

imagine  
all the  
people

# Foreign Born

CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor

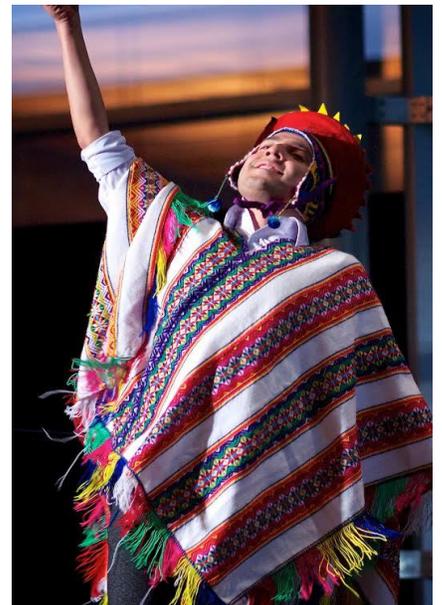
January 2016

## Foreign Born in Boston

*"imagine all the people"* is a series of publications produced by the Boston Redevelopment Authority for the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. The series provides a comprehensive profile of Boston's diverse immigrant communities and their numerous contributions to the city's social, cultural and economic landscape. It is part of an ongoing effort to celebrate immigrants and gain insight into how they shape our city.



(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Renato Castelo)



(Veronica Robles and her Mariachi Band, Renato Castelo)



(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Renato Castelo)



(The Feast of the Madonna della cava, Don Harney)

# Introduction

Despite a brief decline in the foreign-born population related to the Recession of 2008-2009, today Boston is home to more people from more countries than ever before.<sup>1</sup> The foreign born<sup>2</sup> are visible throughout the city, from Haitian churches in Mattapan, Cape Verdean salons in Upham's Corner, Dominican restaurants in Roxbury, and Vietnamese businesses in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester. In recent years, many of Boston's neighborhoods experienced an increase in the foreign-born population, who now account for approximately 27 percent of Boston's total population. In 2014, Boston had the seventh highest share of foreign-born residents among the 25 largest cities in the United States.<sup>3</sup> According to the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS),<sup>4</sup> Boston's foreign-born population stood at 177,461, an increase of over 17 percent from 2000.<sup>5</sup>

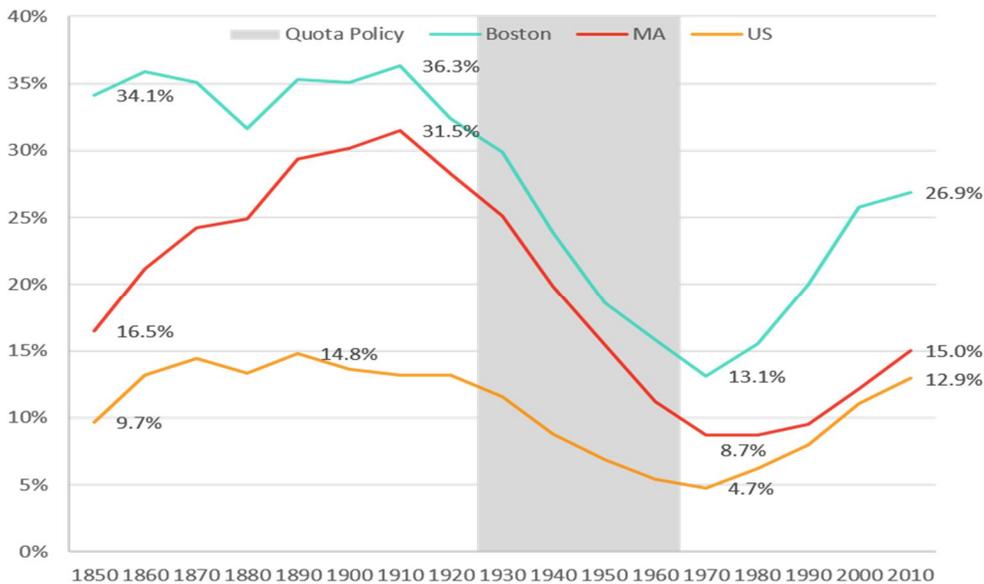


(Chinese New Years Celebration in Boston's Chinatown, Jeremiah Robinson)

## Growth in the Foreign-born Population

Boston has a long history as a point of entry for individuals and families moving to the United States. Boston's dramatic growth in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century stemmed largely from an influx of immigrants from Europe. The Immigration Act of 1924 established a quota system that restricted immigration by country of origin until 1965 when migrants' skills and family reunification became the focus of federal policy. In the United States as a whole, immigration has been increasing, and the foreign born are at their highest share since the 1920s. In Massachusetts, however, the foreign-born share remains almost half of its previous peak. Despite recent rapid growth, Boston's foreign-born population is still smaller today than at its peak in 1910, although it represents a larger number of nationalities.

### Share of Foreign Born: Boston, Massachusetts, and the U.S. (1850-2010)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850-2010 Decennial Census and 2010 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

*Boston's foreign-born population has increased over 17% since 2000.*



(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Isabel Leon)



(Mayor's Office Photos, Isabel Leon)

# Population

The foreign born have made important demographic contributions to Boston, especially in the city's population growth. From 1980 to 2000, Boston's native-born population declined in size, but rapid growth in the foreign-born population allowed Boston's overall population to grow. During this period, all of the growth in Boston's population was attributable to growth in the foreign-born population. This growth does not include native-born children of the foreign born, who are citizens by birth. Since 2000, the native-born population of Boston has also been growing, but growth in the foreign-born population still accounts for 37 percent of the city's overall growth.

The increase in Boston's foreign-born population is consistent with trends seen on both a national and state level. Throughout the United States, the foreign born accounted for approximately 13 percent of the population in 2014. America's foreign-born population between 2000 and 2014 grew by 36 percent. This increase in international migration accounts for 30 percent of the country's total population growth during this same period.

In Massachusetts, the proportion of foreign-born residents was higher than that of the country as a whole, with 15.6 percent of the state's residents, or 1,053,605 people, having been born outside of the United States. Between 2000 and 2014, the foreign born contributed nearly three quarters of Massachusetts' population growth.



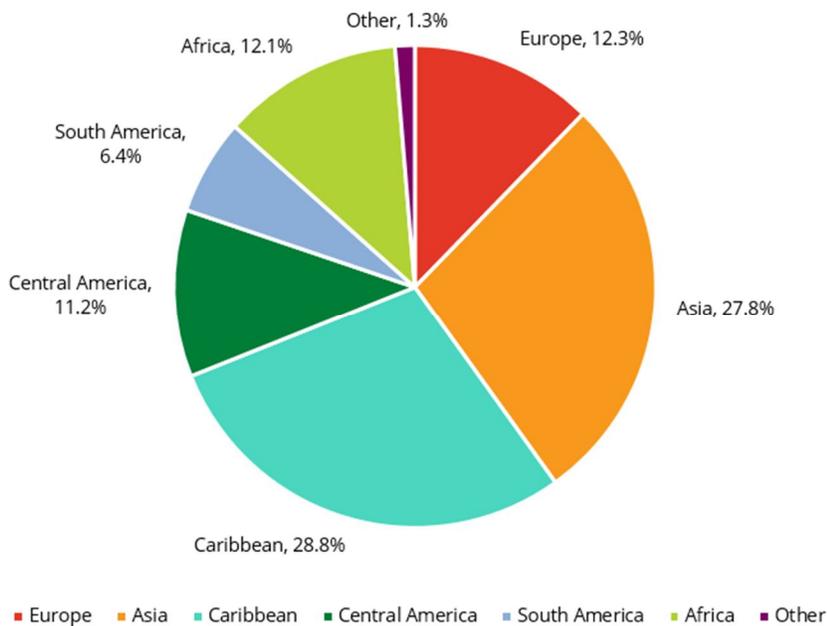
(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Renato Castelo)

## Origins of the Foreign-born Population

Earlier waves of immigration to the United States came primarily from Europe. Boston, particularly, saw large numbers of arrivals from Ireland. Through 2014, Irish remains the single largest ancestry group in Boston, with over 98,000 people claiming Irish ancestry.

However, Boston's foreign-born population no longer comes primarily from European countries, but includes people from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

### Top Regions of Boston's Foreign Born



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

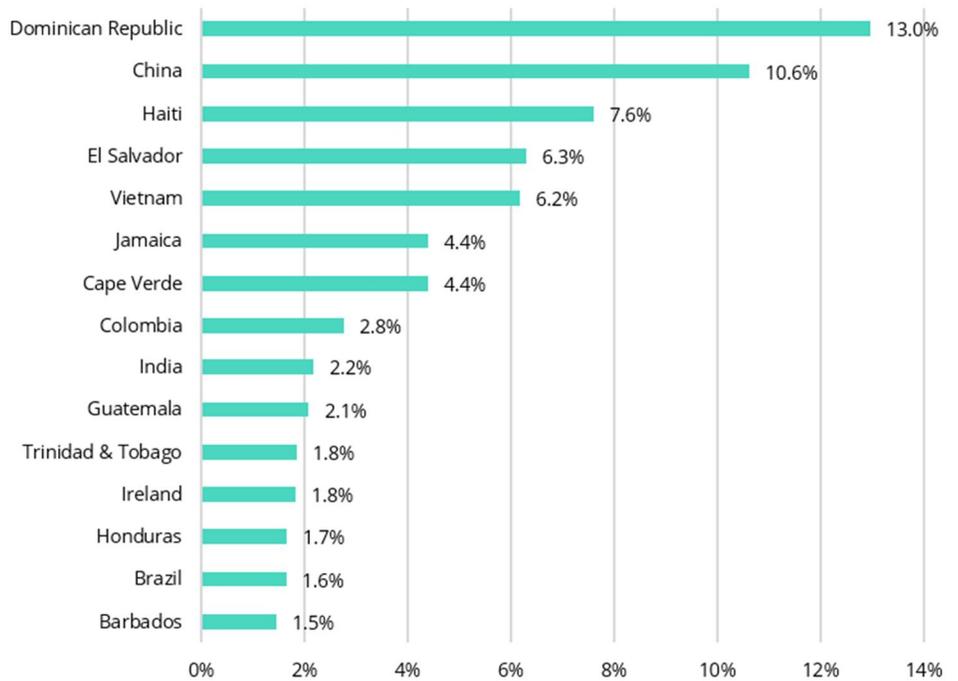


(Mayor's Office Photo, Jeremiah Robinson)

*Today most of Boston's foreign born come from the Caribbean and Asia.*

In all, foreign-born residents from over 150 countries called Boston home in 2014. The top ten countries of origin of Boston's foreign born were Dominican Republic, China, Haiti, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cape Verde, Jamaica, Colombia, India, and Guatemala. The six countries that had the highest increase in the number of immigrants to Boston since 2000 included the Dominican Republic (11,209 persons), China (8,388 persons), El Salvador (4,182 persons), Vietnam (2,895 persons), and Cape Verde (2,079 persons).

