The Newly Arrived Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 2010

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

Forty million foreign-born people lived in the United States in 2010, according to the American Community Survey (ACS).[1] The majority (83 percent) of the foreign born reported entering the United States prior to 2005. Using 2010 ACS data on the period of entry of the foreign-born population, this report focuses on the "newly arrived" foreign born, defined here as those who came to live in the United States in 2005 or later.[2] Seven million U.S. residents or 17 percent of the foreign-born population are classi- fied as newly arrived in this report.

Notable differences emerge when the newly arrived foreign born are com- pared with those who arrived prior to 2005. For example, over half of those who arrived prior to 2005 were born in Latin America and the Caribbean, compared with only 48 percent of those who arrived in 2005 or later. The newly arrived were more likely than other foreign-born residents to live outside the traditional "gateway" states of California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois—thus providing further evidence of increased move- ment to nontraditional destination states.[3] Additional differences appear when the newly arrived foreign born are further divided into two period-of-entry cohorts—arrived from 2005 through 2007 and arrived in 2008 or later.[4]

This report compares the foreign- born entry cohorts by population size, world region and country of birth, and geographic distribution within the United States. It finds several interesting trends that distinguish recent arrivals from earlier arrivals.

SIZE OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

Among the 40 million foreign-born resi- dents in 2010, most (83 percent) reported a year of entry prior to 2005 (Table 1). The remaining 17 percent entered dur- ing the 6 years from 2005 to 2010. Ten percent of the foreign born reported entering the United States from 2005 through 2007 compared with 7.5 percent in the 3 years beginning with 2008.

[1] The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who have become U.S. citizens through naturaliza- tion. People born abroad of U.S. citizen parents are not included in the foreign-born population.

[2] 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 reported 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.

[3] Audrey Singer, The Rise of New Immigrant Gateways, The Brookings Institution, 2004.

[4] In this report the term "period-of-entry cohorts" refers to individuals who reported coming to live in the United States during specific periods of time: prior to 2005, 2005 through 2007, and 2008 or later. Note that the foreign-born population in a period of entry cohort represents immigrants who came to live in the United States during the specified time period and were still in the United States at the time of the survey. Thus, it does not include persons who subse- quently died or left the United States.

United States™ CENSUS Bureau

PLACE OF BIRTH OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

The distribution of the foreign-born population by world region of birth varies considerably across entry cohorts. For example, 54 percent of the foreign born who arrived before 2005 and 53 percent of those arriving from 2005 through 2007 were born in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, only 41 percent of the most recently arrived (2008 or later) were born in this region (Figure 1). The differences are even more apparent when an important Latin American subregion, Central America, is examined. Those born in Central America accounted for over one-third of the foreign born who arrived before 2005 and from 2005 through 2007 (38 percent and 39 percent, respectively) but only 25 percent of those who entered in 2008 or later. In contrast, the Asian foreign born comprised a higher proportion of the later entry cohorts: 27 percent prior to 2005, 30 percent from 2005 through 2007,

and 40 percent in 2008 or later. Together, the foreign born from Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia accounted for over 80 percent of the newly arrived.
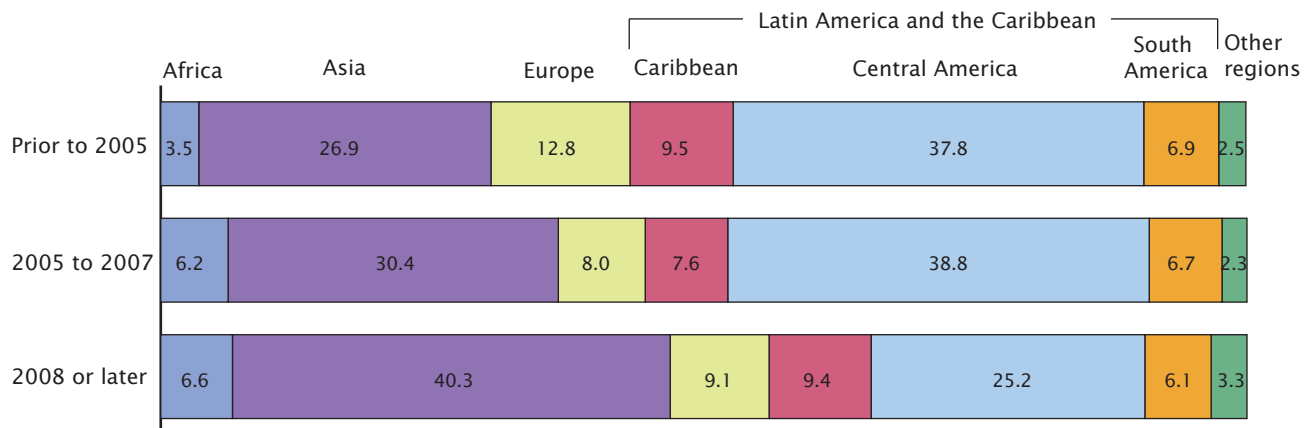
The individual countries of birth that drive the differences in the regional distributions among the entry cohorts can be seen in Table 2. The foreign born from Mexico accounted for 30 percent of the foreign born who entered prior to 2005, 28 percent for the 2005 through 2007 period, but only 19

