

Immigrants Make North Carolina Stronger



*An estimated **1,078,000** immigrants live in North Carolina, making up **10%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **13%** of households in North Carolina.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of North Carolina's economy. Some 11% of North Carolina's labor force are immigrants, including 26% of the construction industry, 27% of agriculture, 13% of manufacturing, 15% of business services, and 11% of leisure and hospitality.

About 84,000 immigrants in North Carolina work in STEM-related jobs, of which 28% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 21% of STEM degree holders in North Carolina are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost North Carolina's communities. Some 388,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in North Carolina, are U.S. citizens. About 232,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 89,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 6% of individuals in North Carolina, or some 683,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 146,000 U.S. citizen children in North Carolina live with an undocumented parent, while some 27,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 204,000 undocumented individuals in North Carolina have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 138,000 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 67,000 and **contribute \$1.6 billion annually to North Carolina's economy**. They also contribute \$180 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 20,700 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 27,000 and **contribute \$539 million to North Carolina's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 80,000 immigrants in North Carolina are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$1.6 billion to North Carolina'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 68,000 workers in North Carolina's labor force, and paying an estimated \$319 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$37.9 billion

Annual spending power

\$11.1 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

95,000

Self-employed

17%

With college or advanced degrees

90%

Speak English

86%

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.