## Top Countries of Origin for Boston's Foreign Born



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis



(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Isabel Leon)

## National, State, and Local Trends

Nationally, approximately 51 percent of the foreign born in the U.S. in 2014 came from Latin America and the Caribbean, 30 percent from Asia, 11 percent from Europe, and the remaining 8 percent from other regions of the world. Mexican migration accounted for 28 percent of all foreign born residing in the United States. However, Mexican immigrants are a small share of the foreign-born population in Massachusetts and Boston.

Immigration from the Caribbean, Asia, Latin America, and Africa has significantly contributed to a shift in Boston's racial and ethnic composition over the last three decades. In 1980, 68 percent of the population was White, non-Hispanic. By 2000, this share dropped to 49 percent, and "minority" groups made up the majority of Boston's population. This trend continued through 2014, when non-Whites made up approximately 54.5 percent of Boston's population.



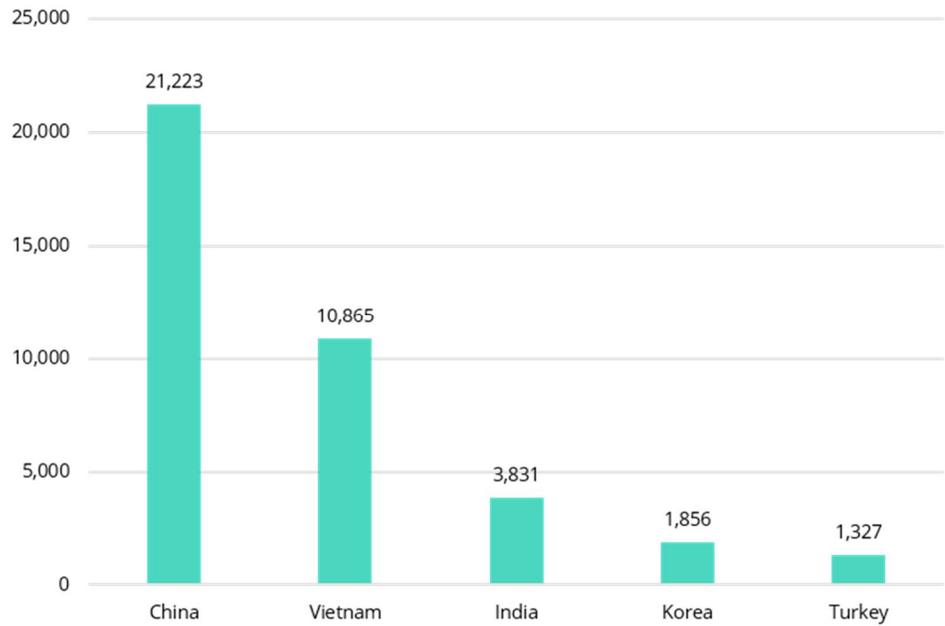
(The Feast of the Madonna della cava, Don Harney)

*Between 2000 and 2014, 48% of the increase in the foreign-born population was due to migration from Latin America and the Caribbean.*

## Regions

Immigration from Asia to Boston is the fastest growing with a net increase of 12,000 individuals from Asia between 2000 and 2014, a 33 percent increase. The largest countries of origin for Asian migration to Boston were China and Vietnam.

## Top Five Asian Countries of Origin



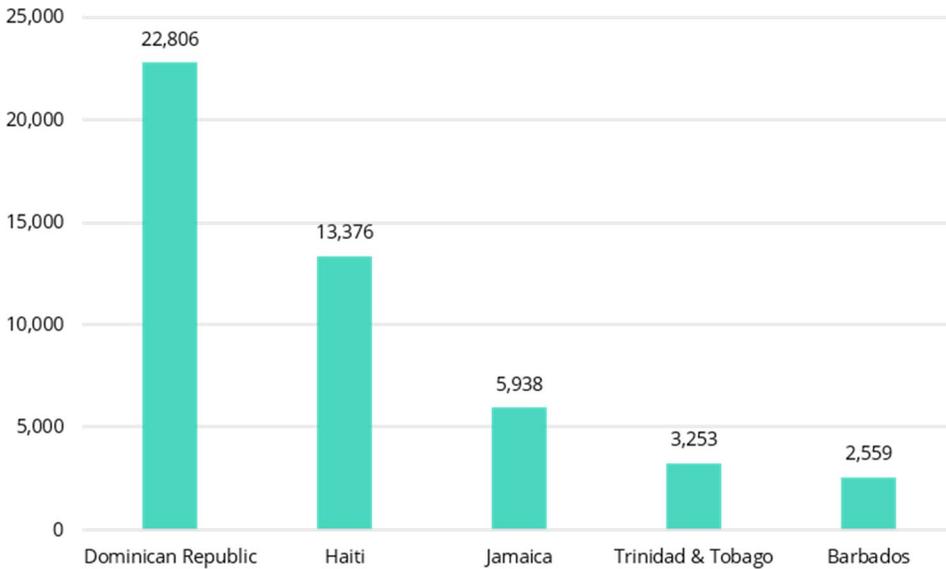
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis



(Chinese New Year Lion Dance Parade, Don Harney)

The largest regional foreign-born population in Boston in 2014 was from the Caribbean. Boston's Caribbean population had a growth rate of approximately 11 percent from 2000 to 2014, a net increase of almost 5,000 people. The largest country of origin for Caribbean migration to Boston was the Dominican Republic.

### Top Five Caribbean Countries of Origin



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

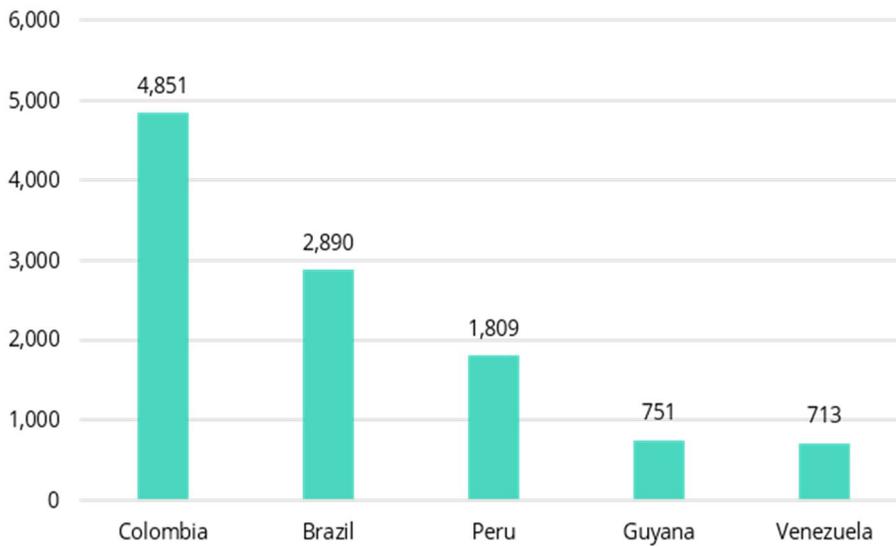
*The Dominican Republic is the country of origin for over 22,000 Boston residents.*



(Photo: Fernando Bossa)

South America experienced a decrease in its foreign-born population in Boston from 2000 to 2014. The largest country of origin for the South American migration to Boston was Colombia.

### Top Five South American Countries of Origin



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

*Immigrants from over 150 countries called Boston home in 2014.*



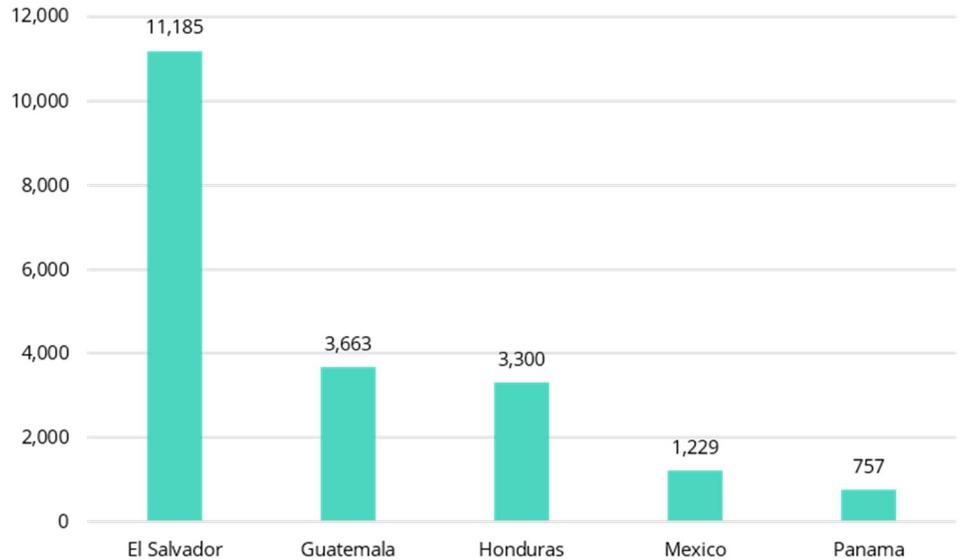
(Photo: Fernando Bossa)

# imagine

*The top three countries in growth of immigration to Boston 2000-2014 were the Dominican Republic, China, and El Salvador.*

The foreign-born population from Central America increased by approximately 4,500 people from 2000 to 2014, an 11 percent increase. The largest country of origin for Central American migration to Boston was El Salvador.

