

Estimates of Foreign-born Population in New Jersey: 2000
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Approximately 15 percent of New Jersey's residents were foreign immigrants as of 2000, according to a recently released estimates from the US Census Bureau based on the March 2000 *Current Population Survey* (CPS). The total number of foreign-born persons increased 25 percent in New Jersey from 967,000 in 1990 to 1,208,000 in 2000. Nationally, the foreign-born population grew by 43 percent during the 1990s to reach 28,379,000 in 2000. Approximately one in every ten Americans was a foreign immigrant.

Only four other states – California, New York, Florida and Texas had more foreign-born persons than New Jersey. Together with Illinois, these six states with the largest immigrant population accounted for approximately 70 percent of the nation's total foreign-born population. By including the native population with mixed parentage (one parent is an immigrant) and foreign parentage (both parents are foreign-born), New Jersey's total foreign stock was 2,360,000 in 2000. In other words, foreign immigrants and their children accounted for approximately 30 percent of New Jersey's total residents as of 2000.

The majority of the state's foreign-born population migrated to the nation during the 1985-2000 period. The largest influx of foreign immigrants (266,000 persons or 22%) entered the United States during the 1985-1989 period, followed by the 1995-2000 immigration cohort (228,000 or 18.8%) and the 1990-1994 cohort (215,000 or 17.8%). California had an immigration trend similar to New Jersey's. However, the 1995-2000 immigration cohort was the largest in other major states (New York, Illinois, Florida and Texas) and in the nation as a whole (22%), followed by the 1990-1994 cohort (17.5%) and the 1985-1989 cohort (15.9%). Without the substantial influx of foreign immigrants to offset its net loss of population due to domestic migration, New Jersey's population would have grown very little during the past two decades.

Nationally, 10,622,000 foreign-born persons (or 38.5%) were naturalized US citizens. Among the six states with one million or more foreign-born population, New Jersey had the lowest proportion of naturalized citizens (31.2%, a tie with Texas), due to the extremely low naturalization rate among its new immigrants – 1.8 percent for those entered in 1995-2000 and 12.6 percent for those entered in 1990-1994 periods. The naturalization rate for New Jersey's foreign-born persons who entered the nation prior to 1990 (62.3%) was, in fact, higher than the national average (56.0%).

More than one in every two foreign-born persons in the nation (51%) originated from Latin America including 27.6 percent Mexicans. The Latin Americans accounted for less than one-half of New Jersey's foreign immigrants. The proportion (44.4%) was the lowest among the nation's six major states with one million or more foreign-born population, and included only 2.3 percent Mexicans. Florida, in contrast, had the highest proportion of Latin American (74.9%) among its foreign-born population. South America and Caribbean were the major source of New Jersey's Latino immigrants. California was the only major state that had higher proportion of Asians (32.4%) among its foreign-born residents than New Jersey had (29.1%), as of 2000.

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the leading countries of origin for legal immigrants admitted to New Jersey during the 1997-1999 period were India (12,572), Dominican Republic (8,100), Peru (5,774), Colombia (5,699) and

Philippines (5,407). Nationally, Mexico (426,013), Philippines (114,609), People's Republic of China (110,235), India (104,790) and Vietnam (76,561) were the major source of legal immigrants between 1997 and 1999.

Foreign-born Population in New Jersey and United States: 2000				
(Population number in thousands)				
	New Jersey		United States	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Foreign-born Population (and percent of total population)				
1990 Census	967	12.5%	19,767	7.9%
2000 Estimates	1,208	14.9%	28,379	10.4%
Total Foreign Stock	2,360	29.1%	55,890	20.4%
Characteristics (and percent of foreign-born population)				
<i>Year of Entry</i>				
1995 to 2000	228	18.8%	6,248	22.0%
1990 to 1994	215	17.8%	4,958	17.5%
1985 to 1989	266	22.0%	4,523	15.9%
1980 to 1984	112	9.3%	3,499	12.3%
Before 1980	388	32.1%	9,152	32.3%
<i>U.S. Citizenship</i>				
Naturalized Citizen	508	31.2%	10,622	38.5%
Not a US Citizen	700	68.8%	17,758	61.5%
<i>Major Region of Birth</i>				
Latin America	536	44.4%	14,477	51.0%
Caribbean	207	17.2%	2,813	9.9%
Central America	104	8.6%	9,789	34.5%
South America	225	18.6%	1,876	6.6%
Asia	352	29.1%	7,246	25.5%
Europe	225	18.6%	4,355	15.3%
Source: US Bureau of the Census				

Tabulations of the foreign-born population based on the March 2000 *CPS* including number and percentage by state and selected characteristics for the six states with at least one million foreign-born persons are available online at the Office of Labor Planning and Analysis' *Labor Fast Facts* site: <http://www.state.nj.us/labor/lra>. For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388. Telephone: 609-292-0076, e-mail: sywu@dol.state.nj.us.