



Immigration Surging; 1.5 Million Arriving Annually

Total immigrant pop. hit record high in 2015 — 43.3 million

By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Zeigler

A Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) analysis of newly released data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) shows that 1.5 million new immigrants (legal and illegal) are settling in the country each year. The ACS is the Bureau's largest survey and the new findings confirm research published by the Center in June of this year based on a much smaller Bureau survey, which also showed a significant increase in new arrivals in 2014 and 2015.¹ Newly arrived immigrants include new green card holders (permanent residents); long-term "temporary" visitors who often stay permanently, such as guest workers and foreign students; and new illegal immigrants.

- The just-released public-use data from the American Community Survey shows 1.5 million new immigrants (legal and illegal) arrived in 2014, and another 914,000 arrived in just the first six months of 2015.
- Between three-fourths and two-thirds of the 1.5 million new immigrants settling in the country are legal immigrants, including permanent residents as well as long-term visitors (e.g. guest workers and foreign students). The remainder are new illegal immigrants.
- Data released thus far for the first six months of the year indicate that new arrivals may have reached 1.6 million in 2015.²
- The number who arrived in 2014 represent a 17 percent increase over the number who came in 2013, and a 38 percent increase over the number who came in 2011.
- The overall immigrant population grew about twice as fast in the last two years as it did in the prior four years.³ The 1.9 million increase in the immigrant population in just the last two years almost equals the two million growth in the four-year period from 2009 to 2013.
- It is important to note that arrivals are offset by those immigrants who leave the country each year and by normal mortality of about 300,000 annually among the existing immigrant population.⁴ Therefore, growth in the overall immigrant population is less than new arrivals.
- As a share of the U.S. population, 13.5 percent are now immigrants — the highest percentage in 105 years. As recently as 1970, less than 5 percent of the population were immigrants.
- Based on current trends and Census Bureau projections, the immigrant share of the population will surpass the highest level in American history seven years from now.⁵
- Sending regions with the largest numerical increases in immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were East Asia (up 847,000), South Asia (up 825,000), the Caribbean (up 434,000), Sub-Saharan Africa (up 390,000), the Middle East (up 362,000), and Central America (up 332,000). The number of European immigrants declined by 31,000.⁶

