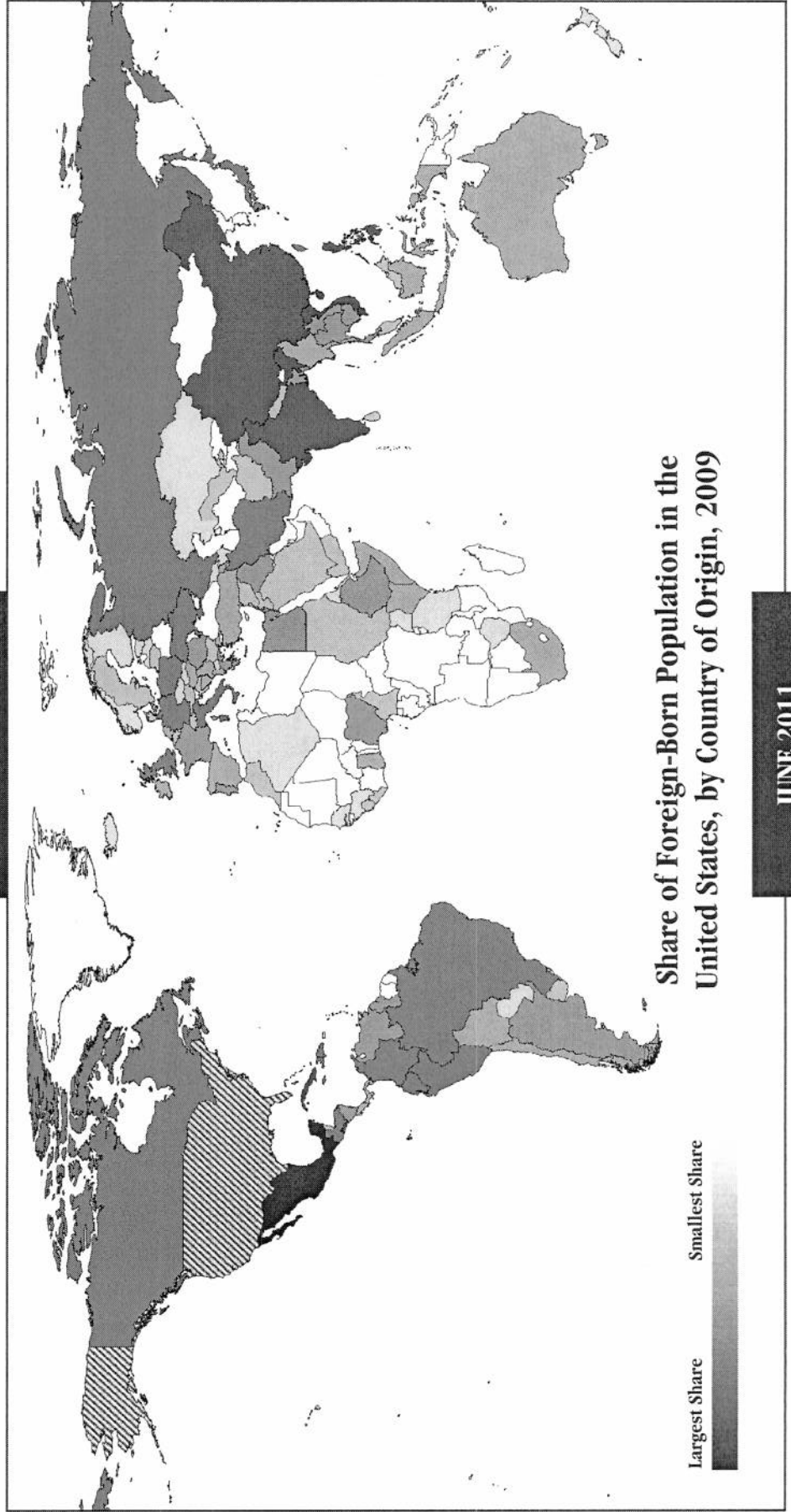
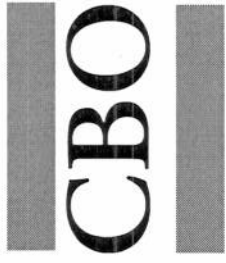


EXHIBIT A

CBO

A Description of the Immigrant Population: An Update





A Description of the Immigrant Population: An Update

June 2011

Notes and Definitions

Unless otherwise noted, all years referred to are calendar years. Numbers in the text and exhibits may not add up to totals because of rounding.

Foreign born: Born outside the United States (or one of its territories) to parents who are not U.S. citizens.

Immigrant: In this report, a synonym for foreign born.

Legal permanent resident: A noncitizen of the United States authorized to live, work, and study in the United States permanently. Such status is granted to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, including spouses, minor children, and parents. It can also be granted for family-sponsored preferences (for example, to extended family members such as aunts or cousins), employment-based preferences, and diversity preferences, although there is an annual cap on the number of people who can receive such grants. In addition, legal permanent resident status can be granted to people who are classified as refugees or asylum seekers. After becoming a legal permanent resident, a noncitizen immigrant receives a permanent resident card, commonly called a “green card,” which serves as proof of permission to live and work in the country.

