

1996 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service



*1996
Statistical Yearbook
of the
Immigration and
Naturalization
Service*





IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

October 1997

Copies of each *Statistical Yearbook* from 1965 to 1996 (entitled *Annual Report* prior to 1978) can be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Phone: (703) 487-4650. The NTIS order number for this report is PB 97-199673.

Library of Congress
National Serials Program
International Standard Serial number:
(ISSN) 0743-538X

Suggested Citation

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1996*, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1997

1996 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

With the establishment of diplomatic relations with China, the United States recognized the People's Republic of China as the official name for this sovereign nation. Previous editions of the *INS Statistical Yearbook* have used the conventional term, China, Mainland to differentiate China from Taiwan. Continuing with this edition of the *Yearbook* China, Mainland will be shown as the China, People's Republic. Though officially considered part of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan retains a statistical code and data for Taiwan will be shown separately when available.

Recent changes in the political and geographical definitions of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Ethiopia have led to inconsistencies in the reporting of data. Information for these republics and the independent states emerging from them are presented in this edition of the *INS Statistical Yearbook* as follows:

1. **Soviet Union** — On January 1, 1992, the United States formally recognized 12 independent republics within the former Soviet Union: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova; Russia; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; and Uzbekistan. The Soviet Union has officially dissolved as an independent state. Nationality codes have been established for the independent republics in the various INS data bases. However, a code has been retained for the Soviet Union because, while data for fiscal years 1992-96 are generally available for the separate republics, they are not available for all data series. In these cases, data are aggregated and presented for the former Soviet Union and for available republics.

2. **Yugoslavia** — On April 7, 1992, the United States formally recognized three independent states within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia. On February 8, 1994, Macedonia was recognized as an independent state. Montenegro and Serbia have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized by the United States. Yugoslavia has officially dissolved as an independent republic; however, for purposes of statistical reporting, it will be shown to include the four independent states, as well as Montenegro and Serbia, unless otherwise indicated. Nationality codes have been established for the four independent states in the various INS data bases. However, a code has been retained for Yugoslavia because, while data for fiscal years 1993-96 are generally available for the separate states, they are not available for all data series. In these cases, data are aggregated and presented for the former Yugoslavia and for available independent states.

3. **Czechoslovakia** — On January 1, 1993, the United States formally recognized two independent republics within the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR or Czechoslovakia): the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic (Slovakia). Czechoslovakia has officially dissolved as an independent republic; however, for purposes of statistical reporting, it will be shown to include the two independent republics unless otherwise indicated. Nationality codes have been established for the two independent republics in the various INS data bases. However, a code has been retained for Czechoslovakia because, while data for fiscal years 1994-96 are generally available for the separate republics, they are not available for all data series. In these cases, data are aggregated and presented for the former Czechoslovakia and for available independent republics.

4. **Ethiopia / Eritrea** — On April 27, 1993, the United States formally recognized Eritrea as a sovereign country, independent of Ethiopia. Data for Ethiopia excludes Eritrea unless otherwise indicated.

In addition, there are known cross-reporting problems for certain pairs of countries with similar names or historical associations. These pairs of countries are: the People's Republic of China and Taiwan; the Dominican Republic and Dominica; Nigeria and Niger; Australia and Austria; Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles; and Mauritania and Mauritius.

For each pair, persons from one country may be reported as being from the other country. This error will cause an understatement of the total number of persons from the larger country of the pair and an overstatement from the smaller country. For example, the number of immigrants from the Dominican Republic is likely to be understated while the number of immigrants from Dominica is likely to be overstated.

