

**Legal Immigration to California in  
Federal Fiscal Year 1995**

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Pete Wilson, Governor**

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

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## **Introduction**

Immigration has been and continues to be the most persistent and the most pervasive influence in the maturing of the nation. The nation's population today, except for Native Americans, consists almost entirely of immigrants and of the descendants of immigrants. The immigrant influxes and establishments reverberate in many corners of American life. They stimulate population growth; leave a mark on politics, education, and religion; change American tastes in food, clothes, and music; and by their diversity alter the nation's ethnic and racial makeup and its perception of itself.

For the first half of the 1990's decade, as during the 1980s, California continues to lead as the major resettlement state for new immigrants. The following charts and tabulations highlight the most recent legal immigrant demographic data for California for federal fiscal year (FY) 1995<sup>1</sup>. The data were provided by the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and compiled by the Demographic Research Unit of the California State Department of Finance. "Immigrants" are defined as aliens who are legally admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

## **Immigrants**

The INS admitted about 165,000<sup>2</sup> immigrants to California during the FY 1995. This represents a 20 percent drop from the 205,872 immigrants admitted during FY 1994. The decline in total immigration in FY 1995 occurred in all of the major categories of admission of immigrants except the family-sponsored preference immigrants and those admitted under the Diversity programs (Table 1).

The largest group of immigrants admitted in FY 1995 was family-sponsored preferences. Over 65 percent of these immigrants were admitted under the second preference category as spouses and children of permanent resident aliens (41,754), a 20 percent increase from the year before. The leading countries of birth for family second preference immigrants were Mexico with 22,732, followed by the Philippines (5,680), and El Salvador (2,876).

The category with the largest percent increase between FY 1994 and 1995 was immigrants admitted under the Diversity Program, which increased by nearly 66 percent, from 4,052 in 1994 to 6,716 in 1995. The increase was primarily due to the new Diversity Program that began in FY 1995. This Diversity program allows for the annual immigration of persons from countries with relatively low numbers of immigrant admissions in past years.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Fiscal Year 1995 runs from October 1, 1994 to September 30, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) immigrants.

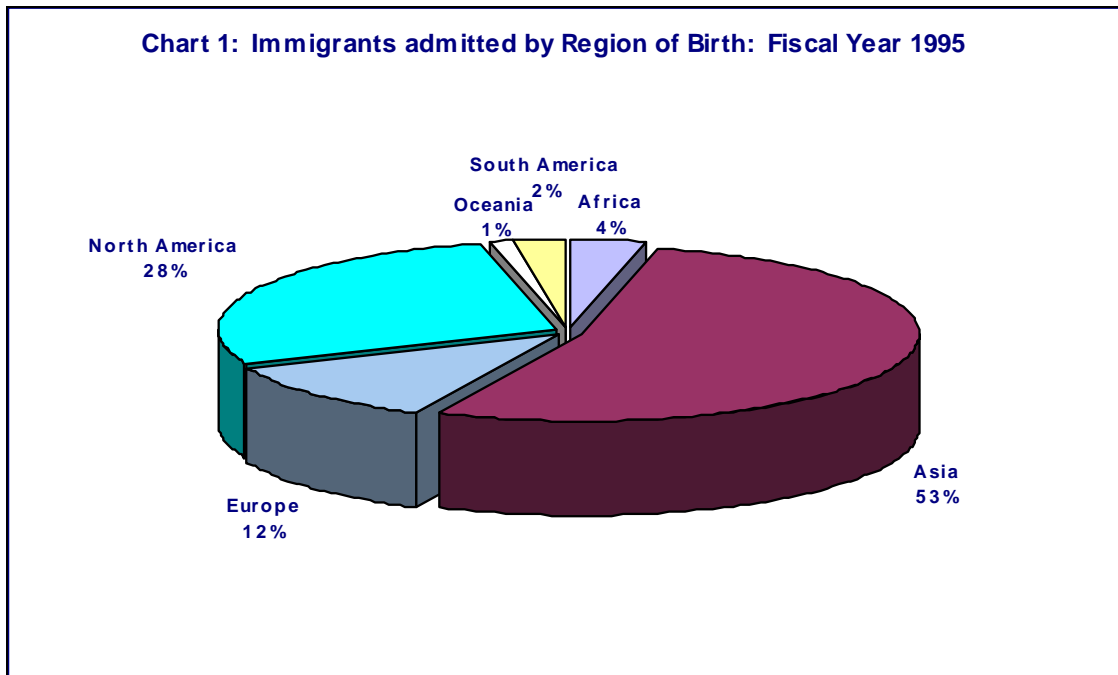
**Table 1: Immigrants Admitted by Major Class of Admission: Fiscal Year 1995**

