

Immigrants Make Virginia Beach Metro Stronger



*An estimated **137,000** immigrants live in Virginia Beach, making up **8%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **11%** of households in Virginia Beach.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Virginia Beach's economy.

Some 10% of Virginia Beach's labor force are immigrants, including 19% of the construction industry, 8% of agriculture, 11% of manufacturing, 7% of business services, and 11% of leisure and hospitality.

About 8,000 immigrants in Virginia Beach work in STEM-related jobs, of which 17% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 16% of STEM degree holders in Virginia Beach are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Virginia Beach's communities.

Some 65,000 immigrants, or about 48% of all immigrants in Virginia Beach, are U.S. citizens. About 28,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 8,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

Some 63,000 are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 8,000 U.S. citizen children in Virginia Beach live with an undocumented parent, while some 1,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 10,000 undocumented individuals in Virginia Beach have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 4,000 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 6,000 and **contribute \$145 million annually to Virginia Beach's economy.** They also contribute \$18 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 2,000 and **contributed \$45 million to Virginia Beach's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 10,000 immigrants in Virginia Beach are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$251 million to Virginia Beach'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 8,000 workers in Virginia Beach's labor force, and paying an estimated \$40 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$5.5 billion

Annual spending power

\$1.8 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

11,000

Self-employed

42%

With college or advanced degrees

97%

Speak English

92%

Earn above the minimum needed to live