

# **Involuntary and Voluntary Migrant Estimates**

## **By Rachel Cassidy\***

Reliable and thorough information on the foreign-born population in the U.S. are crucial to evaluating the impact of immigration, providing needed services to immigrants, and developing immigration policy. An immigrant's legal status determines what rights and privileges are available to him/her, and most immigration policies apply to specific legal status groups. While the decennial census and other surveys collect useful information on the foreign-born population in the U.S., including citizenship status, country of birth, and year of entry, they do not provide information about the legal status of migrants. The former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and part of the Department of Homeland Security, collects data on immigrants at the time of their arrival in the U.S., adjustment of legal status, or other administrative event, but not on the foreign-born population in the U.S. at a specific point in time. The legal status of the foreign-born population living in the U.S. therefore must be estimated indirectly using available survey and administrative data.

The goal of the Assignment by Migrant Status project, part of the U.S. Census Bureau's "Size, Characteristics, and Impact of Migration" contract, is to use an alternative approach to produce estimates of different types, or legal statuses, of migrants, such as lawful permanent residents (LPRs), refugees, and unauthorized migrants. The estimates will be produced using algorithms to assign likely migrant statuses to the foreign-born population in Census 2000 and the American Community Survey (ACS), based on available characteristics like year of entry, educational attainment, occupation, and country of birth; the characteristics used will be based on immigration law, data from administrative sources and surveys, and other research. These estimates could be replicated annually with surveys like the ACS and could be easily updated to reflect changes in immigration law and events. These qualities may make them suitable for future use in the Census Bureau's population estimates program, which currently uses a variety of data sets to estimate migrant groups, and does not separately estimate some groups at all.

This paper presents estimates of involuntary and voluntary migrants in the U.S. in Census 2000 and describes the methodology used to identify these two groups within the foreign-born population. These are the first migrant groups to be estimated for this project, and they are a reasonable starting point for two main reasons. First, all foreign-born people can be classified as either involuntary or voluntary migrants, and the criteria used to identify these two groups are relatively simple, so these estimates easily provide at least some more detailed information about the foreign-born population than is currently available from administrative or survey data. This information could help provide a better understanding of international migration, by approaching it from a different perspective than usual. Second, sorting out the foreign-born population into involuntary and voluntary migrants should make it easier to classify it into more detailed migrant status groups with future algorithms.

Estimates of involuntary and voluntary migrants are not commonly produced, so this approach is relatively unique. The idea of estimating all involuntary and voluntary migrants, regardless of their actual legal status, is not a common one, and these estimates have not previously been produced by the

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Census Bureau. If this approach is successful, it could provide some valuable insight into immigration to the U.S.

## **Definitions**

Involuntary and voluntary migrants represent a dichotomy of international migration; all foreign-born people can be classified as either involuntary or voluntary migrants. *Involuntary migrants* are defined for this project as any foreign-born people who have migrated to the U.S. because they have been displaced from their home country, have an established or well-founded fear of persecution, or have been moved by deception or coercion. *Voluntary migrants*, sometimes also referred to as “economic migrants,” include all other international migrants who have moved as a result of their own desires and motivations (Hansen 2003).<sup>1</sup> The main difference, then, between voluntary and involuntary migrants is the reason they decided to leave their home country. Unfortunately, classifying people into these categories is not always easy; by definition, migration usually involves some kind of voluntary decision on the part of the migrant, despite the original motivation for the move. On the other hand, many “voluntary migrants” move because they are seeking better economic and social conditions than are available in their home country; while they might not be displaced by war or famine, one could argue that they are forced to move because of circumstances that are beyond their control.

The categories of involuntary and voluntary migrants represent a broad classification of the foreign-born population. Once an international migrant is identified as either an involuntary or voluntary migrant, they can then be classified as either a U.S. citizen or non-U.S. citizen, and non-citizens can be further classified into more detailed migrant status groups, which will be assigned with future algorithms. Table 1 shows the different migrant status groups included in the involuntary and voluntary migrant categories. It should be noted that these different migrant categories and groups represent slightly different concepts: the classification of a person as a voluntary or involuntary migrant is based on the original circumstances of and motivation for their move to the U.S., while the more detailed migrant categories (e.g. humanitarian migrant, unauthorized migrant) indicate a person’s migrant status at the time of the census or survey.