Category of Admission	1995		1994		Percent Change 1994-95
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,872</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-19.7</b>
<b>Subject to the Numerical Cap</b>	135,764	82.1	168,804	82.0	-19.6
Family-sponsored Immigrants	110,659	66.9	113,635	55.2	-2.6
Family-sponsored preferences	63,929	38.7	57,279	27.8	11.6
Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens*	46,730	28.3	56,356	27.4	-17.1
Legalization dependents	14	0.0	17,930	8.7	-99.9
Employment-based immigrants	18,375	11.1	33,187	16.1	-44.6
Diversity programs	6,716	4.1	4,052	2.0	65.7
<b>Not Subject to the Numerical Cap</b>	29,551	17.9	37,068	18.0	-20.3
Refugees and Asylees	26,104	15.8	29,284	14.2	-10.9
Other	3,447	2.1	7,784	3.8	-55.7

\*Including children born abroad to permanent residents.

FY 1995 was the last year for admission of dependents of aliens legalized under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Only 14 aliens were admitted under this program in FY 1995, 17,916 below the FY 1994 total with most of these immigrants born in Mexico.

**Region and Country of Birth**



Of the total immigrants to California in FY 1995, 53 percent were from Asia, 28 percent were from North America, 12 percent were from Europe, 4 percent were from Africa and the remaining 3 percent were from South America and Oceania (Chart 1). This represented an increase over the year of 41 percent and 8 percent for immigrants from Africa and Oceania, respectively, and a significant drop from the other areas. Most of the increase in African immigration between FY 1994 and FY 1995 was due to admissions under the new Diversity Program.

**Table 2: Immigrants Admitted from Top Fifteen Countries of Birth: Fiscal Year 1995**

Country of Birth	1995	
	Number	Percent
<b>All countries</b>	<b>165,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1. Mexico	33,467	20.2
2. Philippines	22,570	13.7
3. Vietnam	16,755	10.1
4. China	10,256	6.2
5. India	6,642	4.0
6. El Salvador	4,843	2.9
7. Korea	4,784	2.9
8. Taiwan	4,649	2.8
9. Iran	4,536	2.7
10. Hong Kong	3,339	2.0
11. Ukraine	3,150	1.9
12. Guatemala	2,462	1.5
13. Russia	2,341	1.4
14. United Kingdom	2,250	1.4
15. Thailand	1,874	1.1
Other countries	41,397	25.0

Mexico and the Philippines continued as the countries with the highest number of immigrant admission in FY 1995 (Table 2). Other major sending countries included Vietnam (16,755), China (10,256) and India (6,642). Of the countries sending legal immigrants to California in 1995, eight of the top ten countries were Asian. The countries with the largest increases in immigration between FY 1994 and 1995 were Vietnam (2,593, 18 percent), Fiji (386, 47 percent), and Ethiopia (366, 48 percent). The countries with the largest decreases in immigration were Mexico (16,497, 33 percent), China (7,186, 41 percent), and El Salvador (3,057, 39 percent).

### **Geographic Location**

The pattern of settlement of the new immigrants continued to resemble that of the immigrants of earlier years. As in past years, the majority of immigrants have settled in a handful of California counties to join their family and friends. Los Angeles County received the most immigrants in FY 1995 with 33 percent of the total placements. Orange County placed second with 11 percent, followed by Santa Clara County (8 percent) and San Diego County (7 percent). The top ten counties remained much the same as in FY 1994, with only small shifts in rank. The proportion of immigrants placed in the top ten counties was 80 percent in FY 1995, the same as that of FY 1994 (Table 3).

**Table 3: Top 10 Counties of Intended Residence for Immigrants: Fiscal Year 1995**

County	1995		1994		Percent Change 1994-95
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>All counties</b>	165,315	100.0	205,872	100.0	-19.7
1. Los Angeles	54,498	33.0	75,855	36.8	-28.2
2. Orange	18,070	10.9	15,255	7.4	18.5
3. Santa Clara	12,798	7.7	16,144	7.8	-20.7
4. San Diego	11,820	7.1	13,904	6.8	-15.0
5. San Francisco	9,879	6.0	11,990	5.8	-17.6
6. Alameda	8,512	5.1	9,781	4.8	-13.0
7. San Mateo	5,028	3.0	5,753	2.8	-12.6
8. Sacramento	4,277	2.6	6,138	3.0	-30.3
9. San Bernardino	3,998	2.4	4,657	2.3	-14.2
10. Fresno	3,737	2.3	5,673	2.8	-34.1
Other counties	32,698	19.8	40,722	19.8	-19.7

San Francisco County had the highest rate of immigration, with more than 13 legal immigrants per 1,000 population; Imperial County registered the second highest rate at more than 12 per 1,000 population (Map 1). A complete listing by County of the legal immigration rates appears in Appendix, Table 1.

