

# Immigrants Make South Dakota Stronger

*An estimated **38,000** immigrants live in South Dakota, making up **4%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **6%** of households in South Dakota.*

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

Some 6% of South Dakota's labor force are immigrants, including 7% of the construction industry, 5% of agriculture, 11% of manufacturing, 11% of business services, and 7% of leisure and hospitality.

**About 2,000 immigrants in South Dakota work in STEM-related jobs**, of which 22% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 7% of STEM degree holders in South Dakota are immigrants.

**Immigrants of all backgrounds boost South Dakota's communities.** Some 14,000 immigrants, or about 36% of all immigrants in South Dakota, are U.S. citizens. About 3,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 8,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

**An estimated 3% of individuals in South Dakota, or some 29,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.** Some 8,000 U.S. citizen children in South Dakota live with an undocumented parent, while some 2,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 7,000 undocumented individuals in South Dakota have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 5,000 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 2,000 and **contribute \$88 million annually to South Dakota's economy.** They also contribute \$9 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 200 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders**—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 1,000 and **contributed \$18 million to South Dakota's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 4,000 immigrants in South Dakota are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$69 million to South Dakota'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 5,000 workers in South Dakota's labor force, and paying an estimated \$13 million annually in state and local taxes.**

**\$1.4 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$393 million**

Annual combined taxes paid

**4,000**

Self-employed

**45%**

With college or advanced degrees

**89%**

Speak English

**86%**

Earn above the minimum needed to live