Immigrants in the U.S.

Statistical Overview of Demographics, Education and Labor

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13.1% of total population

This is not the highest immigrant share of population in U.S. history.

It peaked at 14.7% in 1910 then dropped to 4.7% in 1970.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011, American Community Survey 2011
Place of nativity

Note: The ACS did not include the group quarters population until 2006. The time series from 2000 to 2005 reports the household population while the time series from 2006 to 2013 reports the resident population. Margin of error at the 90% confidence level shown.

Unauthorized immigration

Immigrant population increased by 30% since 2000; unauthorized immigration has slowed, declined and bottomed out:

- From a peak of 12.2m (2007) to 11.3m (2014).

Source: Pew Research Center, “Unauthorized Immigrant Totals Rise in 7 States, Fall in 14”, 2014
“Unauthorized Immigrant Population Stable for Half A Decade”, 2015
Fastest-growing states for immigrants

TN, SC, KY, AL and MS have seen the fastest growth in immigrant population.

Outsized role in labor force

- Immigrants make up 16.5% of the labor force, more than their share of population.
- More than 70% of immigrants are between 25 and 64 compared to 50% of natives.

Outsized role in labor force

- **STEM**: An additional 262 jobs for the native-born are created for every 100 foreign-born STEM workers with advanced degrees from U.S. colleges.

- **Texas**: new H-1B visas will translate into 80,500 new jobs for U.S.-born workers in the state by 2020

- **California**: new H-1B visas will translate into 117,209 new jobs for U.S.-born workers in the state by 2020

*Source: American Enterprise Institute and the Partnership For A New American Economy, Immigration and American Jobs, 2011*
Workers and Social Security

Source: Pew Research Center, The Next America, 2014
Recent immigrants more likely than natives to have a bachelor’s or advanced degree

College attainment among immigrants increased 50% to 39%, 2000-11.

With more education, immigrants become a net benefit to government budgets.

### Average Fiscal Impact of the Foreign-Born with Greater than High School Education

Source: Smith and Edmonston, 1997; Pew Research Center, “Today’s newly arrived immigrants are the best-educated ever,” 2015
Immigrant entrepreneurship

Immigrants more likely than native-born to be self-employed. In 2010, immigrants owned 18% of all small businesses.

- Share of pop.: 13.1%
- Share of labor force: 15.9%

Immigration Data on Demand

Institute for Immigration Research at GMU:
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