

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS
TO SPORTS IN AMERICA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New research shows foreign-born athletes play an important role in professional sports in America. Foreign-born players make up 23% of the rosters in the National Basketball Association (NBA), 29% in Major League Baseball (MLB) and 72% in the National Hockey League (NHL), according to a National Foundation for American Policy analysis. This is the highest proportion of foreign-born players ever recorded for the NBA and MLB. In 1970, 98% of NHL players were Canadian, but by 2018 less than 50% of players on NHL rosters were born in Canada.

Table 1
Foreign-Born Players on NBA, MLB and NHL Rosters

Sports League	Foreign-Born Players	Percentage of Foreign-Born Players
NBA	108	23%
MLB	343	29%
NHL	529	72%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy; Basketball Reference, Baseball Reference, Hockey Reference. The 72% for the NHL is players not born in the U.S.

Among the most popular NBA players is Giannis Antetokounmpo, who immigrated to America after he grew up without legal status in Greece. Last season, hitting sensation Juan Soto, who was born in the Dominican Republic, led the Washington Nationals to a World Series victory. In 2019, the St. Louis Blues won the first Stanley Cup in the team’s history with a roster that included all but 4 players born outside the United States. Canada and France are the top source countries for foreign-born NBA players, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela are the leading foreign countries of birth for MLB players and Canada and Sweden are the NHL’s top countries for non-U.S. players.

The number of foreign-born basketball players in the NBA today has increased five-fold since 1992, when the NBA had 21 foreign-born players on its rosters, or about 5% of the league’s players, compared to 108 or 23% today. An immigrant from Canada, James Naismith, invented basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1891.

In 1940, fewer than 2% of the players on Major League Baseball rosters were foreign-born, a number that climbed to 10% by 1990, and by 2020, 343 of 1192, or 29%, of the players on Major League Baseball rosters were foreign-born.

The immigration of Russian hockey players excited fans and brought innovation to the National Hockey League. Their legacy could be seen in 2018 when the Washington Capitals won the Stanley Cup, led by Russian-born Alex Ovechkin, the team’s captain, and Evgeny Kuznetsov.

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While the Trump administration has imposed many immigration restrictions it has exempted professional athletes from such restrictions, [including those related to the coronavirus](#), even though, ironically, it could be argued, a foreign-born athlete is more likely to “take” a job than any other foreign-born workers. There is not a fixed number of jobs in the U.S. economy but the number of players allowed on professional sports team rosters is numerically limited. Despite the limited number of roster spots, one never hears a professional athlete complain about an immigrant “taking” a job or a politician expressing concern that a Dominican-born shortstop prevented a U.S.-born infielder from making a Major League Baseball team.

Being open to talented athletes wherever they are born appears to be popular, as revenues in major sports leagues have risen dramatically along with the increased globalization of team rosters. NBA revenues have increased by over 3,000% (inflation adjusted) since 1982. Salaries for professional athletes have also increased substantially.

The ability to hire talent from around the world has enhanced the quality of play and attracted more fans, both domestically and internationally. “Why is foreign talent so important to the United States?” asked Dr. Rafael Reif, president of MIT in arguing for greater openness to immigration. “For the same reason the Boston Red Sox don’t limit themselves to players born in Boston: The larger the pool you draw from, the larger the supply of exceptional talent.”¹

All employers want access to the best talent and consumers benefit from this, even if elected officials and government agencies sometimes have a different opinion.

¹ L. Rafael Reif, “I’m the President of M.I.T. America Needs Foreign Students,” *New York Times*, July 14, 2020.

*The Contributions of Immigrants to Sports in America***NBA**

A total of 108 of 463, or 23%, of the players on NBA rosters are foreign-born.² In this analysis, the National Foundation for American Policy designates as foreign-born only individuals who are born outside the United States and are not U.S. citizens by birth because at least one parent is a U.S. citizen or they were born in a U.S. territory, such as Guam or Puerto Rico that would grant U.S. citizenship at birth. Players such as Kyrie Irving, born in Australia to a U.S. citizen father, are not counted as foreign-born, since they were U.S. citizens at birth.

Of the 43 countries of origin for foreign-born NBA players, the leading countries are Canada (19), France (8), Serbia (6), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Australia (4), Croatia (4), Brazil (3), Germany (3), Greece (3), Italy (3), Slovenia (3), Spain (3), Switzerland (3), Turkey (3), Bahamas (2), Cameroon (2), Latvia (2), Lithuania (2) and New Zealand (2).

The number of foreign-born basketball players in the NBA today has increased five-fold since 1992, when the NBA had 21 foreign-born players on its rosters, or about 5% of the league's players.³ The 1992 Summer Olympics "Dream Team" featuring Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and other stars boosted the profile of basketball globally and may have served as a catalyst for the rising talent level of international players.

In the 2013-14 season, 20% of the league's players were foreign-born.⁴ That season, the Spurs led the NBA with the most foreign-born players (7) and won their 5th NBA championship since 1999. The Spurs roster included international players Tony Parker (France), Boris Diaw (France) and Manu Ginobili (Argentina), who played alongside Tim Duncan (U.S. Virgin Islands) and Kawhi Leonard (U.S).

