



Immigrants in North Dakota

North Dakota has a small but growing immigrant community, much of which hails from the Philippines. Nearly 4 percent of the state population was born in another country, while just over 4 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. Foreign-born residents are increasingly vital to North Dakota's labor force, with immigrants accounting for over 10 percent of the state's production employees and over 9 percent of residents working in the manufacturing industry. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of North Dakota's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Nearly 4 percent of North Dakota residents are immigrants, while more than an additional 4 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2015, 28,649 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 3.8 percent of the state's population.¹
- North Dakota was home to 12,482 women, 13,819 men, and 2,348 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (14.1 percent of immigrants), Canada (10 percent), Nigeria (5.9 percent), China (5.7 percent), and India (5.2 percent).³
- In 2016, 33,213 people in North Dakota (4.4 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least [one immigrant parent](#).⁴

Three in seven immigrants in North Dakota are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 12,582 immigrants (43.9 percent) had naturalized as of 2015,⁵ and 5,538 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2015.⁶
- The vast majority of immigrants (87.4 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

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

- More than a third of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while more than one in seven had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	36.5	28.8
Some college	27.1	36.2
High school diploma only	20.9	27.9
Less than a high-school diploma	15.5	7.1

More than 1,000 U.S. citizens in North Dakota live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- Fewer than 5,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 13 percent of the immigrant population and 0.5 percent of the total state population in 2014.⁹
- 4,050 people in North Dakota, including 1,282 born in the United States, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, 1 percent of children in North Dakota were U.S.-citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (961 children in total).¹¹

Fewer than 100 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in North Dakota.¹²

- As of 2017, 141 people in North Dakota had applied for DACA.¹³
- [DACA recipients](#) in North Dakota paid an estimated \$286,000 in state and local taxes in 2016.¹⁴

Immigrants are an integral part of the state’s labor force across industries.

- 17,837 immigrant workers comprised 4.3 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	3,316
Manufacturing	2,655
Retail Trade	2,442
Accommodation and Food Services	1,979
Educational Services	1,928

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)
Manufacturing	9.1
Accommodation and Food Services	6.4
Transportation and Warehousing	6.3
Finance and Insurance	5.6
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	5.3

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

Immigrants are a vital part of the North Dakota workforce across occupations.

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	2,547
Construction and Extraction	2,157
Management	1,987
Sales and Related	1,828
Transportation and Material Moving	1,828

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)
Production	10.5
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	9.4
Community and Social Service	8.4
Life, Physical, and Social Sciences	7.0
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 0.7 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.¹⁹

Immigrants in North Dakota have contributed more than one-hundred million dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$88.2 million in federal taxes and \$36.4 million in state and local taxes in 2014.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in North Dakota paid an estimated \$2.8 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$3.3 million if they could receive legal status.²¹

As consumers, immigrants add hundreds of millions of dollars to North Dakota's economy.

- North Dakota residents in immigrant-led households had \$435 million in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2014.²²

Immigrant entrepreneurs in North Dakota generate millions of dollars in business revenue.

- 1,157 immigrant business owners accounted for 2.3 percent of all self-employed North Dakota residents in 2015 and generated \$70.3 million in business income.²³

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 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 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>.

¹⁴ Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (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/>.

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 North Dakota* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5,

www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-north-dakota/.

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 New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in North Dakota*, 5.

²³ “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.