

What Jobs Are New Immigrants Taking? Occupations of Employment Based Legal Permanent Residents Admitted between 2000 and 2004

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Increasing numbers of immigrants in recent years have raised concerns among policy makers and the American public about the supply and demand of native versus foreign labor. Previous literature has examined the effect of immigration on the labor market using Census datasets. This analysis will shed new light on the specific occupations of immigrants by utilizing data on the legal permanent resident population obtained from DHS administrative records.

The data presented in this paper consist of demographic information taken from the applications for legal permanent resident (LPR) status submitted by foreign nationals. This information is maintained in the Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This paper analyzes the descriptive characteristics of LPRs who were granted LPR status during the fiscal years of 2000 to 2004. Demographic characteristics including sex, age, marital status, and country of birth are examined. Analysis also includes tables and maps illustrating trends in the occupation of LPRs between 2000 and 2004 based on the categories of occupation used by the U.S. Census Bureau, the breakdown of occupations by employment preferences, and distribution of occupations by country of birth.

Preliminary results indicate that 70 to 74 percent of employment based principal LPRs were employed in management, professional, and related fields from 2000 to 2004 (see attached Table 1). Within this category the most common occupations were executives, engineers, and computer/math scientists. Service occupations were the second most common group employing between five and seven percent of employment based principal LPRs.

[illegible]

Table 1.

Occupation of All Employment Based Principal LPRs: Fiscal Years 2000 to 2004

Total Number of Employment Based Principal LPRs*	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
Management, Professional and Related	49,271	100.0%	82,328	100.0%	78,696	100.0%	35,543	100.0%	72,550	100.0%
Executive, Administrative, Managerial Engineers	34,499	70.0%	60,438	73.4%	58,417	74.2%	25,620	72.1%	52,621	72.5%
Computer/Math Scientists & Technicians	8,170	23.7%	14,101	23.3%	11,232	19.2%	4,912	19.2%	9,725	18.5%
Nurses	5,373	15.6%	12,512	20.7%	12,813	21.9%	3,786	14.8%	10,900	20.7%
Social, Recreation, & Religious Workers	5,431	15.7%	15,196	25.1%	17,100	29.3%	7,032	27.4%	12,377	23.5%
Physical and Life Scientists	4,903	14.2%	3,724	6.2%	4,072	7.0%	3,963	15.5%	6,625	12.6%
Teachers	3,287	9.5%	2,824	4.7%	1,630	2.8%	1,380	5.4%	1,332	2.5%
Physicians	2,438	7.1%	3,578	5.9%	2,710	4.6%	879	3.4%	3,136	6.0%
Other	1,070	3.1%	1,427	2.4%	1,885	3.2%	756	3.0%	1,970	3.7%
	812	2.4%	1,017	1.7%	1,017	1.7%	493	1.9%	1,008	1.9%
	3,015	8.7%	6,059	10.0%	5,958	10.2%	2,419	9.4%	5,548	10.5%
Service Occupations	3,516	7.1%	4,877	5.9%	4,390	5.6%	1,964	5.5%	4,285	5.9%
Private household service (excl. child care)	1,638	46.6%	1,852	38.0%	1,674	38.1%	1,075	54.7%	1,167	27.2%
Food & beverage prep and service	1,599	45.5%	2,510	51.5%	2,223	50.6%	719	36.6%	2,605	60.8%
Other	279	7.9%	515	10.6%	493	11.2%	170	8.7%	513	12.0%
Production, Transportation, Material Moving	1,207	2.4%	2,360	2.9%	2,452	3.1%	1,127	3.2%	2,008	2.8%
Precision production	609	50.5%	1,509	63.9%	1,641	66.9%	522	46.3%	976	48.6%
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, lab	380	31.5%	489	20.7%	504	20.6%	451	40.0%	732	36.5%
Other	218	18.1%	362	15.3%	307	12.5%	154	13.7%	300	14.9%
Sales and Office	609	1.2%	1,336	1.6%	1,281	1.6%	704	2.0%	1,479	2.0%
Marketing and sales personnel	322	52.9%	667	49.9%	630	49.2%	403	57.2%	823	55.6%
Administrative support, clerical	287	47.1%	669	50.1%	651	50.8%	301	42.8%	656	44.4%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction, Extraction, Maintenance	633	1.3%	1,300	1.6%	1,174	1.5%	342	1.0%	1,146	1.6%
Construction	302	47.7%	530	40.8%	536	45.7%	160	46.8%	543	47.4%
Mechanics & repairers, computer repair	220	34.8%	626	48.2%	530	45.1%	120	35.1%	495	43.2%
Other	111	17.5%	144	11.1%	108	9.2%	62	18.1%	108	9.4%
Other and No Occupations	626	1.3%	910	1.1%	862	1.1%	392	1.1%	944	1.3%
Homemakers	188	30.0%	280	30.8%	253	29.4%	120	30.6%	306	32.4%
Students or children	210	33.5%	304	33.4%	306	35.5%	113	28.8%	217	23.0%
Retirees or Unemployed	228	36.4%	326	35.8%	303	35.2%	159	40.6%	421	44.6%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	140	0.3%	219	0.3%	228	0.3%	58	0.2%	196	0.3%
Agriculture and horticultural workers	134	95.7%	210	95.9%	219	96.1%	56	96.6%	189	96.4%
Other	6	4.3%	9	4.1%	9	3.9%	2	3.4%	7	3.6%
Military	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	5	0.0%	-	-	11	0.0%
Unknown	8,040	16.3%	10,885	13.2%	9,887	12.6%	5,336	15.0%	9,860	13.6%

* Not including spouses and children

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS), Legal Immigrant Data, Fiscal Year 2000 to 2004.