

# Immigration II

Real Women Have Curves

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## Origins and Destinies

- Main questions:
  - 1. How did immigration change since 1940?
  - 2. Where do immigrants come from?
  - 3. Where do they go?
  - 4. What is their socio-economic profile?
  - 5. Are immigrants a cost or a benefit to the US?

# 1. How did immigration change?

Table I. Decennial Trends, 1890–1990, in the U.S. Foreign-Born Population (Census Data), in Legal Immigration by Region of Origin (INS Data on Admissions to Permanent Residence), and in Net Immigration Proportion of Total U.S. Population Growth<sup>a</sup>

Census year	Census data: Foreign-born population		Decade	INS data: Immigration by decade and region of last residence					Population growth due to net immigration (%)
	N (1000s)	% Foreign-born of total U.S. population		N (1000s)	North/West Europe and Canada (%)	South/East Europe (%)	Latin America (%)	Asia (%)	
1900	10,445	13.6	1891–1900	3,688	44.7	51.8	1.0	2.0	20.3
1910	13,360	14.7	1901–1910	8,795	23.8	69.9	2.1	3.7	39.6
1920	14,020	13.2	1911–1920	5,736	30.3	58.0	7.0	4.3	17.7
1930	14,283	11.6	1921–1930	4,107	53.8	28.7	14.4	2.7	15.0
1940	11,657	8.8	1931–1940	528	58.0	28.3	9.7	3.1	1.6
1950	10,431	6.9	1941–1950	1,035	63.8	12.8	14.9	3.6	8.8
1960	9,738	5.5	1951–1960	2,515	51.8	16.0	22.2	6.1	10.6
1970	9,619	4.7	1961–1970	3,322	30.0	16.3	38.6	12.9	16.1
1980	14,080	6.2	1971–1980	4,493	10.2	11.4	40.3	35.3	17.9
1990	19,767	7.9	1981–1990	7,338 <sup>b</sup>	7.2	5.3	47.1	37.3	39.1

<sup>a</sup>Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstracts of the United States* (112th ed.), 1992, Tables 1, 5–6, and 45; U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Statistical Yearbooks, 1990–1992*, Tables 1 and 2.

<sup>b</sup>Data include 1,359,186 formerly undocumented immigrants who had resided in the United States since 1982 and whose status was legalized in fiscal years 1989 and 1990 under the provisions of the IRCA of 1986. An additional 1.7 million eligible legalization applicants, already qualified under IRCA, had not yet adjusted their status to permanent resident as of 1990 and are thus not included in this table; they are reflected in INS statistics for fiscal 1991 and subsequent years. Indeed, in 1991 a record total of 1,827,167 immigrants were legally admitted into the United States; of these, 1,123,162 were IRCA legalizes.

## 2. Where do immigrants come from?

## 3. Where do they go?

**Table II.** Size, Year of Immigration, U.S. Citizenship, and Patterns of Concentration of Principal Foreign-Born Groups in the United States in 1990, by Region and Country of Birth, in Rank Order by Recency of Arrival<sup>a</sup>

