

# Metro Detroit's Foreign-Born Populations

Prepared by John Cruz

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## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank the staff at Global Detroit and Data Driven Detroit for their editorial handiwork, as well as coaching to take this massive amount of data and turn it into what I hope will be a very usable format.

## **About Global Detroit**

Global Detroit is an effort to revitalize southeast Michigan's economy by pursuing strategies that strengthen Detroit's connections to the world and make the region more attractive and welcoming to immigrants, internationals, and foreign trade and investment as a means to produce jobs and regional economic growth. Originally funded by the New Economy Initiative of Southeast Michigan, the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Skillman Foundation, a comprehensive Global Detroit study was released in May 2010 that documented the positive impacts that immigrants have on the regional economy and identified eleven strategic initiatives to revitalize the regional economy. To date, the Global Detroit Initiative has helped launch over a half dozen distinct initiatives in southeast Michigan to make the region more welcoming and to capitalize on the economic opportunity that our international population and connections bring.

Global Detroit's work has served as the foundation for Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Global Michigan work. Global Detroit also has played a pivotal role in helping to launch a Global Great Lakes Network including similar efforts from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Dayton, Columbus, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Lansing, and Global Michigan.

## **About John Cruz**

John Cruz joined Global Detroit in November 2012 as an immigration research and data analysis intern with the task of compiling the data and maps that would later make up this report. He is a 2012 graduate of Wayne State University's Masters of Urban Planning program, with a concentration in economic development. His extensive masters essay research focused on Transit Oriented Economic Development for cities in the United States known as the "Rust Belt". While at Wayne State University, he was an active member of the Wayne State Student Urban Planners and worked two years on the Michigan Association of Planning's Annual Student Conference, serving as host committee chairman for the March 2012 conference hosted by Wayne State University. His background in computer systems and databases from years of working as an eCommerce and Wordpress developer made this project of mapping immigrant data a natural fit. He is also a semi-professional photographer, and has done work with CBS and the Detroit Revitalization Fellowship Program.

## About Kurt Metzger

Kurt Metzger is founder and director of Data Driven Detroit (D3). Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Kurt moved permanently to the Detroit area in 1975 when he began full-time employment with the U.S. Census Bureau. After 15 years with the Bureau he went to the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University. After another 15 year stint he moved on to the United Way in Detroit as Research Director. Three years there and Kurt was selected by the Skillman and Kresge foundations in October 2008 to develop and direct a new foundation-funded regional data indicators system - Data Driven Detroit (D3). In this capacity, Kurt and a small staff that has evolved into a fifteen-person team with a variety of backgrounds, including urban planning, demographics, sociology, geographic information systems (gis), public health, education, web development and graphic design, who reach out to data developers in the government, nonprofit and private sectors to explain the importance of making their data publicly available and to offer them a system that will facilitate the process. D3's mission is to provide accessible, high-quality information and analysis to drive informed decision-making. We interact with a wide range of clients to produce tailored web tools, reports, maps, and other products. Our work falls into five major categories: Data Collection, Data Visualization, Data Analysis, Data Accessibility and Data-Driven Outcomes. Working with the true belief that information is power, D3 is dedicated to assisting residents and community groups throughout Detroit and the region understand and utilize data to advocate for themselves.

## Overview

Metropolitan Detroit is a region with tremendous international roots. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, only a quarter million people lived in Detroit and more than a third of them were Foreign-born. The number of residents quadrupled in 20 short years, as the advent of the auto assembly line and Henry Ford's offer of \$5 a day attracted migrants from the deep South and Appalachia, as well as Southern and Eastern Europe. Dozens of languages were spoken on the shop floor and Detroit became a teeming city of ethnic enclaves.

While Metro Detroit today has a lower immigrant rate (8 percent) than the national average of 13 percent, the region is still a global region. Its robust early-20<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century growth suggests that most residents can connect to a parent, grandparent, or great grandparent who emigrated from the old country. Our border with Canada, international supply chain routes, and global automotive industry have all helped attract a significantly large number of foreign companies, which Advantage Oakland numbers at over 900 firms from over 35 countries. And, despite a lower percentage of immigrants than the national average, Metro Detroit's size results in the region ranking second, behind Chicago, in the Midwest or Great Lakes Region in total number.

The demographic analysis of Metro's Detroit's Foreign-born population contained in the attached report documents the incredible size and nature of the region's immigrant and refugee populations. **Simply put, there are hundreds of thousands of residents in the region who were born in another country.** Metro Detroit is estimated to be the home of the largest concentration of Middle East migrants outside of the Middle East—larger than New York, London, or Paris.<sup>1</sup> In addition, we are estimated to be home to the largest number of Macedonians and Albanians outside their home regions. Despite these numbers, immigrants from India lead all other countries of origin in the region.

**The foreign-born are fairly evenly spread throughout the entire region, rather than living in specific clusters.** In fact, all four Metro Detroit counties (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw) are home to significant Foreign-born populations, with each falling within a range of 8 and 11 percent Foreign-born. Certainly there are some notable clusters of immigrants in each of the counties. Dearborn, Hamtramck, western Macomb (Sterling Heights, Warren), an east-west arc through Oakland County (Troy, West Bloomfield, portions of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Novi), and the "greater" Ann Arbor area are home to larger immigrant concentrations than their neighboring

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<sup>1</sup> Metro Detroit is often cited as having the largest "concentration" of Middle Easterners outside the Middle East. In fact, Metro Detroit has the second largest Middle Eastern population, after only Los Angeles. Because the Los Angeles metro area is so much larger in population than Metro Detroit, however, the percentage of the regional population of Metro Detroit that is Middle Eastern is higher in the Detroit area than in the Los Angeles area.

communities. But more telling, is that the vast majority of census tracts<sup>2</sup> in each county, with a few exceptions at the furthest reaches of the region, have at least 3 or 5 percent Foreign-born, with a few reaching more than 20 or 25 percent.

The City of Detroit's share of Foreign-born population is about half (4 percent) that of the regional average (8 percent). Audrey Singer of the Brookings Institution chronicled nearly a decade ago the rising suburbanization of American immigration. The causes of other groups leaving Detroit are often repeated in new immigrant populations, although the city remains attractive to some working class populations from Mexico, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Given the importance of international migration to population growth, the fact that many new migrants are bypassing the city is a significant issue that Detroit leaders must take on if they are serious about stabilizing population loss. In fact, it can be argued that Detroit's failure to capture new immigrant arrivals is among one of the most critical (and alterable) issues facing the city's tremendous population loss.

**The fact that the Foreign-born are a part of nearly every community and neighborhood in southeast Michigan, is extremely important to understand in light of the fact that the region scores highly on national rankings chronicling black-white segregation.** The 2012 study by the Manhattan Institute, titled *The End of the Segregated Century*, gives the Detroit area a dissimilarity index of 73.5, one of the highest in the nation. **We believe that the dispersion of Foreign-born communities throughout the region contributes to a feeling of "invisibility" among ethnic groups.** Global Detroit's research in 2009 and 2010, that included nearly 100 one-on-one interviews of ethnic social service agencies and organization leaders, revealed that a sense of "invisibility" was a common sentiment among ethnic leaders. One could easily postulate that it is the pattern of wide spatial distribution and lack of visible ethnic strongholds that drives this perception

**Metro Detroit's Foreign-born communities are diverse. In fact, India, the largest single nation of origin for the Foreign-born in Metro Detroit, accounts for only 11.5 percent of the Foreign-born total.** The top five countries of origin (India, Mexico, Iraq, Canada, and Lebanon) account for less than 40 percent of the total, while the top ten account for less than 60 percent. The obvious takeaway is that Metro Detroit's immigrants come from a very wide array of countries.

**Far from being a drag on the local economy, the region's Foreign-born residents have been a source of economic prosperity and are statistically more affluent and prosperous than native-born residents in the region.** The Global Detroit report from May 2010 chronicled the tremendous contributions that Foreign-born Michiganders and Metro Detroiters have made in creating businesses, high-tech firms, international patents,

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<sup>2</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county delineated for data presentation purposes. They generally have between 1,500 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people.

and a host of other areas. Close to 40 percent of the Foreign-born in the Metro area possess at least an undergraduate degree; while close to 16 percent of the region's total college graduates are Foreign-born. These immigrants have given the Detroit Metro area an incredible economic contribution. Not only is Metro Detroit third in the nation (among the 25 largest metro areas) for immigrant contributions to the economy, but that the immigrant community contributes more to local prosperity than almost any other.

### **Summary**

The enclosed report's thorough analysis of the regional demographics of the Foreign-born highlights several important observations:

- The international community makes up a sizable portion of the region's population. In fact, it is almost as large as the entire population of Washtenaw County and more than twice the population of any one city in the region, except Detroit;
- The Foreign-born are spread throughout the region, bringing varying degrees of diversity to each of our communities;
- The City of Detroit continues to lag behind the region as a whole in its immigrant share;
- The vast spatial distribution of immigrant populations throughout the region creates fewer identifiable ethnic clusters and may contribute to immigrant and refugee group feelings of "invisibility;"
- No one group or national identity dominates immigration to the region, resulting in an extremely rich and diverse base of nationalities; and
- The Foreign-born are a boon to the regional economy, demonstrating tremendous economic, earning, and job creation power.

## **Purpose and Context**

This report is a compilation of data regarding the physical locations and social characteristics of the Foreign-born populations of the greater Detroit area. We define "greater Detroit area" as the counties of Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne. Global Detroit, a regional economic development initiative launched in 2009, has targeted its programming in these four counties as well. The Global Detroit study, published in 2010, outlined the economic impacts and opportunities that immigrants have had in the Greater Detroit area. It set forth eleven strategies to foster job creation and economic growth to benefit the entire region. Global Detroit has secured over \$5 million in philanthropic and government resources since that time to pursue at least six of the eleven strategies outlined in the Global Detroit report.

Immigrants have been the backbone of American society for generations. They have helped the United States flourish and stay competitive in an ever-changing world of global competition and new international trade. Global Detroit's mission is to make the region welcoming to the international community and immigrants; attract international

investment and businesses that create jobs; strengthen, grow, and revitalize neighborhoods in the city of Detroit and in the region's core communities; and to attract and retain international talent in the region.

The goal of this report is to provide the general community, Global Detroit's partner organizations, and the region with the data that will foster better interaction with the Foreign-born communities in their area, guide their policies, and aide in local economic development. The report utilizes available census data to describe our Foreign-born populations – demographically, socioeconomically and culturally. We hope that this information will be useful to the individual groups themselves, as well as to those who are working with them.

Maps in this report highlight the Foreign-born populations by continent, geographic region and, in some cases, the individual nation of origin. The reported social characteristics incorporate data from both the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census count and the American Community Survey (ACS)<sup>3</sup>.

## **Datasets**

The data from this report are drawn from three main sources: the United States Decennial Census, the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, and the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-year estimates. The American Community Survey replaced the former "long form" or sample portion of the Census, which had been used up through the 2000 Census. The ACS is conducted annually to provide updated demographic, socioeconomic and housing characteristics for all areas of the country. While released annually for states and large cities and counties, smaller areas and population subgroups require multiple years of survey sampling to reach significant sample sizes for data reporting. This report utilized the most recent 3- and 5-year sample files for our analysis. The development of population shares across geographies, as illustrated by the series of census tract maps, utilize ACS-developed counts of each particular group divided by 2010 Census population totals.

When viewing the data, please keep in mind that these are estimates and contain a margin of sample error. The degree of sample error tends to increase as geographic areas (census tract versus communities) or population groups (a specific country of origin versus total Foreign-born) get smaller. While we do not report the margin of error in our tables or maps, we emphasize that the numbers shown are estimates – not exact numbers.

## **Classifications**

The data are classified in ways that allow for clear social and economic data comparisons across regions of origin. The data are classified by continent, or sub-region within a

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<sup>3</sup> While we recognize that it is not standard practice to combine sources in creating population maps, we did not want to leave the user with confusion as to where the data comes from, so there is US Census data used along with American Community Survey Data. If all data had come from the ACS, differences in the maps, if any, would be minor and would still fall within the margin of error for the population estimates.



continent. These sub-regions are pre-defined by the United States Census Bureau and cannot be broken out further.

In addition, there are rules as to the classification of nations and areas. The following table identifies data classifications in the names of the places of birth. This is important to understand when reviewing the data.

Place of Birth	Classification Rule
Korea	No differentiation between the DPRK and South Korea.
Hong Kong, Taiwan	Hong Kong and Taiwan are counted as their own nations and do not count as part of China.
The United Kingdom	All United Kingdom countries, such as England and Scotland, are counted on their own.
Burma	Nation is identified as Burma, not Myanmar.
Czechoslovakia	Both Czech Republic and Slovakia are counted in this group.
Yugoslavia	Contains members of former Yugoslavia, including Serbia.

The classifications of sub regions and the nations they contain will be annotated in the appropriate sections.

Data for specific countries of origin are available only for mapping the populations by census tract. In other words, while we cannot tell you how many residents from Poland work in manufacturing, we can identify the neighborhoods in which they live. The report provides the details of each characteristic to the extent made possible by the Census Bureau.

**“Holes” in the Maps**

There may appear to be holes in the maps. There are going to be some areas of maps with 0% of any population, either foreign or native-born. Treat these Census tracts as though they have no population and do not consider the data “incomplete”.

**Errata**

This is version two of Global Detroit’s “Metro Detroit’s Foreign Born” report. This version addresses conflicting data sources used in the first version of this report and has been corrected so that the data across the report is more cohesive. Some numbers and figures may differ slightly from previous versions, however the central findings of the report are not significantly different.

## Metro Detroit’s Foreign-born Population

### Foreign-born Origins<sup>4</sup>

Metro Detroit is home to Foreign-born immigrants from all continents, except Antarctica. In total, there are more than 100 nations who are individually represented in the data, with the remainder being represented by the regional and continental totals.

### Meet Greater Detroit’s Foreign-born

The Detroit area is home to approximately 397,000 immigrants living in all four counties. Oakland and Wayne are home to the vast majority, with Macomb and Washtenaw being home to less than 90,000 each.

Macomb	Oakland	Washtenaw	Wayne
82,801	133,341	38,831	142,213

When we compare the numbers for continents side by side, we see that 51% of Metro Detroit’s immigrants are from Asia, 26% are from Europe, 12% are from Latin America and 6% are from Canada and the remainder of North America. Africa and Oceania account for less than 5% each, respectively.

Europe	Latin America	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Other North America
103,178	52,902	201,254	14,378	977	24,497

The average age of our Foreign-born residents is 42 years, slightly higher than the age of the native-born residents at 37. They are split within the margin of error for gender disparity, so males and females are equally represented.

