

Immigrants Make IL-8 Stronger

*An estimated **204,000** immigrants live in IL-8, making up **27%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **37%** of households in IL-8.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of IL-8's economy. Some 33% of IL-8's labor force are immigrants, including 39% of the construction industry, 12% of agriculture, 45% of manufacturing, 35% of business services, and 25% of leisure and hospitality.

About 15,000 immigrants in IL-8 work in STEM-related jobs, of which 14% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 42% of STEM degree holders in IL-8 are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost IL-8's communities. Some 98,000 immigrants, or about 48% of all immigrants in IL-8, are U.S. citizens. About 34,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 9,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 18% of individuals in IL-8, or some 135,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 28,000 U.S. citizen children in IL-8 live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 34,000 undocumented individuals in IL-8 have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 24,000 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 9,000 and contribute **\$245 million annually to IL-8's economy**. They also contribute \$37 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 3,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 3,000 and contributed **\$53 million to IL-8's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 11,000 immigrants in IL-8 are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$256 million to IL-8'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 13,000 workers in IL-8's labor force, and paying an estimated \$65 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$7.6 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.8 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

19,000

Self-employed

36%

With college or advanced degrees

91%

Speak English

92%

Earn above the minimum needed to live