

# Immigrants Make North Carolina Stronger

*An estimated **1,232,000** immigrants live in North Carolina, making up **11%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **13%** of households in North Carolina.*

**Immigrants contribute to every sector of North Carolina's economy.**

Some 14% of North Carolina's labor force are immigrants, including 28% of the construction industry, 33% of agriculture, 15% of manufacturing, 15% of business services, and 12% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 95,000 immigrants in North Carolina work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 27% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 23% of STEM degree holders in North Carolina are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost North Carolina's communities.** Some 413,000 immigrants, or about 34% of all immigrants in North Carolina, are U.S. citizens. About 219,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 90,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 8% of individuals in North Carolina, or some 920,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.** Some 197,000 U.S. citizen children in North Carolina live with an undocumented parent, while some 30,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 230,000 undocumented individuals in North Carolina have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 141,000 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 72,000 and **contribute \$1.9 billion annually to North Carolina's economy.** They also contribute \$231 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 20,500 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 33,000 and **contributed \$832 million to North Carolina's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 133,000 immigrants in North Carolina are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$3.0 billion to North Carolina'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 112,000 workers in North Carolina's labor force, and paying an estimated \$530 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$45.8 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$14.9 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**105,000**

Self-employed

**37%**

With college or advanced degrees

**90%**

Speak English

**82%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live