Involuntary migrants include humanitarian migrants, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), and unauthorized migrants (see below for detailed definitions). The majority of involuntary migrants are probably humanitarian migrants, although some LPRs and unauthorized migrants are also included in this category. Voluntary migrants also include some humanitarian migrants, LPRs and unauthorized migrants, as well as temporary migrants. Although some temporary migrants might theoretically be involuntary migrants, for this project all temporary migrants are assumed to be voluntary migrants. The basic framework of the more detailed migrant status groups are based on the 1998 United Nations Statistics Division report, entitled “Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1.” The concept of involuntary or voluntary migrants is not included in the U.N. recommendations, although international researchers and organizations do frequently use the term “forced migrants.” However, references to forced migrants often only include refugees and asylees; the category of involuntary migrants has been expanded here to also include some LPRs and unauthorized migrants.

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<sup>1</sup> For this project, an international migrant is defined as any person who changes his or her country of usual residence to the United States for a period of at least two months. A person’s country of usual residence is defined as “the country in which a person lives, that is to say, the country in which he or she has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest” (United Nations 1998).

*Humanitarian migrants* are individuals who are admitted into or allowed to remain in the U.S. based on the fact that they are unwilling (because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution) or

**Table 1. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrant Categories**

<p><b>Involuntary Migrants:</b></p> <p>Naturalized U.S. Citizens</p> <p>Non-U.S. Citizens:</p> <p>    Humanitarian Migrants:</p> <p>        Refugees</p> <p>        Asylees and asylum-seekers</p> <p>        People granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS)</p> <p>        Parolees</p> <p>    Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs):</p> <p>        Employment-based</p> <p>        Family-sponsored</p> <p>        Unauthorized migrants allowed to become LPRs under special provisions</p> <p>        International adoptions</p> <p>        Other LPRs (refugee adjustees, parolee adjustees, some country-specific adjustees, some Diversity program LPRs, etc.)</p> <p>    Unauthorized Migrants</p> <p>        (includes people who enter the U.S. illegally to escape persecution, asylees who become ineligible to retain their status, etc.)</p> <p><b>Voluntary Migrants:</b></p> <p>Naturalized U.S. Citizens</p> <p>Non-U.S. Citizens:</p> <p>    Humanitarian Migrants:</p> <p>        People granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS)</p> <p>    Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs):</p> <p>        Employment-based</p> <p>        Family-sponsored</p> <p>        Unauthorized migrants allowed to become LPRs under special provisions</p> <p>        International adoptions</p> <p>        Other LPRs (some Diversity program LPRs, some country-specific adjustees, etc.)</p> <p>    Temporary Migrants (Nonimmigrants):</p> <p>        Students</p> <p>        Scholars and trainees</p> <p>        Temporary workers</p> <p>        International organization employees</p> <p>        North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) workers</p> <p>        Diplomats</p> <p>    Unauthorized Migrants</p> <p>        (includes people who enter the U.S. illegally, who violate the terms of their legal admissions, etc.)</p>
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unable to return to their home country. This category includes refugees, asylees and asylum-seekers, people granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and some parolees.

An international definition of refugee was established by the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol to be “a person outside of his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” This definition was formally incorporated into U.S. law with the Refugee Act of 1980. In the U.S., a Presidential Determination may also allow refugees of certain countries (currently Vietnam, Cuba, and the former Soviet Union) to be processed while they are still in their home countries. The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act and the Refugee Act of 1980 further distinguish between refugees, who are outside of the U.S. when they apply for refugee status, and asylees, who meet the same criteria as refugees but are already in the U.S. when they apply for asylum (see below). Refugees are eligible to adjust to LPR status (see below) after one year. Refugees are the largest humanitarian migrant group: in 2000, 72,143 refugees arrived in the U.S., of which more than half were from Europe (USDHS 2003).

