

PewResearchCenter

Data & Journalism

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PewResearchCenter

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. We conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. We do not take policy positions. All of our research is available at www.pewresearch.org. We are a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, our primary funder.

Major research areas:

- U.S. politics and policy
- Journalism and media
- Internet, science and technology
- Religion and public life
- Hispanic trends
- Global attitudes and trends
- Social and demographic trends
- Research methodology

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Data-based reports for all audiences

Make your findings easy to share via social media, email or print

Visualize the data in a graphic

Define terms up front (and in a methodology section)

MAY 11, 2016



America's Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within Metropolitan Areas

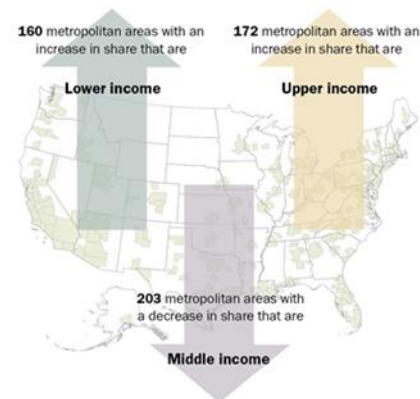
The middle class lost ground in nearly nine-in-ten U.S. metropolitan areas examined

The American middle class is losing ground in metropolitan areas across the country, affecting communities from Boston to Seattle and from Dallas to Milwaukee. From 2000 to 2014 the share of adults living in middle-income households fell in 203 of the 229 U.S. metropolitan areas examined in a new Pew Research Center analysis of government data. The decrease in the middle-class share was often substantial, measuring 6 percentage points or more in 53 metropolitan areas, compared with a 4-point drop nationally.

The shrinking of the middle class at the national level, to the point where it may no longer be the economic majority in the U.S., was documented in an [earlier analysis](#) by the Pew Research Center. The changes at the metropolitan level, the subject of this in-depth look at the American middle

The middle class is shrinking in most U.S. metropolitan areas, and lower- and upper-income tiers are gaining share

How the share of adults in lower-, middle- and upper-income tiers changed in 229 metropolitan areas from 2000 to 2014



Note: The shares of adults in the lower- and upper-income tiers may both increase in an area as the middle class share decreases, and this happened in 108 metropolitan areas. The 229 areas (out of a possible 381) are the ones identified in the source data and for which data are available for both 2000 and 2014. Middle-income Americans are adults whose size-adjusted household income is

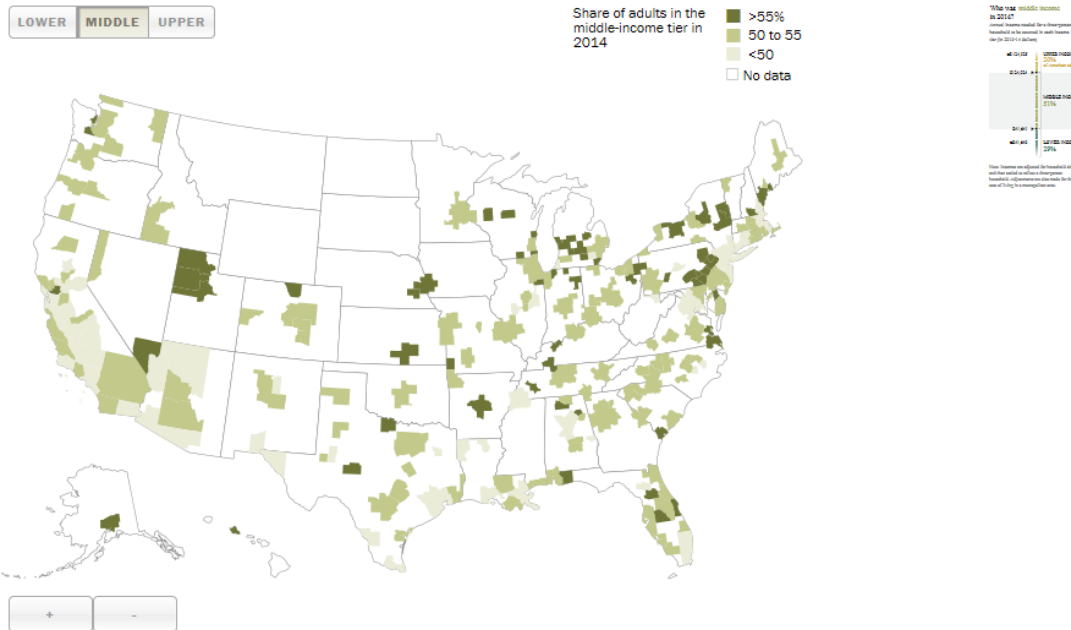
Localized findings

MAY 11, 2016



The American middle class: Who is in it, and who is not, in U.S. Metropolitan Areas

The share of adults in the **middle-income** tier was highest in Wausau, WI (67%) and lowest in Monroe, LA (42%). Middle-income adults lacked a majority in 50 metropolitan areas.



