



Immigrants in Maryland

Maryland has a large immigrant community, much of which emigrated from El Salvador. Roughly 15 percent of all Maryland residents were born in another country, while 11 percent are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants support Maryland's economy across sectors: a quarter of all Maryland healthcare practitioners, for example, are immigrants, as are nearly 42 percent of the state's building maintenance workers and groundskeepers. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Maryland's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

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

- In 2015, 911,582 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 15.2 percent of the state's population.¹
- Maryland was home to 437,740 women, 410,928 men, and 62,914 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were El Salvador (13.2 percent of immigrants), India (6.8 percent), China (4.6 percent), Mexico (4.5 percent), and Nigeria (4.4 percent).³
- In 2016, 664,582 people in Maryland (11.3 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

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

- 447,550 immigrants (49.1 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 157,705 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- Nearly four in five immigrants (79.5 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Most immigrants in Maryland have pursued education at or above the college level.

- More than two in five 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	42.0	38.0
Some college	17.9	27.6
High school diploma only	19.1	26.5
Less than a high-school diploma	20.9	7.9

More than 125,000 U.S. citizens in Maryland live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 250,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 27 percent of the immigrant population and 4.2 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 289,091 people in Maryland, including 99,846 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 7 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (88,150 children in total).¹¹

More than 8,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Maryland.¹²

- As of 2016, 48 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Maryland, or 11,513 people, had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 6,000 residents of the state satisfied all but the educational requirements for DACA, and another 4,000 would be eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

Immigrants are vital to Maryland's labor force across industries, accounting for nearly one in five workers in the state.

- 629,362 immigrant workers comprised 19.6 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	106,680
Accommodation and Food Services	76,228
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	70,598
Construction	70,120
Retail Trade	60,106

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)
Construction	28.2
Accommodation and Food Services	27.2
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	26.8
Other Services (except Public Administration)	23.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	22.1

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 Maryland workforce in a range of occupations.

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Construction and Extraction	61,039
Management	60,072
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	59,224
Office and Administrative Support	57,253
Food Preparation and Serving Related	54,372

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 workers¹⁸ were in the following occupation groups:

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	41.6
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	36.6
Construction and Extraction	34.4
Food Preparation and Serving Related	25.4
Healthcare Practitioners, Technologists, and Technicians	24.5
Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.	

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 5.9 percent of the state’s workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in Maryland contribute billions of dollars in yearly taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$6.1 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Maryland paid an estimated \$332.2 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$425.8 million if they could receive legal status.²¹
- [DACA recipients in Maryland](#) paid an estimated \$40.8 million in state and local taxes in 2016.²²

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

- Marylanders in immigrant-led households had \$24.6 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs represent almost a fifth of Maryland business owners, generating more than a billion dollars in combined annual revenue.

- 67,580 immigrant business owners accounted for 23.8 percent of all self-employed Maryland residents in 2015 and generated \$1.5 billion in business income.²⁴
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 50.7 percent of business owners in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area (encompassing D.C. and parts of Maryland and Virginia), and 38.6 percent in the Baltimore/Towson/Columbia metro area.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 Maryland* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-maryland/>.

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 Maryland*, 5.

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.