## Top Five Central American Countries of Origin



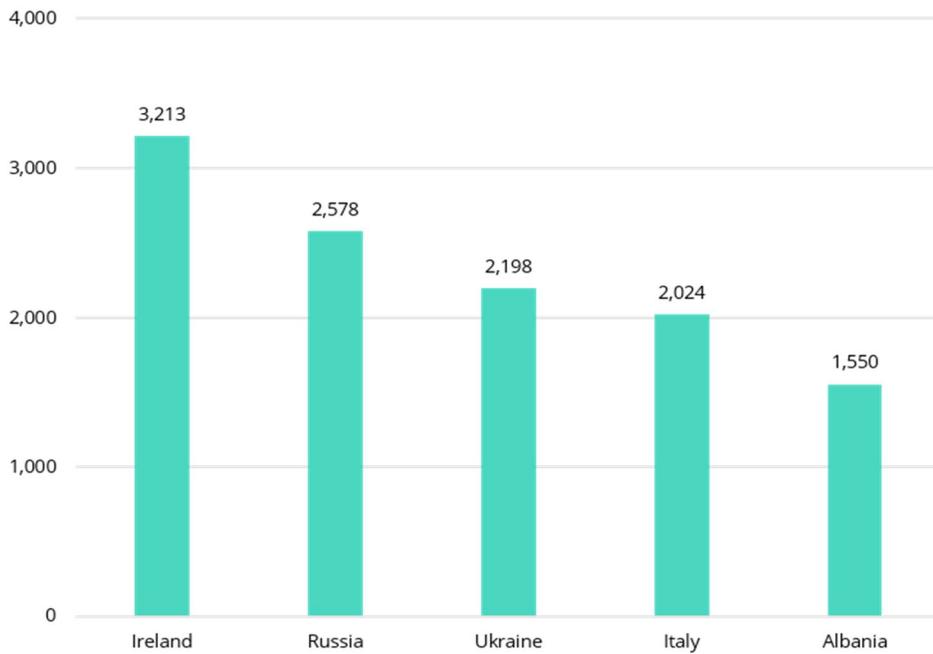
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis



(Photo: Fernando Bossa)

The foreign-born population from Europe decreased by approximately 4,000 people from 2000 to 2014. The Irish foreign-born population remained the largest European population in Boston, although it was significantly smaller than in earlier periods of Boston's history.

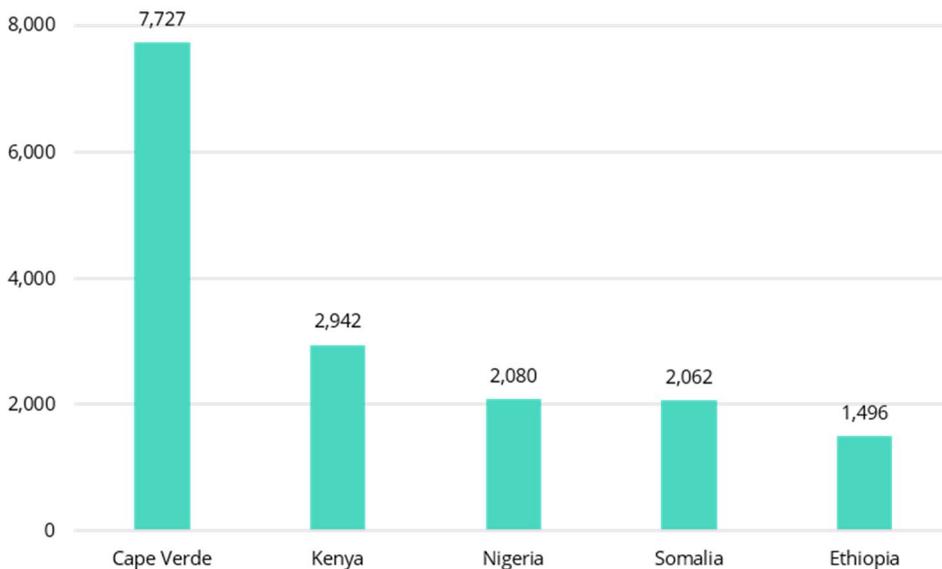
### Top Five European Countries of Origin



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

The African foreign-born population increased by more than 7,500 from 2000 to 2014, a net increase of 55 percent. The largest country of origin for African migration to Boston was Cape Verde.

### Top Five African Countries of Origin — 2014



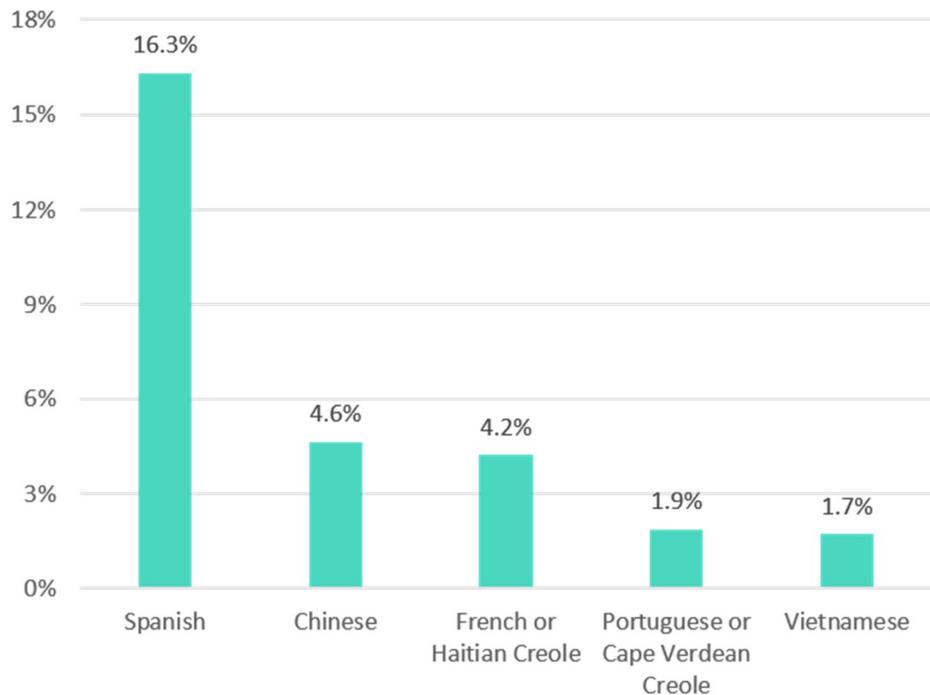
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

*Immigration from Europe has slowed, but the legacy of previous immigration still shapes Boston today.*

## Languages Spoken in Boston

Boston’s diversity can be heard through the many languages its residents speak. Thirty-seven percent of Bostonians ages five years or older spoke a non-English language at home, an increase of over 11 percent from 2000 to 2014. Spanish was spoken at home by over 101,000 people, or 16.3percent of Boston’s population age five and over. According to the 2009-2013 ACS, approximately 30 percent of the population 5 years or older in East Boston spoke Spanish, while their share in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain was 8 and 5 percent respectively.

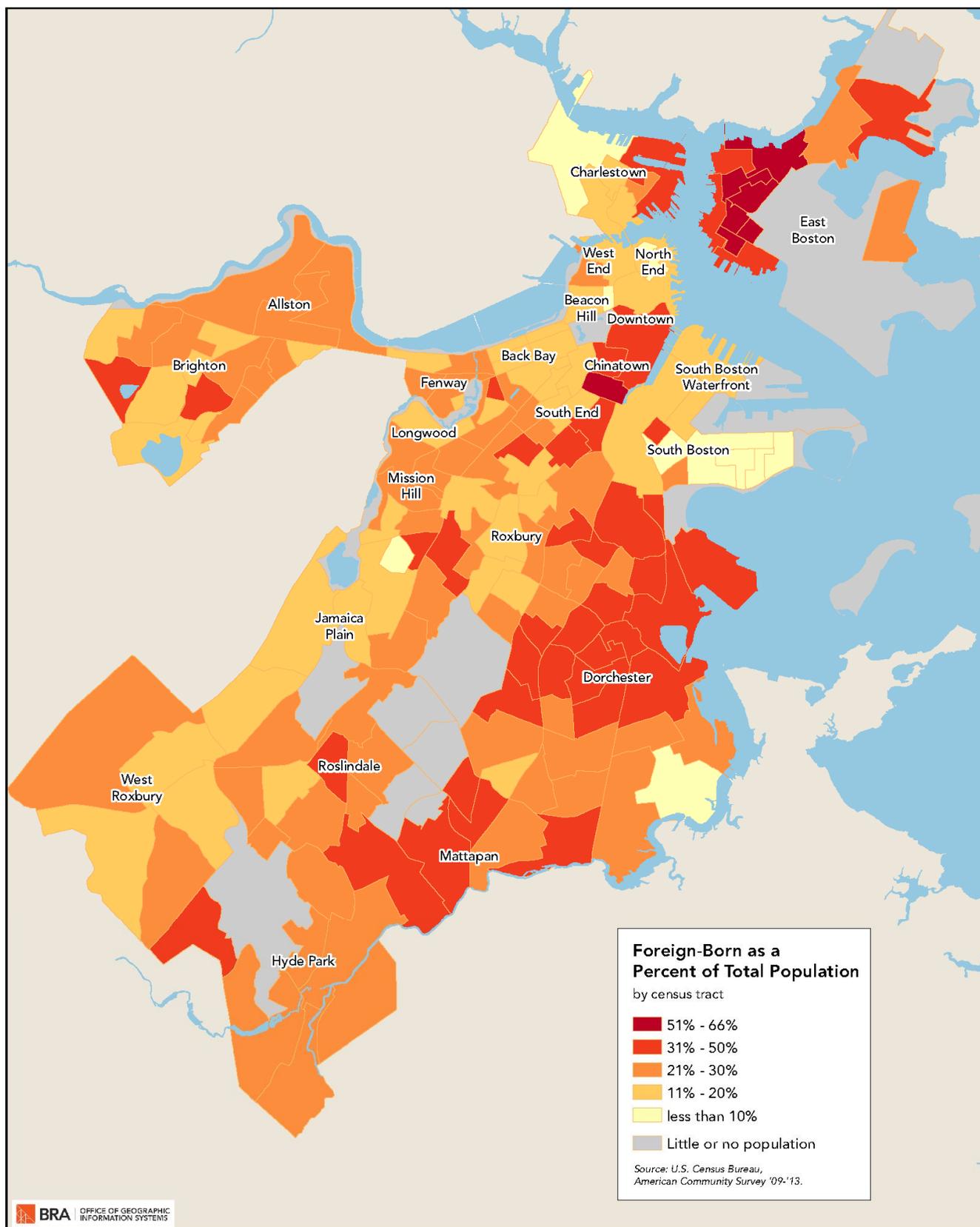
### Residents who Speak Languages Other than English at Home, Age 5 or older