Note: The map displays estimates for 229 metropolitan areas out of a total of 381 areas currently defined by the federal government. These 229 areas are the ones that are identifiable in publicly available Census Bureau datasets and for which data were available for both 2000 and 2014. They accounted for 76% of the nation's population in 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the 2014 American Community Survey and the 2000 Decennial Census (IPUMS)

Interactive: see yourself in the data

MAY 11, 2016



Are you in the American middle class?

Pew Research Center's [new analysis](#) shows that the American middle class lost ground in the vast majority of metropolitan areas from 2000 to 2014, and the shares of adults in the lower- and upper-income ranks rose in most areas. There was more movement into the upper-income tier in about half the areas, while in the other half there was more movement downward.

STEP 1: See where you are in the distribution of Americans by income tier. Enter the location that best describes where you live, your household income and the number of people in your household. The calculator adjusts for the cost of living in your area.

State:

Select a state

Metropolitan area:

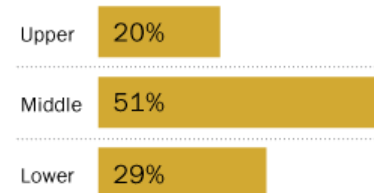
Metro area

Household income before taxes:

\$

People in my household:

SHARE OF AMERICAN ADULTS
IN EACH INCOME TIER



Offer data in multiple forms

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015



Modern Immigration Wave Brings 59 Million to U.S., Driving Population Growth and Change Through 2065

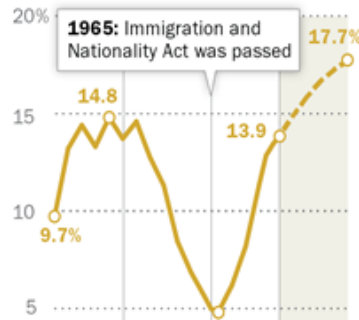
Views of Immigration's Impact on U.S. Society Mixed

Fifty years after passage of the landmark law that rewrote U.S. immigration policy, nearly 59 million immigrants have arrived in the United States, pushing the country's foreign-born share to a near record 14%. [▶](#) For the past half-century, these modern-era immigrants and their descendants have accounted for just over half the nation's population growth and have reshaped its racial and ethnic composition.

Looking ahead, new Pew Research Center U.S. population projections show that if current demographic trends continue, future immigrants and their descendants will be

FIGURE 1

U.S. Foreign-Born Share Projected to Hit Record Milestone by 2065



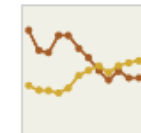
REPORT MATERIALS



Complete Report PDF



Topline



Key Charts: Statistical Portrait of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1960 - 2013



Timeline: Selected U.S. Immigration Legislation and Executive Actions, 1790-2014



Map: From Ireland to Germany to Italy to Mexico: How America's Source of Immigrants Has Changed in the States, 1850 to 2013

Extend reach of findings via blog posts

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015



On views of immigrants, Americans largely split along party lines

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015



BY JENS MANUEL

How U.S. immigration laws and rules have

When it comes to immigration, there's a big political divide in the Republican Party.

OCTOBER 5, 2015



BY D'VERA COHN

Future immigration will change the face of America by 2065

The United States will have more people than today, with no racial or ethnic majority group taking the place of today's white majority, according to new Pew Research Center projections. About one-in-three Americans would be an immigrant or have immigrant parents, compared with one-in-four

