

# Immigrants Make Columbus Metro Stronger

*An estimated **248,000** immigrants live in Columbus, making up **12%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **14%** of households in Columbus.*

## Immigrants contribute to every sector of Columbus' economy.

Some 14% of Columbus' labor force are immigrants, including 21% of the construction industry, 7% of agriculture, 13% of manufacturing, 14% of business services, and 10% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 21,000 immigrants in Columbus work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 18% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 24% of STEM degree holders in Columbus are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Columbus' communities.** Some 102,000 immigrants, or about 41% of all immigrants in Columbus, are U.S. citizens. About 42,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 17,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 7% of individuals in Columbus, or some 144,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.** Some 23,000 U.S. citizen children in Columbus live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 24,000 undocumented individuals in Columbus have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 12,000 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 12,000 and **contribute \$279 million annually to Columbus' economy.** They also contribute \$37 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 10,000 and **contributed \$218 million to Columbus' economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 17,000 immigrants in Columbus are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$311 million to Columbus' 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 15,000 workers in Columbus' labor force, and paying an estimated \$78 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$9.2 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$3.0 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**23,000**

Self-employed

**42%**

With college or advanced degrees

**93%**

Speak English

**84%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live