Region/ country of birth	Persons ( <i>N</i> )	( <i>%</i> )	Year of immigration to the United States				Naturalized U.S. citizen		States of principal settlement		
			1980s ( <i>%</i> )	1970s ( <i>%</i> )	1960s ( <i>%</i> )	Pre 1960 ( <i>%</i> )	Yes ( <i>%</i> )	No ( <i>%</i> )	California ( <i>%</i> )	New York/ New Jersey ( <i>%</i> )	Florida ( <i>%</i> )
Africa	363,819	1.8	61	28	7	4	34	66	18.1	22.2	4.1
Asia	4,979,037	25.2	57	29	9	5	41	59	40.2	15.7	2.3
Latin America/Caribbean	8,416,924	42.6	50	28	15	7	27	73	38.7	17.9	12.8
Europe and Canada	5,095,233	25.8	20	13	19	48	63	37	16.1	24.6	7.5
Cambodia <sup>b</sup>	118,833	0.6	86	14	0	0	20	80	47.5	3.0	1.1
Laos <sup>b</sup>	171,577	0.9	73	27	0	0	17	83	42.0	1.8	1.3
Vietnam <sup>b</sup>	543,262	2.7	64	35	1	0	43	57	49.9	3.9	2.4
El Salvador	485,433	2.4	76	19	4	1	15	85	60.3	10.5	2.1
Guatemala	225,739	1.1	69	22	7	2	17	83	60.2	10.7	5.1
Nicaragua	168,659	0.9	75	16	5	4	15	85	34.6	7.1	42.7
Korea	568,397	2.9	55	37	6	2	41	59	35.2	17.5	1.5
Taiwan	244,102	1.2	65	27	8	1	39	61	42.9	16.8	1.9
Iran	210,941	1.1	50	41	6	3	27	73	54.7	9.1	2.3
Haiti	225,393	1.1	61	26	11	2	27	73	1.2	45.7	36.9
India	450,406	2.3	58	30	10	2	35	65	18.6	26.4	2.7
Philippines	912,674	4.6	51	31	13	5	54	46	52.8	9.8	2.4
Mexico	4,298,014	21.6	50	31	11	8	23	77	57.6	1.3	1.3
Dominican Republic	347,858	1.8	53	27	17	3	28	72	1.0	79.9	6.7
Colombia	286,124	1.4	52	27	18	3	29	71	10.7	43.0	23.3
Jamaica	334,140	1.7	47	33	15	5	38	62	3.4	50.2	22.1
Hong Kong	147,131	0.7	44	33	19	4	55	45	43.9	24.5	1.8
China	529,837	2.7	55	21	13	11	44	56	39.9	27.5	1.5
Japan	290,128	1.5	53	16	14	17	28	72	33.6	14.2	2.3
Cuba <sup>b</sup>	736,971	3.7	26	19	46	9	51	49	6.7	15.6	67.5

# Continued

Table II. Continued

Region/ country of birth	Persons (N)		Year of immigration to the United States				Naturalized U.S. citizen		States of principal settlement		
			1980s (%)	1970s (%)	1960s (%)	Pre 1960 (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	California (%)	New York/ New Jersey (%)	Florida (%)
Soviet Union <sup>b</sup>	333,725	1.7	34	17	3	46	59	41	23.2	35.3	5.3
Poland <sup>b</sup>	388,328	2.0	33	11	13	43	62	38	7.5	32.8	6.8
Portugal	210,122	1.1	25	36	29	10	44	56	17.1	23.4	1.8
Greece	177,398	0.9	13	28	28	31	71	29	9.5	32.6	5.1
United Kingdom	640,145	3.2	25	15	20	40	50	50	21.2	16.0	9.5
Canada	744,830	3.8	17	12	20	51	54	46	21.0	9.6	10.4
Ireland	169,827	0.9	19	8	16	57	68	32	11.1	40.0	4.5
Germany	711,929	3.6	11	8	22	59	72	28	14.6	18.9	7.8
Italy	580,592	2.9	5	14	23	58	76	24	8.3	44.9	4.9
Total foreign-born	19,767,316	100.0	44	25	14	17	41	59	32.7	19.3	8.4
Total native-born	228,942,557	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.2	9.6	4.9

<sup>a</sup>Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Ethnic Profiles for States*, CPH-L-136, 1993; *The Foreign Born Population in the United States 1990* CP-3-1, July 1993, Tables 1 and 3; and *The Foreign Born Population in the United States: 1990*, CPH-L-98, 1993, Table 13. Data on year of immigration are drawn from a 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the 1990 Census, and subject to sample variability; decimals are rounded off.

<sup>b</sup>Denotes country from which most recent migrants to the United States have been officially admitted as refugees.

## 4. What is their socio-economic profile?

Table III. Age, Gender, English Proficiency, Fertility, and Family Contexts of Principal Immigrant Groups in the United States in 1990, in Rank Order by Age, by Region and Country of Birth, Compared to Native U.S. Racial-Ethnic Groups<sup>a</sup>

