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## U.S. Immigrant Pop. Hit Record 42.4 Million in 2014

### Asian, Sub-Saharan African, and Middle Eastern immigrant populations grew the most since 2010

By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Zeigler

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Last week, the Census Bureau released some data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS). It shows that the nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) grew by 2.4 million people since 2010 and is up one million from 2013 to 2014. Last month, the Center for Immigration Studies reported on monthly Census Bureau data from the Current Population Survey, which also showed a substantial increase in immigrants.<sup>1</sup> The CPS is released on a timelier basis, but is a smaller survey that does not cover the immigrant population as completely as the ACS. The new data from the ACS allows for more detailed analysis by country of origin and state of residence. Both data sources show that growth in the immigrant population has rebounded after increasing more slowly from 2010 to 2013 following the Great Recession.

Among the findings in the new data:

- The nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) hit a record 42.4 million in July 2014, an increase of 2.4 million since July 2010. The Census Bureau refers to all immigrants as foreign-born.
- The new data indicates that growth in the immigrant population is accelerating. Between 2010 and 2012, growth averaged 430,000 people a year, but between 2012 and 2013 the immigrant population grew by 520,000; it grew by 1.04 million from 2013 to 2014.
- As a share of the population, immigrants (legal and illegal) comprised 13.3 percent or about one out of eight U.S. residents in 2014, the highest percentage in 104 years. As recently as 1980, just 6.2 percent of the country was comprised of immigrants.
- In addition to immigrants, there were 16.2 million U.S.-born minor (<18) children with at least one immigrant parent in 2014, for a total of 58.6 million immigrants and their children.<sup>2</sup> Immigrants and their minor children now account for more than one in six U.S. residents.
- The sending regions with the largest numerical increases in the number of immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were East Asia (up 642,000), South Asia (up 594,000), Sub-Saharan Africa (up 282,000), the Middle East (up 277,000), the Caribbean (up 269,000), and Central America (up 268,000).
- The sending countries with the largest numerical increases in the number of immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were India (up 426,000), China (up 353,000), the Dominican Republic (up 119,000), El Salvador (up 101,000), Guatemala (up 85,000), Pakistan (up 72,000), Colombia (up 70,000), Cuba (up 68,000), Honduras (up 66,000), Iraq (up 57,000), and Bangladesh (up 56,000).
- The sending countries with the largest percentage increases in the number of immigrants living in the United States since 2010 were Saudi Arabia (up 93 percent); Bangladesh (up 37 percent); Iraq (up 36

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*Steven A. Camarota is the director of research and Karen Zeigler a demographer at the Center for Immigration Studies.*

percent); Egypt (up 25 percent); Pakistan, India, and Ethiopia (all up 24 percent); Nigeria and Ghana (both up 21 percent); Venezuela (up 17 percent); and China (up 16 percent).

- Between 2010 and 2014, 5.2 million new immigrants settled in the United States. Since the Great Recession began in 2007, at least 8.7 million new immigrants have settled in the country.<sup>3</sup> New arrivals are offset by those who return to their home countries each year and by mortality. As a result, growth in the immigrant population is less than the number who enter.
- Mexico had by far the largest immigrant population in the country, with 11.7 million legal and illegal Mexican immigrants living in the United States in 2014. After declining from 2010 to 2013, the number of Mexican immigrants in the United States grew by 130,000 from 2013 to 2014.
- In contrast to most sending regions and countries, the number of immigrants from Europe and Canada declined slightly between 2010 and 2014.
- The states with the largest numerical increases in the number of immigrants from 2010 to 2014 were Texas (up 380,000), California (up 362,000), Florida (up 315,000), New York (up 168,000), New Jersey (up 116,000), Virginia (up 95,000), Maryland (up 87,000), Pennsylvania (up 83,000), Massachusetts (up 77,000), Arizona (up 63,000), Washington (up 59,000), Georgia (up 52,000), and Minnesota (up 50,000).
- The states with the largest percentage increases in the number of immigrants 2010 to 2014 were North Dakota (up 45 percent); Wyoming (up 42 percent); Montana (up 19 percent); Kentucky (up 15 percent); New Hampshire (up 14 percent); Minnesota (up 13 percent); West Virginia (up 13 percent); Louisiana, Utah, Nebraska, Idaho, and Delaware (all up 12 percent); and Pennsylvania (up 11 percent).

