

Immigrants Make Bakersfield Metro Stronger



*An estimated **237,000** immigrants live in Bakersfield, making up **25%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **36%** of households in Bakersfield.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Bakersfield's economy.

Some 33% of Bakersfield's labor force are immigrants, including 33% of the construction industry, 80% of agriculture, 34% of manufacturing, 27% of business services, and 28% of leisure and hospitality.

About 3,000 immigrants in Bakersfield work in STEM-related jobs, of which 7% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 30% of STEM degree holders in Bakersfield are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Bakersfield's communities. Some 83,000 immigrants, or about 35% of all immigrants in Bakersfield, are U.S. citizens. About 96,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 3,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 12% of individuals in Bakersfield, or some 113,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 22,000 U.S. citizen children in Bakersfield live with an undocumented parent, while some 5,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 44,000 undocumented individuals in Bakersfield have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 31,000 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 10,000 and **contribute \$267 million annually to Bakersfield's economy.** They also contribute \$35 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 4,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 2,000 and **contributed \$74 million to Bakersfield's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 4,000 immigrants in Bakersfield are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$72 million to Bakersfield'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 10,000 workers in Bakersfield's labor force, and paying an estimated \$41 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$5.9 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

21,000

Self-employed

11%

With college or advanced degrees

80%

Speak English

80%

Earn above the minimum needed to live