Asylees are people who meet the same criteria as refugees, but are already in the U.S. or at a port of entry when they apply for asylum. Like refugees, asylees are eligible to adjust to LPR status after one year. There were 31,538 people granted asylum in the U.S. in 2000 (USDHS 2003; USEOIR 2004). Asylum-seekers in the U.S. are people who have filed an application for asylum, but have not yet had their cases decided. Not all asylum-seekers have valid claims, so not all will be granted asylum, but for this project they are all included as humanitarian migrants. Asylum-seekers whose requests for asylum have been denied return to their previous migrant status, which in most cases is as an unauthorized migrant.

Unlike refugees and asylees, people granted temporary protected status and parolees are only admitted to the U.S. on a temporary basis. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was established by the Immigration Act of 1990 to be granted to non-U.S. citizens in the U.S. who “are temporarily unable to return to their homeland because of ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions” (USCIS 2003). The U.S. Attorney General designates TPS to eligible individuals from certain countries for a specific period of time. People who register for TPS are not required to leave the U.S., regardless of their prior migration status, and may obtain work authorization. Once TPS has expired for a particular country, all foreigners who were formerly protected return to the same migrant status they had before TPS or acquired while registered for TPS. TPS currently affects approximately 130,000 people from nine countries.<sup>2</sup>

TPS represent a unique category of humanitarian migrants, because people under TPS were not necessarily involuntary migrants when they first migrated to the U.S. For example, El Salvador, Honduras, and Montserrat are designated under TPS because of natural disasters that occurred and made it unsafe for its citizens to return. However, people from those countries most likely would have been considered voluntary migrants at the time they came to the U.S., before the natural disasters occurred. Therefore some of the people granted TPS are actually voluntary migrants, and they are the only type of humanitarian migrant included in the voluntary migrant category.

The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) includes a provision for parolees to be granted permission for a temporary stay in the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. There are several categories of parolees, however those included here in the humanitarian migrant category are individuals granted parole in the U.S. as part of an overseas program. Most

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<sup>2</sup> The countries currently under TPS include Burundi, El Salvador, Honduras, Liberia, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Somalia, and Sudan. El Salvador’s first TPS designation expired in 1992, and then a second unrelated TPS was designated in 2001, which is still in effect.

overseas parolees arrive in the U.S. under special legislation or international migration agreements, where they are granted parole overseas after their refugee applications have been denied, and are allowed to become LPRs after one year (USCIS 2000). Most of them come from Cuba, the former Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Port-of-entry, advance, deferred inspection, humanitarian, and public interest parolees will not be included in this project's estimates of international migrants, because most of them are only in parole status for short periods of time before they leave the country or change their migration status.

*Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)* are individuals who are legally admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence. Non-citizens can become LPRs either by receiving an immigrant visa while outside of the U.S. and then entering the country, or by adjusting to LPR status from another migrant status after they are already in the country. LPRs are authorized to work in the U.S. and may become U.S. citizens generally after 5 years. They can be either involuntary or voluntary migrants, depending on the circumstances of their migration. In 2000, the U.S. admitted 849,807 LPRs, about half of which were new arrivals (USDHS 2003).

*Temporary migrants*, also sometimes called “nonimmigrants,” are people lawfully admitted to the U.S. for a specific purpose and time, but not for permanent residence (USDHS 2003). This category includes foreign students, trainees, and temporary workers who are usual residents of the U.S.; it does not include people who are in the U.S. temporarily but are not usual residents, such as tourists or business travelers. As mentioned earlier, all temporary migrants are assumed to be voluntary migrants for this project, although in theory some could be involuntary migrants.

*Unauthorized migrants* include any international migrants who are illegally present in the U.S., either as a result of unlawful entries into the country or violations of the terms of their legal admissions. An unauthorized migrant can be either an involuntary or voluntary migrant. Involuntary unauthorized migrants could include people such as those who entered the U.S. illegally to escape persecution in their home country, indentured workers who are smuggled into the country, or asylees who commit crimes that make them ineligible to retain asylum status.