**Data Source.** On September 17, 2015, the Census Bureau released some of the data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS). The survey reflects the U.S. population as of July 1, 2014. The ACS is by far the largest survey taken by the federal government each year and includes over two million households.<sup>4</sup> The Census Bureau has posted some of the results from the ACS to its American FactFinder website.<sup>5</sup> It has not released the public-use version of the ACS for researchers to download and analyze. However, a good deal of information can be found at FactFinder. Unless otherwise indicated, the information in this analysis comes directly from FactFinder.

The immigrant population, referred to as the foreign-born by the Census Bureau, is comprised of those individuals who were not U.S. citizens at birth. It includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents (green card holders), temporary workers, and foreign students. It does not include those born to immigrants in the United States, including to illegal immigrant parents, or those born in outlying U.S. territories, such as Puerto Rico. Prior research by the Department of Homeland Security and others indicates that some 90 percent of illegal immigrants respond to the ACS.<sup>6</sup> Thus all the figures reported above are for both legal and illegal immigrants.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> See Steven A. Camarota and Karen Zeigler, [“Immigrant Population Hits Record 42.1 Million in Second Quarter of 2015”](#), Center for Immigration Studies, August 2015. The monthly data on which our August analysis was based shows a foreign population of 42.1 million in the second quarter of 2015. The ACS data is released more slowly by the Census Bureau and the 42.4 million figure is for July 2014. In recent years, the monthly CPS has shown an immigrant population in the second quarter of each year that is about 5 percent less than what the ACS shows for the same year. If this pattern holds, the 2015 ACS will show at least 44 million immigrants in the country as of July 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The figure for immigrants is from the 2014 ACS. The figure for children is from the public-use file of the 2014 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and includes those under age 18 born in the United States with either a mother or father born outside of the United States. The ACS does not include a question about parents’ birthplaces, but the CPS ASEC does ask all respondents about their parents’ places of birth.