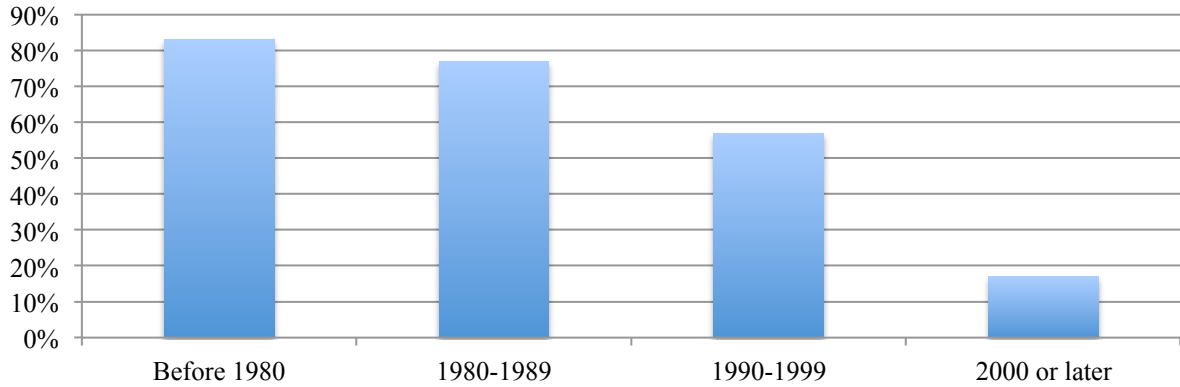
Two thirds of Foreign-born own their own homes, suggesting that the majority of these immigrants plan on making Detroit their long-term, if not permanent home. This is supported by the fact that 52% of them have become naturalized citizens, a number that increases with the length of stay in the United States.

Over 90 percent have access to a vehicle. While vehicle ownership is often seen as a symbol of economic status, the Detroit area’s sprawling suburbs, lack of public transit options and home as America’s automobile manufacturing capital have created an

<sup>4</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates (S0503, S0505, S0506, B05004, B05005, B05006, B05007, B06003, B05010, B05011, B27020, B12005, B01003, DP02), the 2011 American Community Survey 3 Year Estimates (S0504) and The 2010 United States Census (SF1).

environment where owning a car is almost a necessity. The 90 percent share does not vary significantly for the individual immigrant groups.

Figure 1. **Percent of Foreign-born who attained citizenship by Year of Entry**

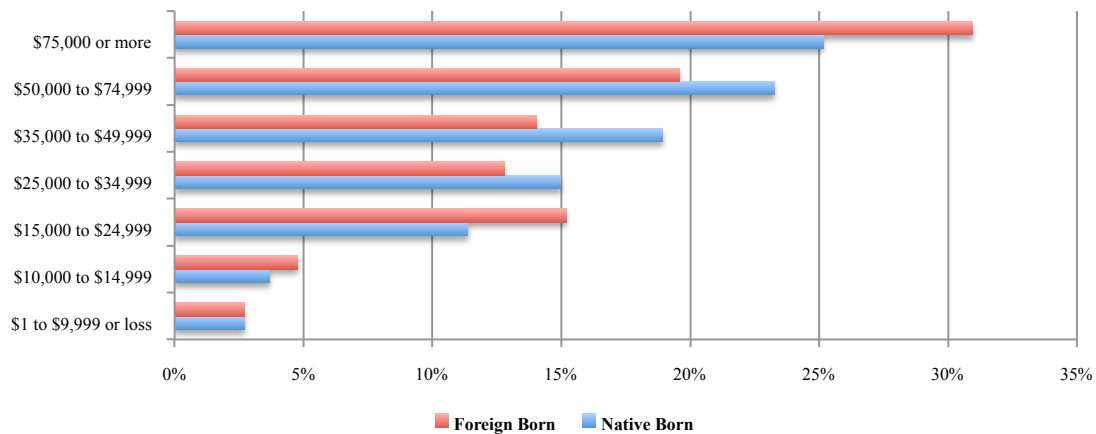


The fact that more than 75 percent of immigrants who arrived prior to 1990 had attained citizenship when measured over the 2007-11 period, demonstrates a very strong desire for those who take up residency in the United States to become permanent, tax-paying citizens with full legal and voting rights. It is reasonable to assume that in the following decades, those who arrived after 1990 will have levels near 80% as well.

**Economics and Income**

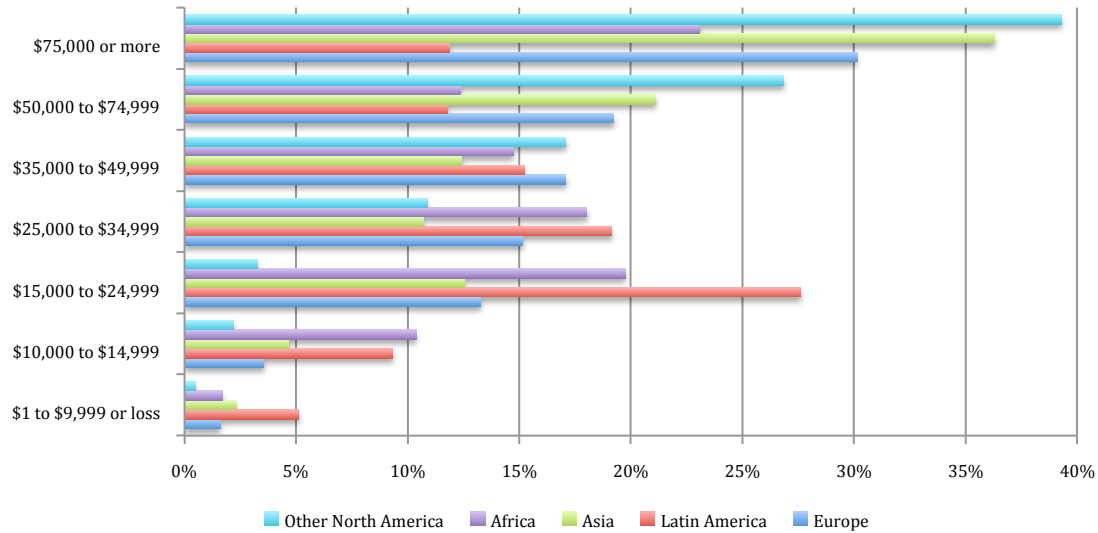
Metropolitan Detroit’s Foreign-born have an average income of \$61,582 for males and \$41,271 for females. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of what immigrants take home each year on an individual basis, compared to that of the native-born. While over a third of immigrants make over \$75,000 per year, the majority make under \$50,000, with a small percentage making less than \$10,000 per year. The native-born trend higher in the middle-income categories, between \$25,000 and \$75,000, and lower at the extremes.

Figure 2. **Earnings in the Past 12 months for foreign and Native-Born Residents**



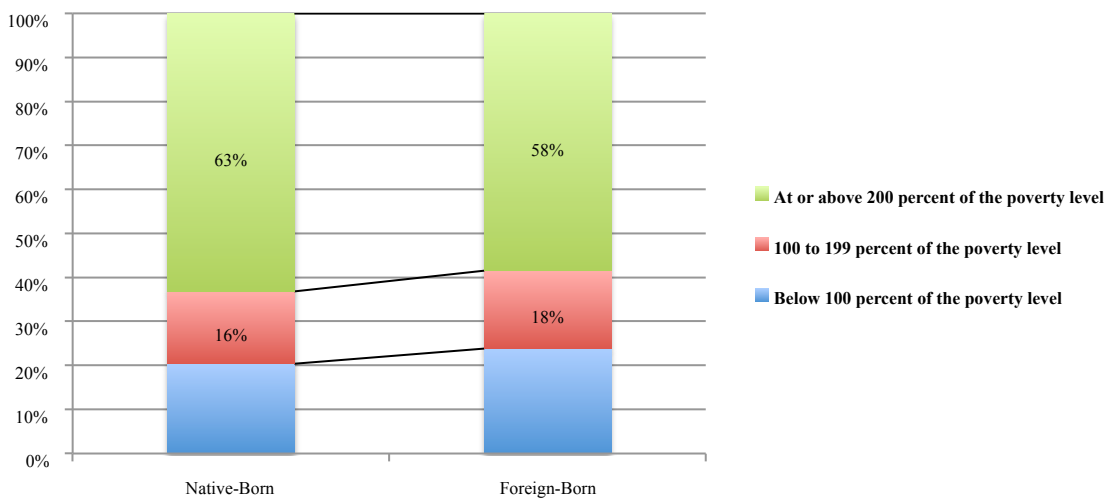
By comparing the continents side-by-side, we see that the averages do not tell a complete story. The past year’s earnings groups vary, sometimes greatly, when the regions of Foreign-born origin are compared (data for Oceania is unavailable).

Figure 3. Earnings of the Foreign-born by Region



Analysis of income in Figure 4 shows the poverty numbers for the region’s native-born population for comparative purposes. In general, the foreign-born are four percent more likely to earn incomes below the poverty line. However the differences at all three compared levels of income are never greater than five percent, showing that foreign and native-born residents have similar incomes in relation to the federal poverty line.

Figure 4. Income As a Share of Poverty for Native and Foreign-born Residents

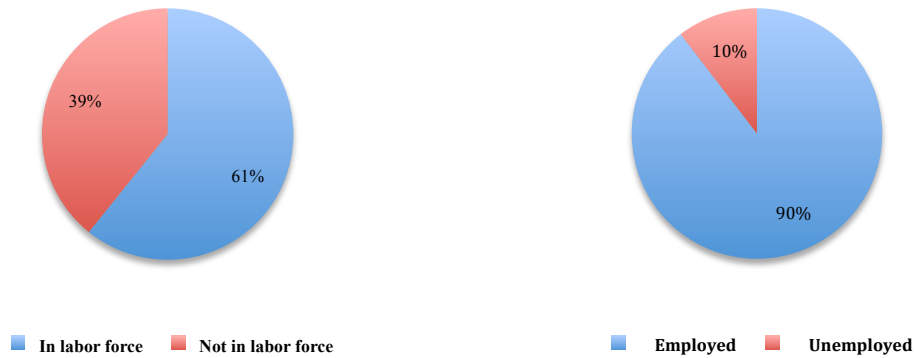


This table shows the difference in poverty levels between the continental groups (data for Oceania is unavailable).

	Europe	Latin America	Asia	Africa	Other North America
<100% of Poverty	9.4%	25.9%	19.1%	14.1%	6.4%
100 – 199% of Poverty	19.0%	28.3%	15.1%	22.0%	10.7%
200% or more of Poverty	71.6%	45.8%	65.8%	63.9%	82.9%

The majority of immigrants is in the labor force and is either working or actively seeking work. Their share of unemployment is similar to that of native-born residents.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 5. Labor Force Status of Foreign and Native-Born Residents<sup>6</sup>



As can be seen in Figure 5, a slightly higher share of native-born Americans (63 percent) is in the labor force, while the Foreign-born have a higher employment rate, 90 vs. 84 percent.

Of those immigrants in the labor force, 87 percent are private wage and salary workers while 5.4 percent are self-employed. Only 7 percent work in local, state or federal government positions. These numbers are typical of what we would see for native-born members of the work force as well.

<sup>5</sup> While Michigan’s unemployment numbers fluctuate month to month, there does not appear to be a difference between native-born and Foreign-born unemployment numbers that is highly significant. As of May 2013, unemployment in Michigan was 8.4%.

<sup>6</sup> Unemployment percentage taken from the 61% of Foreign-born who are in the labor force.

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Private wage and salary workers	87%
Government workers	7%
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	5%
Unpaid family workers	< 1%

The method used by the Census Bureau to group occupations in large categories makes it impossible to detail out the specific occupations filled by the Foreign-born. Such categorization results in grouping artists and businessmen in the same category. Nevertheless, it is still clear that our Foreign-born residents are clustered more heavily in the white-collar occupations.

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Foreign-born</b>	<b>Native-Born</b>
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	45%	28%
Service occupations	17%	19%
Sales and office occupations	21%	22%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	6%	14%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11%	16%

The following table of employment by industry gives us a much more specific picture as to the economic sectors in which the Foreign-born population works, and how that compares with the native-born.

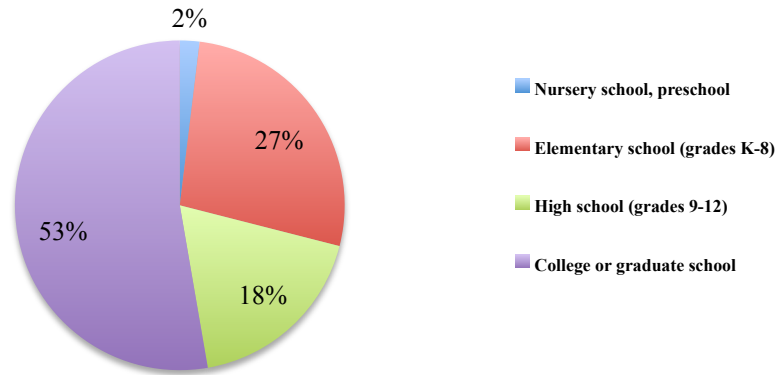
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Foreign-born</b>	<b>Native-Born</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	< 1%	6%
Construction	4 %	7%
Manufacturing	17%	9%
Wholesale trade	2%	7%
Retail trade	11%	8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3%	7%
Information	2%	7%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	4%	7%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11%	8%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	28%	12%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	10%	8%
Other services (except public administration)	5%	7%
Public administration	2%	7%

The data illustrate that the Foreign-born population has a great deal of skills to offer the local economy – dominating in the professional, health care and education services areas. In addition, it is clear that Foreign-born workers cover the gamut of industries, thus combating the popular notion that low skilled immigrants only end up in manufacturing and construction and high-skilled immigrants are only working in STEM fields.

**Education**

The Census Bureau gives us two education measures for residents. The first is that of school enrollment of the current grade level being attended by the population aged three and over. The second is that of educational attainment, which reports out the level of education that has been completed by residents aged 25 or older.