At the NBA All Star Game in Chicago on February 16, 2020, 4 of the 10 starters and 6 of the 25 players (24%) overall, or 24%, were foreign-born: Giannis Antetokounmpo (Greece), Joel Embiid (Cameroon), Pascal Siakam (Cameroon), Rudy Gobert (France), Luka Dončić (Slovenia) and Nikola Jokić (Serbia). Three other players had a foreign-born parent: Domantas Sabonis, Ben Simmons and Bam Adebayo. The father of Domantas Sabonis, Arvydas Sabonis, was one of the Soviet Union's best players and played with the Portland Trailblazers late in his career.

² Includes all players on NBA rosters on Basketball Reference as of July 1, 2020, including players with two-way contracts with a team's G-League affiliate. Connor Haaland provided valuable research assistance for this study.

³ Mariama Diallo, "International Players' Impact on NBA Grows in Past Two Decades," Voice of America, February 16, 2011. Percentage calculated based on number of players on NBA rosters in 1992 season, according to Basketball-Reference.com.

⁴ *Immigrant Contributions in the NBA and Major League Baseball*, NFAP Policy Brief, National Foundation for American Policy, June 2014.

Table 2
Foreign-Born NBA Players By Country of Birth

Country	Number of Players	Country	Number of Players
Canada	19	Angola	1
France	8	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Serbia	6	Austria	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	Belgium	1
Australia	4	Congo	1
Croatia	4	Czech Republic	1
Brazil	3	Dominican Republic	1
Germany	3	Egypt	1
Greece	3	Finland	1
Italy	3	Gabon	1
Slovenia	3	Georgia	1
Spain	3	Guinea	1
Switzerland	3	Haiti	1
Turkey	3	Japan	1
Bahamas	2	Macedonia	1
Cameroon	2	Mali	1
Latvia	2	Nigeria	1
Lithuania	2	Democratic Republic of Congo	1
New Zealand	2	Saint Lucia	1
Senegal	2	South Sudan	1
Sudan	2	United Kingdom	1
Ukraine	2		

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Basketball Reference.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had the most “wins produced” – a statistical metric to determine a player’s value – during the 2019-20 NBA season as of July 2020. “As the son of African immigrants, he was perpetually vulnerable to attacks by racist militants, and to threats of deportation to Nigeria, a country he had never visited,” writes Peter S. Goodman in a *New York Times* profile of Antetokounmpo. “Until recently, even the children of African immigrants who were born here found it difficult to secure legal residency, let alone citizenship,” according to Nikos Odubitan, the founder of the advocacy group Generation 2.0. “He was given Greek citizenship in order to prevent him from

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traveling to New York as a Nigerian.”⁵ Foreign-born players comprise 9 of the 30 players (30%) with the most wins produced in 2019-20.⁶

The NBA teams with the most foreign-born players on their rosters are the Grizzlies (6), Raptors (6), Suns (6), Thunder (6) and 76ers (6), followed by the Cavaliers (5), Kings (5), Mavericks (5), Spurs (5), Bulls (4), Celtics (4), Heat (4), Jazz (4), Nuggets (4) and Trailblazers (4). The team with the fewest foreign-born players is the Lakers (1).

Americans owe a debt to an immigrant for inventing basketball. Many Americans likely do not realize James Naismith was an immigrant, and later a U.S. citizen. Born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada, Naismith came up with the idea for basketball while working in Massachusetts. “Around the age of 30, Naismith left his athletics director position at McGill University in Montreal to teach physical education at the YMCA International Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts,” according to Biography. “Upon the request of his boss, Naismith was tasked to create an indoor sports game to help athletes keep in shape as they endured the cold New England winters. Naismith's boss also stipulated that this new game should be ‘fair for all players and not too rough.’ The result was the game of basketball. Invented in 1891, Naismith created 13 basic rules and started out using 10-foot high peach baskets as the goals for each 9-player team.”⁷

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

A total of 343 of 1192, or 29%, of the players on Major League Baseball rosters are foreign-born, the highest percentage of foreign-born recorded.⁸ In 1940, fewer than 2% of the players on Major League Baseball rosters were foreign-born. By 1990, the number had climbed to 10%, and at the start of the 2014 season 25% of players on MLB rosters were foreign-born.⁹

The leading countries for foreign-born MLB players on team rosters are the Dominican Republic (149), Venezuela (90), Cuba (28), Mexico (16), Canada (11), Colombia (9), Japan (8), Panama (8), Curacao (6), South Korea (4), Australia (2), Bahamas (2), Brazil (2) and Taiwan (2). The foreign-born players came from 20 different countries.

The team with the most foreign-born players on its 40-man roster is the San Diego Padres, with 20 players, followed by the Miami Marlins (19), New York Yankees (17), Philadelphia Phillies (16), Chicago White Sox (16), Houston

⁵ Peter Goodman, “Giannis Antetokounmpo Is the Pride of Greece That Shunned Him,” *New York Times*, May 3, 2019.

⁶ https://www.boxscoregeeks.com/players?sort=wins_produced&direction=desc&minimum=true.

⁷ <https://www.biography.com/scholar/james-a-naismith>.

⁸ Includes all players on MLB 40-man rosters on Baseball Reference as of July 1, 2020.

⁹ Stuart Anderson and L. Brian Andrew, *Coming to America: Immigrants, Baseball and the Contributions of Foreign-Born Players to America's Pastime*, NFAP Policy Brief, National Foundation for American Policy, October 2006; *Immigrant Contributions in the NBA and Major League Baseball*, June 2014.

