

Immigrants Make Chicago Metro Stronger

*An estimated **1,986,000** immigrants live in Chicago, making up **21%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **27%** of households in Chicago.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Chicago's economy.

Some 24% of Chicago's labor force are immigrants, including 36% of the construction industry, 20% of agriculture, 33% of manufacturing, 25% of business services, and 25% of leisure and hospitality.

About 123,000 immigrants in Chicago work in STEM-related jobs, of which 25% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 33% of STEM degree holders in Chicago are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Chicago's communities. Some 898,000 immigrants, or about 45% of all immigrants in Chicago, are U.S. citizens. About 409,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 115,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 12% of individuals in Chicago, or some 1,153,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 215,000 U.S. citizen children in Chicago live with an undocumented parent, while some 47,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 317,000 undocumented individuals in Chicago have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 217,000 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 95,000 and **contribute \$2.5 billion annually to Chicago's economy.** They also contribute \$396 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 35,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 47,000 and **contributed \$998 million to Chicago's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 109,000 immigrants in Chicago are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$2.7 billion to Chicago'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 120,000 workers in Chicago's labor force, and paying an estimated \$721 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$74.6 billion

Annual spending power

\$28.0 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

188,000

Self-employed

35%

With college or advanced degrees

91%

Speak English

86%

Earn above the minimum needed to live