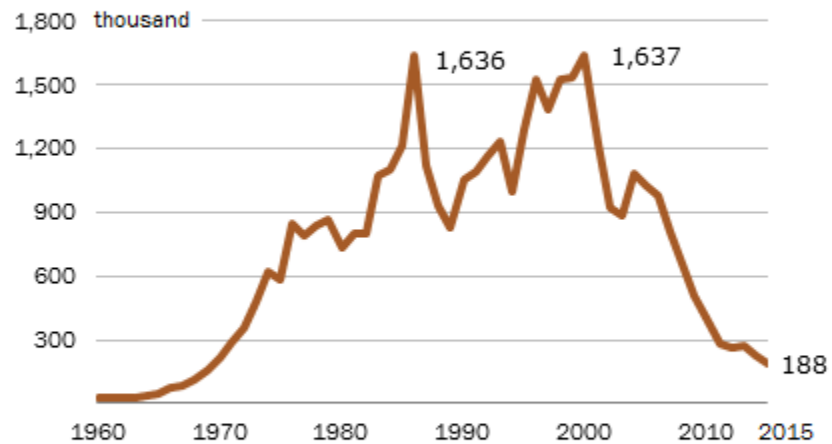
BY D'VERA COHN | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

A snapshot of the United States in 2065 would show a nation that has 117 million more people than today, with no racial or ethnic majority group taking the place of today's white majority, according to new [Pew Research Center projections](#). About one-in-three Americans would be an immigrant or have immigrant parents, compared with one-in-four

Provide context and definitions behind the data

Apprehensions of Mexicans at U.S. borders fall to near-historic lows in 2015

Border Patrol apprehensions, by fiscal year



Note: 1976 covers 15 months due to change in fiscal year period. Prior to 1976, fiscal year was July 1-June 30. After 1976, fiscal year was Oct. 1-Sept. 30. Refers to apprehensions at all U.S. borders. Apprehensions data represent events, not individuals.

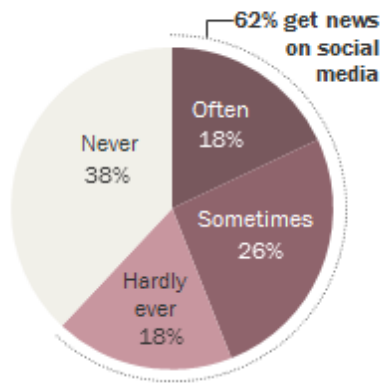
Source: U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions table, FY 2000-2015; Immigration and Naturalization Service statistical yearbooks, FY 1960-2000.

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Why it's important to be on social media

About 6-in-10 Americans get news from social media

% of U.S. adults who get news on a social networking site ...

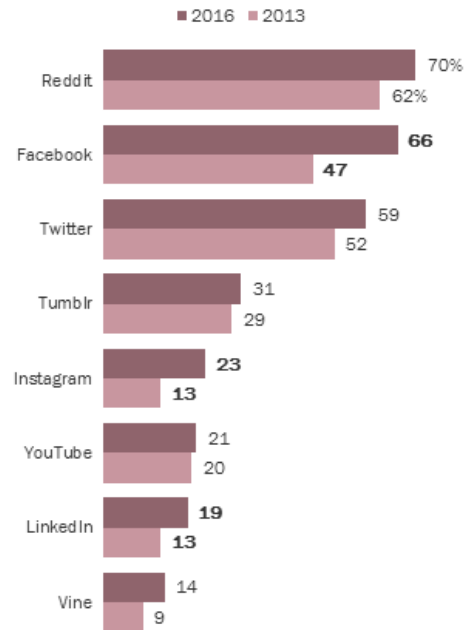


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016.
 "News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Growth in use of social media for news

% of users of each social networking site who get news there



Note: Statistically significant differences in **bold**.
 Source: Survey conducted Jan. 12-Feb. 8, 2016.
 "News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Presenting data in a journalistic way

- Use **everyday English**, and no technical terms or acronyms
“Intergenerational economic mobility” vs. “children doing better economically than their parents”
- **Imagery or context** helpful
“It’s bigger than a football field” or “Growth was moderate, about 5% a year”
- Use only a **few statistics in your text**
Offload the rest into graphics

Advice for dealing with journalists about your data

- Keep **talking points** on hand: 25 words at most, summarizing main points about your data
- If contacted, **respond quickly**: “Tell me what you are writing about.”
- **What do they want** – one number, one quote or a long interview?
- **Google their work** to see who you are dealing with
- You **cannot ask to see their story**, but ...
- Supply **off-hours contact information**, in case of editing questions
- What if they got it wrong? Protest major **factual errors**, but think twice before disputing framing, interpretation or tone
- **Track** your media presence
- If your office has a **PIO**, get in touch

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