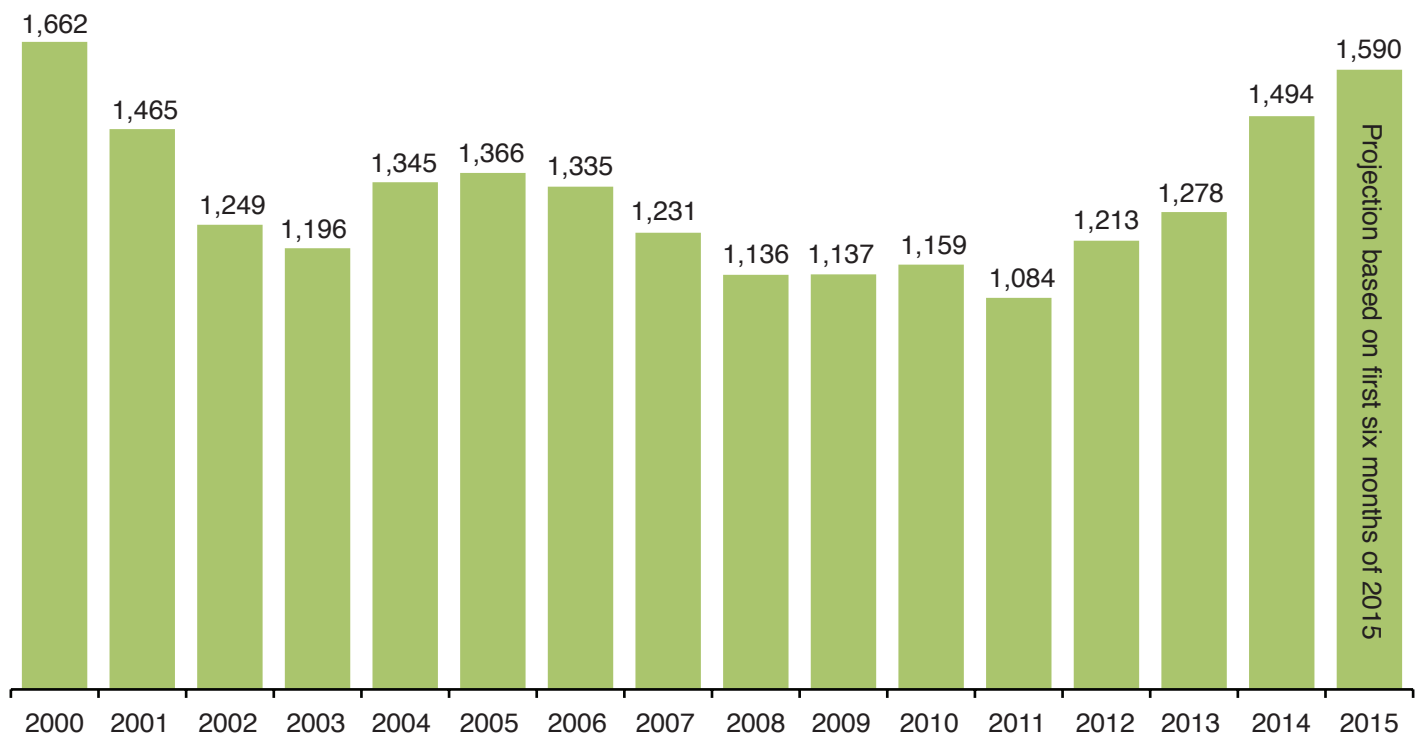
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- Major sending countries with the largest numerical increases in immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were India (up 609,000), China (up 510,000), the Philippines (up 205,000), the Dominican Republic (up 184,000), El Salvador (up 138,000), Cuba (up 106,000), Nigeria (up 104,000), Guatemala (up 97,000), Haiti (up 88,000), Pakistan (up 80,000), Honduras (up 76,000), Bangladesh (up 75,000), Venezuela (up 71,000), Colombia (up 63,000), Vietnam (up 60,000), and Iraq (up 55,000).
- Major sending-countries with the largest percentage increases in immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were Saudi Arabia (up 115 percent), Bangladesh (up 49 percent), Nigeria (up 48 percent), Egypt and Iraq (each up 35 percent), India (up 34 percent), Ethiopia (up 32 percent), Pakistan (up 27 percent), Ghana (up 25 percent), the Dominican Republic (up 21 percent), Honduras (up 15 percent), Guatemala and the Philippines (each up 12 percent), and Iran (up 11 percent).
- After the Great Recession began in 2007, 9.4 million new immigrants settled in the country from 2008 to 2015.⁷ This is a reminder that even though the U.S. economy experienced a prolonged recession and historically weak economic growth, the United States remains an attractive place for immigrants to settle.
- States with the largest numerical increases in the number of immigrants from 2010 to 2015 were California (up 538,000), Texas (up 529,000), Florida (up 428,000), New York (up 232,000), New Jersey (up 133,000), Massachusetts (up 112,000), Maryland (up 108,000), Virginia (up 108,000), Pennsylvania (up 98,000), Washington (up 94,000), Georgia (up 81,000), Minnesota (up 79,000), and North Carolina (up 76,000).
- States with the largest percentage increases in the number of immigrants from 2010 to 2015 were North Dakota (up 72 percent), Wyoming (up 39 percent), West Virginia (up 31 percent), South Dakota (up 25 percent), Delaware (up 22 percent), Minnesota (up 21 percent), Alaska (up 19 percent), Mississippi (up 18 percent), Tennessee and New Hampshire (each up 15 percent), Nebraska and Oklahoma (each up 14 percent), and Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Texas (each up 13 percent).

Data Source. On October 20, 2016, the Census Bureau released the public-use data from the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS). The survey reflects the U.S. population as of July 1, 2015. The ACS is by far the largest survey taken by the federal government each year and includes over two million households.⁸ Several weeks ago, the Census Bureau posted some of the results from the ACS to its American FactFinder system.⁹

