THE GOOD SHEET · Nº 003 · September 25 – October 1, 2008 · WWW.GOOD.IS/

CATEGORIES: MOBILITY LIVING

COMING TO AMERICA

Both presidential candidates have plans to address illegal immigration into the United States. These numbers show how many people are immigrating, where they are coming from, and why coming illegally might seem like an attractive option.

Top 5 countries of birth for recent U.S. immigrants

- Mexico: 11.67 million
- China: 2 million
- India: 1.7 million
- Philippines: 1.67 million
- Vietnam: 999,000

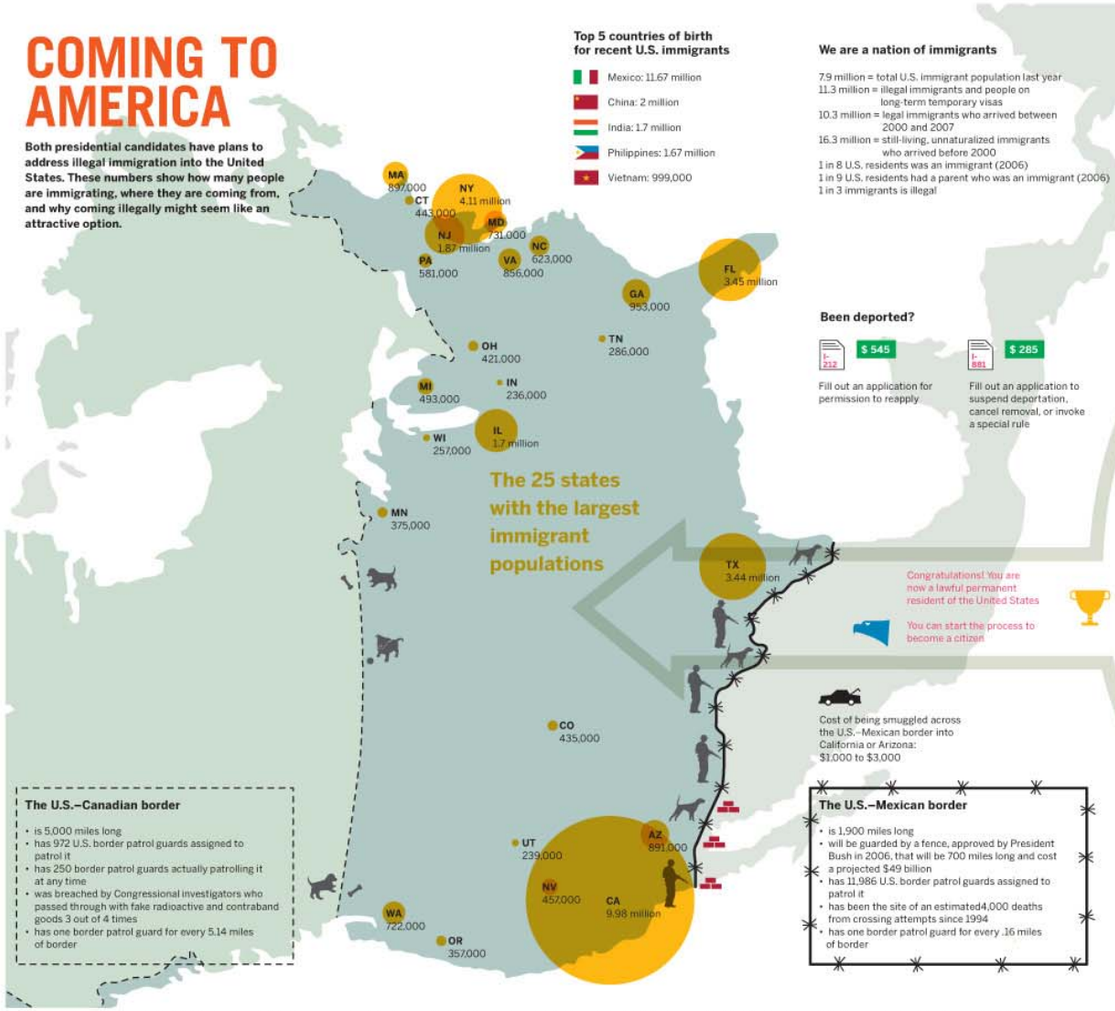
We are a nation of immigrants

7.9 million = total U.S. immigrant population last year
11.3 million = illegal immigrants and people on long-term temporary visas
10.3 million = legal immigrants who arrived between 2000 and 2007
16.3 million = still-living, unnaturalized immigrants who arrived before 2000
1 in 8 U.S. residents was an immigrant (2006)
1 in 9 U.S. residents had a parent who was an immigrant (2006)
1 in 3 immigrants is illegal

Been deported?

