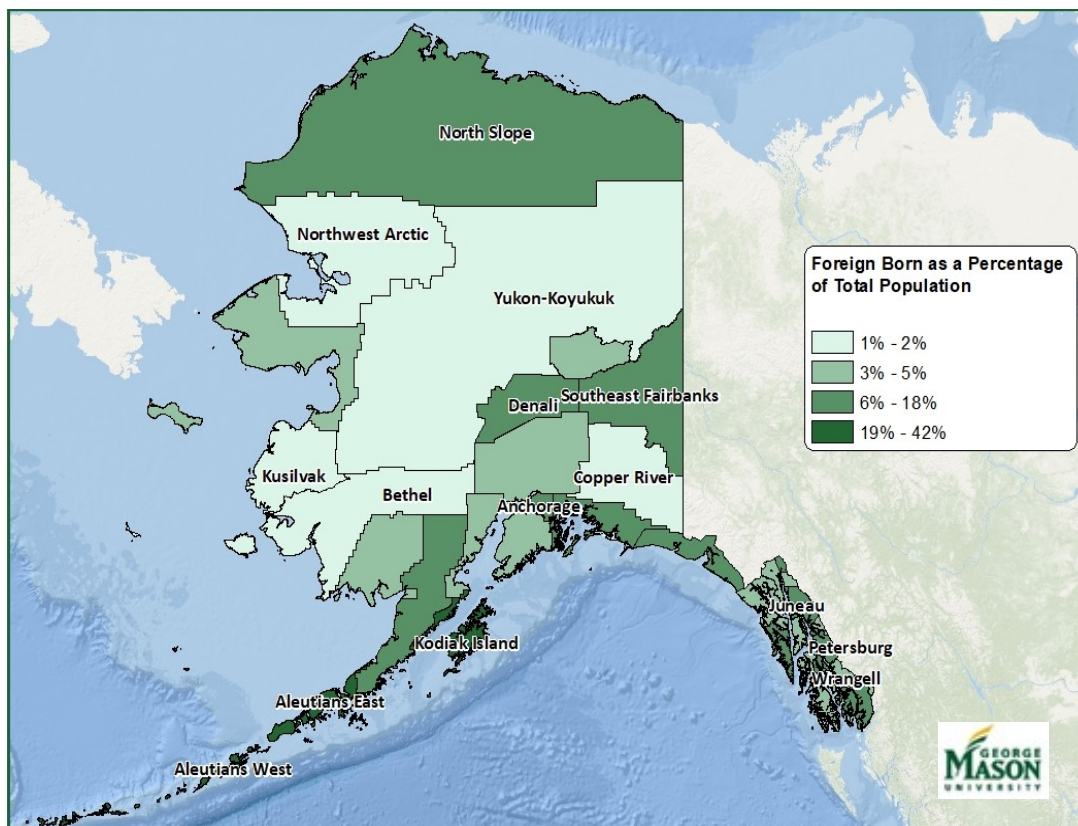


## Immigrants in Alaska

**Figure 1. Immigrants in Alaska**



Note: This data was prepared by the George Mason University Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). 2022. This data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0. ACS 2016-2020 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2022.

### 2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the United States (14% of the population)
- **58,770** Approximate number of immigrants in Alaska (8% of the state's population)
- **21%:** Estimated increase in the number of immigrants in Alaska in the past 10 years (i.e. 2010-2020)
- **25<sup>th</sup>:** Rank of Alaska among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's total population

### Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 illustrates that the geographic areas\* in Alaska with the largest proportions of immigrant residents are all located in the southernmost portion of the state. In fact, more than two-fifths of the residents in the top geographic area, Aleutian West Census Area (42%), and more than a quarter of the residents of the 2nd ranking area, Aleutians East Borough (28%), are foreign born. Kodiak Island Borough (21%), Petersburg Borough (18%), and Anchorage Municipality (11%) round out the remaining top five areas with foreign-born populations. The areas with the smallest share of immigrant residents include: Bethel Census Area (2%), Northwest Arctic Borough (1.5%), Copper River Census Area (1.4%), Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (1.4%), and Kuskilvak Census Area (0.6%).

\*In Alaska, county-like units are referred to as boroughs, municipalities, or census areas.

