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**Snapshot of U.S. Immigration**  
(revised Feb. 2016)

This brief provides demographic information for the foreign-born in the United States, including permanent and temporary legal admissions, refugees, and unauthorized migrants, using the most recent data available. The brief also includes additional resources for demographic data of the foreign-born at the national and state level.

Total U.S. population	319 million
Total foreign-born population	42 million
% Foreign Born	13%

**Foreign-Born Population**

- Naturalized Citizens 18 million
- Legal Noncitizens 13 million
- Unauthorized immigrants 11 million

**Main source countries/regions**

As of 2013, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, Mexico was the single largest source country (28%) followed by South or East Asia at 26%. Other regions accounting for significant shares were the Caribbean, at about 10%, Central America (8%), South America (7%), the Middle East (4%) and sub-Saharan Africa (4%).

**Permanent Residence** (people approved)

In 2013, 990,553 visas were issued for permanent residence:		
Family & immediate Relatives	649,763	65.6%
Employment	161,110	16.3%
Refugees and Asylees	119,630	12.1%
Diversity (underrepresented countries)	45,618	4.6%

Of the 990,553 permanent visas:

530,802 adjustments were within the United States	53.6%
459,751 were new arrivals	46.4%

Main source of legal immigrants by country and year:

	2011	2012	2013
Mexico	13.5%	Mexico 14.2%	Mexico 13.6%
China	8.2%	China 7.9%	China 7.2%
India	6.5%	India 6.4%	India 6.9%
<b>Total</b>	1,062,040	1,031,631	990,553

### Temporary Visas (nonimmigrant)

Temporary visas are issued to business visitors and tourists, students, temporary workers and representatives of foreign governments or international organizations. In 2014, the U.S. Department of State issued approximately 9.9 million nonimmigrant visas. About 65% of the issuances are temporary visitors for business and for pleasure. China is the leading country for temporary visa issuances (1.8 million), followed by Mexico, Brazil, India and Colombia.

### Refugee/Humanitarian

In 2013, 69,909 refugees were admitted to the U.S. The main countries of origin were: Iraq 27.9%, Burma 23.3%, Bhutan 13.1%, Somalia 10.9%, and Cuba 6.0%. The ceiling for admissions was 70,000.

In 2013, 25,199 individuals were granted asylum. The main countries of origin were: China 34%, Egypt 13.5%, Ethiopia 3.5%, Nepal 3.4% and Syria 3.2%.

#### Refugee main countries of origin:

	2011	2012	2013
	Burma 30.1%	Bhutan 25.9%	Iraq 27.9%
	Bhutan 26.6%	Burma 24.3%	Burma 23.3%
	Iraq 16.7%	Iraq 20.9%	Bhutan 13.1%
	Somalia 5.6%	Somalia 8.4%	Somalia 10.9%
<b>Total</b>	56,384	58,179	69,909

#### Asylee main countries of origin:

	2011	2012	2013
	China 34.4%	China 34.5%	China 34.1%
	Venezuela 4.4%	Egypt 9.8%	Egypt 13.5%
	Ethiopia 4.3%	Ethiopia 3.8%	Ethiopia 3.5%
	Egypt 4.1%	Nepal 3.3%	Nepal 3.4%
<b>Total</b>	24,988	29,367	25,199

Refugees must adjust to legal permanent resident status after one year of residence. Asylees may apply for lawful residence one year after their grant of asylum.

### Unauthorized Immigration

In 2012, approximately 11 million unauthorized were estimated to be residing in the United States. Approximately, three-fourths of unauthorized immigrants were from North America (Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America), with most immigrants coming from Mexico (about 59 percent, 6.7 million). Roughly 85 percent of unauthorized immigrants fell into age groups below 44 years (61 percent were ages 25 to 44).

## Resources

### Government

#### [U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration Statistics](#)

- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Estimates of the Lawful Permanent Resident Population in the United States: January 2013](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Nonimmigrant admissions to the United States 2013](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Refugees and Asylees 2013](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2012](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Immigration Enforcement Actions 2013](#)

#### [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Refugee Resettlement Arrival Data](#)

#### [U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration](#)

#### [U.S. Department of State Report of the Visa Office 2014](#)

#### [US Citizenship and Immigration Service Data](#)

#### [U.S. Department of Labor: Foreign-Born Workers 2014](#)

### Research Institutions

#### [Migration Policy Institute: State Immigration Data Profiles](#)

#### [Migration Policy Institute: Immigrant Population by State](#)

#### [Migration Policy Institute: Asian Immigrants in the United States](#)

#### [Pew Research Center Hispanic Trends: US Foreign Born Population Trends](#)

#### [Pew Research Center: Statistical Portrait of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1960 – 2013](#)

#### [Center for Migration Studies: The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population](#)