



U.S. Immigrant Population Record 41.3 Million in 2013

Asian, Caribbean, and Middle Eastern immigrant populations grew most since 2010

By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Zeigler

The Census Bureau recently released some of the data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). The data show that the nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) grew by 1.4 million from July 2010 to July 2013. The data also imply that 3.3 million new immigrants settled in the country in that same period.¹ These new arrivals were offset by return migration and deaths among the existing population. The immigrant population, referred to as the foreign-born by the Census Bureau, includes all those who were not U.S. citizens at birth, including illegal immigrants.

Among the findings from the new data:

- The nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) hit a record 41.3 million in July 2013, an increase of 1.4 million since July 2010. Since 2000 the immigrant population is up 10.2 million.
- The 41.3 million immigrant population (legal and illegal) in 2013 was double the number in 1990, nearly triple the number in 1980, and quadruple that in 1970, when it stood at 9.6 million.
- The sending regions with the largest increases from 2010 to 2013 were South Asia (up 373,000, 16 percent growth); East Asia (up 365,000, 5 percent growth); the Caribbean (up 223,000, 6 percent growth), the Middle East (up 208,000, 13 percent growth); and sub-Saharan Africa (up 177,000, 13 percent growth).
- The sending countries with the largest increases 2010 to 2013 were India (up 254,000, 14 percent growth); China (up 217,000, 10 percent growth); the Dominican Republic (up 112,000, 13 percent growth); Guatemala (up 71,000, 9 percent growth); Jamaica (up 55,000, 8 percent growth); Bangladesh (up 49,000, 32 percent growth); Saudi Arabia (up 44,000, 97 percent growth); Pakistan (up 43,000, 14 percent growth); and Iraq (up 41,000, 26 percent growth).
- Between 2010 and 2013, four million new immigrants settled in the United States; and since 2007, when the Great Recession began, at least 7.5 million immigrants have settled in the country.²
- As a share of the population, immigrants (legal and illegal) comprised 13.1 percent of U.S. residents (about one out of every eight), the highest percentage in 93 years. As recently as 1980, 6.2 percent of the country was comprised of immigrants.
- Immigrants comprised 16 percent of the adult population (18-plus) in 2013, nearly one out of every six adults.
- Mexicans accounted for the largest immigrant population in the United States by far, with 11.6 million legal and illegal immigrants living in the United States in 2013. However, the number of Mexican immigrants in the country declined 1 percent from 2010 to 2013.
- The number of immigrants from Europe also declined.

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- States where the number of immigrants grew the most since 2010 were Texas (up 227,240); California (up 160,771); Florida (up 140,019); New York (up 85,699); New Jersey (up 81,192); Massachusetts (up 62,591); Washington (up 57,402); Pennsylvania (up 57,091); Illinois (up 47,609); Arizona (up 39,647); Maryland (up 38,555); Virginia (up 37,844); North Carolina (up 30,289); Michigan (up 29,039); and Georgia (up 28,020).
- States with the largest percentage increase since 2010 were North Dakota (up 27 percent); West Virginia (up 17 percent); and Wyoming (up 14 percent). In South Dakota, Nebraska, and Idaho the immigrant population increased 10 percent. It grew 8 percent in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania and 7 percent in Iowa, Delaware, and Minnesota.

Data Source. On September 18, the Census Bureau released some of the data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). The survey reflects the U.S. population as of July 1, 2013. The ACS is by far the largest survey taken by the federal government each year and includes over two million households.³ The Census Bureau has posted some of the results from the ACS to American FactFinder.⁴ It has not released the public-use version of the ACS for researchers to download and analyze. However a good deal of information can be found at FactFinder. Unless otherwise indicated, the information in this analysis comes directly from FactFinder.

The immigrant population, referred to as the foreign-born by the Census Bureau, is comprised of those individuals who were not U.S. citizens at birth. It includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents (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.⁵ Thus, all the figures reported above are for both legal and illegal immigrants.