I-212 **$ 545** Fill out an application for permission to reapply

I-881 **$ 285** Fill out an application to suspend deportation, cancel removal, or invoke a special rule



Cost of being smuggled across the U.S.–Mexican border into California or Arizona: $1,000 to $3,000

The U.S.–Canadian border

- is 5,000 miles long
- has 972 U.S. border patrol guards assigned to patrol it
- has 250 border patrol guards actually patrolling it at any time
- was breached by Congressional investigators who passed through with fake radioactive and contraband goods 3 out of 4 times
- has one border patrol guard for every 5.14 miles of border

The U.S.–Mexican border

- is 1,900 miles long
- will be guarded by a fence, approved by President Bush in 2006, that will be 700 miles long and cost a projected $49 billion
- has 11,986 U.S. border patrol guards assigned to patrol it
- has been the site of an estimated4,000 deaths from crossing attempts since 1994
- has one border patrol guard for every .16 miles of border

How to Get a Green Card

FREE Immigration through the Diversity Lottery: The lottery grants visas to qualified applicants from countries with low rates of immigration to the U.S. Submit electronic-only application at dvlottery.state.gov and join a pool of millions hoping to get one of the 55,000 visas offered annually

I-485 Pay corresponding fee if you are...

$ 600 Younger than 14 and filing with a parent's application

$ 930 Younger than 14 and not filing with a parent's application

$ 930 between the ages of 14 and 79

G-325 **$ 80** In certain cases, visit an authorized site for biometrics testing (no fee if older than 79)

Submit your application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security

USCIS sends a notice of receipt

If you have ever been in the country illegally, this could delay your ability to get a visa for 10 years

Your application is sent to the National Visa Center in Portsmouth, NH

The National Visa Center receives the application

USCIS creates a case record and assigns a case number to your application

USCIS accepts the petition

I-797

Your petition is rejected

USCIS sends approval notice

An officer at the U.S. embassy or consulate decides on the application

Go to an in-person interview to demonstrate that you are entitled to a visa

Receive notice of an interview date at your local U.S. embassy or consulate

Appear before an immigration judge or the Board of Immigration Appeals

If you are in the United States when your case is rejected, appeal your ineligibility

Your application is refused. In some cases you can appeal it

Fees do not include the cost of a lawyer

The National Visa Center sends you a bill for a processing fee

I-864 **$ 70** If you have a sponsor, he or she receives a bill to process form I-864 and must pay the Department of State

DS-3032 You can choose to designate a lawyer or family member to represent you and receive all future correspondence

Join a waiting list. Applications may remain with the National Visa Center for months or years

Skip ahead if you are in a family-preference category or an employment category that hasn't reached its temporary quota or if an immediate family member is a citizen

Demand in your visa category is above the temporary quota

Move ahead when the cutoff date in your visa category is close to the date for current case consideration

DS-230 **$ 395** Register with the Department of State and pay a $45 security tax in certain cases

START

Pick your immigration status below and then enter the maze to the left

I-130 **$ 355** Immigration through a family member sponsor required

If an immediate relative is a current U.S. citizen, pay to submit the application

Sponsor fills out an affidavit of support on your behalf I-864

I-140 **$ 340** Immigration through employment sponsor required

$ 1,000 Employer pays for your application to be fast-tracked and approved within 15 days

$ 375 You are a "special immigrant" who falls into one of several categories, including widow(er)s, Iraqi nationals who worked on behalf of the U.S. government, and Panama Canal Company employees. Fee waived in some circumstances

I-526 **$ 1,435** Immigration through investment: You have financial reserves and are starting or expanding a business in the U.S.

I-829 **$ 2,850** Get permission to stay in the country long-term if you are a foreign entrepreneur

This exploration of immigration is a collaboration between GOOD and HANK H. HUANG.

SOURCES Center for Immigration Studies; *The Economist*; Library of Congress; Stopgatekeeper.org; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Department of State; U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau for Transportation Statistics; U.S. Government Accountability Office

WATCH videos on immigration at www.good.is/

NEXT WEEK'S GOOD SHEET: Gas Prices

Copyright © 2008 GOOD Worldwide, Inc. Some rights reserved. GOOD is a U.S. registered trademark and trademark of GOOD Worldwide, Inc.

GOOD

GET ON BOARD
REDUCE
VOLUNTEER
EDUCATE
Visit jetblue.com/green
jetBlue
Jetting To Green