Table 4 indicates the counties of intended residence for selected nationalities. In nine of the top ten countries of birth in FY 1995, Los Angeles County was the most popular place of intended residence. The exception is Vietnam, where Orange County was the most common county for resettlement. Of all immigrants intending to reside in Orange County, Vietnamese comprise more than 36 percent of the total. The Philippines was the leading country of birth for both Alameda and San Diego counties. The leading countries of birth for San Francisco residents were China (24 percent), Philippines (12 percent), and Ukraine (11 percent). Other countries with large concentrations in a single county were: Armenia (92 percent reside in Los Angeles), Somalia (77 percent in San Diego), El Salvador and Ecuador (each with 72 percent in Los Angeles).

**Table 4: Immigrants Admitted by Selected County of Intended Residence and Country of Birth:  
Fiscal Year 1995**

<b>Counties and Countries of Birth</b>	<b>Immigrants</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Counties and Countries of Birth</b>	<b>Immigrants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>54,498</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>11,820</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Mexico	7,750	14.2	Philippines	2,933	24.8
Philippines	6,932	12.7	Mexico	2,255	19.1
El Salvador	3,495	6.4	Vietnam	1,455	12.3
China	3,456	6.3	Iraq	749	6.3
Korea	2,925	5.4	Somalia	566	4.8
Vietnam	2,630	4.8	China	235	2.0
Iran	2,419	4.4	Iran	235	2.0
Taiwan	2,348	4.3	Ukraine	165	1.4
Other	22,543	41.4	Other	3,227	27.3
<b>Orange</b>	<b>18,070</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>9,879</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Vietnam	6,581	36.4	China	2,410	24.4
Mexico	3,135	17.3	Philippines	1,226	12.4
Philippines	1,157	6.4	Ukraine	1,068	10.8
Korea	713	3.9	Hong Kong	701	7.1
Iran	604	3.3	Russia	439	4.4
Taiwan	573	3.2	Vietnam	398	4.0
India	549	3.0	Ireland	228	2.3
China	372	2.1	Mexico	227	2.3
Other	4,386	24.3	Other	3,182	32.2
<b>Santa Clara</b>	<b>12,798</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Alameda</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Vietnam	2,998	23.4	Philippines	1,567	18.4
Philippines	1,941	15.2	China	1,166	13.7
India	1,114	8.7	India	876	10.3
Mexico	960	7.5	Vietnam	857	10.1
China	957	7.5	Mexico	559	6.6
Taiwan	618	4.8	Hong Kong	376	4.4
Iran	359	2.8	Taiwan	230	2.7
Hong Kong	283	2.2	Fiji	220	2.6
Other	3,568	27.9	Other	2,661	31.3

### Age and Sex

In FY 1995, the median age of the immigrants was 28 compared to 32.9<sup>3</sup> for the total resident population of the State (Table 5). Women outnumbered men with 55 percent of the total, and their median age was higher, at 29 compared with 26. About 30 percent of the

<sup>3</sup> Source: Current Population Survey, March 1995

immigrants were under 18 years of age, while another 6 percent were age 65 or older. The immigrants tend to be concentrated in the early working ages.