End Notes

¹ The 3.3 million arrivals number is necessarily an estimate because the growth number of 1.4 million measures July 2010 to July 2013. The arrival data in Factfinder, on the other hand, shows four million arrivals for *January* 2010 to July 2013. This is the only level of detail available in Factfinder for year of arrival. However, the 2010 public-use ACS is available and shows 700,000 immigrants in the country who arrived in the first half of 2010. Subtracting that from the four million implies that 3.3 million new immigrants arrived July 2010 to July 2013, the period in which the immigrant population grew 1.4 million.

² The 2013 ACS shows four million immigrants living in the United States in July 2013 who indicated that they arrived in the United States in 2010 or later. (Unlike the public-use data, FactFinder does not report immigrants' detailed years of arrival. Instead, results are grouped by decade.) The 2010 public-use file of the ACS showed 3.5 million immigrants in the country who arrived in 2007, 2008, or 2009. (We exclude those who indicated they came between January and July 2010.) Therefore, in total 7.5 million immigrants arrived 2007 to 2013. The actual total is higher because the 7.5 million figure does not include those who arrived after 2007, but died or went home by 2013.

³ Detailed information on the survey methodology, questions, and other information on the American Community can be found [here](#).

⁴ FactFinder can be found [here](#).

⁵ The Department of Homeland Security uses the ACS as the basis for its estimates of the illegal immigrant population. See the most recent iteration of the unauthorized immigrant population, "[Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2012](#)".

Table 1. Immigrants in the U.S. by Sending Regions and Selected Countries 2000, 2010, 2013

Region	2000	2010	2013	Growth 2010-2013
South Asia	1,341,323	2,346,637	2,719,183	372,546
India	1,022,552	1,780,322	2,034,677	254,355
Pakistan	223,477	299,581	342,603	43,022
Bangladesh	95,294	153,691	203,179	49,488
East Asia	5,822,450	7,516,059	7,880,968	364,909
China	1,518,652	2,166,526	2,383,831	217,305
Korea	864,125	1,100,422	1,070,335	(30,087)
Vietnam	988,174	1,240,542	1,281,010	40,468
Caribbean	2,953,066	3,730,644	3,953,655	223,011
Cuba	872,716	1,104,679	1,144,024	39,345
Dominican Republic	687,677	879,187	991,046	111,859
Jamaica	553,827	659,771	714,743	54,972
Middle East	1,187,692	1,611,897	1,819,655	207,758
Iran	283,226	356,756	363,972	7,216
Iraq	89,892	159,800	200,894	41,094
Egypt	113,396	137,799	176,443	38,644
Israel	109,719	127,896	127,079	(817)
Lebanon	105,910	121,000	124,256	3,256
Saudi Arabia	n/a	45,016	88,894	43,878
Sub-Saharan Africa	690,809	1,326,634	1,503,381	176,747
Nigeria	134,940	219,309	234,465	15,156
Ethiopia	69,531	173,592	195,805	22,213
Ghana	65,572	124,696	149,377	24,681
Central America	2,026,150	3,052,509	3,166,253	113,744
El Salvador	817,336	1,214,049	1,252,067	38,018
Guatemala	480,665	830,824	902,293	71,469
Honduras	282,852	522,581	533,598	11,017
Canada	829,442	806,925	846,921	39,996
South America	1,930,271	2,729,831	2,768,381	38,550
Colombia	509,872	636,555	677,231	40,676
Peru	278,186	428,547	440,292	11,745
Ecuador	298,626	443,173	427,906	(15,267)
Brazil	212,428	339,613	337,040	(2,573)
Venezuela	107,031	184,039	197,724	13,685
Oceania/Elsewhere	168,362	216,736	222,390	5,654
Europe	4,980,837	4,906,698	4,882,181	(24,517)
United Kingdom	677,751	669,794	695,489	25,695
Russia	340,177	383,166	390,934	7,768
Mexico	9,177,487	11,711,103	11,584,977	(126,126)
Total	31,107,889	39,955,673	41,347,945	1,392,272
Predominantly Muslim Countries	1,518,755	2,184,664	2,480,407	295,743

Sources: 2000 Census, 2010 and 2013 American Community Survey. Data are from the Census Factfinder website.

Regions are divided as follows and include only countries for which there were respondents.

