

# BOSTON BY THE NUMBERS

# FOREIGN-BORN



CITY OF BOSTON  
MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

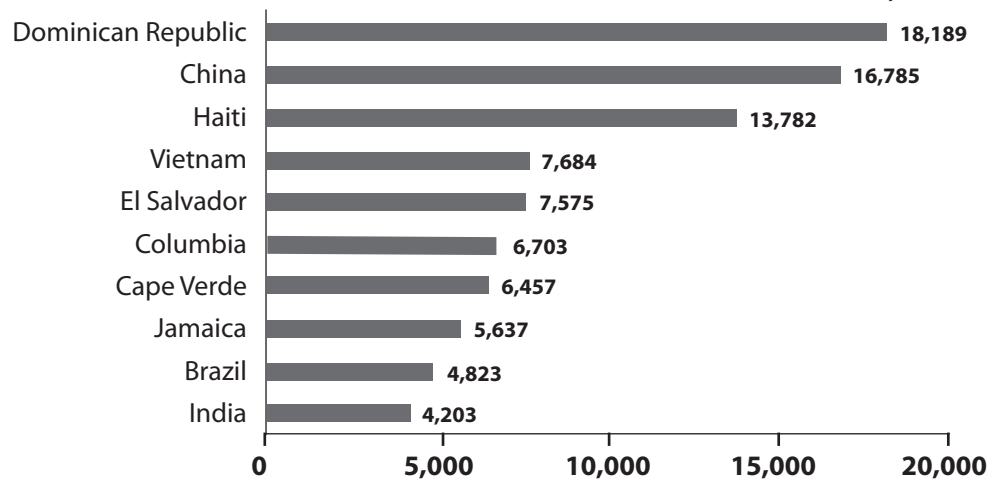
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Boston  
Redevelopment  
Authority  
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## POPULATION

- Between 1990 and 2010, Boston's foreign-born population grew from 114,597 to 167,311. Immigrants now account for 26.7% of the city population, up from 20% in 1990.
- Boston has the 6th highest proportion of foreign-born residents among the 25 largest U.S. cities.
- Non-naturalized citizens make up 55% of Boston's foreign-born population.
- Half of East Boston's residents are foreign-born, the highest rate of any neighborhood in the city. North End has the lowest rate at under 11%.
- The Dominican Republic, China, and Haiti are the most common countries of origin for Boston's foreign-born population.

### TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2010



Source: American Community Survey 2008-2010, BRA Research Division Analysis

## LANGUAGES

- Between 1990 and 2010, the percentage of residents speaking a language other than English at home increased from 26% to 35%.
- In 2010, 9.5% of all Boston residents had limited English proficiency, up from 6% in 1990.<sup>1</sup>
- Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in Boston.

**MOST COMMON FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

Language	% of Total Population
Spanish	15.2%
French	4.8%
Chinese	3.8%
Portuguese	2.0%
Vietnamese	1.7%

Source: American Commuter Survey 2008-2010, BRA Research Division Analysis

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT<sup>2</sup>

- Nearly 1 out of 3 immigrants has a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to the city rate of 43.7%.
- Fewer immigrants hold a high school diploma (or equivalent) than the city population as a whole; 28.8% of immigrants have not completed high school, compared to the citywide rate of 15.7%.

## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- Immigrants in Boston spend just over \$4 billion annually from their after tax earnings. These annual expenditures generate a regional product of \$4 billion, \$1.3 billion in state and federal taxes, and over 25,800 jobs in the local economy.<sup>3</sup>
- The 8,800<sup>4</sup> immigrant-owned small businesses in Boston generate almost \$3.7 billion in annual sales and employ 18,500 people. In addition, these businesses generate a regional product of about \$3.6 billion, contribute \$293 million in state and federal taxes, and create an additional 16,900 jobs in the local economy.

<sup>1</sup> Self identified as speaking English “not well” or “not at all.”

<sup>2</sup> For foreign-born residents 25 years or older in Boston

<sup>3</sup> All economic contribution information calculated using data from the Survey of Business Owners, 2012 Census, Regional Economic Models, Inc., and BRA Research Division Analysis.

<sup>4</sup> Includes individual proprietors and self-employed contractors

- Boston’s immigrants are employed in a wide variety of sectors. The healthcare/social services industry is the largest employer of Boston’s foreign-born population.

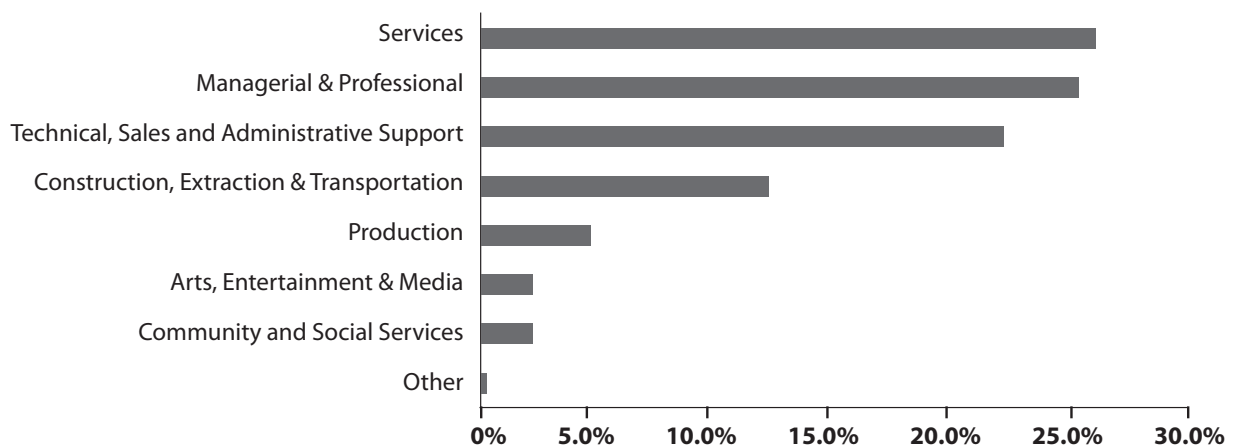
**FOREIGN BORN EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Industry	% of Total Foreign-Born Workers
Healthcare/Social Services	18.8%
Professional Services	12.9%
Accommodation/Food	11.8%
Education	9.9%
Retail Trade	7.9%

Source: American Community Survey 2008-2010, Public Use Microdata Sample(PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

- The majority of foreign-born workers in Boston work in service occupations, including food preparation and serving occupations and building and groundings cleaning occupations. A large number of immigrants also work in managerial and professional occupations.

**FOREIGN BORN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION**



Source: American Community Survey 2008-2010, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

- The 2008-2010 American Community Survey (PUMS) reports that the foreign born poverty rate was 21%, the same poverty rate as the native-born population.



## FOREIGN BORN POPULATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD

	Foreign Born Population %
East Boston	50.3%
Mattapan	35.5%
Allston	33.1%
Downtown	32.4%
West End	32.3%
Dorchester	31.1%
Hyde Park	29.9%
Brighton	29.5%
Roslindale	29.1%
Mission Hill	24.7%
Roxbury	24.6%
Fenway	23.6%
South End	23.3%
Jamacia Plain	21.1%
West Roxbury	21.1%
Harbor Islands	17.7%
Back Bay	17.1%
Charlestown	13.9%
Beacon Hill	12.7%
South Boston	11.7%
South Boston Waterfront	10.8%
North End	10.7%
Longwood Medical Area	7.3%

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010, BRA Research Division Analysis