

WORKING FOR A BETTER LIFE

FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE

Supplemental Release: A Profile of Immigrants in New York City Selected Countries of Origin

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Undocumented Immigrants in New York City Come from Around the World

	Estimated Number of undocumented immigrants	Percent of all undocumented immigrants
Europe	45,000	8%
Poland/Eastern Europe	25,000	4%
Former USSR	10,000	2%
Other Europe	15,000	2%
South & East Asia	125,000	23%
China+	45,000	8%
India	20,000	4%
Korea	20,000	4%
Philippines	5,000	1%
Pakistan	20,000	4%
Other Asia	10,000	2%
Middle East	10,000	2%
Canada/North Amer.	(z)	(z)
Mexico	110,000	21%
Central America	30,000	6%
Caribbean	120,000	22%
Dominican Republic	45,000	9%
Jamaica	20,000	4%
Trinidad & Tobago	20,000	4%
Guyana	20,000	4%
Caribbean	15,000	2%
South America	70,000	13%
Ecuador	35,000	7%
Colombia	10,000	2%
South America	20,000	4%
Africa & Other	30,000	5%
Total	535,000	100%

Supplemental Figure 1.

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Note: Rounded to nearest 5,000; all figures rounded independently; proportions computed from unrounded figures, so total for region may not match total for countries in that region.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations, for Fiscal Policy Institute. Average of estimates from March Supplements to the Current Population Survey for 2000-2006. Augmented with legal status assignments and adjusted for omissions. Note, (z) rounds to zero or complementary suppression. "Former USSR" includes central Asian republics when possible. China includes Hong Kong and Taiwan. Middle East includes Asian countries west of and including Iran, south of and including Turkey plus Cyprus and North Africa.

Methodology for estimate of undocumented residents and workers in New York City

Estimates of undocumented immigrants in New York City were performed for Fiscal Policy Institute by Jeffrey S. Passel. Working with his colleagues at the Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute. Overall, Passel estimates that there are 535,000 undocumented immigrants in New York City, a figure that is broadly consistent with the New York City Department of City Planning estimate of about half a million. The undocumented labor force is comprised of an estimated 374,000 undocumented workers, or ten percent of the New York City labor force.

Statewide, undocumented residents are estimated to make up 16 percent of all immigrants.

One important consideration regarding Passel's estimates is that they include a number of people who are waiting for a ruling on their status. Nationally, this may be on the order of 10 percent of Passel's estimate of undocumented immigrants. Among these are people in the final stages of receiving legal permanent residency, such as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. The estimate also includes as undocumented people who have been granted temporary protected status. And, it includes people who have applied for asylum but have not had their cases adjudicated, where typically a smaller percentage ultimately are granted legal status.

Top Three Occupations for Immigrants from Select Countries and Regions of Birth, New York City

	Number of Immigrants in occupation	Percentage of Immigrants from country/region occupation
Bangladesh and Pakistan		
Sales and related	13,100	26%
Transportation and material moving	9,400	18%
Service	9,400	18%
Central America		
Service	29,600	32%
Professional and related	14,200	15%
Construction	11,900	13%
China		
Service	34,700	24%
Production	24,800	17%
Professional and related	20,100	14%
Columbia		
Service	16,600	29%
Office and administrative support	7,900	14%
Professional and related	7,400	13%
Dominican Republic		
Service	91,300	38%
Production	26,400	11%
Office and administrative support	23,700	10%
Ecquador		
Service	21,500	22%
Production	16,500	17%
Construction	13,200	14%
Guyana		
Service	27,300	25%
Office and administrative support	22,700	21%
Professional and related	15,000	14%
Haiti		
Service	24,800	37%
Professional and related	12,300	18%
Transportation and material moving	15,000	13%
India		
Professional and related	17,700	28%
Sales and related	10,000	16%
Management, business and finance	8,600	14%
Jamaica		
Service	46,800	43%
Construction	17,200	16%
Production	12,900	12%

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	Number of Immigrants in occupation	Percentage of Immigrants from country/region occupation
Korea		
Professional and related	11,800	22%
Sales and related	11,400	22%
Management, business and finance	10,300	19%
Mexico		
Service	46,800	43%
Construction	17,200	16%
Production	12,900	12%
Poland, Russia, and Ukraine		
Professional and related	32,600	26%
Service	22,100	18%
Management, business and finance	15,900	13%
Poland		
Construction	8,400	24%
Service	7,600	21%
(other occupations are below 5,000)		
Russia		
Professional and related	13,500	29%
Service	8,300	18%
Sales	7,000	15%
Trinidad and Tobago		
Service	20,500	30%
Office	13,500	20%
Professional and related	9,500	14%

Supplemental figure 2.

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Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of 2005 American Community Survey microdata. Service is a very broad occupational category that includes occupations such as cooks, food servers, medical assistants, building cleaning workers, childcare workers, and flight attendants, to give just a few examples.

Occupations of all workers New York City

	Number of workers	percent of all workers
Management, business, and financial occupations	563,400	12%
Professional and related occupations	999,600	22%
Service occupations	936,700	21%
Sales and related occupations	512,000	11%
Office and administrative support occupations	690,100	15%
Construction and extraction occupations	216,000	5%
Installation, maintenance and repair occupations	99,800	2%
Production occupations	196,200	4%
Transportation and material moving occupations	244,600	5%
Not in the labor force	64,500	1%
Total	4,528,000	100%

Supplemental figure 3.

Fiscal Policy Institute, Working for a Better Life

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of 2005 American Community Survey microdata.

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