

Glossary

Comparison cities: Philadelphia is benchmarked against nine other U.S. cities and their metro areas; six, like Philadelphia, are “re-emerging immigrant gateway” cities, as identified by the Brookings Institution: Baltimore; Denver; Minneapolis; Portland, Oregon; San Jose, California; and Seattle. Four are other cities in the Northeast: Baltimore (appears in both categories), Boston, New York, and Washington.

Immigrant and foreign-born: These terms, used interchangeably in this research, refer to people born as citizens of other countries who now live in the United States, regardless of their legal status as refugees, lawful residents, naturalized citizens, or some other category.

U.S.-born: A person born as a U.S. citizen in the United States or its territories, including Puerto Rico.

Hispanic and Latino: These terms, used interchangeably, refer to people who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino, regardless of their birthplace, citizenship status, or race.

First-generation Americans: Immigrants or foreign-born residents, regardless of legal status, who are the first in their family to reside in the United States or its territories, including Puerto Rico.

Second-generation Americans: U.S.-born children of immigrants of any legal status.

Country of origin: The country where an immigrant was born; may be different from the country where the person resided before arriving in the United States.

Continent of origin: The continent where an immigrant was born. This term is used when identifying an immigrant’s general geographic origin, such as Asian or African.

Methodology

Analysis: Philadelphia’s Evolving Immigrant Population Has Helped the City Grow

Foreign-born population (Figure 1): This population consists of individuals born as citizens of other countries. It does not include people born in a foreign country who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. People born in Puerto Rico were counted as foreign-born in 1910 but not thereafter. Other definitions of pre-2000 figures can be found at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2006/demo/POP-twps0081.pdf>.

Foreign-born share of residents (Figure 2): The shares are based on each city’s foreign-born and total populations, found in the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), one-year estimates, Table S0501. The weighted average of foreign-born shares is based on total city populations, also found in ACS Table S0501.

Generations: To find the number of U.S.-born children (second-generation Americans) of immigrants (first-generation Americans) in Philadelphia, Pew used the Current Population

Survey (CPS), produced jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS includes data on parental birthplace but does not survey enough Philadelphians to render a sufficient sample for each year, a problem that can be overcome by pooling several years together. Pew pooled CPS data on Philadelphia for the periods 2003-07, 2008-12, 2013-17, and 2018-22, then divided the results by the city's average total population during each period, also taken from CPS. The resulting figures have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points. (CPS population figures often differ from those in ACS and are not shown here.)

Population projections (Figure 3): All population projections have inherent uncertainties, especially for periods far into the future, because they can be affected by changes in behavior, new policies, or other events. The figures cited in this report are based on an analysis by demographers at the Pennsylvania State Data Center, part of the Institute of State and Regional Affairs at Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, and funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, an agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. A full description of its methodology can be found at <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/population-projections>. The Penn State-led analysts used the same methodology that the U.S. Census Bureau used in its own projections for the country as a whole. The analysts projected changes in Philadelphia's population in each five-year period from 2020 to 2050, based on births, deaths, domestic migration, and international migration trends seen in the 2015-19 period. To translate those projected changes into actual population counts, Pew obtained the same dataset used by Penn State (ACS five-year estimates, 2015-19, from Census.gov) and applied Penn State's population-change percentages to the initial period and each period afterward, rounded to the nearest 100. Tim Schock, assistant director of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, reviewed Pew's methodology. Neither Pew nor Penn State produced alternative scenarios of faster or slower population change than assumed from the base data, but readers should be aware of such possibilities and take the projections with caution.

Philadelphia's Immigrants: Race and Ethnicity

Population by race and ethnicity (Figure 1): Data on the historical population of non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black or African American Philadelphia residents comes from a special tabulation by the U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for Large Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States," found at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2005/demo/POP-twps0076.pdf>. More recent data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2018-22, Table S0501.

Latino population (Figure 2): Data on Philadelphia's Latino population in 2000 comes from the decennial census, which is a head count in 2000; all subsequent time periods in the chart come from the American Community Survey's five-year estimates, IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, <http://www.ipums.org>.

Foreign-born population by ZIP code (Figure 3): Pew obtained data from the American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2018-22, Table DP02, and found the share of

population in each census tract that self-identified as foreign-born or U.S.-born. (See definitions above.) It categorized each tract as either “less than 10%,” “10% to 20%,” or “over 20%” foreign-born. Pew then mapped the tracts, assigning each level a different shade, and added ZIP codes for easier identification of the areas.

Domestic migration (Tables 1-2): Using microdata from IPUMS USA, Pew identified the population of U.S.-born and recently immigrated foreign-born Philadelphians who reported a residence one year prior that was different from the county of their current residence. Pew separated each group into “movers” and “nonmovers,” then found the percentage of movers who had lived abroad one year earlier. Pew performed this calculation on several periods from 2015 to 2022 and found the annual average. (The one-year prior movement provides just a glimpse of domestic migration; data on movement many years prior was not available.) The same dataset is used to find the top places within the United States that people arrive from and go to, as seen in Table 1 and Table 2.

Philadelphia’s Immigrants: Origins and Destinations

Top countries of origin (Figure 1): Data on people’s countries of origin comes from the American Community Survey’s five-year estimates, Table B05006, from <http://data.census.gov>. Pew ranked all origin countries by number of immigrants in Philadelphia, as found in the 2018-22 data, then found those same countries’ populations in the earlier periods. It should be noted that the top countries were not the same in each period; some dropped off or joined the list over time.

Distribution of immigrants by subregion (Figures 2-5): Data on the continental area of origin of residents in each Philadelphia census tract comes from the American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2018-22, Table B05006. The data is mapped and colored according to the continental subgroup that exceeded the tract-level average and was most populous in the census tracts located within a ZIP code. Borders of ZIP code areas are overlaid on the tracts to enable easier identification.

English ability (Table 1): The citywide population by country of origin was cross tabulated with English-language ability using the American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2018-22, obtained from IPUMS USA. The language shown for each country is the one that the Census Bureau has identified as the most prevalent in that country; however, immigrants in Philadelphia also speak additional languages. English ability is measured by how well people age 5 and older who speak another language at home can speak English.