Immigrants in Maine

Maine has a small but growing immigrant community, much of which emigrated from Canada. While only 3 percent of Maine residents are immigrants, over 9 percent are native-born Americans with at least one immigrant parent. Foreign-born Mainers make up a vital, educated share of the labor force: over a third of immigrants in the state possess a college or higher degree and 92 percent report speaking English well. Across sectors, immigrants help support Maine's economy—from working as artists, entertainers, and athletes, to accounting for over 25 percent of the state's extraction industry employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Maine's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Over 3 percent of Mainers are immigrants, while 1 in 12 residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 44,694 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 3.4 percent of the state's population.[1]

- Maine was home to 23,938 women, 17,285 men, and 3,471 children who were immigrants.[2]

- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Canada (21.8 percent of immigrants), the Philippines (7.9 percent), England (5 percent), India (4.7 percent), and Mexico (4.2 percent).[3]

- In 2016, 114,366 people in Maine (8.5 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.[4]

More than half of all immigrants in Maine are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- Over 25,000 immigrants had naturalized as of 2015,[5] and 11,571 immigrants were eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens in 2015.[6]

- More than 9 in 10 immigrants (91.8 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."[7]

Most immigrants in Maine have pursued education at the college level or above.

- About one in three adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while one in seven had less than a high school diploma.[8]

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	34.1	30.0
Some college	27.5	29.0
High school diploma only	23.2	33.1
Less than a high-school diploma	15.2	8.0

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

- In 2014, fewer than 5,000 underlined immigrants comprised 8 percent of the immigrant population, or a fraction of the total state population at 0.3 percent.[9]

- Yet 5,334 people in Maine—including 1,517 born in the United States—lived with at least one undocumented family member between 2010 and 2014.[10]

- During the same period, 1,206 U.S.-citizen children (about 0.5 percent of all children in the state) were living with at least one undocumented family member.[11]

Fewer than 50 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Maine.[12]

- As of 2017, 139 people in Maine had applied for DACA.[13]

- DACA recipients in Maine paid an estimated $256,000 in state and local taxes in 2016.[14]

Immigrants are vital members of the Maine labor force in a range of industries.

- 25,433 immigrant workers comprised 3.7 percent of the labor force in 2015.[15]

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,125
Educational Services	3,748
Retail Trade	3,249
Accommodation and Food Services	3,152
Manufacturing	2,346
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:[16]

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Mining, Quarry, Oil & Gas Extract	26.5
Transportation and Warehousing	5.7
Finance and Insurance	5.5
Wholesale Trade	5.0
Accommodation and Food Services	4.8
Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.	

Immigrants are an important part of the Maine workforce across occupations.

- In 2015, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:[17]

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Office and Administrative Support	4,081
Production	2,557
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2,471
Food Preparation and Serving Related	2,456
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	2,416
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:[18]

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	6.6
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	6.3
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	6.2
Military Specific	6.0
Production	5.6
Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.	

- Undocumented immigrants comprised a fraction of the state's workforce at 0.4 percent in 2014.[19]

Immigrants in Maine have contributed millions of dollars in taxes.

- Immigrant-led households in the state paid $245.5 million in federal taxes and $116.2 million in state and local taxes in 2014.[20]

- Undocumented immigrants in Maine paid an estimated $4.4 million in state and local taxes in 2014. Their contribution would rise to $5.5 million if they could receive legal status.[21]

As consumers, immigrants add hundreds of millions of dollars to Maine's economy every year.

- Mainers in immigrant-led households had $953.9 million in spending power (after-tax income) in 2014.[22]

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Maine generate millions of dollars in annual business revenue.

- 2,245 immigrant business owners accounted for 2.2 percent of all self-employed Mainers in 2015 and generated more than $48 million in business income.[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, 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).

[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 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

[4] 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).

[5] 2015 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 August 2017, data.cmsny.org/state.html.

[7] 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.

[8] Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

[9] Pew Research Center, "U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates," November 3, 2016, 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, https://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 "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. The number of DACA recipients reflects U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (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.

[13] Number represents total initial requests for deferred action received by USCIS 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

[14] Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (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/.

[15] 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.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Analysis of 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.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Pew Research Center, "U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates," 2016.

[20] New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Maine* (New York, NY: August 2016), 7, http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-maine/.

[21] ITEP, *Undocumented Immigrants' State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/.

[22] New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Maine*, 7.

[23] "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.