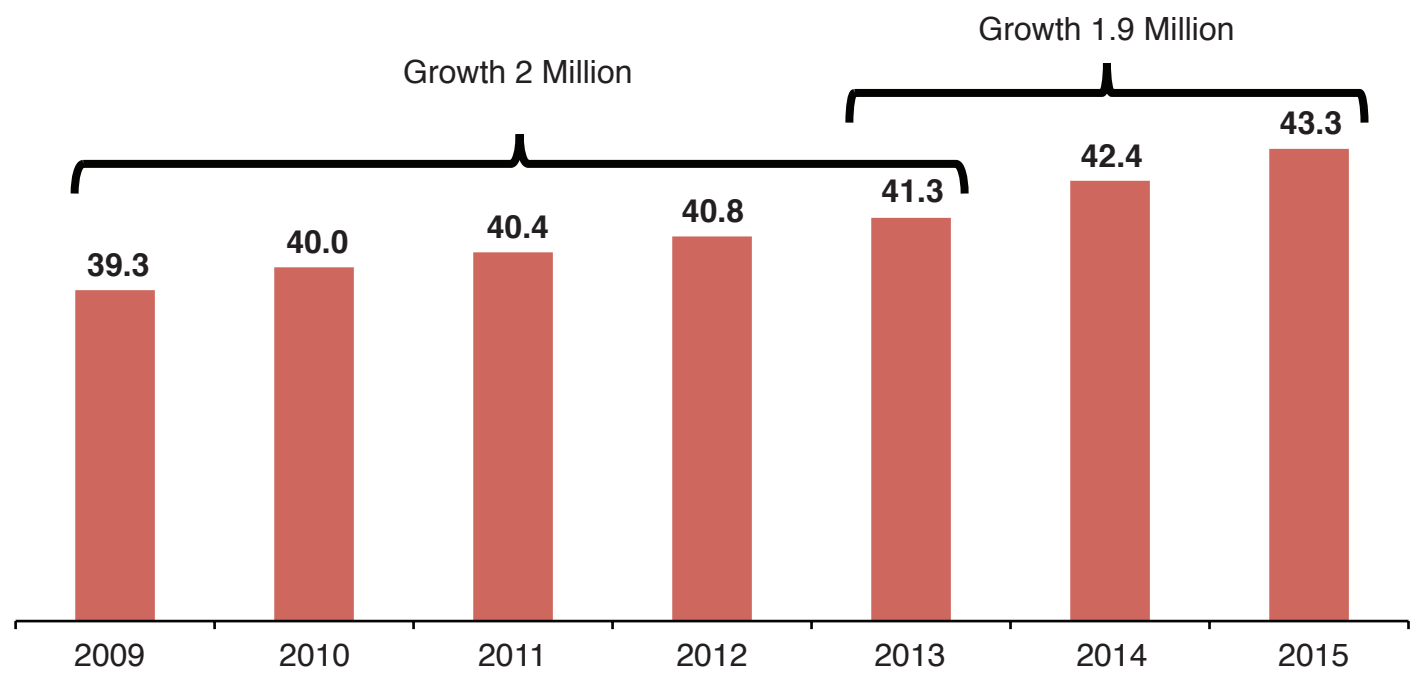
The immigrant population, referred to as the foreign-born by the Census Bureau, are those individuals who were not U.S. citizens at birth. It includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent immigrants (green card holders), temporary workers, and foreign students. It does not include those born to immigrants in the United States, including to illegal immigrant parents, nor does it include those born in outlying U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico. Prior research by the Department of Homeland Security and others indicates that some 90 percent of illegal immigrants respond to the ACS.¹⁰ Thus all the figures reported above are for both legal and illegal immigrants.

Figure 1. The American Community Survey shows new arrivals have increased significantly the in last few years. (in thousands)



Source: 2001 to 2015 public-use files of the American Community Survey (ACS).
Table 5 reports confidence intervals.

Figure 2. The Immigrant Population (legal and Illegal) is growing faster now than in the recent past. (in millions)

