

Arkansas Demographics

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Arkansas (2021)*

- ❖ Total foreign born population – 142,988
- ❖ 4.7% of the state's ~ 3 million people are foreign born
 - ❖ 35.6% naturalized citizens
 - ❖ 24 % legal permanent residents (as of 2019)
 - ❖ 40.4% temporary visa holders or undocumented immigrants
- ❖ 94% rise in immigrant population from 2000 to 2021
- ❖ Length of time immigrants have lived in the U.S.
 - ❖ 42.8% entered before 1999
 - ❖ 28.9% entered 2000 - 2009
 - ❖ 28.3% since 2010
- ❖ 11.6% of children under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
 - ❖ 88.8% of these children are native-born U.S. citizens

**Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (September, 2023) and Lawful Permanent Resident estimates MPI and DHS (2022)*

Arkansas– Countries/Regions of Origin & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2019)*

- ❖ Latin America – 60.9%
 - ❖ Mexico (39.4%)
 - ❖ El Salvador (12.8%)
 - ❖ Other Central America (5.5%)
- ❖ Asia – 21.1%
 - ❖ Southeastern Asia (9.7%)
 - ❖ India (6.8%)
 - ❖ Eastern Asia (3.2%)
- ❖ Europe – 7.4%
- ❖ Oceania – 5.1%
- ❖ Africa – 3.1%
- ❖ Middle East – 1.4%
- ❖ Canada – 1%
- ❖ Language spoken
 - ❖ 7.7% of people in the state who speak a language other than English at home
 - ❖ 48.5% of foreign-born persons are LEP - speak English less than “very well”

*Source: [Migration Policy Institute Data Hub](#) (September 2023)

Arkansas-Languages Spoken at Home (2021)*

- ❖ Spanish (155,476)
- ❖ Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or Other Austronesian Languages (8,009)
- ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (5,366)
- ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (5,345)
- ❖ Vietnamese (4,701)
- ❖ German (3,841)
- ❖ French (including Cajun) (3,603)
- ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (2,989)
- ❖ Arabic (2,503)
- ❖ Korean (2,082)
- ❖ Telugu (2,040)
- ❖ Hindi (1,910)
- ❖ Hmong (1,602)
- ❖ Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch, or Other West Germanic Languages (1,146)
- ❖ Portuguese (1,102)
- ❖ Gujarati (1,097)

* Source <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/AR> (September, 2023)

Arkansas-LEP (2021)*

- ❖ Limited English Proficiency (Speak English less than very well)
 - ❖ Naturalized citizens – 37.5%
 - ❖ Noncitizens – 54.7%
- ❖ Limited English Proficiency by language spoken at home
 - ❖ Vietnamese (66.7%)
 - ❖ Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or Other Austronesian Languages (54%)
 - ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (53.1%)
 - ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (47.6%)
 - ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (46.3%)
 - ❖ Korean (43.7%)
 - ❖ Hmong (43.6%)
 - ❖ Spanish (43%)
 - ❖ Telugu (31.3%)
 - ❖ Arabic (29.1%)
 - ❖ Portuguese (25.8%)

* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/AR> (September, 2023)