

- 1 Unless noted otherwise, all figures reported in this document are based on tabulations made by the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), at the University of Southern California, of 2010-2012 pooled American Communities Survey data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2012.
- 2 Estimates on the undocumented are derived from identical methodology in What's at Stake for the State: Undocumented Californians and our Future Together. For the full methodology and research brief, visit csii.usc.edu. All undocumented estimates calculated using IPUMS 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data (Ruggles et al. 2011).
- 3 These figures are based on immigrants and children of immigrants who live in the same household, thus they likely understate the share of the overall state population that is made up of first and second generation immigrants.
- 4 Use of the term "Asian" here and throughout refers to both Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- 5 Only detailed occupations with a large enough sample size for reasonable statistical reliability are reported. Thus, there may be other detailed occupations in each sector in which immigrants are equally or, in some cases, more highly represented than those listed, but that were not reported on due to a small sample.
- 6 Intermittent workers are defined as workers that were employed in the ACS sample year, and thus not considered unemployed. However, for this analysis, intermittent workers are defined as having worked only 1-13 weeks in the year. Laid off workers indicates whether workers were on a layoff from a job or had been informed that they would be recalled to work in the next six months or had been given a date to return to work.
- 7 For example, the US Senate's immigration bill, S. 744, would have required proof of regular employment (with no gap longer than 60 days) for those who seek to renew their status.
- 8 An unskilled job is defined as an occupation that requires no more than a high school diploma (or equivalent), no work experience in a related occupation, and no more than moderate on-the-job training as described by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved from: http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_112.htm
- 9 Information on contributions to California's GDP was determined using averaged industry-specific GDP information over the same period (2010-2012) for California from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. These figures were applied to the percentages of immigrant workforce in each industry as found using ACS data. After the immigrant contributions per sector were found, the figures were aggregated to the state level. Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2014). Gross Domestic Product by State. Retrieved from: <http://www.bea.gov/itable/>.
- 10 Fortune: Retrieved from: <http://fortune.com/fortunes500/>
- 11 Numbers of immigrants eligible to naturalize are based on CSII analysis of data from the Office of Immigration Statistics on all Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) attaining status between 1985 and 2010. All such LPRs that attained status in 2005 or earlier and had not naturalized as of 2010 are considered to be eligible to naturalize, while those attaining status between 2006 and 2010 are considered to be eligible to naturalize within five years. There are important limitations to these data such that they are more useful for making relative comparisons between counties and regions than for assessing absolute numbers.
- 12 Pantoja, Adrian; Ramirez, Ricardo; Segura, Gary. (2001). Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos. Political Research Quarterly. 54(4).
- 13 This information is from the 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year estimates, retrieved directly from American FactFinder online at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. In the list of cities reported, East Los Angeles is actually not a city but something referred to in the census as a Census Designated Place (CDP), which is an unincorporated area that is identifiable by name and has a concentration of housing and population.
- 14 Meyers, Dowell. (2008). Immigrants' Contributions in an Aging America. Communities & Banking. 19(3): Retrieved from: http://csii.usc.edu/documents/myers_immigrants_contribution.pdf
- 15 For enrollment figures for the State's Covered California Health Benefits Exchange and Medi-Cal program, see: <http://news.coveredca.com/2014/04/covered-californias-historic-first-open.html>
- 16 Data on deportations is gathered from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement "Secure Communities" program in which cumulative monthly or bi-monthly statistics are produced in its interoperability reports. retrieved from: http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/sc-stats/nationwide_interop_stats-fy2014-to-date.pdf. As of publication, the most recently available data is through July 31, 2014.
- 17 The TRUST Act (AB 4 of 2014) became effective on January 1, 2014. See "California holds far fewer for illegal immigration" by The Associated Press, April 6, 2014, retrieved at <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/california-holds-far-fewer-illegal-immigration>. This analysis, averaging statistics from 15 key counties, found a 44% decrease in the number of "immigrants arrested by local law enforcement who were turned over to federal immigration authorities" in January and February of 2014 when compared to January and February of 2013. The findings preceded an April 20, 2014 court ruling, *Miranda-Olivares vs. Clackamas Co.*, which found all immigration holds to be unconstitutional. Since the ruling, some forty California counties have ended the holds entirely. See CATRUSTAct.org for a list of local policies.



