Immigrants Are Major Contributors to the U.S. Construction Industry

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An estimated 3,946,000 immigrants work in the U.S. construction industry, making up 28% of the U.S. construction workforce.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost the U.S. construction industry. Some 999,000 immigrants, or about 25% of all immigrants in the U.S. construction industry, are U.S. citizens. About 738,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 65,000 are temporary immigrants on a nonimmigrant visa.

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 201,000 workers in the U.S. construction industry. Some 60,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—number 129,000 workers in the U.S. construction industry**.** Meanwhile, an estimated 454,000 immigrants working in the U.S. construction industry are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim.

Immigrant groups protected from deportation—DACA recipients, TPS holders, people seeking asylum, and those waiting for a permanent residency visa**—have access to work permits, making up an estimated 733,000 construction industry workers in the U.S.**

$149 billion

Annual combined income from immigrant construction industry workers

$42 billion

Annual combined taxes paid by immigrant construction industry workers

964,000

Self-employed immigrant construction industry workers

Without immigrants, as many as 450,000 fewer housing units would have been completed in 2024 in the U.S.
Immigrants are essential to the growth of the U.S. construction industry.

FWD.us is a bipartisan political organization founded by leaders in technology and business communities that believe America's families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential. To learn more, go to www.fwd.us. **Data sources:** FWD.us analysis of augmented 2024 American Community Survey data with immigrant status assignment according to FWD.us methodology (fwd.us/2024-acs-methodology). Estimates may differ slightly from U.S Census Bureau estimates because of adjustments made for undocumented immigrants and other immigrant groups, including most recent arrivals. Annual gross output and number of products and services contributed by immigrants represent the share of immigrant workers in the industry multiplied by the total output and products produced by all workers.