



Immigrants in Connecticut

Connecticut has a sizable community of immigrants, with many hailing from India and Jamaica. About 15 percent of Connecticut residents were born in another country, and 16 percent of residents are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants support Connecticut's economy across sectors, comprising nearly one-third of all computer and math sciences employees and more than two-fifths of residents working in cleaning and maintenance of building and grounds. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Connecticut's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

One in seven Connecticut residents is an immigrant, while one in six residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 520,262 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 15 percent of the population.¹
- Connecticut was home to 257,175 women, 235,611 men, and 27,476 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were India (9 percent of immigrants), Jamaica (7 percent), Dominican Republic (5 percent), Poland (5 percent), and Ecuador (5 percent).³
- In 2018, 564,663 people in Connecticut (16 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

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

- 275,693 immigrants (53 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 95,482 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.⁶
- Four out of five (81 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Connecticut tend to be college educated.

- More than one-third (37 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while about one-fifth (19 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	37	40
Some college	19	26
High school diploma only	26	27
Less than a high school diploma	19	7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

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

- 120,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 23 percent of the immigrant population and 4 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 143,784 people in Connecticut, including 58,893 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about 1 in 20 children in the state was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (40,930 children in total).¹¹

Connecticut is home to thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- 3,560 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Connecticut as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 4,886 people in total since 2012.¹²
- As of 2019, 33 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Connecticut had applied for DACA.¹³
- In addition, fewer than 2,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA and less than 1,000 would additionally become eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

One in six Connecticut workers is an immigrant, making up a vital part of the state's labor force.

- 346,897 immigrant workers comprised 18 percent of the labor force in 2018.¹⁵

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	55,822
Manufacturing	45,565
Retail Trade	34,127
Educational Services	31,219
Construction	30,747

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 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)
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil & Gas Extraction	31
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	31
Construction	24
Other Services (except Public Administration)	22
Accommodation and Food Services	20

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 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 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:¹⁷

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	40,924
Management	38,456
Sales and Related	30,259
Production	27,212
Construction and Extraction	26,320

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 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)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	44
Computer and Mathematical	30
Construction and Extraction	28
Healthcare Support	27
Production	26

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 5 percent of Connecticut's workforce in 2016.¹⁹

Immigrants in Connecticut have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$4.8 billion in federal taxes and \$2.6 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Connecticut paid an estimated \$335.4 million in federal taxes and \$197.4 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.²¹
- Connecticut [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$13.9 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²²

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

- Connecticut residents in immigrant-led households had \$16.1 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Connecticut generate over \$1 billion in business revenue.

- 47,440 immigrant business owners accounted for 24 percent of all self-employed Connecticut residents in 2018 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, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. The American Immigration Council elected to use data from the 2018 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 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
4. Analysis of data from the 2018 Current Population Survey by the American Immigration Council, using IPUMS CPS. Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles and J. Robert Warren, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0>.
5. 2018 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 April 2020, data.cmsny.org/state.html.
7. Figure includes immigrants who speak only English. Data based on survey respondents age 5 and over. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates by the American Immigration Council.
8. Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. Ibid.
9. Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016,” February 5, 2019, 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, 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 number of DACA recipients reflects USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of March 31, 2020. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), “Approximate Active DACA Recipients: As of March 31, 2020” [dataset], July 22, 2020, <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Approximate%20Active%20DACA%20Receipts%20-%20March%2031%2C%202020.pdf>. DACA grants reflect USCIS Form I-821D initial requests approved from Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020, as of April 2020. USCIS, “Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Status, by Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status: Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020,” July 22, 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performance_data_fy2020_qtr2.pdf.
13. Estimates of the DACA-eligible population as of 2019 include unauthorized immigrant youth who had been in the United States since 2007, were under the age of 16 at the time of arrival, were under the age of 31 as of 2012, and who met DACA eligibility requirements as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012-16 American Community Survey (ACS) pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), with legal status assignments by James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute, as cited in “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed April 2020, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.
14. Ibid.
15. Analysis of 2018 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 2018 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,” 2019.
20. New American Economy analysis of 2018 ACS microdata using IPUMS. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power, January 31, 2020, <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/>.
21. Ibid. at sec. Undocumented Immigrants.
22. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants* (Washington, DC: April 2018), Appendix 1, <https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants>.
23. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power.
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 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.