

The Foreign-Born Population: 2000

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Census 2000 measured a population of 281.4 million, 31.1 million (or 11.1 percent) of whom were foreign born.¹ Individuals from Latin America represented 52 percent, Asia 26 percent, Europe 16 percent, and other areas of the world 6.0 percent of the foreign-born population. This report, part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000, describes the distribution of the foreign-born population in the United States, regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000 or more.²

The concept and measurement of the foreign-born population and its characteristics have evolved across several censuses.

Nativity is determined by U.S. citizenship status and place of birth (see Figure 1).

¹ The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

² The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Tables 1 and 4, and Figure 4.

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Questions on Place of Birth, Citizenship Status, and Year of Entry From Census 2000

12 Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States — *Print name of state.*

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☐ Outside the United States — *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.*

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13 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

☐ Yes, born in the United States → *Skip to 15a*

☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents

☐ Yes, a U.S. citizen by naturalization

☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

14 When did this person come to live in the United States? *Print numbers in boxes.*

Year

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

The Census Bureau considers anyone who is not born a U.S. citizen to be foreign born. Conversely, natives are those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area, or born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent.³ Because a person may be born outside the United States and be a U.S. citizen at birth (i.e., they were born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent), information on place of birth cannot

³ The U.S. Island Areas include U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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be used alone to determine whether an individual is native or foreign born and must be used in conjunction with information on citizenship status.

Information on nativity and the foreign-born population is used by researchers, federal agencies, and policy makers for many purposes, including determination of eligibility for certain government programs, examination of trends in net international migration, and analysis of the changing composition of the U.S. population.

In the 1820 and 1830 decennial censuses, enumerators were asked to “note” individuals who were aliens (foreigners not naturalized), although no specific questions on citizenship status were asked. In 1890, explicit measures of citizenship status were added to the census and have remained with some variations except in 1960.

Questions concerning an individual’s place of birth have appeared in the decennial censuses since 1850.⁴ From 1870 to 1970, parental nativity (place of birth of the individual’s father and mother) was also asked. Census 2000 asked, “Where was this person born?,” asking for the name of the state for those born within the United States or the country name for those born elsewhere.⁵

In many decennial censuses, an additional question asked the year in which a person born outside the United States (whether native or foreign born) came to live in the United States.⁶

⁴For further discussion of the evolution of place of birth, year of entry, and citizenship questions in the decennial census, see Gauthier, Jason G., 2002, *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000*, POL/02-MA, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

⁵Although a foreign-born respondent may indicate a place of birth that is more precise than a foreign country of birth (e.g., Bavaria), this information is categorized under the country name and is neither tabulated nor shown in such detail in U.S. Census Bureau data products.

⁶Questions on period of entry appeared from 1890 to 1930 and from 1970 to 2000 in various forms.

Census 2000 asked, “Is this person a citizen of the United States?” Answers to this question categorized respondents into various citizenship groups based on the manner in which U.S. citizenship was obtained (for example, born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area; or born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent), or into a residual non-citizen group.⁷

The foreign-born population in the United States increased by more than half between 1990 and 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, the foreign-born population increased by 57 percent, from 19.8 million to 31.1 million, compared with an increase of 9.3 percent for the native population and 13 percent for the total U.S. population (see Table 1). The foreign born who were naturalized citizens of the United States increased by 56 percent (from 8.0 million to 12.5 million), compared with an increase of 58 percent for those who were not U.S. citizens (from 11.8 million to 18.6 million).

In 2000, 40.3 percent of the foreign born were naturalized U.S. citizens, down slightly from 40.5 percent in 1990. The percentage naturalized varied by period of entry: while 82 percent of the foreign born who entered the United States prior to 1970 were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2000, only 13 percent of those who entered in 1990 or later were (see Figure 2).⁸

⁷No information about dual citizenship, citizenship other than U.S., or legal (migrant) status is collected in the decennial census.

⁸The naturalization process requires that the foreign-born applicant reside continuously in the United States for 5 years (or less for special categories of migrants) following admission as a lawful permanent resident. Therefore, most of the foreign born who arrived between 1995 and 2000 are not yet eligible to become U.S. citizens, resulting in a lower overall percentage naturalized of the foreign born who arrived in the last 10 years.

Over half of the foreign-born population were from Latin America.

In 2000, over 16 million foreign born were from Latin America, representing 52 percent of the total foreign-born population (see Figure 3).⁹ Of the foreign born from Latin America, 11.2 million people (36 percent of all foreign born) were from Central America (including Mexico), 3.0 million people (10 percent) from the Caribbean, and 1.9 million people (6.2 percent) from South America.

The foreign born from Asia and Europe accounted for 26 percent (8.2 million) and 16 percent (4.9 million) of the total foreign-born population, respectively. The foreign born from Africa, Northern America, and Oceania each composed 3 percent or less of the total foreign-born population.¹⁰

Foreign born from Mexico accounted for 9.2 million people, or 30 percent of the total U.S. foreign-born population (see Table 2), making Mexico the leading country of birth. China (1.5 million) and the Philippines (1.4 million) were the next largest sources, providing 4.9 percent and 4.4 percent of the total foreign born, respectively.¹¹

⁹Latin America encompasses Central America (including Mexico), the Caribbean, and South America.

¹⁰The Northern America region includes the foreign countries of Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon. The Oceania region includes Australia, New Zealand, and island countries in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

¹¹China includes those who responded China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Paracel Islands.

Table 1.

