California was home to nearly 10.7 million immigrants in 2017, making up 26.9% of the state population. California had the largest percentage of immigrant residents of any state.

Immigrants are vital to California’s labor force. A total of 6.3 million immigrants were employed in California in 2017, representing 1 in 3 workers in the state. Immigrants and children of immigrants made up half of all California workers from 2016 to 2018.

Immigrants also help drive California’s strong economy as business leaders. More than 40% of Silicon Valley high-tech startups from 2006 to 2012 were founded by immigrants, and nearly half of the state’s Fortune 500 companies have founders who are immigrants or children of immigrants.