percent of those who arrived in 2008 and later. Two country-of-birth groups from Asia—China and India—represented an increasing percentage of the newly arrived foreign born. Those born in China accounted for 5 percent of the foreign born who arrived before 2005, 6 percent of those from 2005 through 2007, and 9 percent of those arriving in 2008 or later. Similarly, the proportion of the foreign born from India increased from 4 percent of those who

Table 1.
Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry: 2010

(Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov /acs/www/*)

Period of entry	Number	Margin of error[1] (+/−)	Percent	Margin of error[1] (+/−)
Total	**39,956**	**115**	**100.0**	**(X)**
Prior to 2005	32,996	103	82.6	0.2
2005 or later	6,960	72	17.4	0.2
2005 to 2007	3,961	54	9.9	0.1
2008 or later	2,998	45	7.5	0.1

(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 estimate, 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, 2010 American Community Survey.

Figure 1.
Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and World Region of Birth: 2010

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Note: "Other regions" includes Northern America and Oceania.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

Table 2.
Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and Country of Birth: 2010
(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 2005 | | Newly arrived foreign born, 2005 or later | | | | | |
| | | | | | Total | | 2005 to 2007 | | 2008 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)**
Nine largest countries of birth[2] . .	57.5	0.2	57.9	0.2	55.8	0.5	58.1	0.6	52.8	0.8
China[3]	5.4	0.1	5.1	0.1	7.1	0.3	6.0	0.3	8.6	0.4
Cuba	2.8	0.1	2.8	0.1	2.7	0.2	2.7	0.2	2.8	0.3
Dominican Republic	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.9	0.2	2.7	0.3
El Salvador	3.0	0.1	3.1	0.1	2.9	0.2	3.6	0.3	2.0	0.2
India	4.5	0.1	3.9	0.1	7.1	0.2	6.6	0.3	7.7	0.4
Korea[4]	2.8	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.9	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.2	0.3
Mexico	29.3	0.2	30.4	0.2	24.3	0.4	28.0	0.6	19.3	0.6
Philippines	4.4	0.1	4.5	0.1	4.3	0.2	4.5	0.3	4.1	0.2
Vietnam	3.1	0.1	3.3	0.1	2.2	0.2	2.2	0.2	2.4	0.3
All other countries	42.5	0.2	42.1	0.2	44.2	0.5	41.9	0.6	47.2	0.8

(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 estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

[2] Nine 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

arrived before 2005, to 7 percent of those who arrived from 2005 through 2007, and to 8 percent of those who arrived in 2008 or later.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

The number of foreign-born residents in 2010 differed considerably from state to state, from a high of 10.2 million in California to fewer than 20,000 in North Dakota and Wyoming (Table 3).[5] The traditional immigrant destination states of California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois, each with over 1 million foreign-born residents, accounted for well over half (65 percent) of all foreign born.

California had the largest proportion of the nation's newly arrived (19 percent), followed by Texas (11 percent), New York (10 percent), and Florida (9 percent) (Figure 2). An additional 10 states (New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Georgia, Virginia, Washington, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Arizona) accounted for between 2 and 5 percent of the recently arrived foreign born.[6] The remaining 36 states and the District of Columbia each contained less than 2 percent of those who arrived in 2005 or later.