Foreign-Born Population by Citizenship Status for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	1990				2000				Percent change in the foreign-born population: 1990-2000
	Total population	Foreign born		Naturalized citizens as a percent of the foreign-born population	Total population	Foreign born			
		Total				Total			
		Number	Percent of total population			Number	Percent of total population		
United States.	248,709,873	19,767,316	7.9	40.5	281,421,906	31,107,889	11.1	40.3	57.4
Region									
Northeast	50,809,229	5,231,024	10.3	47.6	53,594,378	7,229,068	13.5	46.4	38.2
Midwest	59,668,632	2,131,293	3.6	49.7	64,392,776	3,509,937	5.5	40.7	64.7
South	85,445,930	4,582,293	5.4	39.6	100,236,820	8,608,441	8.6	37.4	87.9
West.	52,786,082	7,822,706	14.8	33.6	63,197,932	11,760,443	18.6	38.6	50.3
State									
Alabama	4,040,587	43,533	1.1	49.1	4,447,100	87,772	2.0	36.7	101.6
Alaska	550,043	24,814	4.5	53.9	626,932	37,170	5.9	53.8	49.8
Arizona	3,665,228	278,205	7.6	39.1	5,130,632	656,183	12.8	29.6	135.9
Arkansas	2,350,725	24,867	1.1	48.7	2,673,400	73,690	2.8	29.9	196.3
California	29,760,021	6,458,825	21.7	31.2	33,871,648	8,864,255	26.2	39.2	37.2
Colorado	3,294,394	142,434	4.3	47.2	4,301,261	369,903	8.6	31.6	159.7
Connecticut	3,287,116	279,383	8.5	52.0	3,405,565	369,967	10.9	48.7	32.4
Delaware	666,168	22,275	3.3	55.8	783,600	44,898	5.7	42.4	101.6
Dist. of Columbia	606,900	58,887	9.7	29.3	572,059	73,561	12.9	30.0	24.9
Florida	12,937,926	1,662,601	12.9	42.9	15,982,378	2,670,828	16.7	45.2	60.6
Georgia	6,478,216	173,126	2.7	38.9	8,186,453	577,273	7.1	29.3	233.4
Hawaii	1,108,229	162,704	14.7	55.3	1,211,537	212,229	17.5	60.1	30.4
Idaho	1,006,749	28,905	2.9	41.0	1,293,953	64,080	5.0	33.1	121.7
Illinois	11,430,602	952,272	8.3	44.5	12,419,293	1,529,058	12.3	39.5	60.6
Indiana	5,544,159	94,263	1.7	52.9	6,080,485	186,534	3.1	38.1	97.9
Iowa	2,776,755	43,316	1.6	46.2	2,926,324	91,085	3.1	32.9	110.3
Kansas	2,477,574	62,840	2.5	43.3	2,688,418	134,735	5.0	33.2	114.4
Kentucky	3,685,296	34,119	0.9	46.6	4,041,769	80,271	2.0	34.3	135.3
Louisiana	4,219,973	87,407	2.1	43.6	4,468,976	115,885	2.6	48.4	32.6
Maine	1,227,928	36,296	3.0	58.6	1,274,923	36,691	2.9	55.2	NS
Maryland	4,781,468	313,494	6.6	40.5	5,296,486	518,315	9.8	45.3	65.3
Massachusetts	6,016,425	573,733	9.5	45.7	6,349,097	772,983	12.2	43.7	34.7
Michigan	9,295,297	355,393	3.8	55.7	9,938,444	523,589	5.3	45.8	47.3
Minnesota	4,375,099	113,039	2.6	44.9	4,919,479	260,463	5.3	37.4	130.4
Mississippi	2,573,216	20,383	0.8	46.7	2,844,658	39,908	1.4	40.3	95.8
Missouri	5,117,073	83,633	1.6	54.6	5,595,211	151,196	2.7	40.9	80.8
Montana	799,065	13,779	1.7	62.6	902,195	16,396	1.8	57.8	19.0
Nebraska	1,578,385	28,198	1.8	54.3	1,711,263	74,638	4.4	32.0	164.7
Nevada	1,201,833	104,828	8.7	41.4	1,998,257	316,593	15.8	36.9	202.0
New Hampshire	1,109,252	41,193	3.7	55.5	1,235,786	54,154	4.4	47.6	31.5
New Jersey	7,730,188	966,610	12.5	48.7	8,414,350	1,476,327	17.5	46.2	52.7
New Mexico	1,515,069	80,514	5.3	39.6	1,819,046	149,606	8.2	34.8	85.8
New York	17,990,455	2,851,861	15.9	45.5	18,976,457	3,868,133	20.4	46.1	35.6
North Carolina	6,628,637	115,077	1.7	43.1	8,049,313	430,000	5.3	26.2	273.7
North Dakota	638,800	9,388	1.5	60.2	642,200	12,114	1.9	42.6	29.0
Ohio	10,847,115	259,673	2.4	59.8	11,353,140	339,279	3.0	49.9	30.7
Oklahoma	3,145,585	65,489	2.1	44.1	3,450,654	131,747	3.8	34.7	101.2
Oregon	2,842,321	139,307	4.9	42.5	3,421,399	289,702	8.5	33.6	108.0
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	369,316	3.1	59.1	12,281,054	508,291	4.1	50.6	37.6
Rhode Island	1,003,464	95,088	9.5	44.9	1,048,319	119,277	11.4	47.1	25.4
South Carolina	3,486,703	49,964	1.4	50.9	4,012,012	115,978	2.9	37.1	132.1
South Dakota	696,004	7,731	1.1	61.0	754,844	13,495	1.8	40.4	74.6
Tennessee	4,877,185	59,114	1.2	45.0	5,689,283	159,004	2.8	33.4	169.0
Texas	16,986,510	1,524,436	9.0	33.8	20,851,820	2,899,642	13.9	31.5	90.2
Utah	1,722,850	58,600	3.4	44.1	2,233,169	158,664	7.1	30.4	170.8
Vermont	562,758	17,544	3.1	60.7	608,827	23,245	3.8	53.6	32.5
Virginia	6,187,358	311,809	5.0	40.3	7,078,515	570,279	8.1	40.8	82.9
Washington	4,866,692	322,144	6.6	46.3	5,894,121	614,457	10.4	41.9	90.7
West Virginia	1,793,477	15,712	0.9	59.0	1,808,344	19,390	1.1	53.9	23.4
Wisconsin	4,891,769	121,547	2.5	52.3	5,363,675	193,751	3.6	39.3	59.4
Wyoming	453,588	7,647	1.7	51.9	493,782	11,205	2.3	45.7	46.5
Puerto Rico	3,522,037	79,804	2.3	45.5	3,808,610	109,581	2.9	42.2	37.3

NS: Not significantly different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 and Summary File 3; 1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics (CP-2-1).

THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOREIGN BORN

The foreign-born population in the South experienced the most rapid growth rate.¹²

The number of foreign born increased by 88 percent in the South between 1990 and 2000, followed by 65 percent in the Midwest, 50 percent in the West, and 38 percent in the Northeast. The West had the largest foreign-born population in 2000 (11.8 million), followed by the South (8.6 million), the Northeast (7.2 million), and the Midwest (3.5 million).

More than one-third of the foreign born lived in the West.

In 2000, 38 percent of the foreign-born population lived in the West, 28 percent in the South, and 23 percent in the Northeast. Only 11 percent lived in the Midwest. In comparison, the distribution of the total population was 22 percent in the West, 36 percent in the South, 19 percent in the Northeast, and 23 percent in the Midwest.

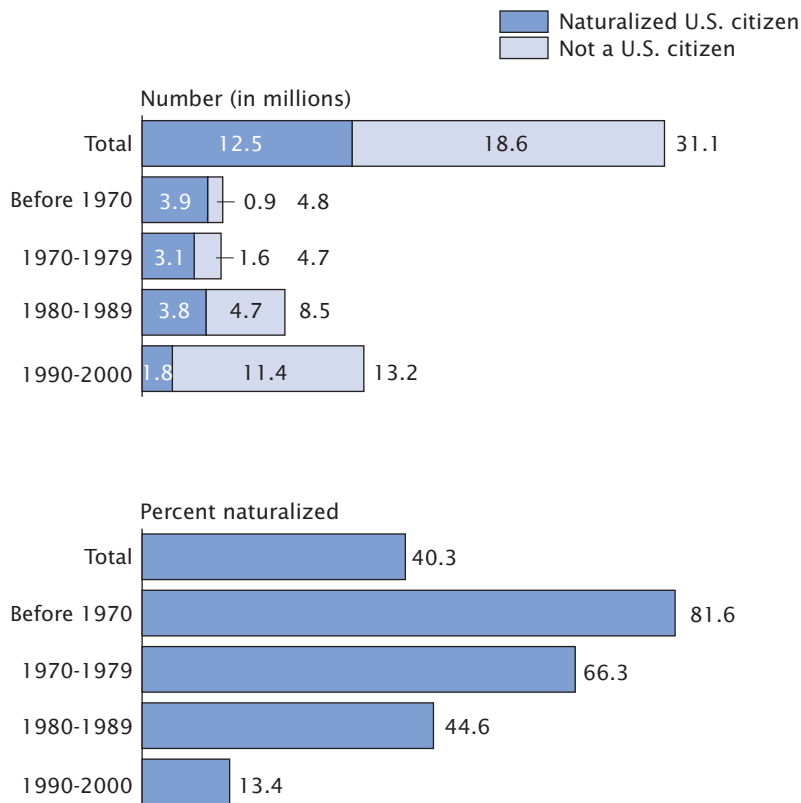
Foreign-born residents accounted for 19 percent of the population in the West and 14 percent of the population in the Northeast, exceeding the national level of 11.1 percent. The proportion was below the national level in the South (8.6 percent) and the Midwest (5.5 percent).

¹² The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Figure 2.

Citizenship Status of the Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulations.

The patterns of distribution by world region of birth show where various groups resided in 2000 (see Table 3). In 2000, 45 percent of the foreign born from Asia, 34 percent from Northern America, and 66 percent from Oceania lived in the West, home to the largest concentrations of these populations in the United States. Individuals from Europe were most likely to live in the Northeast (38 percent), while the foreign born from Africa were primarily in the South (35 percent) and the Northeast (31 percent).

The proportion of foreign born who were from Latin America

ranged from 63 percent in the South to 36 percent in the Midwest (see Table 4). The proportion of foreign born from Asia ranged from 32 percent in the West to 19 percent in the South, and those from Europe ranged from 26 percent in the Midwest and Northeast to 10 percent in the West.

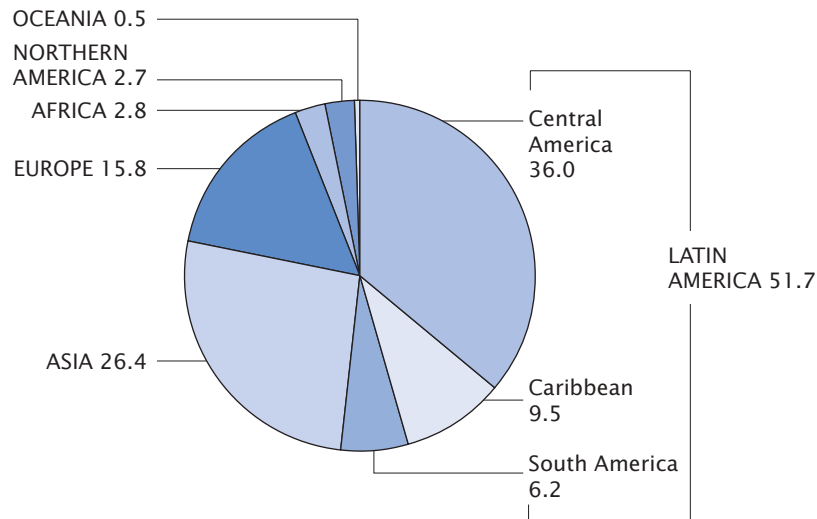
More than one-half of the foreign-born population lived in three states: California, New York, and Texas.

