

Immigrants Make McAllen Metro Stronger

*An estimated **256,000** immigrants live in McAllen, making up **27%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **50%** of households in McAllen.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of McAllen's economy.

Some 33% of McAllen's labor force are immigrants, including 52% of the construction industry, 73% of agriculture, 43% of manufacturing, 30% of business services, and 27% of leisure and hospitality.

About 2,000 immigrants in McAllen work in STEM-related jobs, of which 28% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 44% of STEM degree holders in McAllen are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost McAllen's communities.

Some 67,000 immigrants, or about 26% of all immigrants in McAllen, are U.S. citizens. About 68,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 6,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 27% of individuals in McAllen, or some 258,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 71,000 U.S. citizen children in McAllen live with an undocumented parent, while some 11,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 70,000 undocumented individuals in McAllen have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 42,000 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 21,000 and **contribute \$434 million annually to McAllen's economy**. They also contribute \$54 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 5,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

An estimated 6,000 immigrants in McAllen are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, contributing \$58 million to McAllen'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 12,000 workers in McAllen's labor force, and paying an estimated \$40 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$5.6 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.4 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

36,000

Self-employed

15%

With college or advanced degrees

59%

Speak English

71%

Earn above the minimum needed to live