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Astros (15), Texas Rangers (15), Tampa Rays (13), Cleveland Indians (13) and Detroit Tigers (13). The team with the fewest foreign-born players is the Seattle Mariners (5).

In 2019, Juan Soto, who turned 21 during 2019 World Series, batted .333 and hit 3 home runs as a catalyst for the Washington Nationals' series win over the Astros. At the 2019 MLB All Star Game, 18 of the 75 players, or 24%, were foreign-born: Willson Contreras (Venezuela), Ketel Marte (Dominican Republic), Ronald Acuna Jr. (Venezuela), Hyun-Jin Ryu (South Korea), Yasmani Grandal (Cuba), Sandy Alcantara (Dominican Republic), Luis Castillo (Dominican Republic), Felipe Vazquez (Venezuela), Mike Soroka (Canada), Carlos Santana (Dominican Republic), Gary Sanchez (Dominican Republic), Jorge Polanco (Dominican Republic), Jose Abreu (Cuba), Xander Bogaerts (Aruba), Gleyber Torres (Venezuela), Aroldis Chapman (Cuba), Liam Hendriks (Australia) and Masahiro Tanaka (Japan).

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

A total of 529 of 731, or 72%, of the hockey players in the National Hockey League are foreign-born.¹⁰ The percentage of foreign-born players actually decreased slightly (and the percentage of U.S.-born players increased) over the past two seasons.¹¹

Given that the NHL has long been a “North American” Hockey League, rather than a “national” league, a Canadian immigration organization could do the same analysis and consider the U.S.-born players to be “foreign-born.” The National Hockey League is unique from the NBA and MLB, since the NHL started in 1917 in Montreal with only Canadian teams. “In 1924, the Boston Bruins became the first American club to join; and by 1926, six of the 10 teams were from the United States,” according to the Canadian Encyclopedia. Today, the league has 31 teams, including 7 franchises in Canada.¹²

The leading countries of origin for NHL hockey players in 2019-20 are Canada (304), United States (202), Sweden (83), Finland (35), Russia/Soviet Union (35), Czech Republic (32), Switzerland (10), Denmark (8), Germany (6), Latvia (4), Austria (3) and France (3). The hockey players come from 18 countries, including the United States.

The NHL received a large boost and became a truly global league after Viacheslav “Slava” Fetisov decided in 1989 to leave the Soviet Union and sign a contract with the New Jersey Devils. A Soviet defense official told him, “Either apologize or be sent to Siberia where we will make life very difficult for you,” said Fetisov in an [interview](#) with the Hockey Hall of Fame. “It was the toughest time of my life, but I finally won the war. I was the first Soviet to sign a

¹⁰ Includes all players on NHL rosters on Hockey Reference as of July 1, 2020.

¹¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/nhl-american-canadian-players-2028-2017-11>.

¹² <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/national-hockey-league>.

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direct contract with the NHL, and I'm proud to say that not only hockey players followed me. The door opened for people in every profession.”¹³ The Devils later traded Fetisov to the Detroit Red Wings, where he played with fellow Russian-born skaters.

“Hockey took a major step in its evolution when the Detroit Red Wings put five Russian players together as one unit of three forwards and two defensemen for the first time,” according to Vassili Ossipov of [NHL.com](https://www.nhl.com). “Together, the Russians helped Detroit to a historic 1995-96 season, when it set the NHL record with 62 wins and finished one point short of tying the record for most points in a season (132) . . . More importantly, the Russian Five was a big part of the Red Wings' first Stanley Cup championship in 42 years.”¹⁴

The immigration of Russian hockey players delighted fans and brought innovation to the National Hockey League. “Twenty years ago, these guys brought a completely new style of hockey to the NHL,” according to Detroit coach Scotty Bowman. “Nowadays, a lot of teams play a similar type of a game. When the Russian Five were on the ice, you had to have your popcorn ready because you knew that you were in for a treat. They didn't just play hockey; they created masterpieces on the ice.”¹⁵

The legacy of the Russian hockey players could be seen in 2018 when the Washington Capitals won the Stanley Cup. The team's star players included Russian-born Alex Ovechkin, the team's captain, and Evgeny Kuznetsov. In 2019, the St. Louis Blues won the first Stanley Cup in the team's history featuring a team with 4 U.S.-born players on their roster and 26 players born in Canada, Russia, Sweden or Finland.

CONCLUSION

The immigration of foreign-born players into the NBA, MLB and NHL has proven to be a success. NBA revenues increased from \$118 million during the 1982-83 season to nearly \$9 billion in the 2018-19 season, an increase of 3,112% (inflation adjusted).¹⁶ In 1983, the *Washington Post* reported that the league was in dire financial difficulties. “National Basketball Association owners aren't crying wolf when they say their league is in serious financial trouble,” reported David Dupree. “A look at the books drives home that message ever so painfully.”¹⁷

¹³ Stuart Anderson, “Washington Capitals: A Story of Global Ties and Immigration,” *Forbes*, June 8, 2020.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Kurt Badenhausen, “As Stern Says Goodbye, Knicks, Lakers Set Records As NBA's Most Valuable Teams,” *Forbes*, January 22, 2014; <https://www.statista.com/statistics/193467/total-league-revenue-of-the-nba-since-2005/>. Note: Inflation adjustments in report were made using the Personal Consumption Deflator (PCD) as published in the *2020 Economic Report of the President*.