In 2000, 15.6 million foreign-born residents (50 percent of the total

Figure 3.

Percent Distribution of the Foreign-Born Population by World Region of Birth: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Note: Adds to 99.9 percent due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

foreign born) lived in these three states, and 21.3 million foreign-born residents (68 percent) lived in the six states with foreign-born populations of 1.0 million or more: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. In contrast, these six states were home to 39 percent of all U.S. residents in 2000. The foreign born in California accounted for 8.9 million (29 percent of the total), followed by New York with 3.9 million (12 percent), and Texas with 2.9 million (9.3 percent). The foreign-born population ranged from 500,000 up to 1 million in 8 states and from 100,000 up to 500,000 in 19 states. The foreign born numbered fewer than 100,000 in the 17 remaining states and the District of Columbia.

The foreign born in North Carolina, Georgia, and Nevada grew by 200 percent or more.

From 1990 to 2000, the foreign born increased by 200 percent or more in three states: North Carolina, 274 percent; Georgia, 233 percent; and Nevada, 202 percent.¹³ In 16 states, this group grew by 100 percent to 199 percent; in 12 states by 57 percent (the national average) to 100 percent, and by less than 57 percent in the remaining 19 states and the District of Columbia. The only growth rate below 10 percent occurred in Maine (1.1 percent).

The foreign born accounted for over one-quarter of the population in California.

The foreign born represented 26 percent of the population in California in 2000, the highest proportion in any state. The percentage also surpassed the national average (11.1 percent) in nine

¹³ Although the point estimate for the increase in the foreign-born population in Arkansas (196 percent) appears to be less than 200 percent, no statistical difference exists between the two percentages.

Table 2.

Top Ten Countries of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Country of birth	Number	Percent of foreign-born population	90-percent confidence interval on number
Total foreign born	31,107,889	100.0	31,080,801 - 31,134,977
Top ten countries	18,157,587	58.4	18,143,429 - 18,171,745
Mexico	9,177,487	29.5	9,164,388 - 9,190,586
China ¹	1,518,652	4.9	1,512,463 - 1,524,841
Philippines	1,369,070	4.4	1,363,179 - 1,374,961
India	1,022,552	3.3	1,017,431 - 1,027,673
Vietnam	988,174	3.2	983,137 - 993,211
Cuba ²	872,716	2.8	867,973 - 877,459
Korea ³	864,125	2.8	859,405 - 868,845
Canada ⁴	820,771	2.6	816,168 - 825,374
El Salvador	817,336	2.6	812,742 - 821,930
Germany	706,704	2.3	702,424 - 710,984
All other countries	12,950,302	41.6	12,936,144 - 12,964,460

¹ Includes those who responded China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Paracel Islands.

² The estimated foreign-born population from Cuba does not statistically differ from that of Korea.

³ Includes those who responded Korea, North Korea, and South Korea.

⁴ The estimated foreign-born population from Canada does not statistically differ from that of El Salvador.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

Table 3.
Foreign-Born Population by World Region of Birth for the United States and Regions: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	Total foreign-born population ¹	Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Northern America ²	Latin America		
							Total	Mexico	Other Latin America
NUMBER									
United States ...	31,107,573	4,915,557	8,226,254	881,300	168,046	829,442	16,086,974	9,177,487	6,909,487
Northeast.	7,229,001	1,882,083	1,825,904	275,292	17,276	188,152	3,040,294	278,640	2,761,654
Midwest.	3,509,895	915,328	1,053,950	132,542	13,041	132,648	1,262,386	1,000,394	261,992
South.	8,608,363	991,351	1,634,826	307,324	26,937	223,174	5,424,751	2,717,612	2,707,139
West.	11,760,314	1,126,795	3,711,574	166,142	110,792	285,468	6,359,543	5,180,841	1,178,702
PERCENT									
United States ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast.	23.2	38.3	22.2	31.2	10.3	22.7	18.9	3.0	40.0
Midwest.	11.3	18.6	12.8	15.0	7.8	16.0	7.8	10.9	3.8
South.	27.7	20.2	19.9	34.9	16.0	26.9	33.7	29.6	39.2
West.	37.8	22.9	45.1	18.9	65.9	34.4	39.5	56.5	17.1

¹ Does not include the foreign-born population "born at sea".

² The region Northern America includes the foreign countries of Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

other states and the District of Columbia: New York (20 percent), New Jersey and Hawaii (18 percent each), Florida (17 percent), Nevada (16 percent), Texas (14 percent), the District of Columbia and Arizona (13 percent each), and Illinois and Massachusetts (12 percent each).

In 2000, 36 percent of the foreign born from Asia, 31 percent from Latin America, 17 percent from Northern America, and 40 percent from Oceania resided in California, accounting for the highest proportions of people from each of these regions of birth. Eighteen percent of the foreign born from Europe and 13 percent from Africa lived in New York.

The foreign born from Latin America, Asia, and Europe were concentrated in different states. The foreign born from Latin America constituted over 70 percent of the foreign-born populations in four states: Arizona (72 percent), Florida (73 percent), New Mexico (77 percent), and Texas (75 percent). Those from Asia accounted for 40 percent or more of the foreign-born

population in six states: Alaska (51 percent), Hawaii (83 percent), Michigan (40 percent), Minnesota (40 percent), Virginia (41 percent), and West Virginia (43 percent). Those from Europe composed over 35 percent in five states: Connecticut (38 percent), Montana (40 percent), Ohio (39 percent), Pennsylvania (36 percent), and Vermont (39 percent).

The foreign born who were naturalized U.S. citizens (40 percent nationally) outnumbered those who were not U.S. citizens in only seven states: Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia. The proportion naturalized ranged from 60 percent in Hawaii to 26 percent in North Carolina.

