

Fact Sheet - the United States is becoming an increasingly diverse country

The population of the United States is expected to reach 420 million in 2050, representing a population increase of 49%. Projections in the population, based upon assumptions about future births, mortality, and international migration, indicate a substantial cultural shift (US Department of Commerce, 1999).

- ❑ The nation's Hispanic and Asian populations are continuing to grow at much faster rates than the rest of the population.
- ❑ In 2004, the Census estimated the population of Hispanics at 39.9 million a number that accounted for about one half of the 9.4 million residents added to the nation's population since Census 2000. This growth rate of 13 was almost four times that of the total population, which was at 3.3%.
- ❑ The number of Asians grew 12.5% to 13.5 million. Of the Asian population, two thirds of this group fell into the 18 to 64 year old range, meaning that 66% was in the working age group (US Census PR, 2004).
- ❑ The nation's Hispanic and Asian populations, expected to triple by 2050, will be offset by a slower growing non-Hispanic white population. The US Census bureau reported that more than half of current US population growth is already occurring within these two groups.
- ❑ Between 2000 and 2050 the population of Hispanic origin is expected to increase from 36 million to 103 million, doubling their population share. The Asian population is expected to triple, from 11 million to 33 million, which will double their population share to 8%. At the same time, the non-Hispanic
- ❑ White populations are projected to be increasing more slowly than other groups. (Scommegna, 2004). By 2025, the Minority population is projected to exceed the non-Minority population in five states: Hawaii, New Mexico, California, Texas, and Washington DC. By the year 2030, minority children, aged five years and under, are projected to exceed non-Minority children, and by 2050 projections indicate that the Minority population will surpass the non-Minority population after 2050 (US Department of Commerce, 1999). These demographic changes will impact US minority buying power.
- ❑ Some of this growth will come from immigration – the number of foreign born and first generation US residents has reached it's highest levels in US history, at 56 million persons, or a ratio of one in five persons. The number of people in 2000 who were either foreign born or had at least one foreign born parent grew primarily because of the tripling of the foreign born population over the past thirty years.
- ❑ Contrary to common belief, most children who live with foreign born parents are native born. In 2000, 1.5 million children who lived with foreign born householders. (US Department of Commerce, February 2002). Seventy-five percent of the children in immigrant parents are US citizens (Morse, 2002).

- ❑ Shifts in immigration population also have influence on the composition of the overall ethnic group. For example, through 1960, the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos constituted the majority of the Asian American population. Per the 1970 Census, the majority of this group of Asian Americans was US born.
- ❑ Since 1970, changing tides of immigration occurred, due in great part to the elimination of exclusionary policies that existed before 1965, the implementation of refugee statues as a result of the Vietnam War, and the rise of second and subsequent generations of native born Asian Americans.
- ❑ In 1970 there were only 1.5 million Asian Americans, but in 2002, counting all persons who identified as Asian American, these numbers saw an eightfold to nine-fold increase in slightly over 30 years. The five Asian American groups are now Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Korean (Lott, 2004).

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