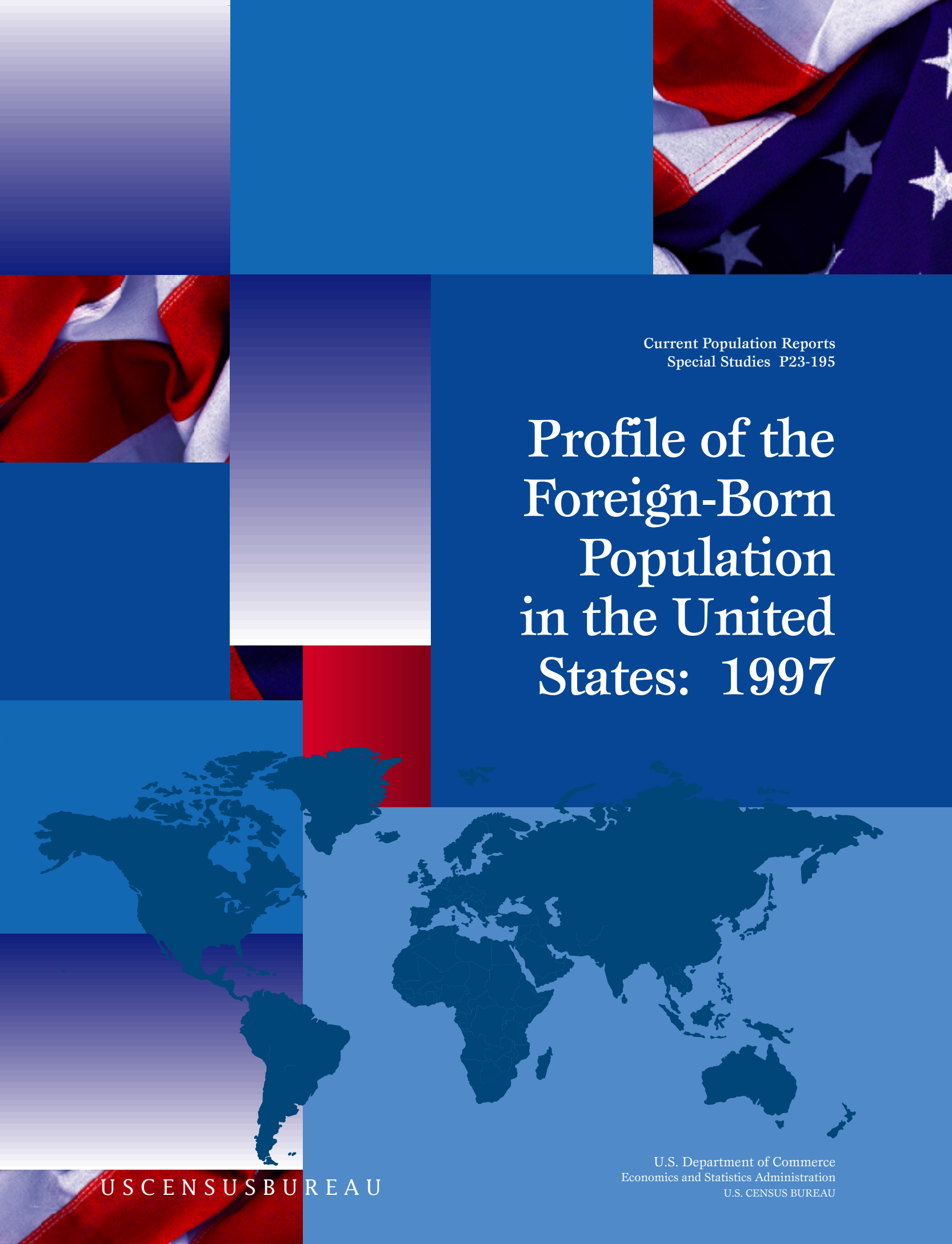

Current Population Reports
Special Studies P23-195

Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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Economics and Statistics Administration
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Notes About This Report

Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997, Current Population Reports, P23-195, presents data on a wide range of geographic, demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for the foreign-born population of the United States. Data for the native population are included for comparison. The data in this report for 1997 are from the March 1997 Current Population Survey (CPS). Data for 1990 and earlier years, which are included for historical comparison, are from the decennial censuses of population. Detailed tables showing data for 1997 are presented in **Profile of the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1997**, PPL-115, issued in 1999. Detailed tables showing data on the foreign-born population from decennial censuses are presented in **Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 1990**, Population Division Working Paper, No. 29, issued in 1999.

The reference date for data from the 1990 census is April 1. For data from the CPS, the reference dates vary depending on when the housing unit first came into the survey and on the topic. Housing units (and their occupants) in the CPS are in for 4 months, out for 8 months, and then in again for 4 months. Thus housing units in the March 1997 CPS are about equally distributed among those that first came into the survey from December 1995 to March 1996 and from December 1996 to March 1997. While data on some characteristics, including age, are updated, data on other characteristics, including length of residence in the United States and citizenship status of the foreign-born population, are not.

The core of this report is 21 two-page sections presenting information on various topics for the foreign-born population. These sections are preceded by Highlights and are followed by References and five appendixes: (A) The Foreign-Born Population and Immigration: Definitions and Concepts; (B) Source and Accuracy of Estimates; (C) Comparison of Population Universes; (D) Nativity Questions on the Current Population Survey; and (E) Related Reports and Information.

Numbers or percentages in the text, figures, and text tables may not sum to totals due to rounding. In general, percentages in the text are rounded to whole numbers for percentages of 10 and above and are shown to 1 decimal place for percentages below 10 (i.e., to show 2 significant digits); however, percentages above 10 are shown to 1 decimal place in cases where rounding to whole numbers would distort a comparison.

The Census Bureau uses 90-percent confidence intervals and 0.10 levels of significance to determine statistical validity (see Appendix B). Comparisons in the text of this report that do not meet this standard are described as being not significant.

Copies of this report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. General questions about the report may be addressed to A. Dianne Schmidley, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC 20233, or to the E-mail address < pop@census.gov > .

Highlights

Trends in Immigration and the Foreign-Born Population

- The estimated foreign-born population of the United States in March 1997 was 25.8 million, based on data collected in the Current Population Survey. This was the largest foreign-born population in U.S. history and represented an increase of 6.0 million, or 30 percent, over the 1990 census figure of 19.8 million.

The native population, as defined by the Census Bureau, includes U.S. residents who were born in the United States or an outlying area of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico), and U.S. residents who were born in a foreign country but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. All other residents of the United States are classified as foreign born.

Definitions of terms other than native population and foreign-born population are included in the main text of the report.

- In 1997, an estimated 9.7 percent of the U.S. population was foreign born, up from 7.9 percent in 1990. The 1997 proportion is midway between the highest and lowest proportions in this century: 14.7 percent in 1910 and 4.7 percent in 1970.
- The rapid increase in the foreign-born population from 9.6 million in 1970 to 25.8 million in 1997 reflects the high level of immigration during the past generation, primarily from Latin America and Asia.

Region of Birth

- In 1997, 13.1 million, or 51 percent, of the foreign-born population was from Latin America, compared with 8.4 million, or 44 percent in 1990. In 1970, 1.8 million, or 19 percent, of the foreign-born population was from Latin America.
- The foreign-born population from Asia was 6.8 million or 27 percent of the total foreign-born population in 1997. In 1970, 0.8 million, or 9 percent, of the foreign-born population was from Asia.
- The foreign-born population from Europe dropped from 5.7 million in 1970 to 4.3 million in 1997 or from 62 percent to 17 percent of the total foreign-born population. Previously, the proportion of the foreign-born population from Europe had dropped from 86 percent in 1900 to 83 percent in 1930 and to 75 percent in 1960.

Country of Birth

- Mexico accounted for 7.0 million or 28 percent of the total foreign-born population in 1997. The foreign-born population from Mexico increased from 0.8 million in 1970 to 2.2 million in 1980 and to 4.3 million in 1990.
- The foreign-born population from Mexico in 1997 was about 6 times as large as the foreign-born population from the next highest ranked country. Mexico's proportion of the foreign-born population was last exceeded in a decennial census in 1890 when 30 percent of the foreign-born population was from Germany.
- While Latin America and Asia accounted for only 2 of the 10 leading countries of birth (Mexico and Cuba) of the foreign-born population in 1970, by 1997 these two regions may have accounted for 8 of the 10 top countries (Mexico, the Philippines, China, Cuba, Vietnam, India, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador). The exact number and the exact order after Mexico are uncertain due to sampling variability in the Current Population Survey.

Geographic Distribution

- Six states had estimated foreign-born populations of 1 million or more in 1997: California (8.1 million), New York (3.6 million), Florida (2.4 million), Texas (2.2 million), New Jersey (1.2 million), and Illinois (1.1 million). Together, these states accounted for 18.5 million or 72 percent of the total foreign-born population. The estimates do not differ significantly between Florida and Texas and between New Jersey and Illinois.
- In seven states, the foreign-born proportion in the population in 1997 was estimated to be above the national average of 9.7 percent: California (25 percent), New York (20 percent), Hawaii (18 percent), Florida (16 percent), New Jersey (15 percent), Arizona (14 percent), and Texas (11 percent). The estimates do not differ significantly between Florida and New Jersey.
- The foreign-born population in California increased from 1.8

million in 1970 to 8.1 million in 1997 or from 18 percent to 31 percent of the total foreign-born population. The foreign-born population in New York increased from 2.1 million to 3.6 million but dropped from 22 percent to 14 percent of the national total.

Metropolitan Areas

- Five metropolitan areas (each identified here by the name of the first city in its official metropolitan area title) had estimated foreign-born populations of 1 million or more in 1997: Los Angeles (4.8 million), New York (4.6 million), Miami (1.4 million), San Francisco (1.4 million), and Chicago (1.1 million). The estimates do not differ significantly between Los Angeles and New York or between Miami and San Francisco.
- Among the 10 largest metropolitan areas in 1997 (those with total populations of 4 million or more), the proportion foreign born was highest in Los Angeles (31 percent). Among metropolitan areas with 1 million to 4 million population, the proportion foreign born was highest in Miami (39 percent).
- The proportion foreign born was much higher in the metropolitan population (11 percent) than in the nonmetropolitan population (3 percent) in 1997. Within the metropolitan population, the proportion ranged from 18 percent in metropolitan areas of 5 million or more population down to 6 percent in metropolitan areas with less than 1 million population.

Length of Residence

- The foreign-born population was distributed by length of residence in the United States in 1997 as follows: 21 percent under 5 years, 20 percent 5 to 9 years, 14 percent 10 to 14 years, 15 percent 15 to 19 years, and 30 percent 20 years and over.
- The median length of residence in the United States of the foreign-born population was 13 years in 1997 and 12 years in 1990. The median dropped from 20 years in 1970 to 14 years in 1980 with the attrition through death of most of the immigrants who came to the United States during the period of large-scale immigration that ended in the 1920s.
- Length of residence in the United States of the foreign-born population varies greatly by region of birth, reflecting large-scale immigration from Latin America and Asia since 1970. In 1997, the median length of residence was 25 years for the foreign-born population from Europe and 12 years for the foreign-born population from Latin America and Asia.

Citizenship Status

- In 1997, 9.0 million, or 35 percent, of the foreign-born population were naturalized citizens of the United States. This represents a continued decline in the proportion naturalized among the foreign-born population from 64 percent in 1970 to 51 percent in 1980 and to 40 percent in 1990.
- The decline in the proportion of naturalized citizens in the total foreign-born population is accounted for primarily by a decline in each length-of-residence category. For example, the proportion naturalized among the foreign-born population with 10 to 14 years of residence in the United States dropped from 58 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1997.
- In 1997, the proportion of naturalized citizens in the foreign-born population varied greatly by region of birth: 53 percent from Europe, 44 percent from Asia, and 24 percent from Latin America. The low proportion from Latin America is attributable primarily to the low figure for the population from Mexico (15 percent).

Nativity, Parentage, and Foreign Stock

- In 1997, 54.7 million or 21 percent of the population was of foreign stock. This number included 25.8 million foreign born, 15.0 million of foreign parentage (native with both parents foreign born), and 13.9 million of mixed parentage (native with one parent foreign born). The remainder of the population (212 million) was native of native parentage (both parents native).
- The proportion of the population of foreign stock has increased since 1970 but is below historical levels. The proportion increased from 33 percent in 1890 to 35 percent in 1910 and then dropped to 17 percent in 1970, the last year for which data on foreign stock are available from the decennial census.

- With the large-scale immigration of the past generation, the proportion of the population that is native of foreign or mixed parentage is likely to increase, and thus the proportion of foreign stock is likely to increase. One indication of this trend is the increase in the proportion of births in the United States occurring to foreign-born women residing in the United States: from 6 percent in 1970 to 18 percent in 1995.

Race and Hispanic Origin

- In 1997, Hispanics (of any race) accounted for 11.4 million or 44 percent of the foreign-born population. Asians and Pacific Islanders accounted for 6.1 million or 24 percent. Together, these groups accounted for 68 percent of the foreign-born population but for only 9 percent of the native population. (About 2 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders were of Hispanic origin.)
- The proportion foreign born varies greatly by race and Hispanic origin. In 1997, 3.4 percent of White non-Hispanics were foreign born compared with 5.9 percent of Blacks, 61 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders, and 38 percent of Hispanics.
- Length of residence and citizenship status vary greatly by race and Hispanic origin of the foreign-born population. In 1997, the median length of residence in the United States was 20 years for foreign-born White non-Hispanics (50 percent of whom were citizens). For foreign-born Blacks, the median length of residence was 13 years (35 percent were citizens). For foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders, the median length of residence was 12 years (44 percent were citizens). For foreign-born Hispanics, the median length of residence was 12 years (22 percent were citizens.)

Age and Gender

- In 1997, the median ages of the foreign-born population (37) and the native population (34) did not differ greatly; however, their age distributions differed considerably. In the foreign-born population, 10 percent were under 18 years old and 44 percent were 25 to 44 years old, whereas the corresponding proportions in the native population were 28 percent and 30 percent. The sex ratio (males per 100 females) of the foreign-born population was 101 compared with 95 for the native population.
- The age structure of the foreign-born population varies greatly by region of birth, reflecting recent trends in immigration. In 1997, the median age of the foreign-born population was 51 from Europe, 38 from Asia, and 34 from Latin America.
- During the past generation, the age structure of the foreign-born population has changed dramatically due to the attrition through death of immigrants who entered prior to 1930 and to large-scale immigration since 1970. The median age of the foreign-born population dropped from 57 in 1960 to 37 in 1990 and has not changed significantly since. The proportion 65 years old and over dropped from 33 percent in 1960 to 11 percent in 1997.

Household Size and Type

- In 1997, the average size of households with a foreign-born householder (foreign-born households) was 3.32, considerably larger than the average size of 2.56 for households with a native householder (native households). Foreign-born households had larger average numbers of both adults (2.29 versus 1.89) and children (1.03 versus 0.67).
- Whereas native households included an average of only 0.03 foreign-born members in 1997, foreign-born households included an average of 1.13 native members. Native members represented 34 percent of all members of foreign-born households.
- In 1997, average household size among foreign-born households ranged from 3.84 with householders from Latin America to 2.41 with householders from Europe.

Families and Own Children

- The average size of families with a foreign-born householder (foreign-born families) in 1997 was 3.84 compared with 3.11 for families with a native householder (native families). Foreign-born families had larger average numbers of both adults (2.51 versus 2.16) and children (1.33 versus 0.95).
- Among married-couple families with a foreign-born householder in 1997, the proportion with one or more own children under 18 years old ranged from 69 percent of those with householders from Latin America to 38 percent of those with householders from

Europe. Among foreign-born households with householders from Mexico, the proportion was 79 percent.

- Of the 53.6 million married-couple families in 1997, 7.7 million or 14 percent included at least one foreign-born spouse. Of these, 4.8 million had both spouses foreign born, 1.7 million had a foreign-born wife and a native husband, and 1.3 million had a foreign-born husband and a native wife.

Educational Attainment

- In 1997, the proportion of the population 25 years old and over who had completed high school or more education was lower among the foreign-born population (65 percent) than among the native population (84 percent). However, the proportion with a bachelor's degree or more education was 24 percent for both the foreign-born and native populations.
- Among the foreign-born population 25 years old and over in 1997, the proportion who had completed high school or more education was the same for men and women: 65 percent. The proportion who had a bachelor's degree or more education was 27 percent for men and 21 percent for women.
- The proportion of the foreign-born population 25 years old and over who had completed high school or more education varies by region of birth. In 1997, the proportion was 84 percent of the foreign-born population from Asia, 79 percent from Europe, and 47 percent from Latin America. Within Latin America, the proportion ranged greatly: 78 percent of those from South America to 31 percent of those from Mexico.

Labor Force Participation

- In March 1997, the foreign-born population accounted for 15.6 million or 12 percent of the total civilian labor force of 135 million. The labor force participation rate of the foreign-born population was 66 percent, not significantly different from 67 percent for the native population.
- Foreign-born men ages 25 to 54 in March 1997 had a labor force participation rate (92 percent) that did not differ significantly from the rate for native men (91 percent) and that did not vary greatly by citizenship status or region of birth. In contrast, foreign-born women ages 25 to 54 had a lower labor force participation rate (66 percent) than did native women (78 percent). Among foreign-born women, the rate for noncitizens (60 percent) was lower than for naturalized citizens (77 percent), and the rate for women from Mexico (52 percent) was lower than for other foreign-born women (66 percent).
- In March 1997, the unemployment rate was higher for the foreign-born labor force as a whole (6.9 percent) than for the native labor force (5.4 percent). Among women, the unemployment rate was higher for the foreign-born labor force (7.4 percent versus 4.9 percent); however, among men, the unemployment rates were not significantly different (6.5 percent versus 5.9 percent).

Occupation

- In March 1997, managerial and professional specialty occupations accounted for 24 percent of foreign-born workers compared with 30 percent of native workers. Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations accounted for 22 percent of foreign-born workers compared with 31 percent of native workers.
- The occupational distributions of naturalized-citizen workers and of native workers are similar. For example, managerial and professional specialty occupations accounted for 33 percent of naturalized-citizen workers and 30 percent of native workers in March 1997. The corresponding proportions were 28 percent and 31 percent in technical, sales, and administrative support occupations and 15 percent and 13 percent in service occupations.
- The proportions of foreign-born workers in managerial and professional specialty occupations vary by region of birth. In March 1997, these occupations accounted for 38 percent of workers from Europe, 36 percent from Asia (not significantly different from each other), and 11 percent from Latin America. Among foreign-born workers from Latin America, these occupations accounted for 23 percent of workers from South America and 6 percent of workers from Mexico.

Money Income of Households and Families

- In 1996, median income for households with a foreign-born householder was $30,000, compared with $36,100 for

households with a native householder. Among foreign-born households, 43 percent had incomes below $25,000, and 29 percent had incomes of $50,000 and over. Among native households, 35 percent were in each of these two income categories.

- Income by type of family is lower for foreign-born families than for native families. In 1996, median income for married-couple families was $38,800 for those with a foreign-born householder and $50,800 for those with a native householder. For families with a female householder, no husband present, and one or more related children under 18 years old, median income was $13,400 for foreign-born families and $16,800 for native families.
- The income of foreign-born households varies by region of birth of the householder. In 1996, median household income was $42,900 for those with householders from Asia, $31,300 with householders from Europe, and $24,100 with householders from Latin America.

Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers

- Among full-time, year-round workers in 1996, median earnings were $25,000 for foreign-born males and $20,800 for foreign-born females. Median earnings were higher for their native counterparts: $33,200 for native males and $24,100 for native females.
- Among foreign-born workers, median earnings in 1996 were much higher for naturalized citizens than for noncitizens: $35,600 compared with $20,500 for males and $25,500 compared with $17,200 for females.
- Median earnings among foreign-born workers vary by region and country of birth as well as by gender. For example, in 1996, median earnings of foreign-born workers from Asia were $35,300 for males and $24,600 for females, and median earnings of foreign-born workers from Mexico were $16,800 for males and $13,700 for females.

Poverty Status

- In 1996, the official poverty rate was 21.0 percent for the foreign-born population compared with 12.9 percent for the native population. Of the 36.5 million individuals below the poverty level, 5.4 million or 15 percent were foreign born.
- Among the foreign-born population, the poverty rates in 1996 were relatively low (and not significantly different from each other) for the populations from Europe (13 percent) and from Asia (15 percent). For the population from Latin America, the poverty rate was 29 percent.
- Using an alternative definition of poverty that includes the value of means-tested noncash transfers (e.g., food stamps, housing assistance, and medicaid), the poverty rates in 1996 of the foreign-born population and of the native population were 16.1 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively.

Means-Tested Program Participation

- In 1996, 24 percent of households with foreign-born householders and 17 percent of households with native householders participated in one or more of the following means-tested programs providing noncash benefits: foods stamps, housing assistance, or medicaid. The highest participation rates were for medicaid: 21 percent for foreign-born households and 14 percent for native households.

- In 1996, 10.6 percent of households with a foreign-born householder and 7.5 percent of households with a native householder participated in one or more of the following means-tested programs providing cash benefits: aid to families with dependent children (AFDC), general assistance, or supplemental security income (SSI). Nearly all (98 percent) of the households receiving cash benefits also received noncash benefits.
- Among foreign-born households, participation rates in means-tested programs are higher for households with noncitizen householders than for households with naturalized-citizen householders. In 1996, the rates were 29 percent compared with 18 percent for noncash benefits and 12 percent compared with 8 percent for cash benefits.

Health Insurance and Pension Plans

- In 1996, 66 percent of the foreign-born population compared with 86 percent of the native population had health insurance for all or part of the year. (Health insurance includes government insurance plans such as medicare, medicaid, or military health care and private insurance plans.)
- Among workers in 1996, 44 percent of those who were foreign born and 54 percent of those who were native had employment-based health insurance. Among foreign-born workers, the proportions were 57 percent for naturalized citizens and 36 percent for noncitizens.
- In 1996, 41 percent of foreign-born workers and 56 percent of native workers had employers who offered pension plans (other than social security). Among foreign-born workers, the proportions were 53 percent for naturalized citizens and 33 percent for noncitizens.

Homeownership

- In 1997, the homeownership rate was higher for households with a native householder than for households with a foreign-born householder: 68 percent compared with 47 percent. However, the homeownership rate for foreign-born households with a householder who was a naturalized citizen was 66 percent, not significantly different from the rate for native households.
- By type of family, the highest homeownership rates in 1997 were for married-couple families: 59 percent for families with a foreign-born householder and 83 percent for families with a native householder. For families with a female householder, no husband present, the homeownership rates were 32 percent for foreign-born households and 47 percent for native households.
- The homeownership rate among foreign-born households varies by region of birth of the householder. In 1997, the homeownership rates were 63 percent of those with householders from Europe, 50 percent with householders from Asia, and 38 percent with householders from Latin America. Within Latin America, the homeownership rate of those with householders from Mexico was the same as for the region as a whole: 38 percent.

Section 1.

Trends in Immigration and the Foreign-Born Population

Foreign-born population surpasses 25 million.

The estimated foreign-born population of the United States in March 1997 was 25.8 million, based on data collected in the Current Population Survey. This is the largest foreign-born population in U.S. history and represents an increase of 6.0 million, or 30 percent, over the 1990 census total (Figure 1-1).[1]

The rapid growth in the foreign-born population in the past generation has been due primarily to large-scale immigration from Latin America and Asia.[2] The foreign-born population increased from 9.6 million in 1970, the lowest total in this century, to 14.1 million in 1980, and to 19.8 million in 1990.

In 1997, an estimated 9.7 percent of the U.S. population was foreign born, the highest proportion since 1930. The 1997 figure is midway between the highest figures reached during the period of large-scale immigration from Europe (14.4 percent in 1870, 14.8 percent in 1890, and 14.7 percent in 1910) and the lowest figure of 4.7 percent in 1970. The proportion foreign born increased to 6.2 percent in 1980 and to 7.9 percent in 1990.

Immigrants and immigration.

Immigrants, as defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), are aliens admitted to the United States for lawful permanent residence. They may be issued immigrant visas overseas by the Department of state or adjusted to permanent resident status in the United States by INS.

Immigration is defined here as the number of immigrants during a specified period of time, such as a year or a decade.

Native and foreign-born population.

The native population, as defined by the Census Bureau, includes U.S. residents who were born in the United States or an outlying area of the United States and U.S. residents who were born in a foreign country but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. All other residents of the United States are classified as foreign born. (Residence in the United States is based on usual place of residence, not legal residence; see Appendix A.)

The foreign-born population includes immigrants, as defined above, legal nonimmigrants (e.g., refugees and persons on student or work visas), and persons residing in the United States illegally (undocumented aliens).

The foreign-born population can be classified by citizenship status: those who have become naturalized citizens and those who are not U.S. citizens.

Further information.

For a detailed discussion, see Appendix A, "The Foreign-Born Population and Immigration: Definitions and Concepts."

Historically, the foreign-born population increased during each decade until 1930 and then declined until 1970.

With the exception of the 1860s (which included the Civil War) and the 1890s (which included the "closing" of the agricultural frontier and economic depression), the number of immigrants increased in each decade from the 1820s to the 1901-1910 decade (Figure 1-2).[3] The number increased from 0.1 million in the 1820s, the first full decade for which data on immigrants were collected, to 8.8 million in the 1901-1910 decade, the highest total on record for a single decade.[4] The foreign-born population increased rapidly from 2.2 million in 1850, the first census year in which data on place of birth were collected, to 13.5 million in 1910.[5]

The number of immigrants declined during the 1911-1920 decade and the 1920s, due first to World War I and then to restrictive immigration legislation enacted in 1921 and 1924. This legislation established national origin quota systems that severely limited immigration, but were most favorable to immigration from countries in the Western Hemisphere and countries in Northern or Western Europe.[6] As a result of decreased immigration, the foreign-born population increased slowly to 14.2 million in 1930. However, the proportion foreign born in the total population, which had fluctuated in the 13 percent to 15 percent range from 1860 to 1920, dropped from 14.7 percent in 1910 to 11.6 percent in 1930.

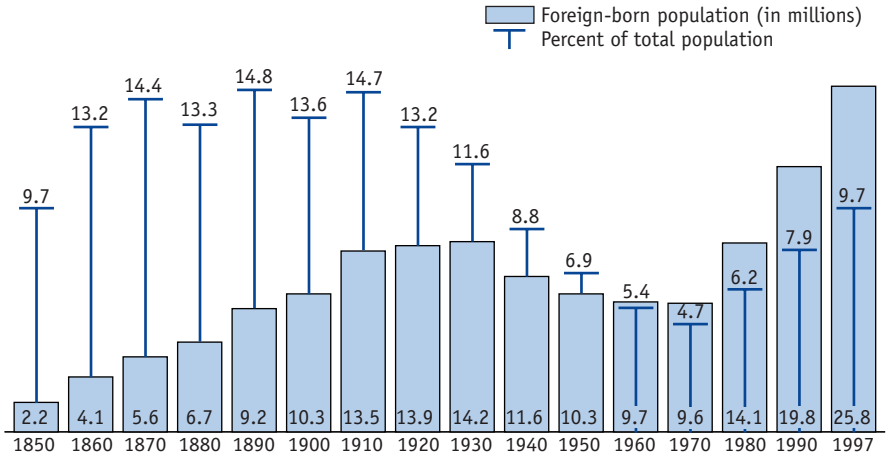
With the low level of immigration in the 1930s and 1940s (due partly to economic depression and then to World War II), the foreign-born population dropped to 10.3

million in 1950 and to 6.9 percent of the total population. The number of immigrants increased in the 1950s and 1960s, but was still low by historical standards. As a result, and because of the relatively old age structure of the foreign-born population (reflecting four decades of low immigration), it dropped to 9.6 million in 1970 and to a record low 4.7 percent of the total population.

The national origins quota system, which was enacted in the 1920s and reaffirmed in the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, was eliminated by the Immigration Act of 1965. This legislation and subsequent legislation, including the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), which permitted some undocumented aliens to obtain lawful permanent residence, and the Immigration Act of 1990, which increased the annual cap on immigration, have contributed to increased immigration in the past generation, as described in the beginning of this section.

Figure 1-1.
Foreign-Born Population and Percent of Total Population for the United States: 1850 to 1997

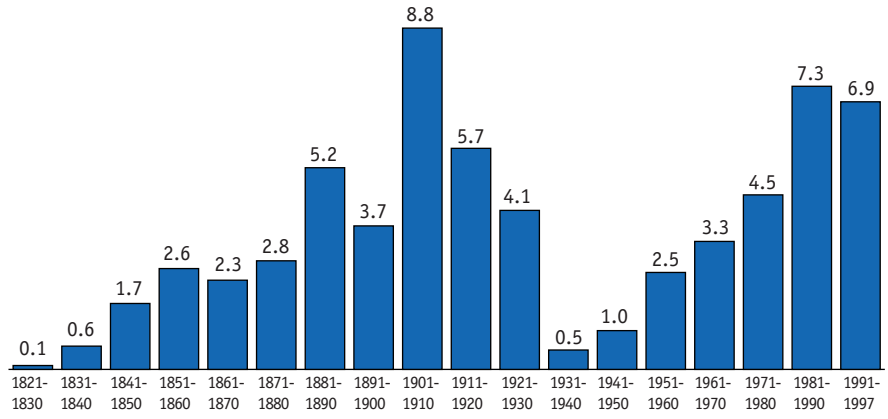
(For 1850-1990, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 1, and 1999b, Table 1-1.