Legal temporary resident or visitor: A noncitizen of the United States who is admitted to the country with a temporary visa or who is allowed to enter without a visa. People in those categories include visitors who are in the United States for short periods and temporary residents who are in the United States for longer, although time-limited, stays.

Native born: Born in the United States or one of its territories or, if born abroad, to at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen.

Naturalized citizen: A foreign-born individual who has become a U.S. citizen by fulfilling requirements set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act, including, in most cases, having resided in the United States for at least five years.

Unauthorized resident: A noncitizen of the United States who is in the United States without legal authorization. This group includes people who enter the country illegally and people who enter the country with valid visas but overstay their authorized time in the country.

Source data: Much of the information on immigration in this document comes from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of U.S. households conducted by the Census Bureau. The survey of people living in households excludes the roughly 3 percent of the resident U.S. population living in barracks, prisons, nursing homes, and other group quarters. Among other questions, respondents are asked where they and their parents were born. Those who were born in another country are asked when they came to the United States to stay and whether they have become citizens by naturalization. All information is reported by respondents and is not validated against other sources. No one is asked about legal immigration status. To increase the statistical accuracy of the estimates in this document, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) combined unduplicated samples from all 12 months of the 2009 CPS (known as the Outgoing Rotation Group files). CBO used the American Community Survey (ACS) for estimates of the total population, decade of arrival, and rates of fertility and the March 2009 CPS (also known as the Annual Social and Economic Supplement) for information on annual earnings, income, and poverty status. CBO did not attempt to adjust the estimates from the CPS or the ACS to account for the possibility that some foreign-born people should have been counted in those surveys but were not. For estimating the size of the unauthorized population, the Department of Homeland Security has assumed that the ACS's undercount rates range from 2.5 percent for noncitizens who are legal permanent residents, refugees, or have been granted asylum to 10 percent for noncitizens without authorization to be in the United States. Those estimates suggest that the ACS and CPS undercount the overall foreign-born population by about 5 percent.

Categories of regions: The foreign-born population from Mexico and Central America differs significantly from the remaining foreign-born population with respect to educational attainment and the likelihood of becoming naturalized citizens; consequently, that group is identified separately in this report. The foreign-born population from other parts of the world is divided into four regions, generally corresponding to continents. Oceania includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. Russia, which lies both in Europe and in Asia, is grouped with European countries, as is Canada.



Preface

Foreign-born people represent a large and growing share of the U.S. population. The native- and foreign-born populations differ in a variety of characteristics, such as age, fertility, educational attainment, occupation, earnings, and income. Among the foreign born, naturalized citizens differ from noncitizens, and people from some parts of the world differ from people from other parts on most of those characteristics.

In November 2004, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) published *A Description of the Immigrant Population*, which included data through 2003. This update contains information through 2009. It relies on a set of data sources that differ slightly from those used for the original paper.

Nabeel Alsalam and Jonathan Schwabish of CBO's Health and Human Resources Division wrote the document with guidance from Greg Acs, Joyce Manchester, and Bruce Vavrichek (formerly of CBO). CBO staff member Sarah Axteen provided research assistance, and the work benefited from the comments of Molly Dahl, Robert Dennis (formerly of CBO), Peter Fontaine, Patrice Gordon, Priscila Hammett, Jimmy Jin, Melissa Merrell, Jonathan Morancy, Paige Piper/Bach, Brian Prest, David Rafferty, and Robert Shackleton Jr. Helpful comments also came from William Kandel of the Congressional Research Service, Rakesh Kochhar of the Pew Hispanic Center, and Jennifer Van Hook of Pennsylvania State University. (The assistance of external reviewers implies no responsibility for the final product, which rests solely with CBO.) In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective analysis, this document makes no recommendations.

Kate Kelly and Sherry Snyder edited the document. Maureen Costantino and Jeanine Rees prepared the document for publication, Monte Ruffin produced the printed copies, and Linda Schimmel handled the print distribution. An electronic version is available from CBO's Web site (www.cbo.gov).



Douglas W. Elmendorf
Director

June 2011



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A Description of the Immigrant Population: An Update

In 2009, about 39 million foreign-born people lived in the United States, making up more than 12 percent of the U.S. population—the largest share since 1920. Naturalized citizens (foreign-born people who have fulfilled the requirements of U.S. citizenship) accounted for about 17 million of the total. Noncitizens (foreign-born people authorized to live and work in the United States either temporarily or permanently and people who are not authorized to live or work in the United States) accounted for about 22 million of the total. About half of the noncitizens were people without authorization to live or work in the United States, either temporarily or permanently.

