2018.<sup>15</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Accommodation and Food Services	8,549
Manufacturing	6,039
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,952
Educational Services	4,528
Construction	4,227

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>16</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Accommodation and Food Services	7
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5
Construction	4

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 Mississippi workforce in a range of occupations.**

- In 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:<sup>17</sup>

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,744
Management	4,510
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	4,343
Transportation and Material Moving	4,166
Production	3,729

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>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Life, Physical, and Social Science	7
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	6
Personal Care and Service	6
Management	4

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 Mississippi's workforce in 2016.<sup>19</sup>

**Immigrants in Mississippi have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$379.5 million in federal taxes and \$171.1 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Mississippi paid an estimated \$29.4 million in federal taxes and \$19.4 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.<sup>21</sup>
- Mississippi [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$3.8 million in state and local taxes in 2018.<sup>22</sup>

**As consumers, immigrants add over a billion dollars to Mississippi's economy.**

- Mississippi residents in immigrant-led households had \$1.5 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.<sup>23</sup>

**Immigrant entrepreneurs in Mississippi generate nearly \$200 million in business revenue.**

- 6,125 immigrant business owners accounted for 5 percent of all self-employed Mississippi residents in 2018 and generated \$189.9 million in business income.<sup>24</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%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. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.