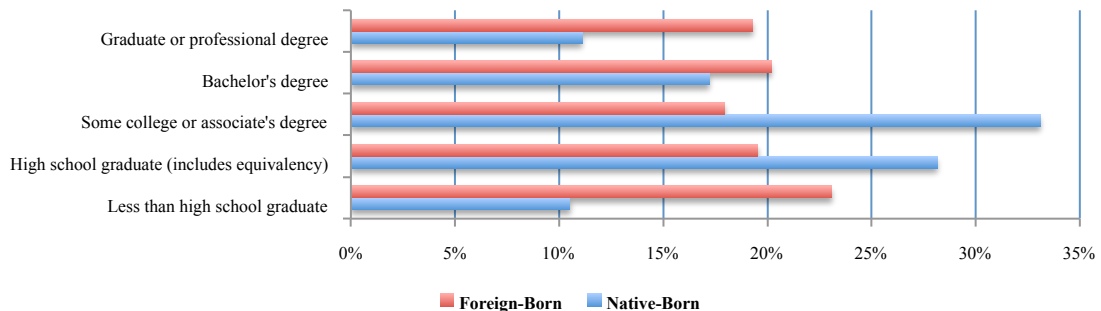
Figure 6. **School Enrollment For Foreign-born Residents 3 Years of Age and Older**



While the native-born population exceeded the immigrant population in nursery school enrollment (6 vs. 2 percent), 43% elementary enrollment (43 vs. 27 percent), and high school (22 vs. 18 percent), immigrants far exceeded them in college or graduate school enrollment (53 vs. 29 percent).

Over 50% of immigrants who are going to school are going to a college or graduate school. It should be no surprise that 40% of immigrants have a bachelors or graduate degree.

Figure 7. **Educational Attainment of Native and Foreign-born Residents 25 Years of Age and Older**



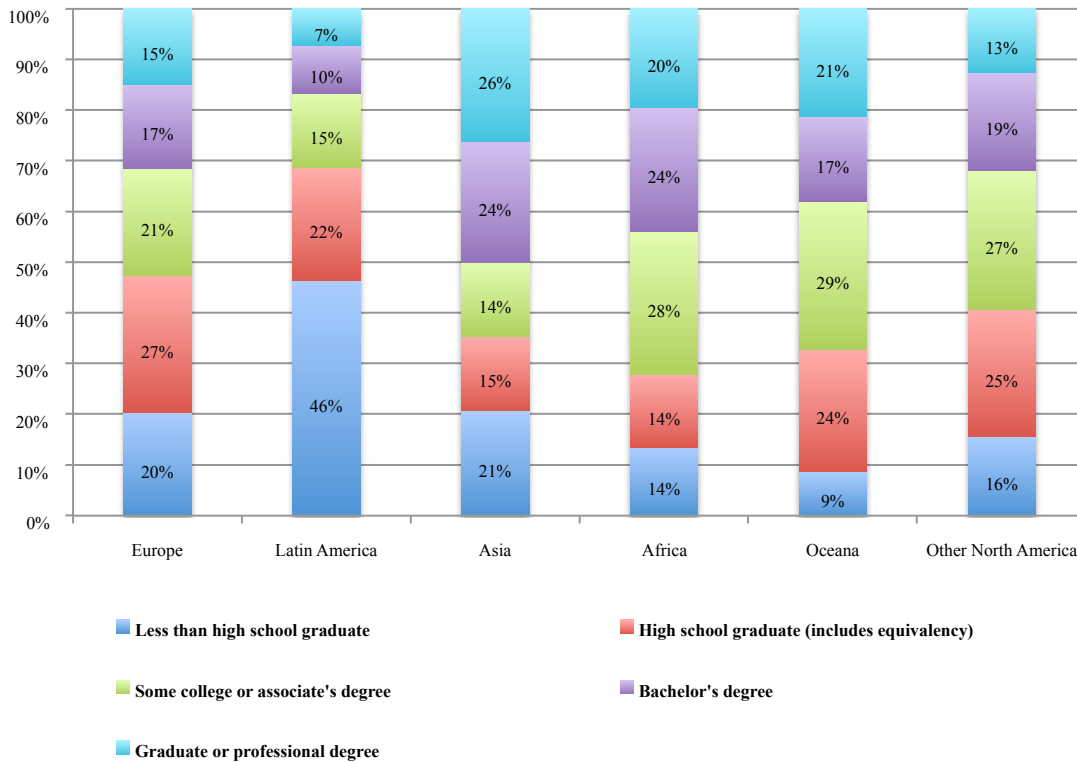
The data show that close to 60% have at least attempted higher education, while close to 25% have not attended a high school through graduation or received a GED by the time they are 25.



The native-born population educational attainment levels include 11% who possess less than high school education levels, 28% being high school graduates, 33% having some college / an associate's degree, 17% having a bachelor's degree, and 11% having a graduate or professional degree.

Figure 8 shows the difference in educational attainment of the various immigrant groups.

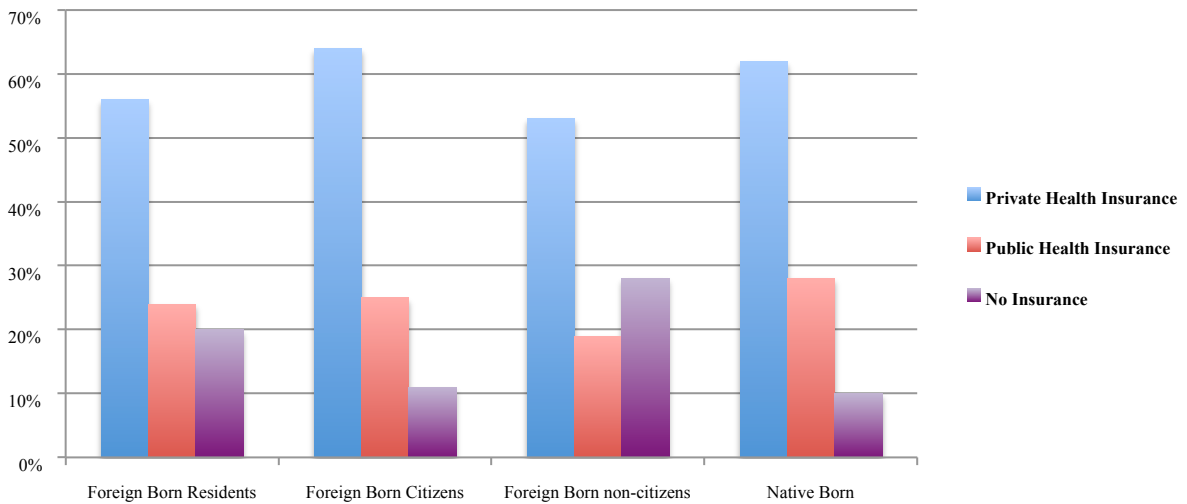
Figure 8. Educational Attainment of Foreign-born Residents by Region



**Healthcare**

When we compare the healthcare coverage of the Foreign-born and native-born residents, we see slightly higher rates of private health insurance for the native born. Immigrants are twice as likely to be uninsured and somewhat less likely to use public health insurance.

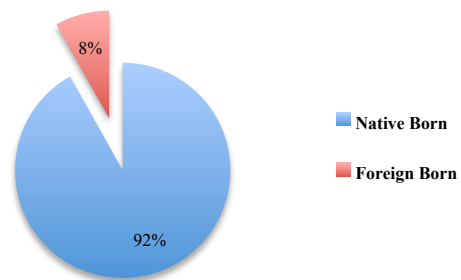
Figure 9. **Health Insurance Coverage for Foreign and Native-Born Residents**



There is a disparity among the Foreign-born in that those who are not citizens have an uninsured rate close to 30 percent. This equates to a significant number of uninsured, and is the only population group in which the number of uninsured is greater than those who utilize the public healthcare system.

With 28% of native-born citizens and 24% of Foreign-born residents using the public health care available to them, you could be lead to believe that there is a fairly even split between the two as far as who burdens the system more. However, due to the fact that there are much more native than Foreign-born residents in the Detroit area, the public healthcare burden rests overwhelmingly on the native-born, with over 90% of public healthcare customers being non-immigrants.

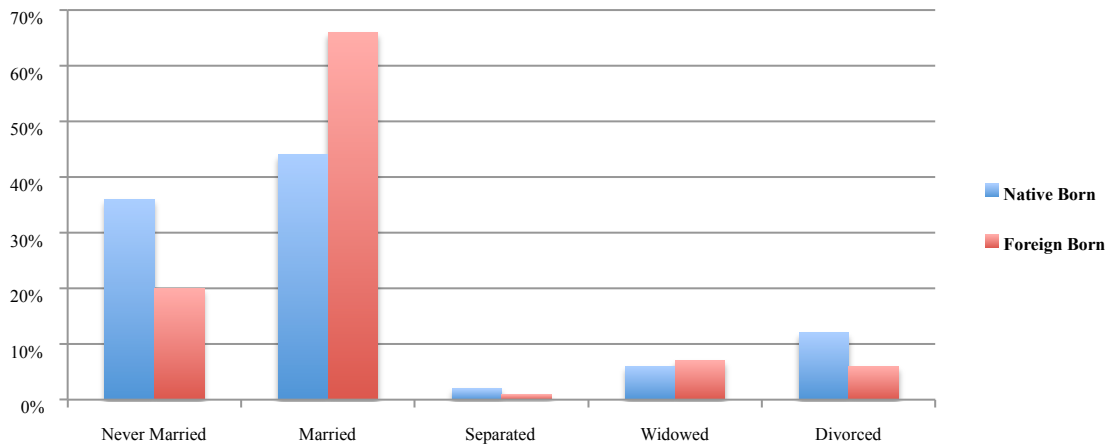
Figure 10. **Residents With Public Health Insurance**



**Family and Language**

Over 70% of immigrant families live in a married-couple family household. This includes elderly residents who live with a married child, or adult children who live with married parents. Immigrants are much more likely to be married than native-born residents and half as likely to be divorced (See Figure 11).

Figure 11. **Marital Status of Foreign and Native-Born Residents**



The average household size for Metro Detroit’s Foreign-born is 2.9 people, while the average family size is 3.45. This table shows the difference between the continents.

	Europe	Latin America	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Other North America
Avg. Household size	2.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.1
Avg. Family size	3.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.2	2.9

Nearly a quarter of Foreign-born households speak only English at home, which can likely be attributed to those who arrived from English-speaking countries (such as England, Canada, Australia, etc.), as well as those who have been in the country so long that they no longer practice their mother tongue. Therefore, nearly 77 percent of all Foreign-born households have at least one member who speaks another language. That is enough to qualify as a “bi-lingual” household. Of those who live in a bi-lingual household, 53% feel that they speak English very well, and 47% feel that they speak English less than very well. The accuracy of this assessment cannot be judged as this is a truly subjective response from the person completing the questionnaire.

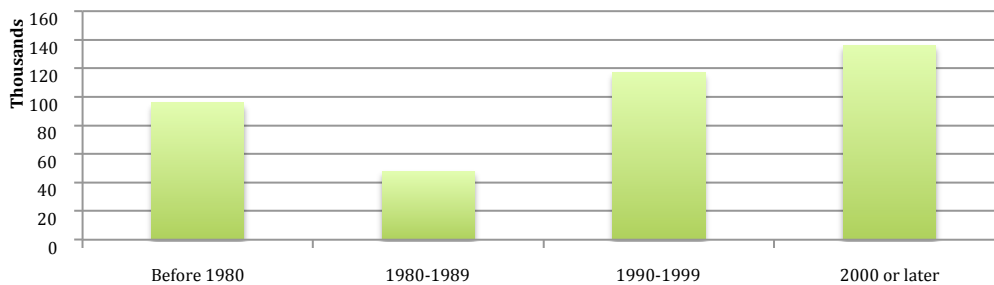
This following table shows the difference in perceived language ability based on region of origin of the respondents.

	Europe	Latin America	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Other North America
English only	26%	13%	8%	26%	47%	85%
Language other than English	74%	87%	92%	74%	53%	15%
<b>English Language ability of those who speak a language other than English:</b>						
Less than "very well"	47%	64%	48%	34%	0%	16%
Well	53%	36%	52%	66%	100%	84%

**Arrival to the United States**

The majority of Metropolitan Detroit immigrants arrived in the United States between 1990 and today. The Census breaks up the data into four time periods: pre-1980s, the 1980s, the 1990s, and post-2000.

Figure 12. Foreign-born Year of Entry to the United States



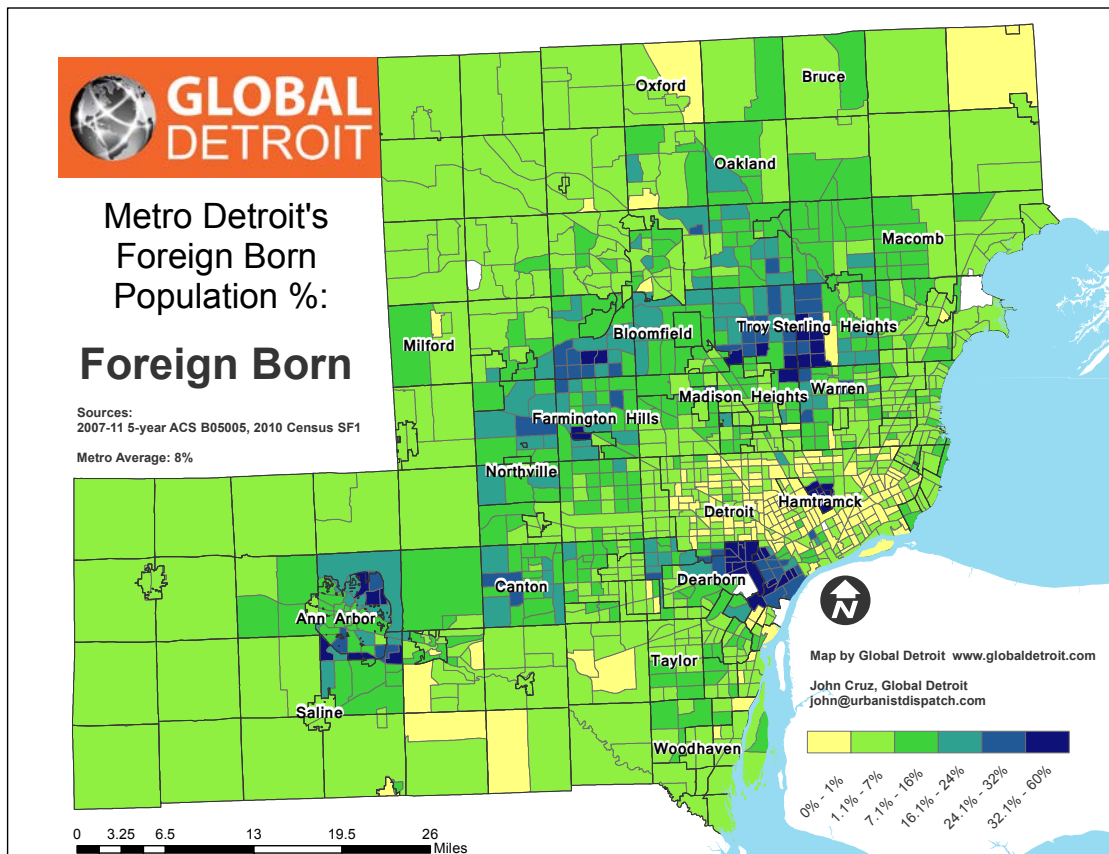
**Where Metro Detroit’s Foreign-born residents live?**

Detroit’s Foreign-born residents are spread across the four county area in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The heaviest clustering can be found in very specific areas, such as southwest Detroit, Hamtramck (and surrounding Detroit census tracts), Ann Arbor, Troy, West Bloomfield, Sterling Heights, Canton, Novi, Dearborn, and Farmington Hills. These communities tend to contain both the highest numbers and highest percentages of immigrants.

