

Immigration statistics



05/15/2008

- A legal permanent resident or "green card" recipient is defined by immigration law as a person who has been granted lawful permanent residence in the United States. LPRs may live and work permanently anywhere in the United States, own property and attend public schools, colleges and universities. They also may join certain branches of the Armed Forces and apply to become a U.S. citizen.
- In 2007, a total of 1,052,415 people became LPRs of the United States.
- The majority those who became LPRs in 2007 (59 percent) already lived in the United States.
- Of those granted legal permanent residence in 2007, two-thirds were granted permanent residence based on a family relationship with a U.S. citizen or LPR.
- The leading countries of birth of new LPRs were Mexico (14 percent), China (7 percent) and the Philippines (7 percent).
- In 2007, 86,151 spouses and children of alien residents were admitted as LPRs, down from 112,051 in 2006.
- Legal immigration decreased 17 percent from 1,266,129 in 2006 to 1,052,415 in 2007 primarily due to application processing issues at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- The Department of Homeland Security estimates the unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. increased 37 percent from nearly 8.5 million on Jan. 1, 2000, to 11.6 million on Jan. 1, 2006.
- Mexico continues to be the leading source of unauthorized immigration to the U.S. The estimated unauthorized immigrant population from Mexico increased from 4.7 million in 2000 to 6.6 million in January 2006.

Source: Department of Homeland Security