

Immigrants Make Columbia Metro Stronger

*An estimated **65,000** immigrants live in Columbia, making up **8%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **10%** of households in Columbia.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Columbia's economy.

Some 10% of Columbia's labor force are immigrants, including 22% of the construction industry, 26% of agriculture, 6% of manufacturing, 9% of business services, and 8% of leisure and hospitality.

About 5,000 immigrants in Columbia work in STEM-related jobs, of which 12% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 25% of STEM degree holders in Columbia are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Columbia's communities. Some 25,000 immigrants, or about 38% of all immigrants in Columbia, are U.S. citizens. About 14,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 5,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 5% of individuals in Columbia, or some 40,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 6,000 U.S. citizen children in Columbia live with an undocumented parent, while some 1,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 9,000 undocumented individuals in Columbia have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 4,000 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 \$46 million annually to Columbia's economy.** They also contribute \$6 million in state and local taxes each year.

An estimated 5,000 immigrants in Columbia are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, contributing \$90 million to Columbia'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 5,000 workers in Columbia's labor force, and paying an estimated \$15 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$2.4 billion

Annual spending power

\$742 million

Annual combined taxes paid

4,000

Self-employed

44%

With college or advanced degrees

89%

Speak English

89%

Earn above the minimum needed to live