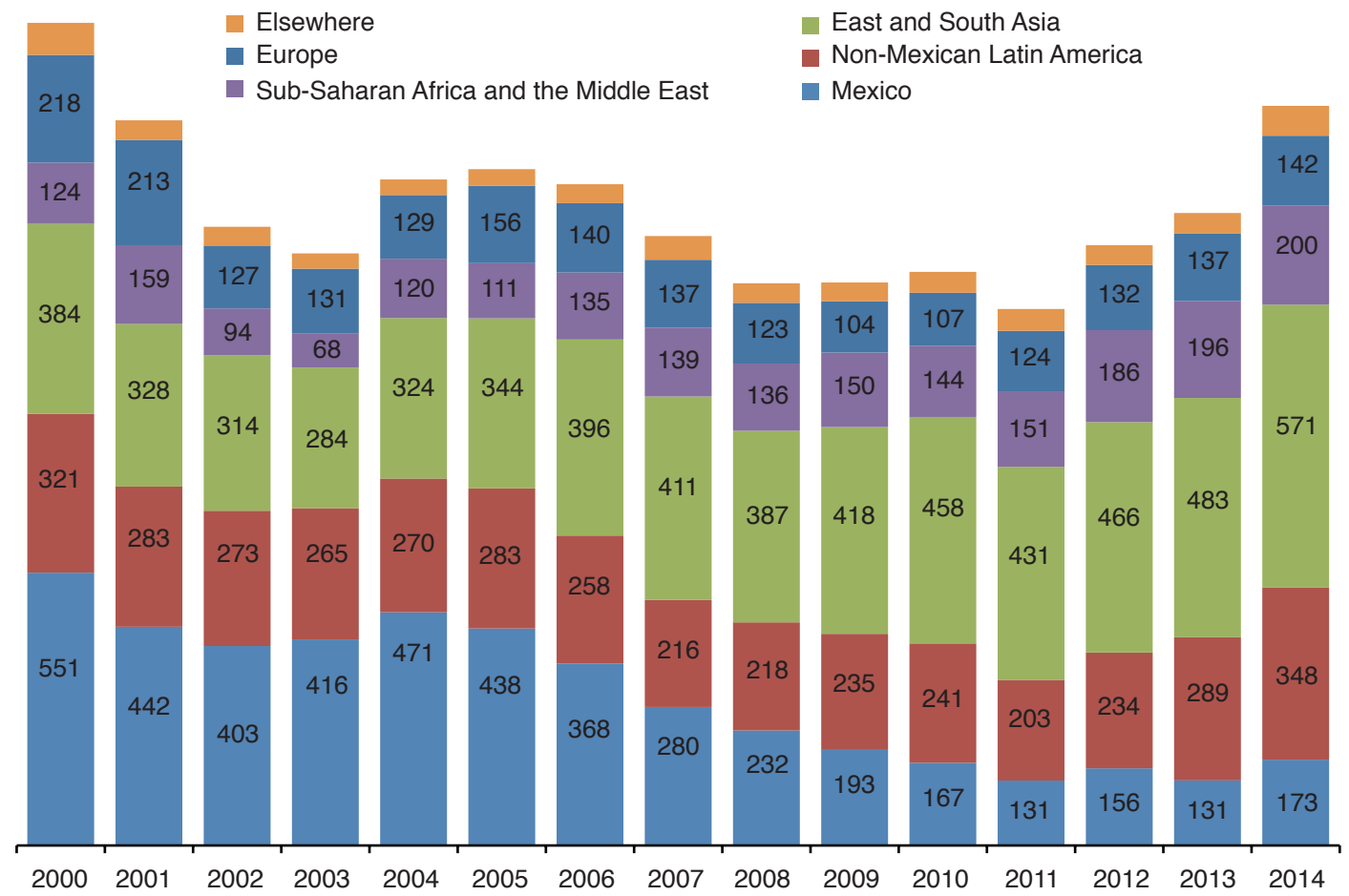


Source: American Community Survey 2009 to 2015 from AmericanFactfinder at Census.gov.

Figure for 2009 reflects the re-weighting of the 2009 ACS by the Pew Research Center to reflect results from the 2010 census.

Table 6 reports confidence intervals.

Figure 3. Sending Regions of Immigrants who arrived each year 2000 to 2015 (in thousands)



Source: 2001 to 2015 public-use files of the American Community Survey (ACS).
Regions are defined in Endnote 7.

Table 1. Newly Arrived Immigrants by Sending Regions 2000 to 2015
Most recent full-year arrivals from the ACS each year (in thousands)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mexico	551	442	403	416	471	438	368	280	232	193	167	131	156	131	173
Central America	78	55	68	68	99	115	90	71	60	56	59	46	62	90	122
Caribbean	89	86	71	90	80	84	84	78	89	113	110	89	102	117	114
South America	153	142	135	108	92	84	84	67	70	65	72	68	69	82	113
Europe	218	213	127	131	129	156	140	137	123	104	107	124	132	137	142
South Asia	149	97	90	70	91	103	113	130	131	114	143	158	174	189	239
East Asia	235	232	224	214	234	240	283	281	256	304	315	272	291	295	332
Middle East	67	95	50	28	51	53	54	65	79	83	79	77	106	110	110
Sub-Saharan Africa	57	64	44	40	69	59	81	74	56	68	65	74	80	86	89
Canada	47	28	31	20	21	25	25	34	28	28	29	32	28	28	45
Elsewhere	18	12	7	11	11	9	13	14	11	9	13	12	12	13	15
Total	1,662	1,465	1,250	1,196	1,346	1,366	1,336	1,231	1,136	1,137	1,159	1,084	1,213	1,278	1,494
Latin America	872	725	676	681	741	721	626	496	451	428	408	335	390	421	522
Non-Mexican Latin Amer.	321	283	273	265	270	283	258	216	218	235	241	203	234	289	348

Source: 2001 to 2015 data is from the public-use files of the American Community Survey (ACS).
Regions are defined in end note 7.

