

Immigrant population

Immigrants make up an important part of local communities in Santa Cruz metro area and California. Nonetheless, no noncitizen is exempt from the risk of deportation, which threatens the stability and family unity of immigrants and U.S.-born people alike.

Santa Cruz metro area



47,400 immigrants reside in **Santa Cruz**, or **18 percent** of Santa Cruz's population.

California



10.6 million immigrants reside in **California**, or **27 percent** of the total population.

Noncitizen population

25.7K

25,700 noncitizens are living in **Santa Cruz**.

4.8M

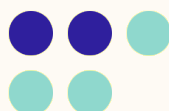
4.8 million noncitizens are living in **California**.

Children and families

Santa Cruz metro area

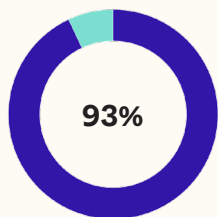
19.7K
children

There are **19,700** children in Santa Cruz with at least one **immigrant parent**.



2 in 5

Two in five children in Santa Cruz have at least one **immigrant parent**.



The **vast majority of children** in Santa Cruz with at least one immigrant parent (**93 percent**) were born in the United States.

California

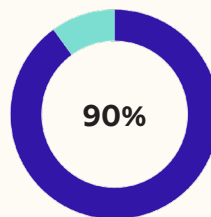
3.9M
children

There are **3.9 million** children in California with at least one **immigrant parent**.



1 in 2

One in two children in California has at least one **immigrant parent**.



The **vast majority of children** in California with at least one immigrant parent (**90 percent**) were born in the United States.

Local community ties



43,500 immigrants residing in Santa Cruz metro area have lived in the United States for **10 years or more**.



At least **13,900** homes in Santa Cruz metro area are **owned by immigrants**.



2,900 immigrants in Santa Cruz metro area are **entrepreneurs**.



6,100 immigrants in Santa Cruz metro area are **students** enrolled in pre-K through college or graduate school.

Immigrants in the economy

Immigrants in Santa Cruz metro area, California, and the United States are indispensable members of the workforce and contribute to the economy by paying federal, state, and local taxes.

Tax contributions*

California

\$572.5B Immigrant-led households **earned \$572.5 billion**.

\$61.8B Immigrants contributed **\$61.8 billion** in combined **state and local taxes**.

\$106.3B Immigrants contributed **\$106.3 billion** in **federal taxes**.

\$404.4B This means that immigrant-led households have an estimated **\$404.4 billion** in **spending power**.

United States

\$2.35T Immigrant-led households **earned \$2.35 trillion**.

\$232.1B Immigrants contributed **\$232.1 billion** in combined **state and local taxes**.

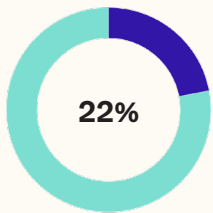
\$419.8B Immigrants contributed **\$419.8 billion** in **federal taxes**.

\$1.7T This means that immigrant-led households have an estimated **\$1.7 trillion** in **spending power**.

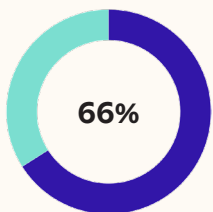
*Earnings, tax contribution, and spending power data reflect annual figures for 2023.

Employment and labor force participation

Santa Cruz metro area

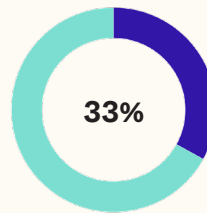


30,600 immigrant workers make up **22 percent** of the metro area's labor force.

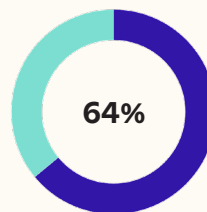


66 percent of the metro area's immigrants **participate in the labor force**, greater than the share among the metro area's U.S.-born population (62 percent).

California



6.6 million immigrant workers make up **33 percent** of the state's labor force.



64 percent of the state's immigrants **participate in the labor force**, comparable to the share among the state's U.S.-born population (64 percent).

Sources

The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA):

Version 16.0 [dataset], Steven Ruggles, et al., Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V16.0>

Note: This analysis uses 2024 ACS 5-year PUMS data.

Tax contributions data from:

American Immigration Council:

"Map the Impact," available through <https://data.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/map-the-impact/> (accessed April 2026).