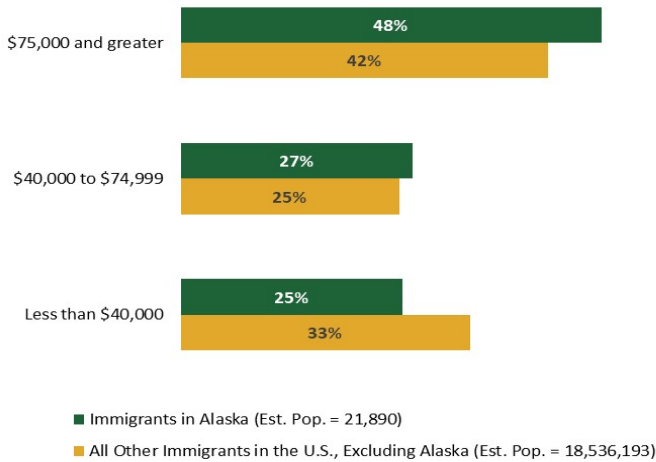
All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, U.S.-born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

## Immigrants in Alaska

**Figure 2. Household Income Among Immigrants**

Head of household, Age 15+



As shown in Figure 2, immigrant headed households in Alaska are more likely to earn \$75,000 or greater (48%) compared to immigrant headed households in the remainder of the United States (42%). Additionally, immigrant headed households in Alaska are less likely to earn less than \$40,000 (25%) than those in the rest of the U.S. (33%). This corresponds with the fact that immigrants in Alaska are more likely to have completed some college or earned an Associate's degree or higher (58%) than their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. (51%). Additionally, U.S.-born citizens in Alaska tend to have higher household incomes than their counterparts in the remainder of the country. 53% of U.S.-born citizens in Alaska make \$75,000 or greater compared with 43% in the rest of the country. This is likely attributable to the fact that Alaska has a higher cost of living than the rest of the country. The median household income among immigrant headed households in Alaska is \$70,874, and the median household income among immigrant headed households in the remainder of the United States is \$61,850.

**Figure 3. Race and Hispanic Origin Among Immigrants**

	Immigrants in Alaska	All Other Immigrants in the U.S., Excluding Alaska
White	27%	42%
Asian	55%	27%
Black	6%	9%
Other Race	8%	16%
Two or More Races	4%	6%
Not Hispanic	85%	56%
Hispanic	15%	44%
Estimated Immigrant Population	58,773	44,352,978

Figure 3 demonstrates that immigrants in Alaska are almost twice as likely to identify as Asian (55%) than immigrants elsewhere in the United States (27%). These results are likely attributable to the fact that three out the top five countries of birth among immigrants in Alaska are Asian countries as shown in Figure 5. Additionally, while more than two-fifths of the immigrants in the remainder of the United States identify as Hispanic (44%), only 15% of immigrants in Alaska identify as such.

**Figure 4. English Proficiency Among Immigrants**

Age 5+

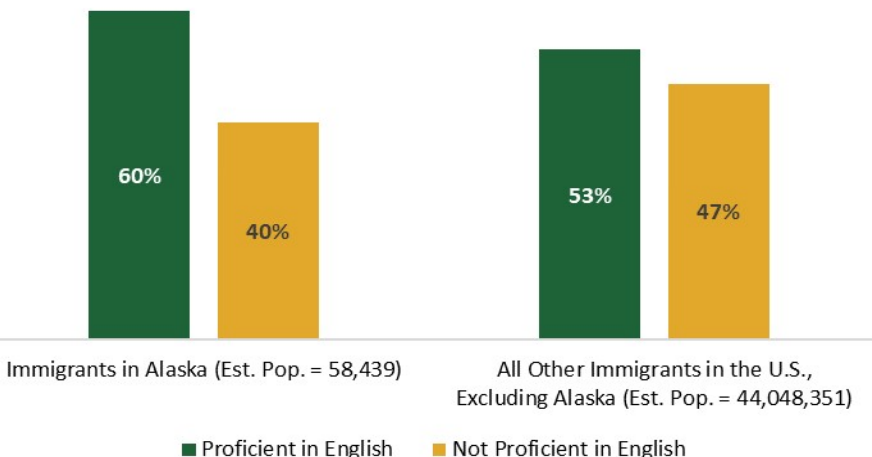


Figure 4 shows that immigrants in Alaska are more likely to be proficient in English (60%) than their counterparts in the remainder of the United States (53%). As detailed in Figure 5, Canada ranks among the top five countries of birth for immigrants in Alaska. Since Canada is a predominantly English speaking country, this likely contributes to the higher proportion of immigrants proficient in English.

