

# Immigrants Make Washington D.C. Stronger



*An estimated **1,494,000** immigrants live in Washington D.C. metro area, making up **26%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **35%** of households in Washington D.C.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Washington D.C.'s economy. Some 30% of Washington D.C.'s labor force are immigrants, including 51% of the construction industry, 44% of agriculture, 31% of manufacturing, 30% of business services, and 33% of leisure and hospitality.

About 148,000 immigrants in Washington D.C. work in STEM-related jobs, of which 15% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 37% of STEM degree holders in Washington D.C. are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Washington D.C.'s communities. Some 735,000 immigrants, or about 49% of all immigrants in Washington D.C., are U.S. citizens. About 306,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 82,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 13% of individuals in Washington D.C., or some 755,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 135,000 U.S. citizen children in Washington D.C. live with an undocumented parent, while some 27,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 189,000 undocumented individuals in Washington D.C. have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 101,000 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 66,000 and contribute **\$1.9 billion annually to Washington D.C.'s economy**. They also contribute \$244 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 9,300 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 43,000. Meanwhile, an estimated 112,000 immigrants in Washington D.C. are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$2.2 billion to Washington D.C.'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 87,000 workers in Washington D.C.'s labor force, and paying an estimated \$459 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$62.8 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$22.7 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**139,000**

Self-employed

**45%**

With college or advanced degrees

**94%**

Speak English

**90%**

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).