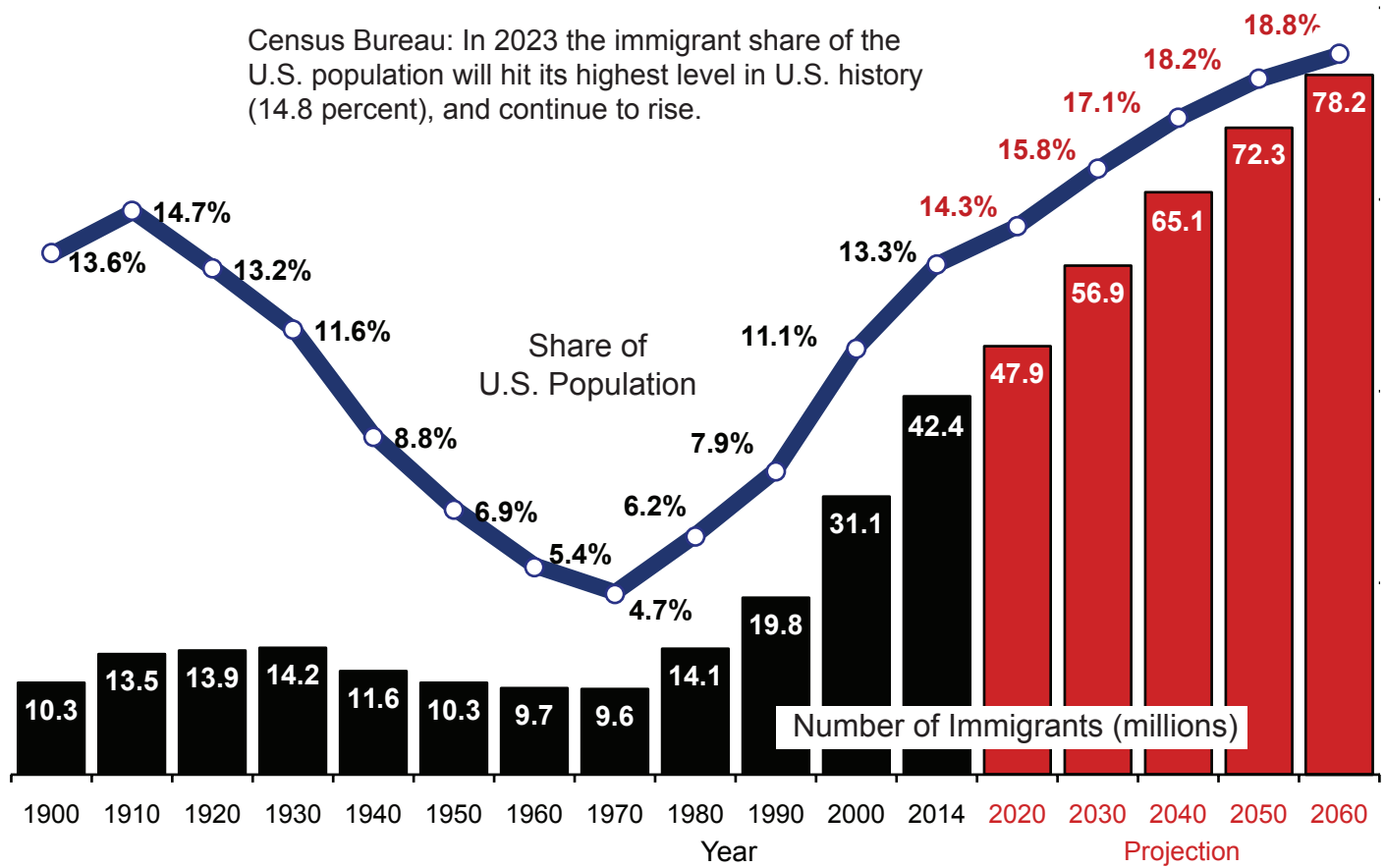
<sup>3</sup> The 2014 ACS shows 5.2 million immigrants living in the United States in July 2014 who indicated that they arrived in the United States in 2010 or later. (Unlike the public-use data, FactFinder does not report immigrants’ detailed year of arrival; instead, results are grouped by decade.) The 2010 public-use file of the ACS showed 3.5 million immigrants in the country who arrived in 2007, 2008, or 2009. (We exclude those who indicated they came between January and July 2010.) Therefore, in total 8.7 million immigrants arrived from 2007 to 2013. The actual total is higher because the 8.7 million figure does not include those who arrived after 2007, but died or went home by 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Detailed information on the American Community Survey methodology, questions, and other topics on the can be found [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Much of the data for the foreign-born used in this analysis can be found on [FactFinder](#).

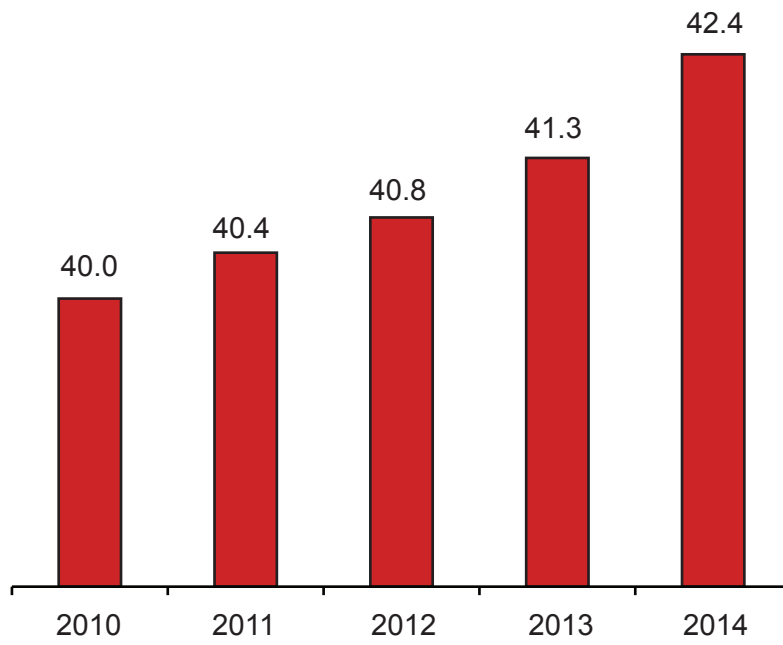
<sup>6</sup> The Department of Homeland Security uses the ACS as the basis for its estimates of illegal immigrants. See its most recent estimate of the unauthorized immigrant population: [“Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2012”](#).

