

# Immigrants Make Texas Stronger

*An estimated **5.3 million** immigrants live in Texas, making up **17%** of the total population.*

*Immigrants live in **26%** of households in Texas*

## **Immigrants contribute to every sector of Texas' economy.**

Some 21% of Texas' labor force are immigrants, including 38% in the construction industry, 29% in agriculture, 27% in manufacturing, 25% in business services, and 21% in leisure and hospitality.

## **About 304,000 immigrants in Texas work in STEM-related jobs,**

of which 28% are temporary immigrants on H-1B and other visas. In all, 34% of STEM degree holders in Texas are immigrants.

## **Immigrants of all backgrounds boost Texas' communities.**

Some 1.9 million immigrants in Texas are U.S. citizens, of which nearly all are old enough to vote. Rounding out the lawful immigrant population, 1.4 million are lawful permanent residents, and 300,000 are temporary immigrants (including nonimmigrant visa holders and international students).

## **Undocumented individuals—numbering some 1.6 million in**

**Texas—hold \$32 billion in annual spending power** after paying \$4.5 billion in federal and payroll taxes and a further \$3.6 billion in state and local taxes. If they were U.S. citizens, undocumented immigrants in Texas would contribute \$55 billion annually to the economy after taxes. Undocumented individuals make up 26% of all construction jobs, 24% of farming jobs, and 21% of building and grounds maintenance jobs. Some 1 million undocumented individuals in Texas have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, while 157,000 are married to U.S. citizens, 449,000 have U.S. citizen children, and 145,000 are K-12 students.

**Dreamers**—undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children—**contribute \$11 billion annually to Texas' economy.** They also contribute \$2.7 billion in combined taxes. Some 98,000 are DACA recipients, while another 406,000 are ineligible for DACA.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS) immigrants**—individuals who cannot safely return to their home countries—**contribute \$2.7 billion to Texas' economy each year.** Texas is home to 99,000 TPS-eligible individuals. 73% are in the labor force.

**\$151 billion**

Annual spending power

**\$48 billion**

Annual combined taxes paid

**550,000**

Self-employed

**29%**

With college or advanced degrees

**68%**

Speak English

**60%**

Earn 2x higher than poverty line

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](http://www.fwd.us).

**Data sources:** FWD.us analysis of augmented 2021 American Community Survey data with immigrant status assignment according to FWD.us methodology ([fwd.us/acs-methodology](http://fwd.us/acs-methodology)). Estimates may differ slightly from U.S. Census Bureau because of adjustments made for undocumented immigrants. For more information or additional data analysis, email [data@fwd.us](mailto:data@fwd.us).