

Immigrants Make Cape Coral and Fort Myers Metro Stronger



*An estimated **205,000** immigrants live in Cape Coral and Fort Myers, making up **24%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **26%** of households in Cape Coral and Fort Myers.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Cape Coral and Fort Myers' economy. Some 30% of Cape Coral and Fort Myers' labor force are immigrants, including 48% of the construction industry, 53% of agriculture, 26% of manufacturing, 29% of business services, and 22% of leisure and hospitality.

\$6.1 billion

Annual spending power

About 4,000 immigrants in Cape Coral and Fort Myers work in STEM-related jobs, of which 8% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 22% of STEM degree holders in Cape Coral and Fort Myers are immigrants.

\$1.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Cape Coral and Fort Myers' communities. Some 78,000 immigrants, or about 38% of all immigrants in Cape Coral and Fort Myers, are U.S. citizens. About 41,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 3,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

22,000

Self-employed

An estimated 16% of individuals in Cape Coral and Fort Myers, or some 138,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 17,000 U.S. citizen children in Cape Coral and Fort Myers live with an undocumented parent, while some 5,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 19,000 undocumented individuals in Cape Coral and Fort Myers have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 10,000 of those living in the U.S. for more than 20 years.

20%

With college or advanced degrees

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 7,000 and **contribute \$237 million annually to Cape Coral and Fort Myers' economy.** They also contribute \$28 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

74%

Speak English

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 4,000 and **contributed \$68 million to Cape Coral and Fort Myers' economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 31,000 immigrants in Cape Coral and Fort Myers are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$553 million to Cape Coral and Fort Myers' economy annually.

85%

Earn above the minimum needed to live

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 24,000 workers in Cape Coral and Fort Myers' labor force, and paying an estimated \$81 million annually in state and local taxes.**