## **Methodology**

The identification of involuntary and voluntary migrants is difficult because, as mentioned earlier, these categories refer to the motivation of migrants, and not their current migrant status. Some variables, such as year of entry, household relationship, occupation, and educational attainment, can be used to help identify people who are likely currently in a specific migrant status group. But a person's intentions or motivations are not measured directly with the decennial census or the ACS, so other available variables must be used as a proxy for the original circumstances of a person's migration. Of course, using proxy data to classify migrants relies on the assumption that the proxy data is correct, and therefore can be problematic if there are quality issues with these data. For example, if data on year of entry are not accurately measuring when people first came to live in the U.S., then using that variable to identify types of migrants could result in misclassifying some people. Fortunately, the algorithms created during this project can be updated and revised if data quality issues arise that could affect the results.

As mentioned earlier, the majority of involuntary migrants are probably humanitarian migrants; many of these people who are displaced by war or escaping persecution in their home country can and will be granted admission to the U.S. as refugees, asylees, or other humanitarian migrants. And since almost all humanitarian migrants are involuntary migrants, they likely accurately represent involuntary

migrants. Based on this assumption, the population of involuntary migrants was estimated using the proportion of humanitarian migrants coming from each country and year of entry.

Information about humanitarian migrants came from administrative data on refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian migrants who adjusted to LPR status, as well as some administrative data on refugee and asylee arrivals.<sup>3</sup> The Census Bureau produced a special tabulation from the immigration file of USCIS (and INS) of total LPRs (new arrivals and adjustees) and LPR adjustees by last nonimmigrant status, by year of last nonimmigrant arrival, from 1971 to 2002. Because these data only include people who have entered as or adjusted to LPRs, and many of the humanitarian migrants who have recently entered the U.S. have not yet adjusted to LPR status, the number of humanitarian migrant adjustees in recent years tapers off. To compensate for this, published USCIS data on refugee arrivals and asylee admissions were used instead of LPR adjustees for 1998 through 2000, although total LPRs were still used from the microdata file. For years 1946 to 1970, published USCIS data on total immigration and refugees and asylees granted LPR status, by year of LPR admission, were used. Data prior to 1946 were not available, so it was not possible to identify involuntary migrants during these years.

For 1946 to 1997, the proportion of total LPRs who were adjusting from refugee, asylee, or other humanitarian migrant status was calculated for each year and country of birth. For 1998 to 2000, the proportion of total LPRs (excluding humanitarian adjustees), refugee arrivals, and asylee admissions that were refugees and asylees was calculated. These proportions were used as a “probability” of a foreign-born person being an involuntary migrant. Larger proportions of humanitarian migrants indicate a greater likelihood that people coming from those countries during those years were involuntary migrants; smaller proportions indicate less likelihood that people were involuntary migrants. The probabilities were then assigned to foreign-born people in Census 2000 based on their country of birth and year of entry, and they were multiplied by their person weights to create a new “involuntary” weight. This involuntary weight was then used to produce an estimated count of involuntary migrants, which was used to indirectly estimate the number of voluntary migrants (by subtracting the involuntary migrant estimate from the estimate of total foreign born). This approach provides a more refined method of estimating involuntary and voluntary migrants than identifying only certain countries and years as “involuntary” or “voluntary,” because it allows for the fact that not all migrants from particular countries or time periods have the same motivations or experiences.

## **Results and Discussion**

Using the above methodology, there were **3,523,262** involuntary migrants and **27,210,764** voluntary migrants identified in Census 2000 (households only), representing 11.5 percent and 88.5 percent of the foreign-born population, respectively.<sup>4</sup> Some basic characteristics of involuntary and voluntary migrants are presented in Tables 2 through 8. Table 2 shows both categories of migrants by citizenship status. Interestingly, a larger proportion of involuntary migrants (53.2%) than voluntary migrants (38.7%) are naturalized citizens. Perhaps involuntary migrants are less likely to return to

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<sup>3</sup> The major categories included within “other humanitarian migrants” include Amerasians, Cuban and Haitian entrants, adjustees entering under the Chinese Student Protection Act, Lautenberg parolees (Soviets and Indochinese), and adjustees under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act.

