Immigrants in Florida

Florida has long been home to a large number of immigrants, many of whom hail from the Caribbean. One in five residents in the state was born in another country. Together, immigrants make up more than a quarter of Florida's labor force. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Florida's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

More than one in five Florida residents is an immigrant, while one in eight residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 4.5 million immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 21 percent of the population.[1]

- Florida was home to 2.2 million women, 2 million men, and 247,316 children who were immigrants.[2]

- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Cuba (23 percent of immigrants), Haiti (8 percent), Colombia (6 percent), Mexico (6 percent), and Jamaica (5 percent).[3]

- In 2018, 2.7 million people in Florida (13 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 Florida are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 2.5 million immigrants (57 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,[5] and 759,614 million immigrants were eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens in 2017.[6]

- Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."[7]

Immigrants in Florida are distributed across the educational spectrum.

- More one-quarter (29 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while one-fifth (20 percent) had less than a high school diploma.[8]

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	29	31
Some college	23	32
High school diploma only	28	29
Less than a high school diploma	20	9
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.		

More than 425,000 U.S. citizens in Florida live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 775,000 underlined undocumented immigrants comprised 18 percent of the immigrant population and 4 percent of the total state population in 2016. [9]

- 909,104 people in Florida, including 425,814 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one undocumented family member between 2010 and 2014. [10]

- During the same period, about 7 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (280,133 children in total). [11]

Florida is home to more than 24,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- 24,810 active DACA recipients lived in Florida as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 32,646 people in total since 2012. [12]

- As of 2019, 33 percent of DACA-eligible immigrants in Florida had applied for DACA. [13]

- An additional 18,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than 2,000 would become eligible as they grew older. [14]

One in four workers in Florida is an immigrant, together making up a vital part of the state's labor force in a range of industries.

- 2.7 million immigrant workers comprised 26 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	417,067
Retail Trade	347,298
Construction	305,888
Accommodation and Food Services	290,074
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	221,268
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)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	41
Construction	34
Transportation and Warehousing	31
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	30
Other Services (except Public Administration)	30
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 Florida 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
Sales and Related	330,850
Office and Administrative Support	294,741
Management	269,513
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	261,770
Construction and Extraction	251,958
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)
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	49
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	44
Construction and Extraction	38
Healthcare Support	35
Production	30
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 6 percent of Florida's workforce in 2016.[19]

Immigrants in Florida have contributed tens of billions of dollars in taxes.

- Immigrant-led households in the state paid $23.2 billion in federal taxes and $8.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.[20]

- Undocumented immigrants in Florida paid an estimated $1.3 billion in federal taxes and $588.3 million in state and local taxes in 2018.[21]

- Florida DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated $77.6 million in state and local taxes in 2018.[22]

As consumers, immigrants add nearly one-hundred billion dollars to Florida's economy.

- Florida residents in immigrant-led households had $98.5 billion in spending power (after-tax income) in 2018.[23]

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Florida generate billions of dollars in business revenue.

- 437,690 immigrant business owners accounted for 33 percent of all self-employed Florida residents in 2018 and generated $7.1 billion in business income.[24]

- In the following Florida metropolitan areas in 2018, at least one in five business owners was an immigrant. Immigrants accounted for:
  - 57 percent of business owners in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach metro area,
  - 36 percent in Orlando,
  - 29 percent in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater,
  - 20 percent in Jacksonville.[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, 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_performancedata_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.
25. American Immigration Council analysis of 2018 CPS data. Flood, King, Rodgers, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.