South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. **East Asia:** China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Other South Eastern Asia, Other Eastern Asia, Asia n.e.c. **Caribbean:** Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Other Caribbean. **Middle East:** Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Other Northern Africa, Other South Central Asia, Other Western Asia. **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Other Eastern Africa, Cameroon, South Africa, Other Southern Africa, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Other Western Africa, Other Middle Africa, Africa n.e.c. **Central America:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Other Central America. **South America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Other South America. **Oceania/Elsewhere:** Australia, Oceania, Pacific Islands, Fiji, and elsewhere.

Europe: United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Other Northern Europe, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Other Western Europe, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Armenia, Yugoslavia, Other Southern Europe, Other Eastern Europe, Europe, n.e.c. **Predominantly Muslim Countries:** This region includes the countries of the Middle East (excluding Israel) as well as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Country list reflects 2010 and 2013; in 2000 the list of specific countries was less detailed.

Table 2. Immigrant Pop. Growth by State

State	2000	2010	2013	Numerical Growth 2010-2013	Percentage Increase 2010-2013
Texas	2,899,642	4,142,031	4,369,271	227,240	5%
Calif.	8,864,255	10,150,429	10,311,200	160,771	2%
Fla.	2,670,828	3,658,043	3,798,062	140,019	4%
N.Y.	3,868,133	4,297,612	4,383,311	85,699	2%
N.J.	1,476,327	1,844,581	1,925,773	81,192	4%
Mass.	772,983	983,564	1,046,155	62,591	6%
Wash.	614,457	886,262	943,664	57,402	6%
Pa.	508,291	739,068	796,159	57,091	8%
Ill.	1,529,058	1,759,859	1,807,468	47,609	3%
Ariz.	656,183	856,663	896,310	39,647	5%
Md.	518,315	803,695	842,250	38,555	5%
Va.	570,279	911,119	948,963	37,844	4%
N.C.	430,000	719,137	749,426	30,289	4%
Mich.	523,589	587,747	616,786	29,039	5%
Ga.	577,273	942,959	970,979	28,020	3%
Minn.	260,463	378,483	403,514	25,031	7%
Nev.	316,593	508,458	529,164	20,706	4%
Wisc.	193,751	254,920	274,687	19,767	8%
Tenn.	159,004	288,993	304,801	15,808	5%
Ore.	289,702	375,743	391,206	15,463	4%
Utah	158,664	222,638	236,954	14,316	6%
Ind.	186,534	300,789	314,501	13,712	5%
S.C.	115,978	218,494	231,278	12,784	6%
Conn.	369,967	487,120	499,643	12,523	3%
Okla.	131,747	206,382	218,432	12,050	6%
Kan.	134,735	186,942	198,173	11,231	6%
D.C.	73,561	81,734	92,819	11,085	14%
Neb.	74,638	112,178	123,182	11,004	10%
La.	115,885	172,866	182,559	9,693	6%
Iowa	91,085	139,477	149,122	9,645	7%
Ky.	80,271	140,583	149,016	8,433	6%
Idaho	64,080	87,098	95,525	8,427	10%
Ohio	339,279	469,748	477,337	7,589	2%
N.M.	149,606	205,141	211,249	6,108	3%
N.H.	54,154	69,742	75,175	5,433	8%
Del.	44,898	71,868	76,768	4,900	7%
N.D.	12,114	16,639	21,107	4,468	27%
W.Va.	19,390	22,511	26,321	3,810	17%
Colo.	369,903	497,105	500,634	3,529	1%
S.D.	13,495	22,238	24,459	2,221	10%
Ark.	73,690	131,667	133,888	2,221	2%
Wyo.	11,205	15,843	18,029	2,186	14%
R.I.	119,277	134,335	135,972	1,637	1%
Miss.	39,908	61,428	62,899	1,471	2%
Alaska	37,170	49,319	50,760	1,441	3%
Mo.	151,196	232,537	233,261	724	0%
Vt.	23,245	27,560	27,012	-548	-2%
Mont.	16,396	20,031	19,465	-566	-3%
Maine	36,691	45,666	44,687	-979	-2%
Hawaii	212,229	248,213	246,464	-1,749	-1%
Ala.	87,772	168,596	162,226	-6,370	-4%
Total	31,107,889	39,955,854	41,348,066	1,392,212	3%

Sources: 2000 Census, 2010 and 2013 American Community Survey.
Data from Census Bureau's Factfinder website.