

10. IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. AND IN NEW YORK CITY

A. Key findings about U.S. immigrants by Pew Research / May 2017

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/03/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

The U.S. has always had more immigrants than any other country in the world. The U.S. has always been a nation built by immigrants. Today, 43 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for a bit more than 13 percent of the U.S. population of about 325 million people. The backgrounds of immigrants is also very diverse, with just about every country in the world represented among U.S. immigrants.

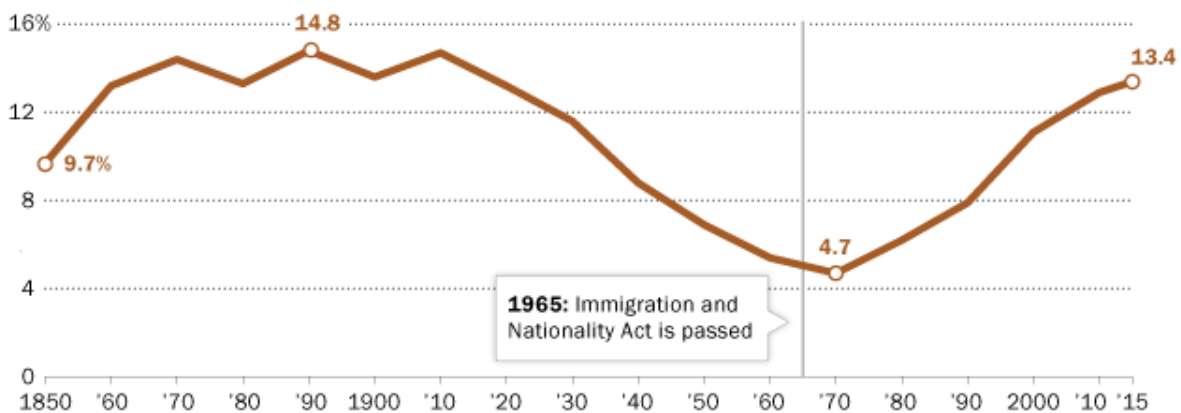
Pew Research Center regularly publishes statistical portraits of the nation's population. Based on these portraits, here are answers to some key questions about the U.S. immigrant population.

How many people in the U.S. are immigrants?

The U.S. foreign-born population reached a record 43 million in 2015. Since 1965, when U.S. immigration laws replaced a national quota system, the number of immigrants living in the U.S. has more than quadrupled. Immigrants today account for about 13.4 of the U.S. population, nearly triple the share in 1970. However, today's immigrant share remains below the record 15% share in 1890,.

Immigrant share of U.S. population nears historic high

Percent of U.S. population that is foreign born



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" and Pew Research Center tabulations of 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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What is the legal status of immigrants in the U.S.?

Most immigrants (76%) are in the country legally, while a quarter are undocumented. In 2015, 44% were naturalized U.S. citizens. Some 27% of immigrants were permanent residents and 5% were temporary residents.

About 24% of all immigrants are undocumented. During the Great Recession after 2008, the number of undocumented immigrants declined by 1 million and since then has leveled off. In 2015, there were 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., accounting for 3.4% of the nation's population.

The decline in the number undocumented immigrant population is due largely to a fall in the number from Mexico – the single largest group of such immigrants in the U.S. Between 2007 and 2015, this group decreased by more than 1 million. Meanwhile, this decline was partly offset by a rise in the number from Central America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

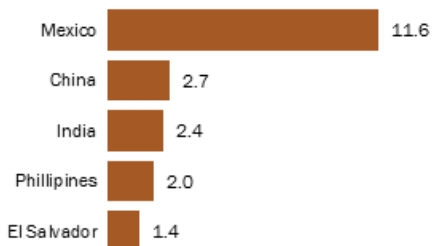
Do all lawful immigrants choose to become U.S. citizens?

Not all lawful permanent residents choose to pursue U.S. citizenship. Those who wish to do so may apply after meeting certain requirements, including having lived in the U.S. for five years. In fiscal year 2016, nearly a million immigrants applied to become citizens.