## Immigrants in Alaska

**Figure 5. Countries of Birth Among Immigrants**

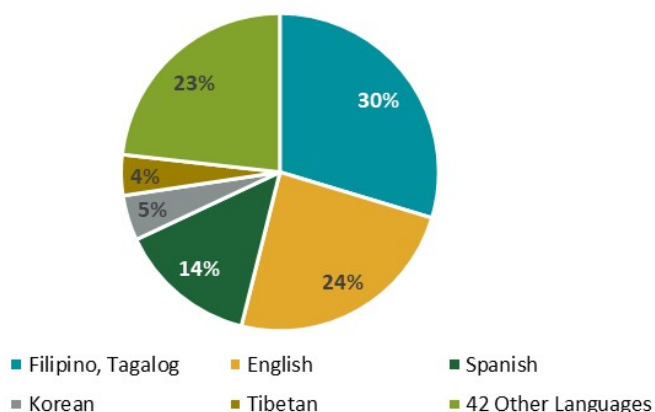
Immigrants in Alaska		All Other Immigrants in the U.S., Excluding Alaska	
Philippines	33%	Mexico	25%
Mexico	6%	India	6%
Korea	6%	China	5%
Canada	6%	Philippines	4%
Thailand	5%	El Salvador	3%
119 Other Countries	44%	161 Other Countries	57%
Estimated Immigrant Population	58,773	Estimated Immigrant Population	44,352,978

Approximately one-third of immigrants in Alaska were born in the Philippines (33%) compared with only about 4% of immigrants in the rest of the United States. While Mexico ranks as the second most popular country of birth for immigrants in Alaska, only 6% of immigrants in Alaska hail from Mexico compared with a quarter (25%) of immigrants in the rest of the United States. Additionally, Korea (6%), Canada (6%), and Thailand (5%) are among the top countries of birth among immigrants in Alaska.

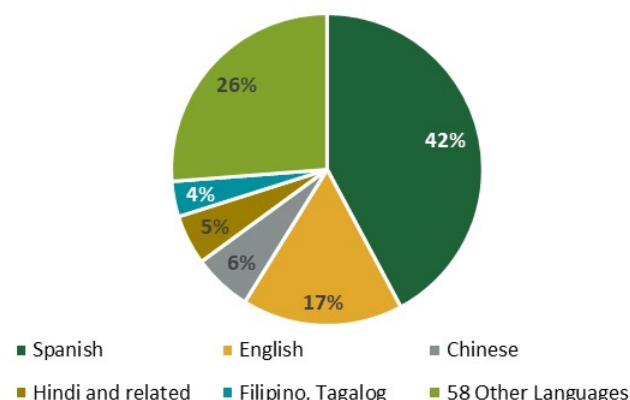
**Figure 6. Languages Spoken at Home Among Immigrants**

Age 5+

Immigrants in Alaska (Est. Pop. = 58,439)



All Other Immigrants in the U.S., Excluding Alaska  
(Est. Pop. = 44,048,351)



Consistent with the top countries of origin highlighted in Figure 5 above, Tagalog/Filipino is the most common language spoken at home among immigrants in Alaska (30%). English (24%) and Spanish (14%), respectively, rank as the 2nd and 3rd most common languages spoken at home among immigrants in Alaska. In comparison, among immigrants in the remainder of the United States, more than two-fifths (42%) report Spanish as the language spoken at home while Tagalog/Filipino ranks as the 5th most common (4%).

For factsheets that examine populations at the household level, please note that a household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. A U.S.-born U.S. citizen household is defined as a household which is headed by a U.S.-born U.S. citizen, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. Conversely, an immigrant-headed household is defined as a household which is headed by a foreign-born individual, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. For fact sheets that examine total household income, please note that the total annual income of all members in the household is included in the analysis. For fact sheets that examine personal income, personal income refers to total personal income earned on an annual basis.

For fact sheets that examine poverty status, please note that it excludes individuals who live in group quarters and those who are under the age of 18 with no family.

IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult <https://www.census.gov/topics/> for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation.

## Immigrants in Alaska



## Institute for Immigration Research

### **Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)**

The goal of iDod is to connect people with customized data about immigrants in particular regions or sectors of interest. This data provides insights into the vital contributions immigrants make to the economy and society.

### **The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)**

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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