High concentrations of the foreign born lived in counties in traditional "gateway" areas of the United States.

In 2000, the percentage foreign-born was at or above the national average (11.1 percent) in only 199 of the 3,141 counties (and county equivalents) in the United States. Many of these counties are in

traditional receiving areas for immigrants: southwestern border states (California to Texas) and the New York City and Miami metropolitan areas. Additional areas with high concentrations of the foreign-born population included the Pacific Northwest and the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The foreign born were the majority of the population in only one U.S. county: Miami-Dade County, Florida, which was home to 1.1 million foreign born (51 percent of the county's population).

The foreign born represented 20 percent or more in 60 additional counties, some of which are far from the "gateway" areas noted earlier: Clark County, Idaho; Seward County, Finney County and Ford County, Kansas; Franklin County and Adams County, Washington; and Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska.

The proportion foreign-born ranged from 11.1 percent (the national average) to 19.9 percent of the population in 138 counties, from 7.5 percent to 11.0 percent in 141 counties, and from 3.0 percent

Table 4.

Percent Distribution of the Foreign-Born Population by World Region of Birth for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2000

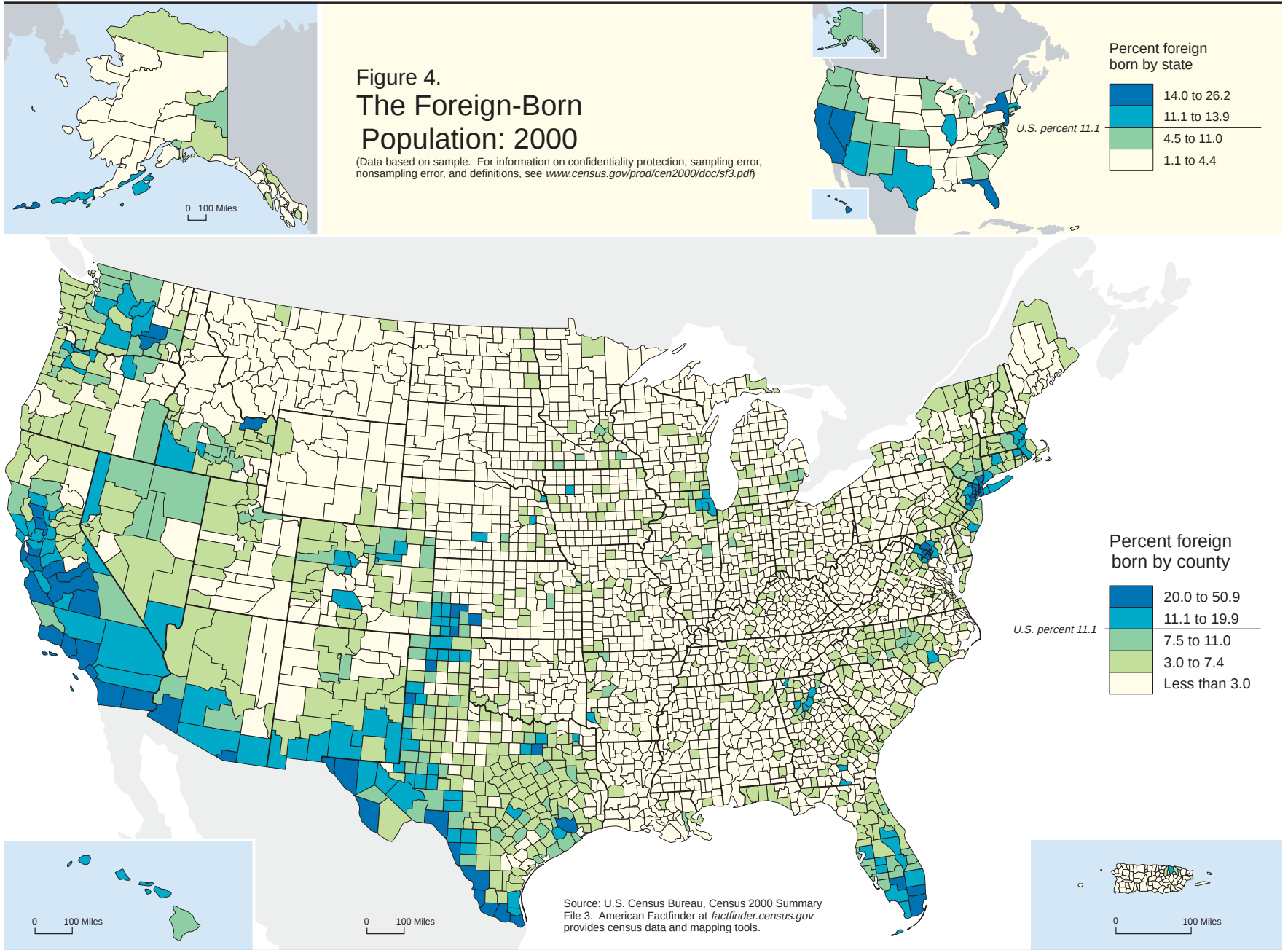
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	Total foreign-born population ¹	Percent distribution							
		Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Northern America ²	Latin America		
							Total	Mexico	Other Latin America
United States	31,107,573	15.8	26.4	2.8	0.5	2.7	51.7	29.5	22.2
Region									
Northeast	7,229,001	26.0	25.3	3.8	0.2	2.6	42.1	3.9	38.2
Midwest	3,509,895	26.1	30.0	3.8	0.4	3.8	36.0	28.5	7.5
South	8,608,363	11.5	19.0	3.6	0.3	2.6	63.0	31.6	31.4
West	11,760,314	9.6	31.6	1.4	0.9	2.4	54.1	44.1	10.0
State									
Alabama	87,767	21.0	29.9	4.2	0.6	3.8	40.5	26.6	14.0
Alaska	37,170	20.0	50.6	1.0	2.7	7.8	17.9	7.4	10.5
Arizona	656,183	10.9	11.8	1.3	0.5	4.0	71.5	66.4	5.0
Arkansas	73,690	13.6	21.5	2.0	1.6	2.5	58.8	45.7	13.0
California	8,864,188	7.9	32.9	1.3	0.8	1.6	55.6	44.3	11.3
Colorado	369,894	17.6	19.6	2.6	0.8	3.7	55.6	49.1	6.5
Connecticut	369,961	38.2	19.0	2.6	0.4	5.2	34.7	3.6	31.1
Delaware	44,898	22.1	30.1	5.0	0.2	3.6	39.0	17.5	21.5
Dist. of Columbia	73,555	17.6	17.0	12.5	0.8	1.7	50.4	2.7	47.7
Florida	2,670,794	13.3	8.7	1.3	0.2	3.8	72.8	7.1	65.7
Georgia	577,273	12.9	25.2	7.0	0.4	2.5	52.0	33.0	19.0
Hawaii	212,229	4.9	83.3	0.5	6.3	1.8	3.2	1.3	1.9
