



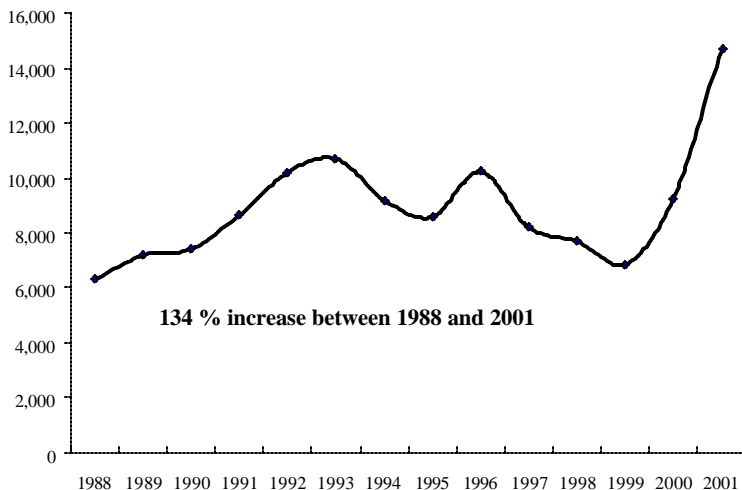
## OHIO POPULATION NEWS: Ohio's Foreign-Born Population

The Census Bureau reports that roughly three percent of Ohio's population (or 333,279 persons) are foreign born. Foreign born residents are people who were not born U.S. citizens. Natives are those who were born in the US, or a US area such as Puerto Rico, or were born overseas to a US born parent. While the number and proportion of the population that is foreign born has increased slightly over the previous three decades in Ohio, it is still much lower than the peak of 680,452 people or 13-percent of the total population seen in 1910. (See Figure 1).

Recent data released by the Immigration and Naturalization Service suggests that **Ohio may be becoming an increasing destination choice for immigrants.** (See Figure 2). For example, in 1991, 8,632 newly admitted immigrants to the U.S. reported that Ohio was their intended state of residence. **Ten years later, this number has increased to 14,725 – a 71 percent increase.**

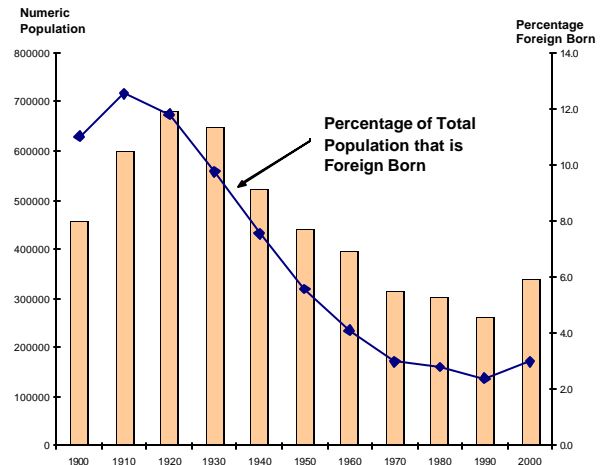
Among the foreign born residents of Ohio in 2000, 41-percent entered the U.S. prior to 1980, another 17-percent entered during the 1980s, and the remaining 42-percent came within the last decade. **Length of time spent in the U.S. is associated with higher levels of citizenship.** For example, of those who entered prior to 1980, over 4 out of 5 have become citizens through naturalization. For those who came during the 1980s, 57% are citizens, and 16-percent of those who arrived during the 1990s are citizens. Ohio's foreign-born residents sought citizenship at much higher levels than for the country overall.

**Figure 2: Immigrants Admitted to the U.S. with Ohio as State of Intended Residence: 1988-2001**



Source: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Figure 1: Foreign Born in Ohio 1890-2000**



### U.S. Immigration

In 2001, there were 1,064,318 legal immigrants admitted to the United States—an increase from 849,807 admitted in the previous year.

Top 5 states with the largest percentage of foreign-born residents, 2000: California (26%), New York (20%), New Jersey (17%), Hawaii (18%), Florida (17%).

