

Immigrants Make Louisiana Stronger



*An estimated **262,000** immigrants live in Louisiana, making up **6%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **7%** of households in Louisiana.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Louisiana's economy. Some 6% of Louisiana's labor force are immigrants, including 18% of the construction industry, 9% of agriculture, 5% of manufacturing, 7% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 8,000 immigrants in Louisiana work in STEM-related jobs, of which 29% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 14% of STEM degree holders in Louisiana are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Louisiana's communities. Some 81,000 immigrants, or about 31% of all immigrants in Louisiana, are U.S. citizens. About 60,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 17,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 159,000 individuals in Louisiana are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Louisiana live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 28,000 undocumented individuals in Louisiana have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 11,000 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 14,000 and **contribute \$279 million annually to Louisiana's economy**. They also contribute \$41 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,400 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 3,000 and **contribute \$24 million to Louisiana's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 40,000 immigrants in Louisiana are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$733 million to Louisiana'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 24,000 workers in Louisiana's labor force, and paying an estimated \$120 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$7.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.1 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

29,000

Self-employed

15%

With college or advanced degrees

81%

Speak English

80%

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.