Where do immigrants come from?

Mexico, China and India are top birthplaces for immigrants in the U.S.

Top five countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. in 2015, in millions



Note: China includes Taiwan and Hong Kong.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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Mexico is the top origin country of the U.S. immigrant population. In 2015, nearly 12 million immigrants living in the U.S. were from Mexico, accounting for 27% of all U.S. immigrants. The next largest origin groups were those from China (6%), India (6%), the Philippines (5%) and El Salvador (3%).

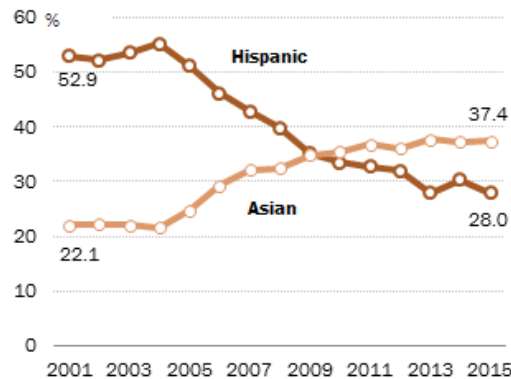
By region of birth, immigrants from South and East Asia combined accounted for 27% of all immigrants, a share equal to that of Mexico. Other regions make up smaller shares:

Europe/Canada (14%), the Caribbean (10%), Central America (8%), South America (7%), the Middle East (4%) and sub-Saharan Africa (4%).

Who is arriving today?

Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics

% of immigrants arriving in the U.S. in each year who are ...



Note: Figures for 2001 to 2005 are based on the household population and do not include arrivals residing in group quarters. 2015 figure represents only arrivals between Jan. 1 and April 1, 2015. Figures reflect only immigrants who are residing in the U.S. as of April 1, 2015. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2015 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

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About 1 million immigrants arrive in the U.S. each year. In 2015, the top country of origin for new immigrants coming into the U.S. was India, with 110,000 people, followed by Mexico (109,000), China (90,000) and Canada (35,000).

By race and ethnicity, more Asian immigrants than Hispanic immigrants have arrived in the U.S. each year since 2010. Immigration from Latin America slowed following the Great Recession of 2008, particularly from Mexico, which has seen net losses in U.S. immigration over the past few years.

Asians are projected to become the largest immigrant group in the U.S. by 2055, surpassing Hispanics. In 2065, Pew Research Center estimates indicate that Asians will make up some 38% of all immigrants, Hispanics 31%, whites 20% and blacks 9%.

How many immigrants have come to the U.S. as refugees?

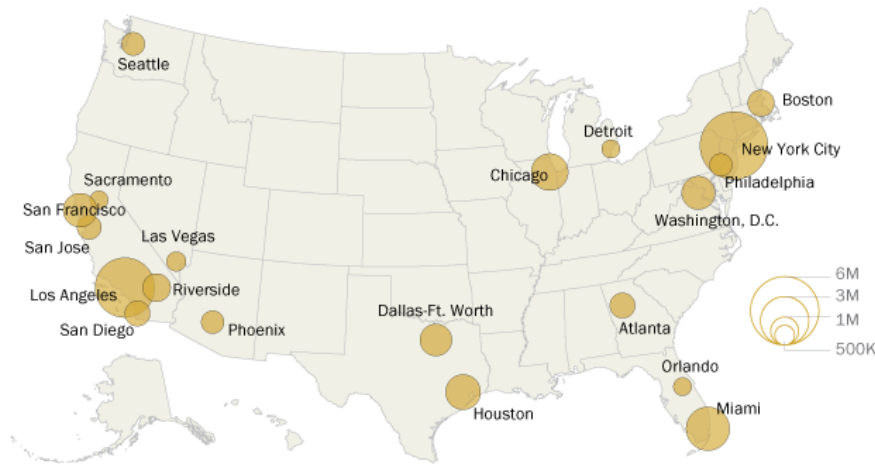
Since the creation of the federal Refugee Resettlement Program in 1980, about 3 million refugees have been resettled in the U.S. – more than any other country. California, Texas and New York resettled nearly a quarter of all refugees admitted in fiscal 2016.

