

## Immigration Facts vs Fiction

All but one of these came from the George W. Bush Institute. I added other resources to back up their facts.

([https://www.bushcenter.org/publications/resources-reports/reports/immigration.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlx9\\_GqaqI3AIVSdbACh1MGgaJEAAYASA AEgJsk\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.bushcenter.org/publications/resources-reports/reports/immigration.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlx9_GqaqI3AIVSdbACh1MGgaJEAAYASA AEgJsk_D_BwE))

### **Fiction: Immigrants are taking over**

Fact: Immigrants actually only account for 13.5% of the total U.S. population, which is in line with historical norms. More than 43.7 million immigrants resided in the United States in 2016, accounting for 13.5 percent of the total U.S. population of 323.1 million, according to American Community Survey (ACS) data. Between 2015 and 2016, the foreign-born population increased by about 449,000, or 1 percent, a rate slower than the 2.1 percent growth experienced between 2014 and 2015.

Immigrants and their U.S.-born children now number approximately 86.4 million people, or 27 percent of the overall U.S. population, according to the 2017 Current Population Survey (CPS).

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>

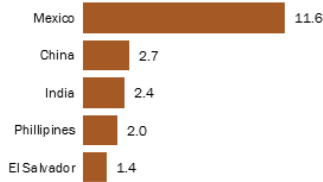
### **Fiction: Immigrants are all Mexican.**

Fact: Since Mexico is so close to the US, it's not surprising that many immigrants come from Mexico. However, 30% of immigrants come from Asia, and currently more are coming from China than Mexico. In the US, 11.5 million immigrants living were from Mexico; 6% from China, 6% from India, 5% from the Philippines and 3% from El Salvador. Immigrants were born from South and East Asia combined accounted for 27% of all immigrants equal to Mexico. 14% from Europe/Canada, 10% from the Caribbean, 8% from Central America, 7% from South America, 4% from the Middle East and 4% from sub-Saharan Africa.

About 1 million immigrants arrive in the U.S. each year. In 2015, the top country of origin was India with 110,000 new immigrants.

**Mexico, China and India are top birthplaces for immigrants in the U.S.**

Top five countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. in 2015, in millions

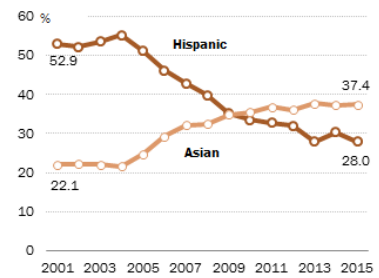


Note: China includes Taiwan and Hong Kong.  
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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**Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics**

% of immigrants arriving in the U.S. in each year who are ...



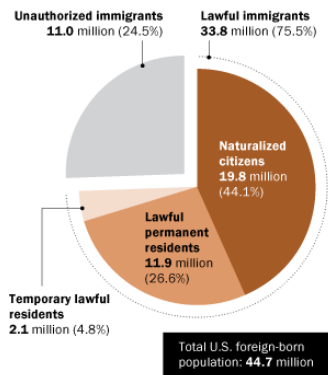
Note: Figures for 2001 to 2005 are based on the household population and do not include arrivals residing in group quarters. 2015 figure represents only arrivals between Jan. 1 and April 1, 2015. Figures reflect only immigrants who are residing the U.S. as of April 1, 2015. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2015 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

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**Fiction: Immigrants are coming here illegally.**

**About one-in-four U.S. immigrants are unauthorized**

Foreign-born population estimates, 2015



Note: All numbers are rounded independently and are not adjusted to sum to U.S. total or other totals.  
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2015 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Fact: Only 25% of immigrants are undocumented. 44% of foreign-born population are naturalized citizens and 26.6% are lawful permanent residents.

**Fiction: Immigrants don't work.**

Fact: 72.5% of immigrants believe hard work is how you succeed in America and are responsible for half of the total U.S. labor force growth over the last decade. In 2017, the unemployment rate for immigrants was 4.1%.

