

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 1997 (Update)

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NOTICE TO USERS

In 1996, the Census Bureau announced its intention to offer more information in electronic format while reducing the number of printed reports. This change is now being implemented for the P20 Current Population Report series.

To keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be produced periodically. They will be available in both printed and electronic forms. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations, *The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 1997 (Update)* (Current Population Report, P20-507), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section at the end of this report.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8800.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on the civilian, noninstitutional, foreign-born population of the United States, based on the March 1997 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- In 1997, the foreign-born population of the United States numbered 25.8 million persons or 9.7 percent of the total population.
- Five states had a larger percentage foreign born than the United States: California (24.8%), New York (19.6%), Florida (16.4%), New Jersey (15.4%), and Texas (11.3%). There was no statistical difference between Florida and New Jersey.
- Persons born in Central America, South America, or the Caribbean accounted for 51 percent of the total foreign-born population (13.1 million). About 27 percent of the foreign born were from Asia, and 17 percent came from Europe.
- Seven million persons, or 27 percent of the foreign born in the United States in 1997, were born in Mexico.
- In March 1997, about 35 percent of the foreign born were naturalized citizens, and about 65 percent were not citizens.
- About one-quarter of both the native-born and foreign-born populations aged 25 years and over had com-

pleted 4 or more years of college (not statistically different). On the other hand, 34.7 percent of the foreign born over the age of 25 had not completed high school, compared with 15.6 percent of the comparable native-born population.

- In March 1997, 8.4 percent of the noncitizen, foreign-born persons in the labor force were unemployed, compared with 4.3 percent of naturalized, foreign-born citizens and 5.4 percent of the native-born.
- The poverty rate for naturalized citizens was 10.4 percent in 1996, lower than the rate for foreign-born noncitizens (26.8%), and the native-born (12.9%).
- In March 1997, there was a statistical difference between the percentages of the native born (3.3) and the foreign born (4.9) receiving public assistance.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-92 for \$31.00. Previous tabulation packages are also available. See below. To receive a paper copy of this tabulation, please send your request along with a check or money order in the amount of \$31.00 payable to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. Please be certain to specify the PPL you are requesting. A copy of the tabulation will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World-Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on Subjects A-Z, then select "Foreign Born." "The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 1997 (Update)" is listed under CPS March 1997—Detailed Tables.

For additional information on this topic, contact the Ethnic and Hispanic Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2403 or via Internet E-mail Audrey.D.Schmidley@ccmail.census.gov or Herman.A.Alvarado@ccmail.census.gov.

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey (the Current Population Survey). All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and analytical statements have been tested and meet statistical standards. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of data and the accuracy of estimates, including the use and computation of standard errors, contact Geneva A. Burns, Demographic Statistical Methods Division (301-457-4214) or via Internet E-mail Geneva.A.Burns@ccmail.census.gov.