

Prepared for the Rockefeller-Aspen Diaspora Program (RAD)

The Filipino Diaspora in the United States

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Summary

Approximately 2.8 million Filipino immigrants and their children (the first and second generations) live in the United States. The Philippines is the fourth-largest source of immigrants to the United States (after Mexico, China, and India), accounting for 4.6 percent of the United States' foreign-born population. Filipino immigrants naturalize at a higher rate than U.S. immigrants overall and at the highest rate (67 percent) among the five groups studied for the RAD program.¹ A population with a long history of U.S. immigration, the first generation population in the analysis had a median age of 48 and a substantial proportion were over 65 (17 percent). It is likely that the Filipino diaspora includes not only children of immigrants but also grandchildren and great-grandchildren (third and fourth generation), who are not included in this analysis because they could not be identified in the data.

The Filipino diaspora in the United States has a relatively high level of educational attainment. Members are more likely than the general U.S. population to have completed a bachelor's degree, but slightly less likely to have advanced degrees. A greater share of the Filipino diaspora is in the labor force compared to the U.S. population overall, owing to the relatively high labor force participation of Filipino women. Those in the labor force are about as likely as the general U.S. population to be employed, and are slightly more likely to work in professional and managerial occupations. Filipino diaspora households reported a median income of \$74,000, or \$24,000 above the median for all U.S. households, and 18 percent of Filipino diaspora households were in the top 10 percent of the U.S. household income distribution.

The greatest numbers of Filipino immigrants live in California, especially in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, and in Hawaii. Their concentration is highest in Honolulu, where immigrants from the Philippines comprise about 9 percent of the metropolitan area's population. The New York metropolitan area is also an important population center for Filipino immigrants.

The Filipino diaspora has established numerous, well-funded organizations in the United States. Their core missions usually fall into one or more of four broad categories: aid for the development of the Philippines; health, educational, or housing services to the Filipino community in the United States; societies for medical professionals; and veterans' advocacy

¹ The groups studied for the RAD program are the U.S.-based diasporas (first and second generation) from Colombia, Egypt, India, Kenya and the Philippines.

groups. The best-resourced Filipino diaspora organizations are located in California, including all six of the groups that posted annual revenue exceeding \$1 million in their most recently available IRS filings. Among them are Operation Samahan, PhilDev (formerly known as the Ayala Foundation USA), Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, and Gawad Kalinga USA.

The Philippines is the world's third largest remittance-receiving country, after India and China. Remittance flows to the country were \$24.5 billion during 2012, amounting to 9.8 percent of the Philippines' total GDP. Remittances reached a level of 13.2 percent of GDP in 2005; the subsequent decline in the share of GDP, however, results from strong growth in GDP rather than a decline in the volume of remittances. The United States is both the top destination country for Filipino emigrants and the top source of remittances, with the diaspora sending an estimated \$10.6 billion to the Philippines in 2012.

Detailed Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics²

Analysis of data from 2009-2013 shows a Filipino diaspora in the United States of 2.6 million individuals, counting immigrants born in the Philippines and U.S.-born individuals with at least one parent born in the Philippines.

First Generation (Filipino immigrants in the United States)

- More than 1.67 million immigrants from the Philippines resided in the United States, making Filipinos the United States' fourth largest immigrant group (after immigrants from Mexico, China, and India).
- The flow of migrants from the Philippines to the United States has remained fairly stable over the past three decades. In 1980, there were around 500,000 Filipino immigrants in the United States, about 3.6 percent of the total immigrant population at that time.³ By 2012, the Filipino immigrant share had increased modestly to 4.6 percent of the total immigrant population.
- About two-thirds of immigrants from the Philippines arrived before 2000 (67 percent) and about a third arrived after 2000 (33 percent), a division that was about average for the U.S. immigrant population as a whole (64 percent arriving before 2000).
- Two-thirds of immigrants from the Philippines were U.S. citizens (67 percent). Filipino immigrants have the highest naturalization rate among the five populations analyzed for the RAD series, a rate that is considerably higher than the rate for the U.S. foreign-born population overall (44 percent).
- Seventy-seven percent of first-generation Filipino immigrants were of working age (18

² All Census Bureau data were accessed from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) (Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010). <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

³ These estimates are based on MPI analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2012 American Community Surveys and the 1980 and 2000 Censuses.

to 64), and a sizable share was age 65 and older (17 percent). The median age of first-generation Filipino immigrants was 48; they were the oldest group of the five diasporas in the analysis.

