

# Immigrants Make California Stronger



*An estimated **11,261,000** immigrants live in California, making up **28%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **41%** of households in California.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of California's economy. Some 33% of California's labor force are immigrants, including 41% of the construction industry, 81% of agriculture, 43% of manufacturing, 35% of business services, and 30% of leisure and hospitality.

About 731,000 immigrants in California work in STEM-related jobs, of which 24% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 43% of STEM degree holders in California are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost California's communities. Some 5,257,000 immigrants, or about 47% of all immigrants in California, are U.S. citizens. About 2,893,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 532,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 13% of individuals in California, or some 5,150,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 768,000 U.S. citizen children in California live with an undocumented parent, while some 246,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 1,684,000 undocumented individuals in California have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 1,157,000 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 416,000 and **contribute \$12 billion annually to California's economy**. They also contribute \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes each year. Some 151,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 73,000 and **contribute \$1.5 billion to California's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 334,000 immigrants in California are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$6.6 billion to California'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 396,000 workers in California's labor force, and paying an estimated \$2.1 billion annually in state and local taxes**.

FWD.us is a bipartisan political organization founded by leaders in technology and business communities that believe America's families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential. To learn more, go to [www.fwd.us](http://www.fwd.us).

**Data sources:** FWD.us analysis of augmented 2023 American Community Survey data with immigrant status assignment according to FWD.us methodology and adjustments for 2024 population estimates ([fwd.us/acs-methodology](http://fwd.us/acs-methodology)). Estimates may differ slightly from U.S. Census Bureau estimates because of adjustments made for undocumented immigrants and other immigrant groups, including most recent arrivals. For more information or additional data analysis, email [data@fwd.us](mailto:data@fwd.us).

**\$412 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$158 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**1,084,000**

Self-employed

**13%**

With college or advanced degrees

**87%**

Speak English

**88%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live