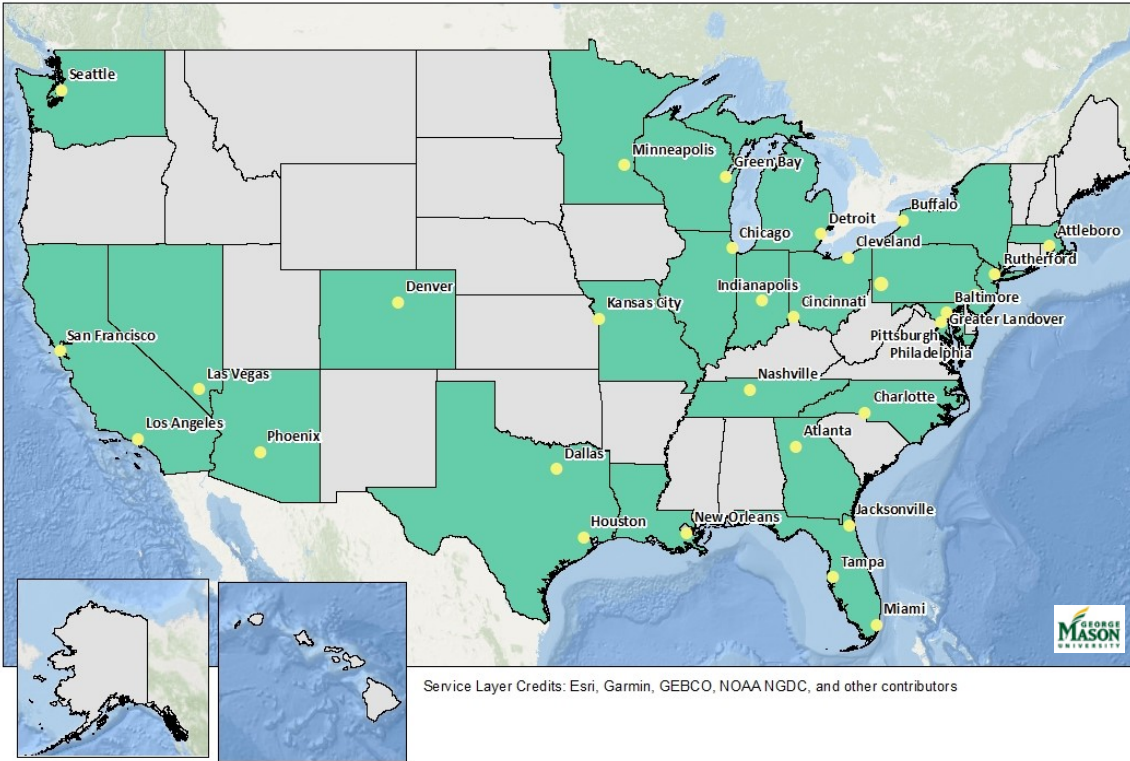


2023 National Football League (NFL)

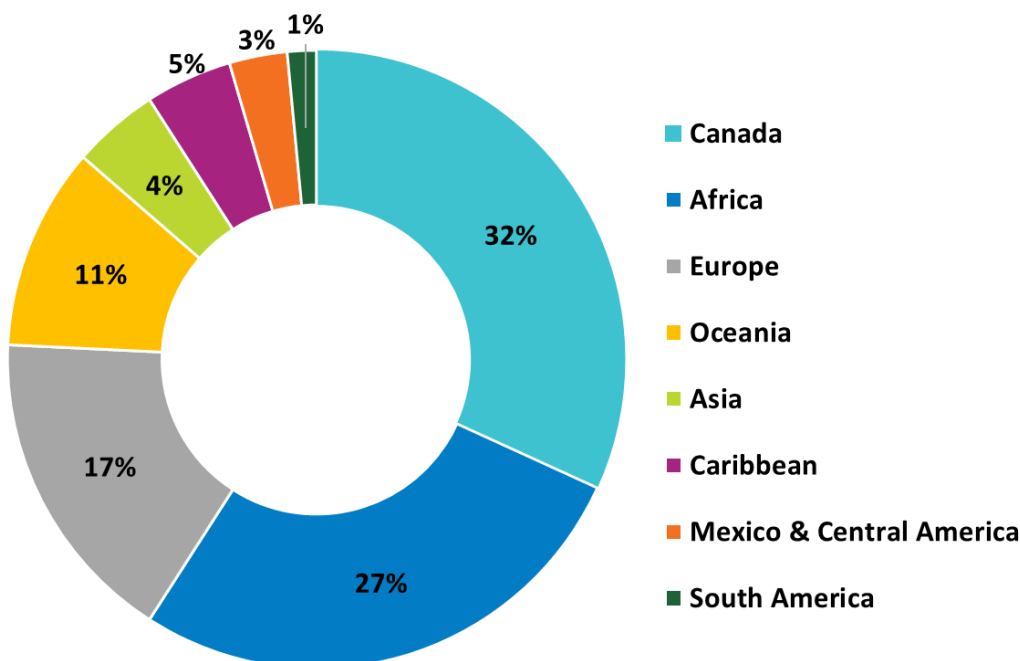
Figure 1. NFL Team Locations



2023 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **32:** Number of teams in the NFL
- **1,970:** Number of players
- **66:** Number of foreign-born players (3% of the league's population)
- **23:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent

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



- More than **three-fourths (76%)** of foreign-born NFL players who played during the 2023 season were born in **Canada, Africa, or Europe**. This is slightly higher than last year (74%).
- Compared to last year, there was an **increase** in players born in **Canada** and **Asia** who played in the league.

2023 National Football League (NFL)

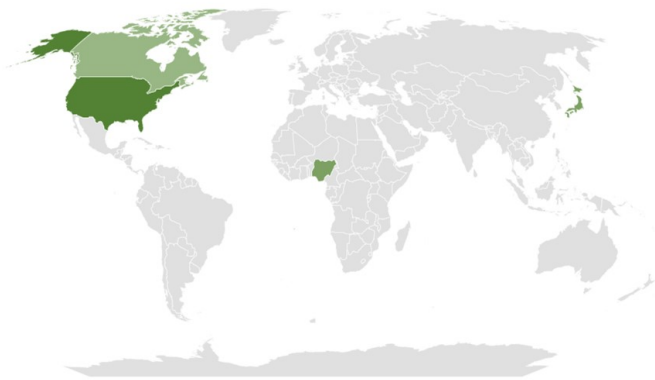
Figure 3. Detailed Country of Birth among Foreign-born NFL Players

Country		Percent
Africa	Nigeria	16.7%
	Cameroon	3.0%
	5 Other Countries	7.6%
Asia	South Korea	1.5%
	Japan	1.5%
	Taiwan	1.5%
Europe	Germany	4.5%
	United Kingdom	4.5%
	4 Other Countries	7.6%
Caribbean	Jamaica	3.0%
	Haiti	1.5%
Mexico and Central America	Belize	1.5%
	Panama	1.5%
North America	Canada	31.8%
Oceania	Australia	10.6%
South America	Brazil	1.5%



- During the 2023 NFL season, more than half (59%) of foreign-born NFL players were born in **Canada, Nigeria, or Australia.**
- In 2021, immigrants from these three countries comprised only **3%** 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%).

Figure 4. 2023 NFL Draft



2023 NFL Draft

- **251:** Native-born players were drafted.
- **7:** Foreign-born players were drafted.
- **1:** player born in a U.S. Territory was drafted.
- Top **three** schools players were drafted from: University of **Alabama**, University of **Georgia**, and University of **Michigan.**

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2021 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as source data from the pro football reference database (<https://www.pro-football-reference.com/>).

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 National Football League (NFL)



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.

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