¹⁷ David Dupree, “NBA: Red Ink and A Bleak Future,” *Washington Post*, March 15, 1983.

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The increase in foreign-born players appears to have helped native-born NBA players, since bringing in top talent and increasing the league's appeal around the world has been a key to the NBA's success. The average NBA player's salary increased from \$246,000 in 1982-83, when there were few foreign-born players, to \$7.7 million in 2019-20, when 23% of the players were foreign-born, an increase in the average player salary of 1,254% from 1983 to 2020 (adjusted for inflation).¹⁸

The stories are similar in the NHL and MLB. In 2009-10, NHL revenue was \$2.93 billion. That increased to over \$5 billion during the 2018-19 season, an increase of 49% since 2010 (inflation adjusted).¹⁹ In 1970, 98% of NHL players were born in Canada and the average hockey player's salary was \$18,000, according to the Hockey Hall of Fame. By 2018, the percentage of NHL players born in Canada dropped to less than 50% as the league welcomed talent from around the world, and the average NHL player's salary rose to \$2.96 million, a 3,041% increase in salary from 1970 (adjusted for inflation).²⁰

Revenues for Major League Baseball rose from \$1.4 billion in 1995 to over \$10.7 billion in 2019, an increase of 400% (inflation adjusted).²¹ The average salary in the MLB was \$4.4 million in 2020, an increase of 1,052% (adjusted for inflation) from \$143,756 in 1980, and an increase of 26% (adjusted for inflation) from an average salary of approximately \$3 million in 2009.²²

The coronavirus pandemic has made the financial situation for the NBA, MLB and NHL more challenging. Even if it is only on television, American sports fans want to watch their favorite teams, many of which have players born outside the United States.

On the pages that follow are team-by-team listings of foreign-born players in the NBA and MLB, including the country of origin for each player on team rosters. Due to space limitations and the large number of players, the NHL listings were not able to be published in this report.

¹⁸ Ibid., <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/22/highest-paid-players-in-the-nba-right-now.html>.

¹⁹ <https://hockeyanswered.com/what-is-the-yearly-revenue-of-the-nhl/>.

²⁰ <https://www.hhof.com/htmlTimeCapsule/t700.shtml>; NFAP analysis.

²¹ Maury Brown, "MLB Sees Record \$10.7 Billion In Revenues For 2019," *Forbes*, December 21, 2019.

²² https://www.stltoday.com/news/the-average-mlb-player-gets-4-4-million-a-year/article_35d2d9a0-e5c8-5fea-88d0-0c00314ae81a.html; https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Minimum_salary.

Table 3
Foreign-Born Players in the NBA By Team

TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Bucks	Ersan İlyasova	Turkey
Bucks	Giannis Antetokounmpo	Greece
Bucks	Thanasis Antetokounmpo	Greece
Bulls	Adam Mokoka	France
Bulls	Cristiano Felício	Brazil
Bulls	Lauri Markkanen	Finland
Bulls	Tomáš Satoranský	Czech Republic
Cavaliers	Ante Toni Žižić	Croatia
Cavaliers	Cedi Osman	Macedonia
Cavaliers	Dante Exum	Australia
Cavaliers	Matthew Dellavedova	Australia
Cavaliers	Tristan Thompson	Canada
Celtics	Daniel Theis	Germany
Celtics	Enes Kanter	Turkey (Born in Switzerland)
Celtics	Tacko Fall	Senegal
Celtics	Vincent Poirier	France
Clippers	Ivica Zubac	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Clippers	Mfiondu Kabengele	Canada
Grizzlies	Brandon Clarke	Canada
Grizzlies	Dillon Brooks	Canada
Grizzlies	Gorgui Dieng	Senegal
Grizzlies	Jonas Valančiūnas	Lithuania
Grizzlies	Marko Guduric	Serbia
Grizzlies	Yuta Watanabe	Japan

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Basketball Reference. Rosters as of July 1, 2020.

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Hawks	Bruno Fernando	Angola
Hawks	Clint Capela	Switzerland
Hawks	Skal Labissière	Haiti
Heat	Chris Silva	Gabon
Heat	Goran Dragić	Slovenia
Heat	Kelly Olynyk	Canada
Heat	Kyle Alexander	Canada
Jazz	Bojan Bogdanović	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Jazz	Emmanuel Mudiay	Congo
Jazz	Joe Ingles	Australia
Jazz	Rudy Gobert	France
Kings	Alex Len	Ukraine
Kings	Bogdan Bogdanović	Serbia
Kings	Buddy Hield	Bahamas
Kings	Cory Joseph	Canada
Kings	Nemanja Bjelica	Serbia
Knicks	Frank Ntilikina	Belgium
Knicks	Ignas Brazdeikis	Lithuania
Knicks	RJ Barrett	Canada
Lakers	Kostas Antetokounmpo	Greece
Magic	Evan Fournier	France
Magic	Khem Birch	Canada
Magic	Nikola Vučević	Switzerland

