Fast facts on America's latest immigrants

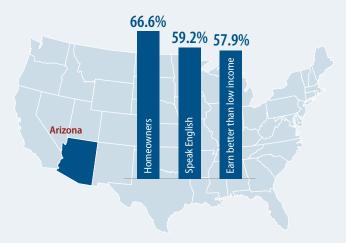
Immigrants, whether from higher or lower starting points of social and economic attainment, have been integrating at high rates since 1990.

• Only 9.3 percent of Latinos who were recently arrived owned homes in 1990, but the number surged to 58 percent by 2008.



- There are now 14 states that have foreign-born populations greater than the national average share of 12.5 percent. In a reflection of the movement of immigrants into new communities, the data shows 27 states with immigrant populations that are only recently arrived (i.e. since 2000) of at least two percent of the state population.
- Integration occurred fastest in the areas of citizenship and homeownership, especially in the first 18 years of U.S. residency, reaching the fabled "American Dream."
- The rate of citizenship grew at a similarly fast rate, from below 10 percent in 1990 to 56 percent by 2008, a substantial achievement given the constraints of federal citizenship law, which requires a five-year waiting period to become eligible for naturalization or three years if the immigrant is married to a U.S. citizen.
- High school completion and earnings also are rising. The share of foreign-born men earning above low income, for example, rose since 1990 from 35 percent, when they were recently arrived, to 66 percent in 2008, when they were longer settled.
- Immigrant children—especially among Latinos—have higher rates of attainment in education and occupation than adult immigrants, who have less access to education as newly-arrived workers.
- U.S.-born children whose parents are immigrants have lived their entire lives in the United States and participate as citizens in their communities and their schools. They are exceeding their parents' educational attainment levels.

- Second-generation Latinos are more likely than their immigrant parents to have B.A. degrees (21 percent), higher-paying occupations (32 percent), be living in households above the poverty line (92 percent), and own homes (71 percent).
- The college graduation rate has steadily risen since 2000, supporting the theory that immigrant children are more able than adults to pursue opportunities for educational advancement. Lesser access to education and learning centers for immigrant adults also means a lower English proficiency rate, especially among Latinos, due to their work and income status, and also because language classes are not evenly provided across all states and have lost funding in recent years.
- New destination states such as Georgia and North Carolina have more "new" immigrants than immigrants who arrived before 2000. The opposite is true in the traditional destination states of California, New York, Texas, Florida, and Illinois.
- The longer immigrants are in the U.S., the more integrated they become, a fact that remains consistent across the nation, regardless of whether they came from Mexico and Central America or from other countries.



Arizona stands out as an example, where Latino immigrants have proven much more successful than some have assumed. For example, after 18 years of residence, 66.6% are homeowners, 59.2% speak English well, and 57.9% earn better than a low income.