Table 2. Immigrant Pop. in the United States by Country and Region, 1990 to 2015

Region	1990	2000	2010	2015	Growth 2010-2015	Pct. Growth 2010-2015
Mexico	4,298,014	9,177,487	11,711,103	11,643,298	(67,805)	-1%
East Asia	3,759,346	5,822,450	7,516,059	8,363,368	847,309	11%
China	921,070	1,518,652	2,166,526	2,676,697	510,171	24%
Korea	568,397	864,125	1,100,422	1,060,019	(40,403)	-4%
Vietnam	543,262	988,174	1,240,542	1,300,515	59,973	5%
Philippines	912,674	1,369,070	1,777,588	1,982,369	204,781	12%
Burma	19,835	33,905	82,200	137,567	55,367	67%
Thailand	106,919	169,801	222,759	247,205	24,446	11%
South Asia	579,993	1,341,323	2,346,637	3,171,613	824,976	35%
India	450,406	1,022,552	1,780,322	2,389,639	609,317	34%
Pakistan	91,889	223,477	299,581	379,435	79,854	27%
Bangladesh	21,414	95,294	153,691	228,682	74,991	49%
Nepal	2,262	11,859	69,458	120,886	51,428	74%
Caribbean	1,947,435	2,961,737	3,738,920	4,173,301	434,381	12%
Cuba	736,971	872,716	1,104,679	1,210,674	105,995	10%
Dominican Republic	347,858	687,677	879,187	1,063,239	184,052	21%
Jamaica	334,140	553,827	659,771	711,134	51,363	8%
Haiti	225,393	419,317	587,149	675,546	88,397	15%
Central America	1,133,978	2,026,150	3,052,509	3,384,629	332,120	11%
El Salvador	465,433	817,336	1,214,049	1,352,357	138,308	11%
Guatemala	225,739	480,665	830,824	927,593	96,769	12%
Honduras	108,923	282,852	522,581	599,030	76,449	15%
South America	1,037,497	1,930,271	2,729,831	2,918,029	188,198	7%
Colombia	286,124	509,872	636,555	699,399	62,844	10%
Peru	144,199	278,186	428,547	445,921	17,374	4%
Ecuador	143,314	298,626	443,173	441,257	(1,916)	0%
Brazil	82,489	212,428	339,613	361,374	21,761	6%
Venezuela	42,119	107,031	184,039	255,520	71,481	39%
Guyana	120,698	211,189	265,271	281,408	16,137	6%
Middle East	728,682	1,187,692	1,611,897	1,973,813	361,916	22%
Iran	210,941	283,226	356,756	394,223	37,467	11%
Iraq	44,916	89,892	159,800	215,193	55,393	35%
Egypt	66,313	113,396	137,799	185,872	48,073	35%
Israel	86,048	109,719	127,896	129,680	1,784	1%
Lebanon	86,369	105,910	121,000	119,613	(1,387)	-1%
Saudi Arabia	12,632	21,881	45,016	96,783	51,767	115%
Syria	36,782	54,561	59,554	82,681	23,127	39%
Afghanistan	28,444	45,195	54,458	70,653	16,195	30%
Europe	4,360,463	4,980,837	4,906,698	4,875,879	(30,819)	-1%
United Kingdom	640,145	677,751	669,794	683,473	13,679	2%
Russia	n/a	340,177	383,166	386,529	3,363	1%
Italy	580,592	473,338	364,972	352,492	(12,480)	-3%
Ukraine	n/a	275,153	326,493	345,620	19,127	6%
Germany	711,929	706,704	604,616	585,298	(19,318)	-3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	264,775	690,809	1,326,634	1,716,425	389,791	29%
Nigeria	55,350	134,940	219,309	323,635	104,326	48%
Ethiopia	34,805	69,531	173,592	228,745	55,153	32%
Ghana	20,889	65,572	124,696	155,532	30,836	25%
Kenya	14,371	41,081	88,519	129,905	41,386	47%
Somalia	2,437	36,139	82,454	89,153	6,699	8%
Canada	744,830	820,771	798,649	830,628	31,979	4%
Oceania/Elsewhere	912,303	168,362	216,736	238,663	21,927	10%
Total	19,767,316	31,107,889	39,955,673	43,289,646	3,333,973	8%
Predominantly Muslim Countries	840,595	1,518,755	2,184,664	2,701,544	516,880	24%
Latin America	8,416,924	16,095,645	21,232,363	22,119,257	886,894	4%
Non-Mexican Latin Amer.	4,118,910	6,918,158	9,521,260	10,475,959	954,699	10%

Source: Figures for 1990 and 2000 are from the decennial census. Figures for 2010 and 2015 are from American FactFinder at Census.gov. Figures for 1990 are from Table 3 [here](#). Data for 2000 for Burma, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, and Somalia are from the public-use data from the 2000 decennial census (5 percent sample).

