The Foreign-Born Population in the United States

Since 1970, the foreign-born population has continued to increase in size and as a percent of the total population.

Today, the majority of foreign born are from Latin America and Asia.

Considerable differences exist among the different country-of-birth groups in various characteristics.

About 1 in 4 children under 18 in families have at least one foreign-born parent.
Defining Nativity Status: Foreign Born and Native Born

**Native born** – Anyone who *is* a U.S. citizen at birth
- Born in the United States
- Born in Puerto Rico
- Born in a U.S. Island Area (e.g., Guam)
- Born abroad of U.S. citizen parent(s)

**Foreign born** – Anyone who *is not* a U.S. citizen at birth
- Naturalized U.S. citizens
- Legal permanent residents
- Temporary migrants
- Humanitarian migrants
- Unauthorized migrants
Foreign-Born Population and Percentage of Total Population, for the United States: 1850 to 2010

Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1960 to 2010
(Numbers in millions)

Note: Other areas includes Africa, Northern America, Oceania, born at sea, and not reported.
Percentage of the Foreign-Born Population from Central America: 1960 to 2010

Percentage of the Foreign-Born Population from Mexico and Other Central America: 1960 to 2010

Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth: 2010

Numbers in millions

- Mexico: 11.7
- China: 2.2
- India: 1.8
- Philippines: 1.8
- Vietnam: 1.2
- El Salvador: 1.2
- Cuba: 1.1
- Korea: 1.1
- Dominican Republic: 0.9
- Guatemala: 0.8
- Canada: 0.8
- All other countries: 15.4

As a percent of the total foreign-born population:

- Mexico: 29%
- China: 5%
- India: 4%
- Philippines: 4%
- Vietnam: 3%
- El Salvador: 3%
- Cuba: 3%
- Korea: 3%
- Dominican Republic: 2%
- Guatemala: 2%
- Canada: 2%
- All other countries: 38%

Foreign-Born Population in 2010 Who Came to Live in the United States in 2005 or Later by Country of Birth

- Foreign born: 17%
- Mexico: 14%
- China: 23%
- India: 28%
- Philippines: 17%
- Vietnam: 13%


- 1970: 64%
- 1980: 51%
- 1990: 40%
- 2000: 40%
- 2010: 44%


- Foreign born: 44%
- Mexico: 23%
- China: 57%
- India: 46%
- Philippines: 65%
- Vietnam: 75%

Percentage of the Foreign-Born Population by Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability by Country of Birth: 2010
(Population 5 years and over)

- Speaks only English at home
- Language other than English spoken at home and speaks English "very well"

- **Foreign born**: 48%
  - 33% speaks only English at home
  - 15% speaks language other than English

- **Mexico**: 28%
  - 25% speaks only English at home
  - 3% speaks language other than English

- **China**: 39%
  - 31% speaks only English at home
  - 8% speaks language other than English

- **India**: 73%
  - 64% speaks only English at home
  - 9% speaks language other than English

- **Philippines**: 70%
  - 56% speaks only English at home
  - 14% speaks language other than English

- **Vietnam**: 32%
  - 25% speaks only English at home
  - 6% speaks language other than English

Percentage of Population With a High School Degree or Higher Education by Nativity Status and Country of Birth: 2010

(Population 25 years and over)

Percentage of Population With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher Education by Nativity Status and Country of Birth: 2010
(Population 25 years and over)

Percentage of Population With a Bachelor’s Degree Who Are Foreign Born by Field of Degree: 2010
(Population 25 years and over)

Nativity Status and Place of Birth of the Population With a Science and Engineering Bachelor’s Degree: 2010
(Population 25 years and over)

Science and engineering bachelor’s degree holders aged 25 and older

Region of birth for foreign born

Country of birth for those born in Asia

Labor Force Participation by Nativity Status and Country of Birth: 2010
(Population 25 years and over)

Occupation by Nativity Status and Country of Birth: 2010
(Civilian employed population 16 years and over)

- **Management, business, science, and arts occupations**
  - Median earnings: $51,209
- **Service occupations**
  - Median earnings: $16,910

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation Type</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Foreign Born</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Vietnam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management, business, science, and arts occupations</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service occupations</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Nativity Status and Country of Birth: 2010
(For full-time, year-round workers. In 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars)

Percentage of Families in Poverty by Nativity Status and Country of Birth of Householder: 2010
(Includes families for which poverty status was determined)

Children Under 18 Years in Families by Number and Nativity Status of Parent: 2010

Note: Includes “own children” or children under 18 years old who are sons/daughters by birth, marriage (a stepchild), or adoption. Total population size less than 18 years of age is 74.2 million. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010.