

Immigrants Make Wisconsin Stronger



*An estimated **339,000** immigrants live in Wisconsin, making up **6%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **8%** of households in Wisconsin.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Wisconsin's economy. Some 7% of Wisconsin's labor force are immigrants, including 6% of the construction industry, 18% of agriculture, 8% of manufacturing, 9% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 23,000 immigrants in Wisconsin work in STEM-related jobs, of which 27% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 15% of STEM degree holders in Wisconsin are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Wisconsin's communities. Some 118,000 immigrants, or about 35% of all immigrants in Wisconsin, are U.S. citizens. About 90,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 26,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 190,000 of individuals in Wisconsin are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 36,000 U.S. citizen children in Wisconsin live with an undocumented parent, while some 10,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 58,000 undocumented individuals in Wisconsin have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 36,000 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 19,000 and **contribute \$469 million annually to Wisconsin's economy**. They also contribute \$56 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 5,400 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 4,000 and **contribute \$78 million to Wisconsin's economy each year**. Meanwhile, an estimated 14,000 immigrants in Wisconsin are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$312 million to Wisconsin'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 19,000 workers in Wisconsin's labor force, and paying an estimated \$76 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$11.7 billion

Annual spending power

\$3.5 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

26,000

Self-employed

18%

With college or advanced degrees

91%

Speak English

82%

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.