



Immigrants in Hawaii

Hawaii has a sizable community of immigrants, much of which emigrated from the Philippines. Nearly 18 percent of the state's population was born in another country, while 16 percent are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Foreign-born residents also represent a vital share of the state's labor force in many sectors: more than 40 percent of workers in both the mining and agriculture industries are immigrants. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Hawaii's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Nearly one in five Hawaii residents is an immigrant, while more than one in seven is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 253,414 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 17.7 percent of the state's population.¹
- Hawaii was home to 139,093 women, 101,199 men, and 13,122 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (46.1 percent of immigrants), China (8.5 percent), Korea (7.9 percent), Japan (7.7 percent), and Vietnam (3.8 percent).³
- In 2016, 220,561 people in Hawaii (16 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

Over half of all immigrants in Hawaii are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 146,485 immigrants (57.8 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 52,525 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- More than three in four immigrants (77.2 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Hawaii are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- One in four 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	25.2	33.2
Some college	27.3	33.9
High school diploma only	26.2	27.4
Less than a high-school diploma	21.3	5.5

Nearly 30,000 U.S. citizens in Hawaii live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- Approximately 45,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 18 percent of the immigrant population and 3.2 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- An estimated 60,202 people in Hawaii, including 17,594 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 4 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (13,536 children in total).¹¹

Approximately 300 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Hawaii.¹²

- Of the estimated 2,000 [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Hawaii,¹³ 821 had applied for deferred action as of 2017.¹⁴
- Up to 1,000 additional residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and up to 1,000 others would be additionally eligible as they grew older.¹⁵

One in five Hawaiian workers is an immigrant, making up a critical share of the state's labor force across industries.

- More than 150,000 adult immigrant workers comprised 21.2 percent of the labor force in 2015.¹⁶

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Accommodation and Food Services	37,333
Retail Trade	23,022
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,435
Construction	11,169
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	10,749

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:¹⁷

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Mining, Quarry, Oil & Gas Extract	45.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	42.5
Accommodation and Food Services	35.3
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	28.7
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	28.6

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 Hawaii workforce in a range of occupations.

- In 2015, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:¹⁸

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	25,600
Sales and Related	22,453
Food Preparation and Serving Related	18,034
Office and Administrative Support	16,833
Management	13,279

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:¹⁹

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	51.4
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	40.6
Production	33.5
Food Preparation and Serving Related	30.0
Healthcare Support	29.6

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 4.6 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.²⁰

Immigrants in Hawaii contribute over a billion dollars in yearly taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$1.2 billion in federal taxes and \$668.5 million in state and local taxes in 2014.²¹
- Undocumented immigrants in Hawaii paid an estimated \$32.3 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$42.8 million if they could receive legal status.²²
- [DACA recipients](#) in Hawaii paid an estimated \$3.2 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²³

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

- Hawaiians in immigrant-led households had \$5 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²⁴

Immigrant entrepreneurs represent nearly one quarter of all Hawaiian business owners.

- 19,586 immigrant business owners accounted for 24.5 percent of all self-employed Hawaii residents in 2015 and generated \$384.7 million in business revenue.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 (ACS) 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 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) estimate of those with active DACA grants as of September 4, 2017. USCIS 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 (MPI) analysis of data from 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates, 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 Number represents total initial requests for deferred action received by USCIS as of June 30, 2017. USCIS, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process Through Fiscal Year 2017, 3rd Qtr* (Washington, DC: Dept. of Homeland Security, September 20, 2017), Number of Form I-821D: Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by Fiscal Year Quarter [dataset], <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/immigration-forms-data/data-set-form-i-821d-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>.

¹⁵ MPI DACA Data Tools, “DACA-Eligible Populations by State and County.”

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.

²¹ New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Hawaii* (New York, NY: August 2016), 7, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-hawaii/>.

²² 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/>.

²³ 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/>.

²⁴ New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Hawaii*, 7.

²⁵ “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.