

Immigrants Make Kentucky Stronger



*An estimated **253,000** immigrants live in Kentucky, making up **6%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **6%** of households in Kentucky.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Kentucky's economy. Some 6% of Kentucky's labor force are immigrants, including 10% of the construction industry, 32% of agriculture, 8% of manufacturing, 6% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 9,000 immigrants in Kentucky work in STEM-related jobs, of which 35% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 15% of STEM degree holders in Kentucky are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Kentucky's communities. Some 78,000 immigrants, or about 31% of all immigrants in Kentucky, are U.S. citizens. About 79,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 12,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 142,000 individuals in Kentucky are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 20,000 U.S. citizen children in Kentucky live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 42,000 undocumented individuals in Kentucky have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 28,000 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 9,000 and **contribute \$147 million annually to Kentucky's economy**. They also contribute \$19 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,300 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 5,000 and **contribute \$33 million to Kentucky's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 19,000 immigrants in Kentucky are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$260 million to Kentucky'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 Kentucky's labor force, and paying an estimated \$55 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$6.4 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

22,000

Self-employed

11%

With college or advanced degrees

90%

Speak English

75%

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.