

Immigrants Make Mississippi Stronger

*An estimated **81,000** immigrants live in Mississippi, making up **3%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **4%** of households in Mississippi.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Mississippi's economy.

Some 4% of Mississippi's labor force are immigrants, including 9% of the construction industry, 6% of agriculture, 3% of manufacturing, 3% of business services, and 6% of leisure and hospitality.

About 4,000 immigrants in Mississippi work in STEM-related jobs, of which 43% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 8% of STEM degree holders in Mississippi are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Mississippi's communities. Some 25,000 immigrants, or about 31% of all immigrants in Mississippi, are U.S. citizens. About 14,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 7,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

Some 62,000 are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 13,000 U.S. citizen children in Mississippi live with an undocumented parent, while some 2,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 13,000 undocumented individuals in Mississippi 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 6,000 and **contribute \$155 million annually to Mississippi's economy.** They also contribute \$20 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 1,200 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 2,000 and **contributed \$19 million to Mississippi's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 9,000 immigrants in Mississippi are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$212 million to Mississippi'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 6,000 workers in Mississippi's labor force, and paying an estimated \$35 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$2.5 billion

Annual spending power

\$722 million

Annual combined taxes paid

10,000

Self-employed

31%

With college or advanced degrees

93%

Speak English

76%

Earn above the minimum needed to live