Immigrants Make South Dakota Stronger

An estimated 46,000 immigrants live in South Dakota, making up 5% of the total population. Immigrants live in 6% of households in South Dakota.

Immigrants contribute to every sector of South Dakota's economy. Some 5% of South Dakota's labor force are immigrants, including 5% of agriculture, 13% of manufacturing, 8% of business services.

About 1,000 immigrants in South Dakota work in STEM-related jobs, of which 59% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 9% of STEM degree holders in South Dakota are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost South Dakota's communities. Some 15,000 immigrants, or about 32% of all immigrants in South Dakota, are U.S. citizens. About 11,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 3,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 31,000 individuals in South Dakota, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 7,000 U.S. citizen children in South Dakota live with an undocumented parent, while some 1,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 8,000 undocumented individuals in South Dakota have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 5,000 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 5,000 and **contribute \$124 million annually to South Dakota's economy.** They also contribute \$13 million in state and local taxes each year.

An estimated 3,000 immigrants in South Dakota are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$67 million to South Dakota'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 2,000 workers in South Dakota's labor force, and paying an estimated \$10 million annually in state and local taxes. \$1.3 billion

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Annual spending power

\$200 million

Annual combined taxes paid

4,000

Self-employed

16%

With college or advanced degrees

93% Speak English

85% 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 <u>www.fwd.us.</u>

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 <u>data@fwd.us</u>.