Idaho	64,080	18.8	12.6	0.9	0.8	7.1	59.8	55.3	4.6
Illinois	1,529,058	25.5	23.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	47.8	40.4	7.4
Indiana	186,529	23.2	26.6	3.9	0.5	4.2	41.5	33.3	8.2
Iowa	91,083	22.3	33.1	4.4	0.6	3.6	36.0	27.7	8.3
Kansas	134,733	11.2	28.2	2.7	0.5	2.7	54.7	47.0	7.7
Kentucky	80,265	25.6	33.4	4.0	0.6	4.4	31.9	19.3	12.6
Louisiana	115,880	15.6	37.5	3.5	0.5	2.8	40.2	8.0	32.1
Maine	36,689	30.0	18.9	2.9	0.7	41.5	6.0	0.9	5.1
Maryland	518,315	16.8	35.0	12.1	0.4	1.8	34.0	3.7	30.2
Massachusetts	772,972	32.2	26.1	6.2	0.3	5.3	30.0	1.0	29.0
Michigan	523,585	30.0	40.0	3.2	0.4	9.5	16.9	11.2	5.8
Minnesota	260,454	16.8	40.4	13.2	0.5	5.1	24.0	16.0	8.0
Mississippi	39,904	19.2	36.2	3.2	0.6	4.3	36.5	23.8	12.8
Missouri	151,195	28.5	34.9	5.6	1.0	4.2	25.8	16.7	9.2
Montana	16,396	39.8	20.2	1.1	1.6	27.8	9.5	5.4	4.2
Nebraska	74,638	14.5	25.7	3.5	0.5	2.2	53.6	40.8	12.8
Nevada	316,593	10.2	22.9	1.6	0.7	3.4	61.4	48.6	12.7
New Hampshire	54,154	33.7	24.9	3.4	0.6	23.0	14.3	2.6	11.7
New Jersey	1,476,327	23.9	27.8	4.1	0.2	1.1	43.0	4.6	38.4
New Mexico	149,606	10.2	9.6	0.7	0.4	2.2	76.8	71.7	5.1
New York	3,868,094	22.7	23.7	3.0	0.2	1.4	48.9	4.2	44.7
North Carolina	430,000	14.0	21.7	4.7	0.4	3.4	55.8	40.0	15.8
North Dakota	12,114	33.1	23.1	6.5	1.0	25.0	11.3	4.8	6.5
Ohio	339,267	38.8	35.4	6.5	0.5	4.9	13.9	6.1	7.8
Oklahoma	131,739	12.2	30.2	3.5	0.6	2.8	50.6	42.5	8.1
Oregon	289,699	18.8	27.3	1.7	1.6	5.9	44.6	39.0	5.6
Pennsylvania	508,282	35.9	36.0	5.0	0.4	3.1	19.6	4.8	14.8
Rhode Island	119,277	32.9	16.4	10.1	0.3	3.5	36.8	2.1	34.7
South Carolina	115,978	23.4	25.4	2.8	0.7	4.9	42.8	27.3	15.4
South Dakota	13,495	31.5	30.1	11.6	0.7	7.6	18.5	10.4	8.2
Tennessee	159,004	17.7	31.8	5.5	0.6	4.5	39.9	28.1	11.8
Texas	2,899,640	5.3	16.1	2.2	0.2	1.3	74.9	64.8	10.1
Utah	158,657	16.2	17.9	1.5	4.2	4.9	55.4	41.9	13.5
Vermont	23,245	38.6	19.2	2.2	0.7	34.1	5.2	0.6	4.6
Virginia	570,271	15.2	41.3	7.5	0.5	2.3	33.3	5.7	27.6
Washington	614,414	20.6	39.0	3.1	1.3	7.8	28.3	24.1	4.2
West Virginia	19,390	34.5	43.2	3.4	0.8	5.6	12.4	5.3	7.1
Wisconsin	193,744	26.9	32.4	2.5	0.5	3.7	33.9	27.7	6.2
Wyoming	11,205	26.2	19.4	2.3	1.7	10.1	40.3	34.9	5.4
Puerto Rico	109,581	6.0	2.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	90.7	2.5	88.3

¹ Does not include the foreign-born population "born at sea."

² The region Northern America includes the foreign countries of Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.



to 7.4 percent in 680 counties. The remaining 2,121 counties, where the foreign born accounted for less than 3.0 percent of the population, were concentrated in the Midwest and in several states in the South (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi).

More than 3 million foreign born lived in Los Angeles County, California.

