

# Immigrants Make South Carolina Stronger

*An estimated **394,000** immigrants live in South Carolina, making up **7%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **9%** of households in South Carolina.*

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

Some 9% of South Carolina's labor force are immigrants, including 19% of the construction industry, 17% of agriculture, 10% of manufacturing, 10% of business services, and 10% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 24,000 immigrants in South Carolina work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 33% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 17% of STEM degree holders in South Carolina are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost South Carolina's communities.** Some 139,000 immigrants, or about 35% of all immigrants in South Carolina, are U.S. citizens. About 67,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 27,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 5% of individuals in South Carolina, or some 280,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.** Some 53,000 U.S. citizen children in South Carolina live with an undocumented parent, while some 10,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 62,000 undocumented individuals in South Carolina have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 33,000 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 24,000 and **contribute \$608 million annually to South Carolina's economy.** They also contribute \$72 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 5,100 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 12,000 and **contributed \$249 million to South Carolina's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 53,000 immigrants in South Carolina are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$1.1 billion to South 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 41,000 workers in South Carolina's labor force, and paying an estimated \$175 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$14.0 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$4.4 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**40,000**

Self-employed

**34%**

With college or advanced degrees

**90%**

Speak English

**85%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live