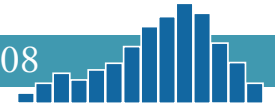


Stat Chat

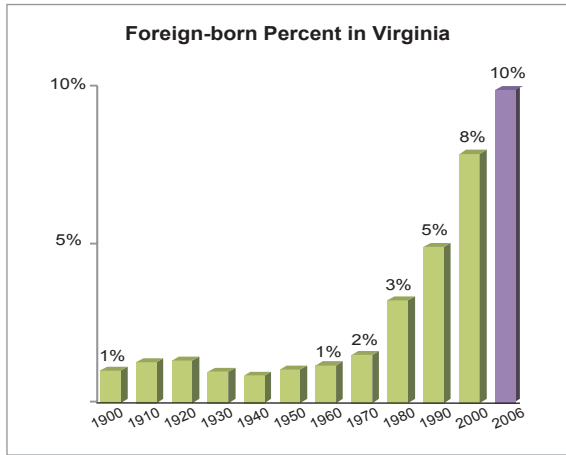
Virginia's Foreign-born Population

July 2008

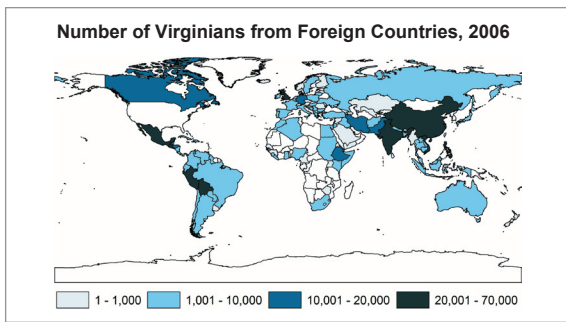


VIRGINIA'S POPULATION is becoming increasingly diverse. International immigrants comprise one quarter of the Commonwealth's recent population growth.

Until 1970, one in every 100 Virginians was born outside the United States. In 2006, one in every 10 Virginians was foreign-born.

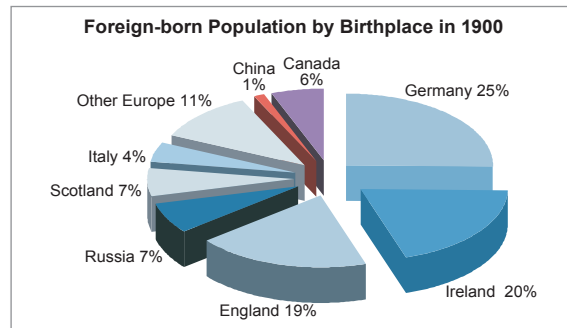


The top 5 birth countries for foreign-born Virginians are: El Salvador, Mexico, Korea, Philippines, and India.

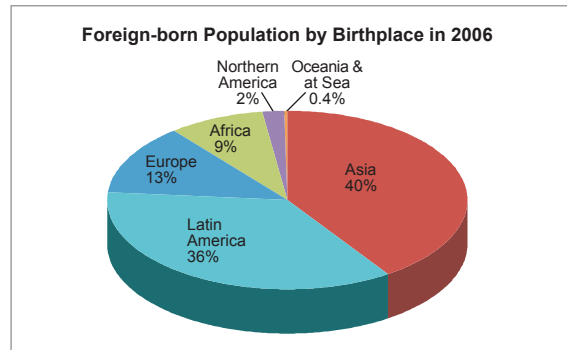


Foreign-born Population by Birthplace: Then and Now

In 1900, more than 90 percent of Virginia's foreign-born were from Europe. Few, if any, were from Latin America and virtually all of the Asian foreign-born were from China.



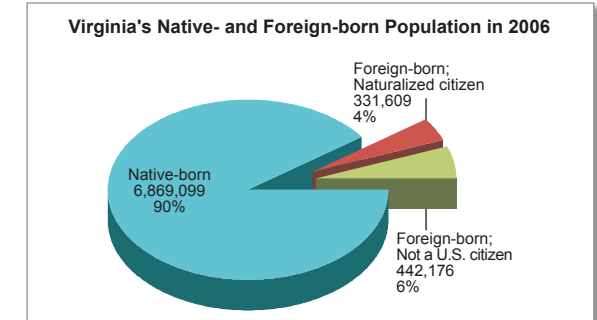
Today immigrants move to Virginia from all over the world. In 2006, three-quarters of the foreign-born population in Virginia was from Asia or Latin America. Additionally, Europeans made up 13 percent of Virginia's foreign-born population, and 9 percent of foreign-born Virginians immigrated from Africa.



Demographic Characteristics

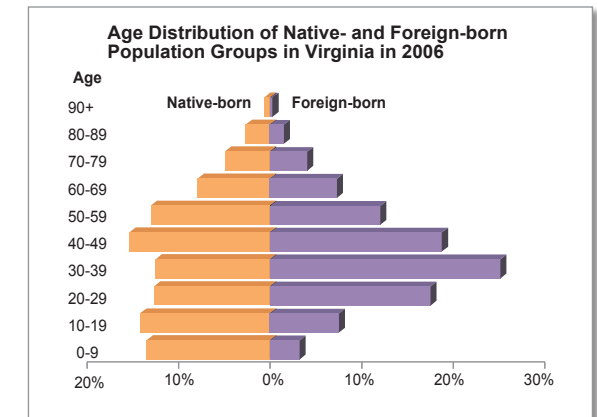
Citizenship

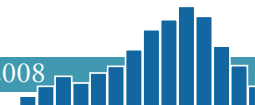
In 2006, almost 43 percent of Virginia's foreign-born residents were naturalized citizens. They represented 4 percent of Virginia's total population; foreign-born non-citizens represented 6 percent.



