

# Immigrants Make Memphis Metro Stronger

*An estimated **104,000** immigrants live in Memphis, making up **8%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **9%** of households in Memphis.*

**Immigrants contribute to every sector of Memphis' economy.**

Some 10% of Memphis' labor force are immigrants, including 28% of the construction industry, 10% of manufacturing, 11% of business services, and 10% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 6,000 immigrants in Memphis work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 20% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 20% of STEM degree holders in Memphis are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Memphis' communities.**

Some 33,000 immigrants, or about 32% of all immigrants in Memphis, are U.S. citizens. About 14,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 7,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 7% of individuals in Memphis, or some 85,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.**

Some 17,000 U.S. citizen children in Memphis live with an undocumented parent, while some 1,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 14,000 undocumented individuals in Memphis have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 8,000 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 4,000 and **contribute \$98 million annually to Memphis' economy**. They also contribute \$12 million in state and local taxes each year.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 9,000 and **contributed \$178 million to Memphis' economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 22,000 immigrants in Memphis are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$462 million to Memphis' 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 7,000 workers in Memphis' labor force, and paying an estimated \$63 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$4.0 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$1.3 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**11,000**

Self-employed

**35%**

With college or advanced degrees

**90%**

Speak English

**74%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live