In 2009, about 38 percent of foreign-born people in the United States were from Mexico or Central America; the next-largest group came from Asia and accounted for 27 percent of the total foreign-born population. In that year, about one-fifth of naturalized U.S. citizens were from Mexico or Central America; more than one-third were from Asia. About half of the noncitizens living in the United States in 2009 were from Mexico or Central America, and about one-fifth were from Asia. An estimated 62 percent of noncitizens unauthorized to live in the United States were from Mexico and another 12 percent were from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Legal Permanent Residents

From 2000 to 2009, more than 10 million people were granted legal permanent resident (LPR) status in the United States. Legal permanent residents are permitted to live, work, and study in the United States, and receiving LPR status is an important milestone on the path to U.S. citizenship. As a percentage of the U.S. population, grants of LPR status were down somewhat from the 1990s, but otherwise they were higher than at any time since the 1920s.

Over the past two centuries, the main nations of origin of legal permanent residents in the United States have changed. Until the past few decades, most people who came to the United States arrived from Europe and Canada; in the early part of the 20th century, 90 percent or more arrived here from those areas. By the early part of the 21st century, however, only about 15 percent of legal permanent residents were European or Canadian by birth; more than 30 percent were from Asia and another 22 percent were born in Mexico or Central America. The origins of people granted legal permanent residence in the United States largely translate into the origins of naturalized citizens some years later as those noncitizens become citizens. (One criterion for naturalized citizenship is a five-year period of residence on a permanent visa.) In 2009,

37 percent of naturalized citizens were from Asia, 21 percent were from Mexico and Central America, and 18 percent were from the Caribbean and South America; only 21 percent were from Europe and Canada.

Demographic Characteristics of Foreign-Born and Native-Born Populations

Foreign-born people live throughout the United States, and in some states they represent a substantial fraction of the population. In 2009, more than 1 in 4 people in California and more than 1 in 5 people in New York and New Jersey were born in another country. Conversely, in 31 states, fewer than 1 person in 20 was foreign born. The foreign-born share of the population increased in all but three states between 1999 and 2009, rising by 2.4 percentage points for the nation as a whole. New Jersey experienced a particularly large increase: The share of that state's population that was foreign-born increased from 15 percent in 1999 to more than 21 percent in 2009. The four states with the highest concentrations of unauthorized residents in 2009 were Nevada, California, Texas, and Arizona. Almost half of all unauthorized residents of the United States were living in those states.

Foreign-born people as a group differ in several important ways from their native-born counterparts. In particular, compared with the native-born population, relatively few foreign-born people are under the age of 25. In 2009, only 15 percent of the foreign-born population was under that age, compared with 37 percent of the native-born population. In contrast, nearly three-quarters of the foreign-born population was of working age (between 25 and 64 years old), compared with about half of the native-born population. Marriage and fertility rates are generally higher among young foreign-born women than among their native-born counterparts. In 2009, 20 percent of foreign-born women ages 15 to 24 were (or had been) married, compared with 9 percent of native-born women; 68 percent of foreign-born women ages 25 to 34 were (or had been) married, compared with 57 percent of native-born women. The fertility rate (the expected number of births) among foreign-born women between the ages of 15 and 49 was 2.6, compared with a fertility rate of 2.0 for native-born women in the same age range.

Educational attainment also differs considerably among foreign-born people, who overall have somewhat less education than do native-born people. In 2009, 29 percent of the foreign-born population between the ages of 25 and 64 had not completed high school, compared with 8 percent of the native-born population. Some groups of foreign-born people, however, had more education than did their native-born counterparts. About

55 percent of people from Asia had at least a bachelor's degree, as did 47 percent of people from Europe and Canada; just 32 percent of the native-born population had earned at least a bachelor's degree. More than half of the people from Mexico and Central America, 56 percent, had not finished high school, but only about 10 percent of people from Asia and 6 percent of people from Europe and Canada had less than a high school education.

Labor Market Characteristics of the Foreign-Born and Native-Born Populations

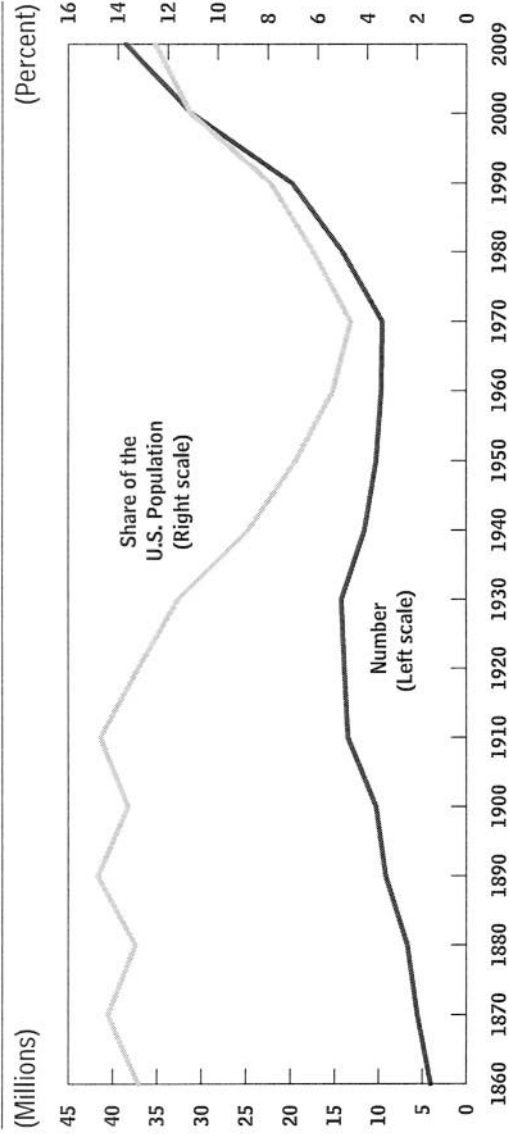
Foreign-born men are more likely to be working or looking for work (that is, to be in the labor force) than are native-born men. Foreign-born women, however, are less likely than native-born women to be in the labor force. In 2009, 93 percent of men ages 25 to 64 from Mexico and Central America were in the labor force, compared with 88 percent of men from Asia and 85 percent of native-born men. Conversely, 57 percent of women in that age group from Mexico and Central America were in the labor force in 2009, as were 67 percent of Asian women, both significantly below the 74 percent of native-born women in the labor force in that year.

