

# Immigrants Make New Orleans Metro Stronger



*An estimated **137,000** immigrants live in New Orleans, making up **11%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **12%** of households in New Orleans.*

**Immigrants contribute to every sector of New Orleans' economy.**

Some 14% of New Orleans' labor force are immigrants, including 41% of the construction industry, 14% of agriculture, 16% of manufacturing, 9% of business services, and 17% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 4,000 immigrants in New Orleans work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 19% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 14% of STEM degree holders in New Orleans are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost New Orleans' communities.**

Some 46,000 immigrants, or about 33% of all immigrants in New Orleans, are U.S. citizens. About 22,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 7,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 8% of individuals in New Orleans, or some 100,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.**

Some 17,000 U.S. citizen children in New Orleans live with an undocumented parent, while some 3,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 13,000 undocumented individuals in New Orleans have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 4,000 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 4,000 and **contribute \$165 million annually to New Orleans' economy**. They also contribute \$23 million in state and local taxes each year.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 3,000 and **contributed \$71 million to New Orleans' economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 16,000 immigrants in New Orleans are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$248 million to New Orleans' 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 16,000 workers in New Orleans' labor force, and paying an estimated \$56 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$3.9 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$1.3 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**16,000**

Self-employed

**23%**

With college or advanced degrees

**81%**

Speak English

**70%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live