Where do most U.S. immigrants live?

Roughly half (46%) of the nation's 43.2 million immigrants live in just three states: California (25%), Texas (11%) and New York (10%). California had the largest immigrant population of any state in 2015, at 10.7 million. Texas and New York had about 4.5 million immigrants each.

In terms of regions, about two-thirds of immigrants lived in the West (35%) and South (33%). Roughly one-fifth lived in the Northeast (21%) and 11% were in the Midwest.

20 metropolitan areas with the largest number of immigrants in 2015



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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In 2015, most immigrants lived in just 20 major metropolitan areas, with the largest populations in New York, Los Angeles and Miami. These top 20 metro areas were home to 27.9 million immigrants, or 65% of the nation's total. Most of the nation's undocumented immigrant population lived in these top metro areas as well.

How many immigrants are working in the U.S.?

In 2014, about 27 million immigrants were working in the U.S., making up some 17% of the total civilian labor force. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, work in a variety of different jobs, and do not make up the majority of workers in any U.S. industry. Lawful immigrants are most likely to be in professional, management, or business and finance jobs (37%) or service jobs (22%). Undocumented immigrants, by contrast, are most likely to be in service (32%) or construction jobs (16%).

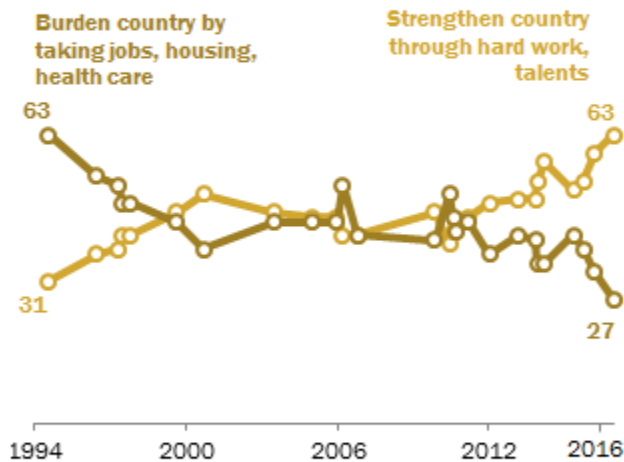
Immigrants are also projected to drive future growth in the U.S. working-age population through at least 2035. As the Baby Boom generation heads into retirement,

immigrants and their children are expected to offset a decline in the working-age population by adding about 18 million people of working age between 2015 and 2035.

How do Americans view immigrants and immigration?

U.S. immigrants are seen more as a strength than a burden to the country

% who say immigrants today ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.
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While immigration has been at the forefront of a national political debate, the U.S. public holds a range of views about immigrants living in the country. Overall, a majority of Americans have positive views about immigrants. Six-in-ten Americans (63%) say immigrants strengthen the country “because of their hard work and talents,” while just over a quarter (27%) say immigrants burden the country by taking jobs, housing and health care.

Yet these views vary starkly by political affiliation. Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 82% think immigrants strengthen the country with their hard work and talents, and just 13% say they are a burden. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, roughly as many (44%) say immigrants are a burden as say immigrants strengthen the country because of their hard work and talents (39%).

Americans were divided on future levels of immigration. Nearly half said immigration to the U.S. should be decreased (49%), while one-third (34%) said immigration should be kept at its present level and just 15% said immigration should be increased.

B. IMMIGRANTS IN NEW YORK CITY

About 35 percent of New York City 's 8.6 million residents were born in another country, according to a new report. A record high 3.2 million foreign-born immigrants live in New York City, more than any other city in the world.