The concentration of immigrants varies a great deal across the metropolitan Detroit landscape. An analysis at the census tract level allows us to clearly see the patterns of settlement.

Map 1 shows the share of Foreign-born population within each census tract across the four counties.

Map 1. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit



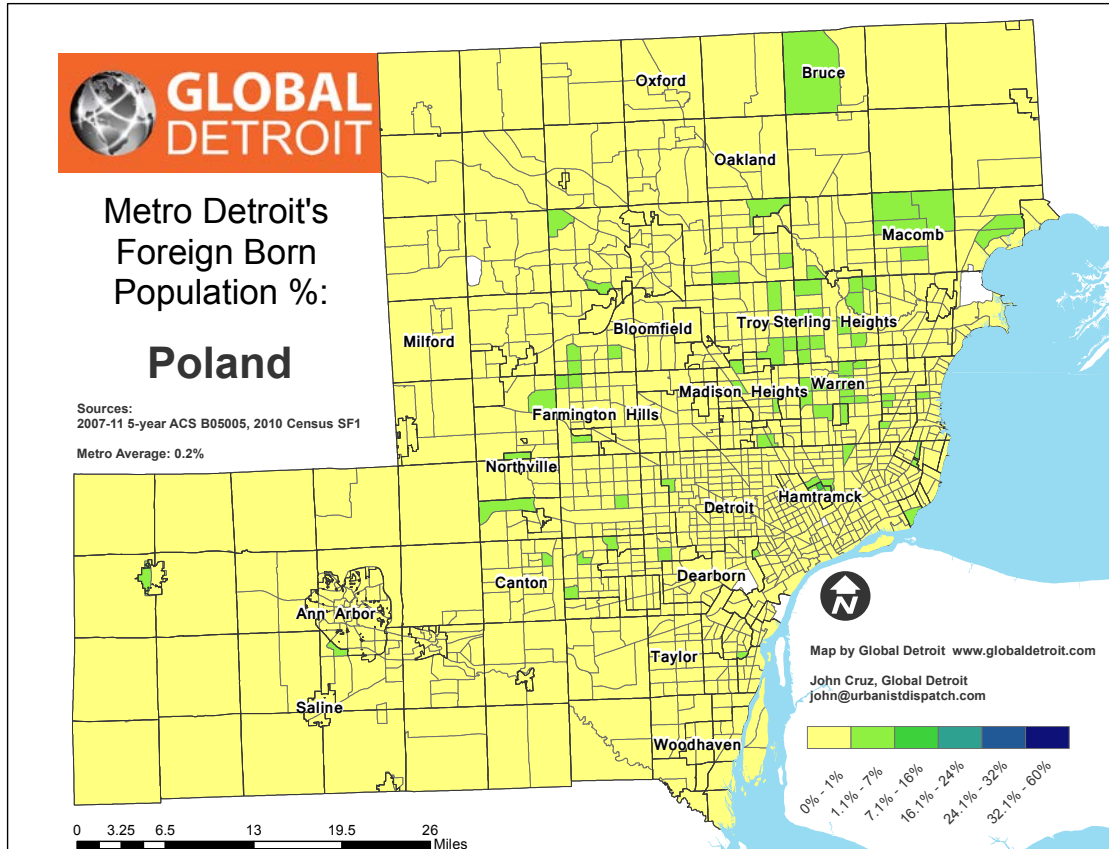
The most obvious feature, aside from the clustering, is the lack of immigrants within the city of Detroit. The majority of Detroit’s census tracts contain less than 2% of Foreign-born residents. While the Detroit area has many healthy immigrant communities, the city itself has three distinct areas where immigrants reside: southwest Detroit’s predominantly Latin-American neighborhood, Southwest Detroit’s Middle Eastern neighborhoods which border Dearborn, and the Middle Eastern and Bangladeshi neighborhoods which are to the east of Hamtramck. We also can see small pockets of heavy immigrant settlement in midtown Detroit, home of Wayne State University, and an area on the north side of the city near Seven Mile Road and Woodward, which has long been home to Chaldeans and others from immigrants from the Middle East.

When talking about overall population patterns, demographers have often compared Detroit to a doughnut, where the population has left the core and moved to the suburbs. This pattern has begun to shift somewhat with the renewed development along the Woodward Corridor and Downtown. In the case of immigrant settlement, we do not see an immigration doughnut, but more of an “immigrant belt” that starts in Ann Arbor and heads north and east to Sterling Heights, with pockets in southwest Detroit and Hamtramck

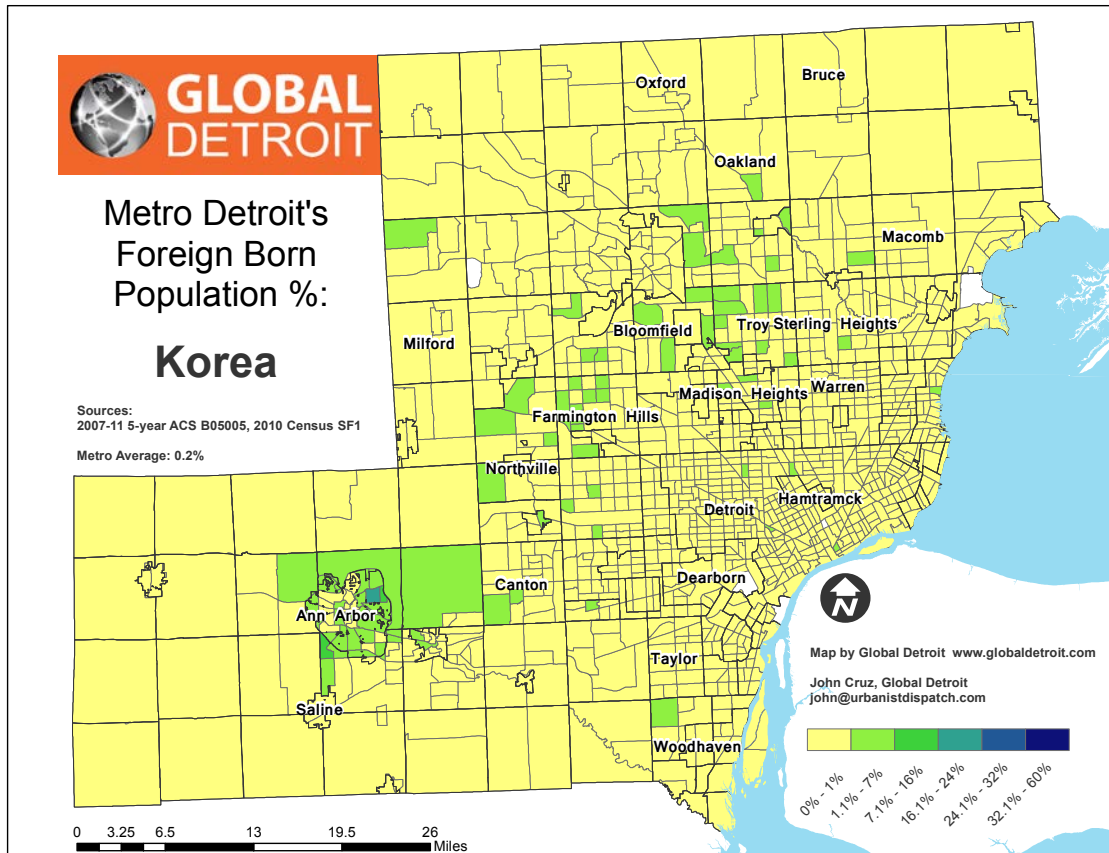
# Top 10 Immigrant Groups by Country of Birth

The following set of maps illustrates the residential patterns of the 10 largest immigrant groups in ascending order.

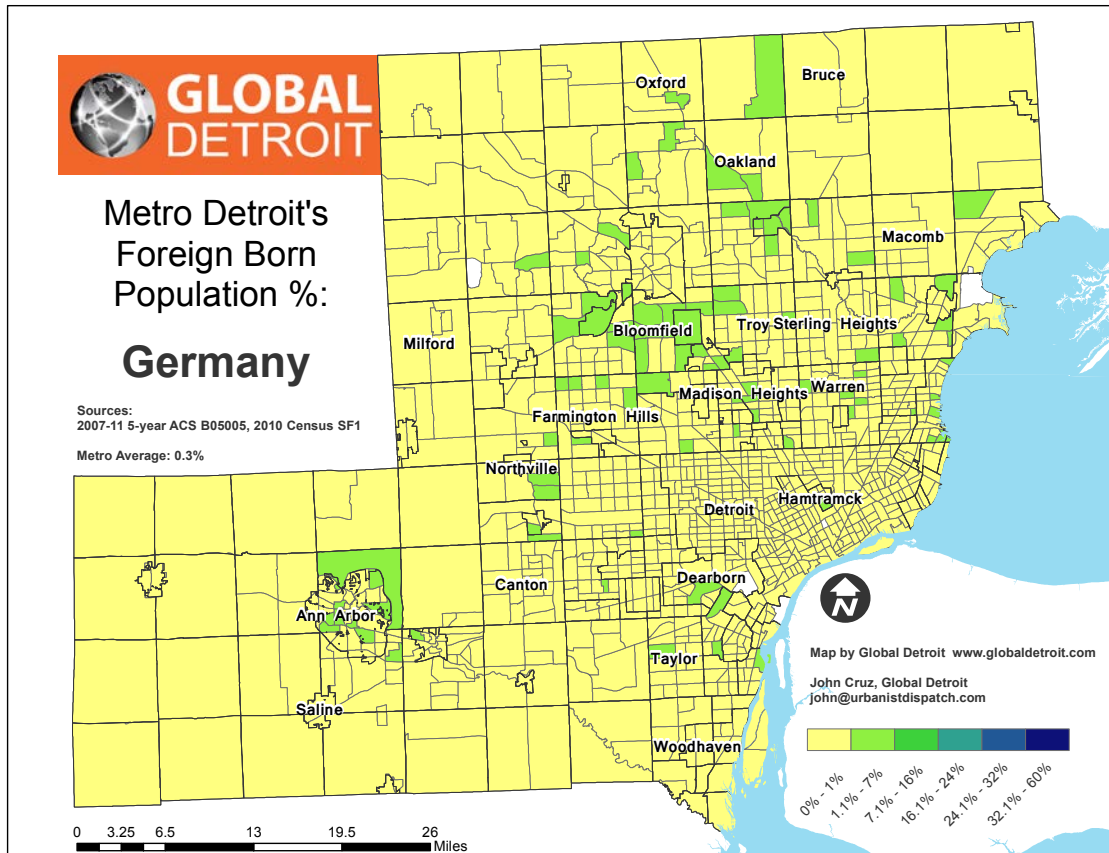
Map 2. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Poland**  
With approximately 11,000 people, they are Metro Detroit's 10<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.



Map 3. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Korea**  
With approximately 11,200 people, they are Metro Detroit's 9<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.

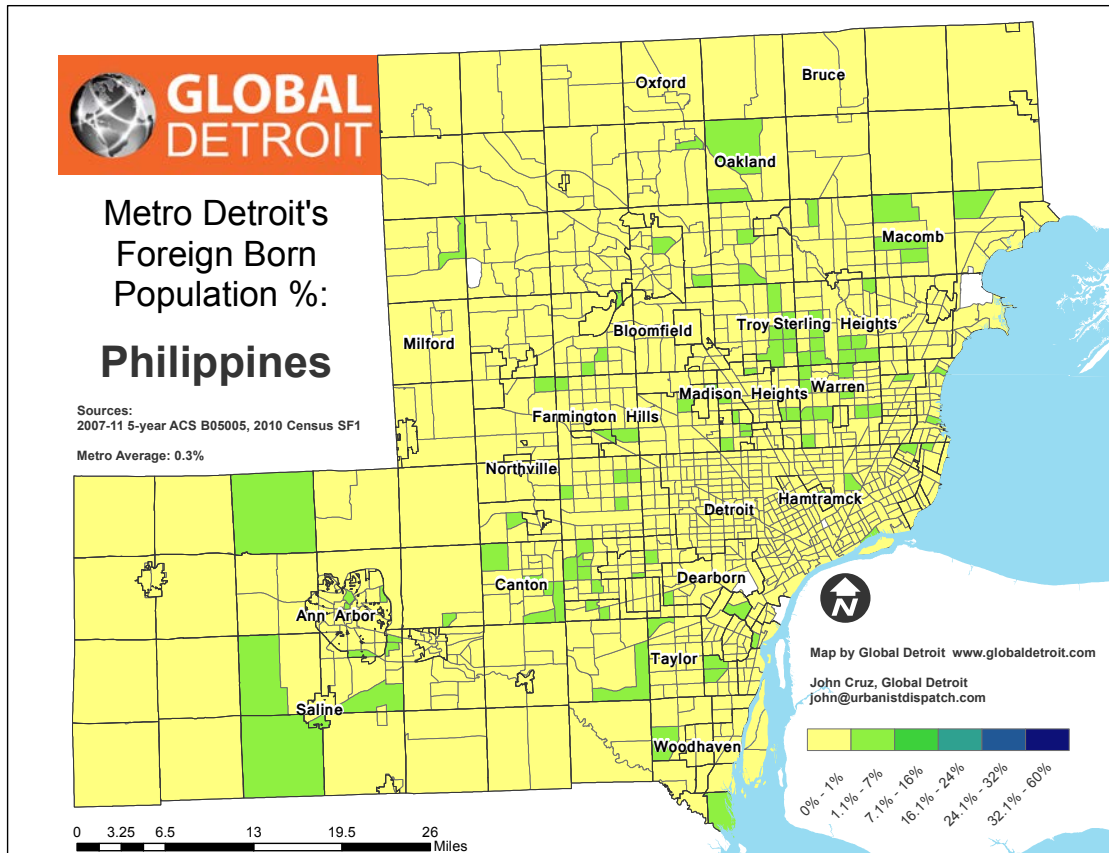


Map 4. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Germany**  
With approximately 11,600 people, they are Metro Detroit's 8<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.