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

The linguistic spectrum was even broader inside the classrooms of Boston’s public schools, where in the 2014-2015 school year, 46 percent of students spoke a language other than English at home. Of roughly 26,000 students who spoke a non-English language, over 16,000 of them were enrolled in Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL) programs. Spanish was the most common non-English language in the public schools - other prevalent languages included Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Arabic, Somali, and French.<sup>6</sup>

## Boston's Neighborhoods by Percentage Foreign Born in Census Tracts



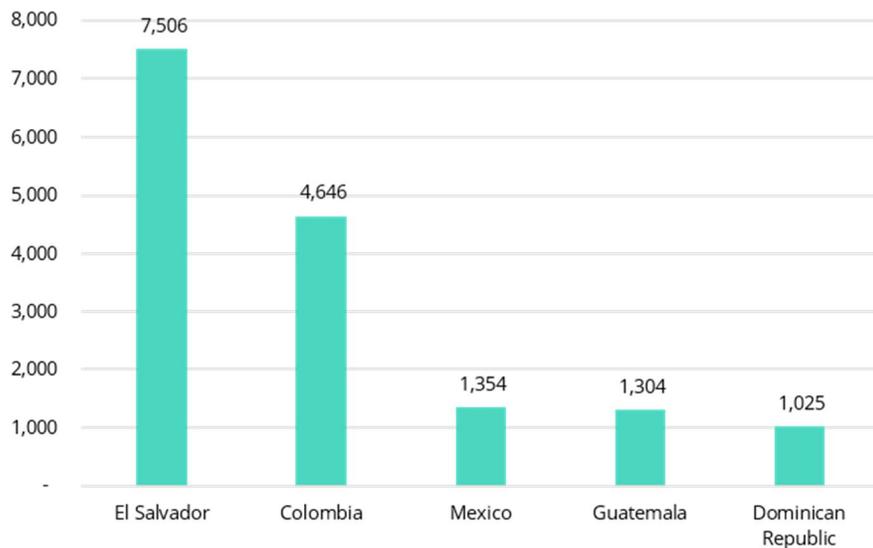
## Neighborhoods

The foreign born are not equally distributed among Boston's neighborhoods. East Boston, Mattapan, Downtown, Dorchester, and Hyde Park have greater foreign-born shares than the city's share of 26.6 percent.<sup>7</sup>

### Top Five Countries of Origin by Neighborhood (2009 to 2013)

**East Boston** has long been known as a working-class neighborhood. Its foreign-born population grew rapidly from 1990 to 2000, and increased by approximately 37 percent from 2000 to 2014. More Latinos started moving to East Boston for its affordable housing and proximity to downtown. In particular, East Boston became a prime destination for immigrants from El Salvador and Colombia, who together accounted for nearly half of the neighborhood's foreign-born population. In sum, approximately 51 percent of East Boston's residents were foreign born in 2013, nearly double the city's average.

#### East Boston



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis



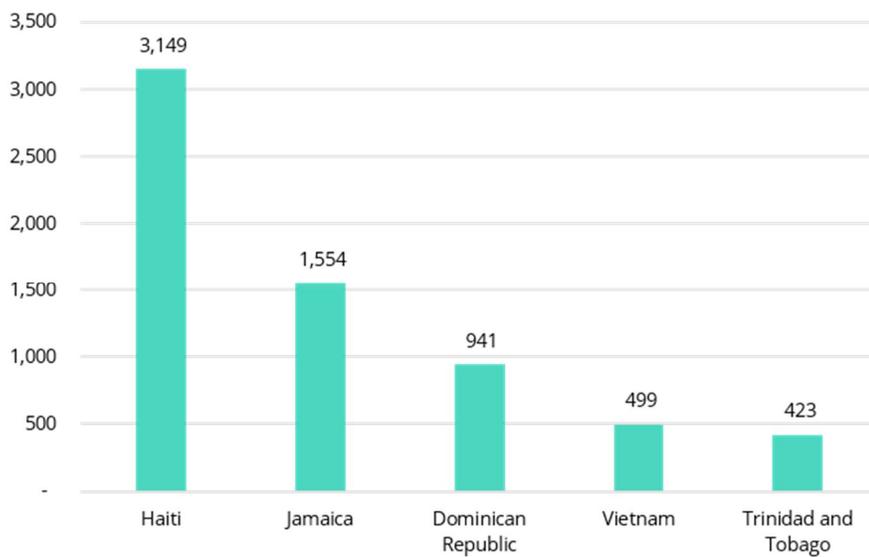
(Caribbean Parade and Festival, taken by Jeremiah Robinson)



(Mayor's Office Photo by Don Harney)

**Mattapan** attracts foreign-born residents with its housing options that include a mix of small apartment buildings, single-family homes, public housing, and Boston's traditional triple-deckers. Many of Mattapan's foreign-born residents came from the Caribbean, including Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados. International migrants from these countries make up nearly three quarters of the neighborhood's foreign-born population. Approximately 36 percent of Mattapan's residents were foreign born in 2013.

### Mattapan



U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

*East Boston, Mattapan, Downtown, Dorchester, and Hyde Park have greater foreign-born population share than the city.*

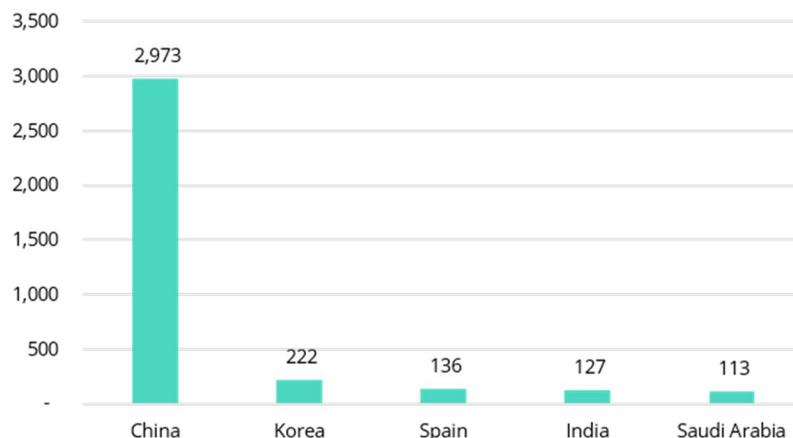


(Veronica Robles and her Mariachi Band, Renato Castelo)

*Downtown  
is home to  
Boston's  
historic  
Chinatown.*

Even though **Downtown** Boston is home to numerous theaters, restaurants, cafes, office buildings, historic sites and City Hall, it was also home to over 16,000 residents in 2013. Downtown includes the smaller neighborhoods of Chinatown and the Leather District along with the historic Boston Peninsula. Many of Downtown's foreign-born residents migrated from Asia with China and Korea as the largest sending countries. Approximately 33 percent of Downtown's residents were foreign born in 2013.

## Downtown/Chinatown



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

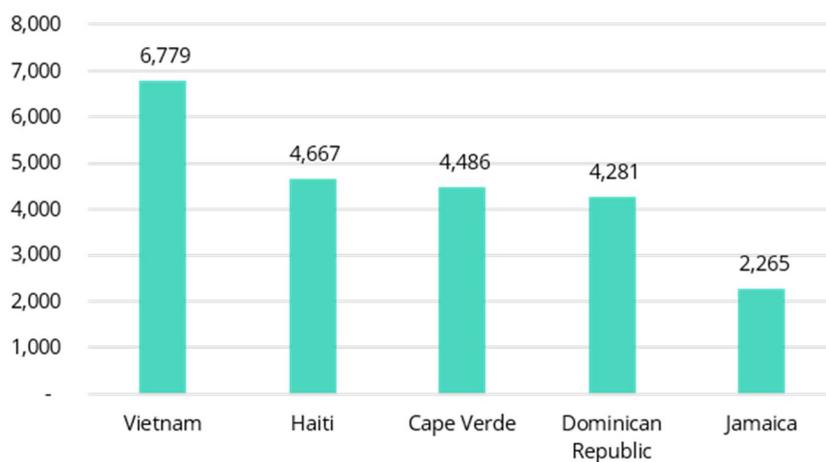


(Photo: Jeremiah Robinson)

*Nearly  
one-third of  
Dorchester's  
residents are  
foreign born.*

As the largest neighborhood in Boston, **Dorchester** was home to nearly 39,000 foreign-born residents. Dorchester has attracted foreign born from a variety of countries including Vietnam, Haiti, and Cape Verde, and these individual populations predominately live in specific neighborhoods of Dorchester. A drive down Dorchester Avenue highlights the presence of a larger number of Vietnamese businesses while Cape Verdeans congregate on Bowdoin and Dudley Streets. Dorchester was home to approximately one-fifth of the city's entire population and nearly one-third of these residents were foreign born in 2013.

