

Immigrants Are Major Contributors to North Carolina's Leisure and Hospitality Industry

*An estimated **78,000** immigrants work in North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry, making up **12%** of North Carolina's leisure and hospitality workforce.*

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry. Some 20,000 immigrants, or about 26% of all immigrants in North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry, are U.S. citizens. About 13,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 6,000 are temporary immigrants on a nonimmigrant visa.

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 workers in North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry. 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—number 2,000 workers in North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry. Meanwhile, an estimated 8,000 immigrants working in North Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim.

Immigrant groups protected from deportation—DACA recipients, TPS holders, people seeking asylum, and those waiting for a permanent residency visa—**have access to work permits, making up an estimated 14,000 leisure and hospitality industry workers in North Carolina.**

\$1.8 billion

Annual combined income from immigrant leisure and hospitality industry workers

\$403 million

Annual combined taxes paid by immigrant leisure and hospitality industry workers

7,000

Self-employed immigrant leisure and hospitality industry workers