



## Immigrants in Wyoming

Wyoming has a small but growing immigrant community, much of which emigrated from Mexico. While only 4 percent of the state's population was born in another country, foreign-born residents help support Wyoming's economy and are vital members of the state's labor force. For example, nearly 13 percent of the state's building maintenance workers and groundskeepers are immigrants, while Wyoming's hotel and food services industry relies on immigrants for 11 percent of its employees. As workers, business owners, taxpayers, and neighbors, immigrants are an integral part of Wyoming's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

### **Nearly 4 percent of Wyoming residents are immigrants, while nearly 5 percent are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.**

- In 2015, 21,999 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 3.8 percent of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>
- Wyoming was home to 11,980 women, 8,165 men, and 1,854 children who were immigrants.<sup>2</sup>
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (46.9 percent of immigrants), the Philippines (5.1 percent), China (4.4 percent), Guatemala (4.2 percent), and England (4.1 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2016, 27,580 people in Wyoming (4.8 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.<sup>4</sup>

### **More than a third of all immigrants in Wyoming are naturalized U.S. citizens.**

- 8,500 immigrants (38.6 percent) had naturalized as of 2015, and 1,811 immigrants were eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens in 2015.<sup>6</sup>
- More than three in four immigrants (77.4 percent) reported speaking English "well" or "very well."<sup>7</sup>

### **Immigrants in Wyoming are found across the educational spectrum.**

- More than one in five adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2015, while a third had less than a high school diploma.<sup>8</sup>

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	21.2	26.5
Some college	19.8	37.9
High school diploma only	25.1	28.9
Less than a high-school diploma	33.9	6.7

**Thousands of U.S. citizens in Wyoming live with at least one family member who is undocumented.**

- 5,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 27 percent of the immigrant population and 1 percent of the total state population in 2014.<sup>9</sup>
- 8,166 people in Wyoming, including 3,817 born in the United States, lived with at least one undocumented family member between 2010 and 2014.<sup>10</sup>
- During the same period, 3 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (3,532 children in total).<sup>11</sup>

**More than 400 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in Wyoming.**<sup>12</sup>

- 699 Wyoming residents had applied for DACA as of 2017.<sup>13</sup>
- DACA recipients in Wyoming paid an estimated \$949,000 in state and local taxes in 2016.<sup>14</sup>

**Immigrants are vital members of Wyoming’s labor force in a range of industries.**

- 11,111 immigrant workers comprised 3.6 percent of the labor force in 2015.<sup>15</sup>
- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Accommodation and Food Services	4,351
Construction	2,033
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,401
Retail Trade	1,194
Other Services (except Public Administration)	876

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:<sup>16</sup>

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Accommodation and Food Services	11.0
Construction	8.4
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	6.3
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	3.6

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

**Immigrants are an important part of the Wyoming workforce in a variety of occupations.**

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

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2,309
Food Preparation and Serving Related	2,128
Construction and Extraction	1,846
Management	1,488
Sales and Related	870

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:<sup>18</sup>

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	12.6
Food Preparation and Serving Related	7.9
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	7.0
Personal Care and Service	6.3
Construction and Extraction	5.8

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

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 1.4 percent of the state's workforce in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

### **Immigrants in Wyoming contribute millions of dollars in taxes every year.**

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$77.4 million in federal taxes and \$30.2 million in state and local taxes in 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- Undocumented immigrants in Wyoming paid an estimated \$4.2 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2014. Their contribution would rise to \$4.6 million if they could receive legal status.<sup>21</sup>

### **As consumers, immigrants add hundreds of millions of dollars to Wyoming's economy.**

- Wyoming residents in immigrant-led households had \$449 million in spending power (after-tax income) in 2014.<sup>22</sup>

### **Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute to Wyoming's business community.**

- 417 immigrant business owners accounted for 1.1 percent of all self-employed Wyoming residents in 2015.<sup>23</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> “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 (ACS) 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).

<sup>2</sup> Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>6</sup> 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](http://data.cmsny.org/state.html).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. 2015 ACS 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>9</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” November 3, 2016, [www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/](http://www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/).

<sup>10</sup> 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/>.

<sup>11</sup> 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).

<sup>12</sup> 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](http://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>.

<sup>13</sup> 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>.

<sup>14</sup> 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/>.

<sup>15</sup> 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](http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates,” 2016.

<sup>20</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Wyoming* (New York, NY: August 2016), 5, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/research/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-wyoming/>.

<sup>21</sup> ITEP, *Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions* (Washington, DC: March 2017), 3, <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/>.

<sup>22</sup> New American Economy, *The Contributions of New Americans in Wyoming*, 5.

<sup>23</sup> “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.