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Mavericks	Boban Marjanović	Serbia
Mavericks	Dwight Powell	Canada
Mavericks	Kristaps Porziņģis	Latvia
Mavericks	Luka Dončić	Slovenia
Mavericks	Maxi Kleber	Germany
Nets	Džanan Musa	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nets	Rodions Kurucs	Latvia
Nets	Timothé Luwawu-Cabarrot	France
Nuggets	Bol Bol	Sudan
Nuggets	Jamal Murray	Canada
Nuggets	Nikola Jokić	Serbia
Nuggets	Vlatko Čančar	Slovenia
Pacers	Goga Bitadze	Georgia
Pacers	Naz Mitrou-Long	Canada
Pelicans	Nickeil Alexander-Walker	Canada
Pelicans	Nicolò Melli	Italy
Pistons	Sekou Doumbouya	Guinea
Pistons	Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk	Ukraine
Pistons	Thon Maker	South Sudan
Raptors	Chris Boucher	Saint Lucia
Raptors	Marc Gasol	Spain
Raptors	OG Anunoby	United Kingdom
Raptors	Oshae Brissett	Canada
Raptors	Pascal Siakam	Cameroon
Raptors	Serge Ibaka	Republic of the Congo

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Rockets	Bruno Caboclo	Brazil
Rockets	Thabo Sefolosa	Switzerland
Rockets	William Howard	France
Spurs	Jakob Poeltl	Austria
Spurs	Luka Šamanić	Croatia
Spurs	Marco Belinelli	Italy
Spurs	Patty Mills	Australia
Spurs	Trey Lyles	Canada
Suns	Aron Baynes	New Zealand
Suns	Cheick Diallo	Mali
Suns	Dario Šarić	Croatia
Suns	Deandre Ayton	Bahamas
Suns	Elie Okobo	France
Suns	Ricky Rubio	Spain
Timberwolves	Josh Okogie	Nigeria
Timberwolves	Juan Hernangómez	Spain
Thunder	Abdel Nader	Egypt
Thunder	Danilo Gallinari	Italy
Thunder	Dennis Schröder	Germany
Thunder	Luguentz Dort	Canada
Thunder	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	Canada
Thunder	Steven Adams	New Zealand

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Trailblazers	Jaylen Hoard	France
Trailblazers	Jusuf Nurkić	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trailblazers	Mario Hezonja	Croatia
Trailblazers	Wenyen Gabriel	Sudan
Warriors	Alen Smailagić	Serbia
Warriors	Andrew Wiggins	Canada
Warriors	Dragan Bender	Bosnia and Herzegovina
76ers	Al Horford	Dominican Republic
76ers	Furkan Korkmaz	Turkey
76ers	Joel Embiid	Cameroon
76ers	Marial Shayok	Canada
76ers	Norvel Pelle	Antigua and Barbuda
76ers	Raul Neto	Brazil

Table 4
American League – Foreign-Born Baseball Players

TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Baltimore Orioles	Hector Velázquez	Mexico
Baltimore Orioles	Miguel Castro	Dominican Republic
Baltimore Orioles	Pedro Severino	Dominican Republic
Baltimore Orioles	Anthony Santander	Venezuela
Baltimore Orioles	Renato Núñez	Venezuela
Baltimore Orioles	José Iglesias	Cuba
Baltimore Orioles	Hanser Alberto	Dominican Republic
Baltimore Orioles	Ramon Urias	Mexico
Boston Red Sox	Eduardo Rodríguez	Venezuela
Boston Red Sox	Martín Pérez	Venezuela
Boston Red Sox	Darwinzon Hernández	Venezuela
Boston Red Sox	José Peraza	Venezuela
Boston Red Sox	Xander Bogaerts	Aruba
Boston Red Sox	Jonathan Arauz	Panama
Boston Red Sox	Tzu-Wei Lin	Taiwan
Boston Red Sox	Rafael Devers	Dominican Republic
Boston Red Sox	Phillips Valdéz	Dominican Republic
Boston Red Sox	Yoan Aybar	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Kelvin Herrera	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Alex Colomé	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Jimmy Cordero	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Reynaldo López	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Nomar Mazara	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Eloy Jiménez	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Leury García	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Yoán Moncada	Cuba

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Baseball Reference. Rosters as of July 1, 2020. Foreign-born does not include players who are U.S. citizens at birth because at least one parent was a U.S. citizen or they were born in Puerto Rico.

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Chicago White Sox	Luis Robert	Cuba
Chicago White Sox	Yasmani Grandal	Cuba
Chicago White Sox	Edwin Encarnación	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	José Abreu	Cuba
Chicago White Sox	José Ruiz	Venezuela
Chicago White Sox	Yermin Mercedes	Dominican Republic
Chicago White Sox	Luis Alexander Basabe	Venezuela
Chicago White Sox	Micker Adolfo	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Oliver Pérez	Mexico
Cleveland Indians	Carlos Carrasco	Venezuela
Cleveland Indians	Jefry Rodríguez	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Emmanuel Clase	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	César Hernández	Venezuela
Cleveland Indians	José Ramírez	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Óscar Mercado	Colombia
Cleveland Indians	Sandy León	Venezuela
Cleveland Indians	Franmil Reyes	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Carlos Santana	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Domingo Santana	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Jean Carlos Mejía	Dominican Republic
Cleveland Indians	Yu Chang	Taiwan
Detroit Tigers	Gregory Soto	Dominican Republic
Detroit Tigers	Iván Nova	Dominican Republic
Detroit Tigers	Rony Garcia	Dominican Republic
Detroit Tigers	José Cisnero	Dominican Republic
Detroit Tigers	Jonathan Schoop	Curacao
Detroit Tigers	Víctor Reyes	Venezuela
Detroit Tigers	Miguel Cabrera	Venezuela
Detroit Tigers	Dawel Lugo	Dominican Republic

