

Immigrants Make WI-2 Stronger

*An estimated **69,000** immigrants live in WI-2, making up **9%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **11%** of households in WI-2.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of WI-2's economy. Some 12% of WI-2's labor force are immigrants, including 14% of the construction industry, 13% of agriculture, 11% of manufacturing, 10% of business services, and 18% of leisure and hospitality.

About 11,000 immigrants in WI-2 work in STEM-related jobs, of which 21% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 17% of STEM degree holders in WI-2 are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost WI-2's communities. Some 22,000 immigrants, or about 32% of all immigrants in WI-2, are U.S. citizens. About 14,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 14,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 5% of individuals in WI-2, or some 37,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant. Some 6,000 U.S. citizen children in WI-2 live with an undocumented parent, while some 2,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 6,000 undocumented individuals in WI-2 have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 3,000 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 **\$79 million annually to WI-2's economy**. They also contribute \$10 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 3,000 and contributed **\$67 million to WI-2's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 7,000 immigrants in WI-2 are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$175 million to WI-2'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 **9,000 workers in WI-2's labor force, and paying an estimated \$35 million annually in state and local taxes**.

\$3.1 billion

Annual spending power

\$993 million

Annual combined taxes paid

5,000

Self-employed

53%

With college or advanced degrees

94%

Earn above the minimum needed to live