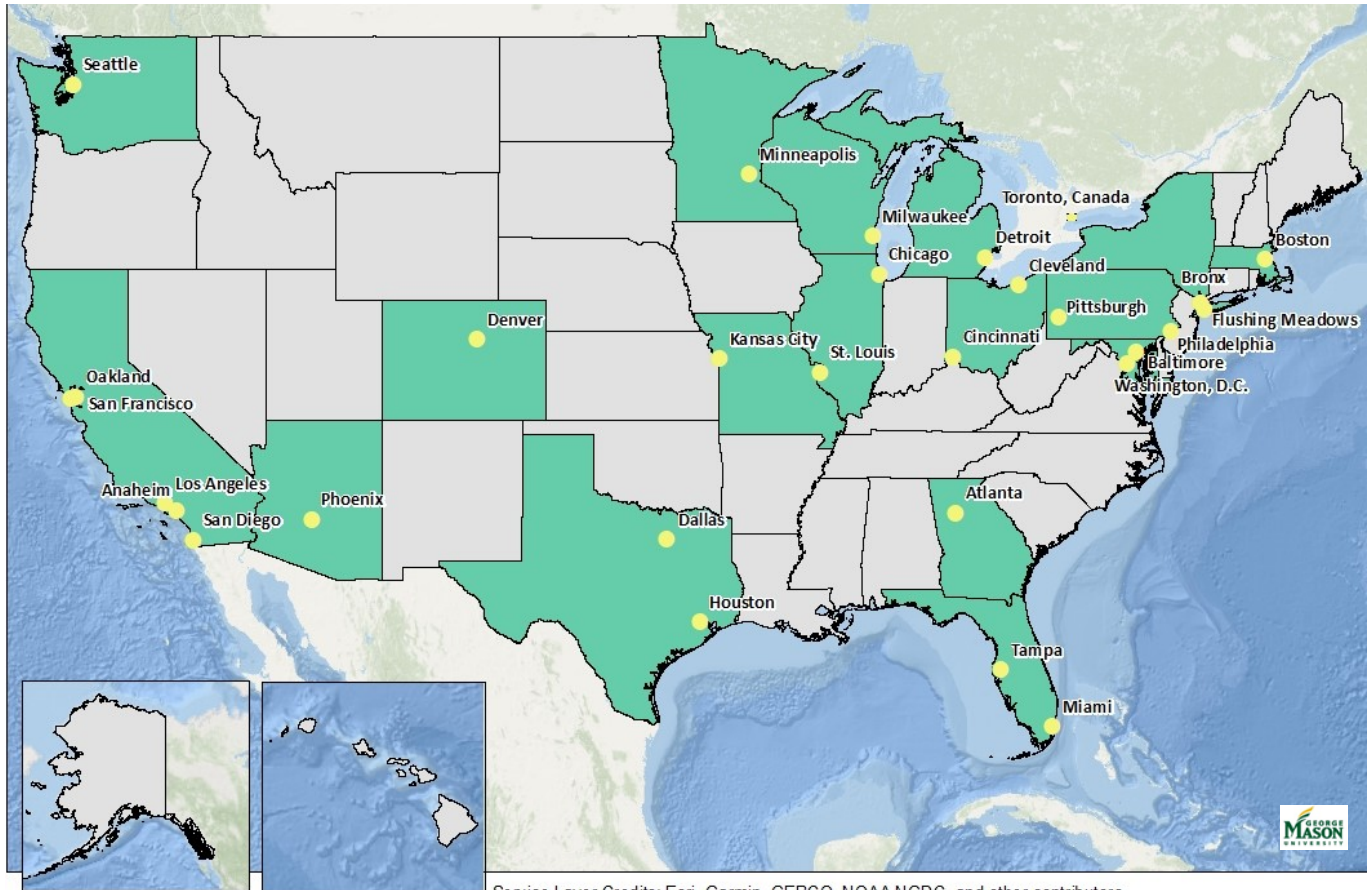


2023 Major League Baseball (MLB)

Figure 1. MLB Team Locations



2023 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

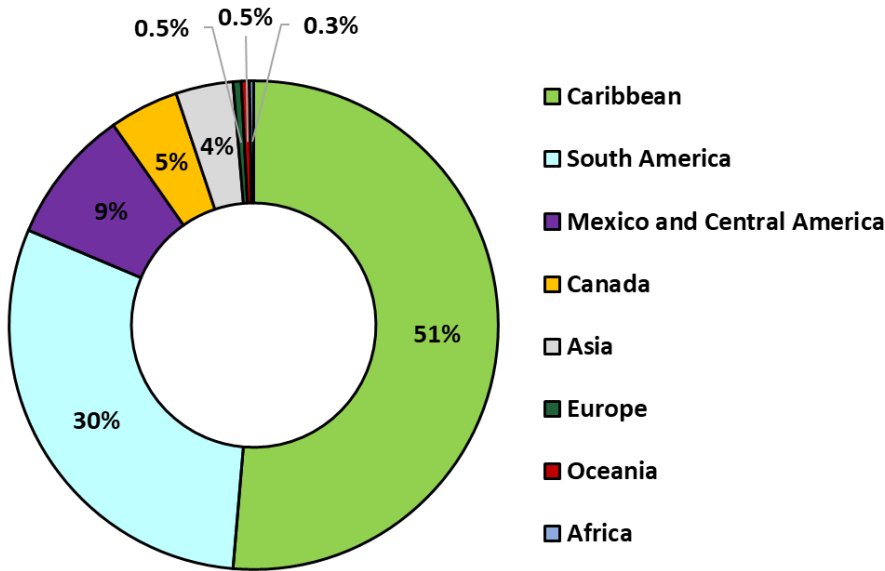
- **30:** Number of teams in the MLB
- **1,457:** Number of players
- **370:** Number of foreign-born players (25% of the league's population)
- **2%:** Percentage decrease in foreign-born players in MLB from last year
- **21:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as source data from the individual team rosters (www.basketball-reference.com/teams/). Team rosters were accessed in October 2023 and reflect the players who were on each team on that date.