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Detroit Tigers	Harold Castro	Venezuela
Detroit Tigers	Anthony Castro	Venezuela
Detroit Tigers	Franklin Perez	Venezuela
Detroit Tigers	Sergio Alcantara	Dominican Republic
Detroit Tigers	Isaac Paredes	Mexico
Houston Astros	Framber Valdéz	Dominican Republic
Houston Astros	José Urquidy	Mexico
Houston Astros	Roberto Osuna	Mexico
Houston Astros	Bryan Abreu	Dominican Republic
Houston Astros	Jose Altuve	Venezuela
Houston Astros	Rogelio Armenteros	Cuba
Houston Astros	Yordan Álvarez	Cuba
Houston Astros	Abraham Toro	Canada
Houston Astros	Aledmys Díaz	Cuba
Houston Astros	Yuli Gurriel	Cuba
Houston Astros	Cristian Javier	Dominican Republic
Houston Astros	Cionel Pérez	Cuba
Houston Astros	Enoli Paredes	Dominican Republic
Houston Astros	Nivaldo Rodriguez	Venezuela
Houston Astros	Cristian Javier	Dominican Republic
Kansas City Royals	Randy Rosario	Dominican Republic
Kansas City Royals	Jorge Soler	Cuba
Kansas City Royals	Maikel Franco	Dominican Republic
Kansas City Royals	Carlos Hernandez	Venezuela
Kansas City Royals	Kelvin Gutiérrez	Dominican Republic
Kansas City Royals	Jeison Guzman	Dominican Republic
Kansas City Royals	Meibrys Vilorio	Colombia

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Los Angeles Angels	Julio Teheran	Colombia
Los Angeles Angels	José Suarez	Venezuela
Los Angeles Angels	Hansel Robles	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Angels	Felix Peña	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Angels	Andrelton Simmons	Curacao
Los Angeles Angels	Luis Rengifo	Venezuela
Los Angeles Angels	Albert Pujols	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Angels	Shohei Ohtani	Japan
Los Angeles Angels	Hector Yan	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Angels	Jaime Barria	Panama
Los Angeles Angels	José Quijada	Venezuela
Minnesota Twins	Kenta Maeda	Japan
Minnesota Twins	Jorge Polanco	Dominican Republic
Minnesota Twins	Miguel Sanó	Dominican Republic
Minnesota Twins	Marwin González	Venezuela
Minnesota Twins	Ehire Adrianza	Venezuela
Minnesota Twins	Luis Arraez	Venezuela
Minnesota Twins	Willians Astudillo	Venezuela
Minnesota Twins	Nelson Cruz	Dominican Republic
Minnesota Twins	Jhoan Duran	Dominican Republic
Minnesota Twins	Lewis Thorpe	Australia
Minnesota Twins	Jorge Alcalá	Dominican Republic
Minnesota Twins	Gilberto Celestino	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Luis Cessa	Mexico
New York Yankees	Aroldis Chapman	Cuba
New York Yankees	Jonathan Loaisiga	Nicaragua
New York Yankees	Masahiro Tanaka	Japan
New York Yankees	Luis Severino	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	James Paxton	Canada
New York Yankees	Gary Sánchez	Dominican Republic

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
New York Yankees	Miguel Andújar	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Gleyber Torres	Venezuela
New York Yankees	Gio Urshela	Colombia
New York Yankees	Luis Gil	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Miguel Yajure	Venezuela
New York Yankees	Albert Abreu	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Deivi Garcia	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Luis Medina	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Estevan Florial	Dominican Republic
New York Yankees	Thairo Estrada	Venezuela
Oakland Athletics	Jesús Luzardo	Peru
Oakland Athletics	Liam Hendriks	Australia
Oakland Athletics	Frankie Montas	Dominican Republic
Oakland Athletics	Yusmeiro Petit	Venezuela
Oakland Athletics	Joakim Soria	Mexico
Oakland Athletics	Ramón Laureano	Dominican Republic
Oakland Athletics	Franklin Barreto	Venezuela
Oakland Athletics	Luis Barrera	Dominican Republic
Seattle Mariners	Gerson Bautista	Dominican Republic
Seattle Mariners	Yohan Ramirez	Dominican Republic
Seattle Mariners	Yusei Kikuchi	Japan
Seattle Mariners	Yoshihisa Hirano	Japan
Seattle Mariners	Nestor Cortes Jr.	Cuba
Tampa Bay Rays	José Alvarado	Venezuela
Tampa Bay Rays	Yonny Chirinos	Venezuela
Tampa Bay Rays	Diego Castillo	Dominican Republic
Tampa Bay Rays	Yoshitomo Tsutsugo	Japan
Tampa Bay Rays	Willy Adames	Dominican Republic
Tampa Bay Rays	José Martínez	Venezuela

