



Immigrants in Oregon

Oregon has a sizeable community of immigrants, many of whom hail from Mexico. Roughly 10 percent of all Oregon residents are foreign-born, while over 12 percent are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. More than a third of Oregon's farmers, fishers, and foresters are immigrants, as are nearly 23 percent of all production employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Oregon's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

One in 10 Oregon residents is an immigrant, while about one in eight residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 397,293 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 9.9 percent of the population.¹
- Oregon was home to 191,777 women, 180,488 men, and 25,028 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (37 percent of immigrants), China (6 percent), Vietnam (5.2 percent), India (4.1 percent), and Canada (3.6 percent).³
- In 2016, 498,875 people in Oregon (12.4 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

More than a third of all immigrants in Oregon are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 167,977 immigrants (42.3 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 82,341 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- Almost three-quarters (73.2 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

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

- More than a quarter of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while nearly a third had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	28.2	32.7
Some college	20.2	36.5
High school diploma only	19.6	23.9
Less than a high-school diploma	32.0	7.0

Nearly 90,000 U.S. citizens in Oregon live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 130,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 32 percent of the immigrant population and 3.2 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 186,460 people in Oregon, including 80,451 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 1 in 12 children in the state was a U.S.-citizen child living with at least one undocumented family member (71,208 children in total).¹¹

More than 10,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Oregon¹²

- As of 2016, 82 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Oregon, or 12,049 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 6,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 4,000 would be eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

One in eight workers in Oregon is an immigrant, together making up an essential share of the state's labor force across industries.

- 260,001 immigrant workers comprised 12.8 percent of the labor force in 2015.¹⁵

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	51,265
Accommodation and Food Services	36,540
Health Care and Social Assistance	35,260
Retail Trade	23,826
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	22,039

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)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	25.8
Manufacturing	19.7
Accommodation and Food Services	18.4
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	17.6
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16.3

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 Oregon 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	32,818
Food Preparation and Serving Related	27,957
Management	24,891
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	24,571
Sales and Related	19,375

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)
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	39.5
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	25.2
Production	22.7
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	18.3
Food Preparation and Serving Related	17.5

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 4.8 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Oregon have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$1.7 billion in federal taxes and \$736.6 million in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Oregon paid \$80.8 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$119.4 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients in Oregon](#) paid an estimated \$20 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

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

- Oregon residents in immigrant-led households had \$7.4 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Oregon generate hundreds of millions in business revenue.

- 28,567 immigrant business owners accounted for 11.2 percent of all self-employed Oregon residents in 2015 and generated \$470.6 million in business income.²⁴
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 23.2 percent of business owners in the Portland/Vancouver/Beaverton metropolitan area, which spans Oregon and Washington.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. 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. Ibid.
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, 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. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, “Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” as of March 31, 2017, published June 2017, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performancedata_fy2017_qtr2.pdf.
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 the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey 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 Oregon* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-oregon/>.
21. Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), *Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, www.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, www.itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants/.
23. New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Oregon*, 5.
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.