In 2000, four counties encompassed 22 percent of the total U.S. foreign-born population: Los Angeles County, California (3.4 million); Miami-Dade County, Florida (1.1 million); Cook County, Illinois (1.1 million); and Queens County, New York (1.0 million).¹⁴

The foreign-born population numbered from 100,000 to 1.0 million in 56 counties, from 10,000 to 99,999 in 224 counties, from 1,000 to 9,999 in 789 counties, and from 100 to 999 in 1,409 counties. It was below 100 in 659 counties.

¹⁴ These four counties were home to 6.8 percent of all U.S. residents in 2000.

Table 5.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage Foreign Born: 2000¹

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place and state	Total population	Foreign born		
		Number	Percent of total population	90-percent confidence interval on percent
United States	281,421,906	31,107,889	11.1	11.09 - 11.11
Hialeah, Florida	226,419	163,256	72.1	71.5 - 72.7
Miami, Florida	362,470	215,739	59.5	59.0 - 60.0
Glendale, California	194,973	106,119	54.4	53.7 - 55.1
Santa Ana, California	337,977	179,933	53.2	52.8 - 53.8
Daly City, California	103,621	54,213	52.3	51.4 - 53.2
El Monte, California	115,965	59,589	51.4	50.5 - 52.3
East Los Angeles, California ² ..	124,283	60,605	48.8	48.0 - 49.6
Elizabeth, New Jersey	120,568	52,975	43.9	43.0 - 44.8
Garden Grove, California	165,196	71,351	43.2	42.5 - 43.9
Los Angeles, California	3,694,820	1,512,720	40.9	40.7 - 41.1

¹ Although the point estimates shown appear to differ, no statistical difference exists between the percentages foreign born in Glendale and Santa Ana, Santa Ana and Daly City, Daly City and El Monte, and Elizabeth and Garden Grove.

² East Los Angeles, California is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and Summary File 3.

The foreign born composed over one-half of the population in six large places.

In 2000, 163,000 foreign born lived in Hialeah, Florida, constituting 72 percent of the population (see Table 5). The foreign born were the majority in five additional places with 100,000 or more population (Miami, Florida; Glendale, California; Santa Ana, California; Daly City, California; and, El Monte, California) and constituted 41 percent to 50 percent in the four other places in the top ten (East Los Angeles, California; Elizabeth, New Jersey; Garden Grove, California; and Los Angeles, California).¹⁵

¹⁵ Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

The largest foreign-born populations in 2000 were found in the four largest cities in the United States.

The largest foreign-born populations were in New York, New York (2.9 million); Los Angeles, California (1.5 million); Chicago, Illinois (629,000); and Houston, Texas (516,000) (see Table 6). The 5.5 million foreign born in these four cities represented 18 percent of the total, yet these four cities were home to only 5.9 percent of all U.S. residents in 2000. Three cities whose total populations were not among the top ten had foreign-born populations in the top ten: San Jose, California (330,000); San Francisco, California (286,000); and Miami, Florida (216,000).

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE FOREIGN BORN

How did the racial and Hispanic-origin compositions of the foreign born contrast with those of natives?

Census 2000 asked respondents to choose one or more races. With the exception of the Two or more races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific

Islander, and Some other race.¹⁶ The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The

¹⁶ For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>.

Hereafter, this report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino. Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for Whites, 1.9 percent for Blacks, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some other race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or more races.

Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.¹⁷

In 2000, the foreign born were less likely than natives to report that they were non-Hispanic Whites (43 percent compared with 79 percent), but more likely than natives to report being Asian (23 percent compared with 1.3 percent). Almost half of the foreign-born population was Hispanic (46 percent), compared with 8.4 percent of natives.

Within separate race and Hispanic-origin categories, the foreign born represented the majority in only one group: 69 percent of those who responded Asian were foreign-

¹⁷ This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through American FactFinder, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, www.census.gov. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White and American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian and Black or African American," is available in Summary File 4, which is available through American FactFinder. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

born (see Figure 5). The foreign born accounted for 24 percent of Two or more races respondents, 20 percent of Pacific Islander respondents, 6.1 percent of Black respondents, and 3.5 percent of non-Hispanic White respondents. Among Hispanics, 40 percent were foreign born.

Did the age structure of the foreign born differ from that of the native population in 2000?

Figure 6 shows that the percentage of foreign born under 25 was less than that of natives (22 percent and 37 percent, respectively). The foreign-born population was concentrated in prime working ages, 25 to 54 years: 59 percent compared with 42 percent of natives.¹⁸ The proportion 55 and older among the foreign born was only

¹⁸ The 25 to 54 age group is important for labor force analysis because most are full-time workers, most have completed schooling, and most are not eligible to retire.

Table 6.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Largest Total Population and Foreign-Born Population: 2000¹

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place and state	Total population	Foreign born		
		Number	Percent of total population	90-percent confidence interval on number
United States.....	281,421,906	31,107,889	11.1	31,080,801 - 31,134,977
New York, New York	8,008,278	2,871,032	35.9	2,860,937 - 2,881,127
Los Angeles, California	3,694,820	1,512,720	40.9	1,505,660 - 1,519,780
Chicago, Illinois	2,896,016	628,903	21.7	623,994 - 633,812
Houston, Texas	1,953,631	516,105	26.4	511,650 - 520,560
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1,517,550	137,205	9.0	135,030 - 139,380
Phoenix, Arizona	1,321,045	257,325	19.5	254,166 - 260,484
San Diego, California	1,223,400	314,227	25.7	310,945 - 317,509
Dallas, Texas	1,188,580	290,436	24.4	287,082 - 293,790
San Antonio, Texas	1,144,646	133,675	11.7	131,394 - 135,956
Detroit, Michigan	951,270	45,541	4.8	44,286 - 46,796
San Jose, California	894,943	329,757	36.8	326,395 - 333,119
San Francisco, California	776,733	285,541	36.8	282,411 - 288,671
Miami, Florida	362,470	215,739	59.5	212,845 - 218,633

¹ Although the point estimates shown appear to differ, no statistical difference exists between the foreign-born totals in Dallas and San Francisco, and in Philadelphia and San Antonio.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and Summary File 3.

slightly smaller than that of natives (20 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why did Census 2000 ask about place of birth, citizenship status, and year of entry?