<sup>4</sup> There are no other estimates of involuntary or voluntary migrants to compare these against; however, for reference and a rough benchmark, 3,492,894 refugees and asylees were granted LPR status between 1946 and 2000 (USDHS 2003, Table 23).

their home country, and are therefore more motivated to obtain U.S. citizenship than voluntary migrants.

Year of entry and place of birth, which are of course used to assign involuntary migrant probabilities, are shown in Tables 3 and 4. The distribution of involuntary migrants by year of entry is similar to that of voluntary migrants and the total foreign-born population. The largest shares of both categories entered the U.S. during the last decade, followed by the 1980s. Smaller proportions of involuntary and voluntary migrants entered before 1980, although a larger share of voluntary migrants entered during the 1970s than involuntary migrants (15.5% and 12.5%, respectively).

The same similarities, however, are not seen when comparing places of birth of involuntary and voluntary migrants. The largest share of involuntary migrants were born in Asia (43.2%), compared with 24.3% of voluntary migrants. More than half (51.5%) of voluntary migrants came from North and Central America and the Caribbean, while only about one-quarter of involuntary migrants are from that region. Involuntary migrants are more likely to be born in Europe (29.4%) than voluntary migrants (14.0%). Only 6.9% of voluntary migrants were born in South America, but this is still a larger proportion than the 0.6% of involuntary migrants. Both types of migrants have similarly small proportions from Africa and Oceania.

Voluntary and involuntary migrants have similar sex and age compositions (see Tables 5 and 6). Both are almost evenly divided between males and females, with approximately 49 percent male and 51 percent female. Both categories of migrants are concentrated in the younger working age groups, from about 25 to 44 years, while the smallest proportions are in the youngest and oldest age groups.

[NOTE: What ages were considered in the “youngest” and “oldest” age groups you used to make this comparison? Please specify.]

The race and Hispanic origin of involuntary and voluntary migrants are not as similar, due to the fact that country of birth is a determinant of migrant status (Table 7). The majority of both are non-Hispanic, although a greater proportion of involuntary migrants are non-Hispanic (77.3%) compared with voluntary migrants (51.4%). Involuntary migrants are comprised of a larger share of both non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Asians than voluntary migrants (36.0% and 35.4% compared with 21.7% and 21.3%).

Finally, Table 8 presents involuntary and voluntary migrants by region of residence in the U.S. Nearly equal proportions of involuntary migrants live in the South and West (33.1% and 31.3%, respectively), and together they account for almost two-thirds of that population. Among voluntary migrants, however, more live in the West (38.5%) than the South (27.2%). Both involuntary and voluntary migrants have about 23% living in the Northeast, and both have the smallest proportions in the Midwest.

Based on this examination of basic demographic characteristics, it appears that many similarities exist between involuntary and voluntary migrants, although other socioeconomic and detailed characteristics might show differences that are not apparent here. On the other hand, some of the differences seen help support the idea that the algorithm does in fact identify two distinct groups of migrants.

Of course, the estimates presented here have several limitations that must be addressed. The most obvious is the fact that they attempt to measure people’s motivations and circumstances at the time of their migration using only proxy data. While country of birth and year of entry can give clues about

situations that might have forced people to move, the actual reason that a particular person migrates to the U.S. cannot be determined from census data.

