

# Immigrants Make Merced Metro Stronger

*An estimated **92,000** immigrants live in Merced, making up **29%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **43%** of households in Merced.*

## **Immigrants contribute to every sector of Merced's economy.**

Some 38% of Merced's labor force are immigrants, including 38% of the construction industry, 82% of agriculture, 41% of manufacturing, 40% of business services, and 19% of leisure and hospitality.

## **Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Merced's communities.**

Some 33,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in Merced, are U.S. citizens. About 33,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 2,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

## **An estimated 15% of individuals in Merced, or some 47,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.**

Some 6,000 U.S. citizen children in Merced live with an undocumented parent, while some 1,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 19,000 undocumented individuals in Merced have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 11,000 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 5,000 and **contribute \$77 million annually to Merced's economy.** They also contribute \$11 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**An estimated 2,000 immigrants in Merced are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim,** contributing \$18 million to Merced'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 2,000 workers in Merced's labor force, and paying an estimated \$9 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$2.2 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$614 million**

Annual combined taxes paid

**6,000**

Self-employed

**7%**

With college or advanced degrees

**63%**

Speak English

**89%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live