Workers from Mexico and Central America are concentrated in a different set of occupations than are people from other regions of the world. In 2009, 21 percent of workers from that region

were in construction, mining, agriculture, or related occupations, compared with 5 percent of native-born workers. Reflecting their high level of educational attainment, 39 percent of workers from Asia were in the professional or technical occupations, compared with 30 percent of native-born workers in those occupations.

The differences in educational attainment, labor force participation, and concentration in particular occupational groups were reflected in the differences in the annual earnings of foreign-born workers, which also were strongly associated with citizenship status. The amount and distribution of annual earnings were similar for naturalized and native-born citizens, but earnings tended to be much lower among noncitizens. The amount of annual earnings among foreign-born workers also varied greatly by country of origin. For example, in 2009 the median annual earnings of male workers from Mexico and Central America was \$22,000. Among male workers from Asia, the median was \$48,000; among male workers from Europe and Canada, it was \$53,000; and among native-born male workers, it was \$45,000.

Noncitizens tended to live in families with much lower family income than native-born or naturalized citizens and, as a consequence, were more likely to have family income below the poverty threshold (about \$22,000 for a family of four in 2009). In 2009, 25 percent of noncitizens lived in poverty, compared with 11 percent of naturalized citizens and 14 percent of native-born people. ♦

Exhibit 1.**Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1860 to 2009**

Sources: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Campbell J. Gibson and Emily Lennon, *Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1950-1990*, Working Paper 29 (Census Bureau, Population Division, February 1999); Nolan Malone and others, *The Foreign-Born Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief (Census Bureau, December 2003); and Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

From 1860 to 1910, between 13 percent and 15 percent of people in the United States were born somewhere else. After 1910, that share of the population began a steady decline, falling to less than 5 percent by 1970, when the trend reversed. Between 1970 and 2000, the foreign-born population increased from 9.6 million to 31.5 million. In the 1970s, the rate of increase was about 0.4 million people per year; in the 1980s, the rate was about 0.6 million people per year; and in the 1990s, the rate was about 1.1 million people per year. The rate of increase slowed slightly during the 2000s, when about 0.8 million foreign-born people were added to the U.S. population each year. By 2009, 38.5 million people were foreign born. That group constituted roughly 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, about the same percentage as in the early part of the 20th century. ♦

Exhibit 2. Naturalized Citizens, by Period of Arrival in the United States and Birthplace, 2009

| Birthplace | Percentage of Naturalized Citizens from the Birthplace, by Period of Arrival | | | Number (Millions) | Naturalized Citizens in the United States | As a Percentage of: | | Population of the Birthplace ^b |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| | Before 1990 | 1990-1999 | 2000-2009 | | | United States | Foreign-Born Population in the United States | |
| | 1990 | 1999 | 2009 | | | Birthplace ^a | Birthplace ^b | |
| Mexico and Central America | 74 | 19 | 7 | 100 | 3.5 | 21 | 24 | 2.3 |
| Mexico | 75 | 18 | 7 | 100 | 2.6 | 15 | 23 | 2.3 |
| El Salvador | 74 | 20 | 6 | 100 | 0.3 | 2 | 28 | 4.5 |
| Asia | 61 | 30 | 9 | 100 | 6.2 | 37 | 58 | 0.2 |
| China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan | 60 | 30 | 10 | 100 | 1.2 | 7 | 60 | 0.1 |
| Philippines | 64 | 27 | 9 | 100 | 1.1 | 7 | 66 | 1.2 |
| India | 51 | 39 | 10 | 100 | 0.8 | 4 | 45 | 0.1 |
| Vietnam | 54 | 38 | 8 | 100 | 0.9 | 5 | 75 | 1.0 |
| Korea | 74 | 20 | 6 | 100 | 0.6 | 3 | 56 | 0.8 |
| Caribbean and South America | 67 | 24 | 9 | 100 | 3.0 | 18 | 50 | 0.7 |
| Cuba | 78 | 16 | 6 | 100 | 0.6 | 3 | 58 | 5.0 |
| Dominican Republic | 60 | 31 | 9 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 48 | 3.9 |
| Europe and Canada | 70 | 24 | 6 | 100 | 3.4 | 21 | 59 | 0.4 |
| Canada | 81 | 15 | 4 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 45 | 1.1 |
| Africa and Oceania ^c | 44 | 38 | 18 | 100 | 0.7 | 4 | 42 | 0.1 |
| All Areas | 66 | 26 | 8 | 100 | 16.8 | 100 | 44 | 0.3 |

Sources: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009; and Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook* (2009).