Although California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois accounted for the majority of the newly arrived, notable differences exist between earlier and later arrivals. Of all foreign born who entered prior to 2005, about two-thirds (66 percent) resided in these six states, compared with 58 percent of those who entered in 2005 and later (Figure 3). The difference is most clearly shown in

California, which represented 27 percent of the foreign born who arrived before 2005, but only 19 percent of the newly arrived. The remaining 44 states and the District of Columbia, however, represent a greater share of the newly arrived: 43 percent of those who arrived in the last 6 years compared with 34 percent of those who entered prior to 2005. The data indicate that newer immigrants may be choosing to reside in locations beyond the traditional "gateway" states and increasingly settling in states with smaller foreign-born populations not typically viewed as major immigrant destinations.

A similar picture emerges when considering the proportion of the foreign-born population within each state. Of the six traditional gateway states, three (California, Illinois, and New York) had a lower proportion of recent entrants than the national average (Figure 4). Several states with histories of

[5] The percentages for North Dakota and Wyoming were not statistically different from each other.

[6] The percentage for Arizona was not statistically different from 2 percent.

Table 3.
Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry by State and for Puerto Rico: 2010
(Numbers in thousands. Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)
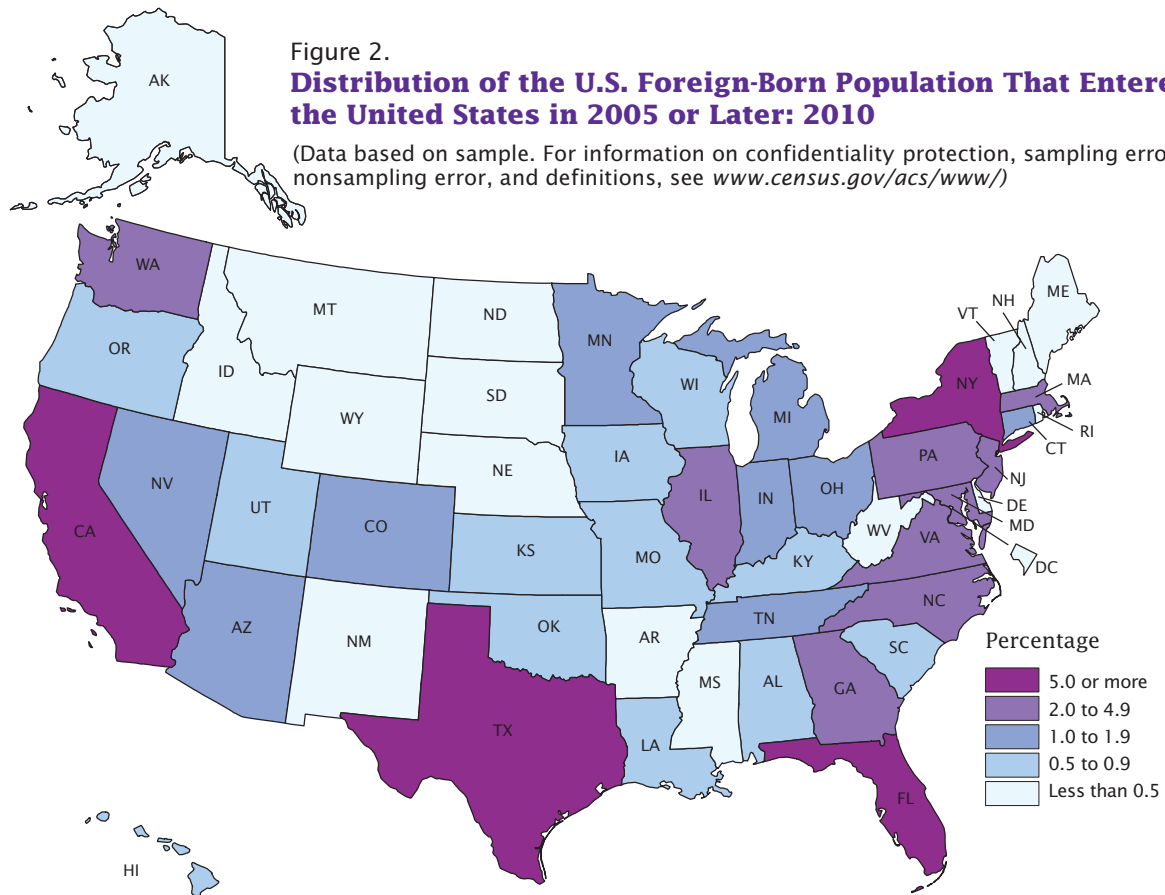
| Area | Total | | Prior to 2005 | | Newly arrived foreign born, 2005 or later | | | | | |
| | | | | | Total | | 2005 to 2007 | | 2008 or later | |
	Number	Margin of error[1] (+/−)	Percent of total	Margin of error[1] (+/−)	Percent of total	Margin of error[1] (+/−)	Percent of total	Margin of error[1] (+/−)	Percent of total	Margin of error[1] (+/−)
United States . . .	**39,956**	**115**	**82.6**	**0.2**	**17.4**	**0.2**	**9.9**	**0.1**	**7.5**	**0.1**
Alabama	169	7	67.3	2.7	32.7	2.7	19.7	2.6	13.0	1.8
Alaska	49	4	76.0	3.7	24.0	3.7	14.2	3.5	9.8	2.6
Arizona	857	18	84.1	1.1	15.9	1.1	8.3	0.8	7.6	0.8
Arkansas	132	6	76.0	2.9	24.0	2.9	12.9	2.3	11.1	2.5
California	10,150	60	86.7	0.3	13.3	0.3	8.2	0.2	5.1	0.2