Figure 1-2.
Immigrants to the United States, by Decade: Fiscal Years, 1821 to 1997

(Numbers in millions)



Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, Table 1, and 1999, Table 2.

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[1]Data from the 1990 census, which are for the total resident population, and from the March 1997 Current Population Survey (CPS), which are limited to the civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post, are not totally comparable due to differences in the population universes. The data in this report thus understate slightly the growth in the foreign-born population in the 1990-97 period. See Appendix C, 'Comparison of Population Universes."

[2]While immigration has been the primary source of the growth in the foreign-born population since 1970, the growth in the number of undocumented aliens, which is estimated at 5 million in 1996, has also contributed (Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, pp. 197-201).

[3]For a detailed discussion of trends in immigration to the United States, see U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1991, special section on "Trends in Immigration,"pp. 13-34. See also U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, Appendix I, "Immigration and Naturalization Legislation."

[4]The highest number of immigrants recorded for a 10-year period was 10.1 million for the years 1905-14 (ibid., p. 25). It should be noted, however, that emigration was extremely high during this era. Warren and Kraly's estimates of emigration and net immigration for the 1905-14 period are 3.2 million and 6.9 million, respectively (Warren and Kraly, 1985, p. 5). For the 1901-10 decade, when the number of immigrants was 8.8 million, their estimates of emigration and net immigration are 3.0 million and 5.8 million, respectively (U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, p. 196).

[5]During this period, immigration greatly exceeded the combination of emigration of foreign-born population from the United States and deaths to the foreign-born population. See Appendix A, "The Foreign-Born Population and Immigration: Definitions and Concepts."

[6]Ibid., Appendix I, "Immigration and Naturalization Legislation."

Section 2.

Region of Birth

One-half of the foreign-born population is from Latin America.

In 1997, 13.1 million of the foreign-born population living in the United States was born in Latin America, up from 8.4 million in 1990 (Figure 2-1). This increase represented a continuation of the rapid growth in the foreign-born population from Latin America since 1960 when the figure was 0.9 million. From 1970, when the total foreign-born population started to increase dramatically, to 1997, the increase in the foreign-born population from Latin America accounted for 11.3 million, or 70 percent, of the total increase of 16.2 million.

The foreign-born population from Latin America accounted for 51 percent of the foreign-born population in 1997 (Figure 2-2).[1] This is the first time that any region of the world other than Europe has accounted for as much as one-half of the foreign-born population.[2] The proportion of the foreign-born population from Latin America increased rapidly from 9 percent in 1960 to 19 percent in 1970, to 33 percent in 1980, and to 44 percent in 1990.

Among the 13.1 million foreign-born population from Latin America in 1997, 8.8 million were from Central America (including Mexico), 2.8 million were from the Caribbean, and 1.5 million were from South America.[3] In 1970, when the foreign-born population from Latin America was 1.8 million, 0.9 million were from Central America, 0.7 million were from the Caribbean, and 0.3 million were from South America. From 1970 to 1997, the foreign-born population from Central America increased more rapidly than from the Caribbean or South America and rose from 48 percent to 67 percent of the foreign-born population from Latin America.

More than one-quarter of the foreign-born population is from Asia.

In 1997, 6.8 million of the foreign-born population was born in Asia compared with 5.0 million in 1990. This increase represented a continuation of the rapid growth since 1960 when the figure was 0.5 million. The foreign-born population from Asia had tripled in the 1970s and then had doubled in the 1980s.

The foreign-born population from Asia constituted 27 percent of the foreign-born population in 1997, not significantly different from 26 percent in 1990. Their share of the foreign-born population increased from 5 percent in 1960 to 9 percent in 1970 and to 19 percent in 1980.

About 3 percent of the foreign-born population is from Africa or Oceania.

In 1997, the foreign-born population from Africa was 0.6 million, up from 0.4 million in 1990. The foreign-born population from Oceania in 1997 was 0.2 million, up from 0.1 million in 1990. In 1960, the foreign-born population from Africa and Oceania each was only 35,000.[4]

Historically, Europe was the primary source of the foreign-born population.

As suggested by the discussion of historical trends in immigration in Section 1, Europe was the primary source of the foreign-born population in the United States until the past generation. The proportion from Europe declined relatively slowly from 92 percent in 1850 to 75 percent in 1960 and then dropped more rapidly to 17 percent in 1997 (Figure 2-2).

In 1850, nearly all the foreign-born population from Europe was from Northern and Western Europe.[5] The proportion from Southern and Eastern Europe was still less than one-twentieth in 1880, but then increased steadily to one-half by 1930. Since then, Southern and Eastern Europe have accounted for more than one-half of the foreign-born population from Europe.

Through 1960, Northern America (essentially Canada) was the second largest source of the foreign-born population after Europe.[6] From 1960 to 1997, the proportion of the foreign-born population from Northern America dropped from 10 percent to 2 percent.

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[1]Percentages of the 'total" foreign-born population in this section exclude the foreign-born population for whom region of birth was not reported.

[2]The six regions of the world used in this report are those defined by the United Nations and used in its annual *Demographic Yearbook*. These regions are Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, Latin America, and Northern America (United Nations, 1996, pp. 30-31).

[3]These three subregions of Latin America are those defined by the United Nations. See footnote 2.

[4]The decline in the foreign-born population in the 'Other" category from 1.3 million in 1990 to 1.0 million in 1997, as shown in Figure 2-1, is due to a decline in the foreign-born population for whom region of birth was not reported from 0.8 million in the 1990 census to 0.3 million in the March 1997 Current Population Survey. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998b. The foreign-born population for whom region of birth was not reported increased from 0.1 million in 1960 to 0.3 million in 1970 and to 0.9 million in 1980. The large increase in the foreign-born population in the 'Other" category from 1970 to 1980, as shown in Figure 2-1, thus is due primarily to the increase in the foreign-born population for whom region of birth was not reported.

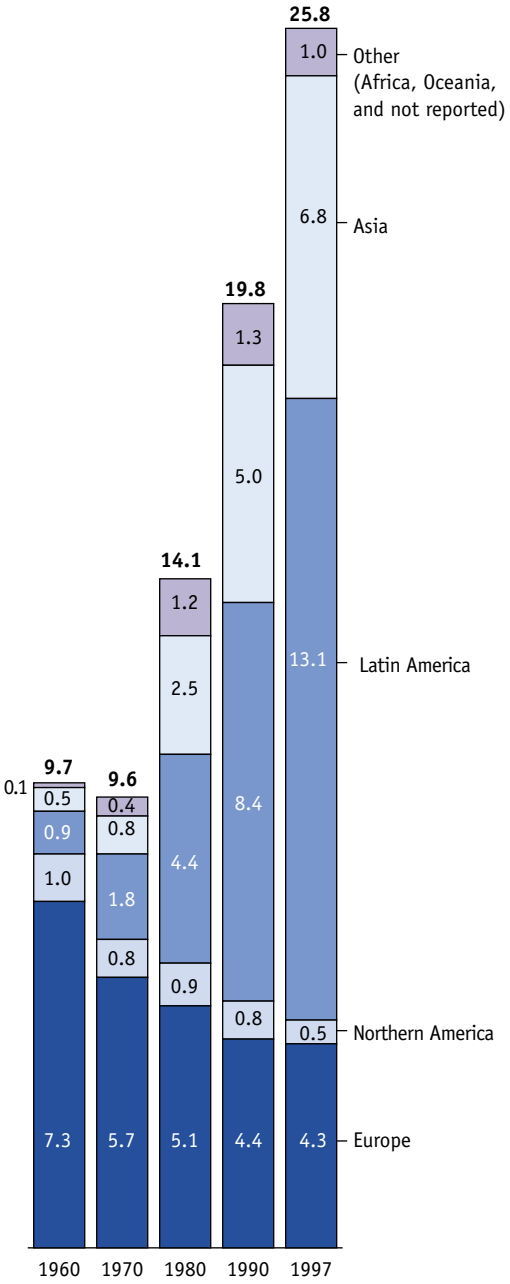
[5]As defined here, Northern and Western Europe includes the British Isles, Scandinavia, the Low Countries, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Southern Europe and Eastern Europe comprise the remainder of Europe. These subregions of Europe defined for use in this report reflect historical patterns of immigration to the United States and differ slightly from the subregions defined by the United Nations. See footnote 2.

[6]In addition to Canada, foreign countries in Northern America include Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon. See footnote 2.

Figure 2-1.

Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1960 to 1997

(Numbers in millions. For 1960-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

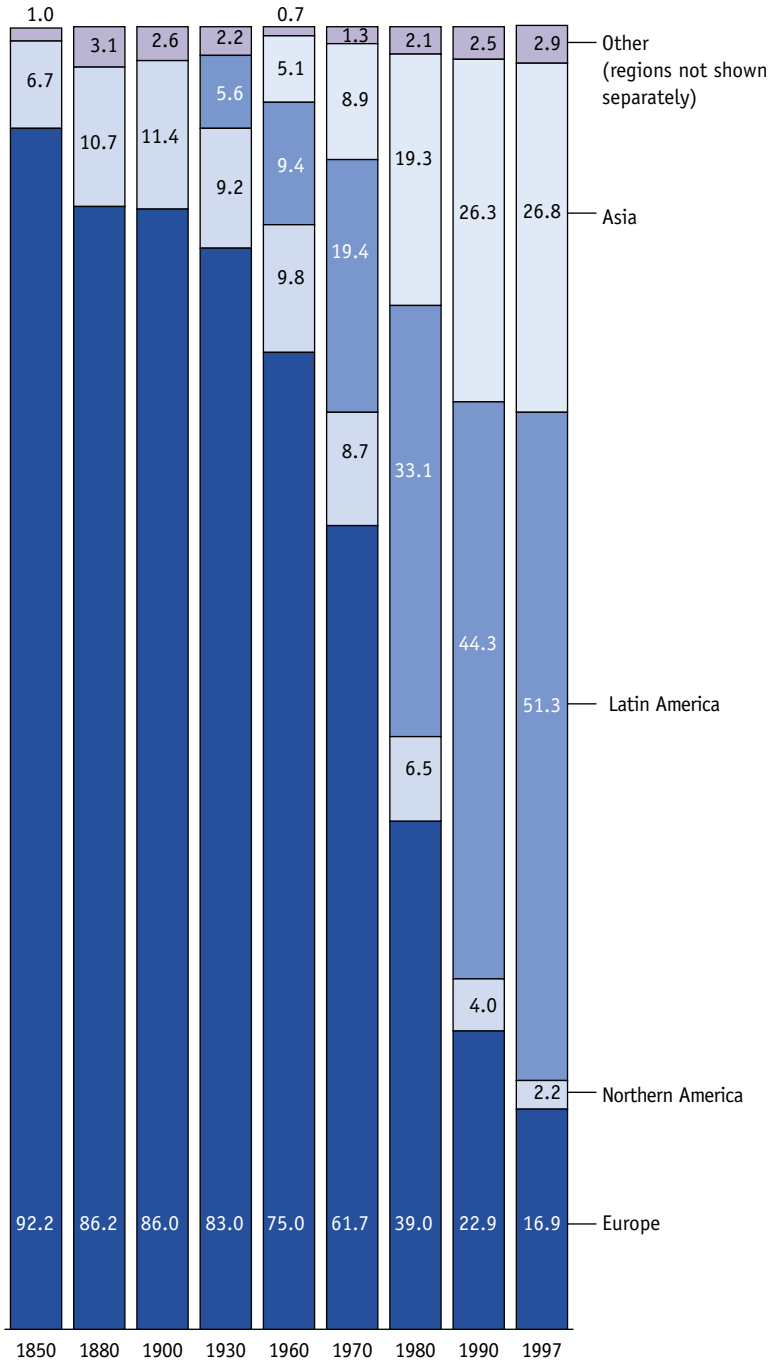


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 2, and 1999b, Table 1-1.

Figure 2-2.

Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: Selected Years, 1850 to 1997

(Percent distribution excluding region not reported. For 1960-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 2, and 1999b, Table 1-1.

Section 3.

Country of Birth

More than one-quarter of the foreign-born population is from Mexico.

In 1997, 7.0 million of the foreign-born population living in the United States was born in Mexico (Figure 3-1). This was the largest foreign-born population from a single country in U.S. history and represents an increase of 2.7 million, or 63 percent, over the 1990 figure for Mexico of 4.3 million. Previously, the foreign-born population from Mexico rose from 0.8 million in 1970 to 2.2 million in 1980.

The foreign-born population from Mexico accounted for 28 percent of the foreign-born population in 1997, continuing the increase from 8 percent in 1970 to 17 percent in 1980 and to 23 percent in 1990. Mexico's proportion of the foreign-born population in 1997 was last exceeded in a decennial census in 1890 when 30 percent of the foreign-born population was from Germany.[1]

The foreign-born population from Mexico in 1997 was about 6 times as large as the foreign-born population from the next highest ranked country. Since data on country of birth were first collected in 1850, the leading country of birth of the foreign-born population had never had twice the total of the second leading country until 1980 (2.2 million from Mexico and 0.8 million from Germany).

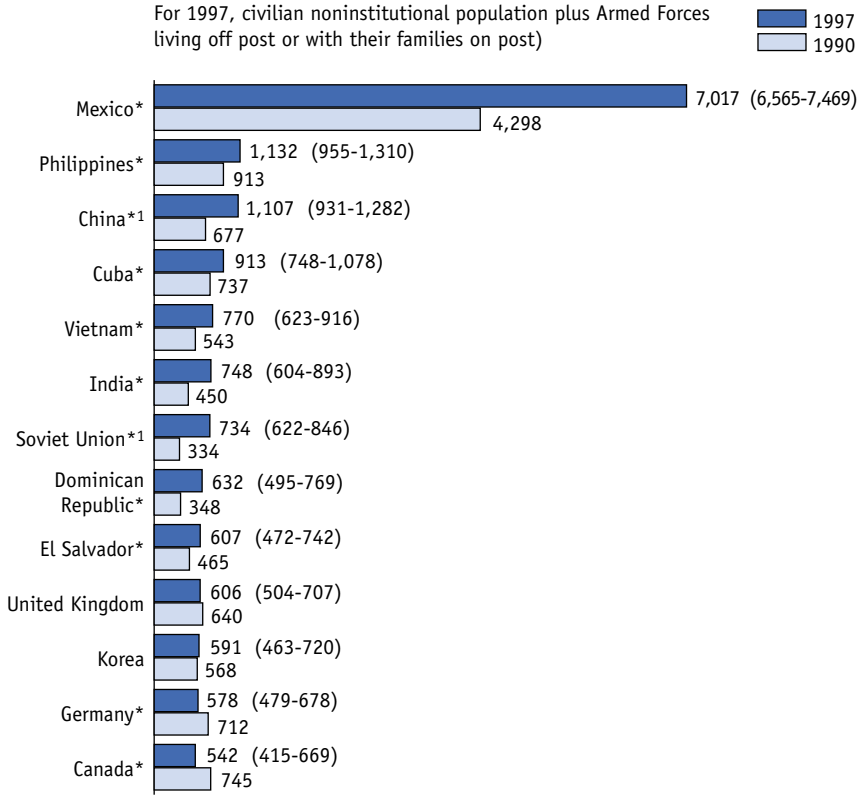
In addition to the large increase in the foreign-born population from Mexico in the 1990 to 1997 period, there were statistically significant increases in the foreign-born population from several other countries with 0.5 million or more foreign-born population in 1997: the Philippines, China,[2] Cuba, Vietnam, India, the Soviet Union,[3] the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. There were statistically significant declines for Germany and Canada.

Most of the 10 leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population are in Latin America and Asia.

In 1960, Mexico was the only Latin American or Asian country among the 10 leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population (Table 3-1). The number increased to two in 1970 (with the addition of Cuba), to four in 1980 (the Philippines and Korea), and to six in 1990 (Vietnam and China).

The sample size in the Current Population Survey is not large enough to rank reliably those countries for which the estimates are similar in 1997, as suggested by the 90-percent confidence intervals shown in Figure 3-1. Even so, the number of Latin American and Asian countries among the 10 leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population may have increased to 8 in 1997 (with the addition of India, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador, and the subtraction of Korea).[4]

Figure 3-1.
Countries of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population, With 500,000 or More in 1997: 1990 and 1997
(Numbers in thousands. 90-percent confidence intervals in parentheses for 1997 estimates. For 1990, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



*Change from 1990 to 1997 is statistically significant.
[1]See text footnotes 2 and 3, respectively, regarding China and the Soviet Union.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 3, and 1999b, Tables 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4.

Historically, European countries and Canada were the leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population.

At each census from 1850 through 1960, the 10 leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population were predominantly European countries and Canada. The only exceptions were Mexico (1850-60, 1920-60) and China (1860-80).

Prior to 1980, when Mexico became the leading country of birth of the foreign-born population, the leading countries were Ireland (1850-70), Germany (1880-20), and Italy (1930-1970). The 10 leading countries of birth of the foreign-born population in selected years are shown in Table 3-1.

[1]Percentages of the "total" foreign-born population in this section exclude the foreign-born population for whom country of birth was not reported.

[2]Including Hong Kong and excluding Taiwan. Data for Taiwan corresponding to the format in Figure 3-1 are (in thousands) 244 for 1990 and 360 (260-461) for 1997.

[3]The Soviet Union as defined prior to January 1, 1992, when the United States formally recognized 12 independent republics within the former Soviet Union. See Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, p. 10.

[4]Given the uncertainty as to whether or not the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Korea are in the top 10 in 1997, the number may be as low as 6 (if none of the 3 is among the 10 leading countries) or as high as 9 (if all 3 are among the 10 leading countries).

Table 3-1.
Leading Countries of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: Selected Years, 1850 to 1990
(Resident population)

Subject	1850	1880	1900	1930	1960	1970	1980	1990
Number of 10 Leading Countries by Region								
Total	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Europe	8	8	9	8	8	7	5	3
Northern America	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Latin America	1	-	-	1	1	2	2	2
Asia	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4
10 Leading Countries by Rank[1] (foreign-born population in thousands)								
1	Ireland 962	Germany 1,967	Germany 2,663	Italy 1,790	Italy 1,257	Italy 1,009	Mexico 2,199	Mexico 4,298
2	Germany 584	Ireland 1,855	Ireland 1,615	Germany 1,609	Germany 990	Germany 833	Germany 849	Philippines 913
3	Great Britain 379	Great Britain 918	Canada 1,180	United Kingdom 1,403	Canada 953	Canada 812	Canada 843	Canada 745
4	Canada 148	Canada 717	Great Britain 1,168	Canada 1,310	United Kingdom 833	Mexico 760	Italy 832	Cuba 737
5	France 54	Sweden 194	Sweden 582	Poland 1,269	Poland 748	United Kingdom 686	United Kingdom 669	Germany 712
6	Switzerland 13	Norway 182	Italy 484	Soviet Union 1,154	Soviet Union 691	Poland 548	Cuba 608	United Kingdom 640
7	Mexico 13	France 107	Russia 424	Ireland 745	Mexico 576	Soviet Union 463	Philippines 501	Italy 581
8	Norway 13	China 104	Poland 383	Mexico 641	Ireland 339	Cuba 439	Poland 418	Korea 568
9	Holland 10	Switzerland 89	Norway 336	Sweden 595	Austria 305	Ireland 251	Soviet Union 406	Vietnam 543
10	Italy 4	Bohemia 85	Austria 276	Czechoslovakia 492	Hungary 245	Austria 214	Korea 290	China 530

- Represents zero.
[1]In general, countries as reported at each census. Data are not totally comparable over time due to changes in boundaries for some countries. Great Britain excludes Ireland. United Kingdom includes Northern Ireland. China in 1990 excludes Hong Kong and Taiwan.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Tables 3 and 4.

Section 4.

Geographic Distribution

The foreign-born population is highly concentrated in a few states.

In 1997, there were six states with estimated foreign-born populations of 1 million or more: California (8.1 million), New York (3.6 million), Florida (2.4 million), Texas (2.2 million), New Jersey (1.2 million), and Illinois (1.1 million) (Table 4-1 and Figure 4-1).[1] In five of these states, the proportion foreign born exceeded the national average of 9.7 percent: California (24.9 percent), New York (19.6 percent), Florida (16.4 percent), New Jersey (15.4 percent) and Texas (11.3 percent).[2] The proportion foreign born in Illinois (9.3 percent) did not differ significantly from the national average. Together, these 6 states accounted for 18.5 million, or 72 percent, of the total foreign-born population, but only 39 percent of the total population.

From 1960 to 1990, the concentration of the foreign-born population in these same six states increased. Their proportion of the foreign-born population increased from 57 percent in 1960 to 73 percent in 1990 while their proportion of the total population increased from 35 percent to 39 percent.

In 1997, the proportion foreign born was significantly above the national average in only seven states: the five states noted earlier, Hawaii at 18.1 percent, and Arizona at 14.4 percent (Figure 4-2).[3] At the other extreme were 31 states where the estimated proportion foreign born was less than 5 percent in 1997. These include most states in the Midwest and South.

The foreign-born population has grown most rapidly in California, Florida, and Texas.

From 1960 to 1997, the foreign-born population increased from 1.3 million to 8.1 million in California, from 0.3 million to 2.4 million in Florida, and from 0.3 million to 2.2 million in Texas.[4] The foreign-born population in these 3 states combined rose from 1.9 million to 12.6 million, and the increase of 10.7 million represented 67 percent of the growth in the foreign-born population in the United States. During this period, these three states accounted for 41 percent of the growth in total population.

The regional distribution of the foreign-born population has changed sharply since 1960.

As suggested by the rapid growth of the foreign-born population in California, Florida, and Texas, the foreign-born population increased much more rapidly in the West and South than in the Northeast and Midwest from 1960 to 1997 (Table 4-1). For the West and South combined, the foreign-born population grew from 2.9 million to 17.0 million and rose from 30 percent to 66 percent of the foreign-born population of the United States. During the same period, the proportion of the total population in the West

Table 4-1.
Foreign-Born Population by Region of Residence and for Leading States: Selected Years, 1900 to 1997

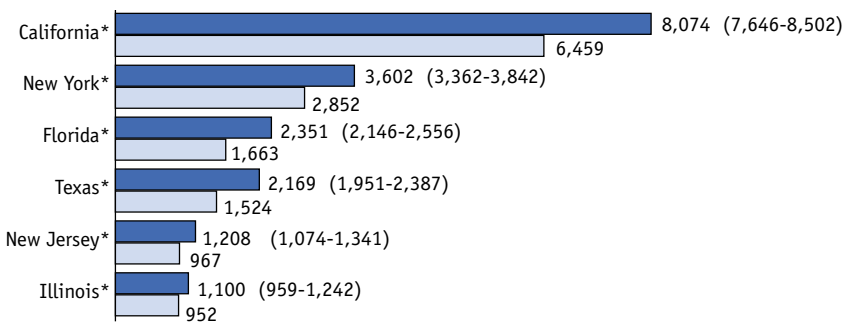
(For 1900-90 resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

Subject	1900	1930	1960	1970	1980	1990	1997
Foreign-Born Population by Region of Residence (in thousands)							
United States	10,341	14,204	9,738	9,619	14,080	19,767	25,779
Northeast	4,763	7,202	4,575	4,120	4,506	5,231	6,129
Midwest	4,158	4,360	2,277	1,874	2,114	2,131	2,673
South	574	819	963	1,316	2,895	4,582	6,468
West	846	1,824	1,924	2,310	4,565	7,823	10,509
Percent Foreign Born in Total Population for Regions							
United States	13.6	11.6	5.4	4.7	6.2	7.9	9.7
Northeast	22.6	20.9	10.2	8.4	9.2	10.3	11.9
Midwest	15.8	11.3	4.4	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.3
South	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.1	3.8	5.4	6.9
West	20.7	15.3	6.9	6.6	10.6	14.8	17.6
Six Leading States by Rank (foreign-born population in thousands)							
1	NY	NY	NY	NY	CA	CA	CA
	1,900	3,262	2,289	2,110	3,580	6,459	8,074
2	PA	IL	CA	CA	NY	NY	NY
	985	1,242	1,344	1,758	2,389	2,852	3,602
3	IL	PA	IL	NJ	FL	FL	FL
	967	1,240	686	635	1,059	1,663	2,351
4	MA	CA	NJ	IL	TX	TX	TX
	846	1,074	615	629	856	1,524	2,169
5	MI	MA	PA	FL	IL	NJ	NJ
	542	1,066	603	540	824	967	1,208
6	WI	MI	MA	MA	NJ	IL	IL
	516	853	576	495	758	952	1,100

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 13, and 1999b, Table 4-1A.

Figure 4-1.
States With a Foreign-Born Population of 1 Million or More in 1997: 1990 and 1997

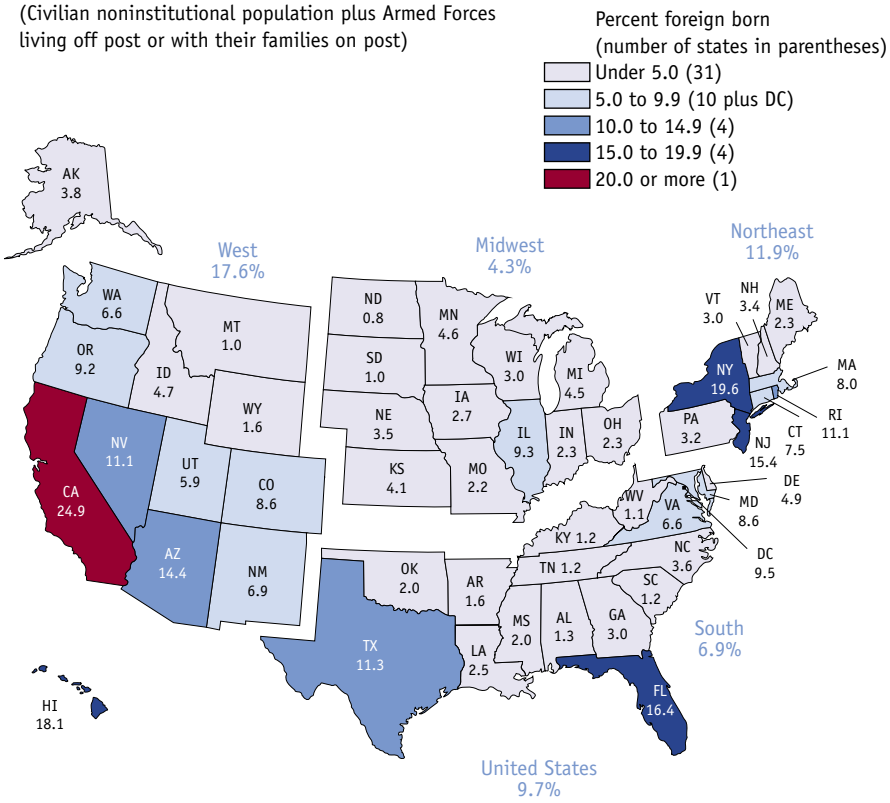
(Numbers in thousands. 90-percent confidence intervals in parentheses for 1997 estimates. For 1990, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



*Change from 1990 to 1997 is statistically significant.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 census of population, and 1999b, Table 4-1A.

Figure 4-2.
Foreign-Born Population for States: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 4-1A.

and South combined rose from 46 percent to 57 percent.

The changes between 1960 and 1997 in the six states with the largest foreign-born populations reflect these regional changes (Table 4-1). Pennsylvania and Massachusetts were replaced by Florida and Texas.

Historically, the foreign-born population was highly concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest.

In 1900 and 1930, over 80 percent of the foreign-born population of the United States lived in the Northeast and Midwest, and in 1930, 51 percent lived in the Northeast alone. New York had a foreign-born population of 3.3 million in 1930, more than twice the foreign-born population of any other state and the highest census figure for any state until 1980, when the foreign-born population of California was 3.6 million.

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[1]The estimates do not differ significantly between Florida and Texas and between New Jersey and Illinois. For Illinois, the lower bound on the 90-percent confidence interval is less than 1 million (Figure 4-1).

[2]The estimates do not differ significantly between Florida and New Jersey.

[3]The proportion foreign born appears to be above the national figure in two additional states (Nevada and Rhode Island); however, the apparent differences are not statistically significant. It should be noted that the sample size is not large enough to identify many substantively important differences involving states with relatively small populations. See Appendix B.

[4]The increase does not differ significantly between Florida and Texas.

Section 5.

Metropolitan Areas

The foreign-born population is highly concentrated in a few large metropolitan areas.

In 1997, the metropolitan areas with the largest foreign-born populations were Los Angeles (4.8 million) and New York (4.6 million), although these estimates are not significantly different from each other (Figure 5-1).[1] Together, these two metropolitan areas included 9.4 million, or 36 percent, of the foreign-born population of 25.8 million. In contrast, they included only 13 percent of the total population.