LOOKING FORWARD

IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOLDEN STATE

2014

California

is home to over ten million immigrants, each one of whom adds to the state's economic, civic, and cultural vitality in ways both measurable and intangible. From our greatest metropolises to our smallest rural communities - and spanning a range of critical industries - immigrant Californians are helping to shape the Golden State's future. High rates of entrepreneurship and self-employment underscore the creativity and resourcefulness of our state's immigrant workers.

Yet too many immigrant workers lack basic civil rights protections and live with the daily threat of family separation and deportation. Due to the Federal Government's inability to create a rational immigration system, some 2.6 million Californians lack legal status. And even non-citizen immigrants with legal status are not entirely safe from the risk of deportation.

In recent years, California's government has taken historic strides to enact policies that limit deportations and advance the inclusion of immigrant residents, with new measures on the horizon. As efforts to curtail deportations and expand the inclusion of immigrants move forward at the local, state, and federal levels, there is much at stake for California's families, communities, and the state's economic well-being as a whole.

DEMOGRAPHICS. According to the 2010-2012 American Community Survey, more than one quarter (27%) of California residents are immigrants, a rate higher than any other state and significantly higher than New York which has the second highest rate at 22%. This amounts to over 10.2 million immigrant residents in California.¹

Of those 10.2 million immigrants, 2.6 million are undocumented or about 26% of all immigrants in California.²

47% of California's immigrants are citizens.

CHILDREN AND MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES. Immigrants and their children make up 42% of California's population. Of all children in California, 48% have at least one immigrant parent.³

Most non-citizens (74%) live in households that also have citizens. About 80% of non-citizen Latinos live in households with citizens and about 61% of Asian non-citizens live in mixed-status households.⁴

WORKFORCE. Immigrants comprise more than one-third of California's labor force (35%). They figure prominently in the agriculture, manufacturing, and repair and personal service industries. The undocumented in particular comprise a large share of the labor force in these industries as they represent 9% of the total state's workforce. The undocumented alone comprise 38% of the agriculture industry and 14% of the construction industry.

In terms of occupations, immigrants make up the majority of those involved in farming, fishing, and forestry (80%), grounds cleaning and maintenance (62%), production (57%), construction (42%), food preparation and serving (42%), transportation (42%), and personal care and service (37%) jobs. Within these job sectors, several positions are held primarily by immigrants, many of them undocumented⁵:

Immigrants participate in the labor force at higher rates than non-immigrants, with 59% of immigrants and 55% of non-immigrants over age 16 employed in California. For Latino and Asian men, this difference is even greater. About 81% of all Latino and Asian immigrant men of working age (25-64) are employed, compared with 72% of U.S. born Latino and Asian men.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-CONTINUOUS WORKERS.

As the economic recovery continues, intermittent workers are an important – and vulnerable – sector of the workforce. There are over 117,500 undocumented intermittent workers in the state and almost 26,000 undocumented workers were laid off.⁶ It is important that both legislative proposals and executive action include this population,⁷ with a total earned income of more than \$800 million. Hundreds of millions of dollars and their multiplier effects are at stake.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP. In California, immigrants are entrepreneurial and are more likely to create their own jobs (or be self-employed) than native born workers. For the working age population (age 25 to 64) Latino and Asian immigrants both have a self-employment rate of 12%, which is higher than the rates for non-immigrant Latinos and Asians (6% for both). This relative difference in entrepreneurship persists across education levels (for those with and without a Bachelor's degree or higher).

Immigrant workers represent a source of untapped labor market potential. As a share of those over age 25 who are employed in California, immigrants are more likely to be over-skilled (24%) than native born workers (17%) – that is, holding a Bachelor's degree or higher and working in an unskilled job.⁸ Immigrants account for 39% of all residents with a Ph.D degree.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS. Immigrant workers are important to the California economy. They contribute about 31% of California's GDP.⁹ This amounts to almost \$650 billion, a figure well over the total revenue of Walmart in 2014.¹⁰

Undocumented immigrants in California alone contribute about \$130 billion of California's GDP – a figure greater than the entire GDP of the neighboring state of Nevada.