The second major limitation is with the variables themselves; year of entry is particularly problematic. The Census 2000 question asks “when did this person come to live in the United States?” and while this may appear straightforward, this is not an easy question to answer for many immigrants. For people who have come to the U.S. multiple times, or for multiple reasons, or who do not consider themselves to be “living” in the U.S., for example, their answers to this question may not reflect the same concepts as data users assume they do. This could especially pose problems for these estimates, because administrative data on year of arrival are compared with census data on year of entry, and those probably don’t actually agree in many cases. The USCIS data used here include year of *last* arrival for people adjusting to LPR status; not only does this exclude multiple entries or statuses of migrants, but this value was missing and imputed in many cases. The imputation and potential differences in concepts of year of entry affect the estimates of involuntary and voluntary migrants.

Other data issues could also affect these results. The published data used to determine involuntary countries for years 1946 to 1970 were tabulated by year of LPR admission instead of year of last nonimmigrant arrival, as were the data for 1971 to 2000. This difference could result in inaccurate designation of involuntary years of entry, especially for adjustees who entered the U.S. before their adjustment. In addition, due to lack of available data on humanitarian migrants entering before 1946, any involuntary migrants who did come to the U.S. before 1946 are excluded from the estimates of involuntary migrants.

Possible improvements to this methodology could be made to reduce the effects of some of these limitations. For example, year of last arrival for LPR adjustees could possibly be imputed for data from 1946 to 1970 to be more consistent with the data used for 1971 to 2000. Future work on algorithms to estimate the more detailed migrant status groups, especially humanitarian migrants, might also lead to other improvements to the methodology for estimating involuntary and voluntary migrants. However, the fact still remains that it is quite difficult to estimate an individual’s motivations for migration using census or other survey data.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the limitations to the estimates presented, they may still provide useful information about the foreign-born population and enable researchers to learn more about the characteristics and behaviors of migrants with different motivations for leaving their home countries. The methodology used to produce estimates of involuntary and voluntary migrants provides a relatively simple and easily updateable way to at least separate the foreign-born population into two more refined groups. This is especially useful when other information about migrant status is not available. Future work to develop estimates of more detailed migrant status groups can also proceed more easily with these estimates of the larger categories of involuntary and voluntary migrants. With some possible refinements of the methodology used to identify involuntary and voluntary migrants, these could become valuable estimates for use in migration research and population estimates production.

**Table 2. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Citizenship Status: 2000\***

Citizenship Status	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
Naturalized Citizen	12,401,919	40.4%	1,873,278	53.2%	10,528,641	38.7%
Not a Citizen	18,332,107	59.6%	1,649,984	46.8%	16,682,123	61.3%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 3. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Year of Entry: 2000\***

Year of Entry	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
Before 1940	381,150	1.2%	0	0.0%	381,150	1.4%
1940-1949	442,940	1.4%	54,675	1.6%	388,265	1.4%
1950-1959	1,357,932	4.4%	241,903	6.9%	1,116,029	4.1%
1960-1969	2,518,220	8.2%	242,064	6.9%	2,276,156	8.4%
1970-1979	4,650,658	15.1%	438,954	12.5%	4,211,704	15.5%
1980-1989	8,361,289	27.2%	1,134,926	32.2%	7,226,363	26.6%
1990-2000	13,021,837	42.4%	1,410,740	40.0%	11,611,098	42.7%
1990	1,344,551	4.4%	166,875	4.7%	1,177,676	4.3%
1991	981,075	3.2%	150,135	4.3%	830,940	3.1%
1992	1,076,540	3.5%	170,022	4.8%	906,518	3.3%
1993	1,011,634	3.3%	150,187	4.3%	861,447	3.2%
1994	1,132,419	3.7%	150,615	4.3%	981,805	3.6%
1995	1,344,513	4.4%	157,281	4.5%	1,187,232	4.4%
1996	1,145,992	3.7%	88,730	2.5%	1,057,262	3.9%
1997	1,198,862	3.9%	89,522	2.5%	1,109,340	4.1%
1998	1,426,901	4.6%	116,753	3.3%	1,310,148	4.8%
1999	1,813,970	5.9%	136,506	3.9%	1,677,464	6.2%
2000	545,380	1.8%	34,114	1.0%	511,266	1.9%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 4. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Place of Birth: 2000\***