Region/ country of birth	Persons (N)	Age		Gender: Female (%)	Speaks English <sup>b</sup>		Fertility: Children born per woman 35-44	Family contexts <sup>d</sup>	
		Median age (years)	60 years or older (%)		English only (%)	Not well or at all (%)		Female householder (%)	Children <18 with 2 parents (%)
Europe and Canada	5,095,233	53	40.0	57.0	45	9	1.8	10.9	86
Asia	4,979,037	35	10.6	51.0	8	22	2.0	10.7	83
Africa	363,819	34	6.2	40.7	25	5	2.2	11.0	75
Latin America/Caribbean	8,416,924	33	9.6	48.4	13	40	2.7	19.1	69
Italy	580,592	59	48.3	51.8	22	16	2.1	9.8	85
Poland <sup>e</sup>	388,328	57	46.9	52.8	20	20	1.6	11.1	83
Ireland	169,827	56	43.6	60.0	90	0	2.4	17.1	88
Soviet Union <sup>e</sup>	333,725	55	45.8	54.8	20	24	1.7	10.8	88
Canada	744,830	53	40.7	58.7	80	1	1.8	12.3	86
Germany	711,929	53	37.0	64.6	41	2	1.8	16.4	75
United Kingdom	640,145	50	33.9	59.8	93	0	1.8	13.9	85
Cuba <sup>f</sup>	736,971	49	30.1	51.6	5	40	1.8	16.2	72
Greece	177,398	49	26.6	46.2	11	20	2.1	67.4	89
China	529,837	45	25.1	50.5	3	44	1.8	8.2	87
Portugal	210,122	40	17.3	50.0	6	34	2.1	8.0	89
Philippines	912,674	39	14.7	56.7	11	7	1.9	15.1	78
Japan	290,128	38	12.5	62.6	16	25	1.6	14.7	95
Jamaica	334,140	36	12.0	55.2	94	0	2.2	34.6	53
Colombia	286,124	35	8.2	53.6	5	34	1.8	21.5	65
India	450,406	36	6.4	45.1	12	9	2.0	3.3	92
Iran	210,941	35	9.1	41.9	8	12	1.8	7.6	86
Korea	568,397	35	8.1	57.0	7	30	1.8	11.1	87

# Continued

Table III. Continued

Region/ country/ of birth	Persons ( <i>N</i> )	Age		Gender: Female (%)	Speaks English <sup>b</sup>		Fertility: Children born per woman 35–44	Family contexts <sup>d</sup>	
		Median age (years)	60 years or older (%)		English only (%)	Not well or at all (%)		Female householder (%)	Children <18 with 2 parents (%)
Haiti	225,393	35	7.3	50.2	6	23	2.4	27.6	56
Dominican Republic	347,858	34	7.9	54.5	4	45	2.5	41.3	47
Taiwan	244,102	33	3.6	53.0	5	17	1.7	10.2	81.0
Nicaragua	168,659	30	7.1	51.8	4	41	2.5	21.0	66
Mexico	4,298,014	30	7.0	44.9	4	49	3.3	14.1	73
Vietnam <sup>e</sup>	543,262	30	5.3	47.4	4	31	2.5	15.3	73
Guatemala	225,739	30	4.2	48.7	3	45	2.6	19.5	66
Hong Kong	147,131	30	3.2	49.9	7	15	1.7	9.7	84
El Salvador	485,433	29	3.9	46.3	3	49	2.7	21.4	61
Cambodia <sup>e</sup>	118,833	29	5.1	52.4	2	43	3.3	24.3	71
Laos <sup>e</sup>	171,577	27	4.9	48.3	2	43	4.2	11.9	81
Total foreign born	19,767,316	37	18.0	51.1	21	26	2.3	14.8	74
Total native born	228,942,557	33	16.7	51.3	92	1	1.9	16.1	73

# 5. Are immigrants a cost or a benefit to the US?

Table IV. Socioeconomic Stratification of Principal Immigrant Groups in the United States in 1990, in Rank Order of College Graduates, by Region and Country of Birth, Compared to Native U.S. Racial-Ethnic Groups<sup>a</sup>