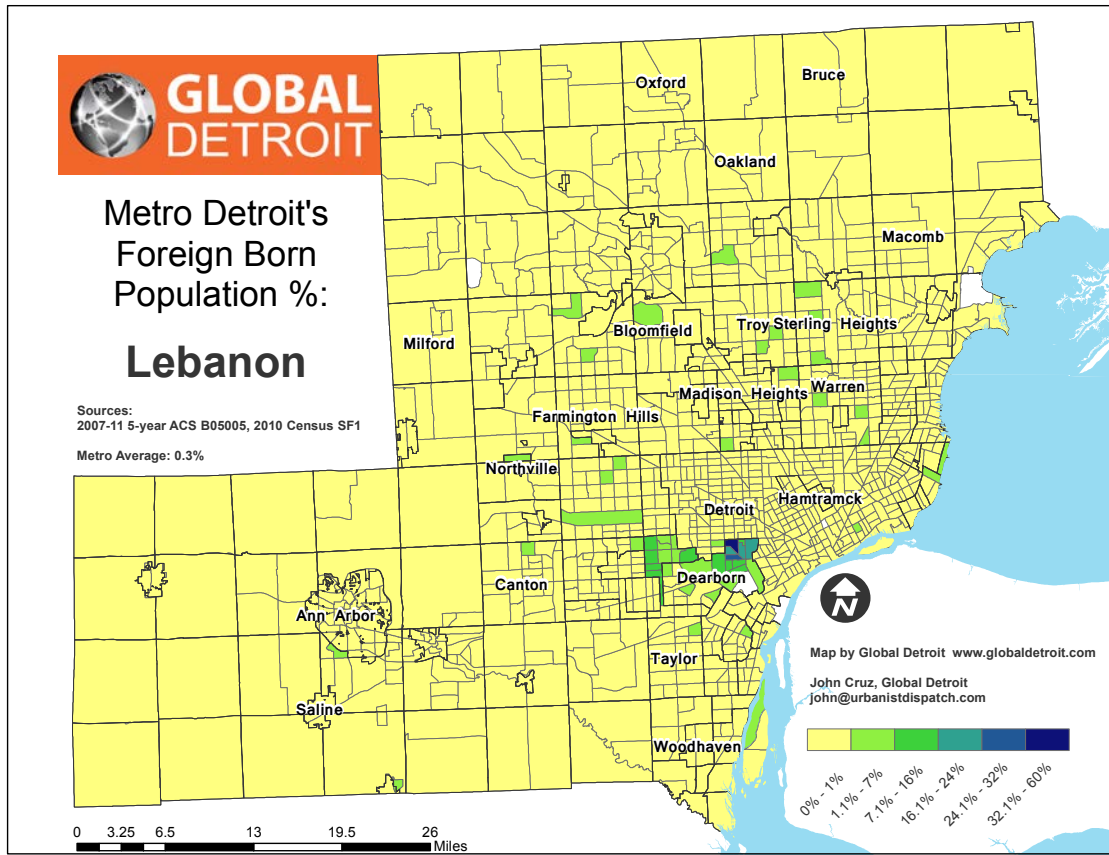




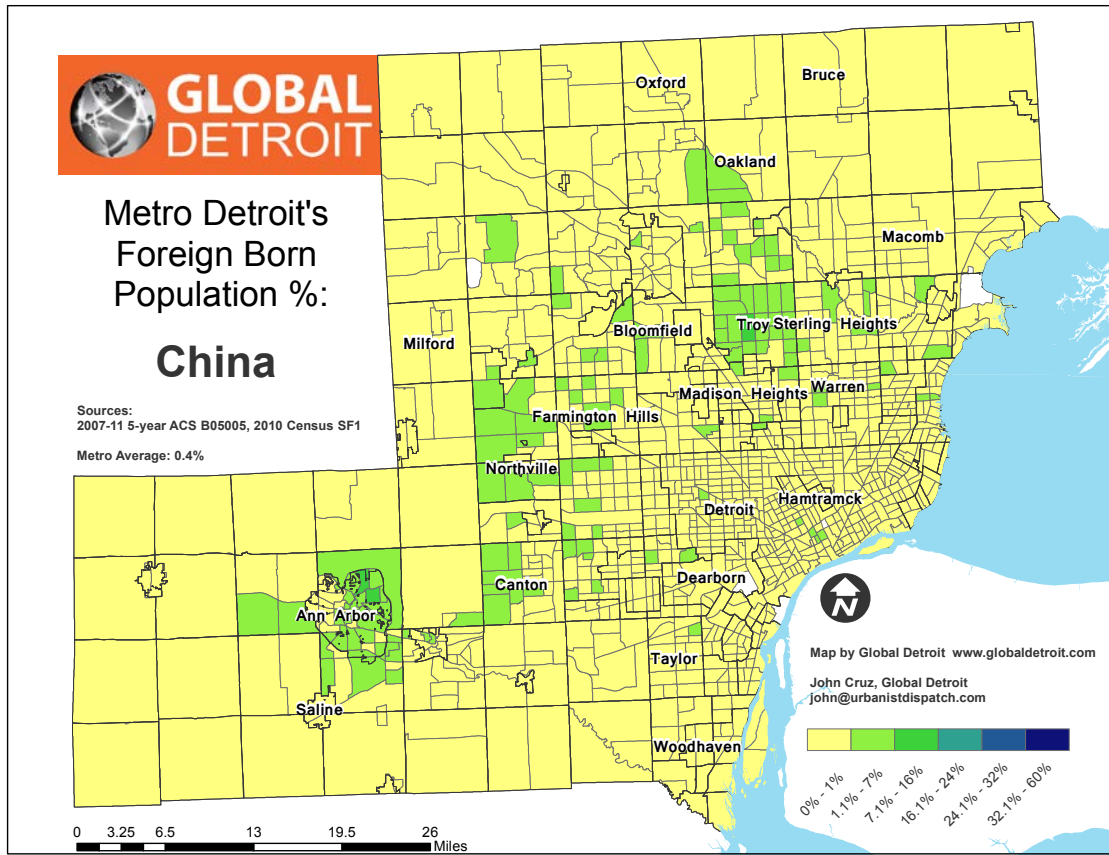
Map 5. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in The Philippines**  
With approximately 12,700 people, they are Metro Detroit's 7<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.



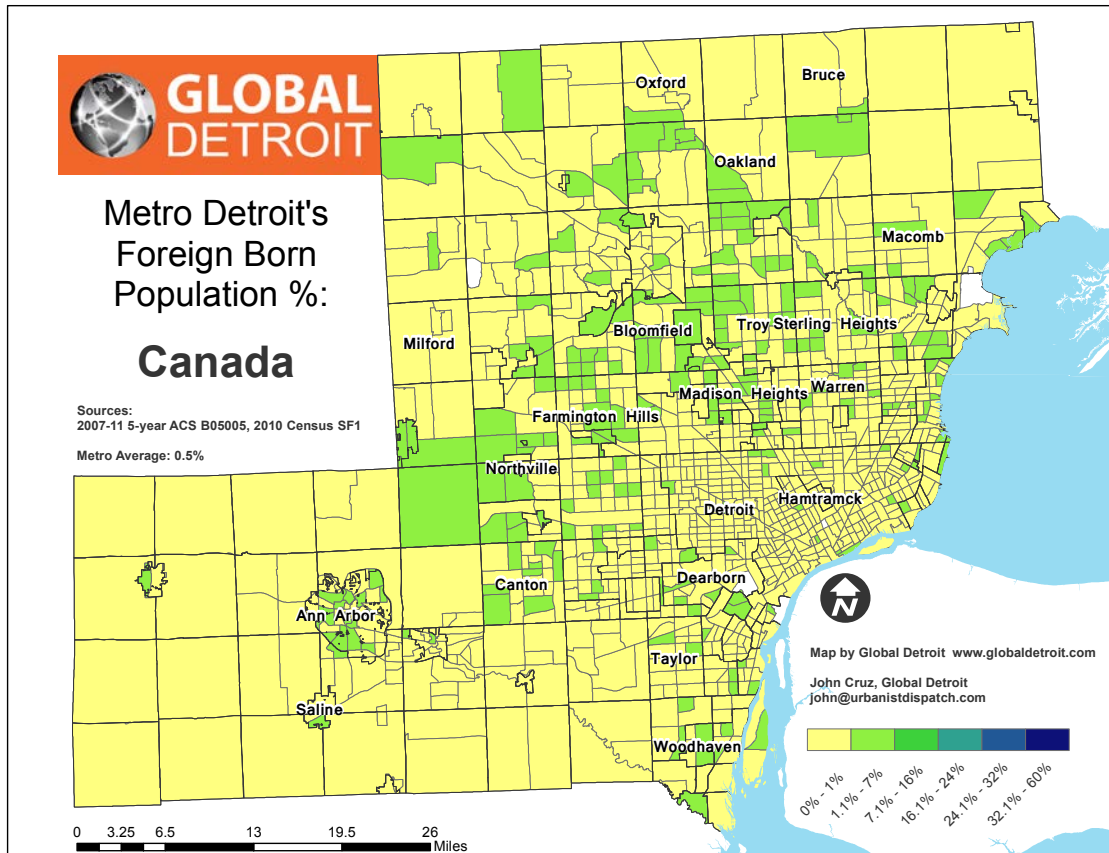
Map 6. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Lebanon**  
With approximately 17,800 people, they are Metro Detroit's 6<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.



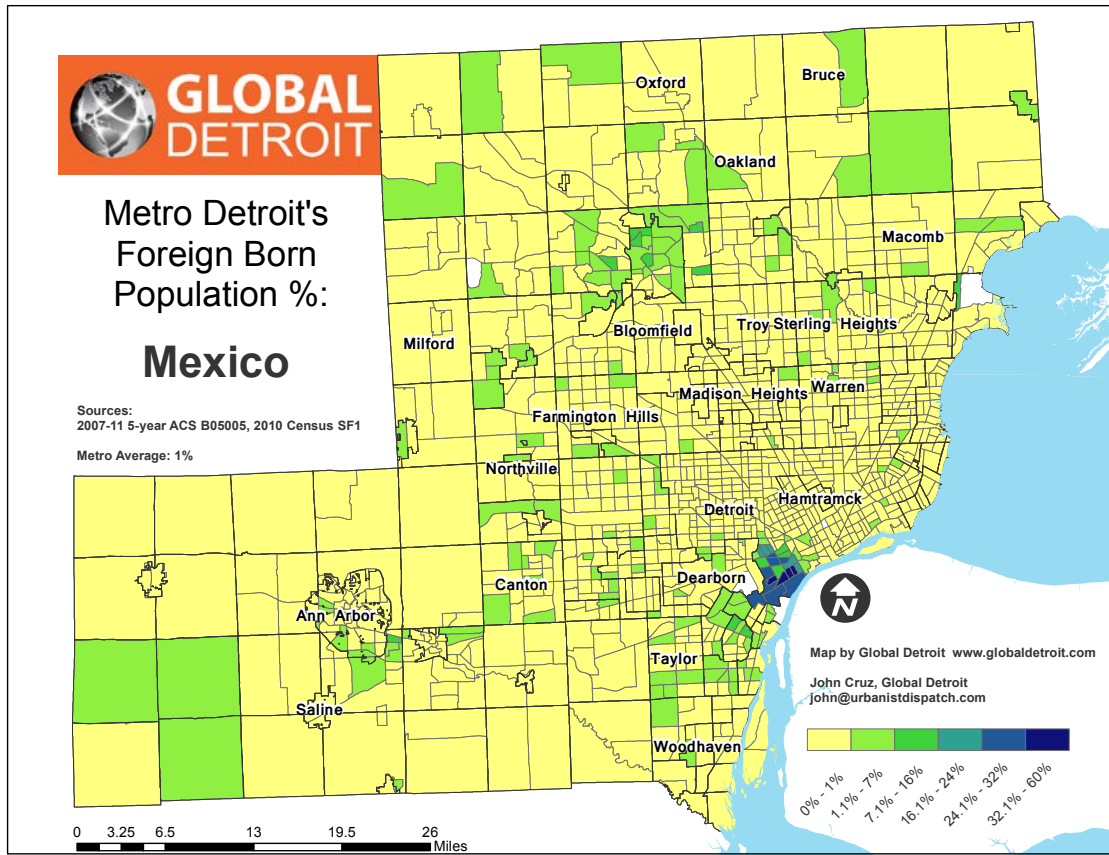
Map 7. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in China**  
With approximately 18,000 people, they are Metro Detroit's 5<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.



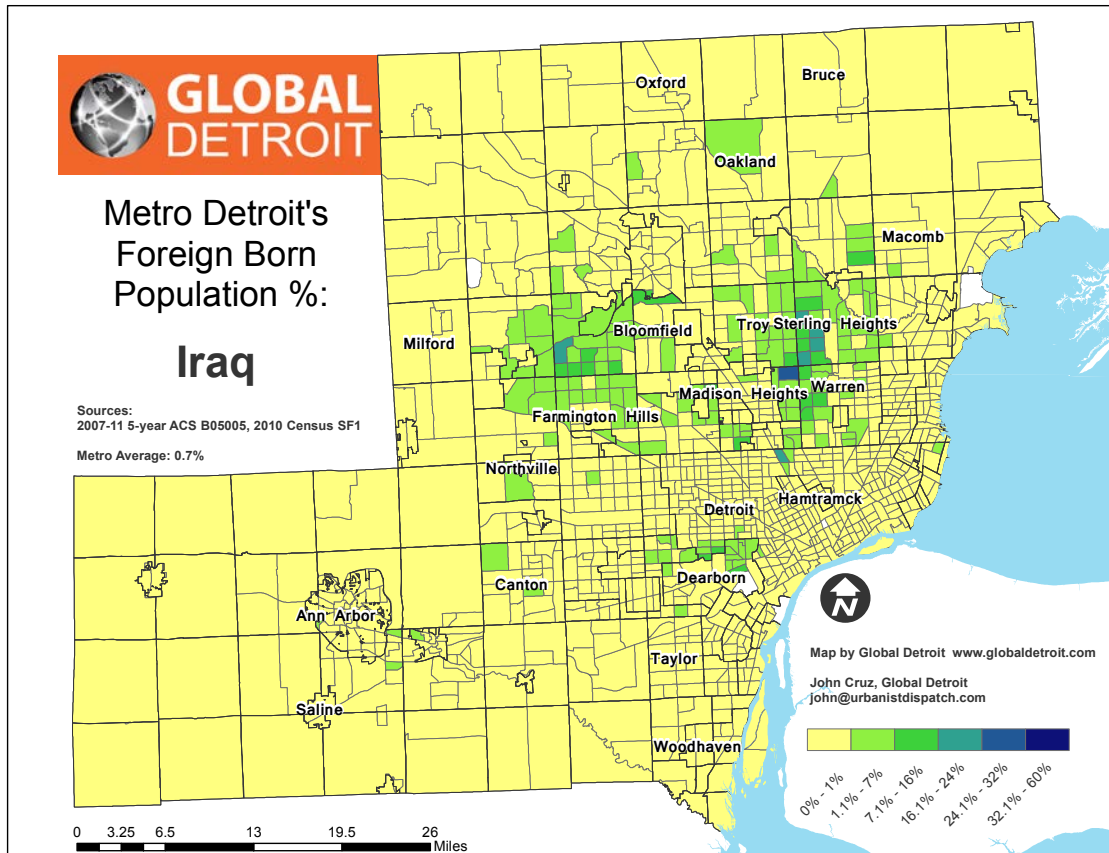
Map 8. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Canada**  
With approximately 24,300 people, they are Metro Detroit's 4<sup>th</sup> most populous immigrant group.



