



GLOBAL ILLINOIS



Illinois is a major center of international commerce and migration

Illinois' economy, world-class universities and cultural institutions make it an attractive destination for businesses and persons from around the world. Illinois is the home base for multi-national corporations and their employees, for immigrants and for international students.

- Illinois is home to almost 1.9 million immigrants.
- More than 1.0 million non-immigrants come to Illinois each year, including 873,000 tourists and business travelers; 73,000 temporary workers and their families, and 62,000 foreign students and exchange visitors.¹



International trade and investment is critical to Illinois economy

Illinois businesses are highly dependent on international movement of goods, services and people across borders.²

- Since 2009, Illinois exports have increased by \$24.2 billion, or 58%, outperforming the national average of 50%.
- In 2013, products from Illinois were sent to 215 countries.
- Top countries for Illinois' exports are Canada, Mexico, China, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Japan, United Kingdom, Belgium, and France.
- Direct exports accounted for nearly 10% of the Gross State Product (GSP) in 2013.
- In 2011, over one-quarter (26.9%) of all manufacturing workers in Illinois depended on exports for their jobs.
- 1,700 foreign-owned firms are based in Illinois employing more than 270,000 people in Illinois.
- The top 15 Illinois-owned corporations with multi-national business employ over 477,100 employees abroad. They include McDonald's, Caterpillar, Mondelez, Illinois Tool Works and Abbott Laboratories.
- Chicago is the commercial capital of the U.S., with two of the top international exchanges (Chicago Board of Trade and Chicago Board Options Exchange).
- O'Hare is among the world's busiest airports, handling over 3,100 flights per day to 68 international business capitals.

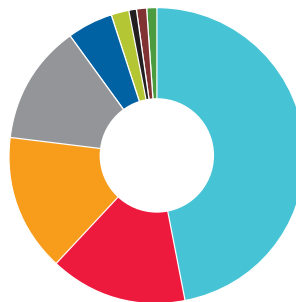


Illinois residents come from many places in the world

Illinois has a rich legacy of international migration. Almost all Illinois residents can trace their roots to another country or continent.

ANCESTRIES OF ILLINOISANS

- 47% Specific European Ancestries
- 15% Latin American
- 15% Other Categories or Not Reported
- 13% African-American
- 5% Asian
- 2% White/Caucasian
- 1% Native American
- 1% Middle Eastern/North African
- 1% Specific African Ancestries (except North African)



FIVE LARGEST ANCESTRY GROUPS OF ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

German	1,781,564
African-American/Afro-American	1,646,428
Mexican	1,320,652
Irish	1,005,916
Polish	707,162

Source: American Community Survey, 2008–2012



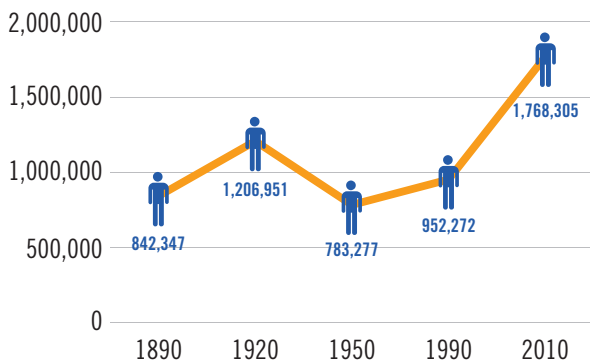
Illinois continues to attract immigrants

Illinois is known as a welcoming state for immigrants and refugees. While other states explore strategies to attract immigrants, Illinois continues to attract new arrivals.

