



The Immigrant Population of the United States in 2006

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One in every eight residents in the United States was foreign born in 2006. That is the largest immigrant share the country has had since 1920, when concern over the concentration of immigrants led to the adoption of laws to severely curtail their flow into the country. The 37.4 million foreign-born residents in 2006 is by far the greatest number in our history and it dwarfs the fewer than 14 million immigrants in 1920. Since 1970, following the reopening of mass immigration, the foreign-born population of the country has increased by 27.8 million persons — 289 percent.

The traditional immigrant settlement states — New York, California, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida — continue to be the destinations of the largest numbers of immigrants, including persons arriving illegally. Nevertheless, they are not the only states to see their population significantly affected by immigrant settlement.

Every state, as well as Washington, DC, has seen its immigrant population grow since 2000. That holds true for Louisiana and North Dakota, which have seen an overall drop in population since 2000 — Louisiana because of the devastation of hurricane Katrina that displaced more than one million residents. Two states and Washington, D.C. have seen arriving immigrants account for more than 100 percent of their population growth. Those are New York and Massachusetts.

An additional nine states have seen the arrival of immigrants account for more than half of their population increase since 2000. Those include only New Jersey and California among the traditional major immigrant settlement states. The others are Rhode Island, Michigan, Iowa, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas and Nebraska. The traditional immigrant-receiving states of Texas, Florida, and Illinois had lower shares of population increase attributable to the immigration flow.

It should be kept in mind when considering the impact of immigration's share of population growth, that in addition to the direct impact resulting from newly arriving immigrants (minus departures), there is also an indirect effect on population growth that results from the children born to immigrants after their arrival. In general, the immigrant population has a higher birth rate than native-born residents.

Below we provide our estimates of the foreign-born population in 2006 for each state and for the District of Columbia. The top states are also identified by rank order using different measures of the impact on the locality's population.

RANKINGS

- Which states are adding the largest number of immigrants per year since 2000?

California	214,110
Texas	106,380
New York	103,800
Florida	83,265
Illinois	52,970
New Jersey	46,355
Georgia	31,715
Arizona	27,635
Massachusetts	26,285
North Carolina	25,285

The six traditional immigrant settlement states continue to account for the largest annual increases in immigrant population. The national total increase is just under one million per year (996,000) between the 2000 Census and mid-year 2006.

- Which states have the largest share of their population change since 2000 due to immigrant settlement?

Louisiana	neg.
North Dakota	neg.
New York	all+
Massachusetts	all+
D.C.	all+
New Jersey	94.1%
Rhode Island	93.5%
Michigan	81.1%
Iowa	79.0%
Connecticut	76.8%
Pennsylvania	64.9%
Ohio	61.5%
California	52.2%
Kansas	50.9%
Nebraska	39.7%

This ranking is a measure of the impact of immigration that compares change in the immigrant population to the change in the overall population. Two states have had a drop in population between the 2000 Census and mid-year 2006 while at the same time having an increase in their foreign-born population. Another three have had an increase in the foreign-born population that was greater than the overall population increase (including traditional immigrant gateway New York). For these states the amount of increase in population attributable to immigrant settlement is greater than 100 percent. Among the other ten states listed above, only two of the traditional six immigrant settlement states appear, i.e., New Jersey and California. Not making this list of most-immigrant-impacted states are the traditional major settlement states of Texas, Florida and New Jersey.

- Which states have the largest foreign-born populations in 2006?

California	10,213,135
New York	4,522,080
Texas	3,569,825
Florida	3,195,405
Illinois	1,862,755
New Jersey	1,768,350
Massachusetts	938,590
Arizona	830,285
Georgia	777,085
Washington	744,985

The six traditional magnet states for immigrants continue to head the list. There remains a sizable drop to the next tier of four states. However, the relative rate of change for these states is another matter. Since 1970 California's foreign-born population has increased by 481 percent. Of the above states, the one with the largest percentage increase in its foreign-born population since 1970 is

Georgia, which has seen an increase of 2,256 percent. Following in descending order are the rates of increase experienced by the other eight states: Texas (1,052%), Arizona (984%), Florida (491%), Washington (378%), Illinois (196%), New Jersey (179%), New York (114%), and Massachusetts (90%). Other states with not as large numeric increases but enormous surges in the immigrant share since 1970 are Nevada (2,007%), North Carolina (1,959%), Arkansas (1,058%) and Tennessee (1,007%).