**Table 5: Immigrants admitted by Age and Sex: Fiscal Year 1995**

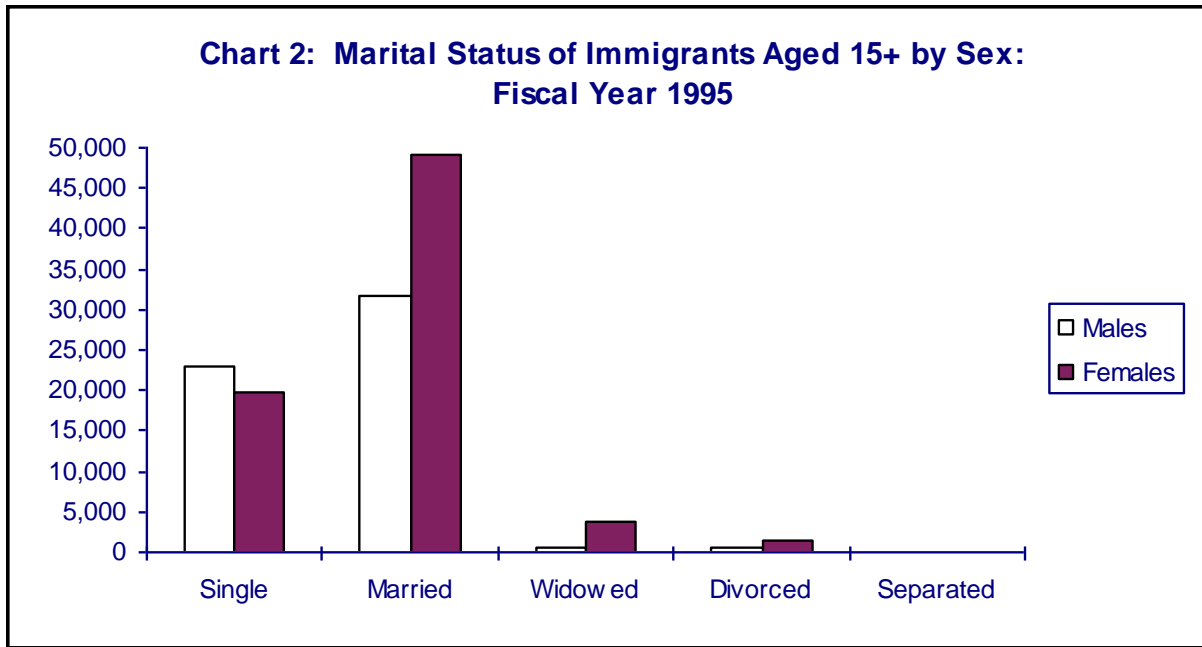
<b>Age</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	74,029	91,282	165,311	100.0
Under 18 years	25,353	23,832	49,185	29.8
18 to 24 years	8,785	11,092	19,877	12.0
25 to 34 years	15,303	21,542	36,845	22.3
35 to 44 years	9,304	13,712	23,016	13.9
45 to 54 years	6,370	8,827	15,197	9.2
55 to 64 years	4,830	6,823	11,653	7.0
65 and older	4,080	5,448	9,528	5.8
Unknown age	4	6	10	0.0
<b>Median age</b>	26	29	28	

Note: Table above excludes 4 people of unknown sex.

### **Marital Status**

In FY 1995, there were 55,989 male and 74,388 female immigrants aged 15 or older admitted to California. Among the males, 41 percent were single and 56 percent were married. By comparison, 27 percent of the female immigrants were single and 66 percent were married; the remaining 7 percent accounted for other marital statuses (Chart 2).





## Occupation

Of the 117,373 immigrants between 16 and 64 years of age admitted in FY 1995, more than 43 percent reported having an occupation. Immigrants admitted based on their job skills under the employment-based preferences entered the U.S. workforce in their reported occupations (see Table 6). The remaining immigrants have reported either the last job before immigration or the occupation in which they have been trained.

The leading occupational groups of the employment-based workers were professional specialty and technical (45 percent); executive, administrative, and managerial (24 percent); service (12 percent); precision production, craft, and repair (10 percent); and operators, fabricator, or laborer (3 percent). The leading occupations among the 3,170 immigrants reporting a professional or technical occupation were engineers (719); nurses (654); social, recreation, and religious workers (375); writers, artists, entertainers and athletes (342); and mathematical and computer scientists (233). While the immigrants admitted as employment-based principals by the majority had a professional specialty and technical occupation, those admitted outside the employment-based category by the majority were operators, fabricators, and laborers.

The Philippines comprise the largest immigrant group admitted as employment-based principals (14 percent), followed by Taiwan and Korea (8 percent), India (7 percent), and China (6 percent).

**Table 6: Immigrants aged 16 to 64 admitted as Employment-based Principals  
by Occupation: Fiscal Year 1995**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Employment-based principals</b>	<b>All other immigrants</b>
<b>Immigrants aged 16-64</b>	<b>117,373</b>	<b>6,985</b>	<b>110,388</b>
<b>Professional specialty and technical</b>	11,309	3,170	8,139
Engineers, surveyors and mapping scientists	2,118	719	1,399
Registered nurses	1,463	654	809
Social, recreation, and religious workers	548	375	173
Writers, artists, entertainers and athletes	1,260	342	918
Mathematical and computer scientists	425	233	192
Other	5,495	847	4,648
<b>Executive, administrative, managerial</b>	6,194	1,676	4,518
<b>Sales occupations</b>	2,759	79	2,680
<b>Administrative support occupations</b>	4,331	224	4,107
<b>Precision production, craft, and repair</b>	3,843	674	3,169
<b>Operators, fabricators, and laborers</b>	10,644	239	10,405
<b>Farming, forestry, and fishing</b>	3,178	35	3,143
<b>Service occupations</b>	9,049	844	8,205
<b>No occupation</b>	62,042	29	62,013
<b>Occupation not reported</b>	4,024	15	4,009