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Tampa Bay Rays	Manuel Margot	Dominican Republic
Tampa Bay Rays	Ji-Man Choi	South Korea
Tampa Bay Rays	Yandy Díaz	Cuba
Tampa Bay Rays	Randy Arozarena	Cuba
Tampa Bay Rays	Vidal Brujan	Dominican Republic
Tampa Bay Rays	Lucius Fox	Bahamas
Tampa Bay Rays	Ronaldo Hernandez	Colombia
Texas Rangers	Joely Rodríguez	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	José Leclerc	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Rafael Montero	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Elvis Andrus	Venezuela
Texas Rangers	Rougned Odor	Venezuela
Texas Rangers	Danny Santana	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Ronald Guzmán	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Adolis García	Cuba
Texas Rangers	Robinson Chirinos	Venezuela
Texas Rangers	Shin-Soo Choo	South Korea
Texas Rangers	Ariel Jurado	Panama
Texas Rangers	Sherten Apostel	Curacao
Texas Rangers	Leody Taveras	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Anderson Tejeda	Dominican Republic
Texas Rangers	Yohander Méndez	Venezuela
Toronto Blue Jays	Wilmer Font	Venezuela
Toronto Blue Jays	Jordan Romano	Canada
Toronto Blue Jays	Hyun-Jin Ryu	South Korea
Toronto Blue Jays	Rafael Dolis	Dominican Republic
Toronto Blue Jays	Hector Perez	Dominican Republic

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Toronto Blue Jays	Lourdes Gurriel Jr.	Cuba
Toronto Blue Jays	Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	Canada
Toronto Blue Jays	Teoscar Hernández	Dominican Republic
Toronto Blue Jays	Elvis Luciano	Dominican Republic
Toronto Blue Jays	Santiago Espinal	Dominican Republic

**Table 5
National League – Foreign-Born Baseball Players**

TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Arizona Diamondbacks	Silvino Bracho	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	Héctor Rondón	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	Yoan López	Cuba
Arizona Diamondbacks	Junior Guerra	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	Eduardo Escobar	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	Ildemaro Vargas	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	David Peralta	Venezuela
Arizona Diamondbacks	Starling Marté	Dominican Republic
Arizona Diamondbacks	Ketel Marte	Dominican Republic
Arizona Diamondbacks	Joel Payamps	Dominican Republic
Arizona Diamondbacks	Bo Takahashi	Brazil
Arizona Diamondbacks	Emilio Vargas	Dominican Republic
Atlanta Braves	Mike Soroka	Canada
Atlanta Braves	Ozzie Albies	Curacao
Atlanta Braves	Marcell Ozuna	Dominican Republic
Atlanta Braves	Ender Inciarte	Venezuela
Atlanta Braves	Adeiny Hechavarría	Cuba
Atlanta Braves	Ronald Acuña Jr.	Venezuela

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Baseball Reference. Rosters as of July 1, 2020. Foreign-born does not include players who are U.S. citizens at birth because at least one parent was a U.S. citizen or they were born in Puerto Rico.

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Atlanta Braves	Johan Camargo	Panama
Atlanta Braves	Huascar Ynoa	Dominican Republic
Atlanta Braves	Jasseel De La Cruz	Dominican Republic
Atlanta Braves	William Contreras	Venezuela
Atlanta Braves	Cristian Pache	Dominican Republic
Chicago Cubs	Yu Darvish	Japan
Chicago Cubs	Rowan Wick	Canada
Chicago Cubs	José Quintana	Colombia
Chicago Cubs	Willson Contreras	Venezuela
Chicago Cubs	Manuel Rodríguez	Mexico
Chicago Cubs	Adbert Alzolay	Venezuela
Chicago Cubs	Robel García	Dominican Republic
Chicago Cubs	Miguel Amaya	Panama
Cincinnati Reds	Raisel Iglesias	Cuba
Cincinnati Reds	Luis Castillo	Dominican Republic
Cincinnati Reds	Pedro Strop	Dominican Republic
Cincinnati Reds	Eugenio Suárez	Venezuela
Cincinnati Reds	Joey Votto	Canada
Cincinnati Reds	Shogo Akiyama	Japan
Cincinnati Reds	Freddy Galvis	Venezuela
Cincinnati Reds	Aristides Aquino	Dominican Republic
Colorado Rockies	German Márquez	Venezuela
Colorado Rockies	Carlos Estévez	Dominican Republic
Colorado Rockies	Jairo Díaz	Venezuela
Colorado Rockies	Antonio Senzatela	Venezuela
Colorado Rockies	Raimel Tapia	Dominican Republic
Colorado Rockies	Jose Mujica	Venezuela
Colorado Rockies	Antonio Santos	Dominican Republic

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Colorado Rockies	Jesús Tinoco	Venezuela
Colorado Rockies	Yonathan Daza	Venezuela
Los Angeles Dodgers	Pedro Báez	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Dodgers	Julio Urías	Mexico
Los Angeles Dodgers	Dennis Santana	Dominican Republic
Los Angeles Dodgers	Kenley Jansen	Curacao
Los Angeles Dodgers	Brusdar Graterol	Venezuela
Los Angeles Dodgers	Victor Gonzalez	Mexico
Los Angeles Dodgers	Keibert Ruiz	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Sandy Alcantara	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	José Ureña	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Pablo López	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Elieser Hernández	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Yimi García	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Harold Ramírez	Colombia
Miami Marlins	Jesús Aguilar	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Jonathan Villar	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Jorge Alfaro	Colombia
Miami Marlins	Magneuris Sierra	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Miguel Rojas	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Francisco Cervelli	Venezuela
Miami Marlins	Humberto Mejia	Panama
Miami Marlins	Sixto Sanchez	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Edward Cabrera	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Jorge Guzman	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Lewin Diaz	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Jesus Sanchez	Dominican Republic
Miami Marlins	Jazz Chisholm	Bahamas

