

Immigrants Make Iowa Stronger

*An estimated **210,000** immigrants live in Iowa, making up **7%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **8%** of households in Iowa.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Iowa's economy.

Some 9% of Iowa's labor force are immigrants, including 10% of the construction industry, 8% of agriculture, 16% of manufacturing, 16% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 11,000 immigrants in Iowa work in STEM-related jobs, of which 28% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 13% of STEM degree holders in Iowa are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Iowa's communities. Some 66,000 immigrants, or about 31% of all immigrants in Iowa, are U.S. citizens. About 57,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 17,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

Some 136,000 are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 30,000 U.S. citizen children in Iowa live with an undocumented parent, while some 9,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 32,000 undocumented individuals in Iowa have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 18,000 of those living in the U.S. for more than 20 years.

Dreamers—undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children before 2021 and are either in school or have graduated from high school—number 15,000 and **contribute \$305 million annually to Iowa's economy.** They also contribute \$42 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,100 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 3,000 and **contributed \$106 million to Iowa's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 9,000 immigrants in Iowa are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$167 million to Iowa's economy annually.

Immigrant groups currently protected from deportation—DACA recipients, TPS holders, people seeking asylum, and those waiting for a permanent residency visa—**have access to work authorizations, making up an estimated 13,000 workers in Iowa's labor force, and paying an estimated \$51 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$6.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.9 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

8,000

Self-employed

30%

With college or advanced degrees

91%

Speak English

81%

Earn above the minimum needed to live