## Conclusion

The general demographic profile for California immigration for FY 1995, as in previous years, has not changed significantly. Asian immigrants continued to form the largest group of newcomers, followed by North Americans. Most settled in large cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Sacramento, and Fresno where there are long-standing communities of their own. Women continued to outnumber men; there were more married immigrants than single ones; and people of prime working age continued to predominate.

# APPENDIX

**Table 1: Legal Immigration Rates by County: Fiscal Year 1995**

County	Immigrants	Percent of Immigrants	Population 1995	Immigration Rate 1995
Alameda	8,512	5.1	1,347,700	6.32
Alpine	0	0.0	1,170	0.00
Amador	12	0.0	32,600	0.37
Butte	253	0.2	196,100	1.29
Calaveras	22	0.0	36,950	0.60
Colusa	167	0.1	17,850	9.36
Contra Costa	3,546	2.1	867,300	4.09
Del Norte	14	0.0	27,600	0.51
El Dorado	201	0.1	144,200	1.39
Fresno	3,737	2.3	754,100	4.96
Glenn	43	0.0	26,600	1.62
Humboldt	93	0.1	124,500	0.75
Imperial	1,661	1.0	137,400	12.09
Inyo	13	0.0	18,450	0.70
Kern	1,820	1.1	616,700	2.95
Kings	420	0.3	114,900	3.66
Lake	56	0.0	55,100	1.02
Lassen	20	0.0	28,650	0.70
Los Angeles	54,498	33.0	9,352,200	5.83
Madera	207	0.1	106,400	1.95
Marin	844	0.5	238,900	3.53
Mariposa	7	0.0	15,900	0.44
Mendocino	137	0.1	84,300	1.63
Merced	1,156	0.7	198,500	5.82
Modoc	3	0.0	10,050	0.30
Mono	20	0.0	10,550	1.90
Monterey	2,329	1.4	361,800	6.44
Napa	441	0.3	117,800	3.74
Nevada	52	0.0	86,600	0.60
Orange	18,070	10.9	2,614,800	6.91
Placer	190	0.1	203,500	0.93
Plumas	14	0.0	20,500	0.68
Riverside	3,424	2.1	1,370,300	2.50
Sacramento	4,277	2.6	1,117,700	3.83
San Benito	197	0.1	42,650	4.62
San Bernardino	3,998	2.4	1,581,600	2.53
San Diego	11,820	7.1	2,669,200	4.43
San Francisco	9,879	6.0	751,500	13.15
San Joaquin	2,318	1.4	524,600	4.42
San Luis Obispo	327	0.2	228,400	1.43
San Mateo	5,028	3.0	689,700	7.29
Santa Barbara	1,707	1.0	391,400	4.36
Santa Clara	12,798	7.7	1,603,300	7.98
Santa Cruz	1,162	0.7	241,500	4.81
Shasta	86	0.1	160,900	0.53
Sierra	0	0.0	3,390	0.00
Siskiyou	30	0.0	44,650	0.67
Solano	1,418	0.9	370,500	3.83
Sonoma	850	0.5	419,500	2.03
Stanislaus	1,639	1.0	413,800	3.96

**Table 1: Legal Immigration Rates by County: Fiscal Year 1995**

<b>County</b>	<b>Immigrants</b>	<b>Percent of Immigrants</b>	<b>Population 1995</b>	<b>Immigration Rate 1995</b>
<b>Sutter</b>	423	0.3	73,800	5.73
<b>Tehama</b>	27	0.0	54,200	0.50
<b>Trinity</b>	6	0.0	13,400	0.45
<b>Tulare</b>	1,119	0.7	349,800	3.20
<b>Tuolumne</b>	21	0.0	51,500	0.41
<b>Ventura</b>	2,654	1.6	712,700	3.72
<b>Yolo</b>	662	0.4	150,800	4.39
<b>Yuba</b>	192	0.1	62,300	3.08
<b>Unknown</b>	695	0.4		
<b>TOTAL</b>	165,315	100.0	32,062,760	5.16