In three additional metropolitan areas, the foreign-born population was 1 million or more in 1997: Miami, San Francisco, and Chicago.[2] Together with Los Angeles and New York, these five metropolitan areas included 13.2 million, or 51 percent of the foreign-born population, but only 20 percent of the total population.

Among the 10 largest metropolitan areas in 1997 (those with total populations of 4 million or more), Los Angeles had the highest proportion foreign born at 31 percent (Table 5-1). For metropolitan areas with 1 million to 4 million population in 1997, Miami had the highest proportion foreign born at 39 percent.

The foreign-born population is more concentrated than the native population in metropolitan areas and in their central cities.

The concentration of the foreign-born population in metropolitan areas and in their central cities is shown from two perspectives in Figure 5-2. The numbers on the left side show the proportionate distributions of the total population, the native population, and the foreign-born population by type of residence. The bar chart on the right side shows the proportion foreign born in each category of the population by type of residence.

As shown in the left side of Figure 5-2, 94 percent of the foreign-born population lived in metropolitan areas in 1997 compared with 79 percent of the native population. The difference was accounted for entirely by the differences in the proportions in central cities: 47 percent of the foreign-born population versus 28 percent of the native population. The proportion living outside central cities in metropolitan areas was slightly lower among the foreign-born population than among the native population: 48 percent versus 51 percent.

The foreign-born population was especially concentrated in the largest metropolitan areas and in their central cities: 53 percent lived in the 8 metropolitan areas of 5 million or more population in 1997 compared with 25 percent of the native population. The central cities of these eight largest metropolitan areas included 28 percent of the foreign-born population compared with only 8 percent of the native population.

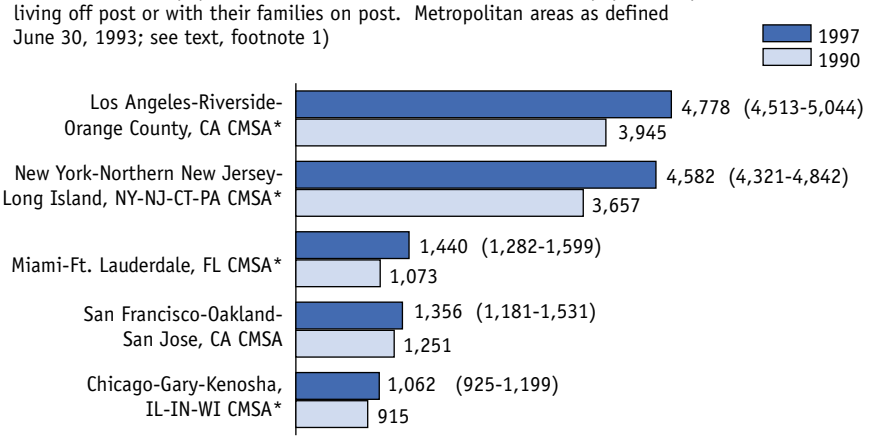
While a much higher proportion of the foreign-born population than of the native population lived in metropolitan areas of 5 million or more population in 1997, the proportions were not significantly different in metropolitan areas of 1 million up to 5 million population (25 percent and 26 percent, respectively). The proportions were lower for the foreign-born population than for the native population in metropolitan areas with less than 1 million population (16 percent versus 28 percent) and in nonmetropolitan areas (6 percent versus 21 percent).

Over one-quarter of the central-city population of the largest metropolitan areas is foreign born.

As shown on the right side of Figure 5-2, the proportion of the

Figure 5-1.
Metropolitan Areas With Foreign-Born Populations of 1 Million or More in 1997: 1990 and 1997

(Numbers in thousands. 90-percent confidence intervals in parentheses for 1997 estimates. For 1990, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. Metropolitan areas as defined June 30, 1993; see text, footnote 1)



*Change from 1990 to 1997 is statistically significant.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 16, and 1999b, Table 5-2A.

population foreign born was much higher in metropolitan areas (11 percent) than in nonmetropolitan areas (3 percent) in 1997. The proportion foreign born ranged from 18 percent in metropolitan areas with 5 million or more population to 6 percent in metropolitan areas with less than 1 million population.

The proportion of the population foreign born was higher in central cities (15 percent) than outside central cities in metropolitan areas (9 percent). The foreign-born proportion of the population was highest in central cities of metropolitan areas with 5 million or more population (26 percent).

Table 5-1.
Foreign-Born Population in the 10 Largest Metropolitan Areas: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. Metropolitan areas as defined June 30, 1993; see text, footnote 1)

Rank in total population	Metropolitan area	Percent foreign born
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA	22.8
2	Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA	30.5
3	Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA	13.0
4	Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV-CMSA	11.0
5	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA	20.8
6	Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD CMSA	6.2
7	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA	8.1
8	Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA	6.7
9	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX CMSA	9.6
10	Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA	15.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 5-2A.

[1]Official names of metropolitan areas are provided in Figure 5-1 and Table 5-1, but are shortened in the text for readability.

The general concept of a metropolitan area (MA) is one of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree or economic and social integration with that nucleus. Some MAs are defined around two or more nuclei. The Office of Management and Budget, with technical assistance from the Census Bureau, uses published standards to define MAs for use by federal agencies. The standards provide for the classification of an MA as a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or as a consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CSMA) with component primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). See Office of Management and Budget, 1990 and 1993.

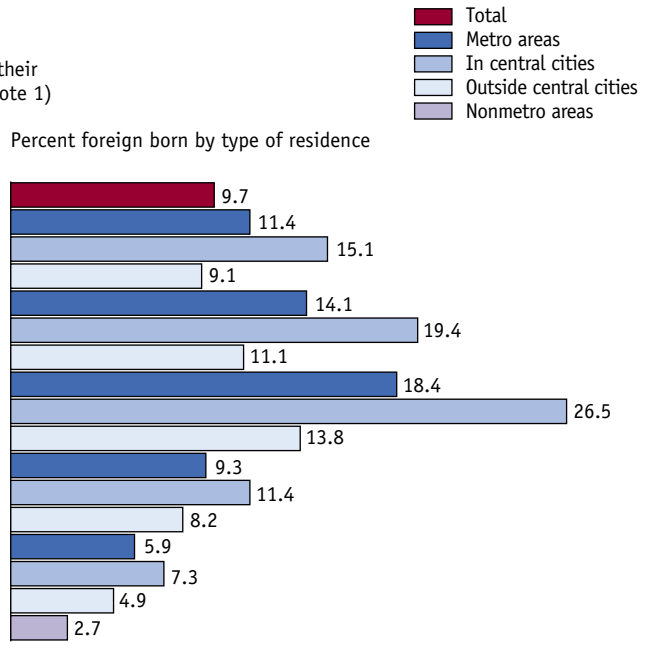
[2]For the Chicago metropolitan area, the lower bound on the 90-percent confidence interval is less than 1 million.

Figure 5-2.
Population by Nativity and Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Residence: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. Metropolitan areas as defined June 30, 1993; see text, footnote 1)

Percent distribution by type of residence

Total	Native	Foreign born	
100.0	100.0	100.0	Total population
80.4	78.9	94.4	Metropolitan areas
30.0	28.2	46.7	In central cities
50.4	50.7	47.7	Outside central cities
53.9	51.2	78.3	1 million or more population
19.3	17.2	38.6	In central cities
34.6	34.1	39.7	Outside central cities
28.1	25.4	53.5	5 million or more population
10.2	8.3	27.9	In central cities
17.9	17.1	25.6	Outside central cities
25.8	25.9	24.9	1 million up to 5 million population
9.1	8.9	10.8	In central cities
16.7	17.0	14.1	Outside central cities
26.5	27.6	16.1	Less than 1 million population
10.7	11.0	8.1	In central cities
15.8	16.6	8.0	Outside central cities
19.6	21.1	5.6	Nonmetropolitan areas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 5-1A.

Section 6.

Length of Residence

The median length of residence of the foreign-born population is about 13 years.

In 1997, the median length of residence in the United States of the foreign-born population was 13.3 years (Figure 6-1).[1] This is slightly higher than in 1990 (12.2 years) and slightly lower than in 1980 (14.1 years), but much lower than in 1970 when the median was 20.3 years.[2]

In general, changes between 1970 and 1997 in the percent distribution of the foreign-born population by length of residence reflect the relatively high level of immigration during this period and the attrition (through death) of nearly all immigrants who came to the United States before 1930 when immigration previously had been at relatively high levels, as discussed in Section 1. The proportion of the foreign-born population residing in the United States for 20 years or more dropped from 50 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1997. The proportions residing in the United States under 5 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 to 19 years were all higher in 1997 than in 1970.

In 1997, the category of length of residence in the United States of 20 years and over included the following subcategories up to 40 years and over:

20 years and over	30.3 %
20 to 24 years	8.6 %
25 to 29 years	6.9 %
30 to 34 years	4.5 %
35 to 39 years	3.2 %
40 years and over	7.2 %

While data dividing the category 20 years and over are available from censuses of 1970, 1980, and 1990, the subcategories are not directly comparable.[3] However, the available data on these subcategories permit the computation of quartiles of length of residence in the United States, which are shown in Figure 6-1.[4] The 2nd quartile (the median) was discussed earlier. The 3rd quartile shows the minimum length of residence of the one-quarter of the foreign-born population with the longest length of residence in the United States.

In 1970, when pre-1930 immigrants still constituted a sizable proportion of the foreign-born population, the top one quarter of the foreign-born population had resided in the United States for 50.8 years or more. The corresponding 3rd quartiles were 29.8 years in 1980, 24.1 years in 1990, and 23.1 years in 1997.[5]

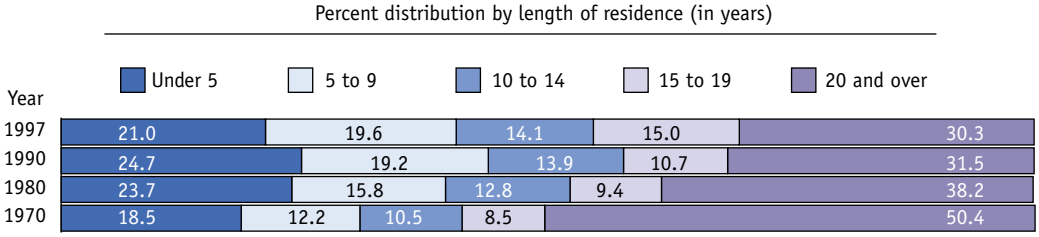
Length of residence by region of birth reflects historical patterns of immigration.

In 1997, the median length of residence in the United States of the foreign-born population was 11.7 years for the population from Asia and 12.4 years for the population from Latin America (Figure 6-2). These two medians are not significantly different from each other, nor is the median for the foreign-born population from Latin America significantly different from the median length of residence of 13.3 years for the total foreign-born population. The median length of residence of the population from Africa, 9.8 years,

Figure 6-1.

Length of Residence in the United States for the Foreign-Born Population: 1970 to 1997

(Excludes population for whom length of residence was not reported. For 1970-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Year	Length of residence (in years)		
	1st quartile	2nd quartile (median)	3rd quartile
1997	6.0	13.3	23.1
1990	5.1	12.2	24.1
1980	5.4	14.1	29.8
1970	7.7	20.3	50.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 10, and 1999b, Table 6-1.

does not differ significantly from the medians for the populations from Asia and Latin America.

Among the foreign-born population from Latin America, the median was highest for those from the Caribbean, 16.3 years, reflecting the relatively large number of immigrants from Cuba in the 1960s and 1970s. The median lengths of residence of the population from Central America (about four-fifths of whom are from Mexico) and South America, 11.3 years and 12.1 years, respectively, were not significantly different from each other.

The median lengths of residence in 1997 of the foreign-born population from Northern America (essentially Canada) and Europe were 28.4 years and 24.6 years, respectively, do not differ significantly, but were both about double the national median of 13.3 years. While 30 percent of the foreign-born population had resided in the United States for 20 years or more, 56 percent of the foreign born from Europe and 57 percent of the foreign born from Northern America were in this category (although the last two proportions are not significantly different from each other).

[1]The median is the value which divides the ranked population into two groups of equal size.

[2]Because reporting on year of entry (which is used to obtain data on length of residence) is subject to misstatement, small differences in length of residence do not warrant emphasis. For example, the specific question, "When did you come to live in the United States?," may be interpreted by some respondents to mean the year in which they obtained permanent legal residence in the United States.

[3]For 1970, the subcategories of 50.4 percent are: 20 to 24 years, 6.3 percent; 25 to 34 years, 3.5 percent; 35 to 44 years, 8.2 percent; 45 to 54 years, 12.7 percent; 55 years and over, 19.7 percent. For 1980, the subcategories of 38.2 percent are: 20 to 29 years, 13.6 percent; 30 years and over, 24.7 percent. For 1990, the subcategories of 31.5 percent are: 20 to 24 years, 8.0 percent; 25 to 29 years, 6.1 percent; 30 to 39 years, 8.1 percent; 40 years and over, 9.3 percent (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 10).

[4]Quartiles are the values in a ranked distribution of a population that divide it into four groups of equal size. In Figure 6-1, the 1st quartile divides the foreign-born population into 25 percent (one-quarter) with a shorter length of residence and 75 percent (three-quarters) with a longer length of residence. The 2nd quartile is the median. The 3rd quartile divides the foreign-born population into 75 percent (three-quarters) with a shorter length of residence and 25 percent (one-quarter) with a longer length of residence.

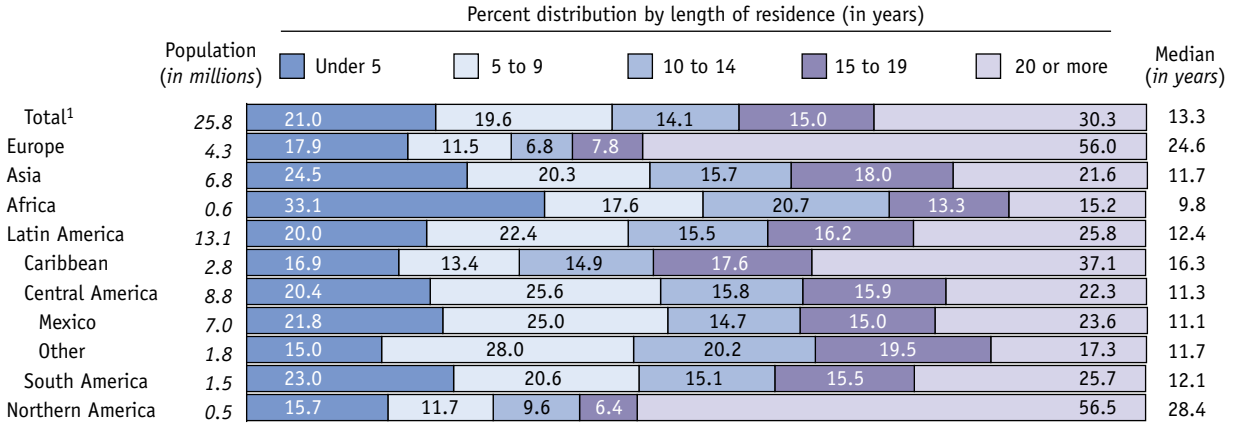
The 1st quartile can be viewed as the median of the lower half of a distribution, and the 3rd quartile can be viewed as the median of the upper half of a distribution.

[5]The quartiles for 1990 and 1997 do not differ significantly.

Figure 6-2.

Length of Residence in the United States for the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 6-1.

Section 7.

Citizenship Status

The proportion of naturalized citizens in the foreign-born population has declined since 1970.

While the total foreign-born population increased by 165 percent (from 9.7 million to 25.8 million) between 1970 and 1997, the numbers of naturalized citizens and noncitizens in the foreign-born population increased at very different rates (Figure 7-1).[1] Naturalized citizens increased by 46 percent (from 6.2 million to 9.0 million), and noncitizens rose by 373 percent (from 3.5 million to 16.7 million).

As a result of the more rapid growth of noncitizens, the proportion of naturalized citizens in the foreign-born population dropped steadily from 64 percent in 1970 to 51 percent in 1980, to 40 percent in 1990, and to 35 percent in 1997. The proportion for 1997 is the lowest for at least the past century.[2]

The proportion of naturalized citizens has declined in each length-of-residence category.

The proportion of naturalized citizens in the foreign-born population declined from 1970 to 1997, not only for the total foreign-born population, but for every category of length of residence in the United States (Figure 7-2). As measured by percentage-point change, the declines were most pronounced for the foreign-born population residing in the United States for 10 to 14 years (58 percent to 30 percent), for 15 to 19 years (72 percent to 42 percent), and for 20 years and over (90 percent to 67 percent).[3]

Most of the decline in the proportion of naturalized citizens in the foreign-born population is attributable to the declines within each length-of-residence category. Changes in the distribution of the foreign-born population by length of residence in the United States are a secondary factor. (The median length of residence of the foreign-born population dropped from 20.3 years in 1970 to 13.3 years in 1997, as discussed in Section 6.)

As noted above, the proportion of naturalized citizens dropped from 64 percent in 1970 to 35 percent in 1997, or by 29 percentage points. The declines in proportions of naturalized citizens in the length-of-residence categories account for 20 percentage points of the drop, and the changes in the distribution by length of residence account for 9 percentage points of the drop.[4]

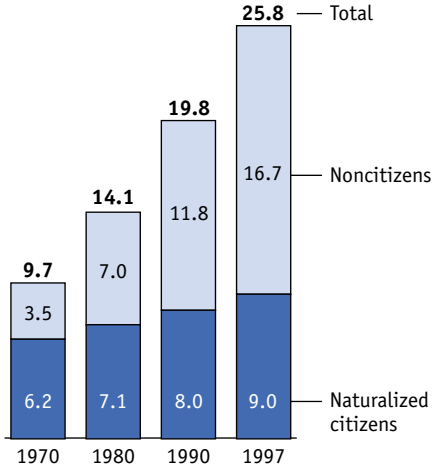
The proportion of naturalized citizens varies greatly by region of birth.

The proportion of naturalized citizens among the foreign-born population in 1997 was 53 percent for the population from Europe, 44 percent for the population from Asia, and 24 percent for the population from Latin America (Figure 7-3). The low proportion for the population from Latin America is attributable primarily to the low figure for the population from Mexico (15 percent).

Part of the differences in the proportions of naturalized citizens by region of birth is attributable to differences in length of residence in the United States. Most notably, the proportions of citizens in 1997 among the population from Mexico whose length of residence in the United States was 10 to 14 years, 15 to 19 years, or 20 years or more were much lower than for the total foreign-born population: 11 percent versus 30 percent, 14 percent versus 42 percent, and 34 percent versus 67 percent, respectively.[5]

Figure 7-1.
Foreign-Born Population by Citizenship Status: 1970 to 1997

(In millions. For 1970-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.)

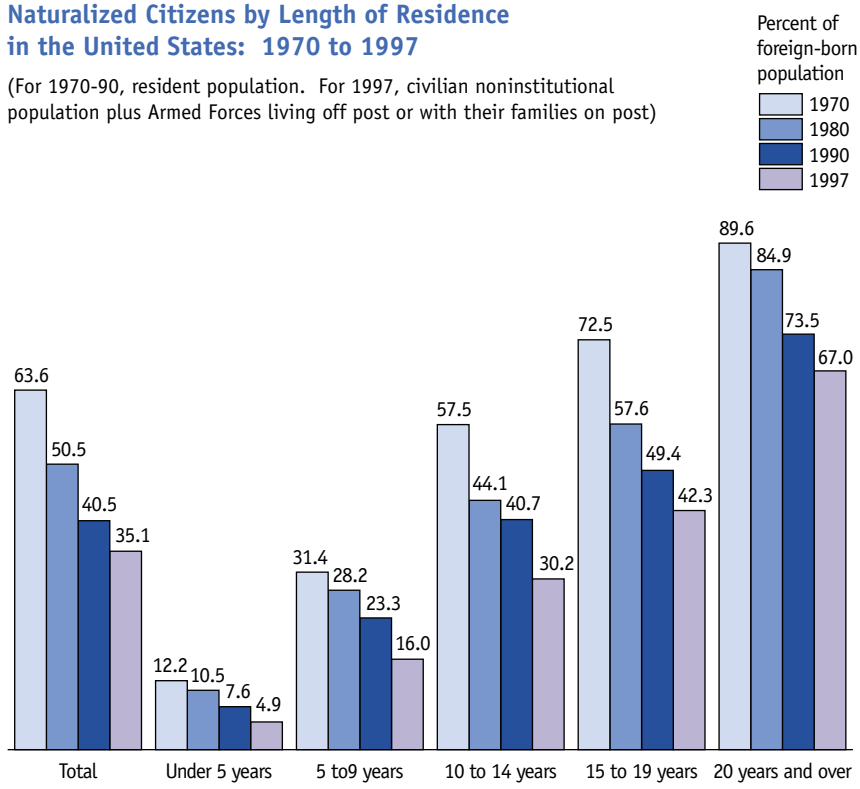


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 11, and 1999b, Table 7-1.

Figure 7-2.

Naturalized Citizens by Length of Residence in the United States: 1970 to 1997

(For 1970-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

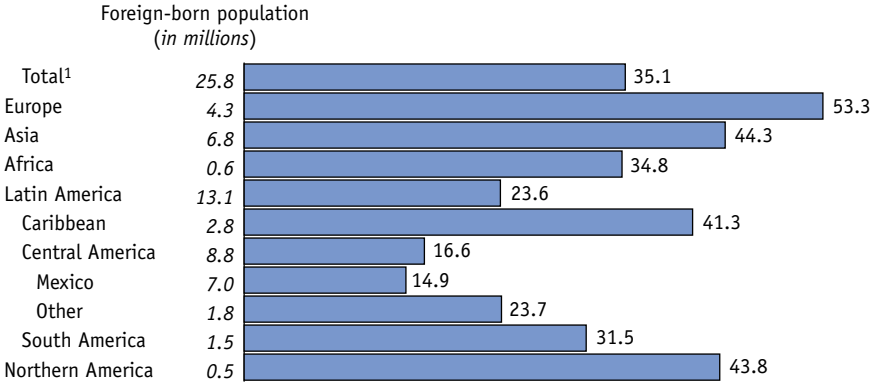


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1973, Table 17; 1985, Table 2; 1993a, Table 1; 1998 special tabulations, and 1999b, Table 7-1.

Figure 7-3.

Naturalized Citizens by Region of Birth: 1997

(Percent of foreign-born population. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 7-1.

[1]Some individuals who are foreign born may report themselves erroneously as U.S. citizens. The naturalization process usually requires 5 years of residence in the United States. See also Section 6, footnote 1, concerning limitations of data on length of residence in the United States.

[2]For censuses prior to 1970, data on citizenship of the foreign-born population are available for 1890-1950. The proportion naturalized (excluding the foreign born for whom citizenship was not reported) was 49 percent in 1920, 58 percent in 1930, 68 percent in 1940, and 79 percent in 1950. The proportion naturalized among foreign-born males 21 years and over was 64 percent in 1890, 67 percent in 1900, 51 percent in 1910, and 50 percent in 1920 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 11).

[3]The percentage-point declines for the categories of 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years do not differ significantly.

[4]The 1970 distribution by length of residence combined with the 1997 proportions of naturalized citizens would have produced a decline in the proportion of naturalized citizens from 63.6 percent to 43.4 percent. The reverse combination (the 1997 distribution by length of residence combined with the 1970 proportions of naturalized citizens) would have produced a decline from 63.6 percent to 54.9 percent.

[5]If the distribution of persons from Mexico by length of residence in the United States is adjusted (standardized) to the distribution of the total foreign-born population by length of residence in the United States, the proportion of citizens among the foreign-born population from Mexico rises only slightly: from 15 percent to 17 percent.

Section 8.

Nativity, Parentage, and Foreign Stock

One-fifth of the population is of foreign stock.

In 1997, 54.7 million, or 21 percent, of the population was of foreign stock (Table 8-1). In addition to a foreign-born population of 25.8 million, the population of foreign or mixed parentage (which is defined as native) was 28.9 million. The population of foreign or mixed parentage included 15.0 million of foreign parentage and 13.9 million of mixed parentage. Among the population of mixed parentage, 7.5 million had a foreign-born father, and 6.4 million had a foreign-born mother.[1]

The terms native population and foreign-born population, which were defined in Section 1, concern the nativity of the population. Information on the birthplace of parents may be used to classify the native population by parentage: native of native parentage (both parents native), native of foreign parentage (both parents foreign born), and native of mixed parentage (one parent native and one parent foreign born).

The term foreign stock includes the foreign-born population and the native population of foreign or mixed parentage. The foreign stock may thus be thought of as first and second generation U.S. residents combined. Just as the native population and foreign-born population comprise the total population, the native population of native parentage and the foreign-stock population also comprise the total population.

The proportion of the population of foreign stock has increased since 1970.

In 1960, 34.1 million, or 19 percent of the population was of foreign stock (Figure 8-1). The population of foreign stock dropped to 33.6 million, or 17 percent of the population in 1970, the last year in which data on parentage were collected in the decennial census.[2] By 1997, the population of foreign stock had risen to 54.7 million, or 21 percent of the population, reflecting the high level of immigration since 1970.

The growth in the population of foreign stock since 1970 is due mostly to the growth in the foreign-born population. From 1970 to 1997, the foreign-born population increased by 16.2 million (from 9.6 million to 25.8 million) while the population of foreign or mixed parentage rose by only 5.0 million (from 24.0 million to 28.9 million). The slower growth in the population of foreign or mixed parentage reflects the relatively old age structure of this population in 1970, which in turn reflects the preceding decades of relatively low immigration.[3] With the attrition (through mortality) of descendants of immigrants who came to the United States early in the twentieth century and with the high level of immigration during the past generation, the population of foreign or mixed parentage will undoubtedly grow more rapidly in the future.[4]

From 1960 to 1997, the population of mixed parentage increased by 3.7 million (from 10.2 million to 13.9 million).[5] The portion with foreign-born fathers increased by 1.0 million (from 6.5 million to 7.5 million) while the portion with foreign-born mothers increased by 2.7 million (from 3.8 million to 6.4 million).

Table 8-1.
Population by Nativity and Parentage: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

Nativity and parentage	Number (in millions)	Percent
Total population	266.8	100.0
Native	241.0	90.3
Native parentage	212.1	79.5
Foreign or mixed parentage	28.9	10.8
Foreign parentage	15.0	5.6
Mixed parentage	13.9	5.2
Father foreign born	7.5	2.8
Mother foreign born	6.4	2.4
Foreign born	25.8	9.7
Native of native parentage	212.1	79.5
Foreign stock	54.7	20.5
Foreign or mixed parentage	28.9	10.8
Foreign born	25.8	9.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 4-1A.

The proportion of the population of foreign stock is below historical levels.

While the proportion of the population of foreign stock rose from 17 percent in 1970 to 21 percent in 1997, it is well below the level of the 1890 to 1930 period (Figure 8-1). The proportion increased from 33 percent in 1890 to 35 percent in 1910 and then

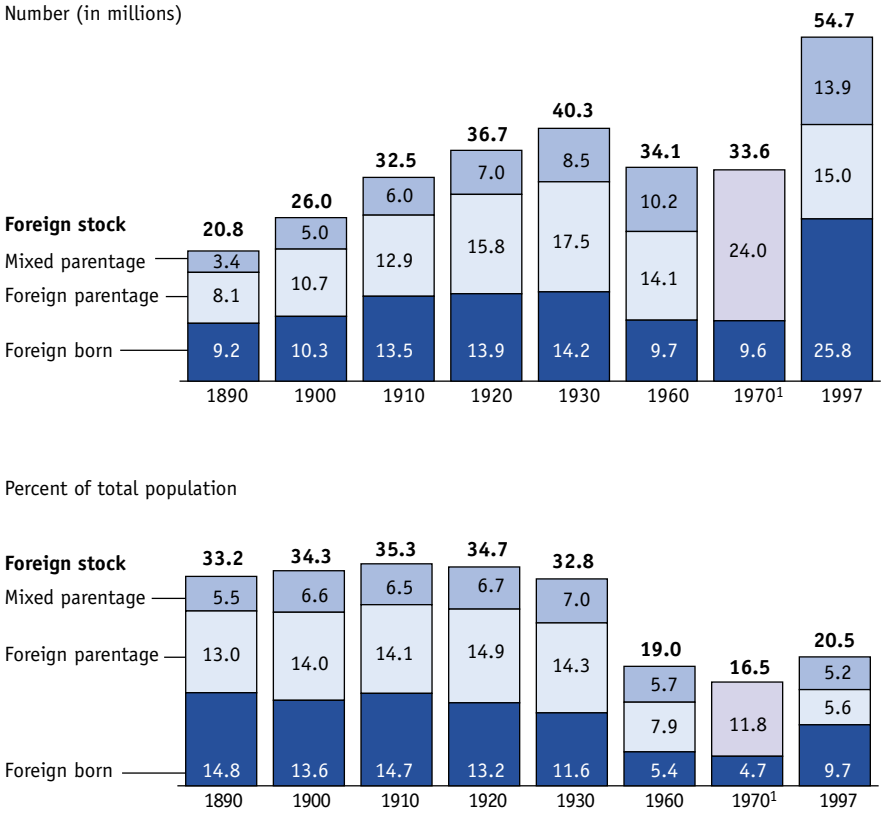
dropped back to 33 percent in 1930.