Colorado	497	14	81.5	1.3	18.5	1.3	10.3	0.9	8.2	1.0
Connecticut	487	14	81.5	1.5	18.5	1.5	11.3	1.0	7.1	1.0
Delaware	72	4	79.9	3.7	20.1	3.7	11.9	3.2	8.2	2.3
District of Columbia	82	4	74.0	3.2	26.0	3.2	13.8	2.4	12.1	2.2
Florida	3,658	37	83.0	0.5	17.0	0.5	9.5	0.5	7.6	0.4
Georgia	943	15	79.5	1.1	20.5	1.1	11.8	0.9	8.8	0.7
Hawaii	248	13	82.6	1.9	17.4	1.9	8.9	1.7	8.5	1.4
Idaho	87	5	83.5	2.9	16.5	2.9	9.5	2.3	7.0	1.7
Illinois.	1,760	22	84.6	0.6	15.4	0.6	8.8	0.5	6.6	0.5
Indiana.	301	10	73.2	1.5	26.8	1.5	13.5	1.2	13.3	1.5
Iowa	139	7	74.6	2.6	25.4	2.6	13.2	2.1	12.1	1.9
Kansas.	187	8	77.9	2.5	22.1	2.5	10.9	1.6	11.2	2.0
Kentucky	141	7	71.0	2.8	29.0	2.8	16.1	2.2	12.9	2.2
Louisiana	173	7	70.3	2.6	29.7	2.6	16.1	1.9	13.6	1.9
Maine.	46	3	81.1	3.3	18.9	3.3	12.8	3.0	6.1	1.7
Maryland	804	15	78.7	1.3	21.3	1.3	11.7	0.9	9.5	0.9
Massachusetts.	984	18	79.5	1.0	20.5	1.0	10.7	0.6	9.8	0.8
Michigan	588	13	78.9	1.4	21.1	1.4	9.6	0.9	11.5	1.0
Minnesota	378	9	75.5	1.5	24.5	1.5	14.0	1.3	10.5	1.1
Mississippi	61	4	68.3	4.0	31.7	4.0	21.1	3.8	10.6	2.4
Missouri	233	9	76.1	1.9	23.9	1.9	12.4	1.6	11.5	1.6
Montana.	20	3	75.3	4.7	24.7	4.7	11.9	3.6	12.9	3.7
Nebraska	112	6	79.2	2.2	20.8	2.2	12.1	1.8	8.7	1.7
Nevada	508	10	85.6	1.3	14.4	1.3	9.7	1.2	4.8	0.9
New Hampshire	70	5	82.0	2.9	18.0	2.9	7.5	1.9	10.6	2.5
New Jersey	1,845	19	83.1	0.7	16.9	0.7	9.7	0.5	7.2	0.5
New Mexico	205	10	85.4	1.8	14.6	1.8	7.5	1.3	7.1	1.3
New York	4,298	33	83.9	0.5	16.1	0.5	8.5	0.3	7.6	0.3
North Carolina	719	14	76.9	1.3	23.1	1.3	14.2	1.0	8.9	0.9
North Dakota	17	2	66.9	7.1	33.1	7.1	11.0	6.5	22.2	4.7
Ohio.	470	11	76.4	1.5	23.6	1.5	13.0	1.3	10.6	1.0
Oklahoma	206	7	76.3	1.9	23.7	1.9	12.4	1.4	11.3	1.7
Oregon.	376	10	82.8	1.6	17.2	1.6	10.6	1.3	6.7	1.0
Pennsylvania	739	15	78.6	1.3	21.4	1.3	11.6	1.0	9.8	0.8
Rhode Island	134	6	80.5	2.6	19.5	2.6	8.7	1.5	10.9	2.6
South Carolina.	218	7	74.1	2.2	25.9	2.2	16.6	1.9	9.4	1.4
South Dakota.	22	3	67.9	8.1	32.1	8.1	13.0	4.6	19.1	4.8
Tennessee	289	10	74.5	1.9	25.5	1.9	15.5	1.7	10.0	1.3
Texas	4,142	39	81.9	0.5	18.1	0.5	10.4	0.3	7.7	0.3
Utah.	223	8	81.6	1.9	18.4	1.9	11.4	1.5	7.0	1.1
Vermont	28	2	79.9	5.0	20.1	5.0	6.6	2.2	13.4	5.0
Virginia.	911	16	80.0	1.0	20.0	1.0	12.3	0.9	7.7	0.7
Washington	886	14	79.8	1.2	20.2	1.2	10.8	0.9	9.3	1.0
West Virginia	23	3	72.3	6.2	27.7	6.2	13.5	3.6	14.1	4.9
Wisconsin	255	8	80.7	1.6	19.3	1.6	11.1	1.3	8.2	1.0
Wyoming	16	2	66.3	9.9	33.7	9.9	13.1	6.0	20.6	9.3
Puerto Rico	106	7	83.7	2.2	16.3	2.2	8.9	1.5	7.5	1.4