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/forbrn.pdf>

**Fiction: Immigrants don't help the economy.**

Fact: There are many ways to help the economy. Immigrant-owned businesses with employees have an average of 11 employees. Immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, pay taxes. These tax contributions add up. Immigrant-led households across the country collectively paid \$223.6 billion in federal taxes and \$104.6 billion in combined states and local taxes in 2014, the most recent year for which Census data is available. (American Immigration Council). The Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy suggested that half of undocumented worked in the US file income tax returns. 4.4 million income tax returns were paid by workers without Social Security numbers. They pain 23.6 billion in income taxes. (VOX)

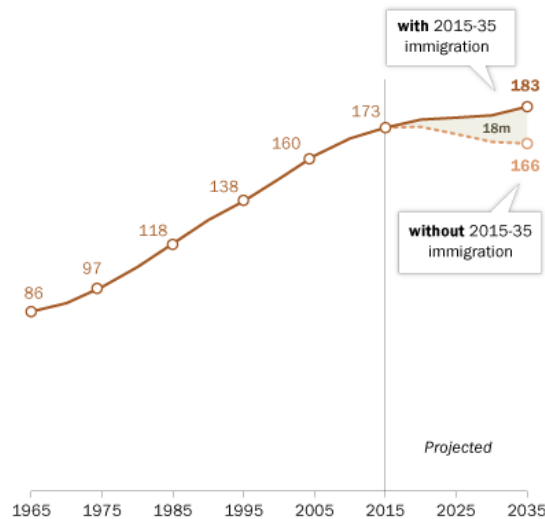
**Fiction: Immigrants take American jobs**

Fact: 7.6% of immigrants were self-employed compared to 5.6% of native-born Americans and they founded more than 40% of Fortune 500 companies. Research reported in the New York Times suggests that “over the long term, immigration had no negative effects on the ways and jobs of native-born workers.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/22/us/immigrants-arent-taking-americans-jobs-new-study-finds.html>

## Without future immigrants, working-age population in U.S. would decrease by 2035

Working-age population (25-64), in millions



Note: Numbers for 2015 onward are projections.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 1965-2015 based on adjusted census data; Pew Research Center projections for 2015-2035.

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## Fiction: Immigrants are too young or old to work.

Fact: More than 70% of immigrants are between the ages of 25-64 compared to less than 50% of native-born Americans. By 2035, the working age of immigrants will increase by 18 million. According to Pew Research, most of the loss of workforce caused by the baby boomers will be offset by U.S.-born adults with immigrant parents and the arrival of future immigrants. Only 15% of immigrants are ages 65 or older (the same as US born.)

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/03/08/immigration-projected-to-drive-growth-in-u-s-working-age-population-through-at-least-2035/>

## Fiction: Immigrants take advantage of welfare

Fact: 62.2% of immigrants aged 16 and older were employed compared to 58.1% of native-born Americans. According to the CATO Institute, "Overall, immigrants are less likely to consume welfare benefits and, when they do, they generally consume a lower dollar value of benefits than native-born Americans." <https://www.cato.org/publications/immigration-research-policy-brief/immigration-welfare-state-immigrant-native-use-rates>

## Fiction: Immigrants aren't educated

Fact: Recent immigrants are more likely to have college degrees than native-born Americans and are more likely to have advanced degrees. In 2016, 30% of immigrants ages 25 or older had a bachelor's degree or higher. College educated immigrants were 47%. 29% of immigrant adults did not have a high school diploma or GED certificate.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>

**Fiction: Immigrants increase the crime rate.**

Fact: Sociologist Robert J. Sampson, in an American Immigration Council, 2015 Report, stated “cities of concentrated immigration are some of the safest places around.” Immigrants as a group tend to be highly motivated, goal-driven individuals who have little to gain by breaking the law. Sampson and colleagues also find that immigrant communities are insulated from crime because they tend to display “social cohesion among neighbors combined with their willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good.”

[https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the\\_criminalization\\_of\\_immigration\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the_criminalization_of_immigration_in_the_united_states.pdf)