

New Americans in Alaska



Alaska has a small but vital community of immigrants, many of whom came from the Philippines. About 7.4 percent of the state's residents are foreign-born, and 3.1 percent of its U.S.-born residents live with at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants make up 10.4 percent of Alaska's labor force and support the state's economy in many ways. More than 80.0 percent of immigrants in the state are of working age. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Alaska's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

OVERVIEW¹

Immigrant residents ²	54,100
Immigrant share of population	7.4%
Immigrant taxes paid	\$522.3M
Immigrant spending power	\$1.8B

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the United States, immigrants are more likely to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This means they are more likely to be active in the labor force, allowing them to contribute to the economy not only as consumers but also as taxpayers, helping fund social services and programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Share of immigrant women	51.5%
Share of immigrant men	48.5%
Number of immigrant children	-
Share of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	3.1%
Number of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	21,300
Share of foreign-born that are proficient in English	86.5%

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
0-15	2.7%	23.1%
16-64	81.8%	63.1%
65+	15.5%	13.8%

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Top Countries of Origin for Immigrants

Philippines	40.1%
Mexico	9.7%
-	-
-	-
-	-

TAXES & SPENDING POWER

Immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local taxes and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, helping support local communities as consumers and taxpayers. Like all residents of the United States, regardless of where they were born, immigrants make use of public services like education, healthcare, and public safety. Even with these costs, however, immigrants' economic contributions far outweigh the cost of additional public services they incur.

Immigrant household income	\$2.4B
Total taxes paid	\$522.3M
Federal taxes paid ³	\$407.8M
State & local taxes paid ⁴	\$114.5M
Total spending power	\$1.8B
Foreign-born, contributions to Social Security	\$291.0M
Foreign-born, contributions to Medicare	\$69.5M

WORKFORCE

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. As baby boomers retire, younger immigrants are filling crucial gaps in the labor market. Nationally, immigrants are more likely to hold an advanced degree than the U.S.-born. They are also more likely to have less than a high school education. As such, they are able to fill critical shortages at both ends of the skill spectrum, from high-tech positions to agriculture, hospitality, and service jobs.

Number of immigrant workers in the labor force	40,200
Share of workers in the labor force who are immigrants	10.4%

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Education Level	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less than high school	13.6%	6.5%
High school & some college	57.2%	61.7%
Bachelor's degree	21.3%	19.2%
Graduate degree	7.8%	12.6%
Share of college-educated workers employed in jobs that don't require a college degree	-	-

HOUSING

Immigrant families have long played an important role in helping to build housing wealth in the United States. In recent decades, the more than 40 million immigrants in the U.S. collectively increased U.S. housing wealth by trillions of dollars. Much of this was possible because immigrants moved into neighborhoods once in decline, thus helping to revitalize communities and make neighborhoods more attractive to U.S.-born residents.

Immigrant homeowners	12,300
Share of recent homebuyers who were foreign-born	-
Housing wealth held by immigrant households	\$5.1B
Amount paid by immigrant-led households in rent	\$127.1M

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS⁵

International students in the United States contribute tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and support a significant number of U.S. jobs through their tuition payments and day-to-day spending. Research has also found that increases in the number of international students at American universities boost innovation and patent creation.

Students at Alaska's colleges and universities who are international students	297
Economic contribution of international students	\$10.1M
Jobs supported by international students	59

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NATURALIZATION & VOTING POWER

As more immigrants naturalize and become eligible to vote, they continue to gain political power. The number of immigrant voters is only projected to rise in the next decade, and in some states foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding elections.

Share of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	61.2%
Number of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	33,100
Number of immigrants who are eligible for naturalization	8,200
Number of immigrants eligible to vote	29,600

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The presence of a significant number of undocumented immigrants in the United States poses many legal and political challenges. But these millions of undocumented immigrants, most of whom have lived in the country for more than five years, are working across the country, contributing billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

Number of undocumented immigrants ⁶	9,900
Share of immigrant population who are undocumented immigrants	18.2%
Share of population that is undocumented	1.3%
Share of workforce that is undocumented	1.9%
Share of undocumented immigrants who are working age	87.2%
Undocumented entrepreneurs	-
Undocumented household income	\$261.0M
Total taxes paid ⁷	\$64.0M
Federal taxes paid	\$50.1M
State & local taxes paid	\$13.9M
Total spending power	\$197.1M
Number of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	-
Share of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	-

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UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (CONTINUED)

Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	-
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	-
Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	-
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	-

THE DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION

DACA-eligible people contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. Removing the protections afforded to DACA recipients would likely upset local economies, communities, and schools, hurting employers and businesses that depend on these young immigrants as workers and customers.

Number of active DACA recipients ⁸	60
Number of people with DACA granted ⁹	91

REFUGEES

Refugees living in the United States make tremendous contributions to our economy as earners, taxpayers, and consumers. Rather than a drain on communities, refugees, with their high employment rate and entrepreneurial spirit, actually sustain and strengthen their new hometowns.

Number of refugees resettled in the last fiscal year ¹⁰	155
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Top Countries of Origin for Refugees Resettled in the Last Fiscal Year

Democratic Republic of the Congo	29.0%
Ukraine	16.1%
Venezuela	11.6%
South Sudan	11.6%
Somalia	6.5%

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TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS HOLDERS

Recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) have made enormous contributions to various industries and paid a significant amount in federal, state, and local taxes in the United States. Forcing them to leave the country not only risks putting these individuals in danger, but also threatens to significantly disrupt local economies.

Number of TPS holders ¹¹	250
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To learn more about Map the Impact, visit maptheimpact.org.

The American Immigration Council works to empower immigrants from arrival to belonging. To learn more about the Council's work, visit americanimmigrationcouncil.org.

ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from the American Immigration Council analysis of microdata from the 1-year sample of the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS), downloaded from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) <https://www.ipums.org/>.
2. Except where otherwise noted, an immigrant refers to anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is resident in the United States. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, individuals holding temporary (nonimmigrant) status, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
3. Congressional Budget Office. 2022. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019." <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
4. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). 2024. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States (7th edition)." <https://itep.org/whopays-7th-edition/>.
5. We use the state-level data of international students in the 2023-24 academic year from the "International Student Economic Value Tool" developed by NAFSA, www.nafsa.org/economicvalue.
6. We use data from the ACS to arrive at an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population by applying the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas in his 2016 NBER working paper, "The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants", <https://ideas.repec.org/p/nbr/nberwo/22102.html>.
7. When estimating the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants, we follow the methodology detailed by Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). ITEP. 2024 "Tax Payments By Undocumented Immigrants." <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>.
8. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). 2024. "Active DACA Recipients - Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 4" https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/active_daca_recipients_fy2024_q4.xlsx.
9. USCIS. 2024. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Quarterly Report (Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 4)." https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/daca_performancedata_fy2024_q4.xlsx.
10. Refugee Processing Center (RPC). 2024. "FY 2024 Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality." <https://www.wrapsnet.org/archives/>
11. Congressional Research Service (CRS). 2023. "Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure." <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20844/70>