Note: The resident U.S. population in 2009 was about 307 million. The countries shown, including the group consisting of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, accounted for the largest shares of the total foreign-born U.S. population in 2009.

- The foreign-born population is the sum of the naturalized and noncitizen populations (see Exhibit 3 for the noncitizen population).
- The birthplace population is the naturalized population as a share of the population of the region or country in which they were born.
- Includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

In 2009, nearly 17 million people in the United States were naturalized citizens (that is, they were foreign-born people who became citizens by meeting the requirements of citizenship). That group constituted less than half of the total U.S. foreign-born population.

Naturalized citizens accounted for nearly 60 percent of the foreign-born population from Asia and from Europe and Canada but less than a quarter of the population from Mexico and Central America. In 2009, two-thirds of all naturalized citizens in the United States had arrived before 1990. About 80 percent of naturalized citizens from Cuba and Canada, but only 44 percent of those from Africa and Oceania, had arrived before 1990.

In 2009, one-fifth of all naturalized citizens were from Mexico and Central America; a much larger share (one-half) of all noncitizens were from those countries (see Exhibit 3). Another 37 percent of all naturalized citizens came from Asia, a proportion much larger than the 20 percent share of noncitizens who were from that region.

Overall, in 2009, naturalized citizens constituted only 0.3 percent of the population of their countries of birth. However, naturalized citizens from Cuba, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic constituted 5.0 percent, 4.5 percent, and 3.9 percent, respectively, of the populations of those countries. ♦

Exhibit 3.**Noncitizens, by Period of Arrival in the United States and Birthplace, 2009**

| Birthplace | Percentage of Noncitizens from the Birthplace, by Period of Arrival | | | | Number (Millions) | Naturalized Citizens in the United States | | As a Percentage of: Foreign-Born Population in the United States from the Birthplace ^a | | Population of the Birthplace ^b |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------|---|---------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| | Before 1990 | 1990-1999 | 2000-2009 | Total | | United States | United States | United States | United States | |
| | 1990 | 1999 | 2009 | Total | | United States | United States | Birthplace ^a | Birthplace ^b | |
| Mexico and Central America | 24 | 35 | 41 | 100 | 10.9 | 50 | 76 | 7.1 | | |
| Mexico | 25 | 35 | 40 | 100 | 8.9 | 41 | 77 | 8.0 | | |
| El Salvador | 25 | 33 | 42 | 100 | 0.8 | 4 | 72 | 11.6 | | |
| Asia | 12 | 22 | 66 | 100 | 4.4 | 20 | 42 | 0.1 | | |
| China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan | 8 | 27 | 65 | 100 | 0.8 | 4 | 40 | 0.1 | | |
| Philippines | 15 | 20 | 65 | 100 | 0.6 | 3 | 34 | 0.6 | | |
| India | 5 | 19 | 76 | 100 | 0.9 | 4 | 55 | 0.1 | | |
| Vietnam | 16 | 29 | 56 | 100 | 0.3 | 1 | 25 | 0.3 | | |
| Korea | 15 | 24 | 61 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 44 | 0.6 | | |
| Caribbean and South America | 19 | 28 | 53 | 100 | 3.0 | 14 | 50 | 0.7 | | |
| Cuba | 20 | 25 | 55 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 42 | 3.6 | | |
| Dominican Republic | 23 | 33 | 44 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 52 | 4.3 | | |
| Europe and Canada | 29 | 25 | 46 | 100 | 2.4 | 11 | 41 | 0.3 | | |
| Canada | 35 | 26 | 39 | 100 | 0.4 | 2 | 55 | 1.3 | | |
| Africa and Oceania ^c | 10 | 21 | 68 | 100 | 0.9 | 4 | 58 | 0.1 | | |
| All Areas | 21 | 29 | 50 | 100 | 21.6 | 100 | 56 | 0.3 | | |

Sources: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009; and Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook* (2009).

Note: The resident U.S. population in 2009 was about 307 million. The countries shown, including the group consisting of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, accounted for the largest shares of the total foreign-born U.S. population in 2009.