Second Generation (U.S.-born with at least one Filipino immigrant parent)

- An estimated 1.14 million U.S.-born individuals had at least one parent from the Philippines, representing the sixth largest second-generation population in the United States.
- Fifty-three percent of second-generation individuals reported having two Filipino immigrant parents. Thirty-eight percent had one parent who was U.S.-born.
- Fifty-four percent of second-generation individuals were of working age (18 to 64). They were nonetheless a young population, with a median age of 20 and 42 percent under age 18.

Educational Attainment

- Filipino diaspora members are well educated. Forty-three percent of those over age 25 had a bachelor's degree as their highest educational credential, compared to 20 percent of the U.S. population.
- Nine percent of the Filipino diaspora possessed a master's, PhD, or an advanced professional degree—slightly below the general U.S. population (11 percent) and lower than the other four diaspora groups in the RAD analysis.

Household Income

- Filipino diaspora households had a higher median income than U.S. households overall. The median income of Filipinos diaspora households was \$74,000 per year, versus \$50,000 for U.S. households overall.
- Forty percent of Filipino diaspora households reported annual incomes above \$90,000, the earnings threshold for the top 25 percent of U.S. households overall.
- Eighteen percent of Filipino diaspora households had annual incomes exceeding \$140,000, the threshold for the top 10 percent of U.S. households.

Employment

- Filipino diaspora members over age 16 were slightly more likely than the general U.S. population to be in the labor force (70 versus 64 percent). The higher rate largely results from above average labor force participation among Filipino diaspora women. Filipino diaspora members in the labor force were about as likely as the general U.S. population to be employed (92 versus 91 percent).
- Members of the Filipino diaspora were employed in professional and managerial occupations at a rate slightly above the average compared to the general U.S. population (25 versus 20 percent). These occupations include specialized fields (e.g. engineering, science, law, or education) as well as administrative and managerial jobs (e.g. finance or human resources).

Geographic Distribution⁴

- The greatest numbers of immigrants from the Philippines lived in California and Hawaii. An estimated 814,000 Filipino immigrants resided in California. The population in Hawaii was smaller (110,000), but Filipino immigrants comprised a larger share of the state's total population.
- The Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas accounted for more than half of California's Filipino immigrant population. An estimated 289,000 Filipino immigrants resided in the Los Angeles metropolitan area and 158,000 in the San Francisco metropolitan area. San Diego was also a major destination, with 94,000 immigrant residents. Outside of California and Hawaii, the New York metropolitan area was also a major population center, with 153,000 immigrant residents from the Philippines.
- As a share of total population, Filipinos were most concentrated in Honolulu, where 78,000 immigrant residents made up 8.6 percent of the metropolitan area's total population.

⁴ Analysis based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008-2012 American Community Surveys. Note that geographic distribution is only analyzed for the immigrant population. Second-generation Filipino diaspora members are not included in this section.

Remittance Volume⁵

- In terms of volume, the Philippines is the third largest remittance receiving country in the world (after India and China), with total remittance receipts valued at \$24.5 billion in 2012.
- The Philippines' GDP was \$250 billion in 2012. Between 1977 and 2005, remittances grew rapidly as a share of the Philippines' GDP, from 1.7 percent in 1977 to 13.2 percent in 2005. Remittances declined to 9.8 percent of GDP in 2012. This reflects strong economic growth in recent years rather than a decline in the volume of remittances.
- The Filipino diaspora in the United States transferred about \$10.6 billion in remittances to the Philippines in 2012. The United States was both the top source for remittances to the Philippines and the top destination country for Filipino migrants.

⁵ Remittance data are taken from World Bank Prospects Group tables for annual remittance inflows and outflows (October 2013 update) and the 2012 Bilateral Remittance Matrix (both available here: <http://go.worldbank.org/092X1CHHD0>). GDP estimates are from World Bank World Development Indicators data. Population estimates are from the United Nations Population Division mid-2013 matrix of total migrant stock by origin and destination.

