

Estimates of the Unauthorized Migrant Population for States based on the March 2005 CPS

(In thousands)

U.S. total 11,100 (10,700–11,500)			
California	2,500–2,750	Indiana	55–85
Texas	1,400–1,600	Iowa	55–85
Florida	800–950	Oklahoma	50–75
New York	550–650	New Mexico	50–75
Arizona	400–450	Kansas	40–70
Illinois	375–425	South Carolina	35–75
Georgia	350–450	Missouri	35–65
New Jersey	350–425	Nebraska	35–55
North Carolina	300–400	Kentucky	30–60
Virginia	250–300	Alabama	30–50
Maryland	225–275	Mississippi	30–50
Colorado	225–275	Arkansas	30–50
Washington	200–250	Louisiana	25–45
Massachusetts	150–250	Idaho	25–45
Nevada	150–200	Rhode Island	20–40
Pennsylvania	125–175	Hawaii	20–35
Oregon	125–175	Delaware	15–35
Tennessee	100–150	District of Columbia	15–30
Michigan	100–150	New Hampshire	10–30
Ohio	75–150	Alaska	<10
Wisconsin	75–115	Wyoming	<10
Minnesota	75–100	South Dakota	<10
Utah	75–100	Maine	<10
Connecticut	70–100	Vermont	<10
		North Dakota	<10
		Montana	<10
		West Virginia	<10

Based on March 2005 Current Population Survey

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Fact Sheet: Estimates of the Unauthorized Migrant Population for the States

The estimates reported here for the number of unauthorized migrants* living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia are based on a well-established methodology applied to data from the March 2005 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS, a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted jointly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, is best known as the source for monthly unemployment statistics. Every March both the sample size and the questionnaire of the CPS are augmented to produce the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, which provides additional data on several additional subjects, including the foreign-born population.

As previously reported, the Center's analysis of the March 2005 CPS shows that there were an estimated 11.1 million unauthorized migrants in the United States a year ago. Based on analysis of other data sources that offer indications of the pace of growth in the foreign-born population, the Center developed an estimate of 11.5 to 12 million for the unauthorized population as of March 2006. A full report on the estimates including a description of the methodology can be found in: [Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S.: Estimates Based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey](http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=61) (<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=61>)

The March CPS supplement in any given year does not provide enough data to provide a precise point estimate of the size of the unauthorized population in all states. Variability in the survey sample precludes precise year-to-year comparisons for some sub-populations. Therefore, the estimates by state are presented here as a range. While based primarily on the March 2005 CPS, the estimates developed out of an analysis of CPS-based estimates for 2000 to 2005 and Census-based estimates for 2000. The analysis included both an examination of trends across the estimates for all six years and averaging of results in two- and three-year increments to reduce the effects of sample variability.

In addition to the reports noted above, the Center has produced two other fact sheets regarding unauthorized migrants based on the analysis of the March 2005 CPS:

[The Labor Force Status of Short Term Unauthorized Workers](http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/16.pdf)

(<http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/16.pdf>)

[Recently Arrived Migrants and the Congressional Debate on Immigration](http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/15.pdf)

(<http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/15.pdf>)

* The term "unauthorized migrant" is used in reference to these estimates because the statistical methodology involved in deriving the estimates requires the inclusion of some persons who have temporary permission to reside in the U.S. or whose immigration status is unresolved.