- The foreign-born population is the sum of the naturalized and noncitizen populations (see Exhibit 2 for the naturalized population).
- The birthplace population is the noncitizen population as a share of the population of the region or country in which they were born.
- Includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

In 2009, 22 million people in the United States were noncitizens in one of three categories: legal permanent residents on the path to U.S. citizenship, legal temporary residents here for a limited time, and people here without authorization. (Authorized visitors, such as tourists, are not counted in the foreign-born population.)

In 2009, about half of all the noncitizens living in the United States had arrived after 1999.

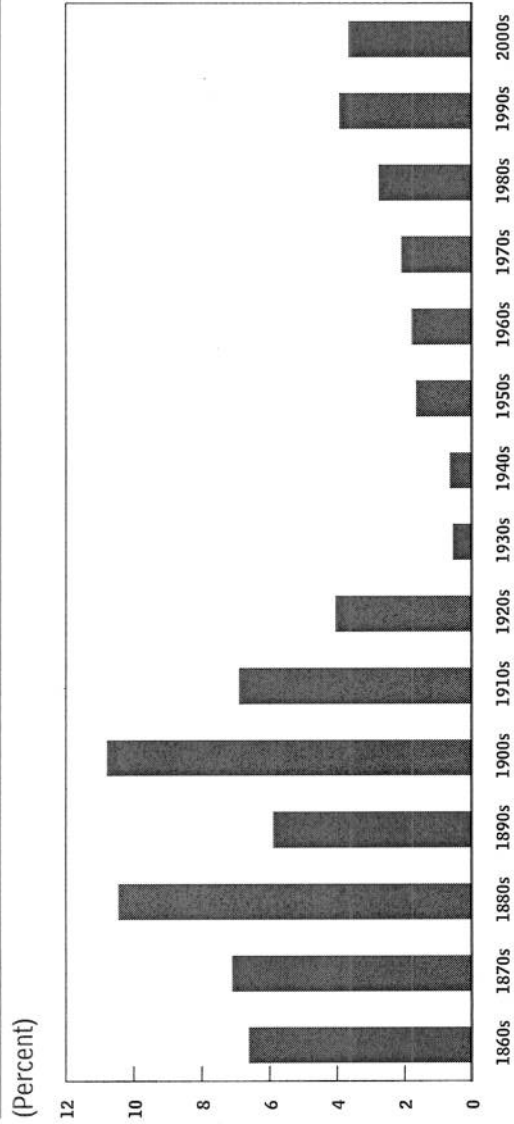
About 40 percent of all noncitizens from Canada, Mexico, and Central America had arrived after 1999, but about two-thirds of all noncitizens from Asia and from Africa and Oceania have arrived since then.

Overall, in 2009, noncitizens living in the United States constituted only 0.3 percent of the population of their countries of birth. However, noncitizens from Mexico and Central America constituted more than 7.0 percent of the population in those countries, including 8.0 percent of the Mexican population and 11.6 percent of the population of El Salvador. The noncitizen population in the United States from Cuba and the Dominican Republic constituted 3.6 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively, of the populations of those countries. ♦



Grants of Legal Permanent Resident Status

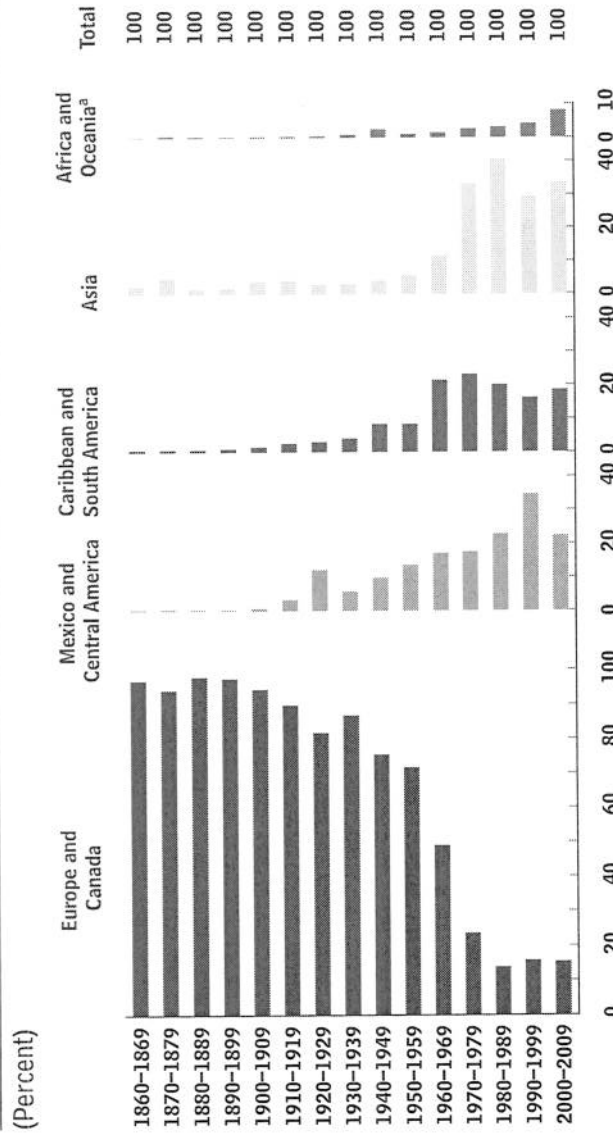


Exhibit 4.**Grants of Legal Permanent Resident Status During the Decade as a Percentage of the U.S. Population in the First Year of the Decade, 1860 to 2009**

Source: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, *2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (August 2010).

