

Immigrants Make Illinois Stronger



*An estimated **1,988,000** immigrants live in Illinois, making up **16%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **21%** of households in Illinois.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Illinois's economy. Some 18% of Illinois's labor force are immigrants, including 26% of the construction industry, 18% of agriculture, 25% of manufacturing, 23% of business services, and 20% of leisure and hospitality.

About 119,000 immigrants in Illinois work in STEM-related jobs, of which 24% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 32% of STEM degree holders in Illinois are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Illinois's communities. Some 879,000 immigrants, or about 44% of all immigrants in Illinois, are U.S. citizens. About 453,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 161,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 7% of individuals in Illinois, or some 949,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 148,000 U.S. citizen children in Illinois live with an undocumented parent, while some 40,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 258,000 undocumented individuals in Illinois have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 189,000 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 88,000 and **contribute \$2.4 billion annually to Illinois's economy**. They also contribute \$375 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 28,400 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 33,000 and **contribute \$703 million to Illinois's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 126,000 immigrants in Illinois are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$2.2 billion to Illinois'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 106,000 workers in Illinois's labor force, and paying an estimated \$636 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$70 billion

Annual spending power

\$25 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

174,000

Self-employed

17%

With college or advanced degrees

90%

Speak English

87%

Earn above the minimum needed to live

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.

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). 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.