Connecticut has a sizable community of immigrants, much of which hails from India and Poland. Nearly 15 percent of the state’s population was born in another country, and over 14 percent of residents are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants support Connecticut’s economy across sectors, comprising more than 25 percent of all computer and math sciences employees and one third of residents working in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Connecticut’s diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

More than one in seven Connecticut residents is an immigrant, while another one in eight is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 519,648 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 14.5 percent of the state’s population.¹
- Connecticut was home to 250,118 women, 236,720 men, and 32,810 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were India (6.6 percent of immigrants), Poland (6.4 percent), Jamaica (6.3 percent), the Dominican Republic (5.1 percent), and Mexico (4.8 percent).³
- In 2016, 480,001 people in Connecticut (13.5 percent of the state’s population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

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

- 253,505 (48.8 percent) immigrants had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 98,652 immigrants were eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens in 2015.⁶
- More than four in five immigrants (82.3 percent) reported speaking English “well” or “very well.”⁷

Immigrants in Connecticut are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- One in three adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while one in five had less than a high-school diploma.⁸
Education Level | Share (%) of All Immigrants | Share (%) of All Natives
--- | --- | ---
College degree or more | 34.0 | 39.3
Some college | 20.4 | 25.4
High school diploma only | 25.8 | 27.8
Less than a high-school diploma | 19.8 | 7.6

Nearly **60,000 U.S. citizens in Connecticut live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- **120,000 undocumented immigrants** comprised 24 percent of the immigrant population and 3.4 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- **143,784 people in Connecticut, including 47,220 born in the United States, lived with at least one undocumented family member** between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 5 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (40,931 children in total).¹¹

**Nearly 4,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Connecticut.**¹²

- As of 2016, half of **DACA-eligible immigrants** in Connecticut, or 5,676 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- Another 2,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and up to 2,000 others would be additionally eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

**One in six workers in Connecticut is an immigrant, together making up a significant part of the state’s labor force across industries.**

- **341,718 immigrant workers comprised 17.6 percent of the labor force in 2015.**¹⁵
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Number of Immigrant Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>53,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>46,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>38,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>34,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>29,782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative &amp; Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services (except Public Administration)</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Connecticut workforce in a range of occupations.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation Category</th>
<th>Number of Immigrant Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building and Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>34,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Related</td>
<td>32,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>31,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>31,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Extraction</td>
<td>31,506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation Category</th>
<th>Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building and Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Extraction</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming, Fishing, and Forestry</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Undocumented immigrants comprised 4.7 percent of the state’s workforce in 2014.19
Immigrants in Connecticut have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- Immigrant-led households in the state paid $3.3 billion in federal taxes and $1.8 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.20
- Undocumented immigrants in Connecticut paid an estimated $124.7 million in state and local taxes in 2014. Their contribution would rise to $145.3 million if they could receive legal status.21
- DACA recipients in Connecticut paid an estimated $17.6 million in state and local taxes in 2016.22

As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Connecticut’s economy.

- Connecticut residents in immigrant-led households had $13.8 billion in spending power (after-tax income) in 2014.23

Immigrant entrepreneurs represent nearly one in four Connecticut business owners.

- More than 46,351 immigrant business owners accounted for 23.7 percent of all self-employed Connecticut residents in 2015 and generated $1.2 billion in business income.24
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.


5 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.


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.


14 Ibid.


16 Ibid.


18 Ibid.


22 Ibid.

23 Ibid.

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.