

Immigrants Make Charlotte Metro Stronger

*An estimated **434,000** immigrants live in Charlotte, making up **15%** of the total population.*

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

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Charlotte's economy.

Some 18% of Charlotte's labor force are immigrants, including 40% of the construction industry, 13% of agriculture, 18% of manufacturing, 21% of business services, and 16% of leisure and hospitality.

About 36,000 immigrants in Charlotte work in STEM-related jobs, of which 35% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 30% of STEM degree holders in Charlotte are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Charlotte's communities. Some 132,000 immigrants, or about 30% of all immigrants in Charlotte, are U.S. citizens. About 67,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 39,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 11% of individuals in Charlotte, or some 328,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 62,000 U.S. citizen children in Charlotte live with an undocumented parent, while some 9,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 73,000 undocumented individuals in Charlotte have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 40,000 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 26,000 and **contribute \$725 million annually to Charlotte's economy.** They also contribute \$90 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 5,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 14,000 and **contributed \$331 million to Charlotte's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 69,000 immigrants in Charlotte are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$1.5 billion to Charlotte'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 53,000 workers in Charlotte's labor force, and paying an estimated \$229 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$17.0 billion

Annual spending power

\$5.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

40,000

Self-employed

38%

With college or advanced degrees

89%

Speak English

85%

Earn above the minimum needed to live