The relative sizes of the population of foreign or mixed parentage and the foreign-born population have fluctuated, reflecting the timing of periods of large-scale immigration and subsequent childbearing of the foreign-born population, as shown below. In 1890, when 18.4 percent of the population was native of foreign or mixed parentage and 14.8 percent of the population was foreign born, the ratio was 1.2 to 1. By 1960, the ratio had increased to 2.5 to 1. From 2.5 to 1 again in 1970, the ratio fell sharply to 1.1 to 1 in 1997, slightly lower than the ratio in 1890.

	1890	1960	1970	1997
Foreign or mixed parentage	18.4%	13.6%	11.8%	10.8%
Foreign born	14.8%	5.4%	4.7%	9.7%
Ratio	1.2 to 1	2.5 to 1	2.5 to 1	1.1 to 1

Figure 8-1.
Foreign-Stock Population by Nativity and Parentage: Selected Years, 1890 to 1997

(For 1890-1970, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Data not available separately for foreign parentage and mixed parentage.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 12, and 1999b, Table 4-1A.

[1]Among the foreign-born population, 24.2 million had parents born in the same country, and only 1.6 million had parents born in different countries. Among the population of foreign parentage, 12.8 million had parents born in the same country, and only 2.2 million had parents born in different countries.

[2]The question on nativity or birthplace of parents, which was included in censuses from 1870 to 1970, was replaced in 1980 with a question on ancestry that was based on self-identification, with no restrictions on how many generations removed from their ancestors' country or countries of origin.

[3]In 1970, the native population of foreign or mixed parentage had a median age of 47.3, and 16.3 percent was 65 years old and over (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1973, Table 1).

[4]One indication of future growth is the rapid increase in the number of births in the United States to foreign-born women residing in the United States, from 223,000 (6.0 percent of total births) in 1970 to 696,000 (17.8 percent of total births) in 1995 (U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, 1975, Table 1-61, and unpublished data, 1998). These children have U.S. citizenship at birth and are part of the native population.

[5]Data published from the 1970 census did not distinguish between the native populations of foreign parentage and mixed parentage.

Section 9.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Two-thirds of the foreign-born population is Hispanic or Asian and Pacific Islander.

In 1997, Hispanics accounted for 29.7 million, or 11 percent, of the total population, and Asians and Pacific Islanders accounted for 10.1 million, or 4 percent of the total population (Table 9-1). Among the foreign-born population, 11.4 million, or 44 percent, were Hispanic, and 6.1 million, or 24 percent, were Asian and Pacific Islander. Among the native population, 18.3 million, or 8 percent, were Hispanic, and 4.0 million, or 2 percent, were Asian and Pacific Islander. Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders, who together accounted for 15 percent of the total population, thus accounted for 68 percent of the foreign-born population, but for only 9 percent of the native population.

In contrast, the proportions of White non-Hispanics and of Blacks were lower in the foreign-born population than in the native population. White non-Hispanics, who represented 72 percent of the total population, accounted for 26 percent of the foreign-born population and for 77 percent of the native population. Blacks, who represented 12.8 percent of the total population, accounted for 8 percent of the foreign-born population and for 13.4 percent of the native population.

The racial categories used for data from the March 1997 Current Population Survey include the following: White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; and Asian and Pacific Islander. The ethnic categories include Hispanic origin and not of Hispanic origin. The population in a race category may be Hispanic or not Hispanic, and the population of Hispanic origin may be of any race. There are four race or Hispanic groups that are identified for discussion in this section: Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and White non-Hispanics.[1]

Race and Hispanic groups differ sharply in their distributions by nativity and parentage.

In 1997, 9.7 percent of the population was foreign born (Figure 9-1). The proportion was much higher among Asians and Pacific Islanders (61 percent) and Hispanics (38 percent) and was below the national figure for Blacks (5.9 percent) and for White non-Hispanics (3.4).

The opposite situation exists with regard to the native population of native parentage. While this category included 79 percent of the total population in 1997, it included 90 percent of Blacks and 88 percent of White non-Hispanics. In contrast, 32 percent of Hispanics and only 11 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders were native of native parentage.

The foreign-born population by region of birth is not always homogeneous by race or Hispanic origin.

The foreign-born populations from Europe and Northern America are the most homogeneous by race and Hispanic origin. In 1997, 97 percent and 92 percent, respectively, were White non-Hispanic. (These percentages do not differ significantly.) Of the foreign-born population from Asia, 83 percent were Asian and Pacific Islander and 15 percent were White non-Hispanic. Of the foreign-born population from Africa, 60 percent were Black, and 30 percent were White non-Hispanic.

Of the foreign-born population from Latin America in 1997, 86 percent were Hispanic, and 12 percent were Black. About 3 percent were both Black and Hispanic. The

Table 9-1.
Population by Nativity, Parentage, and Selected Race and Hispanic Origin Groups: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

	Total population		Native						Foreign born		Foreign stock	
			Total		Native parentage		Foreign or mixed parentage					
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total[1]	266.8	100.0	241.0	100.0	212.1	100.0	28.9	100.0	25.8	100.0	54.7	100.0
Black	34.2	12.8	32.2	13.4	30.8	14.5	1.4	4.7	2.0	7.9	3.4	6.2
Asian and Pacific Islander	10.1	3.8	4.0	1.6	1.1	0.5	2.8	9.8	6.1	23.7	8.9	16.3
Hispanic origin (of any race)	29.7	11.1	18.3	7.6	9.6	4.5	8.7	30.2	11.4	44.2	20.1	36.8
White, not of Hispanic origin	191.8	71.9	185.2	76.8	169.0	79.7	16.2	55.8	6.6	25.6	22.8	41.6

[1]The four race and Hispanic groups shown are not a mutually exclusive and exhaustive set of categories adding to the total. See footnote 1 in text.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 9-1A.

Black population from Latin America was primarily from the Caribbean. Of the foreign-born population from the Caribbean, 54 percent were Hispanic, and 46 percent were Black. About 5 percent were both Hispanic and Black.

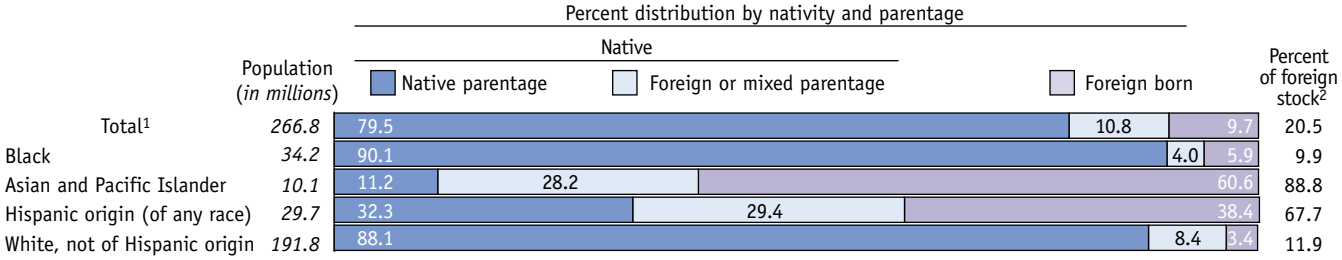
The foreign-born Asian and Pacific Islander population has a low median length of residence in the United States and a high proportion of naturalized citizens.

In 1997, the median length of residence in the United States of the foreign-born population was 13.3 years, and 35 percent were naturalized citizens (Figure 9-2). As would be expected given patterns of immigration by region of birth (discussed in Section 2), the figures were highest for foreign-born White non-Hispanics: a median of 19.6 years and 50 percent naturalized citizens.

Foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders had a median length of residence of 11.6 years, and 44 percent were naturalized citizens. Foreign-born Hispanics had a median length of residence of 12.2 years (not significantly different from the median for Asians and Pacific Islanders), and only 22 percent were naturalized citizens.

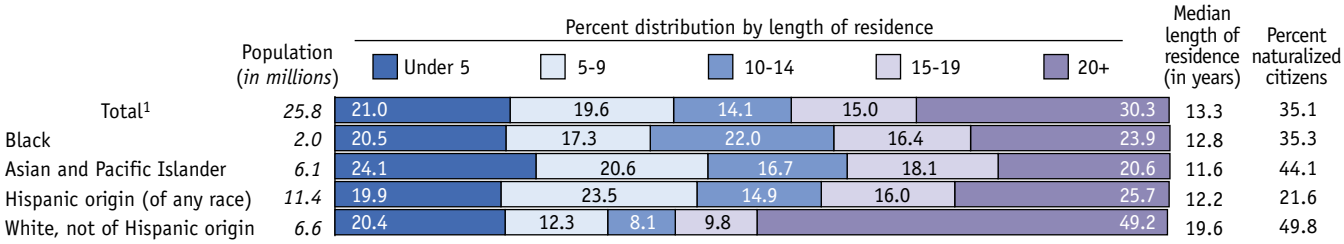
[1]The four race and Hispanic groups discussed in this section do not represent a mutually exclusive and exhaustive set of categories adding to the total population. The populations in these four categories add to 99.6 percent of the total population. The non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native population (0.8 percent of the total population) is not included, and individuals who are both Black and Hispanic, or both Asian and Pacific Islander and Hispanic (0.4 percent of the total population) are each included in two of the four categories shown. (In brief, 99.6 percent plus 0.8 percent minus 0.4 percent equals 100.0 percent.)

Figure 9-1.
Nativity and Parentage for Selected Race and Hispanic Origin Groups: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]The four race and Hispanic groups shown are not a mutually exclusive and exhaustive set of categories adding to the total. See footnote 1 in text.
[2]Includes the foreign-born population and the native population of foreign or mixed parentage. See Section 8.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 9-1A.

Figure 9-2.
Length of Residence in the United States and Citizenship Status for Selected Race and Hispanic Origin Groups of the Foreign-Born Population: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]The four race and Hispanic groups shown are not a mutually exclusive and exhaustive set of categories adding to the total. See footnote 1 in text.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 9-1B.

Section 10.

Age and Gender

Two-thirds of the foreign-born population is in the 25 to 64 age span.

In 1997, the median ages of the foreign-born population (37 years) and the native population (34 years) did not differ greatly; however, there were major differences in age distributions between the two groups (Figure 10-1). Only 10 percent of the foreign-born population was under age 18 compared with 28 percent of the native population. In contrast, the proportions in the foreign-born population were higher than in the native population in the 25 to 44 age group (44 percent versus 30 percent) and in the 45 to 64 age group (24 percent versus 20 percent). As a result, the 25 to 64 age span includes about two-thirds of the foreign-born population compared with about one-half of the native population.

Among the foreign-born population in 1997, naturalized citizens were older (median age 47) than the noncitizen population (median age 33). The proportion 65 years old and over among naturalized citizens (20 percent) was much higher than among the noncitizen population (6 percent).

As would be expected, the age structure of the foreign-born population differed greatly by length of residence in the United States. The median age ranged from 28 years old for those resident in the United States less than 10 years to 54 years old for those resident in the United States 20 years and over. The proportions 65 years old and over for these two groups were 3 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

The sex ratio (males per 100 females) in 1997 was higher in the foreign-born population (101) than in the native population (95). Among the foreign-born population, the sex ratio was higher among those whose length of residence in the United States was less than 10 years (109) than among those whose length of residence was 20 years and over (87).[1] This difference is due in part to the fact that age-specific mortality rates are generally higher for males than for females, especially in the older ages.

The age structure of the foreign-born population varies greatly by region of birth.

In 1997, the median age of the foreign-born population ranged from 51 for those from Europe to 34 for those from Latin America (Figure 10-2). Among those from Latin America, the median age was 31 for the population born in Mexico. The proportion in the 25 to 44 age group was 47 percent for the population born in Asia or Latin America compared with 27 percent for the population born in Europe. In contrast, the proportion 65 years old and over was 7 or 8 percent for the foreign-born population from Latin America or Asia compared with 26 percent for the foreign-born population from Europe.[2] The differences in age structure by region of birth reflect differences in patterns of immigra-

Figure 10-1.

Age and Gender of the Population by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

	Population (*in millions*)	Percent distribution by age: Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Median age (years)	Sex ratio (males per 100 females)
Total	*266.8*	26.7	9.4	31.6	20.4	11.9	34.3	95.9
Native	*241.0*	28.5	9.1	30.3	20.0	12.1	33.7	95.4
Foreign born	*25.8*	10.2	11.4	43.5	24.1	10.8	37.4	100.9
Length of residence in U.S.								
Less than 10 years	*10.5*	21.4	18.3	47.0	10.2	3.1	28.2	108.8
10 to 19 years	*7.5*	5.1	11.8	55.7	22.3	5.2	37.2	105.7
20 years and over	*7.8*	1.8	27.2	44.4	26.6		53.8	87.2
Citizenship status								
Naturalized citizen	*9.0*	3.7	5.4	36.7	34.6	19.6	47.1	94.4
Not a citizen	*16.7*	13.6	14.7	47.2	18.4	6.1	33.1	104.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 10-1A, 10-1B, and 10-1C.

tion and in length of residence in the United States, as discussed in Section 1 and Section 6, respectively.

The age structure of the foreign-born population has changed dramatically since 1960.

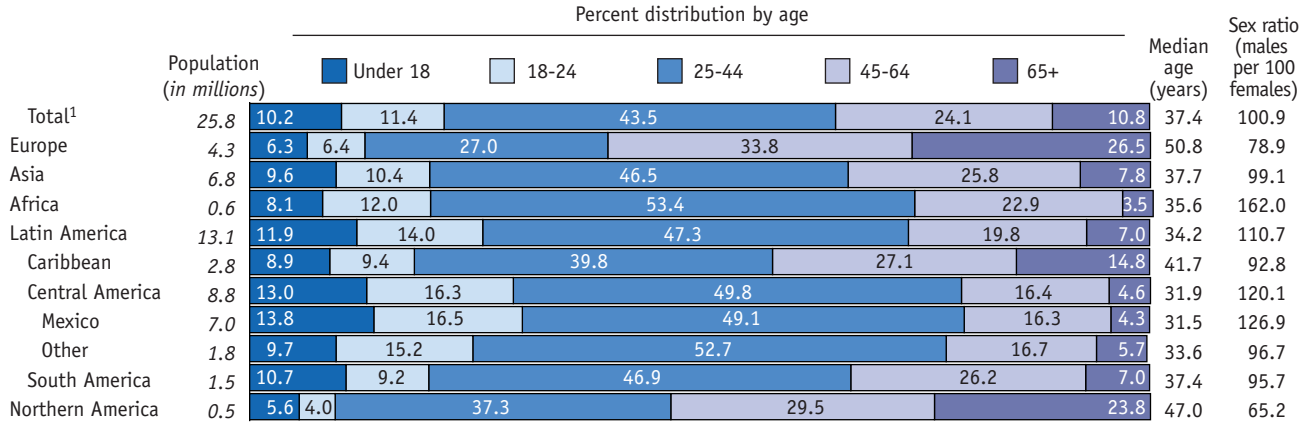
The median age of the foreign-born population dropped from 57 to 37 between 1960 and 1990 and has not changed significantly since 1990 (Figure 10-3).[3] The proportion of the foreign-born population 25 to 44 years old rose from 19 percent in 1960 to 44 percent in 1997, and the proportion 65 years old and over dropped from 33 percent in 1960 to 11 percent in 1997. The sex ratio of the foreign-born population dropped from 96 in 1960 to 84 in 1970 and then rose to 101 in 1997. These changes reflect the long-term trends in immigration, as discussed in Section 1, and the higher age-specific mortality rates for males than for females in the older ages.

[1]The apparent difference in sex ratios between noncitizens (105) and naturalized citizens (94) was not statistically significant. Data from the 1990 census show a higher sex ratio for noncitizens (102) than for naturalized citizens (87) (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993, Table 1).

[2]The proportions of 7.0 percent for Latin America and 7.8 percent for Asia do not differ significantly.

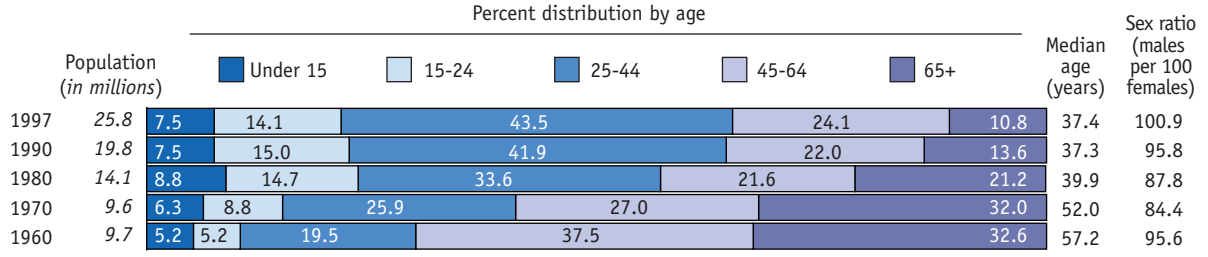
[3]The age groups in Figure 10-3 include under age 15 and 15 to 24 years old rather than under age 18 and 18 to 24 years old because data on the latter two groups are not available for all censuses back to 1960.

Figure 10-2.
Age and Gender of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 10-1D.

Figure 10-3.
Age and Gender of the Foreign-Born Population: 1960 to 1997
(For 1960-90, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999a, Table 7, and 1999b, Tables 10-1A and 10-2A.

Section 11.

Household Size and Type

On average, foreign-born households are larger than native households.

In 1997, 10.4 million, or 10.3 percent, of the 101 million households in the United States had a foreign-born householder (Figure 11-1). The average household size of foreign-born households (3.32) was considerably larger than of native households (2.56). Foreign-born households had larger average numbers both of adults (18 years old and over), 2.29 versus 1.89, and of children (under age 18 years), 1.03 versus 0.67.

Among households with a foreign-born householder, average household size was smallest where length of residence in the United States was 20 years and over (2.94).[1]

Average household size was larger where the householder was not a citizen than where the householder was a citizen. This was the case overall (3.57 versus 3.01) and for each of several categories of length of residence: 5 to 9 years, 10 to 19 years, and 20 years and over.[2]

A household is a person or group of people who occupy a housing unit. The householder is usually the household member, or one of the household members, in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. A family is made up of two or more people living together who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption, one of whom is the householder.

Households are classified as foreign born or native based on the nativity of the householder, regardless of the nativity of other household members. For simplicity, a household with a native householder is referred to also as a native household, and a household with a foreign-born householder is referred to also as a foreign-born household.

The foreign-born proportion of households (10.3 percent) exceeds the foreign-born proportion of the population (9.7 percent), even though average household size is substantially larger among foreign-born households than among native households. This anomaly reflects the definition of household nativity based on the nativity of the householder and the fact that a substantial proportion of members of foreign-born households, especially children, are native (with U.S. citizenship at birth) rather than foreign born.

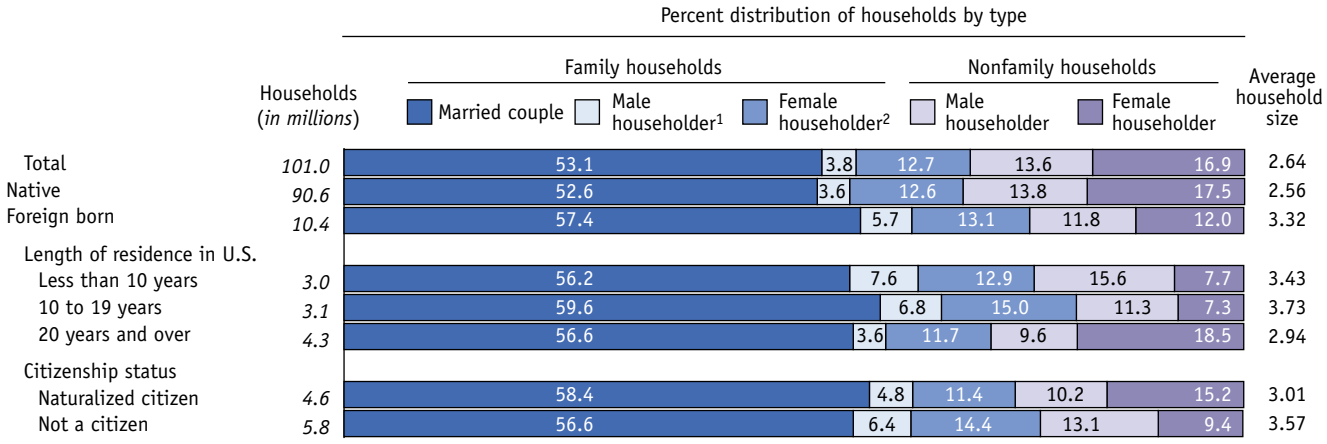
One-third of the members of foreign-born households are native.

The average size of native households (2.56) in 1997 included 2.53 native members and only 0.03 foreign-born members. The average size of foreign-born households (3.32) included 2.19 foreign-born members and 1.13 native members. Native members thus represented 34

Figure 11-1.

Households by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status of the Householder: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Male householder, no wife present. [2]Female householder, no husband present.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 11-1A, 11-1B, and 11-1C.

percent of all members of foreign-born households. In absolute numbers, there were 11.8 million native members of the 10.4 million foreign-born households in 1997 compared with only 2.9 million foreign-born members of the 90.6 million native households.

The distribution of households by size differs sharply between foreign-born and native households. Among foreign-born households, about the same proportion had 1 member (19 percent) as had 5 or more members (21 percent). Among native households, 26 percent had 1 member and only 9 percent had 5 or more members.

Family households, which include married-couple families, male-householder families (no wife present), and female-householder families (no husband present), represented 76 percent of foreign-born households versus 69 percent of native households in 1997. Married-couple families, which generally have the highest average number of members among the different household types, represented 57 percent of foreign-born households versus 53 percent of native households.

Household size varies by region of birth of the householder.

Of the 10.4 million households in 1997 with a foreign-born householder, 4.9 million, or 47 percent, of the householders were from Latin America (Figure 11-2). An additional 2.7 million householders were from Asia, and 2.2 million were from Europe. Average household size among these foreign-born households ranged from 3.84 with householders from Latin America to 2.41 with householders from Europe.

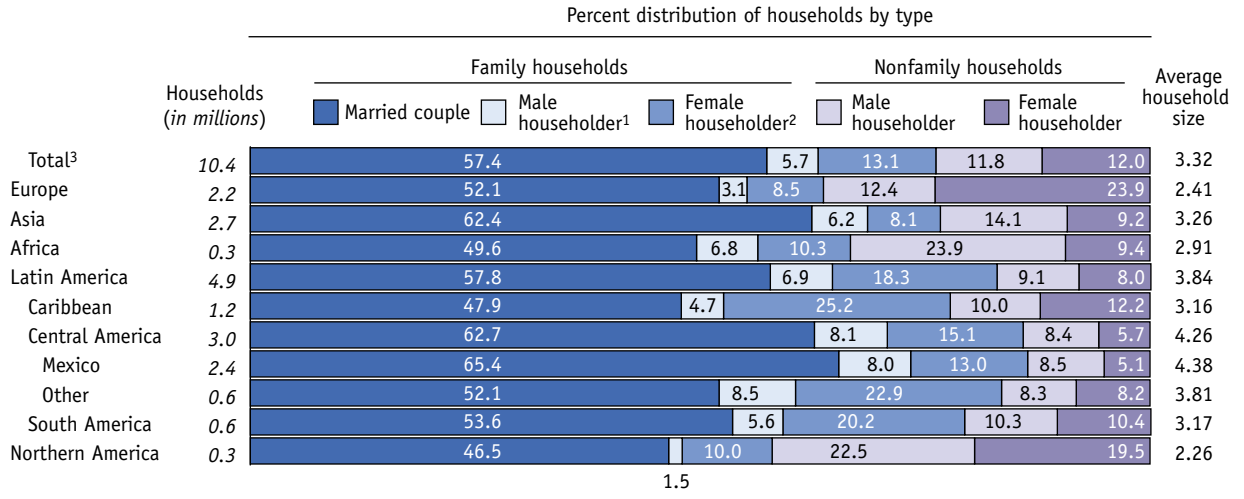
Average household size among foreign-born households with householders from Mexico was 4.38 compared with 3.32 for all foreign-born households. The higher figure for households with a householder from Mexico reflects a higher proportion of married-couple families (65 percent versus 57 percent) and a lower proportion of householders 65 years and over (6 percent versus 15 percent).[3]

[1]The apparent differences in average household size when length of residence was less than 10 years (3.43) compared to 10 to 19 years (3.73) are not statistically significant.

[2]Under 5 years is excluded because very few individuals in this category have become naturalized citizens.

[3]Elderly householders are less likely to have children still living at home. Data on fertility from the 1990 census show that among women 35 to 44 years old, the average numbers of children ever born were 2.3 for all foreign-born women and 3.3 for foreign-born women from Mexico (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993a, Table 1).

Figure 11-2.
Foreign-Born Households by Region of Birth of the Householder: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Male householder, no wife present. [2]Female householder, no husband present. [3]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 11-1D.

Section 12.

Families and Own Children

Family size and type differ between foreign-born and native families.

In 1997, 7.9 million, or 11 percent, of the 70.2 million families in the United States had a foreign-born householder (Figure 12-1). The average size of foreign-born families was 3.84 compared with 3.11 for native families. Foreign-born families had larger average numbers both of adults (18 years old and over), 2.51 versus 2.16, and of children (under age 18 years), 1.33 versus 0.95.

Of the 7.9 million families in 1997 with a foreign-born householder, 6.0 million were married-couple families, 1.4 million were families with a female householder (no husband present), and 0.6 million were families with a male householder (no wife present). Of the 62.3 million families with native householders, 47.6 million were married-couple families, 11.4 million were female-householder families, and 3.3 million were male-householder families. Married-couple families thus represented 75 percent of all foreign-born families and 76 percent of all native families, not significantly different from each other. Average family size was 3.99 for married-couple families with a foreign-born householder and 3.16 for their native counterparts.

A family is made up of two or more people living together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption, one of whom is the householder.

Own children under age 18 are never-married sons and daughters of the householder, including step- and adopted children.

Families are classified as foreign born or native based on the nativity of the householder, regardless of the nativity of other family members. For simplicity, a family with a native householder is referred to also as a native family, and a family with a foreign-born householder is referred to also as a foreign-born family.

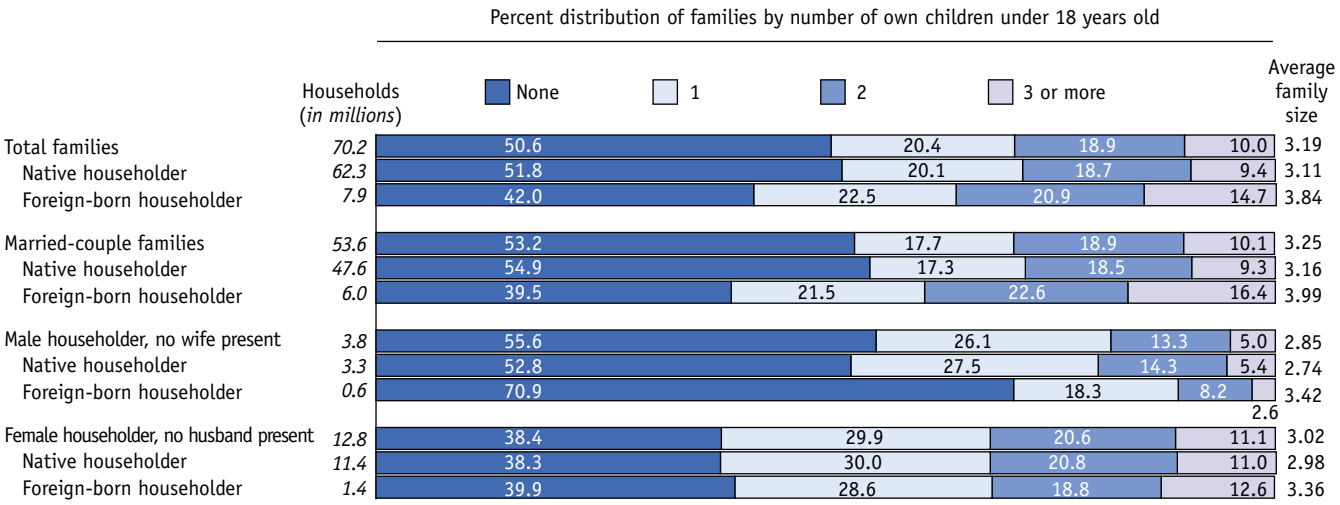
Three-fifths of married-couple families with a foreign-born householder have one or more own children.

Among married-couple families in 1997, 60 percent of those with a foreign-born householder had one or more own children under 18 years old compared with 45 percent of those with a native householder (Figure 12-1). The proportions among foreign-born families were higher than among native families for one or two children (44 percent versus 36 percent), and for three or more children (16 percent versus 9 percent).

Figure 12-1.

Families by Type, Nativity of Householder, and Number of Own Children: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 12-1A.

Among the 1.4 million foreign-born families with a female householder (no husband present), 13 percent had three or more own children, not significantly different from 11 percent among the 11.4 million native families with a female householder.

