

U.S. Immigration Basics

Overview

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| U.S. Immigration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Immigration – Moving <u>internationally</u> in order to <u>settle</u> in the U.S. (also see Immigration) • A brief history of U.S. Immigration policy |
| Open Door | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1776: The U.S. had a mostly ‘open-door’ immigration policy (the new nation needed immigrants) ○ 1882: The U.S. enacted its first major U.S. immigration prohibition with the Chinese Exclusion Act |
| Documentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1920s: The U.S. established immigration limits based on National Origin, and excluded all Asians ○ 1940s: The U.S. stiffened border controls & required documentation for all foreign-born residents ○ 1965: The U.S. prioritized Family Reunification & Work Skills and ended National Origin limits ○ 1986: The U.S. made it harder to hire undocumented immigrants, but granted amnesty to some ○ 1996: The U.S. increased border security, immigration enforcement, and reasons for deportation ○ Congress has not passed immigration legislation since 1996 (almost 30 years) |

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| U.S. Residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Residents – The people who live in the United States, including foreign-born residents |
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U.S. Residents
331 Million in 2021

New since the 1920s: →

| Category | Count | Percentage | Right to |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| U.S.-Born Residents | 284 Million | 86% | Vote, Travel, etc. |
| Natural-Born Citizens | 284 Million | 86% | |
| Naturalized Citizens | 23 Million | 7% | |
| Permanent Residents | 11 Million | 3% | Residency & Work |
| Temporary Residents | 2 Million | 1% | |
| Unauthorized Residents | 11 Million | 3% | Legal Due Process |

Foreign-Born Residents: 47 Million - 14% ("Immigrants")

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| U.S. Immigration Process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Immigration Process – Legal immigration currently includes the following process steps ○ The steps in green were added after World War I to better control immigration |
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| U.S. Immigration Supply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Immigration Supply – 1 million people legally immigrate to the U.S. each year ○ About 1 million people became legal residents in 2022 |
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The population of Delaware is about 1,000,000 people

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| Family-based Immigrants | 58% | 594,309 |
| Employment-based Immigrants | 27% | 270,284 |
| Refugees and Asylum Seekers | 7% | 83,082 |
| Diversity Immigrants | 4% | 43,233 |
| Other Special Circumstances | 3% | 27,441 |

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| U.S. Immigration Demand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Immigration Demand – 10+ million people would like to immigrate to the U.S. ○ Over 10+ million people would like the opportunity to legally immigrate to the U.S. |
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Note: Most undocumented immigrants already live in the U.S.

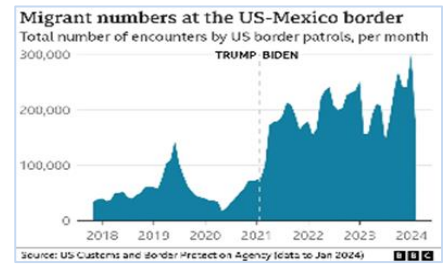
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|---|--------------|
| Undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. (2022) | 11,000,000 + |
| Immigration enforcement actions (2022) | 1,500,000 + |
| Asylum claims pending (2021) | 1,000,000 + |

U.S. Immigration Trends

Mexico–U.S. Border Crisis

- **Mexico–U.S. Border Crisis (2020-2024)** – A surge in migrants at the **Mexico–U.S. border**
 - Included **1.73 million** migrant encounters in 2021 ▪ **2.76 million** in 2022 ▪ **2.8 million** in 2023
 - The surge in migrant encounters has been driven by:
 - The end of Title 42 restrictions and release of 38 months of pent-up COVID demand (May 2023)
 - Four “failed states” in the western hemisphere (Haiti, Venezuela, Nicaragua & Cuba)
 - Political repression, gang violence, poverty, and natural disasters in Central & South America
 - Increased migration from areas other than Mexico (+500% in Chinese nationals)
 - Actual changes and shifts in migrant perception about U.S. policy (Trump vs. Biden)
- A large majority of migrants currently at the U.S.-Mexico border are seeking asylum
 - Migrants must travel to the border to request asylum; they cannot apply from outside the U.S
 - Migrants with a pending asylum claim are often released into the U.S. while awaiting a ruling
 - Released migrants can apply for a work permit if their case is still pending after 150 days

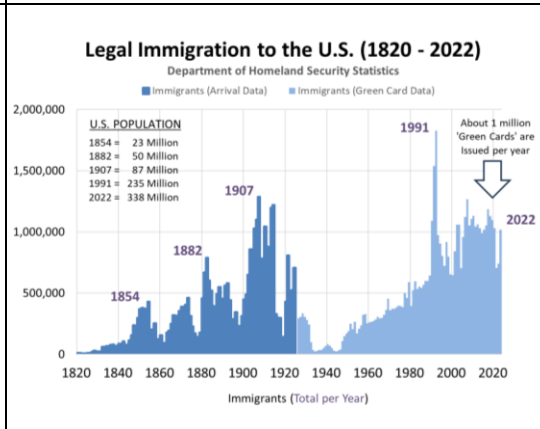


Legal Immigration to the U.S.

