

Immigrants Make San Diego Metro Stronger



*An estimated **850,000** immigrants live in San Diego, making up **26%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **37%** of households in San Diego.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of San Diego's economy.

Some 29% of San Diego's labor force are immigrants, including 37% of the construction industry, 59% of agriculture, 40% of manufacturing, 27% of business services, and 32% of leisure and hospitality.

About 70,000 immigrants in San Diego work in STEM-related jobs, of which 22% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 36% of STEM degree holders in San Diego are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost San Diego's communities.

Some 439,000 immigrants, or about 52% of all immigrants in San Diego, are U.S. citizens. About 228,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 37,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 11% of individuals in San Diego, or some 367,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 62,000 U.S. citizen children in San Diego live with an undocumented parent, while some 16,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 93,000 undocumented individuals in San Diego have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 65,000 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 34,000 and **contribute \$968 million annually to San Diego's economy**. They also contribute \$135 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 9,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 3,000 and **contributed \$59 million to San Diego's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 19,000 immigrants in San Diego are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$618 million to San Diego'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 27,000 workers in San Diego's labor force, and paying an estimated \$173 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$33.1 billion

Annual spending power

\$12.7 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

80,000

Self-employed

35%

With college or advanced degrees

92%

Speak English

89%

Earn above the minimum needed to live