

# Immigrants Make Raleigh Metro Stronger

*An estimated **256,000** immigrants live in Raleigh, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **22%** of households in Raleigh.*

**Immigrants contribute to every sector of Raleigh's economy.**

Some 20% of Raleigh's labor force are immigrants, including 35% of the construction industry, 23% of agriculture, 22% of manufacturing, 22% of business services, and 14% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 39,000 immigrants in Raleigh work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 23% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 32% of STEM degree holders in Raleigh are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Raleigh's communities.**

Some 106,000 immigrants, or about 42% of all immigrants in Raleigh, are U.S. citizens. About 44,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 26,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 10% of individuals in Raleigh, or some 160,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.**

Some 32,000 U.S. citizen children in Raleigh live with an undocumented parent, while some 6,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 37,000 undocumented individuals in Raleigh have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 19,000 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 \$303 million annually to Raleigh's economy**. They also contribute \$37 million in state and local taxes each year. 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—numbered 4,000 and **contributed \$115 million to Raleigh's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 14,000 immigrants in Raleigh are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$427 million to Raleigh'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 14,000 workers in Raleigh's labor force, and paying an estimated \$80 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$11.7 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$4.1 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**23,000**

Self-employed

**54%**

With college or advanced degrees

**93%**

Speak English

**88%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live