

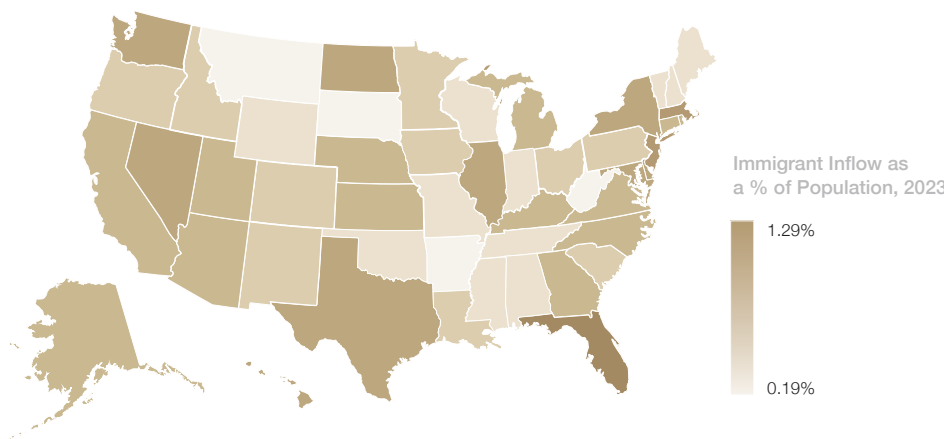
# MAPPING MASS MIGRATION

## MASSACHUSETTS REMAINS A TOP DESTINATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

According to the most recent data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), Massachusetts was one of the most popular states in the country for immigrants in 2023. The Bay State had the eighth highest gross inflow (+67,287) and the third highest as a percentage of its population (.97 percent) among the states. The only states that received more immigrants per capita were Florida and New Jersey.

The states that received the greatest gross number of immigrants in 2023 were California, Florida, Texas, and New York. All are major population centers that have consistently been attractive to immigrants since at least 2010 (excluding 2020). Of all immigrants estimated to have come to the U.S. since 2010, nearly 43 percent have landed in those four destinations, or 10.5 million immigrants total.

**Figure 1: Analysis of state international migration based on American Community Survey (ACS) data.**



STATE	INFLOW	% OF POPULATION
California	313,560	0.81%
Florida	289,829	1.29%
Texas	272,711	0.88%
New York	163,636	0.84%
Illinois	96,508	0.78%
New Jersey	92,955	1.01%
Pennsylvania	70,342	0.55%
Massachusetts	67,287	0.97%
Washington	67,190	0.87%
North Carolina	63,852	0.60%

Immigrant inflows as a percentage of state population are calculated by taking the immigrant inflow and dividing it from the state’s total population.

Yet some smaller states have also been effective in luring immigrants. Since 2010 the top states for new immigrants as a percentage of their total population have included Hawaii (1.04 percent), Massachusetts (.91 percent), Washington (.74 percent), Maryland (.74 percent), and Virginia (.73 percent).

From 2013 to 2023 the foreign born made up over 70 percent of Massachusetts population gains. During that period the foreign-born population increased by 251,784 while the native born population increased by only 56,791.

### FAST FACT

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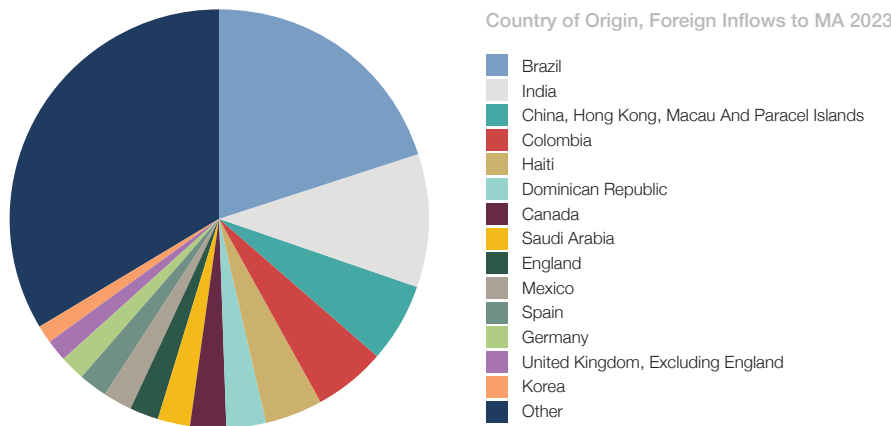
Massachusetts has been heavily reliant on immigrant inflows since 2010. Since then, about two thirds of the state’s total population growth is attributable to foreign inflows. The state would have lost at least 26,000 in total population since 2021 if not for a renewed influx of foreign immigration after restrictions were eased following the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. Immigrants as a percentage of the Bay State’s total population has correspondingly increased from 13.7 percent in 2010 to 18.2 percent in 2023.

The least popular destinations for immigrants from 2010 to 2023 were West Virginia (.17 percent), Mississippi (.25 percent), Arkansas (.28 percent), Alabama (.28 percent), and Maine (.30 percent).

Immigrants locating to different states vary significantly by country of origin. For example, while many receive a high percentage from Mexico (13.8 percent of all immigrants nationally) and Central America, others, like Massachusetts, receive a more diverse mix.

For the Commonwealth, the top country of origin in 2023 was Brazil, with over 20 percent of all immigrants, or 13,668, originating there. Nationally only 4 percent of immigrants originated from Brazil. Other top countries include India (10.5 percent), China (6 percent), Colombia (5.6 percent), and Haiti (4.4 percent).

**Figure 2: Analysis of International migration to MA based on American Community Survey (ACS) data.**



Immigrants locating to Massachusetts also tend to be more educated. Just under 39 percent of new immigrants have a bachelor’s degree or higher while that was true for only 31.9 percent of immigrants overall in 2023. The origin countries of immigrants locating to Massachusetts that tend to have the highest educational attainment are those from India, Canada, Korea, England, Germany, and Spain.

Immigrants to Massachusetts also tend to be younger than average for those locating to the United States. Eighteen-and-a-half percent are between the ages of 18 and 24, 44.4 percent are between the ages of 25 and 44, and only 5.3 percent are over the age of 65. In comparison nationally 16.8 percent of those relocating from a foreign country are 18 to 24, 39.3 percent are between 25 and 44, and 8 percent are over the age of 65.

**DATA NOTE**

**By immigrants the author is referring to all those relocating to Massachusetts from a foreign country. Thus counts also include service members stationed outside the U.S. returning, U.S. citizens born in a foreign country, U.S. citizens with a permanent residence outside the U.S, as well as foreign-born immigrants. Survey data is not available for 2020.**

**IF YOU MISSED IT**

Our previous edition of the newsletter covered state-to-state migration up until 2023 using American Community Survey data.

**STAY TUNED!**

Upcoming issues of Mapping Mass Migration will include analyses of:

- The migration of remote workers
- County and state population change in New England
- State components of change in 2024 (domestic migration, international migration, and natural population change)
- National migration trends