

Immigrants Make Des Moines Metro Stronger



*An estimated **67,000** immigrants live in Des Moines, making up **10%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **13%** of households in Des Moines.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Des Moines' economy.

Some 14% of Des Moines' labor force are immigrants, including 18% of the construction industry, 9% of agriculture, 27% of manufacturing, 8% of business services, and 13% of leisure and hospitality.

About 4,000 immigrants in Des Moines work in STEM-related jobs, of which 34% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 10% of STEM degree holders in Des Moines are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Des Moines' communities. Some 26,000 immigrants, or about 39% of all immigrants in Des Moines, are U.S. citizens. About 15,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 6,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 6% of individuals in Des Moines, or some 40,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 6,000 U.S. citizen children in Des Moines live with an undocumented parent, while some 2,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 12,000 undocumented individuals in Des Moines have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 7,000 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 5,000 and **contribute \$96 million annually to Des Moines' economy.** They also contribute \$14 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 1,000 and **contributed \$49 million to Des Moines' economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 1,000 immigrants in Des Moines are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$10 million to Des Moines' 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 4,000 workers in Des Moines' labor force, and paying an estimated \$13 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$2.2 billion

Annual spending power

\$629 million

Annual combined taxes paid

3,000

Self-employed

30%

With college or advanced degrees

95%

Speak English

86%

Earn above the minimum needed to live