

# Immigrants Make Washington Stronger



*An estimated **1,395,000** immigrants live in Washington, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **22%** of households in Washington.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Washington's economy. Some 20% of Washington's labor force are immigrants, including 20% of the construction industry, 68% of agriculture, 21% of manufacturing, 26% of business services, and 18% of leisure and hospitality.

About 165,000 immigrants in Washington work in STEM-related jobs, of which 40% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 31% of STEM degree holders in Washington are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Washington's communities. Some 521,000 immigrants, or about 37% of all immigrants in Washington, are U.S. citizens. About 299,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 143,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 9% of individuals in Washington, or some 724,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 103,000 U.S. citizen children in Washington live with an undocumented parent, while some 26,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 252,000 undocumented individuals in Washington have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 151,000 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 74,000 and **contribute \$2.3 billion annually to Washington's economy**. They also contribute \$271 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 13,600 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 13,000 and **contribute \$605 million to Washington's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 48,000 immigrants in Washington are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$1.3 billion to Washington'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 60,000 workers in Washington's labor force, and paying an estimated \$342 million annually in state and local taxes**.

**\$65.8 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$23.1 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**111,000**

Self-employed

**20%**

With college or advanced degrees

**89%**

Speak English

**89%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live

FWD.us is a bipartisan policy 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).