

Immigrants Make Oklahoma City Metro Stronger



*An estimated **137,000** immigrants live in Oklahoma City, making up **10%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **13%** of households in Oklahoma City.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Oklahoma City's economy.

Some 12% of Oklahoma City's labor force are immigrants, including 27% of the construction industry, 16% of agriculture, 17% of manufacturing, 11% of business services, and 10% of leisure and hospitality.

About 8,000 immigrants in Oklahoma City work in STEM-related jobs, of which 35% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 24% of STEM degree holders in Oklahoma City are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Oklahoma City's communities.

Some 50,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in Oklahoma City, are U.S. citizens. About 27,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 7,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 8% of individuals in Oklahoma City, or some 109,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 28,000 U.S. citizen children in Oklahoma City live with an undocumented parent, while some 6,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 28,000 undocumented individuals in Oklahoma City have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 16,000 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 12,000 and **contribute \$297 million annually to Oklahoma City's economy.** They also contribute \$37 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 2,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

An estimated 12,000 immigrants in Oklahoma City are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, contributing \$223 million to Oklahoma City'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 10,000 workers in Oklahoma City's labor force, and paying an estimated \$44 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$4.9 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.6 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

14,000

Self-employed

30%

With college or advanced degrees

90%

Speak English

83%

Earn above the minimum needed to live