Between 2000 and 2009, 10.3 million people, or 3.7 percent of the U.S. population, became legal permanent residents of the United States, either as new arrivals or because of an adjustment in their status. (Legal permanent residents are noncitizens who are authorized to live, work, and study in the United States permanently.) That percentage is about the same as it was during the 1920s, before the enactment of a series of laws that placed restrictions and quotas on the immigration of people from various countries.

In the 1930s, the proportion of people granted LPR status declined to less than 1.0 percent of the total U.S. population, in part as a result of the Great Depression. In the 1940s, the rate at which LPR status was granted to people began to rise, and it continued to do so through the 1990s, before falling off slightly in the 2000s. The most recent decline may be the result of increased scrutiny of applications stemming from concerns about national security. ♦

Exhibit 5.**Percentage of Grants of Legal Permanent Resident Status, by Birthplace and Decade, 1860 to 2009**

Source: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, *2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (August 2010).

Note: Data represent the sum over each decade.

a. Includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

For much of the nation's early history, most people who emigrated to the United States came from Europe and Canada. Beginning in the 1920s, however, and continuing until the 1960s, various quotas and preferences were put in place, so that by the end of the 20th century, the nation's grants of legal permanent resident status went to people from a broader cross section of the world's countries. As the proportion of people arriving from Europe and Canada declined between the 1930s and the 1980s, grants of LPR status to people from Asia, Mexico, and Central America steadily increased. Since the 1970s, the largest proportion of new legal permanent residents have come from Asia. In fact, between the 1960s and the 1980s, the share of people granted LPR status from Asia nearly tripled.

In the 1990s, the proportion of people from Mexico and Central America who were granted LPR status jumped because of provisions enacted in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. That legislation granted LPR status to some agricultural workers and unauthorized residents who could prove they had been in the country continuously since at least 1982.

The most notable change in the first decade of the 21st century was a decrease of about one-third (from 35 percent to 22 percent) in the share of people from Mexico and Central America granted LPR status. Over the most recent decade, one-third of all people granted LPR status were from Asia. ♦

Exhibit 6. Grants of Legal Permanent Resident Status, by Time and Major Category of Admission, Fiscal Years 2004 and 2009

| | 2004 | | 2009 | | Percentage Change, 2004 to 2009 |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Number (Thousands) | Percentage of Total | Number (Thousands) | Percentage of Total | |
| Time of Admission | | | | | |
| First-Time Admission to the U.S. | 374 | 39 | 463 | 41 | 24 |
| Admitted Previously, Status Changed to Legal Permanent Resident | 584 | 61 | 668 | 59 | 14 |
| Total | 958 | 100 | 1,131 | 100 | 18 |
| Category of Admission | | | | | |
| Uncapped | | | | | |
| Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens | 418 | 44 | 536 | 47 | 28 |
| Humanitarian ^a | 120 | 13 | 191 | 17 | 59 |
| Capped | | | | | |
| Family-sponsored preferences | 214 | 22 | 212 | 19 | -1 |
| Employment-based preferences | 155 | 16 | 144 | 13 | -7 |
| Diversity Program ^b | 50 | 5 | 48 | 4 | -4 |
| Total | 958 | 100 | 1,131 | 100 | 18 |

Source: Congressional Budget Office based on data from Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, *2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (August 2010).

- a. Primarily consists of grants to refugees and asylum seekers.
- b. The program grants legal permanent resident status to up to 50,000 people annually who are randomly selected from all applicants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States and who meet strict eligibility requirements. See Congressional Budget Office, *Immigration Policy in the United States: An Update* (December 2010).

In fiscal year 2009, more than 1.1 million people, about 60 percent of whom were already in the country, were granted LPR status. Annual grants to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (including spouses, parents, and minor children) and humanitarian grants to asylum seekers and refugees are not capped by federal law, although the President sets the limit on the number of refugees who can enter the United States each year. In contrast, annual grants to people in the family-sponsored and employment-based categories and under the Diversity Program are capped. In 2009, almost half of all grants of LPR status (47 percent) went to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. About 19 percent were awarded under the family-sponsored preference system (which includes other close relatives of U.S. citizens and immediate and close relatives of legal permanent residents), 17 percent were awarded on humanitarian grounds (to refugees and asylum seekers), 13 percent were awarded on the basis of employment preferences, and 4 percent were awarded under the Diversity Program.