The questions on place of birth, citizenship status, and year of entry provide essential data for setting and evaluating U.S. immigration policies and laws and for monitoring civil rights compliance. For example, under the Refugee Education Assistance Act, these data are used to allocate funds to public and private nonprofit organizations that provide employment resources aimed at making foreign-born residents economically self-sufficient. Knowing the characteristics of migrants, particularly their citizenship status, length of residence, and employment status, helps legislators and others understand how different migrant groups are integrated into society.

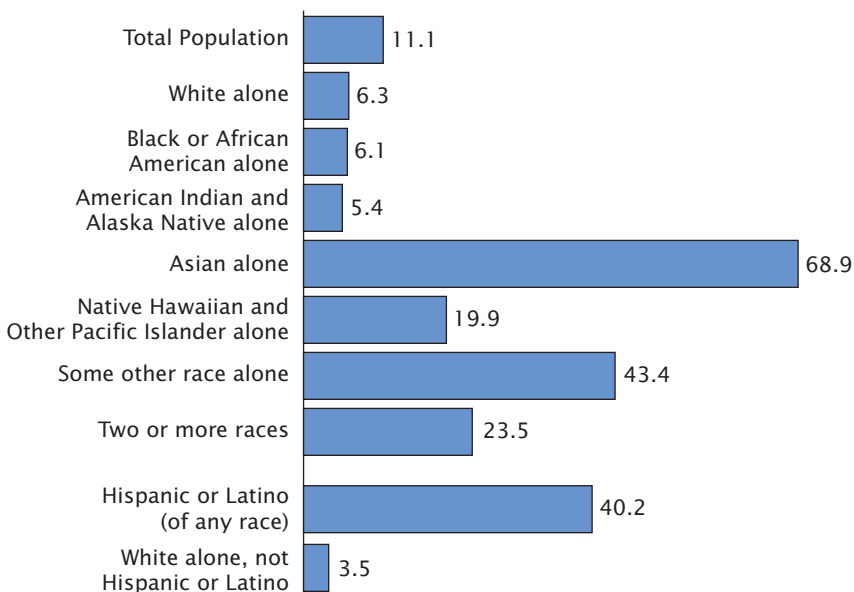
ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately one out of every six housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, and hence of people living in those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

Figure 5.

Percent Foreign Born for the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulations.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

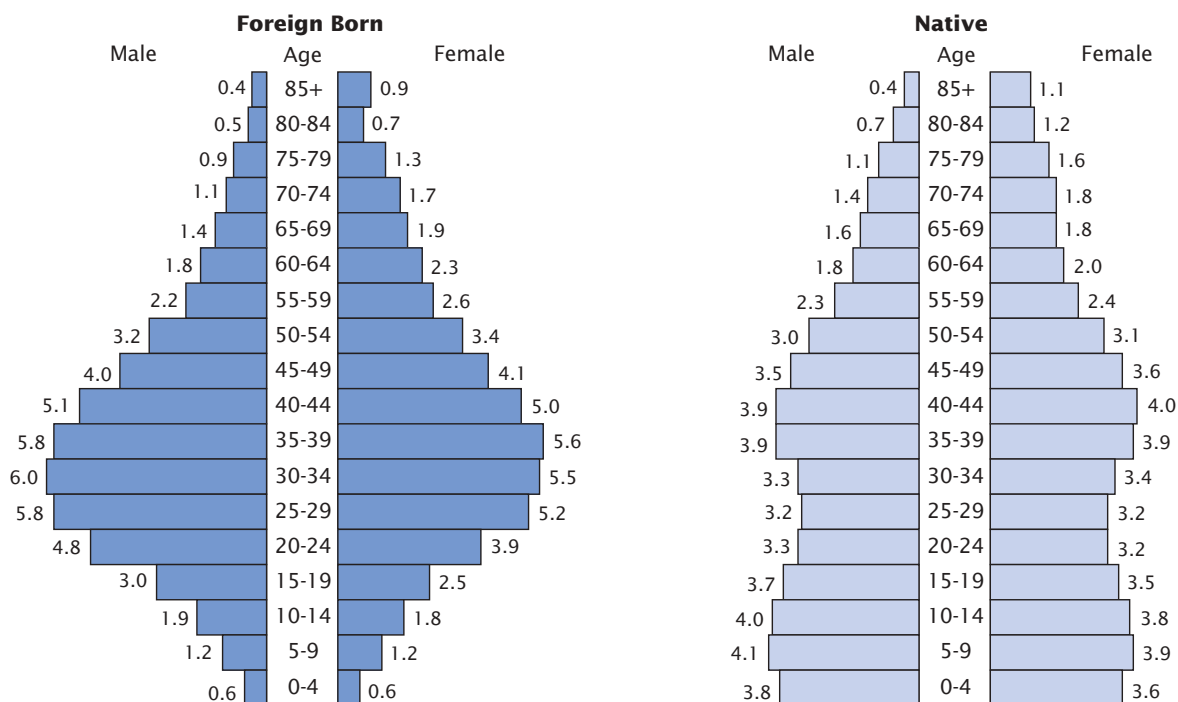
While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau

attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in Summary File 3 Technical Documentation under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be

Figure 6.
Age and Sex by Nativity: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)
(In percent)¹



¹ Each bar represents the percent of the population (foreign-born or native) who were in the specified age-sex group.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulations.

understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category used to summarize statistics in the maps and figures may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different cate-

gory. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the American Factfinder on the Internet (factfinder.census.gov). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see

www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.