For perspective: There are more foreign-born New Yorkers than there are people living in America's third-largest city, Chicago, or roughly the same as the populations of Philadelphia and Phoenix combined.

In the last 30 years New York has become a place with no dominant race/ethnic or nationality group," reads a Department of City Planning report, "The Newest New Yorkers." "Indeed, New York's unmatched diversity epitomizes the world city."

The city's largest foreign-born group hails from the Dominican Republic. The second largest foreign-born population is Chinese, which has grown 34 percent in the recent years. The Chinese population in New York City is the largest outside of China itself, according to WNYC.

New York immigrants come from 150 countries. The top 20 places where immigrants in New York City were born are, in order: Dominican Republic, China, Jamaica, Mexico, Guyana, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Trinidad & Tobago, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ukraine, Philippines, Korea, Russia, Pakistan, Poland, Italy, Hong Kong, Peru, Uzbekistan

Washington Heights is home to 80,200 immigrants, more than any other neighborhood in the city. Rounding off the top 10 neighborhoods for immigrant communities are: Bensonhurst, Elmhurst, Corona, Jackson Heights, Sunset Park, Flushing, Flatbush, Crown Heights, and Bushwick. *[this section adapted from: Huffington Post, Dec 2017]*

New York: A Unique Immigrant City by Nancy Foner, Hunter College and the Graduate Center of CUNY

There is only one New York, especially when it comes to immigration. New York City is America's classic immigrant city; it was the major historic gateway for the country's eastern and southern European arrivals a century ago and is a major receiving center today. Its immigrant history, the composition— and extraordinary diversity—of its current immigrant streams, and its institutions have combined to make it an immigrant city like no other in the United States.

New York City is accustomed to immigration. The peak point of the 20 century was 1910, when 41 percent of New Yorkers were foreign-born, but the actual numbers are at an all-time high today.

Given the city's immigrant history and the enormous contemporary inflow, the vast majority of New Yorkers have a close immigrant connection. If they are not an immigrant, they have a parent or grandparent who is. A remarkable 60 percent of New Yorkers—or almost 5 million people—are immigrants or children of immigrants. Several million more have grandparents or great-grandparents who arrived from Russia, Italy, Ireland and Germany. Many black New Yorkers are descended from immigrants from the Caribbean (and from the American south).

Of great significance is that each ethnic-racial group in New York City (white, black, Hispanic, and Asian) includes a substantial proportion of recent immigrants. New York's black population is being Caribbeanized by the enormous West Indian influx, and a growing number of Africans is adding new diversity.

A third of the city's immigrants are from Latin America. Puerto Ricans are now only about a third of the city's Hispanic population, outnumbered by a combination of Dominicans, Mexicans, Ecuadorians, Colombians, and other Latin Americans. In recent years, the number of Mexicans has grown substantially.

A quarter of New York City's foreign born are Asians; Chinese are still the largest group, but there are also many Koreans, Indians, and Filipinos, as well as a growing number of Bangladeshis and Pakistanis.

New York continues to receive substantial numbers of European immigrants. In 2000, the former Soviet Union (including Russia and Ukraine) ranked fourth among the top sending countries to New York City, Poland was 15th, and about one out of four of the city's non-Hispanic whites was foreign-born.

Ethnic politics is the lifeblood of New York City politics. For many years, politicians made ritual visits to the "three Is"—Israel, Italy, and Ireland—the touchstones of so many Jewish and Catholic voters. After two years in office, Mayor Michael Bloomberg had already visited the Dominican Republic three times. Many Catholic churches have been adapted to the Spanish-speaking. St. Patrick's Cathedral, the seat of the Catholic archdiocese of New York, holds a mass every Sunday in Spanish.

The City University of New York—the largest urban public university system in the nation, with more than 226,000 degree-credit students—is well-known for providing a pathway to mobility for the children of immigrant and their children. In recent years, 38 percent of first-time freshmen at CUNY's 11 senior and six community colleges were born outside the United States, and CUNY boasts that its undergraduates speak 131 languages in addition to English.