## Dorchester



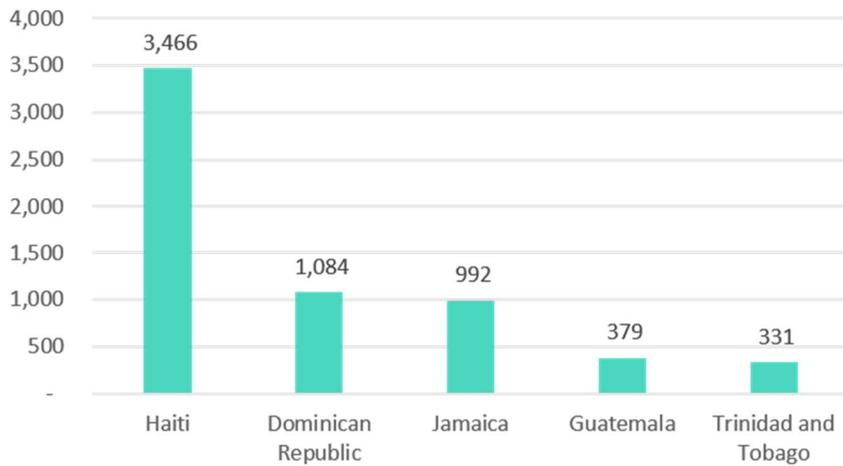
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis



Vietnamese restaurant in Dorchester, Phillip Granberry

Southwest of Dorchester lies the neighborhood of **Hyde Park**, Boston's southernmost pocket. After experiencing a 62 percent growth in its foreign-born population in the 1990s, the foreign-born population grew by a more modest 15 percent from 2000 to 2014. Haitians, the neighborhood's largest foreign-born population, comprised over a third of the neighborhood's foreign born. Hyde Park also had large Dominican and Jamaican populations. Approximately, 28 percent of Hyde Park's population were foreign born in 2013.

### Hyde Park



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

*There are significant Haitian communities in Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Dorchester.*



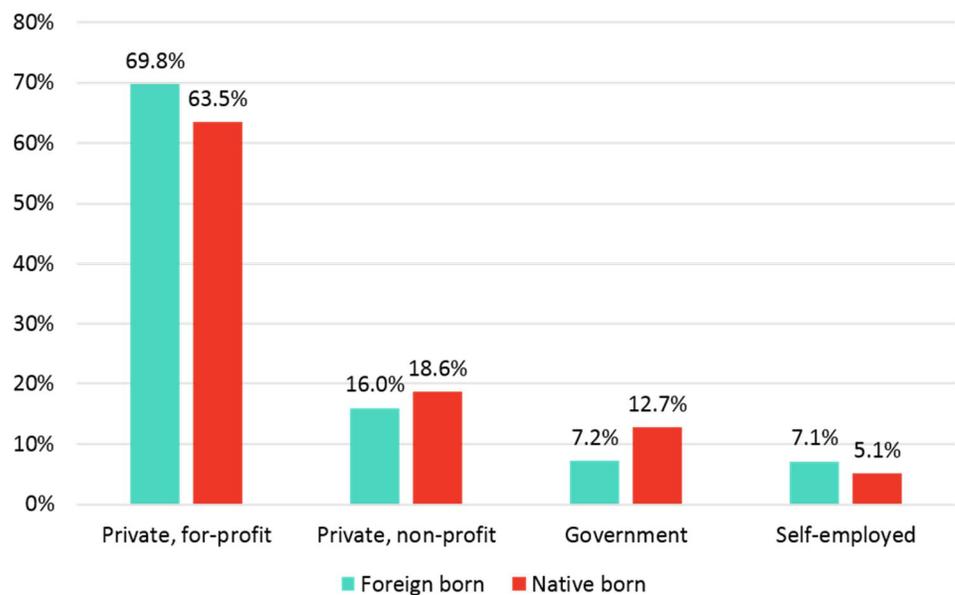
(Veronica Robles and her Mariachi Band, Renato Castelo)

## Economic Contributions

Boston's foreign-born population had a significant economic impact on the local economy through their spending. The total expenditures of the foreign born in 2014 were \$3.5 billion. This annual expenditure generated more than \$116.1 million in state and local tax revenues and contribute \$2.3 billion to the regional product.<sup>8</sup> This expenditure in turn, generated approximately 15,000 jobs in the local economy.

The link between the foreign born and the local economy was further underscored by the fact that a greater proportion of the foreign-born population was self-employed (7.1 percent) than the native-born population (5.1 percent).<sup>9</sup> This has played an essential role in the revitalization of numerous Boston neighborhoods, as immigrant business owners have rehabilitated previously abandoned storefronts and housing stock, bringing new purchasing power into invigorated retail corridors.<sup>10</sup> The foreign born were less likely in 2014 to work in non-profit sector and government jobs, but more likely to work in the private sector.

### Type of Employment



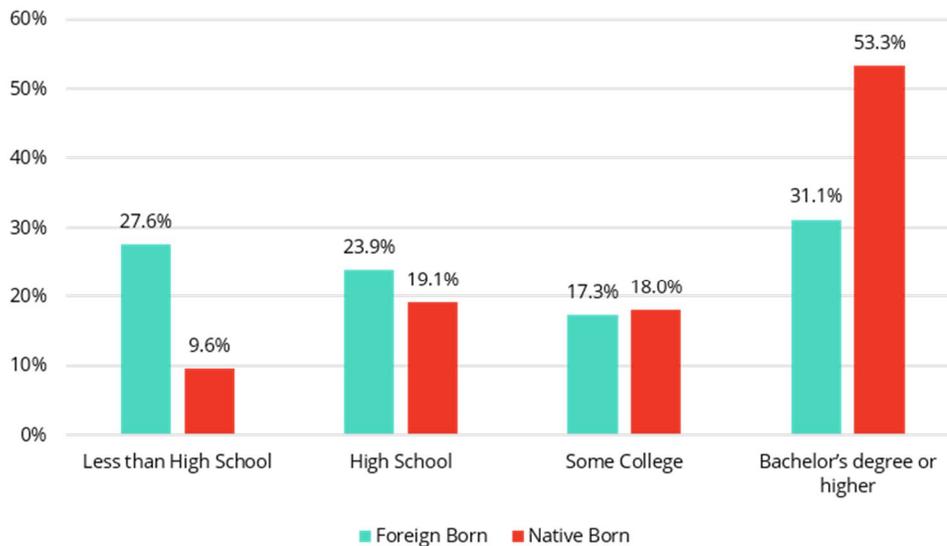
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

The foreign born also contribute to the local economy through their labor. In the workforce, they fill positions at both ends of the labor market, from high-skill jobs in engineering, bioscience, and information technology to blue and gray collar jobs in the manufacturing and service sectors. Foreign-born workers accounted for 29 percent of the labor force in 2014, and between 2000 and 2014, the foreign born contributed nearly one third of city's increase in its labor force.<sup>11</sup>

## Educational Attainment and Income

A greater share of the foreign-born population than the native-born population had less than a high school education. Thirty-one percent of the foreign born had completed a college degree, similar to the U.S. population, but a much smaller share than the native born in Boston.

### Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years or Older



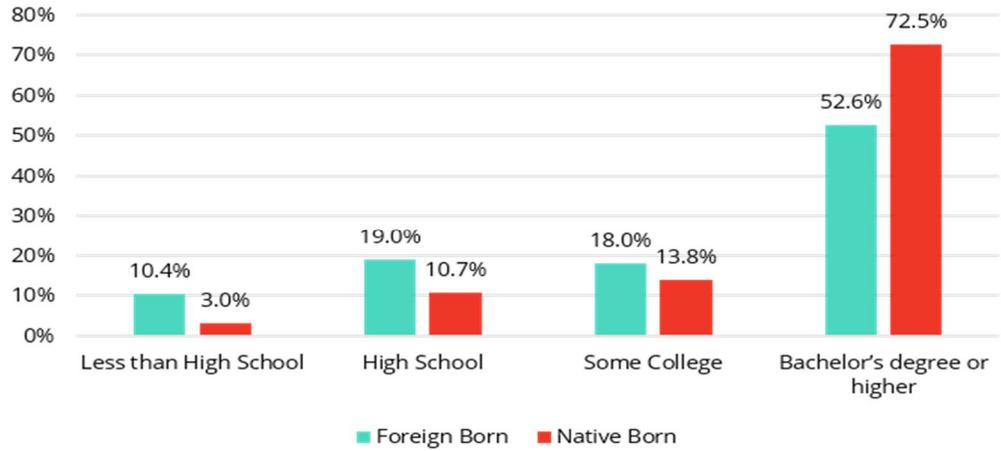
U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

As their lower educational attainment would suggest, foreign born workers had lower median income - the median income of full-time, year-round foreign-born workers was \$44,000 compared to \$60,000 for native-born workers. A household income four times the federal poverty guideline was used as a proxy for the middle-class standard of living. Only 26.8 percent of Boston's foreign-born adult population ages 18 years or older had achieved at least a middle class standard of living in 2014<sup>12</sup> — a stark contrast to 51.2 percent of Boston's native-born population.