- Which states have the largest immigrant shares of their 2006 population?

California	28.0%
New York	23.4%
New Jersey	20.3%
Hawaii	18.3%
Florida	17.0%
D.C.	16.3%
Nevada	15.3%
Texas	15.2%
Massachusetts	14.6%
Illinois	14.5%

The traditional immigrant states are joined by Hawaii, the District of Columbia, Nevada, and Massachusetts in a ranking of the largest share of population that was foreign-born in 2006. All of these states have a foreign-born population share in 2006 that is larger than the national average of 12.5 percent. Other states that have a foreign-born population share greater than the national average are Arizona, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

- What share of the nation's immigrant population live in the major settlement states in 2006?

California	27.3%
New York	12.1%
Texas	9.5%
Florida	8.5%
Illinois	5.0%
New Jersey	4.7%
Massachusetts	2.5%
Arizona	2.2%
Georgia	2.1%
Washington	2.0%

The previous ten states collectively account for more than three-fourths (76%) of the total foreign-born population of the country. Just the top five states account for more than three-fifths (62.5%) of the total foreign-born population.

FULL LISTING OF 2006 ESTIMATED FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

METHODOLOGY

The estimated national population and that of the states as of mid-year 2006 is produced by the U.S. Census Bureau based on the Current Population Survey. The estimate of the foreign-born population is derived from combining the estimated population change since the 2000 Census due to Net International Migration, also estimated by the Census Bureau based on the CPS, with the 2000 Census enumeration of the foreign-born. This number is then adjusted for an average population loss resulting from mortality during the 6.3-year period since the Census.

State	Foreign-Born 2006	Foreign-Born % 2006
Alabama	114,110	2.5%
Alaska	40,340	6.0%
Arizona	830,285	13.5%
Arkansas	96,000	3.4%
California	10,213,135	28.0%
Colorado	485,945	10.2%
Connecticut	446,180	12.7%
D.C.	94,865	16.3%
Delaware	56,225	6.6%
Florida	3,195,405	17.0%
Georgia	777,085	8.3%
Hawaii	234,685	18.3%
Idaho	78,460	5.4%
Illinois	1,862,755	14.5%
Indiana	246,400	3.9%
Iowa	122,710	4.1%
Kansas	173,205	6.3%
Kentucky	107,215	2.5%
Louisiana	133,225	3.1%
Maine	40,805	3.1%
Maryland	625,040	11.1%
Massachusetts	938,590	14.6%
Michigan	651,060	6.4%
Minnesota	355,055	6.5%
Mississippi	49,000	1.7%
Missouri	194,490	3.3%
Montana	17,830	1.9%
Nebraska	97,280	5.5%
Nevada	382,980	15.3%
New Hampshire	65,465	5.0%
New Jersey	1,768,350	20.3%
New Mexico	176,090	9.0%
New York	4,522,080	23.4%
North Carolina	589,295	6.7%
North Dakota	15,220	2.4%
Ohio	416,065	3.6%
Oklahoma	167,255	4.7%
Oregon	365,235	9.9%
Pennsylvania	611,780	4.9%
Rhode Island	137,310	12.9%
South Carolina	150,605	3.5%
South Dakota	17,195	2.2%
Tennessee	210,635	3.5%
Texas	3,569,825	15.2%
Utah	211,810	8.3%
Vermont	27,525	4.4%
Virginia	696,395	9.1%
Washington	744,985	11.6%
West Virginia	22,965	1.3%
Wisconsin	241,420	4.3%
Wyoming	13,050	2.5%
United States	37,400,915	12.5%



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