

Immigrants Make Lakeland Metro Stronger

*An estimated **155,000** immigrants live in Lakeland, making up **18%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **22%** of households in Lakeland.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Lakeland's economy.

Some 22% of Lakeland's labor force are immigrants, including 41% of the construction industry, 44% of agriculture, 22% of manufacturing, 18% of business services, and 24% of leisure and hospitality.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Lakeland's communities.

Some 56,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in Lakeland, are U.S. citizens. About 31,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 3,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 12% of individuals in Lakeland, or some 107,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 14,000 U.S. citizen children in Lakeland live with an undocumented parent, while some 4,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 21,000 undocumented individuals in Lakeland 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 \$285 million annually to Lakeland's economy**. They also contribute \$37 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 11,000 and **contributed \$224 million to Lakeland's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 20,000 immigrants in Lakeland are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$559 million to Lakeland'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 14,000 workers in Lakeland's labor force, and paying an estimated \$97 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$4.5 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.1 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

13,000

Self-employed

20%

With college or advanced degrees

86%

Speak English

88%

Earn above the minimum needed to live