

Immigrants Make Houston Metro Stronger

*An estimated **2,206,000** immigrants live in Houston, making up **28%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **37%** of households in Houston.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Houston's economy.

Some 34% of Houston's labor force are immigrants, including 52% of the construction industry, 35% of agriculture, 36% of manufacturing, 35% of business services, and 34% of leisure and hospitality.

About 121,000 immigrants in Houston work in STEM-related jobs, of which 19% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 45% of STEM degree holders in Houston are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Houston's communities. Some 789,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in Houston, are U.S. citizens. About 380,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 122,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 21% of individuals in Houston, or some 1,640,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 321,000 U.S. citizen children in Houston live with an undocumented parent, while some 58,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 358,000 undocumented individuals in Houston have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 209,000 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 125,000 and **contribute \$3.5 billion annually to Houston's economy.** They also contribute \$422 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 27,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 83,000 and **contributed \$2.0 billion to Houston's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 240,000 immigrants in Houston are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$5.2 billion to Houston'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 207,000 workers in Houston's labor force, and paying an estimated \$1.0 billion annually in state and local taxes.**

\$78.2 billion

Annual spending power

\$24.8 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

223,000

Self-employed

34%

With college or advanced degrees

85%

Speak English

81%

Earn above the minimum needed to live