Figure 1. Number and Percent of Immigrants in the United States, 1900-2014; Plus Census Bureau Projections to 2060



Source: Decennial censuses for 1900 to 2000, American Community Survey for 2010. [Census Bureau population projections](#) released March 2015.

Figure 2. Immigrant Population Growth Accelerated in 2013 and 2014 (millions)



Source: 2010 to 2014 American Community Survey.

**Table 1. Immigrants in the United States by Sending Region\* and Selected Countries, 2000, 2010, and 2014**

	2000	2010	2014	Growth 2010-2014	Pct. Growth 2010-2014
All of Latin America	16,086,974	21,224,087	21,890,416	666,329	3%
Mexico	9,177,487	11,711,103	11,714,489	3,386	0%
Central America	2,026,150	3,052,509	3,320,118	267,609	9%
El Salvador	817,336	1,214,049	1,315,474	101,425	8%
Guatemala	480,665	830,824	915,595	84,771	10%
Honduras	282,852	522,581	588,301	65,720	13%
Caribbean	2,953,066	3,730,644	4,000,114	269,470	7%
Cuba	872,716	1,104,679	1,172,899	68,220	6%
Dominican Republic	687,677	879,187	997,734	118,547	13%
Jamaica	553,827	659,771	705,804	46,033	7%
South America	1,930,271	2,729,831	2,855,695	125,864	5%
Colombia	509,872	636,555	706,826	70,271	11%
Peru	278,186	428,547	448,750	20,203	5%
Ecuador	298,626	443,173	423,576	(19,597)	-4%
Brazil	212,428	339,613	335,608	(4,005)	-1%
Venezuela	107,031	184,039	216,187	32,148	17%
South Asia	1,341,323	2,346,637	2,940,156	593,519	25%
India	1,022,552	1,780,322	2,205,912	425,590	24%
Pakistan	223,477	299,581	371,359	71,778	24%
Bangladesh	95,294	153,691	210,190	56,499	37%
East Asia	5,822,450	7,516,059	8,157,648	641,589	9%
China	1,518,652	2,166,526	2,519,964	353,438	16%
Korea	864,125	1,100,422	1,079,784	(20,638)	-2%
Vietnam	988,174	1,240,542	1,291,807	51,265	4%
Middle East	1,187,692	1,611,897	1,888,671	276,774	17%
Iran	283,226	356,756	365,288	8,532	2%
Iraq	89,892	159,800	217,257	57,457	36%
Egypt	113,396	137,799	172,631	34,832	25%
Israel	109,719	127,896	132,730	4,834	4%
Lebanon	105,910	121,000	119,490	(1,510)	-1%
Saudi Arabia	n/a	45,016	86,682	41,666	93%
Sub-Saharan Africa	690,809	1,326,634	1,608,813	282,179	21%
Nigeria	134,940	219,309	264,399	45,090	21%
Ethiopia	69,531	173,592	214,530	40,938	24%
Ghana	65,572	124,696	150,305	25,609	21%
Canada	829,442	806,925	806,387	(538)	0%
Oceania/Elsewhere	168,362	216,736	247,455	30,719	14%
Europe	4,980,837	4,906,698	4,851,159	(55,539)	-1%
United Kingdom	677,751	669,794	679,112	9,318	1%
Russia	340,177	383,166	390,977	7,811	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,107,889</b>	<b>39,955,673</b>	<b>42,390,705</b>	<b>2,435,032</b>	<b>6%</b>
Predominantly Muslim Countries	1,518,755	2,184,664	2,600,448	415,784	19%

**Source:** Figures for 2000 are from the decennial census; figures for 2010 and 2014 are from the American Community Survey found on American FactFinder at Census.gov.

\* Regions are divided as follows and include only countries for which there were respondents. South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. East Asia: China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Other South Eastern Asia, Other Eastern Asia, Asia n.e.c. Caribbean: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Other Caribbean. Middle East: Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Other Northern Africa, Other South Central Asia, Other Western Asia. Sub-Saharan Africa: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Other Eastern Africa, Cameroon, South Africa, Other Southern Africa, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Other Western Africa, Other Middle Africa, Africa n.e.c. Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Other Central America. South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Other South America. Oceania/Elsewhere: Australia, Oceania, Pacific Islands, Fiji, and elsewhere. Europe: United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Other Northern Europe, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Other Western Europe, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Armenia, Yugoslavia, Other Southern Europe, Other Eastern Europe, Europe, n.e.c. Predominately Muslim Countries: This region includes the countries of the Middle East (excluding Israel) as well as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Country list reflects 2010 and 2014; in 2000 the list of specific countries was less detailed.