Between 2004 and 2009, the two uncapped categories grew significantly. Grants of LPR status to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens increased by 28 percent, and grants to refugees and asylum seekers increased by 59 percent. Despite that latter increase, however, in 2009 more grants went to people with family-sponsored preferences (212,000 people) than to refugees or asylum seekers (191,000 people). ♦

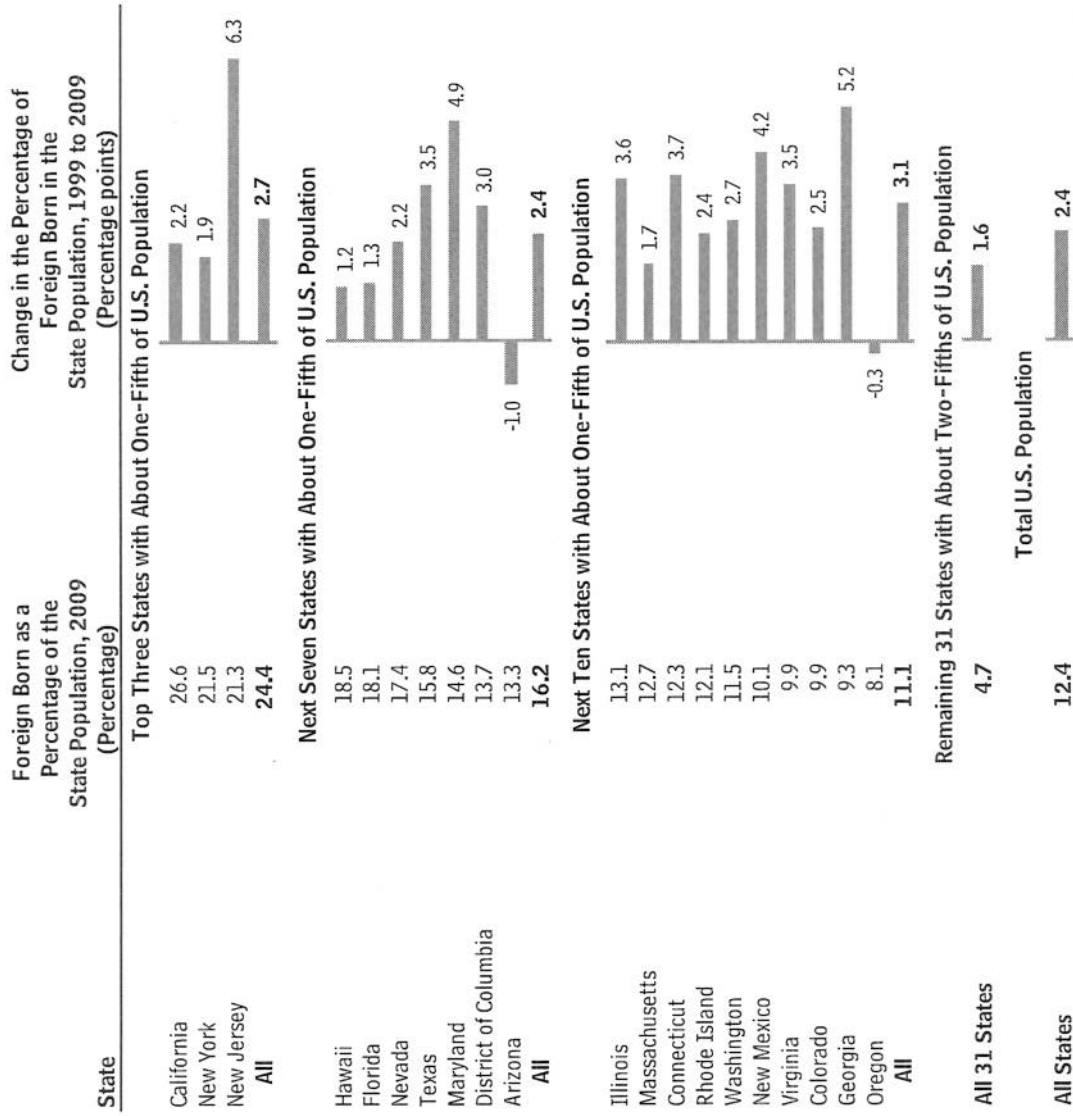


**Demographic Characteristics of the
Foreign-Born and Native-Born Populations**



Exhibit 7.

Foreign-Born Population, by State of Residence, 1999 to 2009



In 2009, three states—California, New York, and New Jersey—which account for more than one-fifth of the nation's population, had a foreign-born population that exceeded 20 percent of the state's total population. In another 17 states, accounting for 39 percent of the U.S. population, foreign-born people made up between 8 percent and 19 percent of the state's total. In the remaining 31 states, mostly in the center of the country, fewer than 1 in 20 people was foreign born. Illinois was the exception among the Midwestern states; its foreign-born population made up about 13.1 percent (about 1 in 8 people) of the state's population in 2009. Among the 20 states with the largest proportion of foreign-born people, that proportion was 17.5 percent in 2009, up by 2.6 percentage points since 1999. (Data for the combined 20 states are not shown in the exhibit.) ♦

Source: Congressional Budget Office based on monthly data from Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Outgoing Rotation Groups, 1999 and 2009.