**Ohio ranks 25<sup>th</sup> with 3 percent.**

Source: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

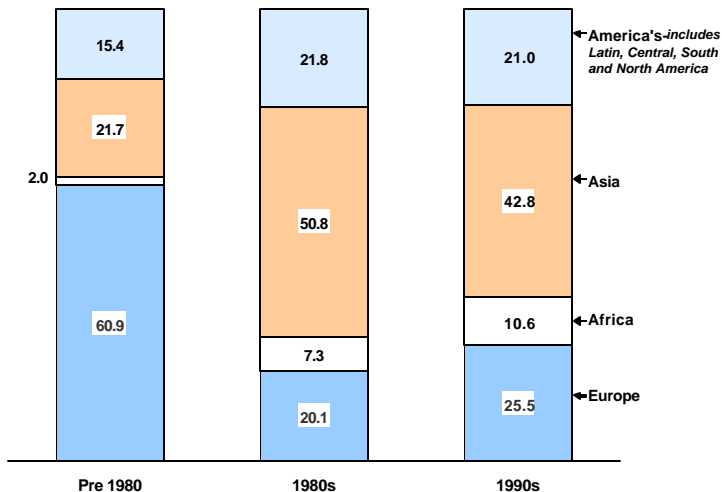
### CITIZENSHIP

U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen after he or she fulfills certain requirements:

- a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States;
- an ability to read, write and speak English;
- a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government;
- good moral character;
- attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and,
- favorable disposition toward the United States.

Source: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**FIGURE 3: OHIO'S FOREIGN BORN POPULATION BY YEAR OF ENTRY AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**



**Ohio's foreign born live predominately in urban areas.** In fact, 41.3 percent of the total foreign born population living in Ohio resides in the Cleveland-Akron area, followed by Columbus with 21.8 percent and Cincinnati with 15.6 percent. However, the newest arrivals—those who have arrived in the US within the last five years (1995-2000) are concentrated in the Columbus area. **Two out of five of the foreign born living in Columbus are recent arrivals compared to the Cleveland-Akron area with only one out of five foreign born arriving within the last five years.**

**Educational Attainment.** Seventy-seven percent of Ohio's foreign born residents ages 25 and older have at least a high school degree. The comparable figure for the native born population is 83-percent. However, nearly 38-percent of the foreign born population within this age category have at least a Bachelors degree, compared to 21-percent of the native born population.

**Poverty Status:** There were roughly 1.2 million people living below the poverty line in Ohio during 1999. Of those living in poverty 96.2-percent were native born and the remaining 3.8% were foreign born. Among the foreign born who were living in poverty during 1999, almost three quarters were non-citizens, that is they had not become citizens through naturalization.

**Age Distribution:** The foreign born population in Ohio is composed predominately of working age people (ages 18 to 64). This reflects the employment-based nature of migration streams to Ohio. The smaller figure (9.8%) for the child population reflects the fact that children born to the foreign born are US citizens.

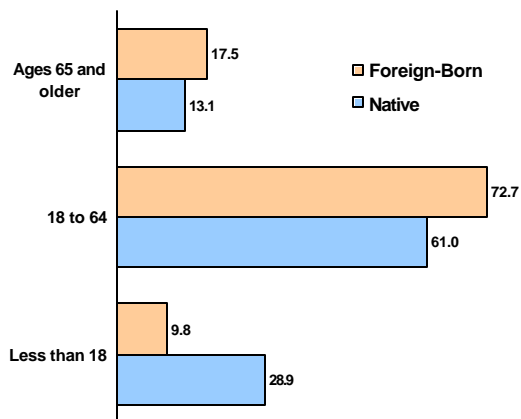
**Language**

According to the 2000 Census, one in four foreign born residents (ages 5 and older) speak *only English*. Nearly 34-percent speak some other Indo-European language (such as French, Russian, Farsi, Hindi, etc). Asian or Pacific Islander languages are the next most common (20.3%) followed by Spanish at 10.6-percent. The remaining 9.8 percent is classified by the Census as 'Other languages'.

English language ability is measured as speaking English 'very well', 'well', 'not very well' and 'not at all.' English language ability varies across country of origin—for example, well over three-quarters of the foreign-born in Ohio who speak an Asian language speak English very well or well. Among those who speak Spanish, 62-percent speak English very well or well.

Linguistic isolation is defined by the Census Bureau as a household in which all members ages 14 and older have at least some difficulty with English. **There were over 55 thousand households in Ohio that were identified as linguistically isolated.** Of those households, almost half were identified as speaking an Indo-European language. However, the rate of isolation *within* language group is the highest for Asian and Pacific Islander households (27.4%) and lowest for Spanish households (10.4%).

**FIGURE 4: OHIO POPULATION BY NATIVITY AND AGE GROUP, PERCENT DISTRIBUTION: 2000**



Source: US Census Bureau 1-percent PUMS file, Ohio.

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