Table 3. State Immigrant Populations 1990 to 2015

State	1990	2000	2010	2015	Growth 2010-2015	Pct. Growth 2010-2015
North Dakota	9,388	12,114	16,639	28,649	12,010	72.2%
Wyoming	7,647	11,205	15,843	21,999	6,156	38.9%
West Virginia	15,712	19,390	22,511	29,522	7,011	31.1%
South Dakota	7,731	13,495	22,238	27,845	5,607	25.2%
Delaware	22,275	44,898	71,868	87,509	15,641	21.8%
Minnesota	113,039	260,463	378,483	457,185	78,702	20.8%
Alaska	24,814	37,170	49,319	58,544	9,225	18.7%
Mississippi	20,383	39,908	61,428	72,258	10,830	17.6%
Wash., D.C.	58,887	73,561	81,734	95,117	13,383	16.4%
Tennessee	59,114	159,004	288,993	331,570	42,577	14.7%
New Hampshire	41,193	54,154	69,742	79,959	10,217	14.6%
Nebraska	28,198	74,638	112,178	128,390	16,212	14.5%
Oklahoma	65,489	131,747	206,382	235,350	28,968	14.0%
Maryland	313,494	518,315	803,695	911,582	107,887	13.4%
Pennsylvania	369,316	508,291	739,068	837,159	98,091	13.3%
Texas	1,524,436	2,899,642	4,142,031	4,671,295	529,264	12.8%
Kentucky	34,119	80,271	140,583	157,336	16,753	11.9%
Virginia	311,809	570,279	911,119	1,018,626	107,507	11.8%
Florida	1,662,601	2,670,828	3,658,043	4,086,240	428,197	11.7%
Massachusetts	573,733	772,983	983,564	1,095,953	112,389	11.4%
Michigan	355,393	523,589	587,747	652,090	64,343	10.9%
Washington	322,144	614,457	886,262	980,158	93,896	10.6%
North Carolina	115,077	430,000	719,137	794,684	75,547	10.5%
Kansas	62,840	134,735	186,942	205,720	18,778	10.0%
Utah	58,600	158,664	222,638	244,467	21,829	9.8%
Nevada	104,828	316,593	508,458	558,170	49,712	9.8%
Wisconsin	121,547	193,751	254,920	278,981	24,061	9.4%
Georgia	173,126	577,273	942,959	1,023,717	80,758	8.6%
Arkansas	24,867	73,690	131,667	142,841	11,174	8.5%
Idaho	28,905	64,080	87,098	94,364	7,266	8.3%
Colorado	142,434	369,903	497,105	537,066	39,961	8.0%
Louisiana	87,407	115,885	172,866	186,369	13,503	7.8%
Ohio	259,673	339,279	469,748	503,911	34,163	7.3%
New Jersey	966,610	1,476,327	1,844,581	1,977,325	132,744	7.2%
Indiana	94,263	186,534	300,789	321,308	20,519	6.8%
Arizona	278,205	656,183	856,663	914,400	57,737	6.7%
Connecticut	279,383	369,967	487,120	519,648	32,528	6.7%
Iowa	43,316	91,085	139,477	148,721	9,244	6.6%
Montana	13,779	16,396	20,031	21,356	1,325	6.6%
South Carolina	49,964	115,978	218,494	232,749	14,255	6.5%
Rhode Island	95,088	119,277	134,335	142,324	7,989	5.9%
Oregon	139,307	289,702	375,743	397,293	21,550	5.7%
New York	2,851,861	3,868,133	4,297,612	4,530,087	232,475	5.4%
California	6,458,825	8,864,255	10,150,429	10,688,336	537,907	5.3%
Missouri	83,633	151,196	232,537	242,761	10,224	4.4%
Illinois	952,272	1,529,058	1,759,859	1,826,156	66,297	3.8%
Vermont	17,544	23,245	27,560	28,247	687	2.5%
Hawaii	162,704	212,229	248,213	253,414	5,201	2.1%
Alabama	43,533	87,772	168,596	169,972	1,376	0.8%
Maine	36,296	36,691	45,666	44,694	-972	-2.1%
New Mexico	80,514	149,606	205,141	196,955	-8,186	-4.0%
Nation	19,767,316	31,107,889	39,955,854	43,290,372	3,334,518	8.3%

Source: Figures for 1990 and 2000 are from the decennial censuses. Figures for 2010 and 2015 are from the American Community Survey. Figures for 2000, 2010, and 2015 are from American FactFinder at Census.gov. 1990 figures are from Table 14 in Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, [“Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000”](#), U.S. Census Bureau, February 2006.

