



Immigrants in Missouri

Missouri has a small but growing immigrant community, much of which hails from Mexico. Four percent of the state's residents were born in another country, while another four percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. The state benefits from immigrants' active participation in the economy—from working in Missouri's service industries to accounting for nearly 15 percent of residents working in the life, physical, and social sciences. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Missouri's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Four percent of Missouri residents are immigrants, and another 4 percent are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 242,761 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 4 percent of the state's population.¹
- Missouri was home to 111,791 women, 109,809 men, and 21,161 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (18.6 percent of immigrants), India (8.9 percent), China (6.8 percent), Vietnam (5.3 percent), and the Philippines (4.2 percent).³
- In 2016, 243,002 people in Missouri (4.1 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

More than two-fifths of immigrants in Missouri are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 107,781 immigrants (44.4 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 43,157 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- Nearly four in five immigrants (79.6 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Many immigrants in Missouri have pursued education at or above the college level.

- Nearly two in five adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while almost a quarter had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	38.0	27.3
Some college	18.1	30.7
High school diploma only	19.9	31.5
Less than a high-school diploma	24.0	10.4

Nearly 35,000 U.S. citizens in Missouri live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 55,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 24 percent of the immigrant population and 0.9 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 74,551 people in Missouri, including 30,975 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 2 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (26,614 children in total).¹¹

More than 3,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Missouri.¹²

- As of 2016, 63 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Missouri, or 3,883 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 2,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 2,000 would be additionally eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

Immigrants are important members of the Missouri labor force and across industries.

- 141,797 immigrant workers comprised 4.7 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	24,454
Manufacturing	19,181
Educational Services	18,274
Accommodation and Food Services	16,733
Retail Trade	14,291

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	10.5
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	6.1
Accommodation and Food Services	6.0
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5.9
Educational Services	5.7

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 Missouri workforce across occupations.

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	14,116
Food Preparation and Serving Related	13,868
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	13,010
Construction and Extraction	12,400
Sales and Related	11,894

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)
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	14.8
Computer and Mathematical Sciences	13.1
Military Specific	8.6
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	7.3
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	6.5

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 1.3 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Missouri have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$1.3 billion in federal taxes and \$517.8 million in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Missouri paid an estimated \$48.9 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$63.4 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients](#) in Missouri paid an estimated \$8.4 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

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

- Missouri residents in immigrant-led households had \$4.8 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Missouri generate hundreds of millions of dollars in business revenue.

- 14,096 immigrant business owners accounted for 4.8 percent of all self-employed Missouri residents in 2015 and generated \$340.4 million in business income.²⁴
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 14.5 percent of business owners in Kansas City (which spans Kansas and Missouri) and 6.5 percent of business owners in the St. Louis metropolitan area (which extends from Missouri into Illinois).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 Missouri* (New York, NY: August 2016), 7, www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-missouri/.

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 Missouri*, 7.

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.