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, native 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.

2023 Major League Baseball (MLB)

Figure 2. World Region of Birth among Foreign-born MLB Players



- More than **eighty percent (81%)** of foreign-born MLB players were born in the Caribbean or South America. This percentage is nearly identical to the 2022 season (**82%**).
- Similar to the NFL, compared to last year, there was increase in players born in **Canada** and **Asia** who played in the league.

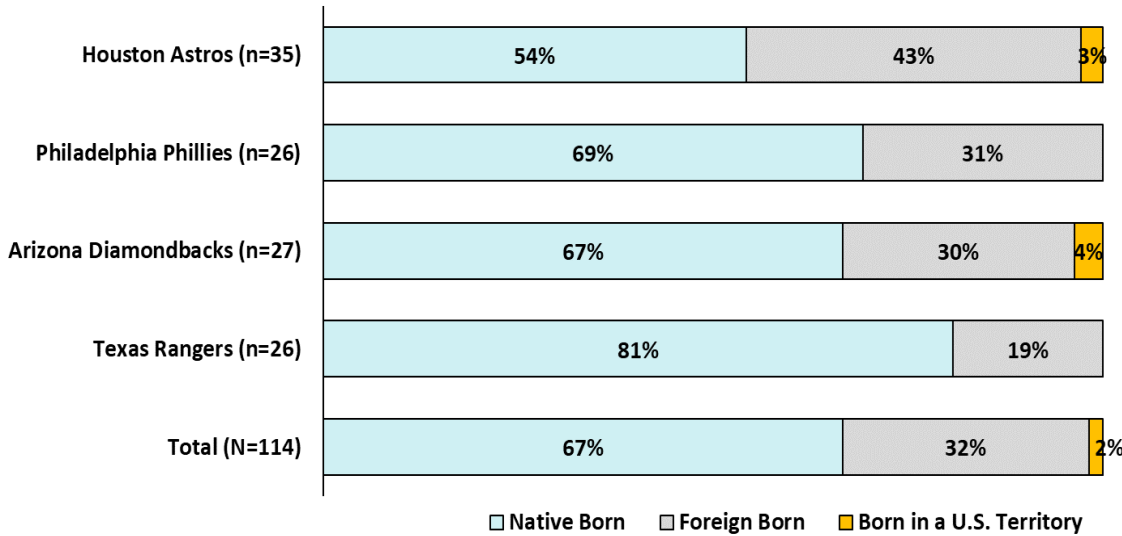
Figure 3. Detailed Country of Birth among Foreign-born MLB Players

	Country	Percent
Africa	South Africa	0.3%
Asia	Japan	2.2%
	South Korea	1.4%
	Taiwan	0.3%
Caribbean	Dominican Republic	41.9%
	Cuba	7.3%
	Curacao, Aruba, and Bahamas	2.2%
Europe	Germany	0.3%
	Portugal	0.3%
Mexico and Central America	Mexico	5.1%
	Panama	3.0%
	Nicaragua and Honduras	0.8%
North America	Canada	4.6%
Oceania	Australia	0.5%
South America	Venezuela	25.4%
	Colombia	3.8%
	Brazil and Peru	0.8%
Total (N=370)		

- In 2023, **three-fourths, (75%)** of MLB players were born in **the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, or Cuba**.
- In 2021, immigrants from these three countries comprised only **7%** of the entire foreign-born population in the United States.
- In 2021, the top five countries of birth among all immigrants in the United States include **Mexico (24%), India (6%), China (5%), Philippines (4%), and Vietnam (3%)**.

2023 Major League Baseball (MLB)

Figure 4. Birthplace among 2023 MLB Playoff Teams



- During the 2023 MLB playoffs, **32%** of MLB players were foreign-born.
- The Houston Astros were the most international team in the playoffs with more than two-fifths of their players either being born abroad or in a U.S.

Figure 5. Countries of Birth among 2023 MLB Playoff Teams

Houston Astros	Arizona Diamondbacks	Texas Rangers	Philadelphia Phillies
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic
Venezuela	Venezuela	Venezuela	Venezuela
Cuba	Cuba	Cuba	Panama
Mexico			
Honduras			

- Foreign-born MLB players who played in the 2023 playoffs were born in **six different countries** and **Puerto Rico**.
- Similar to the 2023 regular season, slightly more than **three-fourths (84%)** of foreign-born players who played in the playoffs were born in the **Dominican Republic, Venezuela, or Cuba**.

2023 Major League Baseball (MLB)



Institute for Immigration Research

The Immigrants, Athletes, and Inclusion Initiative

This initiative aims to study immigration and inclusion in sports through original, data-driven research on the contributions of immigrants in professional and collegiate sports. We examine inclusion in two ways: 1) the degree to which immigrant athletes are represented in sports; and 2) how highlighting the stories and contributions of immigrant athletes can lead to greater understanding and inclusion of immigrants generally.

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.

www.iir.gmu.edu

4400 University Drive, MSN 1D7

Fairfax, VA 22030

703.993.5833