Table 4. Immigrant Share by State, 1990 to 2015

State	1990	2000	2010	2015
California	21.7%	26.2%	27.2%	27.3%
New York	15.9%	20.4%	22.2%	22.9%
New Jersey	12.5%	17.5%	21.0%	22.1%
Florida	12.9%	16.7%	19.4%	20.2%
Nevada	8.7%	15.8%	18.8%	19.3%
Hawaii	14.7%	17.5%	18.2%	17.7%
Texas	9.0%	13.9%	16.4%	17.0%
Massachusetts	9.5%	12.2%	15.0%	16.1%
Maryland	6.6%	9.8%	13.9%	15.2%
Connecticut	8.5%	10.9%	13.6%	14.5%
Illinois	8.3%	12.3%	13.7%	14.2%
Wash., D.C.	9.7%	12.9%	13.5%	14.1%
Washington	6.6%	10.4%	13.1%	13.7%
Rhode Island	9.5%	11.4%	12.8%	13.5%
Arizona	7.6%	12.8%	13.4%	13.4%
Virginia	5.0%	8.1%	11.4%	12.2%
Georgia	2.7%	7.1%	9.7%	10.0%
Oregon	4.9%	8.5%	9.8%	9.9%
Colorado	4.3%	8.6%	9.8%	9.8%
New Mexico	5.3%	8.2%	9.9%	9.4%
Delaware	3.3%	5.7%	8.0%	9.3%
Minnesota	2.6%	5.3%	7.1%	8.3%
Utah	3.4%	7.1%	8.0%	8.2%
Alaska	4.5%	5.9%	6.9%	7.9%
North Carolina	1.7%	5.3%	7.5%	7.9%
Kansas	2.5%	5.0%	6.5%	7.1%
Nebraska	1.8%	4.4%	6.1%	6.8%
Michigan	3.8%	5.3%	6.0%	6.6%
Pennsylvania	3.1%	4.1%	5.8%	6.5%
Oklahoma	2.1%	3.8%	5.5%	6.0%
New Hampshire	3.7%	4.4%	5.3%	6.0%
Idaho	2.9%	5.0%	5.5%	5.7%
Tennessee	1.2%	2.8%	4.5%	5.0%
Indiana	1.7%	3.1%	4.6%	4.9%
Wisconsin	2.5%	3.6%	4.5%	4.8%
Arkansas	1.1%	2.8%	4.5%	4.8%
Iowa	1.6%	3.1%	4.6%	4.8%
South Carolina	1.4%	2.9%	4.7%	4.8%
Vermont	3.1%	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%
Ohio	2.4%	3.0%	4.1%	4.3%
Missouri	1.6%	2.7%	3.9%	4.0%
Louisiana	2.1%	2.6%	3.8%	4.0%
North Dakota	1.5%	1.9%	2.5%	3.8%
Wyoming	1.7%	2.3%	2.8%	3.8%
Kentucky	0.9%	2.0%	3.2%	3.6%
Alabama	1.1%	2.0%	3.5%	3.5%
Maine	3.0%	2.9%	3.4%	3.4%
South Dakota	1.1%	1.8%	2.7%	3.2%
Mississippi	0.8%	1.4%	2.1%	2.4%
Montana	1.7%	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%
West Virginia	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%	1.6%
Nation	7.9%	11.1%	12.9%	13.5%

Source: Figures for 1990 and 2000 are from the decennial census. Figures for 2010 and 2015 are from the American Community Survey. Figures for 2000, 2010, and 2015 are from American FactFinder at Census.gov. 1990 figures are from Table 14 in Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, [“Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000”](#), U.S. Census Bureau, February 2006.

Table 5. Immigrant Arrivals 2000 to 2015 (thousands)

Year	Number Arriving by Year	Confidence Interval (90%)	Number Arriving in the First Six Months of Year	Confidence Interval (90%)
2000	1,662	71	911	45
2001	1,465	67	809	50
2002	1,249	62	670	46
2003	1,196	61	645	45
2004	1,345	41	700	47
2005	1,366	41	767	31
2006	1,335	41	752	31
2007	1,231	39	736	31
2008	1,136	34	696	30
2009	1,137	34	604	25
2010	1,159	35	697	27
2011	1,084	32	673	27
2012	1,213	34	681	25
2013	1,278	35	683	25
2014	1,494	37	849	28
2015	n/a	n/a	914	29

Source: 2001 to 2015 public-use files of the American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2000 decennial census.

