As the number of immigrants arriving in the United States has increased, California’s share has shrunk.

Source: Urban Institute tabulations of 2000 Decennial Census and 2015 American Community Survey data.
Immigrants in the Labor Force, 25-64

• United States: prime working age labor force is 19% foreign-born

• California: prime working age labor force is foreign-born is 37%
Defining Skills

- **LOW-SKILLED**: Less than high school diploma
- **MIDDLE SKILLED**: HS diploma – some college
- **HIGH-SKILLED**: At least a bachelor’s degree

California’s native-born workers skew slightly higher-skilled than all US workers; foreign-born are slightly lower-skilled than US workers.

Job growth and the future of California's labor force

*Occupations with the most expected job growth in California 2014-2024*
More than half of CA’s occupations expected to grow the most by 2024 are low-skilled; many are dominated by immigrant workers

LOW: Farmworkers, food service, cleaners & laborers are expected to have the most job growth in California


MID: Office workers, customer service & supervisors of admin support and food prep

High skill: Software developers, accountants, RNs, and general managers
About half of the occupations with the fastest job growth in California are in the construction industry.

Share Labor Force Foreign Born, US total and California, by Fastest Growing Occupations in California


LOW: Two out of every three cooks, insulation workers, brickmasons helpers, electricians helpers and roofers are foreign-born in CA

MID: more than half of all mechanical insulation, cement, iron and rebar, & brick and stone masons are immigrants in CA
HIGH: more than ½ of applications developers & statisticians are foreign-born, and more than 1/3 of cartographers & biomedical eng.