While 72.5 percent of native-born residents with a bachelor's degree or higher achieved a middle-class standard of living, only 52.6 percent of foreign-born residents with the same level of education had achieved this standard of living. A number of factors may have contributed to this, including time spent in the labor market and lack of state certification or licensure needed for certain occupations.

*Only 26.8% of Boston's foreign-born adult population has achieved at least a middle class standard of living.*

### Middle Class Standard of Living by Educational Attainment for Boston Residents 25 Years or Older

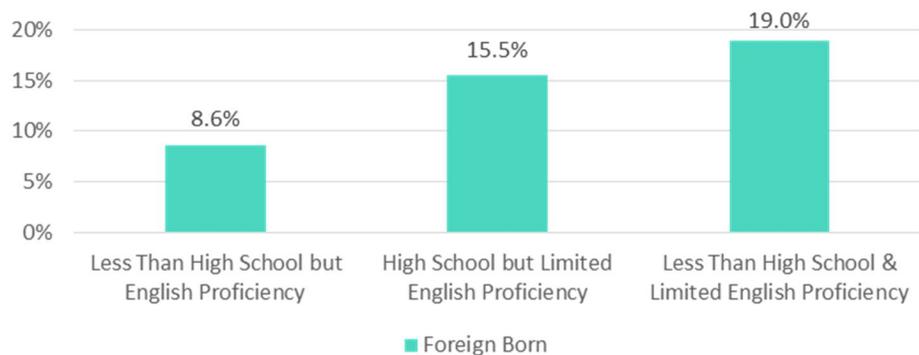


U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

In 2014, 10 percent of all Bostonians ages five years or older lacked English proficiency, defined as speaking English not well or not at all. Approximately 31,000 households in Boston were “linguistically isolated,” -- no resident in the household over the age of 14 spoke English exclusively or “very well.”<sup>13</sup>

In 2014, over 67,000 foreign-born adults (25 year or older) either lacked a high school diploma or had limited English proficiency. Of the foreign-born population 25 years or older, 19 percent had less than a high school education and limited English proficiency and 16 percent were high school graduates but had limited English proficiency. In addition, 9 percent of foreign-born adults had less than a high school education but were English proficient. This lack of English language proficiency was compounded by the fact that there are long wait-lists to enroll in English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) classes in the city of Boston. In 2015, over 2,700 people were on the wait-list.<sup>14</sup>

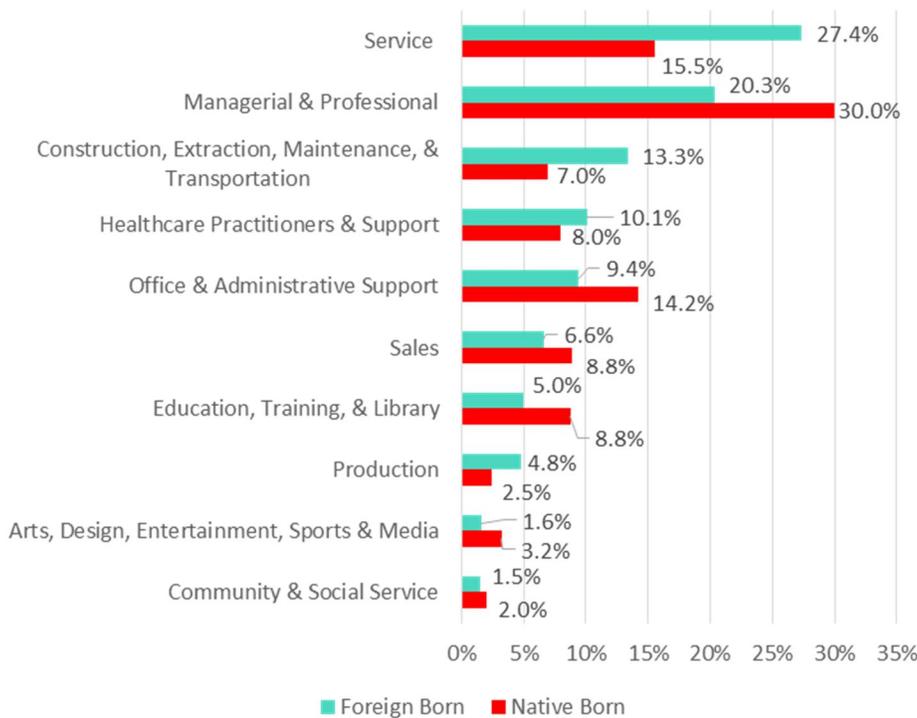
### Educational Attainment and Language Proficiency among Boston’s Adult Foreign Born Population (25 Years and Older)



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

Another significant barrier to increasing the foreign-born population's standard of living was the disparity in management-level occupations. Around 20 percent of the foreign-born labor force worked in managerial or professional occupations, compared 30 percent of the total native-born labor force. A higher percentage of the foreign born were employed by the service sector (27 percent), compared to 16 percent among the native-born. This over representation among the foreign born also showed up in construction, extraction, maintenance, and transportation occupations (13 percent) compared to 7 percent for native-born residents.

### Foreign-Born and Native-Born Occupations



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis



(Boston International High School, Isabel Leon)

*About 27% of the foreign born were employed in service occupations, compared to 15.5% among the native born.*

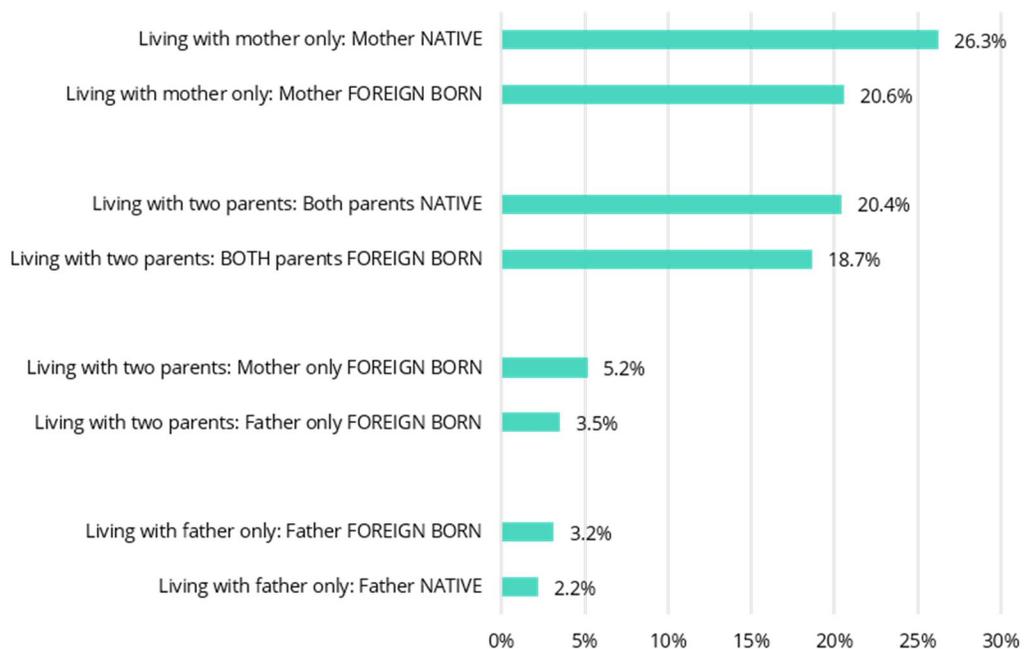
## Children Living with a Foreign-Born Parent(s)

Even though only about 10 percent of Boston’s children (age 17 or younger) were foreign born themselves, 42 percent of Boston’s children lived with only foreign-born parent(s) and 51 percent lived with at least one foreign-born parent.

Of children ages 5 or above with at least one foreign-born parent, 33.5 percent spoke only English in the home compared to 84.9 percent of children with native-born parent(s). The majority of children with native-born parent(s) who did not speak English in the home were Puerto Rican. However, children tend to learn English well even if they speak another language at home – 88 percent of children with foreign-born parent(s) and 97 percent of children with only native-born parent(s) spoke English very well. The most common non-English language spoken by children with foreign-born parent(s) was Spanish.

However, the nativity of a parent influenced poverty. The federal poverty level in 2014 was \$23,850 for a 4-person household, and 39 percent of children with foreign-born parent(s) compared to 30 percent of children with only native-born parent(s) were below the federal poverty level. The nativity of a parent was also related to medical insurance coverage, as 73 percent of Boston’s uninsured children lived with foreign-born parent(s).

### Nativity of Parents of Boston’s Children



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

## Health

The health status of any population will shape its future contributions to the city. Because of their nativity and length of time in the United States, the foreign born may have different health behaviors and outcomes compared to those born in the United States. Almost 10% of foreign-born residents are without health insurance, whereas only 3.1% of native-born residents have no health insurance. In this section, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) analyzed Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BBRFSS) data on selected health behaviors and outcomes for Boston’s foreign- and native-born populations. The data here are from 2010 and 2013.

