



## Immigrants in Nevada

Nevada has experienced positive growth throughout the state fueled by immigration. Immigrants are a vital part of the state's labor force across sectors, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all workers in the hotel and food services industry as well as over a quarter of those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry. Nearly 20 percent of the state's residents are immigrants themselves, while another 17 percent are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Nevada's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Nearly one in five Nevada residents is an immigrant, while almost one in six residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 558,170 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 19.3 percent of the state's population in 2015.<sup>1</sup>
- Nevada was home to 284,024 women, 251,769 men, and 22,377 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (39.5 percent of immigrants), the Philippines (14.3 percent), El Salvador (5.2 percent), China (3.1 percent), and Cuba (3 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 457,213 people in Nevada (16 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).<sup>4</sup>

### **Nearly half of all immigrants in Nevada are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 261,316 immigrants (46.8 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,<sup>5</sup> and 102,609 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- More than two-thirds of immigrants (69.9 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Nevada are distributed across the educational spectrum.**

- Nearly one-fifth of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while just under one-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          | 18.9                        | 25.2                     |
| Some college                    | 23.1                        | 37.9                     |
| High school diploma only        | 26.4                        | 28.4                     |
| Less than a high-school diploma | 31.7                        | 8.5                      |

**More than 100,000 U.S. citizens in Nevada live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 210,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 36 percent of the immigrant population and 7.2 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 254,400 people in Nevada, including 117,210 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, more than one in seven children in the state was a U.S.-citizen child living with at least one undocumented family member (95,973 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**More than 12,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Nevada.**<sup>12</sup>

- As of 2016, 87 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Nevada, or 14,139 people, had applied for DACA.<sup>13</sup>
- An additional 6,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 3,000 would be eligible as they grew older.<sup>14</sup>

**Immigrants make up over a fourth of Nevada’s entire workforce.**

- 367,413 immigrant workers comprised 25.5 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>15</sup>
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

| Industry                          | Number of Immigrant Workers |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Accommodation and Food Services   | 112,571                     |
| Retail Trade                      | 43,088                      |
| Arts Entertainment and Recreation | 36,265                      |
| Construction                      | 35,183                      |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 27,612                      |

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 (%)<br>(of all industry workers) |
|---|--|
| Accommodation and Food Services         | 39.7   |
| Construction                            | 33.2   |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 30.7   |
| Manufacturing                           | 29.2   |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation     | 27.2   |

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 Nevada workforce in a range of occupations.**

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

| Occupation Category                         | Number of Immigrant Workers |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Food Preparation and Serving Related        | 63,264                      |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | 56,086                      |
| Sales and Related                           | 44,485                      |
| Office and Administrative Support           | 38,809                      |
| Personal Care and Service                   | 31,730                      |

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 (%)<br>(of all workers in occupation) |
|---|---|
| Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | 55.3  |
| Production                                  | 36.5  |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related        | 36.2  |
| Construction and Extraction                 | 33.8  |
| Personal Care and Service                   | 29.8  |

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 10.4 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

### **Immigrants in Nevada have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$2.2 billion in federal taxes and \$733.5 million in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Nevada paid an estimated \$86.1 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$94.7 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>
- [DACA recipients](#) in Nevada paid an estimated \$17.5 million in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

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

- Nevada residents in immigrant-led households had \$10.3 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>23</sup>

### **Immigrant entrepreneurs in Nevada generate half a billion dollars in business revenue.**

- 32,198 immigrant business owners accounted for 25.1 percent of all self-employed Nevada residents in 2015 and generated \$556 million in business income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 25.3 percent of business owners in the Las Vegas/Paradise 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. Ibid.

<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 Nevada* (New York, NY: August 2016), 7, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/nevada/>.

<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 Nevada*, 7.

<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.