One-seventh of married-couples families include at least one foreign-born spouse.

Of the 53.6 million married-couple families in 1997, 7.7 million, or 14 percent, included at least one foreign-born spouse (Figure 12-2). Average size of these families varied by nativity of the husband.[1] The 4.8 million families with both husband and wife foreign born had an average family size of 4.12. In contrast the 1.7 million families with husband native and wife foreign born had an average size of 3.07. The 1.3 million families with husband foreign born and wife native had an average size of 3.66. In contrast, the 45.9 million families with both husband and wife native had an average size of 3.16.

The average size of married-couple families with both spouses foreign born (4.12) included 2.85 foreign-born members and 1.27 native members. Native members thus represented 31 percent of all members of these families. For married-couple families with husband foreign born and wife native, 67 percent of family members were native, not significantly different from the 66 percent of family members who were native in married-couple families with spouses' nativities reversed (husband native and wife foreign born). In married-couple families with both spouses native, virtually all members were native: only 0.1 percent were foreign born.

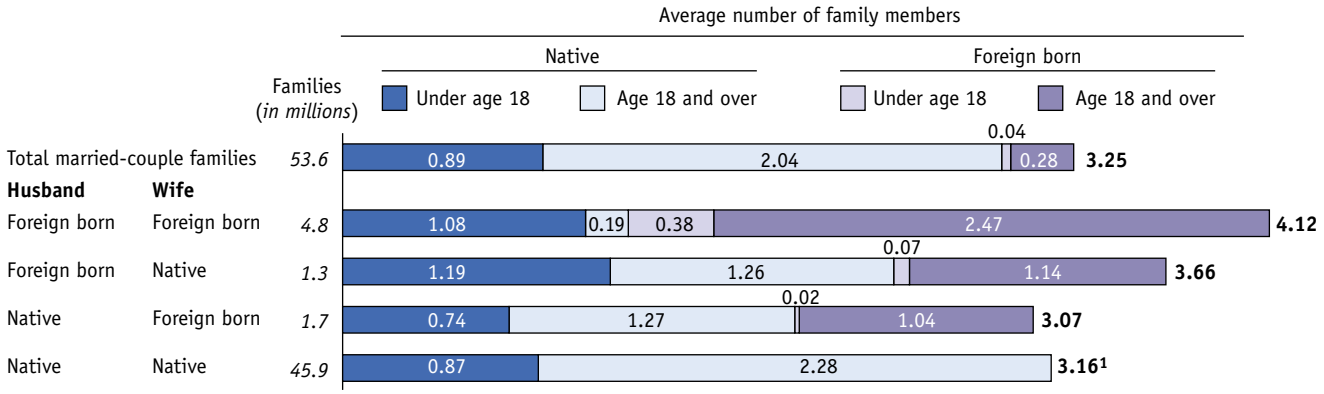
One quarter of married-couple families with a householder from Latin America had three or more own children.

In 1997, 60 percent of married-couple families with a foreign-born householder had one or more own children under 18 years old. The proportion ranged from 38 percent with householders from Europe to 69 percent with householders from Latin America. Among married-couple families with householders from Mexico, the proportion was 79 percent.

In comparison to the 16 percent of married-couple families with a foreign-born householder who had three or more own children, the proportion ranged from 6 percent with householders from Europe to 24 percent with householders from Latin America. Among married-couple families with householders from Mexico, 32 percent had three or more own children.

[1]The apparent differences in average family size when the nativity of the wife varies are not statistically significant.

Figure 12-2.
Married-Couple Families by Nativity of Spouses and Age of Household Members: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Includes an average of 0.04 foreign-born family members.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 12-4.

Section 13.

Educational Attainment

Educational levels among the foreign-born and native populations differ only below the college level.

In 1997, the proportion of the population 25 years old and over who had completed high school or more education was lower among the foreign-born population (65 percent) than among the native population (84 percent) (Figure 13-1). The difference was confined to the proportions who were high school graduates only or who had some college but less than a bachelor's degree. The proportion who had a bachelor's degree or more education was 24 percent for both the foreign-born and native populations. The similarity between college educational levels extended to the graduate level as well. The proportion with a graduate degree was 9 percent for the foreign-born population and 8 percent for the native population.

For the foreign-born population 25 years old and over, the proportion who had completed high school or more education was 78 percent for naturalized citizens compared with 56 percent for those who were not citizens. The difference by citizenship status was greater than by length of residence in the United States.

Among individuals with less than a high school education (35 percent for the foreign-born population and 16 percent for the native population), the distributions by educational attainment differed sharply. Among the foreign-born population, the proportions of the population 25 years old and over with less than 5 years of school, with 5 to 8 years, and with 9 to 12 years (but not high school graduates), were 8 percent, 16 percent, and 11 percent, respectively. The corresponding figures for the native population were 1 percent, 5 percent, and 10 percent. Among individuals with less than a high school education, those with less than 5 years of school represented about 1 in 4 of the foreign-born population, but only about 1 in 20 of the native population.

Differences in graduate level education between males and females are greater for the foreign-born population than for the native population.

Educational distributions by gender differ somewhat among the foreign-born population. In 1997, the proportion of the foreign-born population 25 years old and over who had completed high school or more education was 65 percent for males and for females; however, the proportion with a bachelor's degree or more education was higher for males (27 percent) than for females (22 percent). This difference was entirely among the proportions with a graduate degree or higher: 12 percent for males and 6 percent for females.

For the native population 25 years old and over in 1997, 84 percent of males and of females had completed high school or more education. The proportion with a bachelor's degree or more education was higher for males (26 percent) than for females (22 percent).[1] The proportion with a graduate degree was also higher for males (9 percent) than for females (6 percent).

Educational differences exist also among the population ages 25 to 34 years.

Because educational levels among adults differ by age (with lower educational levels among the population 65 years old and over than among younger adults) and because the age structures of the foreign-born and native populations differ (as discussed in Section 10), it is of interest to compare educational levels among the population 25 to 34 years old, the youngest age span in which the large majority of individuals have completed their formal education.[2]

In 1997, the proportion of the population 25 to 34 years old who had completed high school or more education was lower among the foreign-born population (67 percent) than among the native population (91 percent). The proportion who had a bachelor's degree or more education was 25 percent for the foreign-born population 25 to 34 years old, not significantly different from 27 percent for the native population. At the lower end of the educational spectrum, the proportions of the population 25 to 34 years old with less than 5 years of school were 5 percent for the foreign-born population and only 0.2 percent for the native population.

Educational levels of the foreign-born population differ by region of birth.

Among the foreign-born population 25 years old and over in 1997, the proportion who had completed high school or more education was 65 percent. The proportion was well above 65 percent for the foreign-born population from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Northern America (Figure 13-2). The proportion was only 47 percent for the foreign-born population from Latin America; however, there was considerable variation among the subregions of Latin America, ranging from 78 percent for the foreign-born population from South America to 31 percent for the foreign-born population from Mexico.

Of the foreign-born population 25 years old and over from Mexico, the 69 percent who had less than a high school education included 18 percent with less than 5 years of school, 34 percent with 5 to 8 years, and 17 percent with 9 to 12 years (not significantly different from 18 percent). The median educational level of the foreign-born population from Mexico was thus about 8 years.

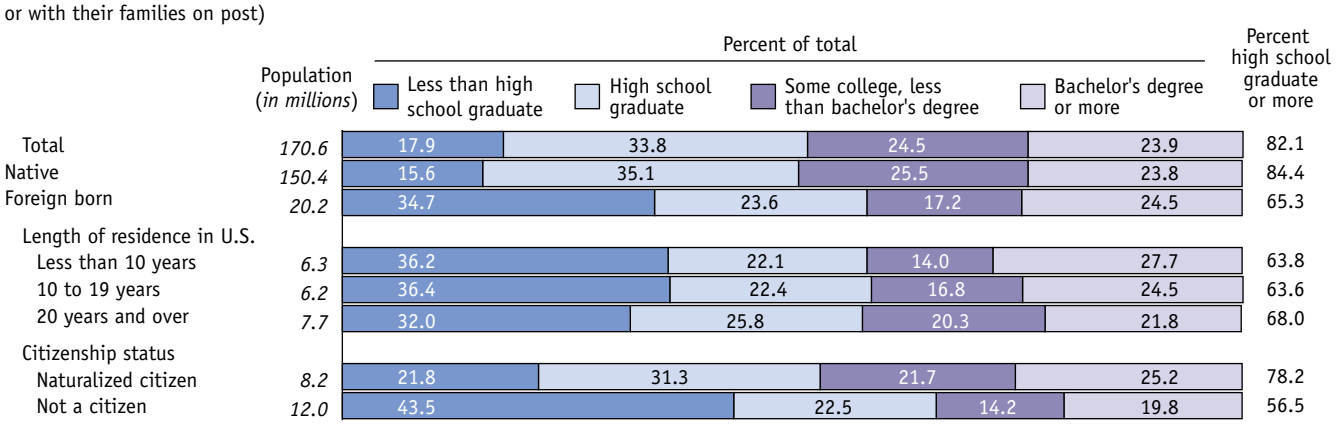
[1]The apparent gender differential between the foreign-born and native populations in the proportions with bachelor's degrees is not statistically significant.

[2]The discussion of educational levels for the population 25 to 34 years old is limited to a comparison of foreign-born and native populations. The sample is not large enough to identify small, but substantively important, differences between foreign-born males and females in the 25 to 34 years age group.

Figure 13-1.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years Old and Over by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

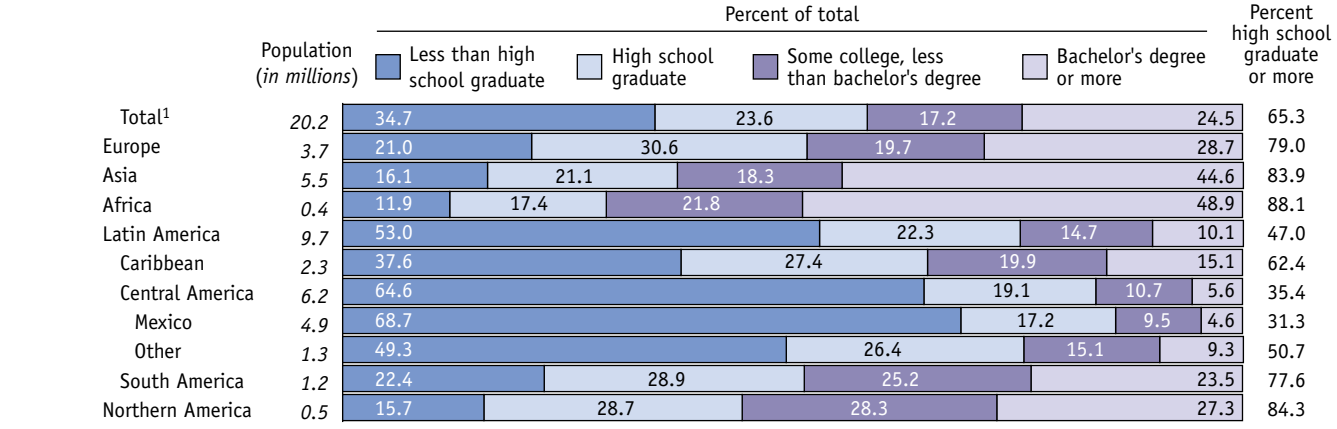


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 13-1A, 13-1B, and 13-1C.

Figure 13-2.

Educational Attainment of the Foreign-Born Population 25 Years Old and Over by Region of Birth: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 13-1D.

Section 14.

Labor Force Participation

The foreign-born population accounts for 12 percent of the civilian labor force.

In March 1997, the foreign-born population accounted for 15.6 million, or 12 percent, of the total civilian labor force of 135 million.[1] The labor force participation rate of the foreign-born population was 66 percent, not significantly different from 67 percent for the native population.

The civilian labor force is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over who are employed (have a job), or who are unemployed (without a job, available for work, and actively seeking work). The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the civilian population 16 years old and over in the labor force. The unemployment rate is the proportion of the civilian labor force that is unemployed.

The patterns of labor force participation rates by gender differ between the foreign-born and native populations.

The labor force participation rate in 1997 was higher for foreign-born males (79 percent) than for native males (74 percent), as shown in Figure 14-1. The difference is due primarily to differences in age structure and not to differences in age-specific labor force participation rates. Males 25 to 54 years old, who had the highest participation rates, represented 65 percent of foreign-born males 16 years old and over, compared with 58 percent of native males 16 years old and over. Males 65 years old and over, who had the lowest participation rates, represented 10 percent of foreign-born males 16 years old and over, compared with 14 percent of native males 16 years old and over. In each case — for males 25 to 54 years old and for males 65 years old and over — the labor force participation rates by nativity were about the same.

For females, the labor force participation rate was lower among the foreign-born population (53 percent) than among the native population (61 percent). In contrast to the situation for males, the difference for females is due to differences in age-specific labor force participation rates and not to differences in age structure. In the 25 to 54 age span, which accounts for most of the labor force, the participation rates were 66 percent for foreign-born females and 78 percent for native females.

Labor force participation rates for foreign-born females differ sharply by citizenship status.

Among foreign-born males, labor force participation rates in the 25 to 54 age span did not differ greatly by length of residence in the United States or by citizenship status (Figure 14-2). Among foreign-born females, the labor force participation rate was lowest for those with length of residence less than 10 years (57 percent), and it was lower among those who were not citizens (60 percent) than among those who were naturalized citizens (77 percent).

For foreign-born males in 1997, labor force participation rates for the 25 to 54 age span did not vary greatly by region of birth (Figure 14-3); however, there was more variation among females. For females born in Mexico, the labor force participation rate was 52 percent compared with 66 percent for all foreign-born females.

The unemployment rate is higher for the foreign-born labor force than for the native labor force.

In March 1997, the overall unemployment rate was 5.6 percent.[2] The unemployment rate was higher among the foreign-born labor force (6.9 percent) than among the native labor force (5.4 percent).[3] Among males, the apparent difference in unemployment rates (6.5 percent for the foreign-born labor force and 5.9 percent for the native labor force) is not statistically significant. Among females, the unemployment rate was higher for the foreign-born labor force (7.4 percent) than for the native labor force (4.9 percent).

The unemployment rate for the foreign-born labor force in March 1997 varied by region of birth. It was 8.8 percent for the foreign-born labor force from Latin America and 4.4 percent for the foreign-born labor force from Asia.

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[1]Labor force data for March 1997 in this section differ slightly from data for March 1997 published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) due to the use by BLS of a composite estimation procedure that reduces sampling error, especially in estimates of month-to-month change. In addition, the data in this section differ from annual-average data and from seasonally adjusted data published by BLS (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1997, especially pp. 164-165 and 188-189).

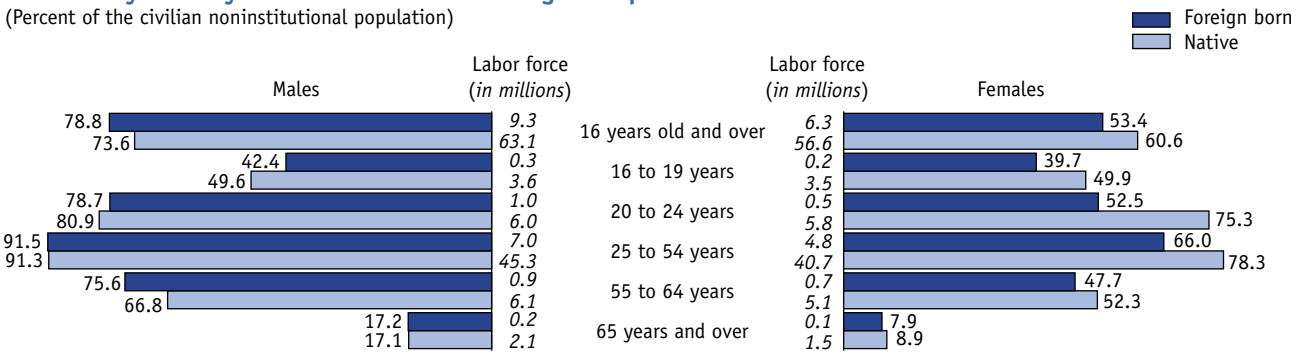
[2]Unemployment rates may fluctuate significantly from month to month, due partly to seasonal patterns. See U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1997, pp. 188-189.

[3]There is no statistical difference between unemployment rates for the total labor force and the native labor force.

Figure 14-1.

Labor Force Participation Rates of the Population 16 Years Old and Over by Nativity and Gender for Selected Age Groups: 1997

(Percent of the civilian noninstitutional population)

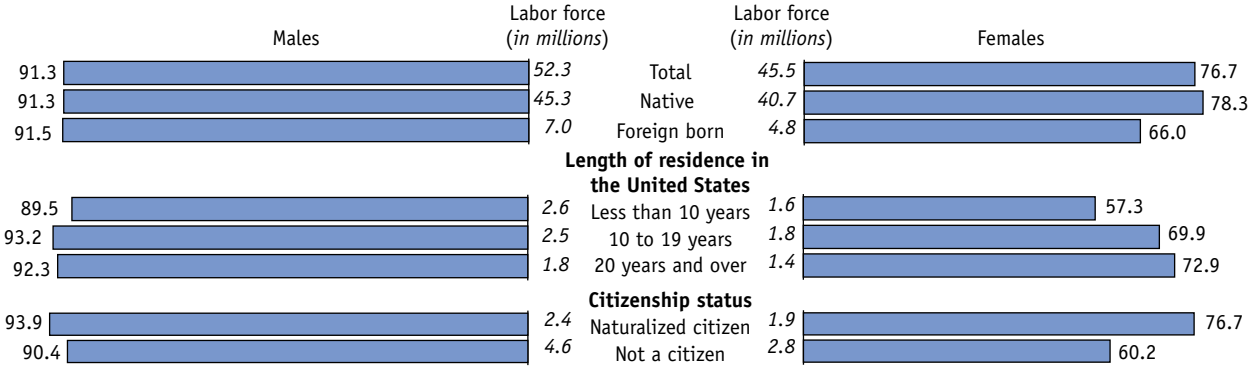


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 14-1A.

Figure 14-2.

Labor Force Participation Rates of the Population 25 to 54 Years Old by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, Citizenship Status, and Gender: 1997

(Percent of civilian noninstitutional population)

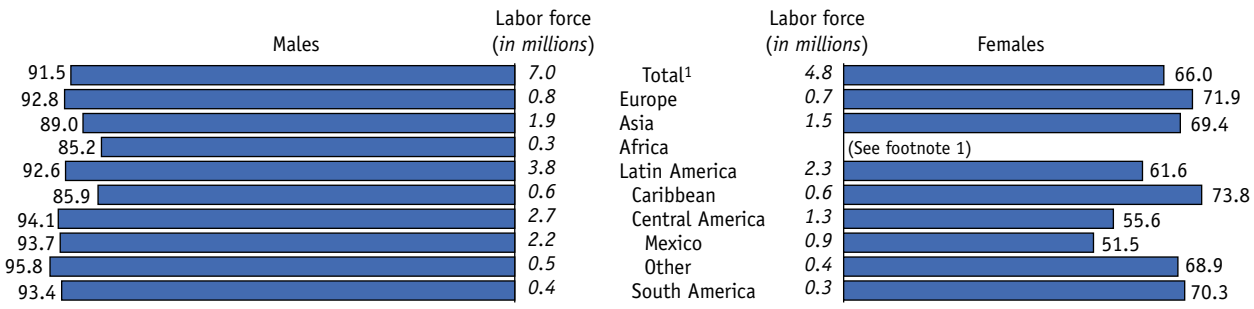


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 14-3A, 14-3B, and 14-3C.

Figure 14-3.

Labor Force Participation Rates of the Foreign-Born Population 25 to 54 Years Old by Region of Birth and Gender: 1997

(Percent of the civilian noninstitutional population)



[1]Total includes Africa (females), Oceania, Northern America, and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 14-3D.

Section 15.

Occupation

Occupational distribution of foreign-born workers differs sharply from that of native workers.

In March 1997, managerial and professional specialty occupations accounted for 24 percent of foreign-born workers compared with 30 percent of native workers (Figure 15-1).[1] Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations accounted for an additional 22 percent of foreign-born workers compared with an additional 31 percent of native workers.[2] As a result, these two occupational groups together accounted for 46 percent of foreign-born workers compared with 61 percent of native workers.

Higher proportions of foreign-born workers than of native workers were in the following three occupational groups: service occupations (19 percent versus 13 percent);[3] operators, fabricators, and laborers (also 19 percent versus 13 percent); and farming, forestry, and fishing occupations (4.7 percent versus 2.2 percent). Precision production, craft, and repair occupations accounted for 11 percent of both foreign-born and native workers.

The occupational classification system used here and by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the one used in the 1990 census and is based largely on the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). This system includes 501 detailed occupational categories which can be combined into the 6 summary occupational groups discussed in this section. The data on occupation are for the employed civilian population 16 years old and over (as discussed in Section 14 on labor force) who are referred to in this section as workers.

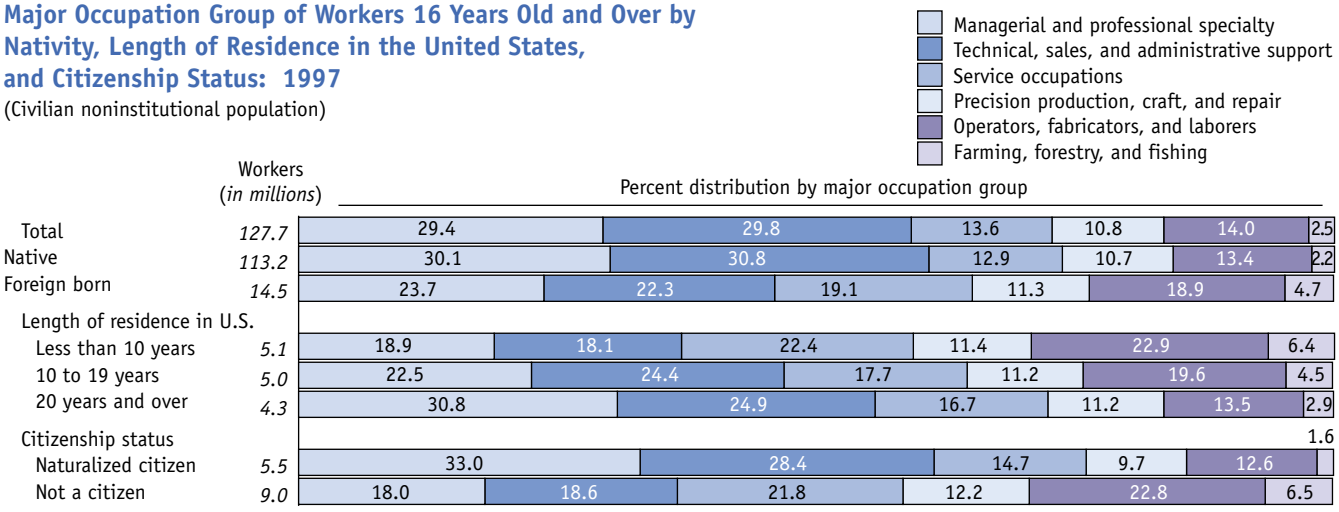
Naturalized citizen workers and native workers have similar occupational distributions.

The differences in occupational distributions between foreign-born and native workers described above are reflected in differences among foreign-born workers by length of residence in the United States and by citizenship status (Figure 15-1). In 1997, managerial and professional specialty occupations accounted for 31 percent of foreign-born workers who had lived in the United States for 20 years and over compared with 19 percent for those who had lived in the United States less than 10 years. In contrast, operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for 13 percent of foreign-born workers who had lived in the United States 20 years and over compared with 23 percent for those who had lived in the United States less than 10 years.

Figure 15-1.

Major Occupation Group of Workers 16 Years Old and Over by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 15-1A, 15-1B, and 15-1C.

Among foreign-born workers in 1997, managerial and professional specialty occupations accounted for 33 percent of workers who were naturalized citizens versus 18 percent of workers who were not citizens. In contrast, operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for 13 percent of naturalized-citizen workers versus 23 percent of workers who were not citizens.

While the occupational distribution of naturalized-citizen workers differs greatly from that of workers who are not citizens, it is closer to the occupational distribution of native workers. In 1997, the proportions in each of the six summary occupational groups for naturalized-citizen workers and native workers were significantly different from each other but were relatively small.

Occupational distributions of foreign-born workers differ greatly by region of birth.

As would be expected given differences in length of residence, citizenship status, and educational attainment by region of birth of the foreign-born population, there are major differences in occupational distributions (Figure 15-2). In 1997, professional and managerial specialty occupations accounted for 38 percent of workers from Europe and 36 percent of workers from Asia compared with 11 percent of workers from Latin America.[4] (The proportions of the foreign-born population 25 years old and over with a bachelor's degree or more education were 29 percent from Europe, 45 percent from Asia, and 10 percent from Latin America.) Among foreign-born workers from Latin America, the proportions in professional and managerial specialty occupations ranged from 23 percent for workers from South America and 19 percent for workers from the Caribbean to 6 percent of workers from Mexico.[5]

In 1997, operators, fabricators, and laborers , who accounted for 19 percent of foreign-born workers, accounted for 26 percent of workers from Latin America and for 11 percent of all other foreign-born workers. Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations, which accounted for 4.7 percent of foreign-born workers, accounted for 8.1 percent of workers from Latin America and for 1.1 percent of all other foreign-born workers. Among foreign-born workers from Mexico, 31 percent were in the operators, fabricators, and laborers occupational group, and 13 percent were in the farming, forestry, and fishing occupational group.

[1]See Section 14, footnote 1, concerning labor force data for March 1997.

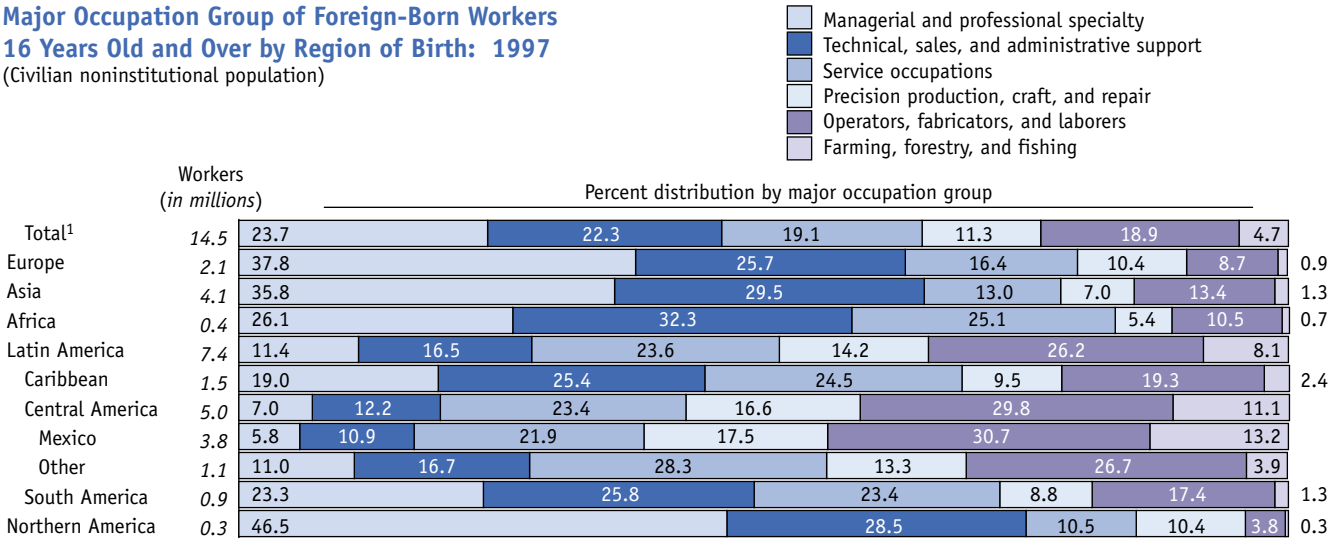
[2]There was no significant difference in the percentages between the two occupational groups for foreign-born workers or for native workers.

[3]Service occupations exclude professional specialty occupations (e.g., engineers, scientists, physicians, nurses, teachers, lawyers, and judges).

[4]The proportions for Europe and Asia are not significantly different from each other.

[5]The proportions for South America and the Caribbean are not significantly different from each other.

Figure 15-2.
Major Occupation Group of Foreign-Born Workers 16 Years Old and Over by Region of Birth: 1997
(Civilian noninstitutional population)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 15-1D.

Section 16.

Money Income of Households and Families

Income is lower among foreign-born households than among native households.

In 1996, median income for all households was $35,500. (Income estimates in this report are rounded to hundreds of dollars.) Median income for households with a foreign-born householder was $30,000 compared with $36,100 for households with a native householder (Figure 16-1). Among foreign-born households, 43 percent had incomes below $25,000, and 29 percent had incomes of $50,000 and over. Among native households, the proportion was 35 percent for each category.