INTRODUCTION



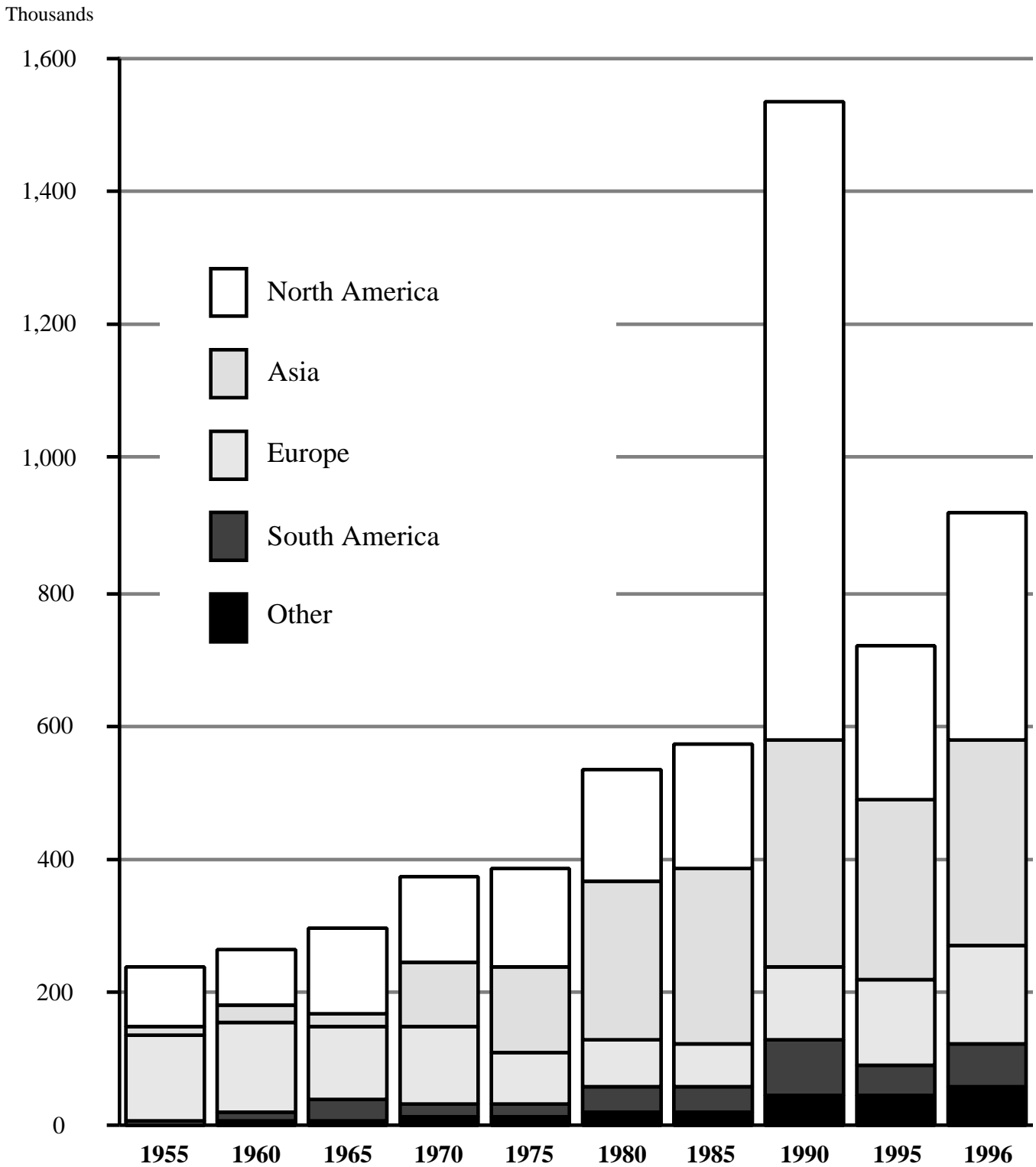
This edition of the *Yearbook* provides immigration data for 1996 along with related historical information. The major areas covered include: immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence; refugees approved and admitted; nonimmigrant admissions (*e.g.*, tourists, students, *etc.*); aliens naturalized; and aliens apprehended and removed.

The statistics for 1996 reflect a rise in immigration to the United States; an all-time high in the number of tourists to the United States; and an increase in the number of deportable aliens apprehended.

Highlights for 1996 include:

- ★ 915,900 persons were granted legal permanent resident status in fiscal year 1996, an increase of more than 195,000 over the year before.
 - ★ Mexico was the country of birth of 163,572 immigrants—the most of any country (18.0 percent). Nearly 34 percent of all immigrants were born in Asia.
 - ★ Nearly two-thirds of all immigrants intended to reside in six states: California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, and Illinois.
 - ★ More than one of five immigrants intended to reside in New York City or Los Angeles.
 - ★ The republics of the former Soviet Union surpassed all other countries for refugee admissions with 29,536 (39.5 percent).
 - ★ More than 24.8 million nonimmigrants were admitted—77 percent were tourists.
-
- ★ About one-half of all nonimmigrant admissions took place at four ports: Miami, New York, Los Angeles, and Honolulu.
 - ★ Nearly 427,000 nonimmigrants entered the United States as foreign students.
 - ★ Naturalizations increased to nearly 1.045 million—more than doubling the number in 1995.
 - ★ Nearly 50 percent of persons naturalizing during the 1981-96 period were born in Asia.
 - ★ The naturalization rates as of 1995 for immigrants admitted in 1977 range from Germany (16.8 percent) to the People's Republic of China (65.5 percent). Naturalization rates tend to be the highest for Asian, Eastern European, and African countries.
 - ★ Apprehensions of deportable aliens increased to 1.6 million—an 18-percent increase over 1995.
 - ★ Nearly 37,000 criminal aliens were removed during 1996.

**Chart A. Immigrants Admitted by Region of Birth:
Selected Fiscal Years 1955-96**



Source: 1980-96, Table 3; 1955-75, previous *Yearbooks*. See Glossary for fiscal year definitions.