[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 estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Figure 2.
Distribution of the U.S. Foreign-Born Population That Entered the United States in 2005 or Later: 2010
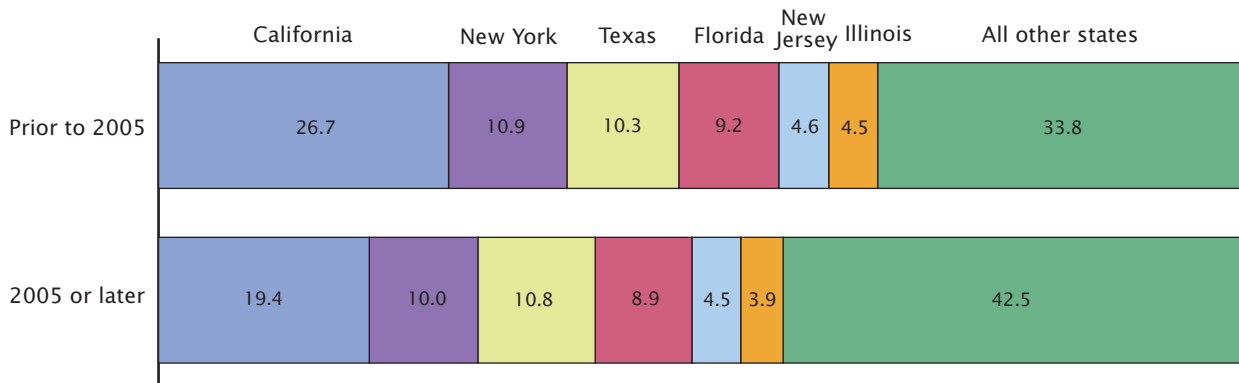
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Percentage

- 5.0 or more
- 2.0 to 4.9
- 1.0 to 1.9
- 0.5 to 0.9
- Less than 0.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

