

Immigrants Make Kentucky Stronger

*An estimated **267,000** immigrants live in Kentucky, making up **6%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **6%** of households in Kentucky.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Kentucky's economy.

Some 8% of Kentucky's labor force are immigrants, including 11% of the construction industry, 17% of agriculture, 11% of manufacturing, 11% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 11,000 immigrants in Kentucky work in STEM-related jobs, of which 42% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 16% of STEM degree holders in Kentucky are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Kentucky's communities. Some 69,000 immigrants, or about 26% of all immigrants in Kentucky, are U.S. citizens. About 63,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 16,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

Some 198,000 are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 34,000 U.S. citizen children in Kentucky live with an undocumented parent, while some 7,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 31,000 undocumented individuals in Kentucky have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 14,000 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 12,000 and **contribute \$343 million annually to Kentucky's economy.** They also contribute \$46 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,300 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 6,000 and **contributed \$76 million to Kentucky's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 30,000 immigrants in Kentucky are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$606 million to Kentucky'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 29,000 workers in Kentucky's labor force, and paying an estimated \$118 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$8.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.6 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

17,000

Self-employed

31%

With college or advanced degrees

86%

Speak English

81%

Earn above the minimum needed to live