

Immigrants Make Allentown Metro Stronger

*An estimated **128,000** immigrants live in Allentown, making up **14%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **16%** of households in Allentown.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Allentown's economy.

Some 16% of Allentown's labor force are immigrants, including 11% of the construction industry, 19% of manufacturing, 21% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 5,000 immigrants in Allentown work in STEM-related jobs, of which 32% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 25% of STEM degree holders in Allentown are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Allentown's communities. Some 55,000 immigrants, or about 43% of all immigrants in Allentown, are U.S. citizens. About 17,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 4,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 10% of individuals in Allentown, or some 85,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 13,000 U.S. citizen children in Allentown live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 11,000 undocumented individuals in Allentown have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 6,000 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 3,000 and **contribute \$101 million annually to Allentown's economy.** They also contribute \$14 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 8,000 and **contributed \$190 million to Allentown's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 21,000 immigrants in Allentown are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$613 million to Allentown'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 8,000 workers in Allentown's labor force, and paying an estimated \$92 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$4.2 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.4 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

7,000

Self-employed

26%

With college or advanced degrees

92%

Speak English

85%

Earn above the minimum needed to live