

Immigrants Make Washington Metro Stronger



*An estimated **1,560,000** immigrants live in Washington, making up **26%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **34%** of households in Washington.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Washington's economy.

Some 32% of Washington's labor force are immigrants, including 55% of the construction industry, 23% of agriculture, 32% of manufacturing, 31% of business services, and 36% of leisure and hospitality.

About 158,000 immigrants in Washington work in STEM-related jobs, of which 13% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 39% of STEM degree holders in Washington are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Washington's communities.

Some 776,000 immigrants, or about 50% of all immigrants in Washington, are U.S. citizens. About 271,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 92,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 15% of individuals in Washington, or some 875,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 167,000 U.S. citizen children in Washington live with an undocumented parent, while some 29,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 201,000 undocumented individuals in Washington have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, with 96,000 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 65,000 and **contribute \$1.7 billion annually to Washington's economy**. They also contribute \$226 million in state and local taxes each year. Some 5,000 are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 46,000 and **contributed \$1.5 billion to Washington's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 90,000 immigrants in Washington are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$2.1 billion to Washington'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 103,000 workers in Washington's labor force, and paying an estimated \$530 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$69.3 billion

Annual spending power

\$26.4 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

136,000

Self-employed

45%

With college or advanced degrees

92%

Speak English

91%

Earn above the minimum needed to live