**Table 2. Immigrant Populations by State,  
Ranked by Numerical Growth 2010 to 2014**

	2000	2010	2014	Growth 2010-2014	Pct. Growth 2010-2014
Texas	2,899,642	4,142,031	4,522,428	380,397	9.2%
California	8,864,255	10,150,429	10,512,399	361,970	3.6%
Florida	2,670,828	3,658,043	3,973,515	315,472	8.6%
New York	3,868,133	4,297,612	4,465,469	167,857	3.9%
New Jersey	1,476,327	1,844,581	1,960,734	116,153	6.3%
Virginia	570,279	911,119	1,005,620	94,501	10.4%
Maryland	518,315	803,695	890,439	86,744	10.8%
Pennsylvania	508,291	739,068	821,700	82,632	11.2%
Massachusetts	772,983	983,564	1,060,281	76,717	7.8%
Arizona	656,183	856,663	919,559	62,896	7.3%
Washington	614,457	886,262	944,746	58,484	6.6%
Georgia	577,273	942,959	994,651	51,692	5.5%
Minnesota	260,463	378,483	428,057	49,574	13.1%
Michigan	523,589	587,747	636,569	48,822	8.3%
North Carolina	430,000	719,137	763,584	44,447	6.2%
Nevada	316,593	508,458	551,722	43,264	8.5%
Colorado	369,903	497,105	538,244	41,139	8.3%
Tennessee	159,004	288,993	321,258	32,265	11.2%
Utah	158,664	222,638	249,917	27,279	12.3%
Wisconsin	193,751	254,920	280,157	25,237	9.9%
Illinois	1,529,058	1,759,859	1,784,403	24,544	1.4%
Kentucky	80,271	140,583	162,040	21,457	15.3%
Louisiana	115,885	172,866	194,277	21,411	12.4%
Oklahoma	131,747	206,382	226,665	20,283	9.8%
Indiana	186,534	300,789	319,580	18,791	6.2%
Oregon	289,702	375,743	393,652	17,909	4.8%
Kansas	134,735	186,942	204,420	17,478	9.3%
Iowa	91,085	139,477	153,321	13,844	9.9%
Nebraska	74,638	112,178	125,400	13,222	11.8%
Ohio	339,279	469,748	482,114	12,366	2.6%
Idaho	64,080	87,098	97,353	10,255	11.8%
D.C.	73,561	81,734	91,949	10,215	12.5%
South Carolina	115,978	218,494	228,553	10,059	4.6%
New Hampshire	54,154	69,742	79,532	9,790	14.0%
Delaware	44,898	71,868	80,300	8,432	11.7%
Arkansas	73,690	131,667	139,997	8,330	6.3%
North Dakota	12,114	16,639	24,154	7,515	45.2%
Rhode Island	119,277	134,335	141,233	6,898	5.1%
Wyoming	11,205	15,843	22,478	6,635	41.9%
Alaska	37,170	49,319	54,672	5,353	10.9%
Connecticut	369,967	487,120	491,919	4,799	1.0%
Maine	36,691	45,666	49,686	4,020	8.8%
Montana	16,396	20,031	23,882	3,851	19.2%
Mississippi	39,908	61,428	65,150	3,722	6.1%
West Virginia	19,390	22,511	25,407	2,896	12.9%
South Dakota	13,495	22,238	24,627	2,389	10.7%
Hawaii	212,229	248,213	250,272	2,059	0.8%
New Mexico	149,606	205,141	205,653	512	0.2%
Vermont	23,245	27,560	25,578	-1,982	-7.2%
Missouri	151,196	232,537	225,122	-7,415	-3.2%
Alabama	87,772	168,596	157,356	-11,240	-6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,107,889</b>	<b>39,955,854</b>	<b>42,391,794</b>	<b>2,435,940</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

**Source:** Figures for 2000 are from the decennial census; figures for 2010 and 2014 are from the American Community Survey found on American FactFinder at Census.gov.