

Immigrants Make Mississippi Stronger

*An estimated **82,000** immigrants live in Mississippi.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Mississippi's economy: including 8% of the construction industry, 5% of agriculture, and 6% of leisure and hospitality.

About 2,000 immigrants in Mississippi work in STEM-related jobs, of which 32% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 6% of STEM degree holders in Mississippi are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Mississippi's communities. Some 22,000 immigrants, or about 28% of all immigrants in Mississippi, are U.S. citizens. About 19,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 4,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 61,000 of individuals in Mississippi, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 13,000 U.S. citizen children in Mississippi live with an undocumented parent, while some 3,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 17,000 undocumented individuals in Mississippi have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 10,000 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 \$149 million annually to Mississippi's economy.** They also contribute \$19 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,200 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 1,000 and **contribute \$41 million to Mississippi's economy each year.** Meanwhile, an estimated 10,000 immigrants in Mississippi are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$218 million to Mississippi'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 7,000 workers in Mississippi's labor force, and paying an estimated \$44 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$2.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$600 million

Annual combined taxes paid

8,000

Self-employed

13%

With college or advanced degrees

92%

Speak English

80%

Earn above the minimum needed to live