Tables, Maps, and Graphs

Characteristics of the Filipino Diaspora in the United States

	Filipino Diaspora in the U.S.*	Total U.S. Population
Household Income		
Median household income	\$74,000	\$50,000
Average household size	3.0	2.5
Share of households with high incomes (\$90,000+)	40%	25%
Share of households with very high incomes (\$140,000+)	18%	10%
Employment		
Total population age 16 and older	2,289,000	239,386,000
Share in the labor force	70%	64%
... that was employed	92%	91%
... that was in a professional occupation	25%	20%
Educational Attainment **		
Total population age 25 and older	1,930,000	201,925,000
... with less than high school education	5%	13%
... with high school or some college education	43%	57%
... with a bachelor's degree	43%	20%
... with an advanced degree	9%	11%
Population Characteristics by Generation		
First and Second Generation Immigrant Population	2,811,000	73,140,000
First generation immigrant population ***	1,671,000	38,468,000
... that was working age (18-64)	77%	81%
... that entered the U.S. before 2000	67%	64%
... naturalized as U.S. citizens	67%	44%
Second generation population ****	1,140,000	34,672,000
... that was under age 18	42%	46%
... that was working age (18-64)	54%	43%
... with only one parent from the Philippines	47%	

* defined as all first and second generation

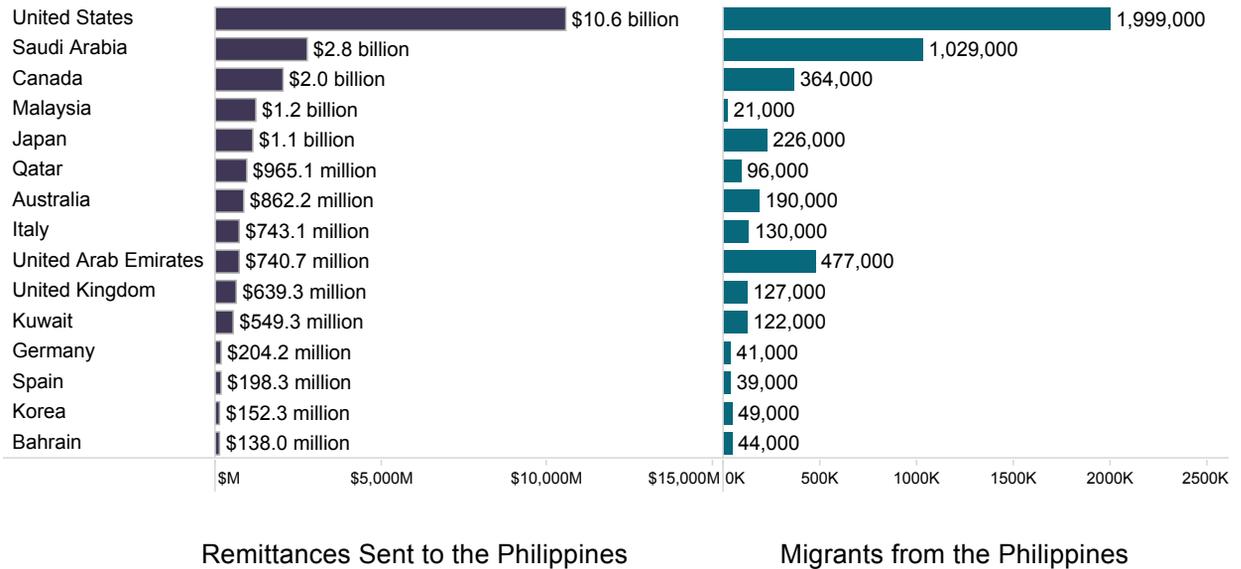
** highest level reported

*** all individuals who report the Philippines as their place of birth, excluding U.S. births abroad

**** all individuals who report having at least one parent born in the Philippines

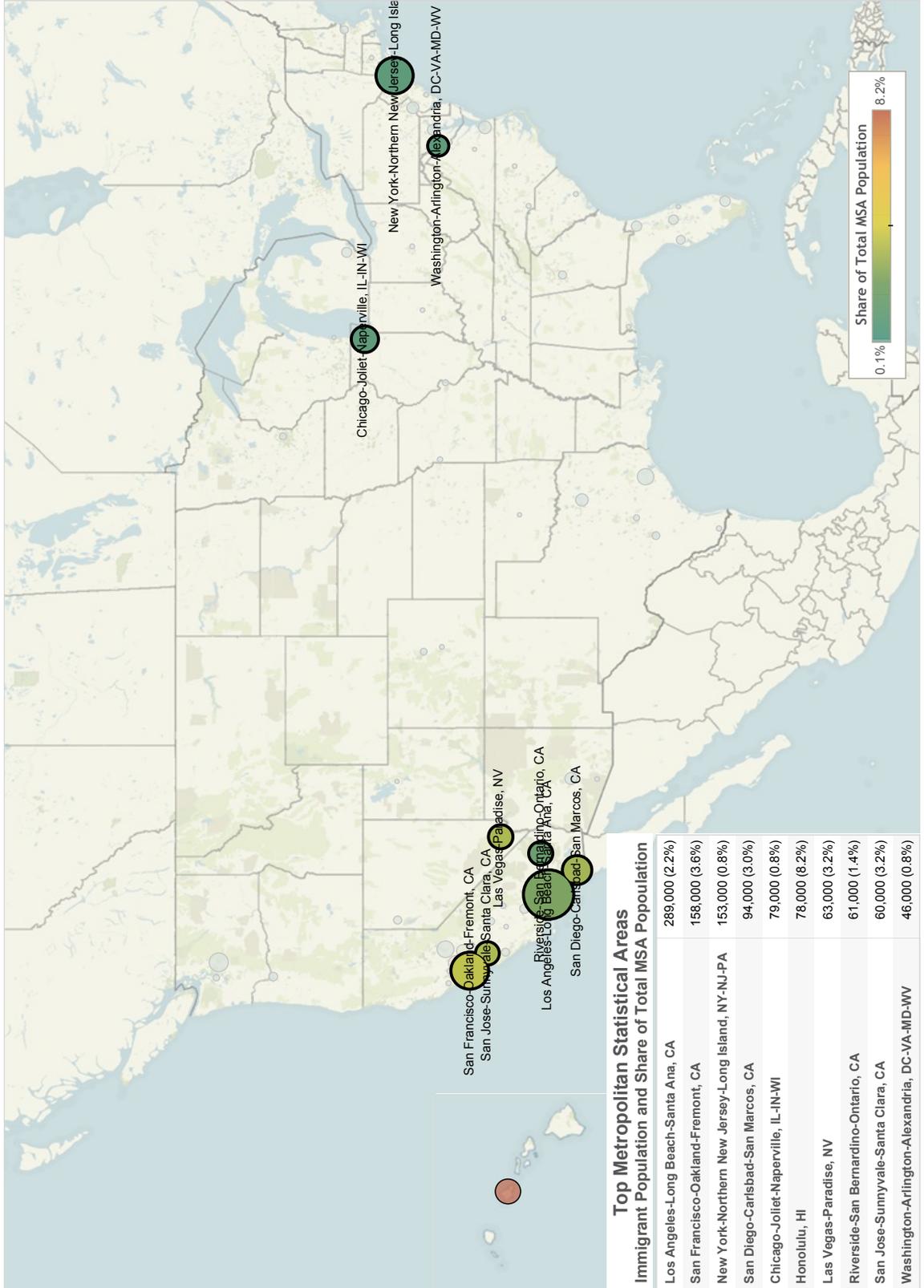
Source: All Census Bureau data were accessed from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) (Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010), <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

Remittance Inflows to the Philippines by Sending Country and the Filipino Emigrant Population, 2012



Source: MPI's analysis of World Bank Prospects Group tables for annual remittance inflows and outflows (October 2013 update) and the 2012 Bilateral Remittance Matrix, the World Bank's World Development Indicators, and the United Nations Population Division's Matrix of Total Migrant Stock by Origin and Destination (mid-2013).

Immigrant Population from the Philippines Displayed by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B05006; generated by the Migration Policy Institute, using American FactFinder, <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (18 December 2013).

Source: MPI's analysis of 2010-2012 ACS, pooled.