Additionally, immigrant households make up 27% of the total household income in California, and thus represent a substantial share of all spending power in the state.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION. There were over 2 million immigrants who were eligible to naturalize in California as of 2010, and almost 1.1 million that would be able to naturalize within the following 5 years, together making up a substantial share of the current voting-eligible population (13%).¹¹ This will add to the base of the voting-eligible population who are naturalized immigrants (20%). Such newly naturalized immigrants could have more political impact than suggested simply by their numbers: research has shown that, at least for Latinos, those who naturalize in a politically charged environment on immigrant issues such as California vote at rates substantially higher than native or longer-term naturalized citizens.¹²

In California, a full 18% of the voting-age population is non-citizen.

CALIFORNIA'S CITIES.

In almost half (27) of California's 70 cities with more than 100,000 people, non-citizens make up more than 20% of the voting-age population. In seven of those cities, non-citizens make up more than 30% of the voting-age population, including: Santa Ana, East Los Angeles, Salinas, Santa Maria, El Monte, Sunnyvale, and Oxnard. Among these seven cities, the share of non-citizens among the voting-age population is highest in Santa Ana (43%) and lowest in the city of Oxnard (32%).¹³

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. The top regions of origin for California's immigrants are Latin America (53%), Asia (36%), and Europe (7%).

44% of Californians speak a language other than English at home. Throughout California, immigrants speak more than 103 languages.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF LONG-TERM RESIDENCE. The number of immigrants choosing California as their destination is leveling and those who decide to stay are staying longer.¹⁴ As immigrants

remain in CA, poverty rates decrease and homeownership rises. The poverty rate for immigrants drops to 11% when we consider only those who arrived before 1980 compared to 21% for those who arrived after 1990. Similarly, the homeownership rate for pre-1980 immigrant households (69%) is more than twice as high as the rate for post-1990 immigrant households (39%). These upward mobility trends also apply to undocumented immigrants in the state.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS:

Health: Lack of health insurance limits many immigrants from becoming fully engaged in their communities, especially restricting their labor market potential. Prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, 32% of immigrants were without health insurance. While this figure has dropped significantly for immigrants with legal status, some 58% of California's undocumented immigrants are uninsured.¹⁵ A proposal to expand access to health care for undocumented residents will be considered in the state legislature next year.

Deportations: Moreover, recent deportations of the undocumented not only fragment families and neighborhoods but also deprive many productive industries

in the region of much needed workers. Since 2009, the "Secure Communities" deportation program has led to the deportation of over 117,000 immigrants from the state.¹⁶

Measures such as California's TRUST Act - along with local policies which have entirely halted immigration holds in local jails - have significantly reduced the number of deportations in recent months.¹⁷ At the time of publication, immigrant advocates are urging the Obama administration to emulate the example set by California and provide deportation relief to all undocumented residents. Such action may, in turn, increase the likelihood of positive legislation in Congress.

FARMING, FISHING, AND FORESTRY	Agricultural workers and animal breeders (83%) Graders and sorters of agricultural products (81%) Supervisors of agricultural workers (66%)
GROUPS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE	Maids and housekeeping cleaners (79%) Grounds maintenance workers (62%) Janitors and building cleaners (52%)
PRODUCTION	Sewing machine operators (91%) Pressers for textiles and related materials (91%) Textile cutting machine workers (84%)
CONSTRUCTION	Plasterers and stucco masons (72%) Roofers (61%) Painters, construction, and maintenance (58%)
FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING	Cooks (64%) Dishwashers (62%) Chefs and head cooks (54%)
TRANSPORTATION	Hand packers and packagers (69%) Cleaners of vehicles and equipment (57%) Taxi drivers and chauffeurs (53%)
PERSONAL CARE AND SERVICE	Gaming service workers (62%) Personal care aides (51%) Personal and home care aides (46%) Child care workers (45%) Personal appearance workers (41%)