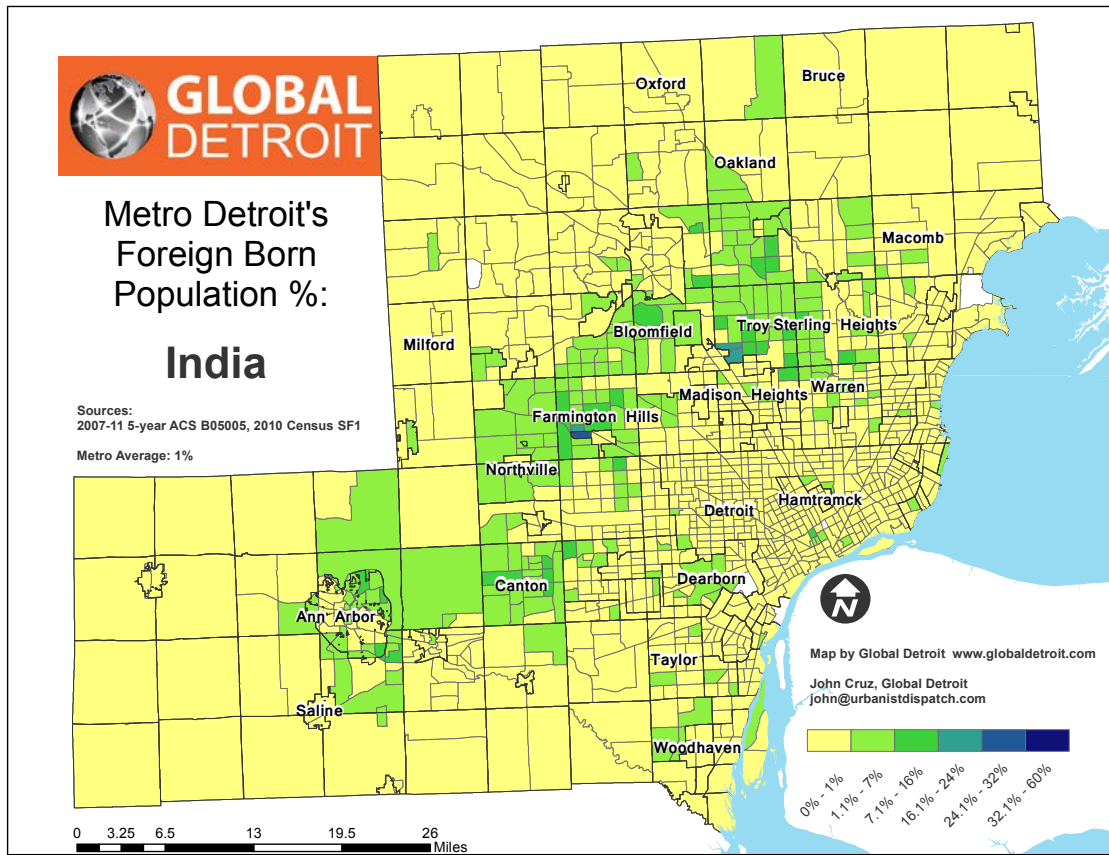
Map 9. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Mexico**  
With approximately 34,400 people, they are Metro Detroit's 3rd most populous immigrant group.



Map 10. **Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in Iraq**  
With approximately 36,000 people, they are Metro Detroit's 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous immigrant group.



Map 11. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit who were born in India  
With approximately 41,000 people, they are Metro Detroit's most populous immigrant group.



## Macomb County

Macomb County is located north of the City of Detroit and east of Oakland County. Macomb is home to 840,978 residents, of which we estimate that 82,801 are Foreign-born, representing 9 percent of the county’s total population.

Macomb County is known as a blue-collar working class community and is known as the home of the fabled “Reagan Democrats” from the 1980s. Today, the county refers to itself as the “defense capital of the Midwest” and possesses a large number of defense contractors who have called the county “home.” Macomb County also is home to a number of auto plants, as well as the General Motors Tech Center. While Macomb has no dedicated four-year university, Macomb Community College is one of the largest community colleges in the country and coordinates with a number of state universities to offer 4-year options through satellite locations.

The concentrations of Foreign-born residents are centered in western Macomb, primarily in the communities of Warren and Sterling Heights, along the boundary with Oakland County. These concentrations tend to favor the more recent immigrant populations. Many other areas of Macomb County feature significant numbers of Eastern European immigrants – Polish, Yugoslavian, Albanian, etc. – who have been in the country for a longer period of time and migrated from their original homes in Detroit and Hamtramck.

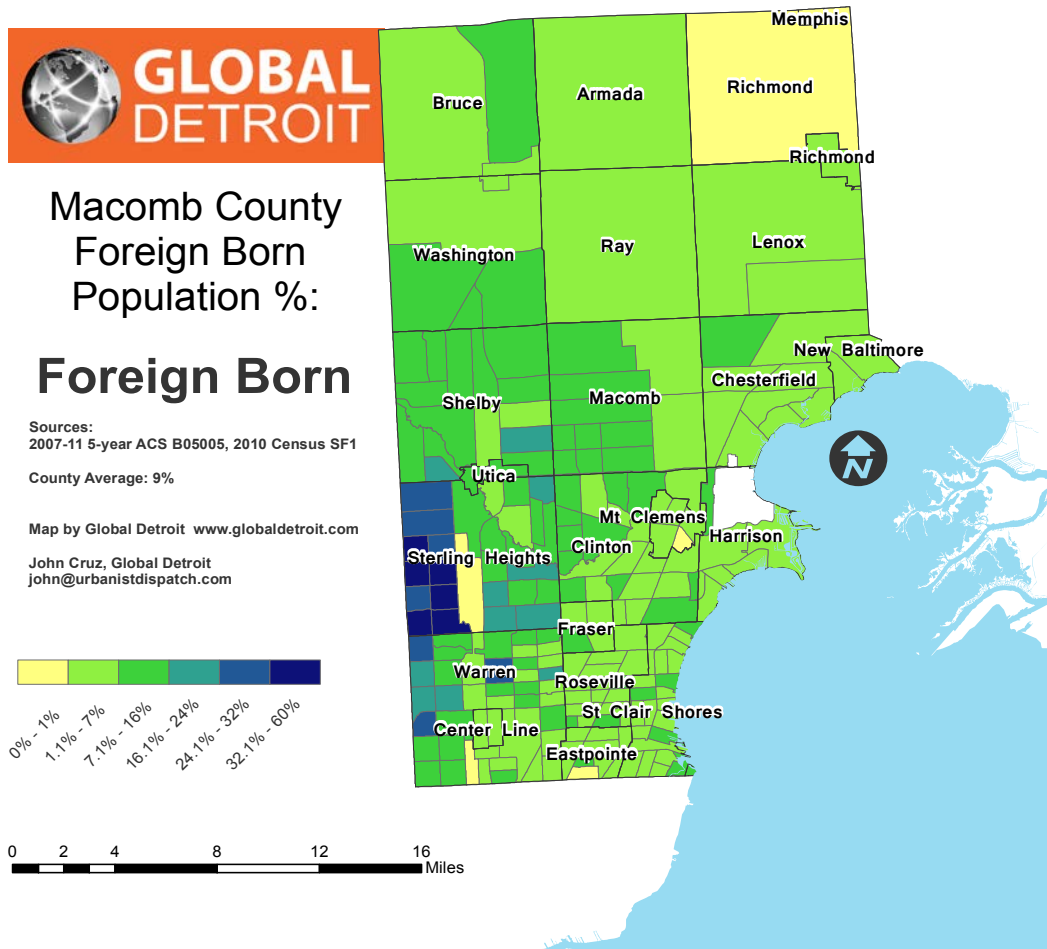
The most recent immigrant waves to find their way into Macomb County have featured Iraqi and Syrian refugees who have been aided by a well-organized social service network. The established Chaldean community, which has established themselves in Sterling Heights and Shelby Township, have sponsored and supported many of the recent refugees fleeing the war in Iraq.

### Macomb County’s Top 10 Foreign-born Countries of Birth.

Country of Origin	Population Estimate
Iraq	14,198
India	5,080
Canada	5,008
Albania	4,842
Italy	4,633
Poland	4,490
Philippines	4,227
Germany	2,901
Yugoslavia	2,897
Mexico	2,651



Map 12. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Macomb County



## Oakland County

Oakland County is located north of the City of Detroit and west of Macomb County. Oakland County is home to 1,202,362 residents, of which 133,341 are estimated to be Foreign-born, representing 11.1% of Oakland’s total population.

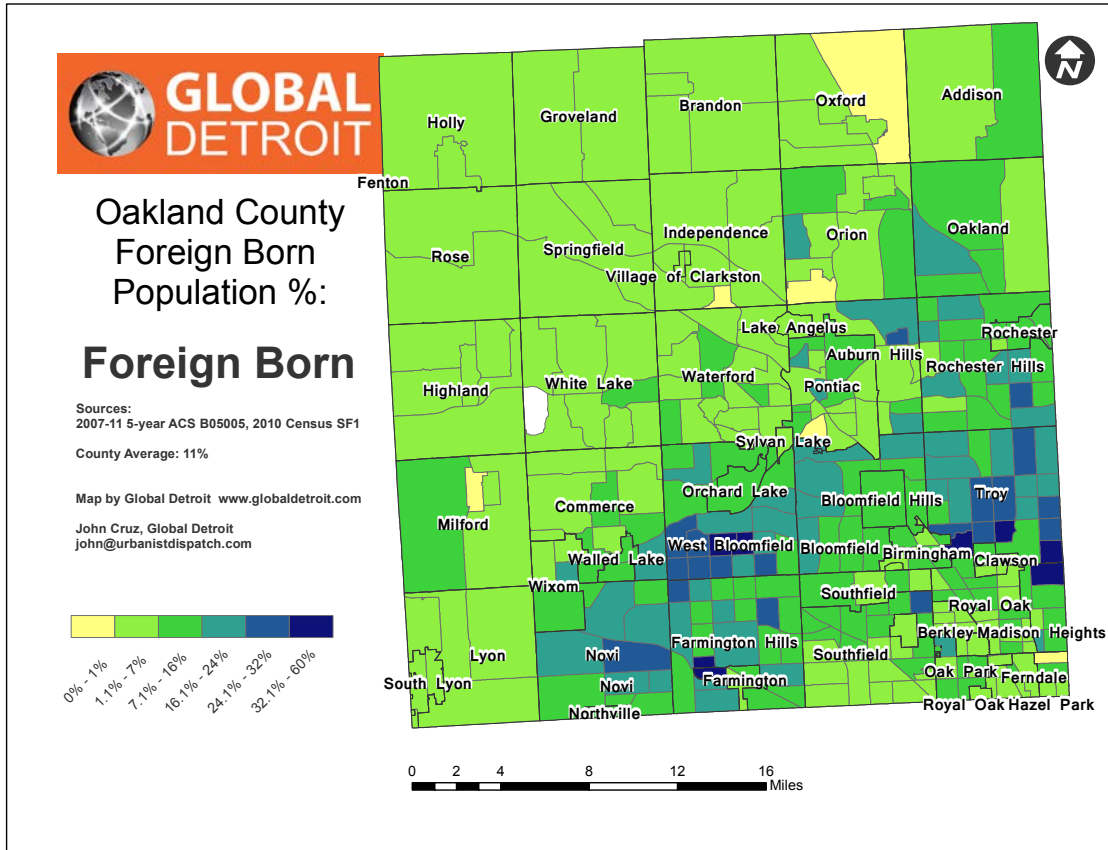
Oakland County is known for its sprawling, high-income suburbs, such as Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham, as well as places that attract younger residents, such as Ferndale and Royal Oak. It is the home of Automation Alley, the headquarters of domestic automaker Chrysler, and contains the most lakes of any county in Michigan. The county is home to multiple post-secondary institutions. Oakland University is located in the suburb of Rochester, Walsh College in Troy, Wayne State University has a teaching facility in Farmington Hills, and Oakland Community College has multiple locations across the county. Every summer people from all over the state flock to Arts, Beats, and Eats in Royal Oak, the Woodward Dream Cruise, and the Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly.

The “immigrant belt” runs clearly through Oakland County, starting with Novi in the southwest and moving northeast through Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, and into Troy, with sizeable populations in other municipalities as well. Communities to the northwest and southeast of this ‘crescent’ have considerably smaller concentrations. The Asian community is highly concentrated in the county, with significant numbers of Asian Indians, Chinese, Korean, Pakistani and Japanese residents. The Chaldean community has established strong ties in West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills.

### Oakland County’s Top 10 Foreign-born Countries of Birth.

Country of Origin	Population Estimate
India	20,645
Iraq	16,059
Canada	9,806
Mexico	7,385
China	7,295
Japan	5,345
Germany	5,071
Korea	4,643
Philippines	3,820
Russia	3,036

Map 13. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Oakland County



## Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County is located to the west of Wayne County and south of Oakland and Livingston counties. Washtenaw County’s population in 2010 was 344,791, of which 38,831, or 11.2 percent, were Foreign-born.

