

# Immigrants Make Virginia Stronger



*An estimated **1,187,000** immigrants live in Virginia, making up **14%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **18%** of households in Virginia.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Virginia's economy. Some 15% of Virginia's labor force are immigrants, including 25% of the construction industry, 39% of agriculture, 12% of manufacturing, 20% of business services, and 18% of leisure and hospitality.

About 114,000 immigrants in Virginia work in STEM-related jobs, of which 18% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 26% of STEM degree holders in Virginia are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Virginia's communities. Some 577,000 immigrants, or about 49% of all immigrants in Virginia, are U.S. citizens. About 236,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 79,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 6% of individuals in Virginia, or some 571,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 96,000 U.S. citizen children in Virginia live with an undocumented parent, while some 24,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 159,000 undocumented individuals in Virginia have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 81,000 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 58,000 and **contribute \$1.5 billion annually to Virginia's economy**. They also contribute \$180 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 7,800 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 28,000 and **contribute \$749 million to Virginia's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 80,000 immigrants in Virginia are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$1.8 billion to Virginia'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 65,000 workers in Virginia's labor force, and paying an estimated \$337 million annually in state and local taxes**.

**\$49 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$17 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**109,000**

Self-employed

**21%**

With college or advanced degrees

**95%**

Speak English

**89%**

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:data@fwd.us).