The lower income of foreign-born households is not accounted for by differences in age of householder or household size. For example, for households with householder 45 to 54 years ~~w~~when household income peaks ~~m~~median income in 1996 was $41,900 for foreign-born households and $51,400 for native households. For households with householders 65 years old and over, the corresponding medians were $16,100 and $19,700, respectively. For two-person households, median income was $28,500 for foreign-born households and $38,000 for native households. For four-person households, the corresponding medians were $38,100 and $52,800, respectively.

As discussed in Section 11, the average size of foreign-born households in 1997 was considerably larger than that of native households: 3.32 versus 2.56. The average number of earners in 1996 per foreign-born household was 1.60 versus 1.39 for native households.[1] The lower proportion of earners among members of foreign-born households (48 percent) than among native households (54 percent) reflects the higher proportion of household members under age 18 in foreign-born households.

Data on income are based on money income received (excluding capital gains) before deductions for income taxes, social security, union dues, medicare deductions, etc. Money income does not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, medicare, medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided fringe benefits. Noncash benefits are discussed in Sections 19 and 20. For definitions of households and families, see Sections 11 and 12. Data on income are for the 1996 calendar year and are based on the composition of households and families as of March 1997.

Among foreign-born households, median income in 1996 ranged from $33,100 when the householder's length of residence in the United States was 20 years or more to $25,900 when the householder's length of residence was less than 10 years (Figure 16-1). Median income was considerably higher when the householder was a naturalized citizen than when the householder was not a citizen: $37,400 versus $25,700.

Asian households have the highest income among foreign-born households.

In 1996, households with a householder born in Asia had a median income of $42,900 (Figure 16-2). This was well above the median income of households with foreign-born householders from Europe, and was also well above the median income of native households.[2]

The high income of households with a foreign-born householder from Asia appears to reflect two factors. The first factor is the relatively high proportion of foreign-born workers in managerial and professional specialty occupations among foreign-born workers from Asia, a characteristic which is shared with foreign-born workers from Europe, as shown in Section 15.[3] The second factor is the relatively low proportion of householders from Asia who are 65 years old and over, a characteristic not shared with householders from Europe.[4]

The average numbers of earners and of full-time, year-round earners in households with householders from Asia (1.64 and 1.10, respectively) were not significantly different from the corresponding averages for all households with a foreign-born householder (1.60 and 1.02, respectively). (Earnings of full-time, year-round workers are discussed in Section 17.)

The median income in 1996 of households with a householder born in Latin America was $24,100. The median income of households with a householder born in South America ($31,800) was higher than for households with the householder born elsewhere in Latin America.

Married-couple families have the highest income among foreign-born families.

In 1996, the median income of the 6.0 million married-couple families with a foreign-born householder was $38,800 (Figure 16-3). This is over twice the median income of the 1.4 million families maintained by a foreign-born female with no husband present ($16,800). Among these female-householder families, median income was lower for families with one or more related children under 18 years old ($13,400) than for families with no related children ($28,900).[5]

In general, the income of native families by type and presence or absence of related children was higher than for foreign-born families. The median income of married-couple families with a native householder was $50,800 compared with $38,800 for those with a foreign-born householder. For both foreign-born and native families, the lowest median income was for female-householder families with one or more related children: $13,400 and $16,800, respectively.

[1]Earners include wage and salary workers and nonfarm and farm self-employed workers.

[2]The sample size of households with householders from Africa or Northern America is too small to identify substantively important differences in income involving these regions.

[3]Among full-time, year-round workers, median earnings for both males and females were higher in 1996 for workers in managerial and professional specialty occupations than for workers in other occupations (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1997a, Table 7).

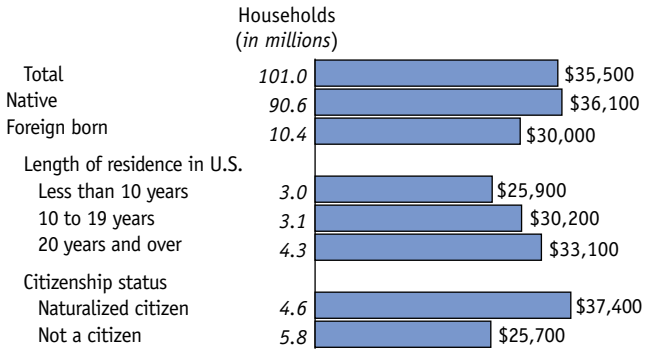
[4]Median household income in 1996 for both native households and foreign-born households was much lower when householders were 65 years old and over (and thus more likely to be retired) than when householders were in the 25 to 64 age span (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b).

[5]In contrast to own children, as defined in Section 12, related children include grandchildren and other relatives of the householder as well as children of the householder. In March 1997, there were 69.4 million related children under 18 years old in the United States, including 63.9 million own children under age 18 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998a, Table 16).

Figure 16-1.

Median Household Income by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status of the Householder: 1996

(Households as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

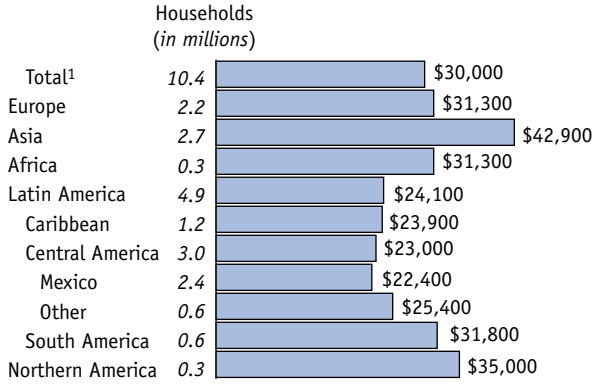


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 16-1A, 16-1B, and 16-1C.

Figure 16-2.

Income of Foreign-Born Households by Region of Birth of the Householder: 1996

(Households as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

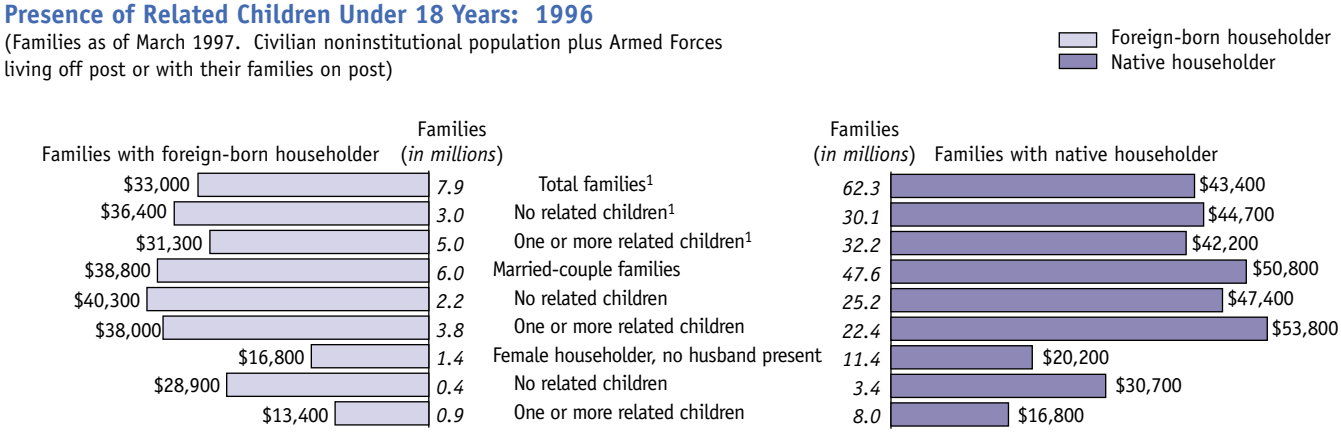


[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 16-1D.

Figure 16-3.

Median Family Income by Nativity of Householder, Type of Family, and Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years: 1996

(Families as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Includes male householder, no wife present.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 16-7.

Section 17.

Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers

Earnings of full-time, year-round workers are lower for foreign-born workers than for their native counterparts.

In 1996, median earnings for all full-time, year-round workers (shortened to "workers" in the remainder of the text of this section) were $32,100 for males and $23,700 for females. (Earnings estimates in this report are rounded to hundreds of dollars.) Median earnings for foreign-born male and female workers were $25,000 and $20,800, respectively, compared with $33,200 and $24,100, respectively, for native male and female workers (Figure 17-1). The female-to-male earnings ratio was higher for foreign-born workers (.83) than for native workers (.73).

Earnings include money wage or salary income from work performed as an employee, net income from nonfarm self-employment, and net income from farm self-employment before deductions, including taxes. A full-time, year-round worker is one who worked 35 or more hours per week for 50 or more weeks during the previous calendar year.

Among foreign-born male workers, 50 percent had earnings less than $25,000, and 19 percent had earnings of $50,000 and over. Among their native counterparts, the corresponding proportions were 31 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

Among foreign-born female workers, 62 percent had earnings less than $25,000, and 10 percent had earnings of $50,000 and over. Among their native counterparts, the corresponding proportions were 52 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Thus, even though the median earnings of foreign-born female workers were lower than those of native female workers, the proportions with earnings of $50,000 or more were not significantly different.

Earnings of foreign-born workers who are naturalized citizens are slightly higher than the earnings of other foreign-born workers.

The median earnings of foreign-born male workers in 1996 ranged from $19,900 for those living in the United States less than 10 years to $35,200 for those living in the United States 20 years and over. The corresponding figures for foreign-born female workers were $16,800 and $24,200.

For foreign-born male workers, median earnings in 1996 were $35,600 for naturalized citizens and $20,500 for workers who were not citizens. The corresponding figures for foreign-born female workers were $25,500 and $17,200, respectively.

For males, median earnings of foreign-born workers who had lived in the United States for 20 years and over, or who were naturalized citizens, were slightly higher than the median earnings of their native counterparts.

Median earnings of workers from Europe and Asia exceed the median earnings of all foreign-born workers.

Among workers from the regions shown in Figure 17-2, those from Europe and Asia generally had the highest earnings. For males, median earnings were $40,500 and $35,300, respectively, and for females, median earnings were $23,400 and $24,600, respectively.[1]

The median earnings of workers from Latin America were below the median earnings of all foreign-born workers. The median for male workers from Latin America was $18,600 (compared with $25,000), and the median for female workers from Latin America was $16,700 (compared with $20,800). The female-to-male earnings ratio was higher for foreign-born workers from Latin America (.90) than for foreign-born workers from Asia (.70) or from Europe (.58).

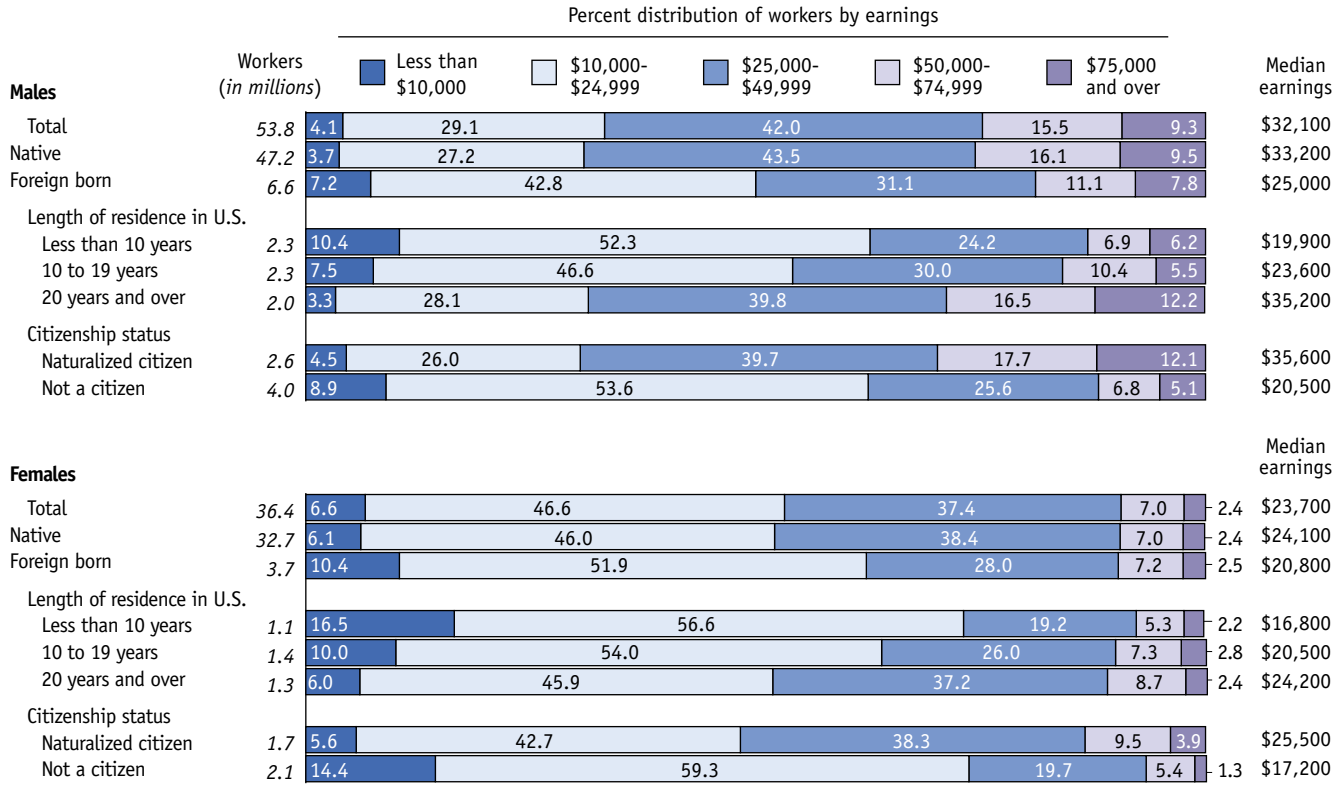
Median earnings for workers from the Caribbean ($23,900 for males and $20,200 for females) and from South America ($25,200 for males and $21,100 for females) were not significantly different from each other or from the medians for all foreign-born workers. Among workers from Mexico, the median earnings of both males ($16,800) and females ($13,700) were below the respective medians for workers from the Caribbean or South America.

[1]The apparent differences in median earnings between workers from Europe and Asia were not statistically significant for males or for females. The median earnings of females from Europe alone were not significantly different from the median earnings of all foreign-born females.

Figure 17-1.

Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Gender, Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1996

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

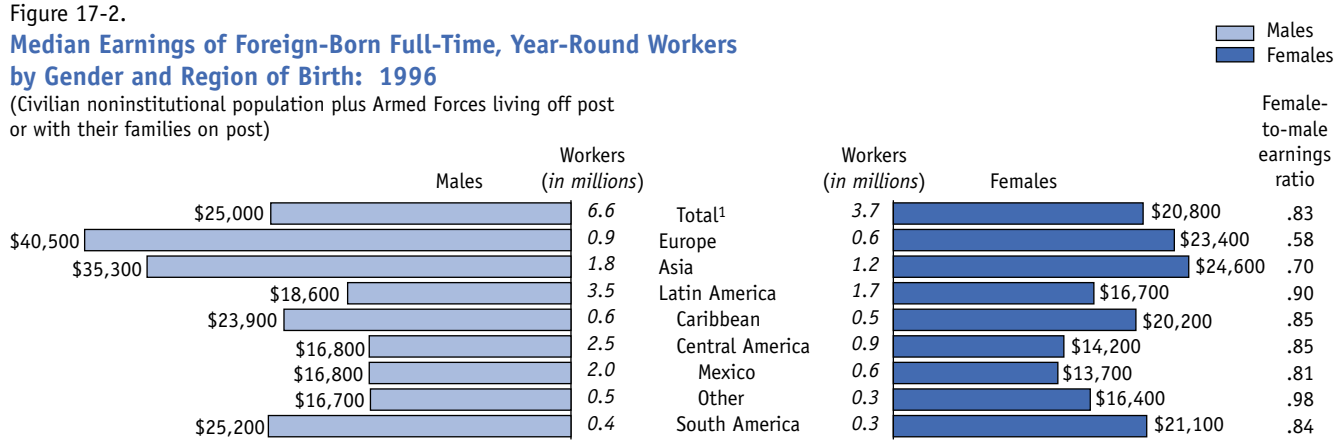


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 17-1A, 17-1B, and 17-1C.

Figure 17-2.

Median Earnings of Foreign-Born Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Gender and Region of Birth: 1996

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Africa, Oceania, Northern America, and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 17-1D.

Section 18.

Poverty Status

The poverty rate is higher among the foreign-born population than among the native population.

In 1996, the poverty rate, which was 13.7 percent for the total population, was 21.0 percent for the foreign-born population and 12.9 percent for the native population (Figure 18-1). Of the 36.5 million individuals below the poverty level, 5.4 million, or 15 percent, were foreign born.

Among the foreign-born population, the poverty rate ranged from 11 percent for those who had lived in the United States for 20 years and over to 29 percent for those who had lived in the United States for less than 10 years. The poverty rate was 10 percent for naturalized citizens compared with 27 percent for noncitizens.

Poverty rates of the foreign-born population differ by region of birth.

In 1996, the poverty rates for the population born in Europe (13 percent) and in Asia (15 percent), which were not significantly different from each other, were one-half as high as the poverty rate for the population born in Latin America (28 percent) (Figure 18-2). Among the foreign-born population from Latin America, the poverty rate ranged from 15 percent for the population from South America to 34 percent for the population from Mexico.

While the poverty rate is higher for the foreign-born population than for the native population, the patterns by characteristics such as gender, age, and family type are similar.

Among both males and females, the poverty rate in 1996 was higher for the foreign-born population than for the native population (Figure 18-3). For the population under 18 years old, the poverty rate for the foreign born (39 percent) was twice as high as the poverty rate for their native counterparts (20 percent). For the 65 years old and over age group, poverty rates were much lower: 16 percent for the foreign-born population compared with 10 percent for the native population.

In 1996, when the overall poverty rate for families was 11 percent, the poverty rate was 20 percent for families with foreign-born householders, twice the poverty rate of 10 percent for families with native householders. For families with a foreign-born householder, poverty rates in 1996 ranged from 10 percent for families with no related children under 18 years old to 41 percent for families with three or more related children under 18 years old. The corresponding range for families with native householders was 4 percent to 24 percent.

Poverty rates are high for children living in families with foreign-born householders, regardless of the children's nativity.

In 1996, the poverty rate for related children under 18 years old in families with foreign-born householders was 32 percent (3.4 million of 10.5 million). For the children who were foreign born, the poverty rate was 39 percent (0.9 million of 2.3 million). For the children who were native, the poverty rate was 30 percent (2.5 million of 8.2 million).[1] Native children accounted for about three-quarters (2.5 million of 3.4 million) of the related children under 18 years old living below the poverty level in families with foreign-born householders.

Poverty rates would be lower under an alternative definition of income that includes the value of means-tested noncash benefits.

Using an alternative definition of income that adds the value of means-tested noncash transfers (e.g., food stamps, housing assistance, and medicaid) to post-tax cash income from the private and government sectors would result in lower poverty rates.[2] In 1996, the poverty rate under this alternative definition would have been 16.1 percent for the foreign-born population and 9.6 percent for the native population.

The poverty definition used by the federal government for statistical purposes is based on a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition and do not take into account noncash benefits or taxes. The average poverty threshold in 1996 for a four-person family was $16,036. The poverty status (in poverty or not in poverty) of a family is assigned to each member of the family. Poverty status is not defined for individuals under 15 years old who are not related to the householder (e.g., foster children).

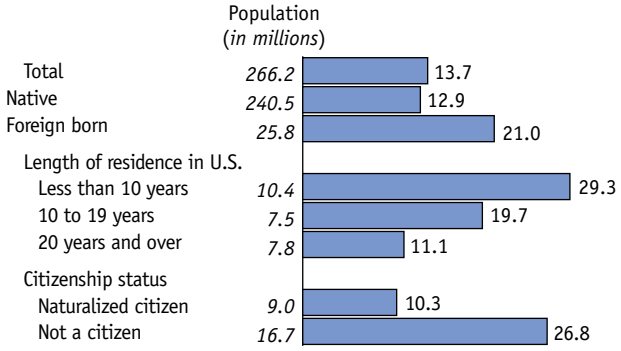
[1]The poverty rates of 32 percent and 30 percent are not significantly different from each other.

[2]For a discussion of alternative definitions of poverty, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1997b.

Figure 18-1.

Poverty Rates for the Population by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1996

(Populations as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and excluding unrelated individuals under 15 years old)

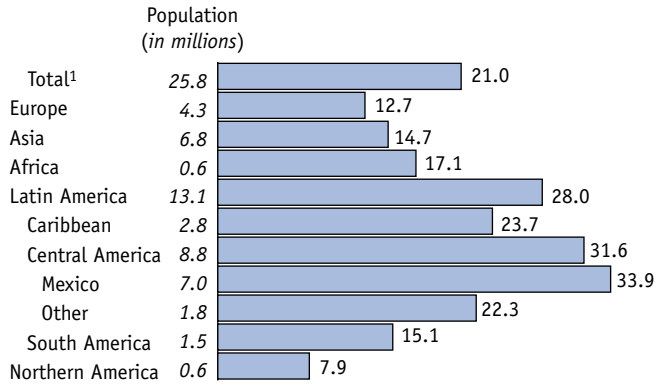


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 18-1A, 18-1B, and 18-1C.

Figure 18-2.

Poverty Rates for the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1996

(Population as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and excluding unrelated individuals under 15 years old)

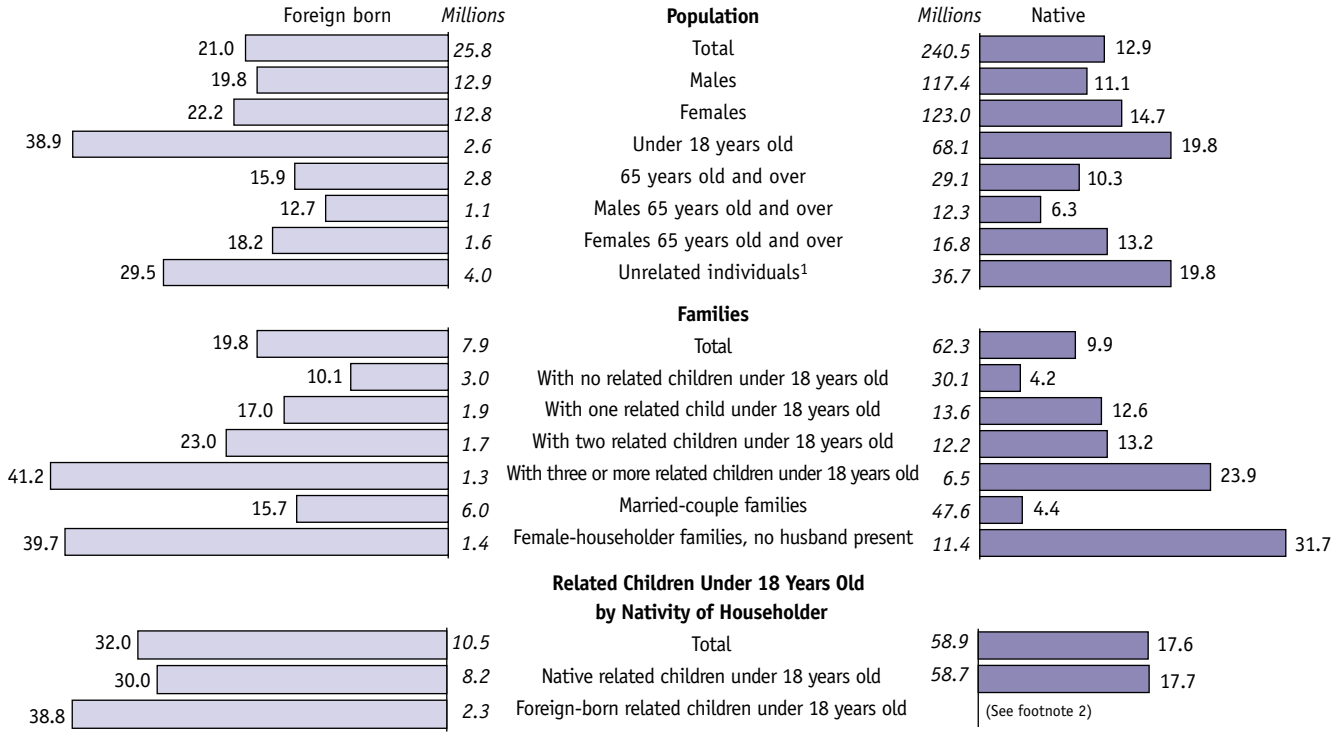


[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 18-1D.

Figure 18-3.

Selected Poverty Rates for the Population by Nativity, for Families by Nativity of the Householder, and for Related Children Under 18 Years Old by Nativity: 1996

(Population as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and excluding unrelated individuals under 15 years old)



[1]Individuals who live alone, or who are unrelated to the householder in households with two or more members.
[2]Data not shown separately for the small number of foreign-born related children in households with native householders.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 18-1A, 18-2A, 18-3A, and 18-4A.

Section 19.

Means-Tested Program Participation

The participation rate in means-tested programs is higher among foreign-born households than among native households.

In 1996, 2.5 million, or 24 percent, of households with foreign-born householders participated in one more of the following means-tested programs providing noncash benefits: food stamps, housing assistance, or medicaid. The corresponding figures for households with native householders were 15.4 million, or 17 percent (Figure 19-1). For participation in one or more means-tested programs providing cash benefits - aid to families with dependent children (AFDC),[1] general assistance, or supplemental security income (SSI) - the corresponding figures were 1.1 million, or 10.6 percent, for foreign-born households, and 6.8 million, or 7.5 percent, for native households. The 17.9 million households receiving noncash benefits in 1996 included nearly all (98 percent) of the 7.9 million households receiving cash benefits. Thus households receiving cash benefits are essentially a subset of households receiving noncash benefits.

Means-tested programs are those that require the income and/or assets of an individual or family to be below specified thresholds in order to qualify for benefits. These programs provide cash and noncash assistance to portions of the low-income population. The noncash programs included here are food stamps, housing assistance, and medicaid. The cash programs included here are aid to families with dependent children, general assistance, and supplemental security income.

Participation rates in 1996 for food stamps, medicaid, and AFDC were higher for foreign-born households than for native households. The highest participation rates were for medicaid: 21 percent of foreign-born households and 14 percent of native households.

Among foreign-born households, participation rates were higher when the householder was a noncitizen than when the householder was a naturalized citizen.

The participation rate in noncash programs in 1996 was 29 percent for noncitizen households compared with 18 percent for naturalized-citizen households (Figure 19-2). For cash programs, the rates were 12 percent for noncitizen households compared with 8 percent for naturalized-citizen households.

Among foreign-born households, the participation rate in 1996 in noncash programs was lowest when the householder's length of residence in the United States was 20 years and over (20 percent). There were no statistically significant differences in participation rates in cash programs by length of residence.

Participation rates among foreign-born households vary sharply by region of birth of the householder.

In 1996, the participation rates in means-tested noncash programs for households with householders from Europe (14 percent) and from Asia (17 percent) were not significantly different from each other but were one-half the rate for households with householders from Latin America (33 percent) (Figure 19-3). There was a similar pattern for cash programs. The participation rates in cash programs for households with householders from Europe (6.4 percent) and from Asia (7.9 percent), which were not significantly different from each other, were one-half the rate for households with householders from Latin America (14 percent).

Among family households, those with a female householder, no husband present, have the highest participation rates in means-tested programs.[2]

In 1996, the participation rates in noncash programs for family households with female householders, no husband present, were not significantly different for foreign-born households (48 percent) and native households (45 percent). Likewise, the participation rates in cash programs for family households with female householders, no husband present, were not significantly different for foreign-born households (29 percent) and native households (26 percent).

Participation rates in 1996 were lowest for married-couple family households. For noncash programs, they were 21 percent for foreign-born households versus 10 percent for native households. For cash programs, the rates were 7.0 percent for foreign-born households compared to 3.4 percent for native households.