Age

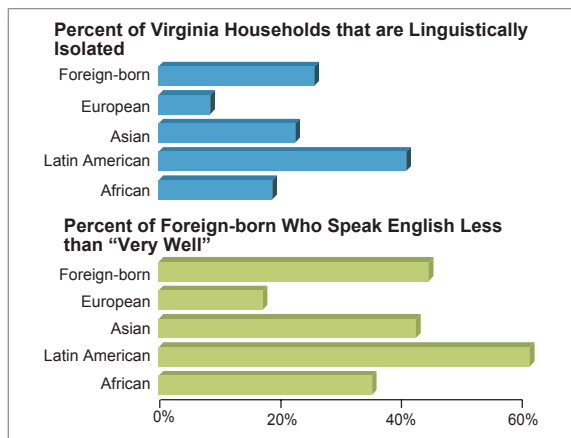
Overall, the foreign-born population is slightly older. A little over half of the native-born and almost three-quarters of the foreign-born are of working-age (25 – 64 years). A quarter of the native-born and 9 percent of the foreign-born are under 18 years of age. The median age of native- and foreign-born is 36.8 and 37.9, respectively.





Language

Over a quarter of foreign-born households are linguistically isolated – that is, all adults have some limitation communicating in English; almost half of all immigrants speak English less than “Very Well.”



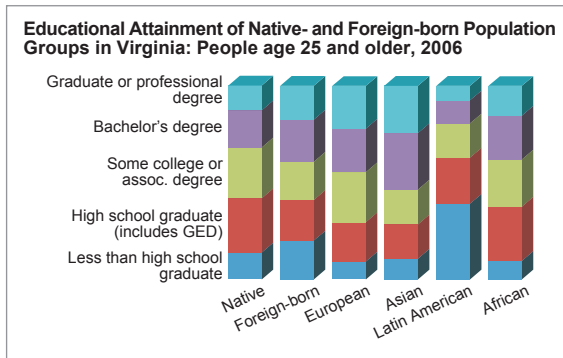
Latin American immigrants experience more language barriers than other foreign-born Virginians. Forty-one percent of their households are linguistically isolated, and over 60 percent of all foreign-born Latin Americans speak English less than “Very Well.” English language proficiency tends to improve with more years living in the United States. Since Latin American-born Virginians are more likely to be recent arrivals, their language proficiency will likely improve over time.

Educational Attainment

For Virginia’s population age 25 and over:

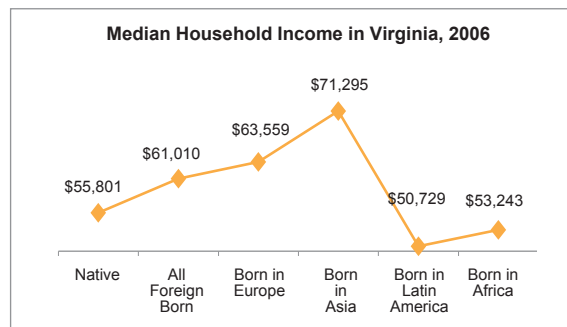
- 86 percent of the native-born and 80 percent of the foreign-born have at least a high school diploma or equivalent.
- 58 percent of the native-born and 59 percent of the foreign-born have at least some college education.

- 19 percent of the native-born have a bachelor’s degree, and 13 percent have a graduate or professional degree, compared to almost 22 percent and 17 percent, respectively, of the foreign born.
- Asians immigrants are the most educated of all the groups shown, and Latin American immigrants are far less educated than any other immigrant group.



Income

Households headed by a foreign-born person have a higher median household income than their native-born counterparts. Immigrants born in Europe and Asia are doing better than any other groups, including natives. Those from Latin America fare the worst. Additionally, naturalized citizens have a median household income that is \$21,000 higher than the median household income of non-citizens.



Poverty

One in ten Virginians lives in poverty, whether native-born or foreign-born. Foreign-born Virginians with U.S. citizenship status have significantly better economic standing.

- 5 percent of naturalized citizens live below the poverty level.
- 14 percent of non-citizens live below the poverty level.

Special Characteristics of Recent Arrivals

Foreign-born residents who arrived in Virginia since 2000 exceed the native-born in some areas, and fall behind in others.

- The recent immigrant population is younger. While the median age of the native-born overall is 36.8, the median age of recent immigrants is 28.6.
- 77 percent of recent immigrants age 25 and over have achieved at least a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 86 percent of their native-born counterparts.
- 55 percent of recent immigrants and 58 percent of the native-born age 25 and over have at least some college education.
- 41 percent of recent immigrants and 32 percent of the native-born 25 and over have a bachelor’s degree or above.
- Recent Latin American immigrants are significantly over-represented in construction and extraction occupations, while recent Asian immigrants are overrepresented in physical, social, and life science occupations.

Data Source:

- Census 2000
- 2006 American Community Survey

Demographics & Workforce Section,
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