

ONE IN 10 FOREIGN-BORN, NEW FIGURES ESTIMATE

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Body

America's foreign-born population swelled to more than 28.3 million last year, with the majority arriving from Latin America and Asia, new Census Bureau estimates being released today show.

The number of foreign-born residents in America was up from 26.4 million in 1999, the report said. About 1 of every 10 people in America last year was born outside the country.

The estimates to be released today were based on an annual survey taken in March by the statistical agency, and were not results from Census 2000. Official Census 2000 numbers on foreign-born residents could be released within a year.

A separate survey released Tuesday by the Center for Immigration Studies, based on census figures, found that while the biggest immigrant populations were in California, New York and Florida, states with fast-growing populations overall like Colorado, North Carolina and Nevada each experienced jumps of more than 180 percent since 1990.

The percentage of immigrants among Americans has increased steadily since 1970, from 4.7 percent to 10.4 percent in 2000, according to the center, a Washington-based think tank that supports stricter controls on immigration.

Mark Mather, an analyst with the Population Reference Bureau, a non-profit Washington research group, said that states along the coasts and with big urban centers continue to attract the most newcomers to America.

But, "the foreign-born population is increasing everywhere," Mather said. "They are moving out of the coastal areas, but it's a slow process."

About 37 percent of foreign-born residents were naturalized citizens, the Census Bureau said in its report.

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ONE IN 10 FOREIGN-BORN, NEW FIGURES ESTIMATE

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