The Importance of Immigrants to Boston’s Continued Prosperity

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during the last decades Boston’s population grew
Boston’s Population (1900-2015)

14% growth between 1980 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1900-2010 Decennial Census, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
it stayed young
Boston has maintained a more youthful population than the U.S. and Massachusetts.

became more educated
8th highest BA+ attainment among a set of 25 comparable U.S. cities


and became more diverse
Boston's Minority Population 1870-2015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1870-2010 U.S. Decennial Census, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
immigrants are a big part of this story...
- There are 1,095,953 foreign born in Massachusetts, 16.1% of the state population

- Boston has 190,123 foreign-born residents, 28.4% of the city population

- Boston immigrants come from all continents and from 130 different countries

- Of foreign born in Boston, 28.6% are Hispanic/Latino and 23.8% are Asian
Region of Origin of Boston's Immigrants (2015)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 One-Year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Hispanic and Asian immigration contributes heavily to Boston’s growing diversity.

Note: 2000 was the first year the Census compiled data on individuals who identified themselves as multiracial. Those who indicated “two or more races” are included in “Other” in 2000 and 2010 in this chart.


Note: Undocumented share of non-citizen foreign born is estimated to be 38% in Massachusetts by Migration Policy Institute, “Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Massachusetts,” http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/ unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/MA

Foreign-born Share of Boston Census Tracts (1970-2010)

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

and
more
importantly...

Without immigration, Boston’s population would be barely larger than it was in 1980.

Employment in Suffolk County 1980-2015

Foreign-born workers hold 27% of jobs located in Suffolk County

Suffolk County Economic Output, 1980-2015

Foreign-born workers generated 24% of Suffolk County’s economic activity

Local Economic Impacts of Immigrants

- 189,256 foreign-born *workers* hold jobs in Suffolk County

- 2,819 foreign-born *entrepreneurs* own businesses in Suffolk County that employ approximately 16,357 additional workers

- 30,758 indirect and induced *jobs* are generated by immigrant’s consumption demand

- In 2015, these direct and indirect impacts accounted for $25.9 billion in *Gross Domestic Product* and $1.5 in *state and local taxes*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, IPUMS; Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REM); BPDA Research Division Analysis
National Economic Impacts of Immigrants

- In 2011 the immigrants who had arrived in the U.S. since 2000 represented $1.5 trillion worth of education – a subsidy of the U.S. workforce by the sending countries.

- In 2014, according to the World Bank, immigrants contribute to their countries of origin via remittances, which reached $40 billion.

progress has been made but there are still barriers to integration
70% of foreign born in Boston are proficient in English, down from 74% in 2000.
27% of foreign-born adults age 25+ lack a high school diploma

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Micro-data Sample (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Foreign-born Percentage of Resident Employment by Industry (2015)

Industries in which foreign born are over-represented:
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services (42.0%)
- Manufacturing (41.7%)
- Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities (38.9%)
- Construction (38.7%)
- Other Services, Except Public Administration (37.4%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (35.7%)
- Wholesale Trade (27.1%)
- Professional, Scientific & Management, Administrative & Waste Management (25.2%)
- Retail Trade (25.0%)
- Educational Services (22.5%)
- Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (21.5%)
- Public Administration (15.9%)
- Information (15.0%)

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- Educational Services
- Retail Trade
- Professional, Scientific & Management, Administrative & Waste Management
- Wholesale Trade
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Other Services, Except Public Administration
- Construction
- Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities
- Manufacturing
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services

Red line represents % of employed Boston residents who are foreign-born (29.5%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2015 American Community Survey, PUMS, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Foreign-born Percentage of Resident Employment by Occupation (2015)

- Production: 51.9%
- Other: 50.9%
- Service: 49.3%
- Construction, Extraction, Maintenance & Transportation: 44.5%
- Healthcare Practitioners & Support: 35.0%
- Office & Administrative Support: 22.2%
- Education, Training, & Library: 21.5%
- Managerial & Professional: 20.3%
- Community & Social Service: 18.8%
- Sales & Related: 18.5%
- Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media: 15.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2015 American Community Survey, PUMS, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Top Five Industries of Employment of Foreign Born by Educational Attainment (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than High School</th>
<th>Graduate Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance (26.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Finance &amp; Insurance (8.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manufacturing (5.8%)</td>
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</tbody>
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The 27% of Boston immigrants with less than a high school diploma are concentrated in low-paying jobs.

The 15% of Boston immigrants with graduate degrees are concentrated in high-paying jobs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Universe: Foreign-born employed Boston residents
Among full-time workers, the foreign born average $41,000 while the native born average $57,000. Even within the same levels of education, the foreign born make less on average than the native born.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Universe: Boston residents who work full-time
Takeaways:

- The foreign born contribute to Boston’s **population growth**
  - The foreign born accounted for all population growth in Boston 1980 to 2000
  - In 2015, 28% of Boston’s population is foreign born – 190,123 residents
  - 40% of births in Boston are to foreign-born mothers

- The foreign born contribute to Boston’s **diversity**
  - The foreign born have substantial Hispanic, Asian, Black, and White shares
  - Top countries of origin are China, Dominican Republic, and Haiti
Takeaways:

- The foreign born contribute to Boston’s economic growth
  - The foreign born hold 27% of jobs in Suffolk County
  - Foreign-born workers generated 24% of Suffolk County’s economic output in 2015

- **Successful integration** is crucial to fully realizing contributions of foreign born to Boston
  - 30% are not proficient in English and 27% of adults lack a high school diploma
  - Half of foreign born are not U.S. citizens, and 19% are estimated to be undocumented
  - Foreign born are concentrated in low-paying jobs and earn less than native born even within the same educational level
... a final thought about integration
Traditional Frame

Transnational Frame

thank you