



Immigrants in Minnesota

Minnesota has a sizable immigrant community, much of which emigrated from Mexico and India. Foreign-born residents account for over 8 percent of the state's population, while 7 percent of residents are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Across sectors, immigrants support the state's economy: more than 15 percent of all Minnesota healthcare support employees, for example, are immigrants, as are over 20 percent of residents working in the computer and math sciences. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Minnesota's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

More than 8 percent of Minnesota residents are immigrants, while nearly 7 percent are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 457,185 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 8.3 percent of the state's population.¹
- Minnesota was home to 208,571 women, 196,438 men, and 52,176 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (13.9 percent of immigrants), India (7.2 percent), Somalia (5.7 percent), Laos (5.5 percent), and Ethiopia (4.6 percent).³
- In 2016, 357,652 people in Minnesota (6.6 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

Nearly half of all immigrants in Minnesota are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 224,718 immigrants (49.2 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 77,692 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- More than three in four immigrants (77.5 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Minnesota are concentrated at both ends of the educational spectrum.

- Nearly one-third of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while one-fourth had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	32.8	34.9
Some college	21.1	33.9
High school diploma only	20.3	26.0
Less than a high-school diploma	25.8	5.2

More than 50,000 U.S. citizens in Minnesota live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 100,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 23 percent of the immigrant population and 1.9 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 138,664 people in Minnesota, including 54,857 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 4 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (48,292 children in total).¹¹

Approximately 5,500 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Minnesota.¹²

- As of 2016, 69 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Minnesota, or 6,930 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 3,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 2,000 would be eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

Immigrants are vital to Minnesota's labor force across industries, accounting for 1 in 10 workers in the state.

- 303,078 immigrant workers comprised 10 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	60,580
Manufacturing	58,908
Accommodation and Food Services	28,603
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	28,299
Retail Trade	26,769

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)
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	13.7
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	13.4
Manufacturing	12.9
Accommodation and Food Services	12.2
Other Services (except Public Administration)	11.7

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

Immigrants are an integral part of the Minnesota workforce in a range of occupations.

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	39,162
Office and Administrative Support	27,750
Management	24,732
Transportation and Material Moving	23,630
Sales and Related	23,100

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	19.9
Military Specific	18.0
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	18.0
Production	15.5
Healthcare Support	15.4

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 2.7 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Minnesota contribute billions of dollars in yearly taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$2.2 billion in federal taxes and \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Minnesota paid an estimated \$83.2 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$102.6 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients in Minnesota](#) paid an estimated \$15.4 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Minnesota's economy.

- Minnesotans in immigrant-led households had \$8.9 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

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

- 24,144 immigrant business owners accounted for 8 percent of all self-employed Minnesota residents in 2015 and generated \$489.1 million in business income.²⁴
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 6.1 percent of business owners in the Minneapolis/St. Paul/Bloomington metropolitan area, which spans Minnesota and Wisconsin.²⁵

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 USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of September 4, 2017. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 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 “DACA-eligible” refers to immigrants who were immediately eligible to apply for DACA as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), 2010-14 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), as cited in “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed June 2017, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.

¹⁴ Ibid.

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 Minnesota* (New York, NY: August 2016), 6, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-minnesota/>.

²¹ 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/>.

²² 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/>.

²³ New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Minnesota*, 6.

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 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

²⁵ American Immigration Council analysis of 2016 CPS data. Flood, King, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.