

Immigrants Make Illinois Stronger

*An estimated **2,114,000** immigrants live in Illinois, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **21%** of households in Illinois.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Illinois's economy.

Some 20% of Illinois's labor force are immigrants, including 29% of the construction industry, 8% of agriculture, 27% of manufacturing, 27% of business services, and 21% of leisure and hospitality.

About 135,000 immigrants in Illinois work in STEM-related jobs, of which 25% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 30% of STEM degree holders in Illinois are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Illinois's communities. Some 940,000 immigrants, or about 44% of all immigrants in Illinois, are U.S. citizens. About 440,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 132,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 10% of individuals in Illinois, or some 1,226,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 225,000 U.S. citizen children in Illinois live with an undocumented parent, while some 51,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 334,000 undocumented individuals in Illinois have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 224,000 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 104,000 and **contribute \$2.7 billion annually to Illinois's economy.** They also contribute \$427 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 28,200 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 48,000 and **contributed \$1.1 billion to Illinois's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 120,000 immigrants in Illinois are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$2.9 billion to Illinois'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 130,000 workers in Illinois's labor force, and paying an estimated \$757 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$78.8 billion

Annual spending power

\$29.5 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

199,000

Self-employed

36%

With college or advanced degrees

91%

Speak English

86%

Earn above the minimum needed to live