

# Recent Trends in Hispanic Immigration to the United States

Governor's Hispanic and Latino  
Advisory Council

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## United States Population

- 1915—U.S. population tops 100 million
- 1967—U.S. population tops 200 million
- 2006—U.S. population is expected to top 300 million
- In the U.S. a baby is born every 8 seconds, a person dies every 12 seconds, and an immigrant enters the nation every 31 seconds.

## America's Changing Face

- “The 300 millionth person will be a Mexican Latino in Los Angeles County, with parents who speak Spanish at home and with siblings who are bilingual.”

--William Frey, University of Michigan Population Studies Center

## A Growing Immigrant Population

- By March 2004, the U.S. held 34 million immigrants.
- This number is 12% of the U.S. population, the highest percentage in 80 years.
- Immigrants from Mexico account for 31% of all immigrants in the U.S. In 1980 the percentage was 16%.

## A Growing Immigrant Population

- If current immigration trends hold steady, the percentage of immigrants in the U.S. will pass the all time high of 15% (1890) of the population by 2010.
- Immigration rates have slowed slightly since 2000 (when it spiked to an all time high), but immigration is still expanding overall.

## A Growing Undocumented Population

- Legal immigration is decreasing, but immigration by undocumented persons accounts for most of the growth in overall immigration in the U.S.
- Between 2000-2004, 46% of all immigrants to the U.S. were thought to be undocumented.
- 57% of immigrants during this time period came from Mexico, with 85% of those considered undocumented.

## Where Are They Going?

- The growth of immigration is not even across the country.
- Growth is greatest in the South.
- This growth is having a major impact on these states where Hispanic communities have not been well established before.

## Where Are They Going?

% Hispanic Growth 1990-2000

- North Carolina 394%
- Arkansas 337%
- Georgia 300%
- Tennessee 278%
- South Carolina 211%
- Alabama 208%
- California 43%
- New York 43%
- Illinois 69%
- New Jersey 51%

## Where Are They Going?

% Hispanic Growth 1990-2000

- Some counties and cities are seeing even larger growth.
- Randolph County, NC—1470%
- Union County, NC---1166%
- The majority of the growth in immigration in these states and counties is from undocumented immigrants.

## Demographic Profile of Hispanic Immigrants (undocumented)

- 57% are born outside of the U.S.
- 63% are male
- The median age is 27 years.
- 62% lack a high school diploma.
- 57% do not speak English.
- Hispanic school age population in the South grew by 322% since 1990.

## Immigrants in North Carolina

- Hispanics contribute \$9 billion to the NC economy.
- This number is expected to double by 2009.
- 7% of NC's population is now Hispanic.
- 25% of the state's population growth since 1990 has come from Hispanic immigrants.

## Immigrants in North Carolina

- 38% of Hispanics in NC came from outside of the U.S.
- 40% came from another state.
- 21% were born inside NC.
- 76% of Hispanics entering NC in the last 10 years were undocumented.
- Currently 45% of total Hispanic population in NC is currently undocumented.

## Immigrants in North Carolina

- Hispanics filled 1 in 3 jobs in NC during the last 10 years.
- Median Hispanic family income is \$32,000.
- 57% of the growth in NC's school age population has been caused by Hispanic immigration.

## Immigrants in North Carolina

- Hispanics pay \$756 million state taxes in NC per year.
- Government services provided to Hispanics cost \$817 million.
- Net annual cost to NC taxpayers is \$61 million annually.

## Immigrants in North Carolina

- The tax impact of Hispanics in NC breaks down as follows:
  - \$145 million in personal income taxes
  - \$85.9 million in business taxes
  - \$62.7 million in property taxes
  - \$114 million in sales taxes
  - \$347 million in indirect benefits, taxes paid by businesses and individuals because of Hispanic immigration

## General Conclusions

- The overall number of immigrants in the U.S. is increasing at a pace that will increase the percentage of immigrants in this nation to the highest level since 1890 by 2010.
- The vast majority of immigrants today come from Mexico and are undocumented.

## General Conclusions

- The overall economic conditions in the U.S. do not seem to have either a positive or negative impact on immigration trends.
- Traditional destinations for immigrants such as Texas and California are giving way to new destinations such as NC, Georgia and Arkansas as the destination of choice for immigrants, particularly undocumented ones.

## General Conclusions

- The typical Hispanic immigrant is young, male, lacks a high school education, and often does not speak English. (some indications point to a more educated and highly skilled set of immigrants beginning to make up a larger part of the overall immigrant wave.)

## General Conclusions

- Immigration is changing the face of America. Dealing with the rise in immigrants to the U.S. will be one of the most compelling public policy issues in the foreseeable future.
- Immigration, formerly thought of as primarily a federal issue, is also having a far reaching impact at the state and local level.

## Sources

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- *The New Latino South: The Context and Consequences of Rapid Population Growth*, Pew Hispanic Center
- *Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Undocumented Population* by Jeff Passel, Pew Hispanic Center
- *The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of NC*, UNC-- Chapel Hill