---

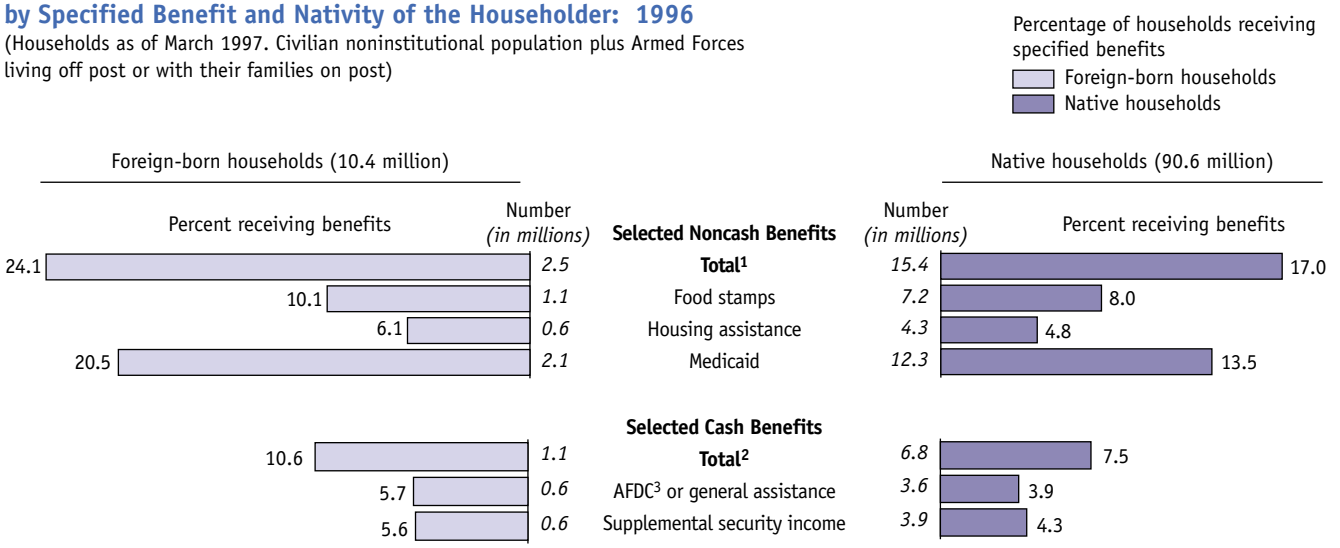
[1]Data for the AFDC program for 1996 include the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

[2]In contrast to data on poverty for families, which do not include any nonfamily members living with families (i.e., individuals not related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption), data on means-tested programs for families include nonfamily members, and thus the data are for family households. In March 1997, the 70.2 million family households in the United States included 224.0 million family members and 4.3 million nonfamily members (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998a, Tables 1 and 18).

Figure 19-1.

Households Receiving Selected Means-Tested Noncash or Cash Benefits, by Specified Benefit and Nativity of the Householder: 1996

(Households as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

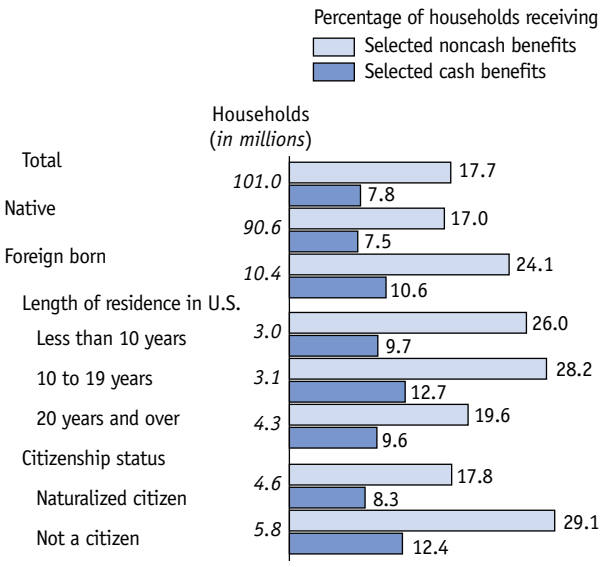


[1]Includes households receiving benefits from one or more of the three programs listed.
[2]Includes households receiving benefits from AFDC or general assistance and/or from Supplemental Security Income.
[3]Aid to families with dependent children.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 19-1A and 19-1B.

Figure 19-2.

Households Receiving Selected Means-Tested Noncash or Cash Benefits, by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status of the Householder: 1996

(Households as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

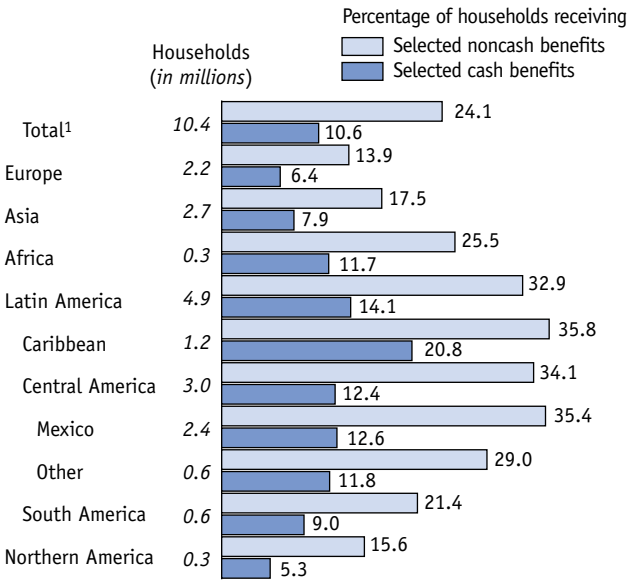


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 19-1A, 19-1B, 19-1C, 19-2A, 19-2B, and 19-2C.

Figure 19-3.

Foreign-Born Households Receiving Selected Means-Tested Noncash or Cash Benefits by Region of Birth of the Householder: 1996

(Households as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 19-1D and 19-2D.

Section 20.

Health Insurance and Pension Plans

One-fifth of the population with no health insurance is foreign born.

In 1996, 84 percent of the total population had health insurance for all or at least part of the year. The proportion was lower among the foreign-born population than among the native population: 66 percent versus 86 percent (Figure 20-1).[1] Of the 41.7 million individuals with no health insurance during 1996, 8.6 million, or 21 percent, were foreign born.

Among the foreign-born population, the proportion with health insurance in 1996 ranged from 54 percent for those resident in the United States less than 10 years to 83 percent among those resident 20 years and over. The proportion with health insurance was 83 percent for naturalized citizens compared with 58 percent for noncitizens.

The proportion of the foreign-born population with health insurance varied by region of birth (Figure 20-2). For the populations from Europe and Asia, the proportions in 1996 were 85 percent and 75 percent, respectively. For the population from Latin America, the proportion was 54 percent and ranged from 69 percent and 66 percent, respectively, for the populations from Caribbean and South America (not significantly different from each other) to 46 percent for the population from Mexico.

The proportion of foreign-born workers with employment-based health insurance is lower than for native workers.

In 1996, 44 percent of foreign-born workers and 54 percent of native workers had employment-based health insurance (Figure 20-3). Among foreign-born workers, the proportion ranged from 34 percent for those resident in the United States less than 10 years to 56 percent for those resident 20 years and over. The proportion was 57 percent for naturalized citizens compared with 36 percent for noncitizens. By region of birth, the proportions were 54 percent of workers from Europe, 52 percent for workers from Asia (not significantly different from each other), and 36 percent for workers from Latin America (Figure 20-4). For workers from Mexico, the proportion with employment-based health insurance was 31 percent.

Employer-offered pension plans are available to a lower proportion of foreign-born workers than of native workers.

In 1996, 41 percent of foreign-born workers and 56 percent of native workers had employers who offered pension plans (Figure 20-3).[5] Among foreign-born workers, the proportion ranged from 32 percent for those resident in the United States less than 10 years to 50 percent for those resident 20 years and over. The proportion was 53 percent for naturalized citizens compared with 33 percent for noncitizens. By region of birth, the proportions were 51 percent of workers from Europe, 49 percent for workers from Asia (not significantly different from each other), and 31 percent for workers from Latin America (Figure 20-4). For workers from Mexico, the proportion with employer-offered pension plans was 26 percent.

Health insurance includes private insurance plans and government insurance plans. Private insurance plans include those offered through employment (either one's own and or a relative's) and those purchased privately. Government insurance plans include medicare, medicaid, and military health care.[2] Individuals may be covered by more than one insurance plan during a year. There is some evidence that health insurance coverage is underreported.[3]

Data on employment-based health insurance and employer-offered pension plans (other than social security) are shown for workers. In this section, workers are defined as individuals who were employed at any time during the year. Employment-based health insurance includes private insurance obtained through a current or former employer or union. If a worker's employer offers a pension plan, a worker may not participate because he or she is ineligible (e.g., due to length of service or part-time employment) or chooses not to participate.[4]

[1]The proportions with health insurance under private insurance plans were 52 percent for the foreign-born population and 72 percent for the native population.

[2]The major types of military health care are CHAMPUS (Comprehensive Health and Medical Plan for Uniformed Services) and CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veteran's Affairs).

[3]U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998c, pp. 6-7.

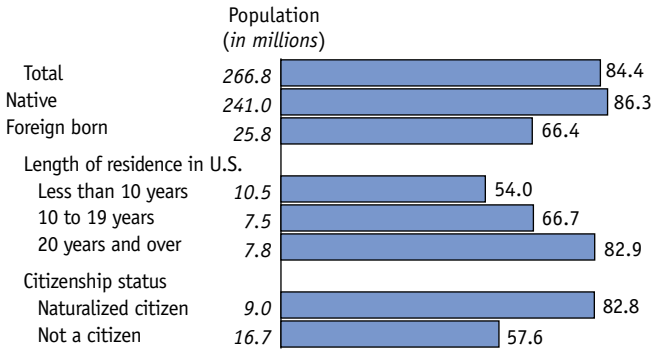
[4]Information collected in the March 1997 CPS on pension plan coverage was not detailed and coverage may have been underreported. See U.S. Department of Labor et al., 1994.

[5]The proportions of workers participating in employer-offered pension plans were 30 percent for foreign-born workers and 43 percent for native workers.

Figure 20-1.

Health Insurance Coverage of the Population by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1996

(Percent of population. Population as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

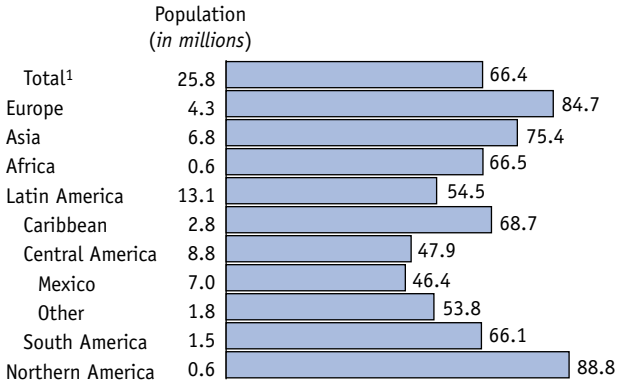


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 20-1A, 20-1B, and 20-1C.

Figure 20-2.

Health Insurance Coverage of the Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth: 1996

(Percent of population. Population as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

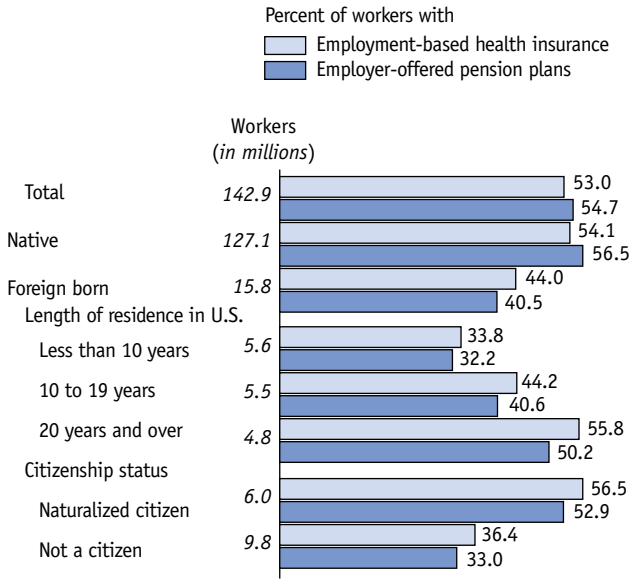


[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 20-1D.

Figure 20-3.

Employment-Based Health Insurance and Employer-Offered Pension Plans for Workers by Nativity, Length of Residence in the United States, and Citizenship Status: 1996

(Workers as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

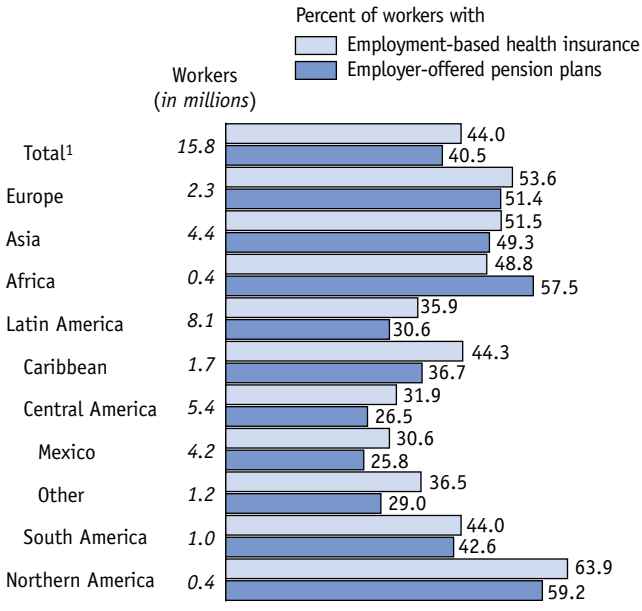


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 20-3A, 20-3B, and 20-3C.

Figure 20-4.

Employment-Based Health Insurance and Employer-Offered Pension Plans for Foreign-Born Workers by Region of Birth: 1996

(Workers as of March 1997. Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 20-3D.

Section 21.

Homeownership

Homeownership rates are similar for naturalized-citizen households and native households.

In 1997, the overall homeownership rate was 66 percent (Figure 21-1). The rate was much higher for native households (68 percent) than for households with a foreign-born householder (47 percent). Among foreign-born households, the homeownership rate was much higher when the householder was a naturalized citizen (66 percent) than when the householder was not a citizen (32 percent). The homeownership rate for naturalized-citizen households (66 percent) was not significantly different from the homeownership rates for native households (68 percent).

The members of a household, as defined in Section 11, live in an occupied housing unit (e.g., a house, condominium, or mobile home). The homeownership rate is the percentage of households in which the owner or a co-owner is a member of the household, whether or not the housing unit is mortgaged or not otherwise fully paid for. Households are classified as foreign born or native based on the nativity of the householder, regardless of the nativity of other household members.

The higher rate of homeownership among naturalized-citizen households than among noncitizen households reflects two factors. The first is differences by homeownership rates within specific categories of length of residence. The second is differences in distributions by length of residence in the United States between naturalized-citizen householders and noncitizen householders.[1] In 1997, among householders who were naturalized citizens, 65 percent had lived in the United States 20 years and over whereas the corresponding proportion for householders who were not citizens was only 22 percent.

Within specific categories of length of residence, the homeownership rate is significantly higher for householders who are naturalized citizens than for householders who are noncitizens (Figure 21-1). Where length of residence in the United States was 5 to 9 years, the rates in 1997 were 40 percent for naturalized citizen-householders versus 25 percent for noncitizen-householders. Corresponding rates were 51 percent versus 30 percent for length of residence of 10 to 14 years, 61 percent versus 38 percent for length of residence of 15 to 19 years, and 73 percent versus 53 percent for length of residence of 20 years and over.

Married-couple families have the highest homeownership rates.

While the homeownership rate in 1997 was lower among households with foreign-born householders (47 percent) than with native householders (68 percent), the patterns of ownership rates by type of household were similar (Figure 21-2).[2] The highest homeownership rates were for married-couple families: 59 percent for families with a foreign-born householder and 83 percent for families with a native householder. For families with a female householder, no husband present, the homeownership rates were 32 percent for foreign-born households and 47 percent for native households.

For married-couple families, homeownership rates can be calculated based on the nativity of each spouse (regardless of which one is reported as the householder). For the 45.9 million married-couple families with both husband and wife native, the ownership rate was 84 percent. For married-couple families with husband native and wife foreign born (1.7 million) and with wife native and husband foreign born (1.3 million), the ownership rates were both 73 percent. For the 4.8 million married-couple families with both husband and wife foreign born, the ownership rate was 55 percent.

Homeownership rates vary greatly by region of birth.

Among the three regions of birth with 1 million or more householders in 1997, the homeownership rate ranged from 63 percent for householders from Europe to 38 percent for householders from Latin America (Figure 21-3). The ownership rates for householders from Asia was 50 percent, not significantly different from the overall ownership rate of 47 percent for all households with a foreign-born householder. Within Latin America, the ownership rate for householders from Mexico was 38 percent, the same as for the region as a whole.

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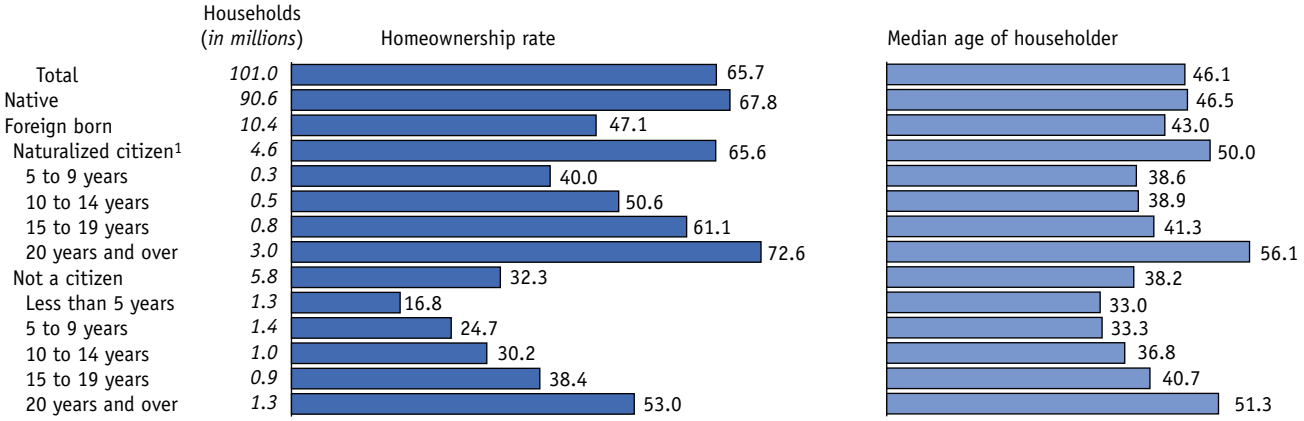
[1]Of the 33 percentage-point difference in homeownership rates between naturalized-citizen households (65.6 percent) and noncitizen households (32.3 percent), 18 percentage points are attributable to differences in homeownership rates within specific categories of length of residence, and 15 percentage points are attributable to differences in distributions of the foreign-born population by length of residence. (Regarding standardization, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993b, especially Chapter 5.) As shown in Section 7, age of the foreign-born population is positively correlated with length of residence in the United States. Data on median age of foreign-born householders by citizenship status and length of residence in the United States are shown in Figure 21-1.

[2]For a general discussion of households by type, see Section 11.

Figure 21-1.

Homeownership Rates and Median Age of Householder by Nativity, Citizenship Status, and Length of Residence in the United States: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

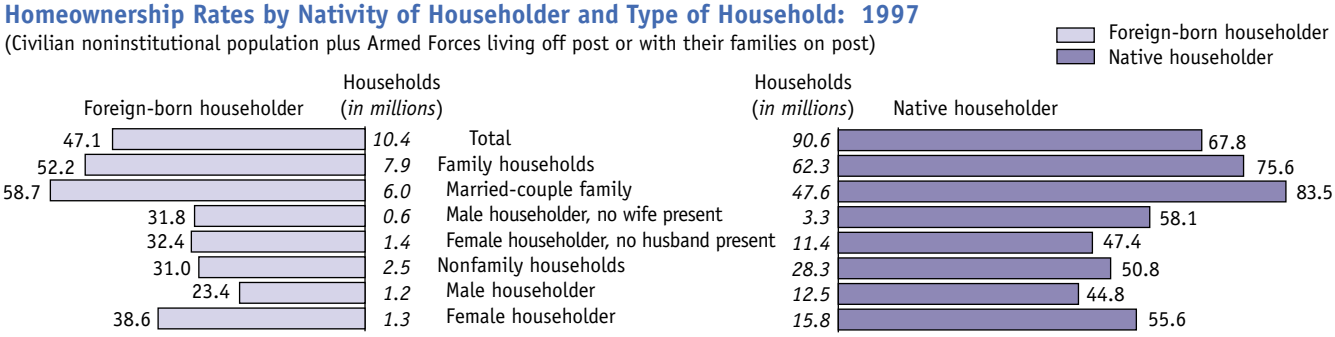


[1]Includes naturalized citizen less than 5 years, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 21-1A, 21-1B, 21-1C, 21-2A, 21-2B, and 21-2C.

Figure 21-2.

Homeownership Rates by Nativity of Householder and Type of Household: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)

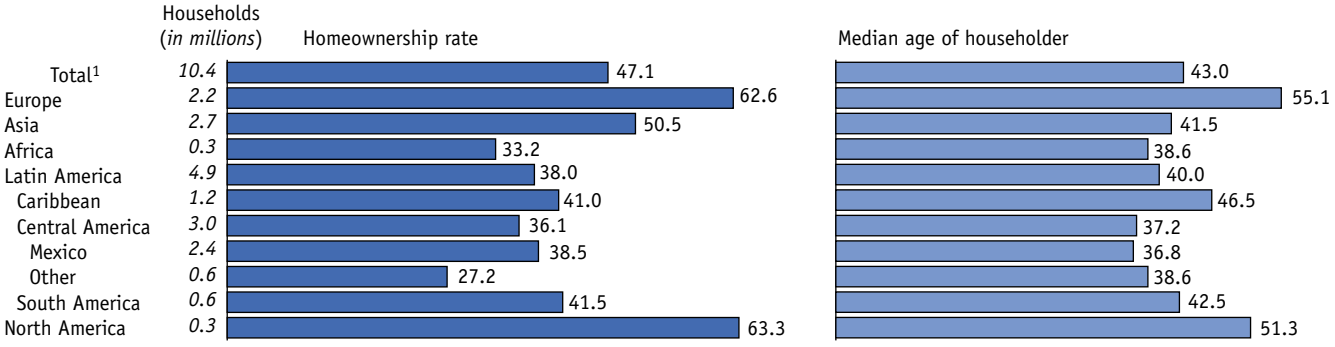


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 21-1A.

Figure 21-3.

Homeownership Rates and Median Age of Householder for Foreign-Born Householders by Region of Birth: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



[1]Total includes Oceania and region not reported, not shown separately.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Tables 21-1D and 21-2D.

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Appendix A.

The Foreign-Born Population and Immigration: Definitions and Concepts

The terms "foreign-born population" and "immigration" are related, but they are not interchangeable. There is more than one way to define each term for purposes of collecting and tabulating statistical information.[1] In addition, there are conceptual differences between the two terms.

Because of these important differences, the foreign-born population, immigration, and some related terms are defined for use in this report and are discussed here. Since migration from foreign countries to the United States is the source (and the only source) of the foreign-born population residing in the United States, terms related to migration are discussed first.

Immigration and related terms

Before defining immigration, it is helpful to provide a few other terms first, starting with the most general. Each term appears in bold print in the sentence in which it is defined.

An **international migrant** is a person who changes his or her usual place of residence from one country to another.[2] An international migrant is an **international in-migrant** to the country of destination and an **international out-migrant** from the country of origin. These are demographic terms (rather than legal terms) that include all in-migrants or out-migrants, regardless of country of citizenship or legal status.

The subcategories of international in-migrants defined here are shown in the diagram below. Corresponding terms for the act, or process, or statistical aggregate (number of individuals) are provided also (e.g., immigrant and the corresponding term, immigration).

An international in-migrant is either a **citizen in-migrant** (i.e., a person who has citizenship in the country of destination) or an **alien in-migrant** (i.e., a person who does not have citizenship in the country of destination). For the United States, citizen in-migrants include individuals who were born in outlying areas of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico or Guam), individuals born abroad with at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen, and U.S. citizens returning from residence abroad (including members of the Armed Forces).

Alien in-migrants may be divided into three broad categories: immigrants, long-term nonimmigrants, and undocumented aliens.

Immigrants, as defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), are aliens admitted to the United States for lawful permanent residence.

"Immigrants are those individuals lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. They may be issued immigrant visas by the Department of State overseas or adjusted to permanent resident status by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the United States."[3]

It is important to note that the year of lawful permanent residence of an immigrant may differ from the year in which he or she became a resident of the United States. For example, in 1990 and 1991, when the numbers of immigrants were the highest on record (1.5 million and 1.8 million, respectively), more than one-half of the immigrants had resided in the United States since 1986 or earlier and were adjusted to permanent resident status under provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA).[4]

Immigration is thus the act or process of becoming an immigrant or is the number of immigrants during a specified period of time.

Long-term nonimmigrants are aliens admitted by INS on "long-term" visas (i.e., excluding tourists and temporary visitors for business). Long-term nonimmigrants include, for example, students, representatives of foreign governments, and their dependents.

Undocumented aliens are individuals residing illegally in the United States, including individuals who entered illegally and individuals whose nonimmigrant terms of admission have expired. INS estimated the undocumented alien population of the United States in October 1996 at 5 million.[5]

Person	Act, or process, or statistical aggregate
International in-migrant	International in-migration
Citizen in-migrant	Citizen in-migration
Alien in-migrant	Alien in-migration
Immigrant	Immigration
Long-term nonimmigrant	Legal in-migration other than immigration
Undocumented alien	Undocumented alien in-migration

Foreign-born population

It is simpler to define the native population before defining the foreign-born population. As defined by the Census Bureau, the **native population** includes individuals born in the United States or an outlying area of the United States, and individuals who were born in a foreign country, but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. All other residents of the United States are classified as foreign born. The **foreign-born population** is thus all individuals born in a foreign country except those who had at least one parent who was an U.S. citizen. The foreign-born population includes all foreign-born individuals residing in the United States, regardless of their legal status.

The classification of the resident population of the United

States by place of birth and nativity (native and foreign born) is shown in Figure A-1 and reflects the definitions presented above. The foreign-born population is composed of individuals who, at the time of their migration to the United States, were in one of the three broad categories of alien in-migrants: immigrants, long-term nonimmigrants, and undocumented aliens.

After migration to the United States, some foreign-born residents become naturalized citizens. This process usually requires 5 years of residence in the United States. Those who have not become U.S. citizens may have changes in their "immigration status," which corresponds to their alien in-migrant category. For example, a person who entered the United States as a long-term nonimmigrant may have overstayed his or her visa and become an undocumented alien, or a person who entered the United States as an undocumented alien may have been able to adjust his or her status and become an immigrant. In any case, there is no change in the person's classification as foreign born.

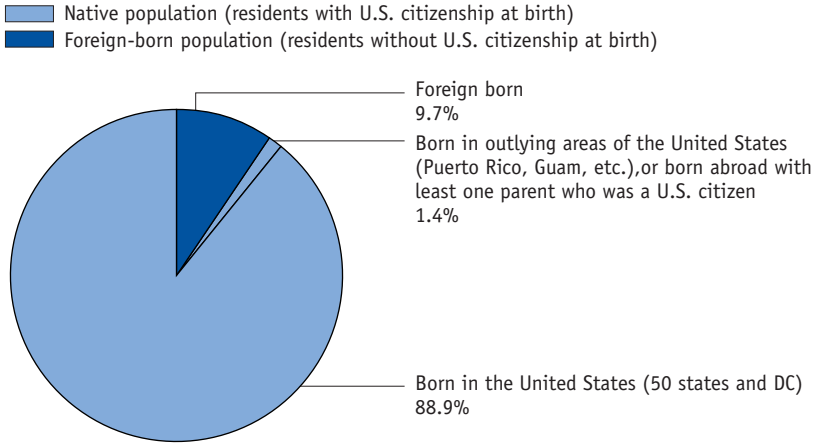
Conceptual differences: flow data and stock data

Reflecting the preceding definitions of terms, the conceptual differences between immigration and the foreign-born population are discussed here. Data on immigration (and on other categories of migration) are flow data. **Flow data** cover a period of time such as one year or one decade (e.g., annual data on immigration). Data on the foreign-born population are stock data. **Stock data** are for one point in time such as data from a census or survey (e.g., data from the 1990 census of population or the March 1997 Current Population Survey).

The change over time (which is a flow concept) in the size of the foreign-born population is the result of three processes of population change: alien in-migration, emigration (i.e., international out-migration) of the foreign-born population,[6] and mortality to the foreign-born population.[7] Thus if the number of alien in-migrants to the United States (additions to the foreign-born population) exceeds the combined number of foreign-born emigrants from the United States and deaths to the foreign-born population residing in the United States (subtractions from the foreign-born population), the foreign-born population will increase, and vice-versa.

Figure A-1.
Classification of the Population of the United States by Nativity and Place of Birth: 1997

(Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1999b, Table 1-1.

[1] For example, the term immigration can refer most broadly to all migration to the United States (a demographic approach) or more narrowly to the legal migration of non-U.S. citizens (aliens) to the United States (a legal approach). The legal approach is used here, with the demographic approach represented by the term "international in-migration." For a comprehensive discussion of demographic concepts and definitions, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980.

[2] The basic rule for where to enumerate a person in U.S. censuses is his or her usual place of residence. This is the place where the person lives or sleeps most of the time or the place the person considers to be his or her usual home. This includes citizens of foreign countries who have established regular living arrangements (such as living in a house, apartment, or dormitory) while working or studying in the United States.

[3] U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1997, p. A.3-5.

[4] Ibid., pp. 34, A.3-6, and A.3-10.

[5] Ibid., pp. 182-186.

[6] Whereas immigrant (a legal term) differs from international in-migrant (a demographic term), as defined earlier in this section, there is not a corresponding need to identify the legal status of international out-migrants. Thus the term "international out-migration" and the shorter term "emigration" can be used interchangeably.

