

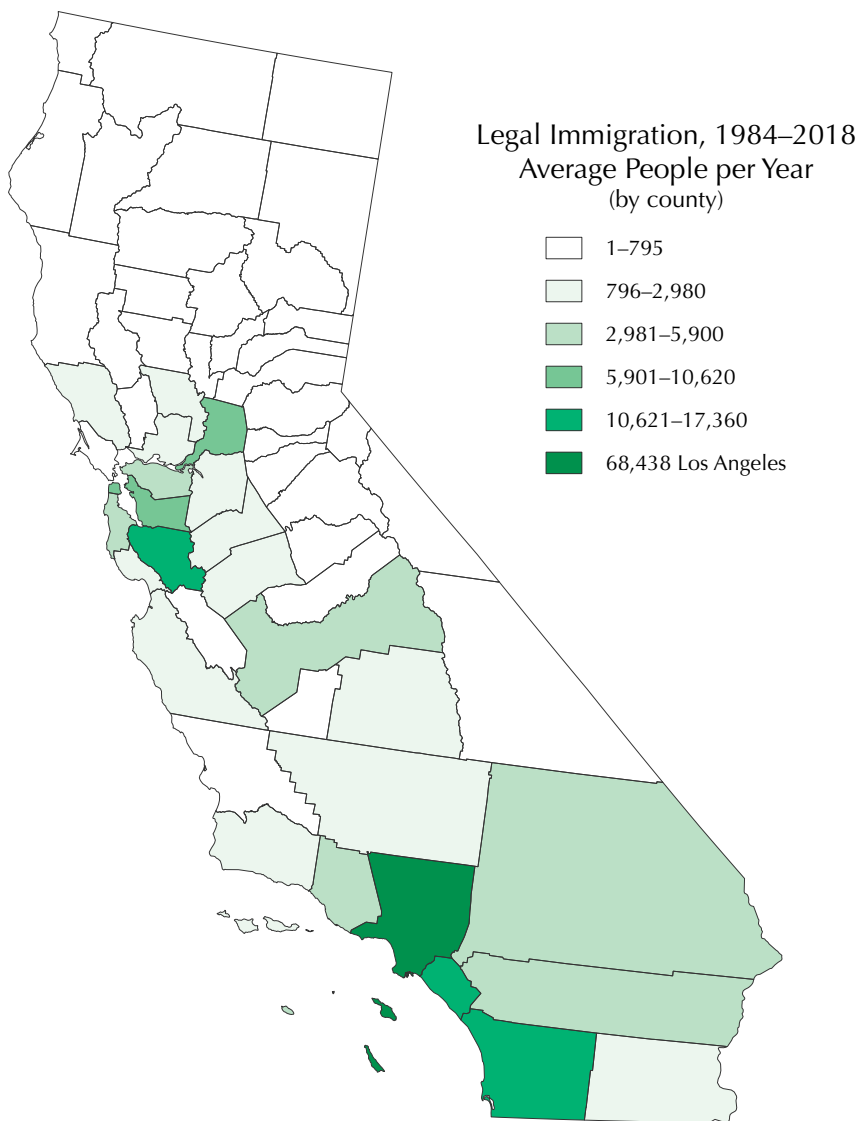
Immigration

Since it first became a state, California has been the state with the highest percentage of foreign-born residents. Twenty-seven percent of California residents in 2019 were born outside of the United States. This is almost double the national average of 13.6%, which nearly tripled in the past 50 years. If the number of undocumented immigrants could be accurately determined, these percentages would be even higher. California's percentage of foreign-born population is one of the highest in the world.

The immigrants to California come from every region of the world. While the largest share of the foreign-born population comes from Mexico and Central America, Asia has been the leading source of immigrants for the past 10 years.

As the map shows, these new Californians live in every county of the state, though the greatest number are living in large cities. They work in every type of job, and many attend schools, colleges, and universities. Immigrants add to the diversity of people that make up America's ever-growing population.

Image: Immigrants to California have established diverse types of neighborhoods all over the state, such as Chinatown in San Francisco, Little Armenia in Los Angeles, and Little Saigon in San Diego (pictured here).



Estimated Total Immigrants, 2017 by Region of Birth

