

Immigrants Make Milwaukee Stronger

*An estimated **131,000** immigrants live in Milwaukee metro area, making up **8%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **12%** of households in Milwaukee.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Milwaukee's economy. Some 10% of Milwaukee's labor force are immigrants, including 12% of the construction industry, 14% of agriculture, 11% of manufacturing, 13% of business services, and X% of leisure and hospitality.

About 9,000 immigrants in Milwaukee work in STEM-related jobs, of which 24% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 17% of STEM degree holders in Milwaukee are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Milwaukee's communities. Some 52,000 immigrants, or about 40% of all immigrants in Milwaukee, are U.S. citizens. About 38,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 8,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 66,000 individuals in Milwaukee are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 14,000 U.S. citizen children in Milwaukee live with an undocumented parent, while some 6,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 22,000 undocumented individuals in Milwaukee 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 7,000 and **contribute \$198 million annually to Milwaukee's economy**. They also contribute \$24 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,200 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 2,000. Meanwhile, an estimated 3,000 immigrants in Milwaukee are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$58 million to Milwaukee'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 7,000 workers in Milwaukee's labor force, and paying an estimated \$29 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$4.9 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.5 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

5,000

Self-employed

38%

With college or advanced degrees

93%

Speak English

90%

Earn above the minimum needed to live