Place of Birth	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
North and Central America and Caribbean	14,831,275	48.3%	827,939	23.5%	14,003,336	51.5%
South America	1,910,325	6.2%	22,305	0.6%	1,888,020	6.9%
Europe	4,835,301	15.7%	1,034,416	29.4%	3,800,885	14.0%
Asia	8,126,036	26.4%	1,521,873	43.2%	6,604,163	24.3%
Africa	866,214	2.8%	116,114	3.3%	750,099	2.8%
Oceania	164,595	0.5%	614	0.0%	163,981	0.6%
Born at Sea/Abroad	280	0.0%	0	0.0%	280	0.0%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 5. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Sex: 2000\***

Sex	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
Male	15,257,833	49.6%	1,736,877	49.3%	13,520,956	49.7%
Female	15,476,193	50.4%	1,786,385	50.7%	13,689,808	50.3%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 6. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Age: 2000\***

Age	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
0-4 years	398,163	1.3%	26,019	0.7%	372,144	1.4%
5-9 years	748,181	2.4%	66,628	1.9%	681,553	2.5%
10-14 years	1,139,116	3.7%	131,957	3.7%	1,007,159	3.7%
15-19 years	1,673,431	5.4%	174,151	4.9%	1,499,280	5.5%
20-24 years	2,627,016	8.5%	236,644	6.7%	2,390,372	8.8%
25-29 years	3,365,578	11.0%	335,438	9.5%	3,030,141	11.1%
30-34 years	3,559,932	11.6%	353,408	10.0%	3,206,524	11.8%
35-39 years	3,526,233	11.5%	385,368	10.9%	3,140,865	11.5%
40-44 years	3,104,769	10.1%	350,741	10.0%	2,754,028	10.1%
45-49 years	2,515,604	8.2%	303,994	8.6%	2,211,610	8.1%
50-54 years	2,047,304	6.7%	254,247	7.2%	1,793,057	6.6%
55-59 years	1,495,333	4.9%	182,440	5.2%	1,312,893	4.8%
60-64 years	1,276,290	4.2%	190,793	5.4%	1,085,497	4.0%
65-69 years	1,014,107	3.3%	161,107	4.6%	853,000	3.1%
70-74 years	863,527	2.8%	152,806	4.3%	710,720	2.6%
75-79 years	658,919	2.1%	114,364	3.2%	544,555	2.0%
80-84 years	358,288	1.2%	57,095	1.6%	301,193	1.1%
85+ years	362,235	1.2%	46,062	1.3%	316,173	1.2%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 7. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000\***

Race and Hispanic Origin	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
Hispanic	14,031,788	45.7%	799,731	22.7%	13,232,057	48.6%
Non-Hispanic	16,702,238	54.3%	2,723,531	77.3%	13,978,707	51.4%
White	7,168,719	23.3%	1,268,733	36.0%	5,899,987	21.7%
Black	2,080,879	6.8%	158,368	4.5%	1,922,511	7.1%
AIAN	31,579	0.1%	969	0.0%	30,610	0.1%
Asian	7,046,131	22.9%	1,248,690	35.4%	5,797,441	21.3%
NHPI	72,090	0.2%	1,642	0.0%	70,448	0.3%
Two or more races	302,840	1.0%	45,130	1.3%	257,710	0.9%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

**Table 8. Involuntary and Voluntary Migrants in U.S. by Region of Residence: 2000\***

Region	Total Foreign-Born		Involuntary Migrants		Voluntary Migrants	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	30,734,026	100.0%	3,523,262	100.0%	27,210,764	100.0%
West	11,646,434	37.9%	1,164,536	33.1%	10,481,897	38.5%
Midwest	3,454,755	11.2%	474,426	13.5%	2,980,329	11.0%
South	8,505,738	27.7%	1,101,952	31.3%	7,403,786	27.2%
Northeast	7,127,099	23.2%	782,347	22.2%	6,344,752	23.3%

Source: Census 2000 internal SEDF file

\* Household population only.

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