[7] These processes correspond to three of the four general demographic components of population change: in-migration, out-migration, and mortality. The fourth demographic component of population change – fertility –is not relevant for the foreign-born population because, as discussed earlier, all individuals born in the United States are defined as native, regardless of the birthplace or citizenship status of their parents.

Appendix B.

Source and Accuracy of Estimates

Source of Data

Estimates in this report come from data obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted in March of 1997. The Bureau of the Census conducts the survey every month, although this report uses only March data for its estimates. Also, some estimates come from decennial census data for years 1850 through 1990, and from the administrative records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The March survey uses two sets of questions, the basic CPS and the supplements.

Basic CPS. The basic CPS collects primarily labor force data about the civilian noninstitutional population. Interviewers ask questions concerning labor force participation about each member 15 years old and over in every sample household. The basic CPS also includes questions on country of birth, citizenship, and year of entry into the United States.

The CPS sample used in this report was selected from the 1990 decennial census files with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The sample is continually updated to account for new residential construction. The United States was divided into 2,007 geographic areas. In most states, a geographic area consisted of a county or several contiguous counties. In some areas of New England and Hawaii, minor civil divisions are used instead of counties. A total of 754 geographic areas was selected for sample. About 50,000 occupied households are eligible for interview every month. Field representatives are unable to obtain interviews at about 3,200 of these units. This occurs when the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason.

Since the introduction of the CPS, the Bureau of the Census has redesigned the CPS sample several times. These redesigns have improved the quality and accuracy of the data and have satisfied changing data needs. The most recent changes were completely implemented in July 1995.

March 1997 supplement. In addition to the basic CPS questions, field representatives asked supplementary questions in March about poverty status, money income received in the previous calender year, educational attainment, household and family characteristics, marital status, and geographic mobility.

To obtain more reliable data for the Hispanic population, the March CPS sample was increased by about 2,500 eligible housing units. These housing units were interviewed the previous November and contained at least one sample person of Hispanic origin. In addition, the sample included persons in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Estimation procedure. The survey's estimation procedure inflates weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, sex, race, and Hispanic/non-Hispanic origin, and state of residence. The adjusted estimate is called the post-stratification ratio estimate. The independent estimates were calculated based on information from four primary sources:

- The 1990 Decennial Census of Population and Housing.
- An adjustment for undercoverage in the 1990 census.
- Statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration.
- Statistics on the size of the Armed Forces.

The independent population estimates used for 1994 to present were based on updates to controls established by the 1990 decennial census. Before 1994, independent population estimates from the latest available decennial census data were used. For more details on the change in independent estimates, see the section entitled 'Introduction of 1990 Census Population Controls"in an earlier report (Series P60, No. 188).

The estimation procedure for the March supplement included a further adjustment so husband and wife of a household received the same weight. The independent population estimates include some, but not all, undocumented immigrants.

Accuracy of the Estimates

Since the CPS estimates come from a sample, they may differ from figures from a complete census using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. A sample survey estimate has two possible types of error: sampling and nonsampling. The accuracy of an estimate depends on both types of error, but the full extent of the nonsampling error is unknown. Consequently, one should be particularly careful when interpreting results based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates. The standard errors for CPS estimates primarily indicate the magnitude of sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in responses and enumeration, but do not measure systematic biases in the data. (Bias is the average over all possible samples of the differences between the sample estimates and the desired value.)

Nonsampling variability. Several sources of nonsampling errors include the following:

- Inability to get information about all sample cases.

- Definitional difficulties.
- Differences in the interpretation of questions.
- Respondents' inability or unwillingness to provide correct information.
- Respondents' inability to recall information.
- Errors made in data collection such as recording and coding data.
- Errors made in processing the data.
- Errors made in estimating values for missing data.
- Failure to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

CPS undercoverage results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample households. Overall CPS undercoverage is estimated at 8 percent. CPS undercoverage varies with age, sex, and race. Generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races combined than for Whites. As described previously, ratio estimation to independent age-sex-race-Hispanic population controls partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage. However, biases exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons in missed households or missed persons in interviewed households have different characteristics from those of interviewed persons in the same age-sex-race-Hispanic origin group.

A common measure of survey coverage is the coverage ratio, the estimated population before post-stratification divided by the independent population control. Table A shows CPS coverage ratios for age-sex-race groups for a typical month. The CPS coverage ratios can exhibit some variability from month to month. Other Census Bureau household surveys experience similar coverage.

Comparability of data. Data obtained from the CPS and other sources are not entirely comparable. This results from differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. This is an example of nonsampling variability not reflected in the standard errors. Use caution when comparing results from different sources.

A number of changes were made in data collection and estimation procedures beginning with the January 1994 CPS. The major change was the use of a new questionnaire. The questionnaire was redesigned to measure the official labor force concepts more precisely, to expand the amount of data available, to implement several definitional changes, and to adapt to a computer-assisted interviewing environment. The March supplemental income questions were also modified for adaptation to computer-assisted interviewing, although there were no changes in definition and concepts. Due to these and other changes, one should use caution when comparing estimates from data collected in 1994 and later years with estimates from earlier years. See Appendix C, P60-188 on "Conversion to a Computer Assisted Questionnaire" for a description of these changes and the effect they had on the data.

Caution should also be used when comparing estimates in this report (which reflects 1990 census-based population controls) with estimates from the March 1993 CPS and earlier years (which reflect 1980 census-based population controls).[1] This change in population controls had relatively little impact on summary measures such as means, medians, and percent distributions. It did have a significant impact on levels. For example, use of 1990-based population controls results in about a 1-percent increase in the civilian

Table A.
CPS Coverage Ratios

Age	Non-Black		Black		All persons		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
0-14	0.929	0.964	0.850	0.838	0.916	0.943	0.929
15	0.933	0.895	0.763	0.824	0.905	0.883	0.895
16-19	0.881	0.891	0.711	0.802	0.855	0.877	0.866
20-29	0.847	0.897	0.660	0.811	0.823	0.884	0.854
30-39	0.904	0.931	0.680	0.845	0.877	0.920	0.899
40-49	0.928	0.966	0.816	0.911	0.917	0.959	0.938
50-59	0.953	0.974	0.896	0.927	0.948	0.969	0.959
60-64	0.961	0.941	0.954	0.953	0.960	0.942	0.950
65-69	0.919	0.972	0.982	0.984	0.924	0.973	0.951
70+	0.993	1.004	0.996	0.979	0.993	1.002	0.998
15+	0.914	0.945	0.767	0.874	0.898	0.927	0.918
0+	0.918	0.949	0.793	0.864	0.902	0.931	0.921

For additional information on nonsampling error including the possible impact on CPS nativity data when known, refer to Statistical Policy Working Paper 3, *An Error Profile: Employment as Measured by the Current Population Survey*, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1978, Technical Paper 40, *The Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology*, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Population Division Working Paper No. 22, "How Well Does the Current Population Survey Measure the Foreign-Born Population in the United States?" by Dianne Schmidley and J. Gregory Robinson.

[1] CPS began collecting nativity data in 1994.

noninstitutional population and in the number of families and households. Thus, estimates of levels for data collected in 1994 and later years will differ from those for earlier years by more than what could be attributed to actual changes in the population. These differences could be disproportionately greater for certain subpopulation groups than for the total population.

During the period April 1994 through June 1995, the U.S. Census Bureau systematically introduced a new sample design for the CPS based on the results of the 1990 decennial census. During this phase-in period, CPS estimates were being made from two distinct sample designs: the old 1980 sample design and the new 1990 sample design. The March 1995 CPS consisted of 55 percent new (1990) sample and 45 percent old (1980) sample.[1] The data based on the March 1996 CPS were the first estimates based entirely on households selected from the 1990 census-based sample design.

One of the effects of the introduction of the 1990 census sample design is the change in the definition of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The 1990 census sample design incorporates the geographic definitions officially released in 1993[2]; the 1980 census sample design incorporates the geographic definitions released in 1983. While most CPS estimates have been unaffected by this mixed sample, geographic estimates are subject to greater error and variability. Users should exercise caution when comparing estimates across years for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan categories.

Note when using small estimates. Summary measures (such as medians and percent distributions) are shown only when the base is 100,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, summary measures would probably not reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. However, estimated numbers are shown even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates permit combinations of the categories to suit data users' needs.

Take care in the interpretation of small differences. For instance, even a small amount of nonsampling error can cause a borderline difference to appear significant or not, thus distorting a seemingly valid hypothesis test.

Sampling variability. Sampling variability is variation that occurred by chance because a sample was surveyed rather than the entire population. Standard errors, as calculated by methods described in **Standard errors and their use**, are primarily measures of sampling variability, but they may include some nonsampling error.

Standard errors and their use. A number of approximations are required to derive, at a moderate cost, standard errors applicable to the estimates in this report. Instead of providing an individual standard error for each estimate, two parameters, "a" and "b," are provided to calculate standard errors for each estimate.

Table B provides standard error parameters for native and foreign-born persons. Multiply the parameters in Table B by the factors in Tables C and D to get region, state, and nonmetropolitan parameters.

The sample estimate and its standard error enable one to construct a confidence interval. A confidence interval is a range that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and using the same sample design and if an estimate and its standard error were calculated from each sample, then approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.645 standard errors below the estimate to 1.645 standard errors above the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples.

A particular confidence interval may or may not contain the average estimate derived from all possible samples. However, one can say with specified confidence that the interval includes the average estimate calculated from all possible samples.

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing. This is a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. One common type of hypothesis appearing in this report is that two population parameters are different. An example of this would be comparing the median age of natives to the median age of foreign-born persons.

Tests may be performed at various levels of significance. The significance level of a test is the probability of concluding that the characteristics are different when, in fact, they are the same. All statements of comparison in the text were tested at the 0.10 level of significance. Thus, if the absolute value of the estimated difference between characteristics was greater than or equal to 1.645 times the standard error of the difference, then the conclusion was that the characteristics were different.

The Census Bureau uses 90-percent confidence intervals and 0.10 levels of significance to determine statistical validity. Consult standard statistical textbooks for alternative criteria.

Standard errors of estimated numbers. The approximate standard error, s_x, of an estimated number shown in this report can be obtained using the formula:

$$s_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \qquad (1)$$

Here x is the size of the estimate, and a and b are the parameters in Table B associated with the particular type of characteristic. When calculating standard errors from cross-tabulations involving different characteristics, use the set of parameters for the characteristic which will give the largest standard error.

Illustration

Suppose there are 913,000 persons living in the United States who were born in Cuba. Use the appropriate parameters from Table B and formula (1) to get

Number, x	913,000
a parameter	-0.000042
b parameter	11,054
Standard error	100,000
90 % conf. int.	740,000 to 1,078,000

The standard error is calculated as

$$s_x = \sqrt{-0.000042 \text{x} 913{,}000^2 + 11{,}054 \text{x} 913{,}000} = 100{,}000$$

The 90-percent confidence interval is calculated as $913{,}000 \pm 1.645 \times 100{,}000$.

A conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 90 percent of all possible samples.

Standard errors of estimated percentages. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed using sample data from both numerator and denominator, depends on both the size of the percentage and its base. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. When the numerator and denominator of the percentage are in different categories, use the parameter from Table B indicated by the numerator.

The approximate standard error, $s_{x,p}$, of an estimated percentage can be obtained by using the formula

$$s_{x,p} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} p\,(100 - p)} \qquad (2)$$

Here x is the total number of persons, families, households, or unrelated individuals in the base of the percentage, p is the percentage ($0 \le p \le 100$), and b is the parameter in Table B associated with the characteristic in the numerator of the percentage.

Illustration

Suppose 9.9 percent, or about 478,000, of the 4,806,000 foreign born who came to the United States before 1970 are in poverty. Use the appropriate parameter from Table B and formula (2) to get

Percentage, p	9.9
Base, x	4,806,000
b parameter	13,494
Standard error	1.6
90 % conf. int.	7.3 to 12.5

The standard error is calculated as

$$s_{x,p} = \sqrt{\frac{13{,}494}{4{,}806{,}000} x\ 9.9\ x\ (100 - 9.9)} = 1.6$$

The 90-percent confidence interval is calculated as $9.9 \pm 1.645 \times 1.6$.

Standard error of a difference. The standard error of the difference between two sample estimates is approximately equal to

$$s_{x-y} = \sqrt{s_x^2 + s_y^2} \qquad (3)$$

where s_x and s_y are the standard errors of the estimates, x and y. The estimates can be numbers, proportions, ratios, etc. This will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. However, if there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

Illustration

Suppose from the March 1996 CPS, 4.6 percent of the 178,343,000 natives who are 16 + years old in the United States receive public assistance income. Also, suppose that 5.8 percent of the 22,378,000 foreign born who are 16 + years old in the United States receive public assistance income. Use the appropriate parameters from Table B and formulas (2) and (3) to get

	x	y	difference
Percentage, p	4.6	5.8	1.2
Base, x	178,343,000	22,378,000	-
b parameter	10,380	13,494	-
Standard error	0.2	0.6	0.6
90 % conf. int.	4.3 to 4.9	4.8 to 6.8	0.2 to 2.2

The standard error of the difference is calculated as

$$s_{x-y} = \sqrt{0.2^2 + 0.6^2} = 0.6$$

The 90-percent confidence interval around the difference is calculated as $1.2 \pm 1.645 \times 0.6$. Since this interval does not include zero, we can conclude with 90-percent confidence that the percentage of foreign born in the United States who receive public assistance income is higher than the percentage of natives who receive public assistance income.

Standard Error of a Median. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends on the form of the distribution and the size of the base. One can approximate the reliability of an estimated median by determining a confidence interval about it. (See the section on standard errors and their use for a general discussion of confidence intervals.)

Estimate the 68-percent confidence limits of a median based on sample data using the following procedure.

1. Determine, using formula (2), the standard error of the estimate of 50 percent from the distribution.
2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step 1.
3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, determine upper and lower limits of the 68-percent confidence interval by calculating values corresponding to the two points established in step 2.

Use the following formula to calculate the upper and lower limits.

$$X_{pN} = \frac{pN - N_1}{N_2 - N_1}(A_2 - A_1) + A_1 \qquad (4)$$

where

X_{pN} = estimated upper and lower bounds for the confidence interval ($0 \leq p \leq 1$). For purposes of calculating the confidence interval, p takes on the values determined in step 2. Note that X_{pN} estimates the median when $p = 0.50$.

N = for distribution of numbers: the total number of units (persons, households, etc.) for the characteristic in the distribution.

= for distribution of percentages: the value 1.0.

p = the values obtained in step 2.

A_1, A_2 = the lower and upper bounds, respectively, of the interval containing X_{pN}.

N_1, N_2 = for distribution of numbers: the estimated number of units (persons, households, etc.) with values of the characteristic greater than or equal to A_1 and A_2, respectively.

= for distribution of percentages: the estimated percentage of units (persons, households, etc.) having values of the characteristic greater than or equal to A_1 and A_2, respectively.

4. Divide the difference between the two points determined in step 3 by two to obtain the standard error of the median.

Illustration

Use the following distribution and median income for United States naturalized citizens 16 + years old who are receiving income.

Income levels	Naturalized citizens 16 +
Total	7,177,000
Under $10,000 or loss	2,060,000
$10,000 to $19,999	1,795,000
$20,000 to $34,999	1,565,000
$35,000 to $49,999	828,000
$50,000 or more	929,000
Median income	$18,515

(1) Using b = 2,913 from Table B and formula (2), the standard error of 50 percent on a base of 7,177,000 is about 1.0 percent.

(2) To obtain a 68 percent confidence interval for an estimated median, add to and subtract from 50 percent, the standard error found in step 1. This yields limits of 49.0 and 51.0 percent.

(3) The lower and upper limits for the interval in which the median

falls are $10,000 and $19,999, respectively.

Then, by addition, the estimated number of naturalized citizens 16+ receiving income with an income greater than or equal to $10,000 and $19,999 are 5,117,000 and 3,322,000, respectively.

Using formula (4), the upper limit for the confidence interval of the median is about

$$\frac{0.490x7{,}177{,}000 - 5{,}117{,}000}{3{,}322{,}000 - 5{,}117{,}000} x\ (20{,}000 - 10{,}000) + 10{,}000 = 18{,}900$$

Similarly, the lower limit is about

$$\frac{0.510x7{,}177{,}000 - 5{,}117{,}000}{3{,}322{,}000 - 5{,}117{,}000} x\ (20{,}000 - 10{,}000) + 10{,}000 = 18{,}100$$

Thus, a 68-percent confidence interval for the median income is from $18,100 to $18,900.

(4) The standard error of the median is, therefore

$$\frac{18{,}900 - 18{,}100}{2} = 400$$

Standard Error of a Ratio. Certain estimates may be calculated as the ratio of two numbers. The standard error of a ratio, x/y, may be computed using

$$s_{x/y} = \frac{x}{y}\sqrt{\left(\frac{s_x}{x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{s_y}{y}\right)^2 - 2r\frac{s_x s_y}{xy}}$$

Formula (5)

The standard error of the numerator, s_x, and that of the denominator, s_y, may be calculated using formulas described earlier. In formula (5), r represents the correlation between the numerator and the denominator of the estimate.

For one type of ratio, the denominator is a count of families or households and the numerator is a count of persons in those families or households with a certain characteristic. If there is at least one person with the characteristic in every family or household, use 0.7 as an estimate of r. An example of this type is the mean number of children per family with children.

For all other types of ratios, r is assumed to be zero. If r is actually positive (negative), then this procedure will provide an overestimate (underestimate) of the standard error of the ratio. Examples of this type are the mean number of children per family and the poverty rate.

NOTE: For estimates expressed as the ratio of x per 100 y or x per 1,000 y, multiply formula (5) by 100 or 1,000, respectively, to obtain the standard error.

Illustration

Suppose there are 8,000,000 foreign-born residents in California and 3,600,000 foreign-born residents in New York. The ratio of the number of foreign-born residents in California, x, to the number of foreign-born residents in New York, y, is 2.20. Using the parameters in Table B and the state factors for California and New York in Table C, the standard error of this ratio is calculated as follows:

Using formula (5) with r = 0, the estimate of the standard error is

$$s_{x/y} = \frac{8{,}000{,}000}{3{,}600{,}000}\sqrt{\left[\frac{260{,}000}{8{,}000{,}000}\right]^2 + \left[\frac{146{,}000}{3{,}600{,}000}\right]^2} = 0.12$$

The 90-percent confidence interval is calculated as $2.50 \pm 1.645 \times 0.12$.

[1]For detailed information on the 1990 sample redesign, see the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics report, *Employment and Earnings,* Volume 41, Number 5, May 1994.

[2]For additional information on the new metropolitan area definitions, see *Revised Statistical Definitions for Metropolitan Areas (MAs),* Office of Management and Budget, Bulletin No. 93-17, June 30, 1993.

	x	y	ratio
Estimate	8,000,000	3,600,000	2.22
a parameter (national)	-0.000025	-0.000025	-
b parameter (national)	6,774	6,774	-
State factors	1.29	0.89	-
a parameter (state)	-0.000032	-0.000022	-
b parameter (state)	8,738	6,029	-
Standard error	268,000	146,000	0.12
90% conf. int.			2.02 to 2.42

Table B.

Standard Error Parameters for Native and Foreign-Born Characteristics: March 1997

Characteristic	Natives		Foreign born	
	a	b	a	b
Age				
Total	-0.000020	5,211	-0.000025	6,774
Under 15 years	-0.000088	5,211	-0.000114	6,774
15 years and over	-0.000025	5,211	-0.000033	6,774
15 to 24 years	-0.000142	5,211	-0.000185	6,774
25 to 34 years	-0.000131	5,211	-0.000170	6,774
35 to 44 years	-0.000119	5,211	-0.000155	6,774
45 to 64 years	-0.000096	5,211	-0.000125	6,774
65 years and over	-0.000163	5,211	-0.000212	6,774
Median age (years)	(NA)	5,211	(NA)	6,774
Sex				
Male	-0.000040	5,211	-0.000052	6,774
Female	-0.000038	5,211	-0.000050	6,774
Race and Hispanic Origin				
Some Household Members				
Total/White	-0.000020	5,211	-0.000025	6,774
Black	-0.000220	7,486	-0.000220	7,486
Asian or Pacific Islander	-0.000602	7,486	-0.000602	7,486
Hispanic origin	-0.000253	7,486	-0.000253	7,486
All Household Members				
Total/White	-0.000024	6,332	-0.000031	8,232
Black	-0.000324	11,039	-0.000324	11,039
Asian or Pacific Islander	-0.000887	11,039	-0.000887	11,039
Hispanic origin	-0.000373	11,039	-0.000373	11,039
Educational Attainment	-0.000011	2,369	-0.000014	3,080
Labor Force Status				
In the civilian labor force	-0.000018	2,985	-0.000023	3,881
Employed	-0.000018	2,985	-0.000023	3,881
Unemployed	-0.000018	2,957	-0.000023	3,844
Not in the labor force	0.000006	829	0.000008	1,078
Income in 1996	-0.000013	2,241	-0.000017	2,913
Received Public Assistance	-0.000039	10,380	-0.000051	13,494
Received AFDC	-0.000039	10,380	-0.000051	13,494
Poverty Status	-0.000039	10,380	-0.000051	13,494
Tenure	-0.000030	7,791	-0.000039	10,128
Country of Birth				
Mexico, North/Central America	(NA)	(NA)	-0.000042	11,054
Europe	(NA)	(NA)	-0.000024	6,351
Asia, Africa, Oceania	(NA)	(NA)	-0.000039	10,351
United States	-0.000021	5,556	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not applicable.

Table C.
State Factors

State	Factor	State	Factor
Alabama	1.01	Montana	0.20
Alaska	0.15	Nebraska	0.42
Arizona	0.97	Nevada	0.44
Arkansas	0.59	New Hampshire	0.38
California	1.29	New Jersey	0.82
Colorado	0.93	New Mexico	0.40
Connecticut	1.00	New York	0.89
Delaware	0.22	North Carolina	0.94
Dist. of Col.	0.16	North Dakota	0.16
Florida	0.97	Ohio	1.02
Georgia	1.40	Oklahoma	0.73
Hawaii	0.35	Oregon	0.86
Idaho	0.27	Pennsylvania	0.96
Illinois	1.00	Rhode Island	0.30
Indiana	1.38	South Carolina	1.01
Iowa	0.71	South Dakota	0.17
Kansas	0.65	Tennessee	1.34
Kentucky	0.92	Texas	1.21
Louisiana	0.95	Utah	0.43
Maine	0.37	Vermont	0.18
Maryland	1.38	Virginia	1.48
Massachusetts	0.81	Washington	1.47
Michigan	0.93	West Virginia	0.39
Minnesota	1.11	Wisconsin	1.23
Mississippi	0.64	Wyoming	0.12
Missouri	1.37		

Table D.
Region and Nonmetropolitan Factors

Characteristic	Factor
Region	
Northeast	0.85
Midwest	1.03
South	1.08
West	1.09
Nonmetropolitan characteristics	1.5

Appendix C.

Comparison of Population Universes

The population universes in the March Current Population Survey (CPS) and in the decennial census of population are not totally comparable. While the universe for the census of population is the entire resident population of the United States, the universe for the March CPS is the civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.[1] The coverage of the noninstitutional group quarters population in the CPS is limited primarily to individuals living in college dormitories who generally are reported with their parental households and not in group quarters; however, relatively few foreign-born students would be reported in this way. As a result, the foreign-born population in the 1990 census corresponding to the CPS universe is essentially the foreign-born population of 19.3 million living in households, which is about 0.5 million less than the total foreign-born population of 19.8 million in the 1990 census.

Foreign-Born Population in the CPS and in the Census of Population

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total population	Foreign-born population	
		Number	Percent of total
March 1997 CPS			
Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post	266,800	25,779	9.7
1990 Census of Population			
Total population	248,710	19,767	7.9
In households	242,050	19,279	8.0
In group quarters	6,660	489	7.3
In institutions	3,312	242	7.3
In other group quarters	3,348	247	7.4
College dormitories	1,971	123	6.2
Military quarters	595	24	4.1
Other	783	100	12.8

[1]In addition, data from the 1990 census and the March 1997 CPS are not totally comparable because the CPS data are inflated to independent population controls reflecting an adjustment for undercoverage in the 1990 census. See Appendix B, Source and Accuracy of the Estimates, and U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998b.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, special tabulations from the 1990 census and the March 1997 Current Population Survey.

Appendix D.

Nativity Questions on the Current Population Survey

(The following questions are asked about every member of every household in the CPS sample. Information is also collected for persons joining the household at a later date.)

The next few questions ask about each household member's country of birth.

NATVTY In what country (were/was) ..... born? (Enter Code) _____

MNTVTY In what country was .....'s mother born? _____

FNTVTY In what country was .....'s father born? _____

(screens with country codes not shown)

AUTOMATED SKIP PATTERN:

If NATVTY = US (1) --> END sequence for this person
If NATVTY = PR* (2) or OA* (3) --> go to INUSYR
If MNTVTY and FNTVTY = US (1), PR* (2) or OA* (3) --> go to INUSYR
ALL OTHERS --> go to CITIZN

CITIZN (Are/Is) . . . a CITIZEN of the United States?

(1) YES --> go to CITTYPA
(2) NO --> go to INUSYR
(3) DK* --> go to INUSYR
(4) R* --> go to INUSYR

CITTYPA (Were/Was) . . . born a citizen of the United States?

(1) Yes --> go to INUSYR
(2) No --> go to CITTYPB
(3) DK* --> go to CITTYPB
(4) R* --> go to INUSYR

CITTYPB Did . . . become a citizen of the United States through naturalization?

(1) Yes --> go to INUSYR
(2) No --> go to INUSYR
(3) DK* --> go to INUSYR
(4) R* --> go to INUSYR

INUSYR When did . . . come to live in the United States?

(1) YEAR 19_____
(2) DK*
(3) R*

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* PR = Puerto Rico; OA = Outlying Area; DK = Don't Know; R = Refused.

Appendix E.

Related Reports and Information

From the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service: 1996 (1997) is the most recent annual yearbook providing comprehensive data on immigration, naturalization, and other topics for fiscal year 1996. The publication includes historical data on immigration.

Legal Immigration, Fiscal Year 1997 (1999), Office of Policy and Planning, Annual Report No. 1, makes available selected data on immigration for fiscal year 1997 prior to the publication of the annual *Statistical Yearbook*.

For additional information, including data from the reports cited above, see INS's Internet site < http://www.ins.usdoj.gov > .

From the U.S. Census Bureau

Recent population estimates

Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997, PPL-115 (1999) is a comprehensive set of detailed statistical tables and is the source of all the data from the March 1997 Current Population Survey included in *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997,* P23-195 (this report).

Previous sets of detailed statistical tables on the foreign-born population, which are less comprehensive than PPL-115, include *The Foreign-Born Population*: *1994*, PPL-31 (1995); *The Foreign-Born Population*: *1995*, PPL-58 (1997); and *The Foreign-Born Population*: *1996*, PPL-59 (1997).

Previous printed reports (6 pages each) on the foreign-born population published in Current Population Reports include *The Foreign-Born Population*: *1994*, P20-486 (Kristin A. Hansen and Amara Bachu, 1995), and *The Foreign-Born Population*: *1996*, P20-494 (Kristin A. Hansen and Carol S. Faber, 1997).

The data on the foreign-born population in the reports noted above are based on national survey data for the 1994 to 1997 period. For a detailed evaluation of these data, see *How Well Does the Current Population Survey Measure the Foreign-Born Population in the United States?*, Population Division Working Paper No. 22 (A. Dianne Schmidley and J. Gregory Robinson, 1998).

The Census Bureau produces annual estimates of population change and of the components of population change (births, deaths, net international migration, and net domestic migration) since the 1990 census for the United States, regions and divisions of the United States, states, and counties. These estimates are available only on the Census Bureau's Internet site (http://www.census.gov). On this Internet site, go to People, select **Estimates**, and then select **State** (which includes data for the United States, regions, and divisions) or **County**. Estimates of the component of population change are currently available for 4/1/90 to 7/1/98 and for 7/1/97 to 7/1/98.

Decennial census data

Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 1990, Population Division Working Paper No. 29 (1999), is the source of all the decennial census data included in *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997*, P23-195 (this report).

The Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1990 Census of Population, 1990 CP-3-1 (1993) presents data on the demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of the foreign-born population of the United States as a whole by region and country of birth of the foreign-born population. These data are shown down to the state level in *Subject Summary Tape File (SSTF) 1, The Foreign-Born Population in the United States*, which is available also on CD-ROM.

Social and Economic Characteristics, 1990 Census of Population, 1990 CP-2 (1993) presents data on the citizenship status, year of entry, and region and country of birth of the foreign-born population. 1990 CP-2-1 includes data for the United States, regions and divisions of the United States, and states. 1990 CP-2-2 through 1990 CP-2-52 (one report for each state and for the District of Columbia) include data for states, counties, and places of 10,000 or more population (with less detail for places of 2,500 to 9,999 population). 1990 CP-2-1B and CP-2-1C include data for metropolitan areas and urbanized areas, respectively.

On the Internet

A wide range of information from the Census Bureau, including data on some of the topics included in this report, is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site < http://www.census.gov > .

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