Overview

Philadelphia has seen a big increase in the number of immigrants living, working, and raising families in the city over the past several decades. In 1990, less than 7 percent of Philadelphians were foreign-born, but in the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data, the percentage was twice as high. As highlighted in Pew’s 2018 report “Philadelphia’s Immigrants,” more than a quarter of Philadelphians are immigrants or have a foreign-born parent. These changes have had a profound impact on the city and are largely responsible for the growth it has experienced since 2006.

Percentage of Residents Who:

- **67%**  
  Were born in Pennsylvania

- **16%**  
  Were born in other states

- **3%**  
  Were born in Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory

- **14%**  
  Were foreign-born

- **23%**  
  Speak a foreign language at home

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The share of Philadelphians born outside the United States has grown steadily since 1980 and makes up an ever-larger percentage of Philadelphia’s population.


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Philadelphia’s immigrant population is diverse; the greatest number of foreign-born residents have origins in Asia and the Americas. Chinese immigrants, the largest group, account for approximately 11 percent of the foreign-born population.

Note: In reporting country of origin, the census does not have separate listings for North Korea and South Korea.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2017, Table C05006 (Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population), http://factfinder.census.gov

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