A number of factors in addition to nativity can influence health behaviors and outcomes. BPHC researchers included other factors (e.g., race, sex, and time in the United States) in their analysis and applied statistical comparison techniques to verify differences after including these other factors in their statistical tests.<sup>15</sup>

Based on analysis of 2010 and 2013 Boston (BBRFSS) data, there was no significant difference in the hypertension rate between U.S.-born and foreign-born adult residents.<sup>16</sup> Foreign-born adult residents living in the United States for less than 5 years had a lower rate of hypertension than their counterparts living in the United States for 5 or more years, but this difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender, and age.<sup>17</sup>

### Selected Health Behaviors and Outcomes of Foreign- and U.S.-Born, 2010 & 2013<sup>18</sup>

	U.S. Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born >5 Years in U.S.	Foreign Born <=5 Years in U.S.
<b>Average Age</b>	42.3	40.1	43.4	27.5
<b>Hypertension</b>	25%	24%	29%	7%
<b>Obesity</b>	22%	20%	22%	13%
<b>Diabetes</b>	7%	9%	11%	2%
<b>Current Smoker</b>	21%	15%	13%	22%

Source: 2010 & 2013 Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BBRFSS); Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office Analysis

There was no significant difference in the obesity rate between U.S.-born and foreign-born adult residents.<sup>19</sup> Foreign-born adult residents living in the United States for less than 5 years had a lower rate of obesity than foreign-born residents living in the United States for 5 or more years, but the difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender, and age.<sup>20</sup>

Foreign-born residents had a higher rate of diabetes than U.S.-born residents, but the difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender and age.<sup>21</sup> Foreign-born residents living in the United States for less than 5 years had a lower rate of diabetes than foreign-born residents living in the United States for 5 or more years, but that difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender and age.<sup>22</sup>

Foreign-born adult residents had a lower smoking rate than US-born adult residents.<sup>23</sup> Foreign-born residents living in the United States for less than 5 years had a higher smoking rate than those living in the United States for 5 or more years. This difference remained after adjusting for race, gender, and age.<sup>24</sup>

*Foreign-born  
adult residents  
have a lower  
smoking rate  
than native-  
born adult  
residents.*



(We Are Boston Annual Gala, Renato Castelo)

# Conclusion

Boston's recent immigration has created a level of diversity greater than at any point in the city's history. Boston's foreign-born population represents a record number of countries. Immigrants are coming from a much greater array of countries than ever before, with strong representation from the Caribbean, Asia, Central America, South America, and Africa. Shifting patterns of immigration are visible in the languages spoken in the city's public schools and in the shops and restaurants of revitalized commercial districts.

Growth in the foreign born population, both in total numbers and among specific groups, has occurred rapidly, with some smaller populations doubling in the last ten years. This demographic shift in Boston's population will be important to consider in the years ahead as the impact of the city's foreign-born residents expands. Immigrants will account for an increasing share of growth in the state and region.

Immigrants constitute a significant part of the city's workforce, but more educated foreign born do not appear to be achieving the standard of living of their native-born counterparts. Those with lower educational attainment may struggle to achieve a middle class standard of living. The foreign born contribution to the city's future is highly dependent on access to quality education and the ability to acquire English proficiency. Meeting these challenges will ensure that Boston's foreign-born population continues to thrive, making the city an even more dynamic mosaic than it is today.



(East Boston Neighborhood, Peter Vanderwarker)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Research Division Analysis. (2015).

<sup>2</sup> "Foreign-born" is a demographic category that includes all people who are born outside the U.S., naturalized U.S. citizens, and non-U.S. citizens residing in the country. The "native-born" demographic category includes all people born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Island Areas and persons born abroad with at least one U.S.-citizen parent.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis

<sup>4</sup> The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau intended to allow communities to identify how they are changing in the years between decennial censuses. The ACS is based on a sample of the population. While the data in this document are reported as specific numbers and percentages, all results from the ACS are subject to sampling error. The data in this report are from the 2014 ACS 1-year. For more information on the ACS, please see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>.

<sup>5</sup> This report used 2014 1-year ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) for citywide estimates. The ACS's American Fact Finder website reported Boston's population slightly higher than the PUMS data used in this analysis (656,051 compared to 655,434). The American Fact Finder website reported a higher foreign-born population (181,039) compared to the ACS PUMS data (177,461). The PUMS estimate fell within the margin of error (+/- 7,544) reported on the American Fact Finder website. PUMS data allow for more detailed analysis of foreign-born populations than the American Fact Finder website. Lower survey response rates due to language or documentation issues may result in an undercount of the population.

<sup>6</sup> "Boston Public Schools at a Glance. 2014-2015" Prepared by the Boston Public Schools Communication Office, June 2015.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research Division Analysis. The 5-Year ACS provides population estimates for smaller geographic areas like census tracts. A census tract is a census geography that has a population size between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people. These census tracts were combined to match BRA boundaries for Boston's neighborhoods.

<sup>8</sup> 2014 Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI), BRA Research Division Analysis.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis. Excludes unpaid family workers.

<sup>10</sup> There is no agreement among researchers regarding the reasons for variations in the self-employment rates among different immigrant groups. Reasons cited include human and financial capital of individual immigrants, high rates of solidarity and social capital in some immigrant communities, as well as the opportunity structure encountered by immigrant entrepreneurs.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis.

<sup>12</sup> The actual income needed to achieve this standard of living depended on the number of people in the family. For a two person family, the income was \$62,920 in 2014.

<sup>13</sup> A linguistically isolated household was one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) spoke only English or (2) spoke a non-English language and spoke English "very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over had at least some difficulty with English. The ability to speak English, for a respondent who spoke a language other than English at home, referred to his or her assessment of the ability to speak English, from "very well" to "not at all." The language spoken at home was the language currently used by respondents at home, either "English only" or a non-English language which was used in addition to English or in place of English., U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>15</sup> When different in averages of sample populations occur, statistical tests allow for determining if there is a “statistical difference” in these averages (i.e. this does not happen by chance). A confidence interval, a range of expected averages, is generated to a specific level. A 95 percent confidence interval signifies that 95 out of 100 samples would include this range. If there is no overlap in these confidence intervals, these sample estimates are considered to be statistically different. The probability of this occurring is signified by a p-value (e.g. p=0000). A smaller p-value signifies more confidence that the two sample populations are different.

<sup>16</sup> There was no identifiable statistical difference between the foreign and native born. The p-value is (p=.8422).

<sup>17</sup> Initial analysis identified a difference between the foreign born who had resided in the United States for 5 years or less with those that resided more than 5 years (p<.0001), but that difference disappeared once after adjusting for race, gender, and age (p=.1018).

<sup>18</sup> Confidence intervals are provided in the table below:

	U.S. Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born >5 Years in U.S.	Foreign Born <=5 Years in U.S.
Average Age	41.7-43	39.1-41.2	39.1-41.2	42.2-44.6
Hypertension	23-26.1	21.6-26.8	21.6-26.8	25.4-31.6
Obesity	20.1-23.5	17.1-22.2	17.1-22.2	18.8-24.5
Diabetes	6.4-8.1	7.7-10.8	7.7-10.8	9.3-13.2
Current Smoker	18.8-22.5	12.2-17.7	12.2-17.7	10.3-15.8

<sup>19</sup> There was no identifiable statistical difference between the foreign and native born. The p-value is (p=.1732).

<sup>20</sup> Initial analysis identified a difference between the foreign born who had resided in the United States for 5 years or less with those that resided more than 5 years (p=.0273), but that difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender, and age (p=.3475).

<sup>21</sup> There was an identifiable statistical difference between the foreign and native born. The p-value is (p=.0191).

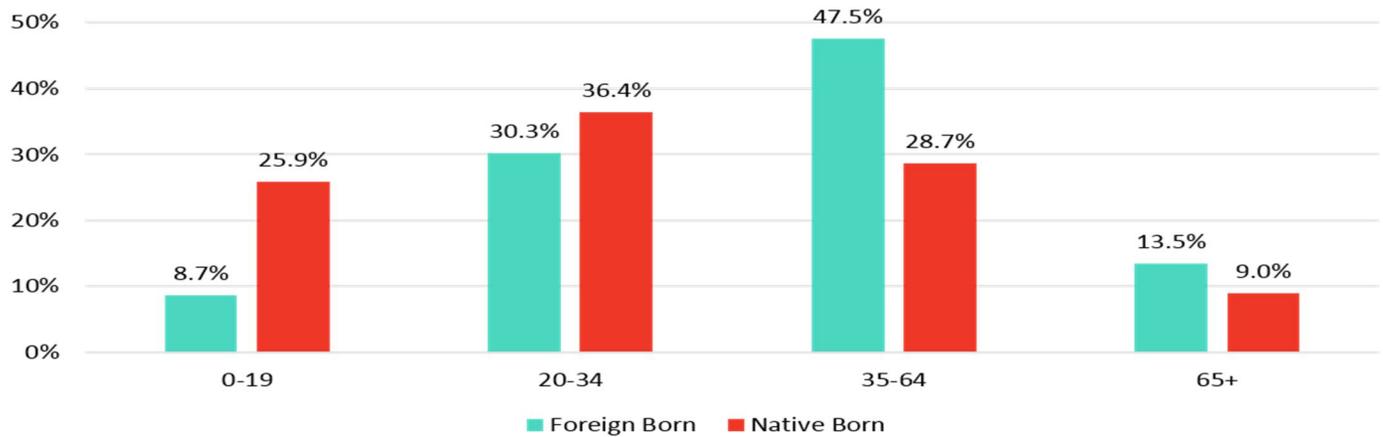
<sup>22</sup> Initial analysis identified a difference between the foreign born who had resided in the United States for 5 years or less with those that resided more than 5 years (p<.0001), but that difference disappeared once adjusting for race, gender and age (p=.8123).

<sup>23</sup> There was an identifiable statistical difference between the foreign and native born. The p-value is (p= 0.0015).