Table 6. Total Immigrant Population Based on the ACS, 2000 to 2015

Year	Total Immigrant Population	Confidence Interval (90%)
2000	31,107,889	n/a
2001	31,482,280	n/a
2002	33,048,849	172,094
2003	33,533,945	132,522
2004	34,279,756	149,140
2005	35,689,842	131,480
2006	37,547,789	125,642
2007	38,059,694	119,489
2008	37,960,935	122,968
2009	39,313,000	118,061
2010	39,955,854	115,157
2011	40,377,860	125,123
2012	40,824,658	111,594
2013	41,348,066	129,154
2014	42,391,794	130,122
2015	43,290,372	122,466

Source: 2001 to 2015 public-use files of the American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2000 decennial census.

End Notes

¹ Steven Camarota, [“New Data: Immigration Surged in 2014 and 2015; More than three million legal and illegal immigrants settled in the United States in the last two years”](#), Center for Immigration Studies, June 2016.

² The ACS for each year is weighted to reflect the population as of July 1. As such, it only reports arrival data for the first six months when it is released each year. When the next ACS is released the following year, it reports the number of arrivals for the entire prior year. So, for example, the 2014 ACS showed 849,000 new arrivals in the first six months of that year and the just-released 2015 ACS shows 1.494 million arrivals for all of 2014. In recent years the ratio of arrivals from the first six months of the year to the number shown for the entire year when the next year’s ACS is released is 1.74. The 2015 ACS shows that 914,000 immigrant arrived in the first six months of 2015. Therefore, we project that when the 2016 ACS is released it will show 1.59 million new arrivals for all of 2015.

³ The new data indicates that growth in the immigrant population is accelerating. Between 2009 and 2013 growth averaged 509,000 a year, but between 2013 and 2015 it grew by 971,000 a year.

⁴ Based on analysis done by the Center for Immigration Studies and Decision Demographics, we estimate that the death rate among the foreign-born is 7.63 deaths per thousand. This translates into 323,000 deaths among the existing immigrant population between 2014 and 2015.

⁵ Historical numbers from the decennial censuses can be found at the Census Bureau’s [website](#). They show that, in 1890, the foreign-born or immigrant share reached 14.77 percent of the U.S. population and fell for a time, but again reached 14.70 percent in 1910. These two figures represent the highest share ever recorded. [Table 2](#) of the Census Bureau projections published in 2014 show that the foreign-born will reach 14.79 percent of the U.S. population in 2023, making it the highest percentage ever recorded. The Census Bureau projected that the foreign-born population would be 13.5 percent of the U.S. population in 2015, matching the results from what the 2015 ACS shows. This is an indication that, at least so far, the United States is on track to set a new record in the share of the population that is comprised of immigrants in just seven years.

⁶ Countries that can be identified in the public-use 2015 ACS file are coded as the following regions: **Mexico; Central America:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama; **South America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and South America not specified; **Caribbean:** Bermuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Antigua-Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and Caribbean and West Indies and Americas not specified; **South Asia:** India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Nepal; **East Asia:** China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Asia not specified; **Europe:** Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, England, Scotland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Albania, Greece, Macedonia, Italy, Portugal, Azores, Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, USSR not specified, and Europe not specified; **Middle East:** Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, and North Africa not specified; **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Cameroon, South Africa, Zaire, Congo, Zambia, Togo, Gambia, and Africa and Western and Eastern Africa not specified; **Canada; Oceania/Elsewhere:** Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, elsewhere. **Predominately Muslim Countries** includes the countries of the Middle East (excluding Israel) as well as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

⁷ Figure 1 reports the number of new arrivals by year including the first six months of 2015. As already discussed, the total immigrant population did not grow by this amount since 2008 because new arrivals are offset by those immigrants who return home or have died since 2008.

⁸ Detailed information on the survey methodology, questions and other information on the American Community can be found [here](#).

⁹ The total population figures used in this analysis are from [American Factfinder](#). However, only the public-use micro data from the ACS, which was posted on October 20, can be used to measure individual year of arrival as shown in Figures 1 and 3.

¹⁰ The Department of Homeland Security uses the ACS as the basis for its estimates of illegal immigrants. See their most recent estimate of the unauthorized immigrant population: Bryan Baker and Nancy Rytina, [“Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2012”](#), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, March 2013.