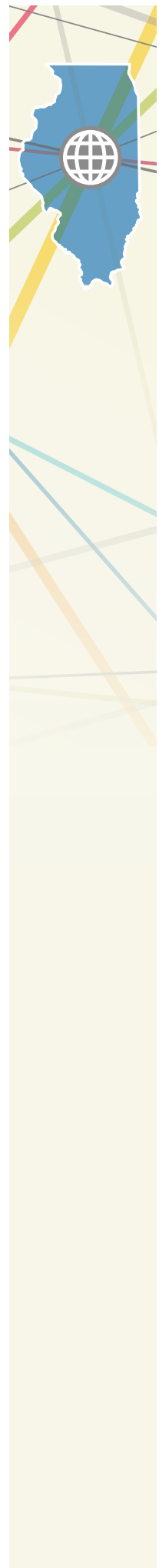
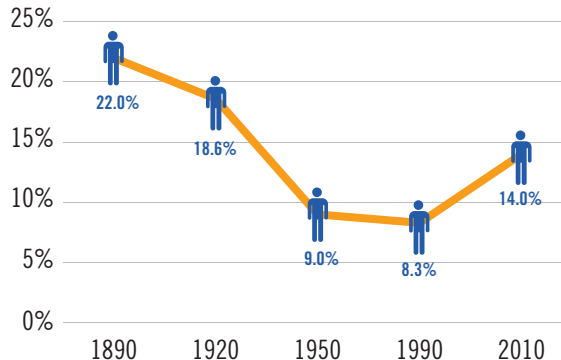
Immigrants come to Illinois to find and create job opportunities, to reunite with families and to establish diverse communities adding to the social and cultural vibrancy of the state. Illinois leads the country in providing innovative programs to expedite Illinois immigrants' integration through English language training, citizenship preparation and civic engagement. Obtaining English language skills and participating fully in civic life are the rites of passage for all immigrants.

- Immigrants accounted for 58 percent of all population growth in Illinois between 2000 and 2010.³ Without the arrivals of immigrants and refugees, Illinois would experience a significantly lower population growth.
- While Chicago has historically been a point of entry for newcomers, immigrants are now settling throughout the state. Immigrants comprise a larger percentage of the population in Chicago's suburbs than in the city itself, and Illinois' rural areas experienced a 316% growth in their immigrant population between 2000 and 2010.⁴
- The majority of Illinois immigrants are legal residents. Out of 1.9 million immigrants living in Illinois, 800,000 have become naturalized U.S. citizens. Another 550,000 legal permanent residents are eligible to become naturalized once the conditions are met, including having a minimum of five years of residency.
- Among the 540,000 undocumented residents living in Illinois, some came as students or visitors with expired visas, and some joined families while waiting for adjustment in their immigration status.
- While Illinois has a record number of immigrants, the foreign-born percent of Illinois population is low from a historical perspective.⁵

FOREIGN-BORN PERSONS IN ILLINOIS



FOREIGN-BORN PERCENT OF ILLINOIS POPULATION





Illinois immigrants make substantial economic contributions

While immigrants represent less than 15% of the state population, their economic contribution is significant. Immigrant labor force participation at 77% is greater than that of the native-born population, which is 75.9%

- The percentage of foreign-born workers in Illinois is roughly two to three times larger than in other Midwest states, and is growing faster than the native-born workforce.⁶
- Immigrants are 20.3 percent of business owners in Illinois, and have a share of 35.2 percent of new businesses.⁷
- Immigrants play a key role in filling labor force needs in Illinois.⁸
 - > 36% of electrical equipment assemblers
 - > 33% of physicians
 - > 28% of construction laborers
 - > 25% of mechanical engineers
 - > 20% of computer scientists
- Illinois' agricultural industry employs a significant number of migrant farm workers.



Illinois upholds humanitarian values by welcoming refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking and other persons in need

Annually, a small number of individuals fleeing persecution, conflicts and violence seek refuge in Illinois. Illinois leads the nation in its highly effective adjustment and employment programs to help refugees and asylees to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.

- Over the last 34 years, Illinois resettled 138,000 refugees from 66 countries around the globe.
- On average, 371 asylees settle in Illinois each year.

Notes

1. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2. Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville International Trade Center, Illinois Facts and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Illinois In the International Market Place fact sheet
3. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
4. Source: U.S. Census data - See Geographic Distribution of Foreign Born
5. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
6. Source: U.S. Census data - See Labor Force Data
7. August 2012, The Partnership for a New American Economy Open for Business: How Immigrants Are Driving Small Business Creation in the United States
8. Source: American Community Survey, 2008-2012

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our many thanks to The Chicago Council on Global Affairs for contributing to the development of this report. Rob Paral and Associates provided research and analysis in preparation of this report.