Figure 3.
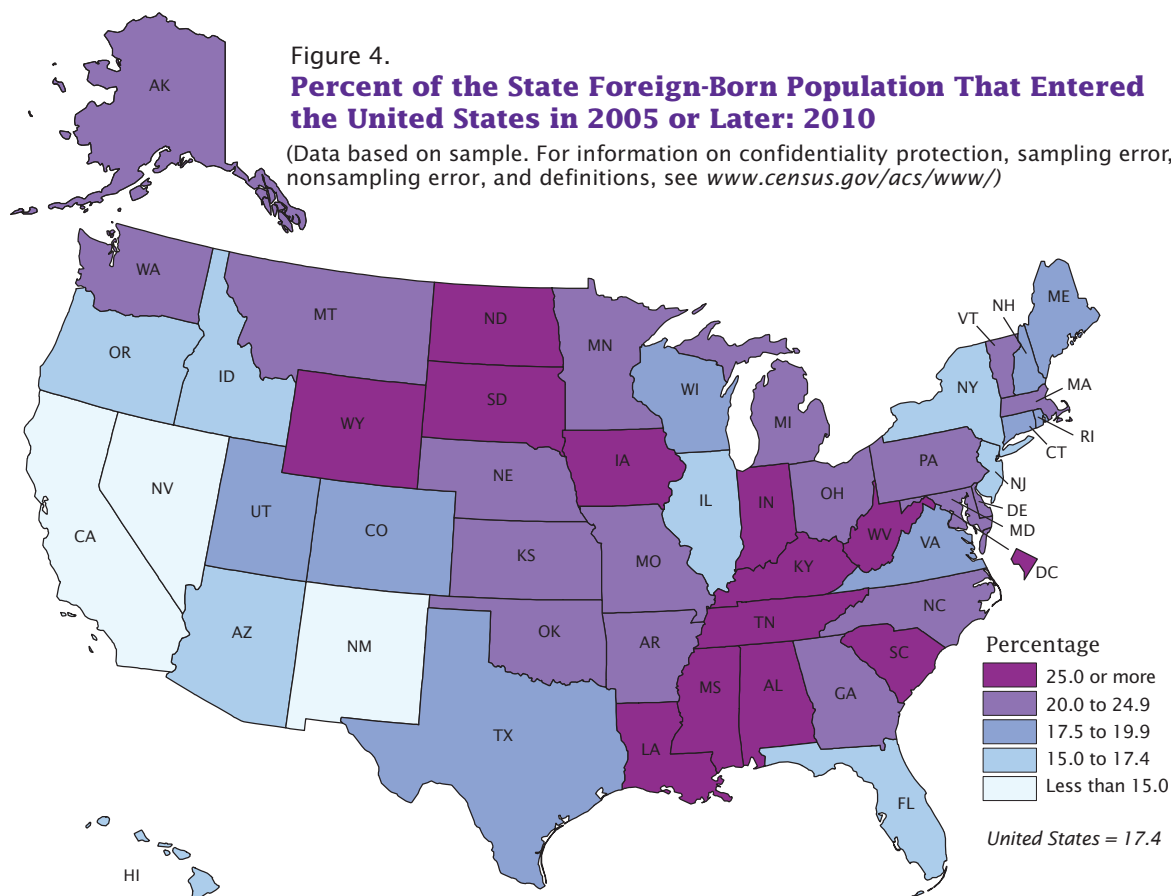**Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry and State: 2010**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

	California	New York	Texas	Florida	New Jersey	Illinois	All other states
Prior to 2005	26.7	10.9	10.3	9.2	4.6	4.5	33.8
2005 or later	19.4	10.0	10.8	8.9	4.5	3.9	42.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.

Percent of the State Foreign-Born Population That Entered the United States in 2005 or Later: 2010

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Percentage

- 25.0 or more
- 20.0 to 24.9
- 17.5 to 19.9
- 15.0 to 17.4
- Less than 15.0

United States = 17.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

lighter immigration had considerably higher proportions of recent entrants. Alabama (33 percent), Kentucky (29 percent), Louisiana (30 percent), Mississippi (32 percent), North Dakota (33 percent), South Dakota (32 percent), West Virginia (28 percent), and Wyoming (34 percent) had among the largest proportions of their foreign-born population entering in 2005 or later.[7] An additional four states, Indiana, Iowa, South Carolina, and Tennessee, along with the District of Columbia had 25 percent or more of their

foreign born entering in the 6-year period from 2005 to 2010.[8]

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>.

Also noteworthy is the higher proportion of the foreign born of several less populous states that entered in the past 3 years (2008 or later) compared with the prior 3 years (2005 through 2007). Three

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[7] The percentages for Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming were not statistically different from each other.

[8] The percentages for Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Vermont were not statistically different from 25 percent.

states (Michigan, North Dakota, and Vermont) had a larger proportion of their foreign born entering in 2008 or later than between 2005 and 2007 (Table 3).[9] While these states represent a small proportion of the total foreign-born population, they illustrate the widening geographic distribution of the foreign born, particularly among more recent entrants.

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[9] The percentages for Michigan and North Dakota or for North Dakota and Vermont were not statistically different.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2010. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report 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 "2010 ACS Accuracy of the Data" document located at <www.census.gov/acs /www/Downloads/data _documentation/Accuracy/ACS _Accuracy_of_Data_2010.pdf>.