Region/country of birth	Persons (N)	Education <sup>b</sup> College graduates (%)	Labor Force and Occupation <sup>c</sup>				Income <sup>d</sup>		
			In labor force (%)	Self-employed (%)	Upper white-collar (%)	Lower blue-collar (%)	Poverty rate (%)	Public assistance (%)	Own home (%)
Africa	363,819	47.1	75.1	7.1	37	12	15.7	4.7	34
Asia	4,979,037	38.4	66.4	7.8	32	13	16.2	10.7	50
Europe and Canada	5,095,233	18.6	52.2	9.5	32	12	9.3	5.7	68
Latin America/Caribbean	8,416,924	9.1	70.7	5.0	12	26	24.3	11.3	37
Above U.S. average									
India	450,406	64.9	74.6	6.3	48	8	8.1	3.4	54
Taiwan	244,102	62.2	64.9	7.5	47	4	16.7	3.7	66
Iran	210,941	50.6	67.9	12.0	42	6	15.7	7.7	55
Hong Kong	147,131	46.8	75.1	5.5	41	7	12.7	3.5	62
Philippines	912,674	43.0	76.3	3.3	28	11	5.9	10.4	61
Japan	290,128	35.0	54.2	7.9	39	7	12.8	2.2	46
Korea	568,397	34.4	63.9	18.0	25	13	15.6	7.9	48
China	529,837	30.9	62.3	7.8	29	16	15.7	10.6	56
Near U.S. average									
Soviet Union <sup>e</sup>	333,725	27.1	39.7	10.1	31	11	25.0	16.7	47
United Kingdom	640,145	23.1	57.3	8.3	40	6	6.6	3.7	69
Canada	744,830	22.1	52.1	9.5	38	8	7.8	4.8	71
Germany	711,929	19.1	54.7	9.1	33	9	7.7	4.3	73
Poland <sup>e</sup>	388,328	16.3	50.4	7.9	21	20	9.7	5.4	64
Vietnam <sup>e</sup>	543,262	15.9	64.4	5.8	17	21	25.5	26.2	47
Cuba <sup>e</sup>	736,971	15.6	64.1	7.3	23	18	14.7	16.2	56
Colombia	286,124	15.5	73.7	6.6	17	22	15.3	7.5	38
Jamaica	334,140	14.9	77.4	4.0	22	11	12.1	7.8	44

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Table IV. Continued

Region/country of birth	Persons (N)	Education <sup>b</sup> College graduates (%)	Labor Force and Occupation <sup>f</sup>				Income <sup>d</sup>		
			In labor force (%)	Self-employed (%)	Upper white-collar (%)	Lower blue-collar (%)	Poverty rate (%)	Public assistance (%)	Own home (%)
Greece	177,398	14.8	60.9	14.7	29	12	9.1	5.3	67
Nicaragua	168,659	14.6	73.1	4.7	11	24	24.4	8.4	26
Ireland	169,827	14.6	51.5	7.3	29	9	8.4	4.1	60
Below U.S. average									
Haiti	225,393	11.8	77.7	3.5	14	21	21.7	9.3	37
Italy	580,592	8.6	46.4	10.1	20	18	8.0	5.5	81
Dominican Republic	347,858	7.5	63.8	5.1	11	31	30.0	27.8	16
Guatemala	225,739	5.8	75.7	5.2	7	28	25.8	8.3	20
Cambodia <sup>e</sup>	118,833	5.5	48.4	5.2	9	23	38.4	49.5	23
Laos <sup>e</sup>	171,577	5.1	49.7	2.2	7	41	40.3	45.5	26
Portugal	210,122	4.6	71.6	5.1	9	36	7.0	8.4	62
El Salvador	485,433	4.6	76.3	4.7	6	27	24.9	7.1	19
Mexico	4,298,014	3.5	69.7	4.5	6	32	29.7	11.3	36
Total foreign born	19,767,316	20.4	64.3	6.9	22	19	18.2	9.1	49
Total native born	228,942,557	20.3	65.4	7.0	27	14	12.7	7.4	65
Native racial-ethnic groups:									
Asian (native-born)	2,363,047	35.9	68.8	5.5	34	8	9.8	4.5	63
White (non-Hispanic)	188,128,296	22.0	65.3	7.7	29	13	9.2	5.3	68
Black (non-Hispanic)	29,216,293	11.4	62.7	2.8	18	21	29.5	19.7	43
Pacific Islanders	365,024	10.8	70.1	4.1	18	16	17.1	11.8	44
Puerto Rican	2,727,753	9.5	60.4	2.8	17	21	31.7	26.9	26
American Indian/Alaskan	1,959,234	9.3	62.1	5.8	18	19	30.9	18.6	54
Mexican (native-born)	8,933,371	8.6	67.2	4.4	16	19	24.5	13.5	54