

Characteristics of the U.S. Foreign-Born Population by Year of Entry: American Community Survey, 2009

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Introduction

This report will present data on the year of entry of the foreign-born population at the national and state levels based on the American Community Survey (ACS).¹ Data on year of entry is important because it can be used as an indicator of time spent in the United States by the foreign born. For example, in 2008, 30 percent of the foreign-born population reported having lived in the country since 2000, or for about 8 years. Additional information about the foreign born can be gained when year of entry is analyzed with other variables, such as language fluency, education level, place of birth, Hispanic origin, race, sex, and age. This poster will examine a variety of social and demographic characteristics of foreign-born year of entry cohorts at the national and state levels. In 2008, an estimated 38 million foreign-born people lived in the United States, representing roughly 12.5 percent of the total population. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth.

Planned Analysis

The 2009 ACS data will be released in September 2010. This poster will use 2009 microdata to examine the following:

- The size and percent of the foreign-born population by year of entry
- The region and country of birth of the foreign-born population by year of entry
- The sex and age distribution of the foreign-born population by year of entry
- Educational attainment of the foreign-born population by year of entry
- Language use and English proficiency of the foreign-born population by year of entry
- Hispanic origin and race of the foreign-born population by year of entry

The poster will present tables and graphs based on the following data at the national and state levels:

¹ Data on the year of entry of the foreign-born population are derived from the question: “When did this person come to live in the United States?” The year respondents report that they “came to live” is considered their “year of entry.” Respondents who “came to live” in the United States more than once were asked to report their most recent year of entry.

Table X.

Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Place of Birth: 2009(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)

Place of Birth	Total		Prior to 1980		1980 to 1989		1990 to 1999		2000 or later	
	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
Total	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)
Africa	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Americas	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Latin America	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Caribbean	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Central America	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
South America	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Northern America	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Asia	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Europe	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Oceania	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)
Ten largest countries of birth ²	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Canada	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
China ³	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cuba	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
El Salvador	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Guatemala	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
India	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Korea ⁴	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mexico	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Philippines	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Vietnam	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All other countries	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

X Not applicable.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimates, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90-percent confidence interval.² Ten largest countries of birth determined for total foreign-born population. Countries listed alphabetically.³ Includes respondents who reported their country of birth as China, Hong Kong, Macau, Paracel Islands, or Taiwan.⁴ Includes respondents who reported their country of birth as Korea, North Korea, or South Korea.

Note: Data exclude population born at sea.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table X.

Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Sex and Age: 2009(Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/.)

Age	Total		Prior to 1980		1980 to 1989		1990 to 1999		2000 or later	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
Total	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Male	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Female	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Below 18 years	%	%	-	-	-	-	%	%	%	%
18-24	%	%	-	-	%	%	%	%	%	%
25-34	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
35-44	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
45-54	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
55-64	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
65-74	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
75 years and over	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Female	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Below 18 years	%	%	-	-	-	-	%	%	%	%
18-24	%	%	-	-	%	%	%	%	%	%
25-34	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
35-44	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
45-54	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
55-64	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
65-74	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
75 years and over	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table X.

Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Educational Attainment: 2009(Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/.)

Highest degree	Total		Prior to 1980		1980 to 1989		1990 to 1999		2000 or later	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
Population 25 years and over	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Less than 9th grade	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Some college, no degree	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Associate's degree	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bachelor's degree	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Graduate or professional degree	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

X Not applicable.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimates, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table X. Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Language: 2009 (Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)										
Language spoken at home	Total		Prior to 1980		1980 to 1989		1990 to 1999		2000 or later	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
Population 5 years and over	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
English only	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Language other than English	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Speak English less than "very well"	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Spanish	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Speak English less than "very well"	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Other Indo-European languages	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Speak English less than "very well"	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Speak English less than "very well"	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Other languages	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Speak English less than "very well"	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

X Not applicable.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimates, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table X. Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Hispanic Origin and Race: 2009 (Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)										
Hispanic origin and race	Total		Prior to 1980		1980 to 1989		1990 to 1999		2000 or later	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (+/-)
Total	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mexican	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Puerto Rican	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cuban	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Other Hispanic or Latino	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not Hispanic or Latino	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Black or African American alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Asian alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Some other race alone	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Two or more races	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Two races including Some other race	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Two races excluding Some other race, and Three or more races	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

X Not applicable.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimates, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Source and Accuracy

Data presented in this poster are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this poster have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the “2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data” document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2009.pdf.

What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and

includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g. nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www.

Additional information about the foreign-born population is available on the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/index.html.