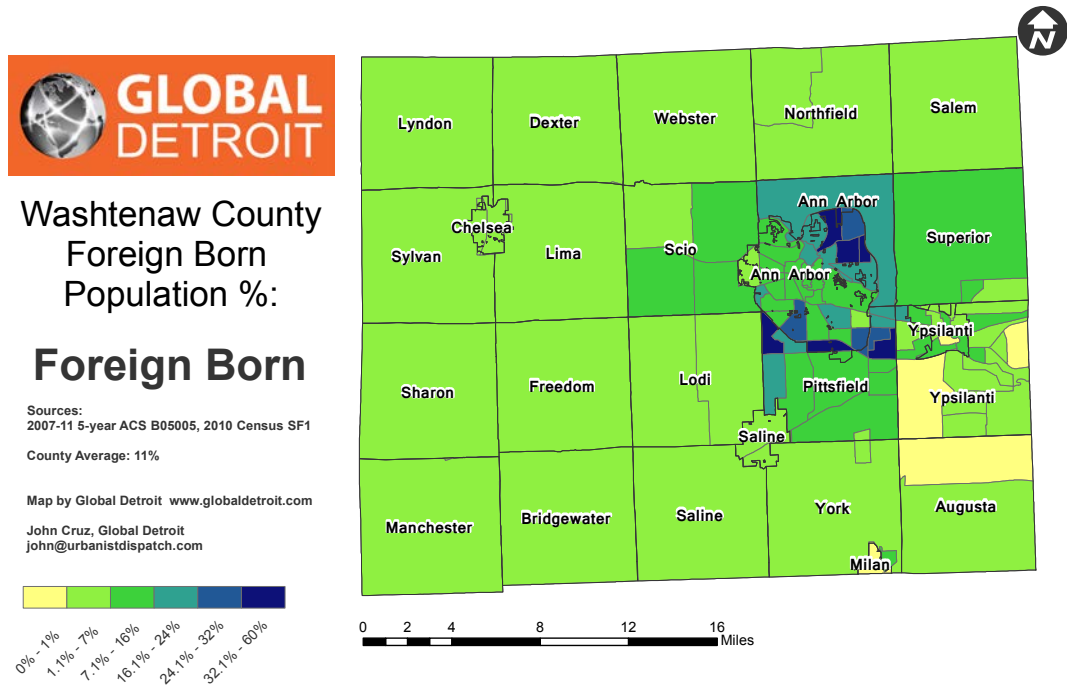
Washtenaw is the least populated of our four southeast Michigan counties. It is home to the city of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, and world famous medical research and hospital facilities. Just to the east is the city of Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University. These areas are known as hotbeds for the creative class of professionals and attract people for the arts and culture, as well as the academics and growing technology sector. The Ann Arbor Art Fair is one of many reasons people find their way to Washtenaw County each year.

Washtenaw’s immigrants, much like the general population, are centered around Ann Arbor, with some neighborhoods reaching Foreign-born concentrations as high as 47 percent. Other relatively large concentrations of Foreign-born reside in the bordering communities of Scio, Superior, and Pittsfield townships. The vast majority of Washtenaw County, especially outside of the Ann Arbor area, is sparsely populated and contains relatively low populations of Foreign-born

### Washtenaw County’s Top 10 Foreign-born Countries of Birth.

Country of Origin	Population Estimate
China	4,851
India	4,268
Korea	3,823
Canada	1,892
Mexico	1,593
Japan	1,456
Germany	1,387
Taiwan	1,193
Philippines	1,129
Romania	989

Map 14. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Washtenaw County



## Wayne County

Wayne County is south of Macomb and Oakland counties and to the east of Washtenaw. With 1,820,584 residents, Wayne is the most populated county in Michigan, and home to the city of Detroit. Its 142,213 Foreign-born residents, 7.8 percent of the population, make it the home to the most immigrants as well.

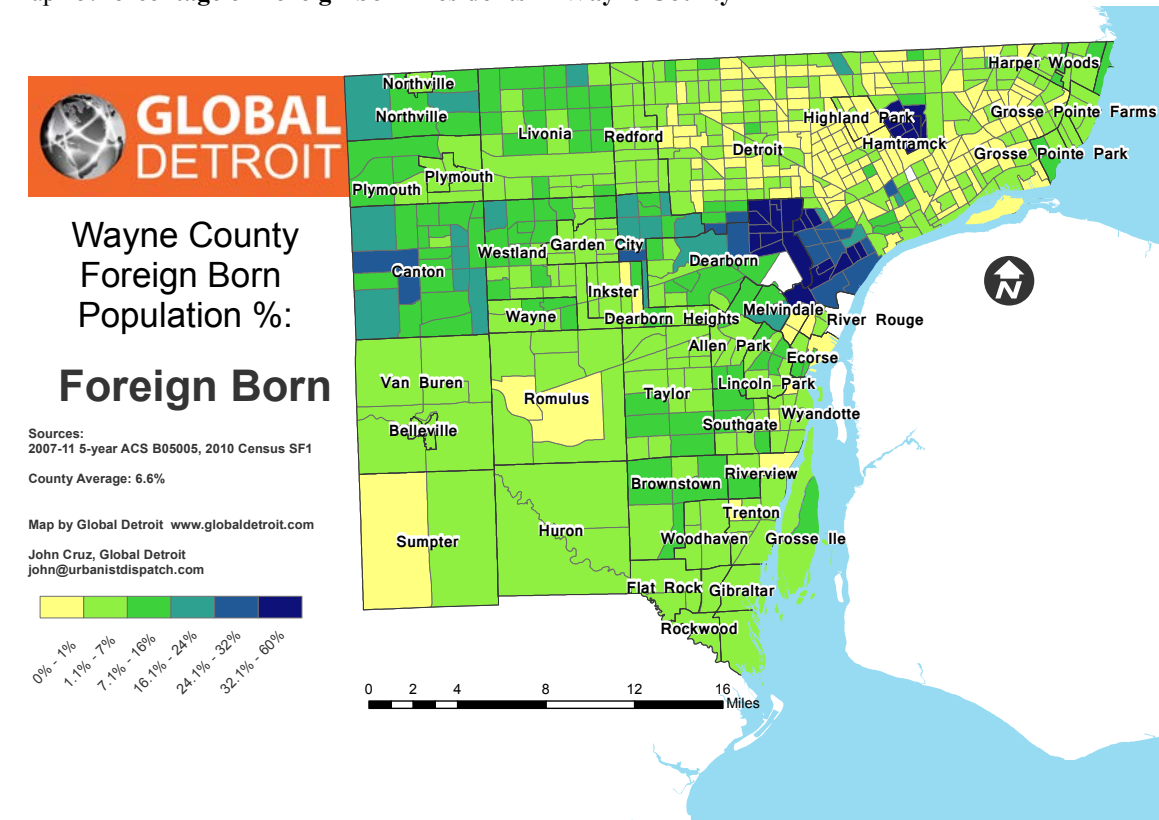
Wayne County has historically been the economic driver for the state of Michigan. Detroit itself attracts people from all over the world for the variety of events, including the North American International Auto Show, the Detroit International Jazz Festival, and other major sporting and music events. It is the home of both General Motors and the Ford Motor Company, and the birthplace of the domestic auto industry and the modern labor movement.

Wayne County’s immigrants largely reside within the city of Detroit, as well as in Dearborn, their neighbor to the southwest, and Hamtramck, a suburb surrounded by Detroit. While most of Detroit contains a very low percentage of immigrants, areas in southwest Detroit are heavily populated with Latinos from Mexico, Puerto Rico and Latin America, and Middle Eastern immigrants. The midtown area, home to two major hospital complexes and Wayne State University, attracts Foreign-born students, professors, medical personnel and researchers. Hamtramck and the surrounding neighborhoods to the east attract Middle Eastern, Bangladeshi, and Polish immigrants. Dearborn is home to the highest concentration of Middle Eastern residents in the nation, while the western edge municipalities of Canton Township Northville city and township and Plymouth are home to large numbers of Asian immigrants.

### Wayne County’s Top 10 Foreign-born Countries of Birth.

Country of Origin	Population Estimate
Mexico	22,777
Lebanon	14,625
India	11,052
Yemen	10,566
Canada	7,634
Bangladesh	5,928
Iraq	5,462
China	4,038
Philippines	3,563
Poland	3,316

Map 15. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Wayne County



## Metro Detroit’s Asian Immigrants

### Countries of Origin<sup>7</sup>

The continent of Asia is divided into four regions for data presentation purposes. All countries not listed are placed into the appropriate region based on geography.

Region	Countries
Far East Asia	China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea.
South Central Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan.
Southeast Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.
Western Asia	Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Turkey, Armenia

### Populations

There are approximately 201,000 Asian immigrants in the metro Detroit area, a significantly higher number than the 103,000 Europeans and the 53,000 Latin Americans. The following table shows the breakdown by region.

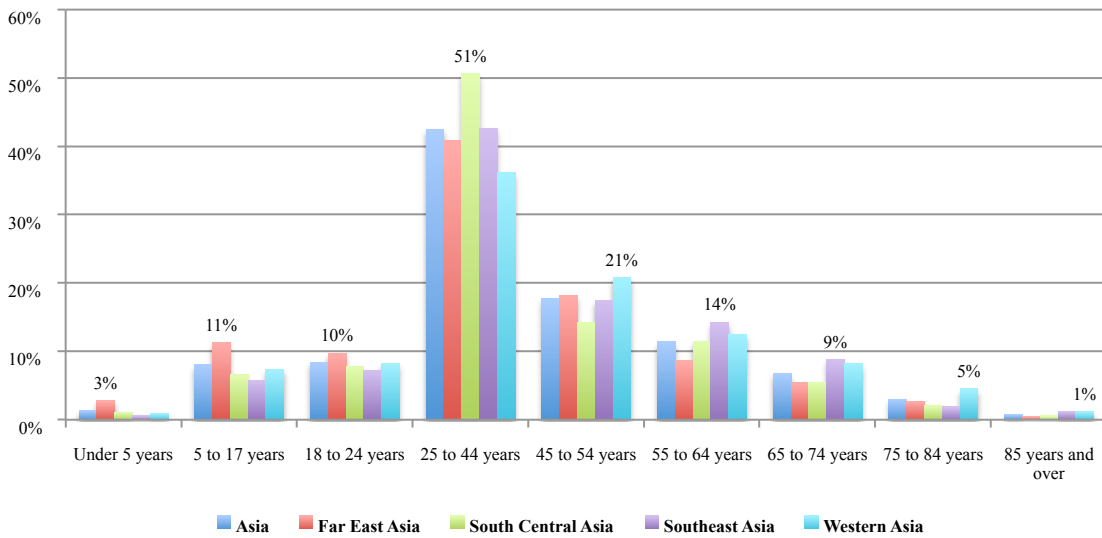
Far East Asia	South Central Asia	Southeast Asia	Western Asia
41,339	58,448	22,794	77,349

Forty-three percent of all Asian immigrants are between 25 and 44 years of age, ranging from a low of 36 percent for Western Asians to a high of 51 percent for South Central Asians. Far East Asians have the largest percentage of school-aged (5-17 years of age) immigrants at 11percent, with all other groups estimated at 8 percent or less.

<sup>7</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B05006, S0505, B01003) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).



Figure 13. Asian Foreign-born Age Group Representation

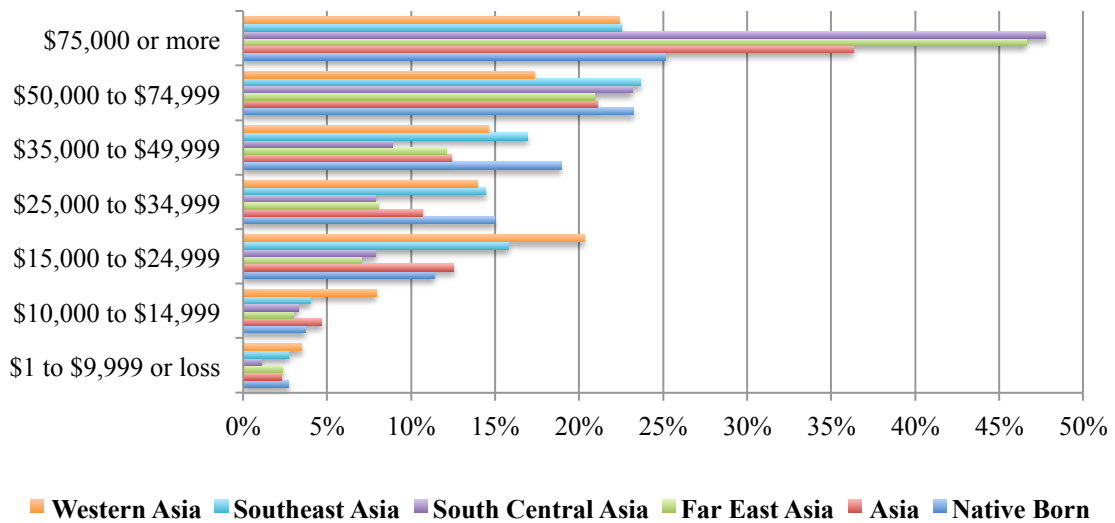


While the overall Asian population is split evenly among gender lines, there is one group that is an outlier. Southeast Asian immigrants are 59 percent female and 41 percent male.

**Economics and Income**

As a group, Greater Detroit’s Asian workers do quite well economically, with over 30 percent having annual earnings of over \$75,000 dollars. This share reaches over 45 percent for South Central and Far East Asia immigrants.

Figure 14. Asian Foreign-born Earnings Per Worker



As is the case for the population in general, the average annual income for men exceeds that for women across all Asian regions. The disparity is greatest for South Central Asia immigrants.

	Asia	Far East Asia	South Central Asia	Southeast Asia	Western Asia
Male	\$61,235	\$72,868	\$77,243	\$48,366	\$47,191
Female	\$46,473	\$54,354	\$52,531	\$44,772	\$32,269

All Asian groups, with the exception of Western Asia, have less than 10 percent of their households living in poverty and at least 70 percent of their with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. The Western Asian story, however, is considerably different, as one-third of all residents living at or below the poverty line and only slightly more than 40 percent have incomes that place them above the 200 percent of poverty threshold. As will be illustrated in the education section, the Western Asian gap in higher education results in jobs that do not pay as well as their continental counterparts from the eastern side of Asia.

Figure 15 illustrates that Southeast Asians have the highest labor force participation rate at 74 percent, more than 20 percent higher than that of Western Asians.