NOTE: This graph shows the total immigration each year.

The initial data is based on ship manifests and other U.S. arrival data, whereas more recent data indicates an approved permanent resident card (Green Card).

Prior to WWI, there was no distinction between legal (documented) and illegal (undocumented) immigration.

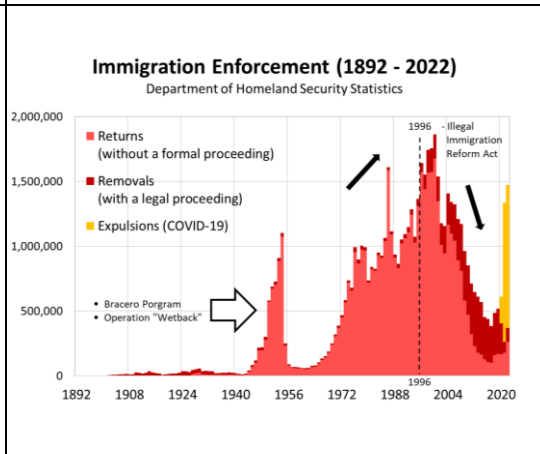


- **Legal Immigration** – About **1 million people** become legal residents each year
 - Consistent over the past 20+ years
 - Recent immigration has remained below past peaks in 1991 & 1907
 - Historical peaks & valleys caused by:
 - 1854 – Irish Potato Famin (peak)
 - 1882 – Industrialization (peak)
 - 1907 – Eastern Europe & Russia (peak)
 - 1910s – WWI (valley)
 - 1940s – WWII (valley)
 - 1991 – Bush I Era Immigration Reform (peak)
 - 2022– COVID-19 Pandemic (valley)

Illegal Immigration to the United States

NOTE: Unauthorized immigration is typically described as “illegal” immigration. The act of immigrating can either be legal or illegal.

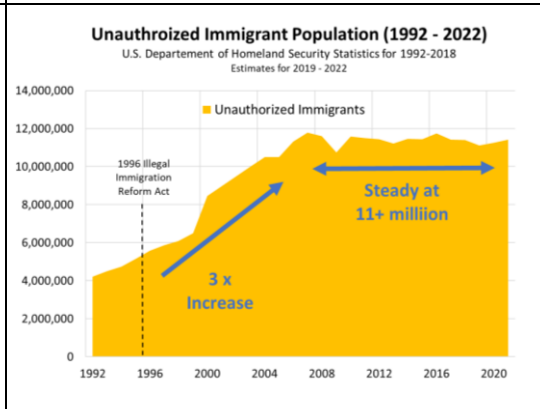
Unauthorized immigrants, however, are typically described as ‘unauthorized’ or ‘undocumented’ (v. ‘illegal’). A human is not typically described as being either legal or illegal, and violations of immigration laws are civil



- **Illegal Immigration** – There were **1.5 million** immigration enforcement actions in 2022
 - **Returns** – Preventing someone from entering the United States
 - **Removals** – Removing someone who is already living in the United States
 - **Expulsions** – Expelling someone from the U.S for public health reasons
 - **Title 42 Expulsions** supercede the immigration process (even for those seeking asylum)
- Also see:
- Bracero Program
 - 1996 Immigration Act
 - Operation “Wetback”
 - Title 42 Expulsion

Unauthorized Immigrants living in the United States

offenses (v. criminal offenses).



- **Illegal Immigration** – Over **11 million unauthorized immigrants** live in the U.S.
 - An estimated 65% have jobs (7.5 million)
 - An estimated 30% own homes (3.5 million)
 - An estimated 30% have a U.S. citizen child
- The unauthorized immigrant population has increased significantly since 1992 (3x)
 - Affected by the **Illegal Immigration Reform Act of 1996** (see below)
- Deporting 11M undocumented immigrants would be very challenging