

Immigrants Make Rhode Island Stronger

*An estimated **188,000** immigrants live in Rhode Island, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **21%** of households in Rhode Island.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Rhode Island's economy.

Some 21% of Rhode Island's labor force are immigrants, including 30% of the construction industry, 16% of agriculture, 25% of manufacturing, 25% of business services, and 24% of leisure and hospitality.

About 8,000 immigrants in Rhode Island work in STEM-related jobs, of which 18% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 21% of STEM degree holders in Rhode Island are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Rhode Island's communities. Some 86,000 immigrants, or about 46% of all immigrants in Rhode Island, are U.S. citizens. About 44,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 8,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 10% of individuals in Rhode Island, or some 105,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 19,000 U.S. citizen children in Rhode Island live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 19,000 undocumented individuals in Rhode Island have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 8,000 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 \$145 million annually to Rhode Island's economy.** They also contribute \$19 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 700 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 1,000 and **contributed \$15 million to Rhode Island's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 19,000 immigrants in Rhode Island are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$436 million to Rhode Island'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 14,000 workers in Rhode Island's labor force, and paying an estimated \$62 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$6.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.0 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

17,000

Self-employed

25%

With college or advanced degrees

84%

Speak English

82%

Earn above the minimum needed to live