

Immigrants Make Worcester Metro Stronger

*An estimated **162,000** immigrants live in Worcester, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **21%** of households in Worcester.*

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Worcester's economy.

Some 20% of Worcester's labor force are immigrants, including 25% of the construction industry, 22% of manufacturing, 21% of business services, and 19% of leisure and hospitality.

About 12,000 immigrants in Worcester work in STEM-related jobs, of which 20% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other temporary work visas. In all, 26% of STEM degree holders in Worcester are immigrants.

Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Worcester's communities.

Some 74,000 immigrants, or about 45% of all immigrants in Worcester, are U.S. citizens. About 55,000 are lawful permanent residents, and 7,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

An estimated 6% of individuals in Worcester, or some 55,000, are either undocumented immigrants or live with an undocumented immigrant.

Some 7,000 U.S. citizen children in Worcester live with an undocumented parent, while some 3,000 U.S. citizen spouses are married to an undocumented immigrant. Some 10,000 undocumented individuals in Worcester 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 4,000 and **contribute \$120 million annually to Worcester's economy**. They also contribute \$15 million in state and local taxes each year.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders—immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries—numbered 2,000 and **contributed \$52 million to Worcester's economy** in 2024. Meanwhile, an estimated 10,000 immigrants in Worcester are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim, and contribute \$319 million to Worcester'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 6,000 workers in Worcester's labor force, and paying an estimated \$44 million annually in state and local taxes.**

\$6.4 billion

Annual spending power

\$2.1 billion

Annual combined taxes paid

10,000

Self-employed

35%

With college or advanced degrees

92%

Speak English

89%

Earn above the minimum needed to live