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Milwaukee Brewers	Freddy Peralta	Dominican Republic
Milwaukee Brewers	Luis Urías	Mexico
Milwaukee Brewers	Orlando Arcia	Venezuela
Milwaukee Brewers	Manny Piña	Venezuela
Milwaukee Brewers	Avisaíl García	Venezuela
Milwaukee Brewers	Omar Narváez	Venezuela
Milwaukee Brewers	Angel Perdomo	Dominican Republic
Milwaukee Brewers	Ronny Rodríguez	Dominican Republic
New York Mets	Jeurys Familia	Dominican Republic
New York Mets	Wilson Ramos	Venezuela
New York Mets	Amed Rosario	Dominican Republic
New York Mets	Luis Guillorme	Venezuela
New York Mets	Yoenis Céspedes	Cuba
New York Mets	Robinson Canó	Dominican Republic
New York Mets	Franklyn Kilome	Dominican Republic
New York Mets	Ali Sanchez	Venezuela
New York Mets	Andres Gimenez	Venezuela
Philadelphia Phillies	Víctor Arano	Mexico
Philadelphia Phillies	José Álvarez	Venezuela
Philadelphia Phillies	Héctor Neris	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Deolis Guerra	Venezuela
Philadelphia Phillies	Nick Pivetta	Canada
Philadelphia Phillies	Seranthony Domínguez	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Enyel De Los Santos	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Ranger Suárez	Venezuela
Philadelphia Phillies	Jean Segura	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Didi Gregorius	Netherlands
Philadelphia Phillies	Mauricio Llovera	Venezuela
Philadelphia Phillies	Edgar García	Dominican Republic

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Philadelphia Phillies	Cristopher Sanchez	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Adonis Medina	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Deivy Grullon	Dominican Republic
Philadelphia Phillies	Arquimedes Gamboa	Venezuela
Pittsburgh Pirates	Dovydas Neverauskas	Lithuania
Pittsburgh Pirates	Michael Feliz	Dominican Republic
Pittsburgh Pirates	Richard Rodríguez	Dominican Republic
Pittsburgh Pirates	Gregory Polanco	Dominican Republic
Pittsburgh Pirates	José Osuna	Venezuela
Pittsburgh Pirates	Erik González	Dominican Republic
Pittsburgh Pirates	Guillermo Heredia	Cuba
Pittsburgh Pirates	Edgar Santana	Dominican Republic
Pittsburgh Pirates	Oneil Cruz	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Cal Quantrill	Canada
San Diego Padres	Luis Perdomo	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Andrés Muñoz	Mexico
San Diego Padres	Dinelson Lamet	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Michel Báez	Cuba
San Diego Padres	José Castillo	Venezuela
San Diego Padres	Javy Guerra	Panama
San Diego Padres	Breyvic Valera	Venezuela
San Diego Padres	Luis Torrens	Venezuela
San Diego Padres	Fernando Tatís Jr.	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Franchy Cordero	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Jurickson Profar	Curacao
San Diego Padres	Josh Naylor	Canada
San Diego Padres	Francisco Mejía	Dominican Republic
San Diego Padres	Gerardo Reyes	Mexico
San Diego Padres	Adrián Morejón	Cuba

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
San Diego Padres	Ronald Bolanos	Cuba
San Diego Padres	Jorge Oña	Cuba
San Diego Padres	Edward Olivares	Venezuela
San Diego Padres	Jorge Mateo	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Wandy Peralta	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Jarlin García	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Dany Jimenez	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Johnny Cueto	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Donovan Solano	Colombia
San Francisco Giants	Wilmer Flores	Venezuela
San Francisco Giants	Mauricio Dubon	Honduras
San Francisco Giants	Melvin Adon	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Jandel Gustave	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Enderson Franco	Venezuela
San Francisco Giants	Jose Siri	Dominican Republic
San Francisco Giants	Abiatal Avelino	Dominican Republic
St. Louis Cardinals	Carlos Martínez	Dominican Republic
St. Louis Cardinals	Gwang-hyun Kim	South Korea
St. Louis Cardinals	Giovanny Gallegos	Mexico
St. Louis Cardinals	Rangel Ravelo	Cuba
St. Louis Cardinals	Tyler O'Neill	Canada
St. Louis Cardinals	Ricardo Sanchez	Venezuela
St. Louis Cardinals	Alvaro Seijas	Venezuela
St. Louis Cardinals	Genesis Cabrera	Dominican Republic
St. Louis Cardinals	Junior Fernández	Dominican Republic
St. Louis Cardinals	Elehuris Montero	Dominican Republic
St. Louis Cardinals	Edmundo Sosa	Panama

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TEAM	PLAYER	PLACE OF BIRTH
Washington Nationals	Aníbal Sánchez	Venezuela
Washington Nationals	Roenis Elías	Cuba
Washington Nationals	Wander Suero	Dominican Republic
Washington Nationals	Juan Soto	Dominican Republic
Washington Nationals	Víctor Robles	Dominican Republic
Washington Nationals	Yan Gomes	Brazil
Washington Nationals	Wilmer Difo	Dominican Republic
Washington Nationals	Starlin Castro	Dominican Republic
Washington Nationals	Asdrúbal Cabrera	Venezuela
Washington Nationals	Adrián Sanchez	Venezuela
Washington Nationals	Rauly Read	Dominican Republic

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