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BORDER INFLUX

Denver ranked fourth for number of immigrant arrivals per capita

GTL



Hotels and highways surround the Universal Volcano Bay water park Aug. 22 in Orlando, Fla. The city saw an influx of migrants in recent years drawn by warm temperatures, a vibrant migrant community and plentiful job opportunities.

REBECCA BLACKWELL — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO>> Salt Lake City, Denver and Fort Myers, Fla., were hot places to settle. California lost some of its appeal.

The Associated Press obtained U.S. Customs and Border Protection data by state and metropolitan area on self-reported destinations of nearly 2.5 million people who crossed the border illegally or they came legally through an online appointment app called CBP One from May 12, 2023, to Jan. 18, 2025. U.S. border authorities must collect street addresses of anyone released in the United States with humanitarian protections or with notices to appear in immigration court to pursue asylum.

Although many immigrants may have moved, the data opens a window into how an unprecedented increase in immigrants played out across the country. The data covered the period when President Joe Biden's administration ended COVID-19 restrictions on asylum to when President Donald Trump declared a national emergency at the border.

The data reflects a decades-long trend away from California to other areas that became popular as job openings flourished.

It also shows the impact of migrants from more than 100 countries in recent years appearing at the border, a break from the past when they were largely from Mexico and Central America. People from Venezuela and neighboring South American countries became a major presence after the height of the pandemic, making Florida a bigger draw because communities of those nationalities were well-established.

Top cities

Miami led all U.S. metropolitan areas per capita with 2,191 immigrant arrivals for every 100,000 residents. That was followed by Fort Myers, with 1,782; Salt Lake City, with 1,685; Denver, with 1,673; and New York, with 1,542.

Florida had four spots among the top 20. Aside from Miami and Fort Myers in the top two, Orlando was 10th and Tampa 17th.

By sheer numbers, New York had 300,650 arrivals, more than double any other. Only three others had more than 100,000 newcomers: Miami, Dallas and Houston.

Top states

Florida topped all 50 states and the District of Columbia per-capita with 1,271 immigrant arrivals for every 100,000 residents, followed by New York, with 1,216 arrivals, and Texas, with 1,104 arrivals. Other states with at least 1,000 migrant arrivals for every 100,000 residents were Colorado (1,063), New Jersey (1,029) and Utah (1,015).

California ranked 13th with 644 arrivals for every 100,000 residents, behind Georgia, Tennessee, Nevada and Connecticut.