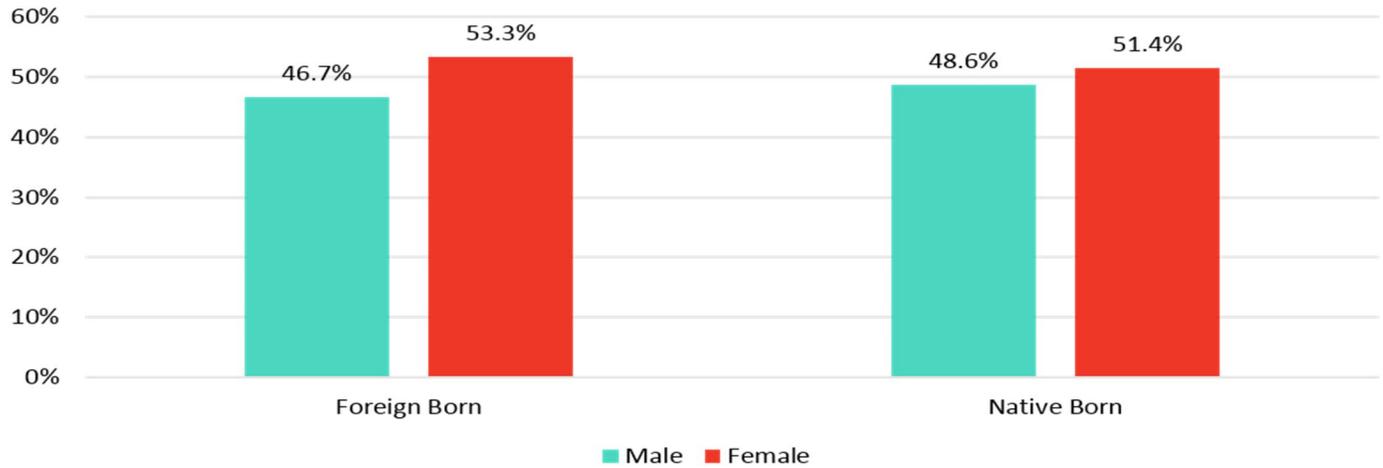
<sup>24</sup> Initial analysis identified a difference between the foreign born who had resided in the United States for 5 years or less with those that resided more than 5 years (p=.0201) This difference remained after adjusting for race, gender, and age (p=.0003).

# Imagine all the people: a new Bostonians series

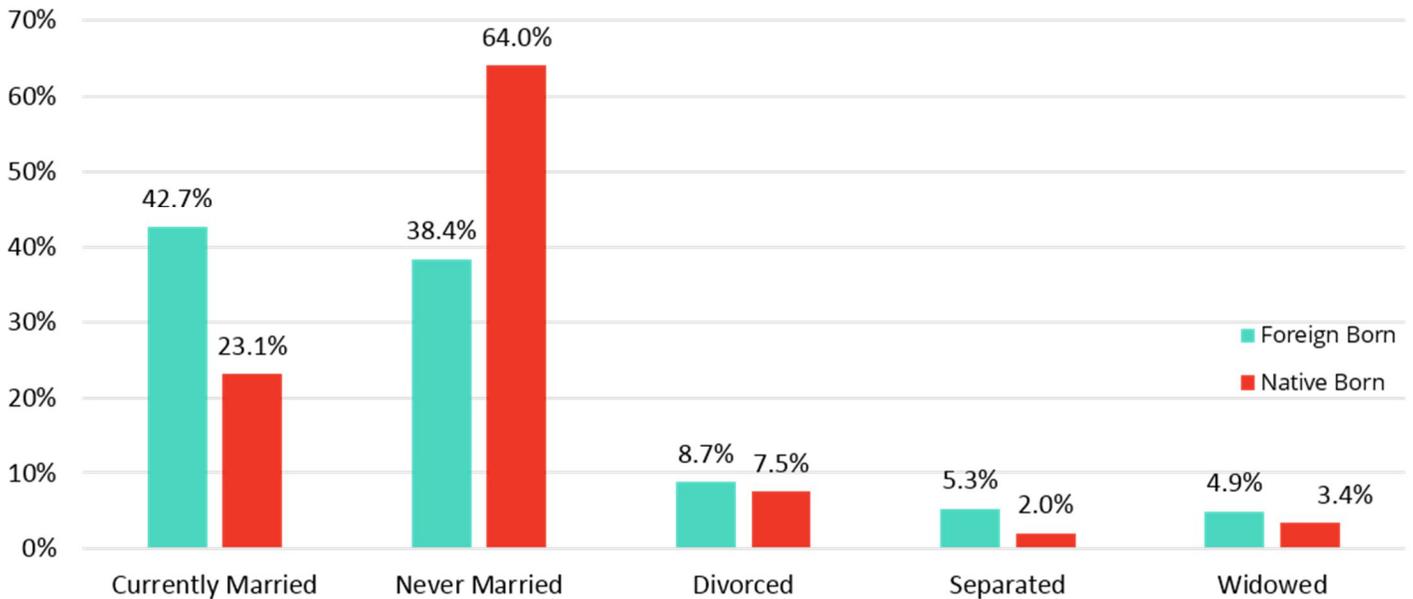
## Age



## Gender



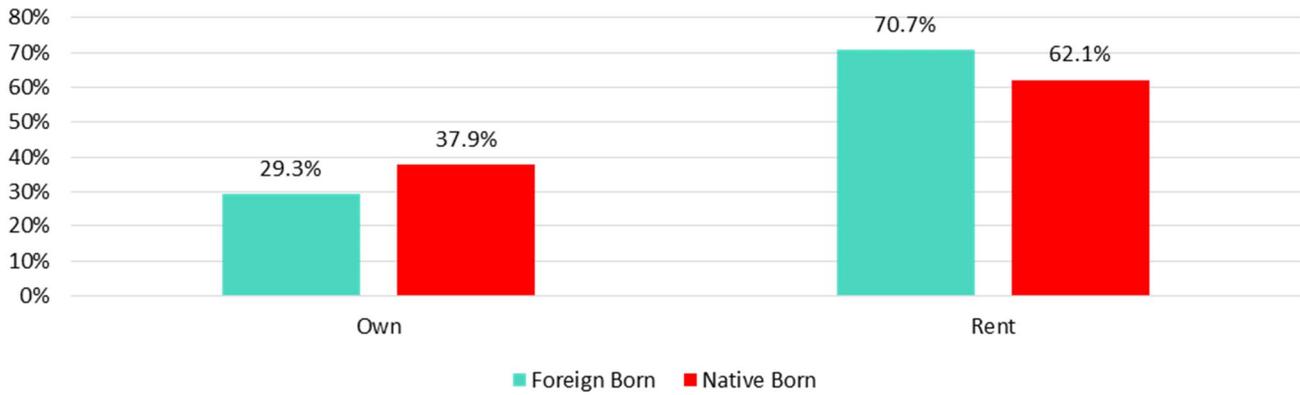
## Marital Status



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

# Imagine all the people: a new Bostonians series

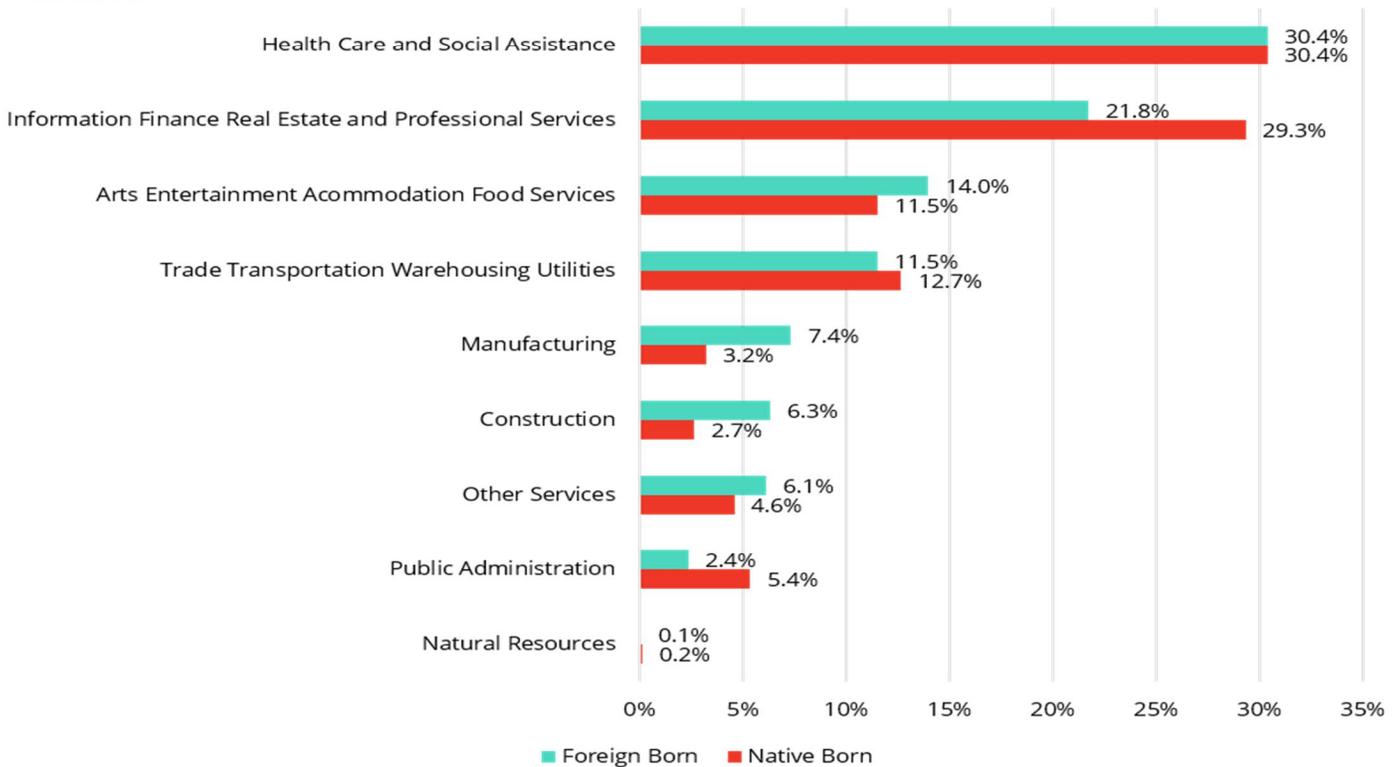
## Housing Tenure



## Housing Costs



## Industry



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis



CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE  
FOR IMMIGRANT  
ADVANCEMENT

*Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston*



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