



## Immigrants in Indiana

Indiana has a small but growing immigrant community, much of which hails from Mexico. While only 5 percent of the state's population was born in another country, foreign-born residents make up a vital, educated share of Indiana's labor force. Over 30 percent of immigrants in Indiana possess a college or higher degree, while more than 75 percent report speaking English well. Immigrants support the state's economy in many ways, accounting for nearly 8 percent of business owners in Indiana and more than 9 percent of all engineering and architecture employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Indiana's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Nearly 5 percent of Indiana residents are immigrants, and another 5 percent are native-born U.S. citizens who have at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 321,308 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 4.9 percent of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>
- Indiana was home to 146,053 women, 152,076 men, and 23,179 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (31.6 percent of immigrants), India (9.1 percent), China (7.9 percent), the Philippines (3.3 percent), and Myanmar (2.9 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 314,837 Hoosiers (4.8 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).<sup>4</sup>

### **Nearly two in five immigrants in Indiana are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 123,109 immigrants (38.3 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 58,878 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- Three in four immigrants (75.5 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Indiana are concentrated at both ends of the educational spectrum.**

- Three in ten adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while less than a third had less than a high school diploma.<sup>8</sup>

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	30.7	24.6
Some college	15.0	29.9
High school diploma only	22.8	35.0
Less than a high-school diploma	31.4	10.6

**More than 60,000 U.S. citizens in Indiana live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 110,000 undocumented immigrants comprised 32 percent of the immigrant population and 1.6 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 144,147 people in Indiana, including 61,959 born in the United States, lived with at least one undocumented family member between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, 3 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (54,483 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**Approximately 9,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Indiana.<sup>12</sup>**

- Of the estimated 11,000 DACA-eligible immigrants in Indiana, nearly all (10,789 people) had applied for DACA as of 2017.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 4,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 4,000 would be eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

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

- 194,611 immigrant workers comprised 5.9 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>15</sup>

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Manufacturing	48,997
Accommodation and Food Services	24,870
Health Care and Social Assistance	24,578
Educational Services	23,224
Retail Trade	21,704

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:<sup>16</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	8.4
Accommodation and Food Services	7.9
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	7.7
Manufacturing	7.0
Construction	6.6

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 Indiana workforce across occupations.**

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	29,938
Transportation and Material Moving	23,051
Food Preparation and Serving Related	21,445
Construction and Extraction	16,486
Office and Administrative Support	16,220

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:<sup>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	17.0
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	12.4
Architecture and Engineering	9.1
Construction and Extraction	8.8
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	8.3

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 2.2 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

**Immigrants in Indiana have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$1.6 billion in federal taxes and \$702 million in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Indiana paid an estimated \$92.2 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$120.9 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>
- [DACA recipients in Indiana](#) paid an estimated \$23.3 million in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

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

- Hoosiers in immigrant-led households had \$5.8 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>23</sup>

**Nearly 1 in 12 self-employed business owners in Indiana is an immigrant.**

- 19,995 immigrant business owners accounted for 7.7 percent of all self-employed Indiana residents in 2015 and generated \$515.2 million in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 9.8 percent of business owners in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.<sup>25</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> “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).

<sup>2</sup> Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>6</sup> 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](http://data.cmsny.org/state.html).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>9</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” November 3, 2016, [www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/](http://www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/).

<sup>10</sup> 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/>.

<sup>11</sup> 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).

<sup>12</sup> 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](http://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>.

<sup>13</sup> “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](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> 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](http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.

<sup>20</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Indiana* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-indiana/>.

<sup>21</sup> 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/>.

<sup>22</sup> 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/>.

<sup>23</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Indiana*, 2016), 5.

<sup>24</sup> “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.

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