Figure 15. Asian Foreign-born Labor Force

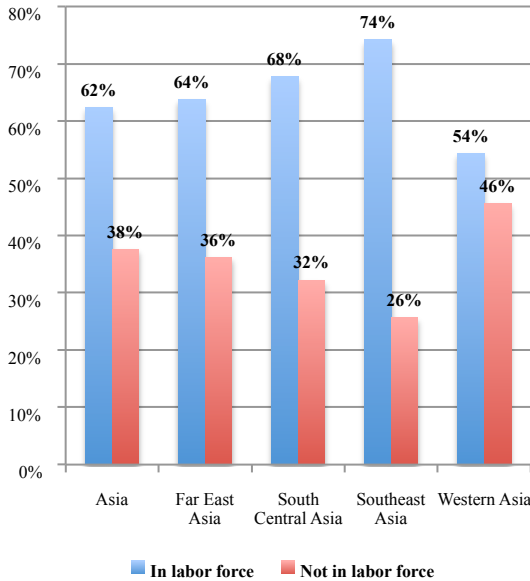
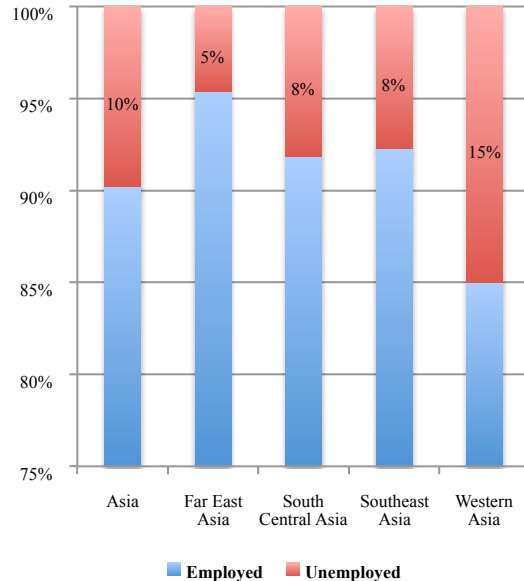


Figure 16. Asian Foreign-born Employment



Unemployment rates also help to explain the income gaps across the regions as Western Asia comes in at 15 percent, three times the rate of Far East Asians (See Figure 16).

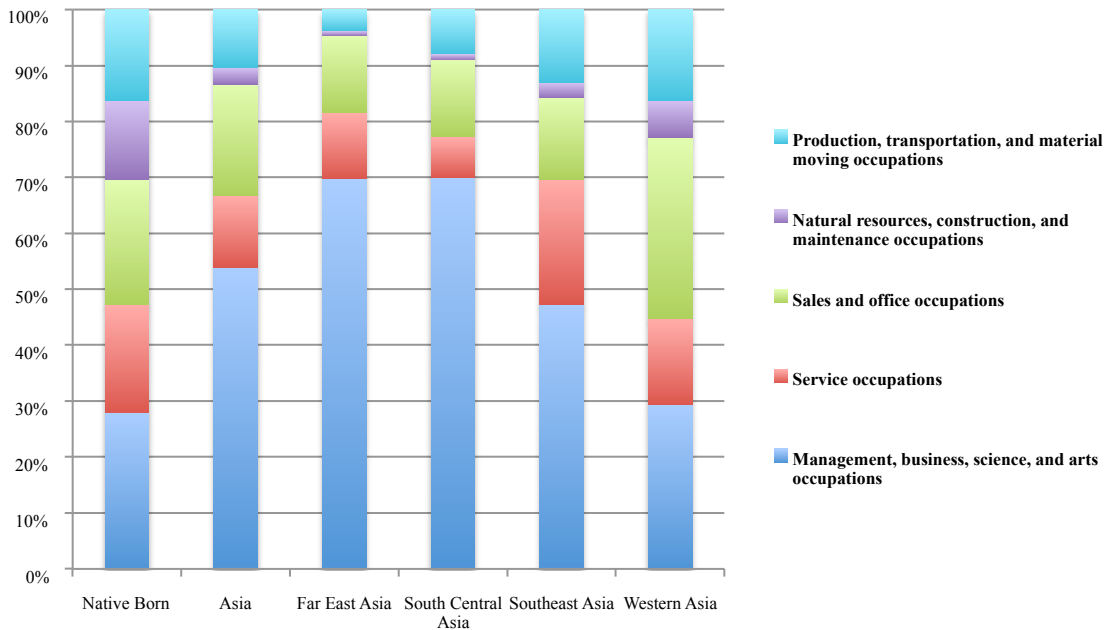
Asian immigrants do not deviate much from the immigrant population as a whole, in terms of class of worker. The vast majority, 88 percent, works in the private sector as

salaried or wage earners, 7 percent work for the government, 4 percent are self-employed, and less than 1 percent classifies themselves as unpaid family workers. These figures do not deviate substantially across regions either.

Similar to Detroit-area immigrants as a whole, the majority of Asians work in management, business, and science occupations, though the distribution varies widely across groups (See Figure 17).

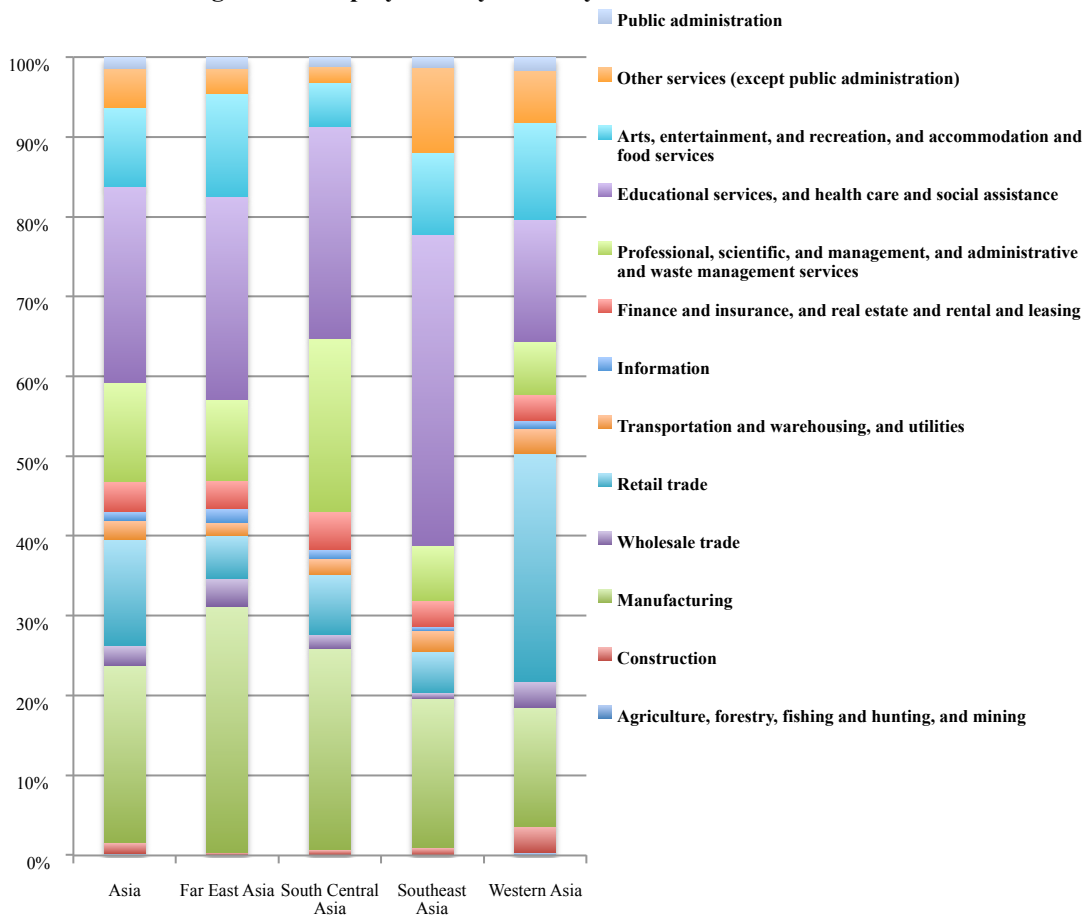
Production and transportation of goods occupations represents a small share for all groups, though Western Asians, with the lowest overall incomes, match the native born share at 16 percent of all workers. Western Asians also are the only group where “Management, Business, and Science” occupations do not represent the highest employment share, as “Sales and Office” occupations lead all others at 32 percent. This is more than twice the rate of any other Asian immigrant.

Figure 17. Asian Foreign-born Employment by Occupation



While the dominant industry may vary across groups, there is no denying the fact that employment largely lies in education, manufacturing, professional services, and retail trade.

Figure 18. Asian Foreign-born Employment by Industry



### Home Ownership

The following table provides the percentage of each group that are homeowners. The relatively high rates reflect an investment in their communities and a sense of permanency.

Asia	Far East Asia	South Central Asia	Southeast Asia	Western Asia
61%	52%	61%	76%	61%

While homeownership rates vary to some degree, variations in the cost of that housing are quite different among the respective Asian immigrant groups. Western Asians pay much more as a percentage of their total income than other Asian immigrants for housing, due in large part to their lower overall incomes. This is shown in Figures 19 and 20.

Figure 19. Asian Foreign-born Homeowner Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.

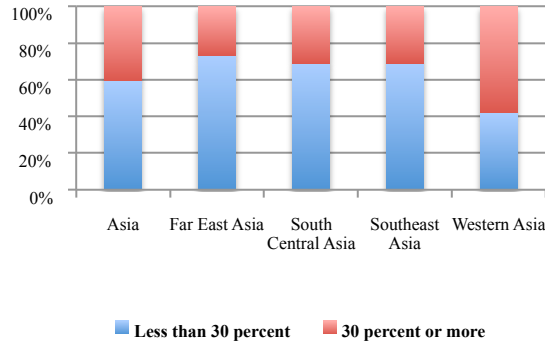
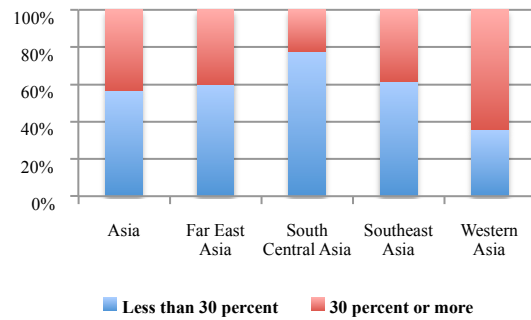


Figure 20. Asian Foreign-born Renter Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.

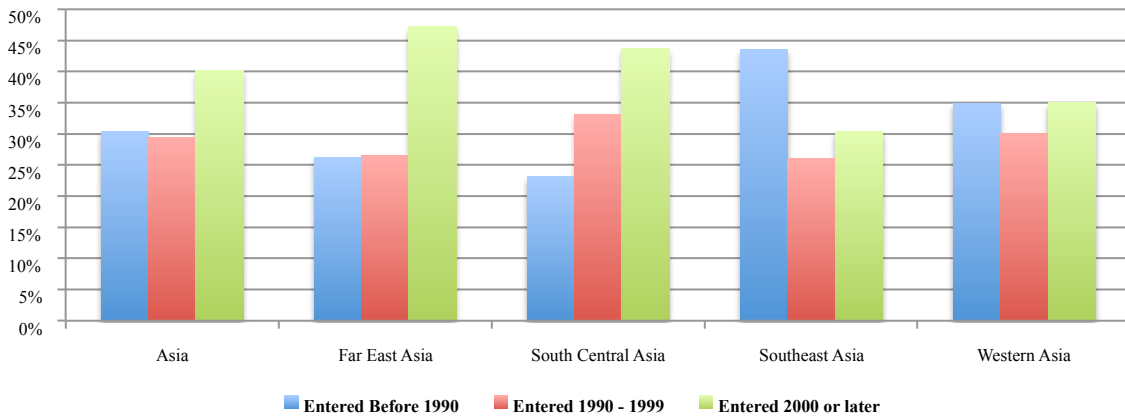


Far East Asians have the lowest ownership cost burden, while the South Central Asians fare best in rental cost burden.

### Citizenship and Year of Entry

Two out of five Asian immigrants have arrived in the United States since the year 2000. The rate surpasses 40 percent for the Far East Asians and the South Central Asians. Southeast Asians and Western Asians groups have larger percentages of populations who arrived prior to 1990 (See Figure 21).

Figure 21. Asian Foreign-born by Year of Entry



Approximately half of all Asian immigrants have become U.S. citizens, - 60 percent for Southeast Asians and Western Asians and 40 percent for Far East Asians.

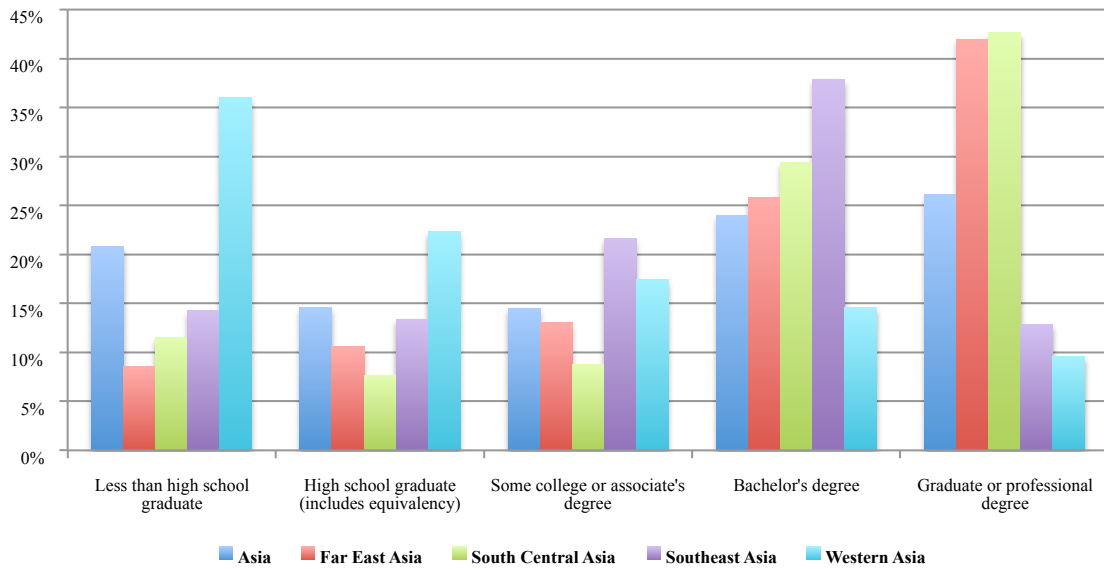
### Education

Asian immigrants are more likely to possess a professional or graduate degree than to be classified in any other educational level (college, high school, less than high school), a characteristic far in excess of either native born or other immigrant groups. In the case of

Asians currently enrolled in school, college students represent the largest component (56 percent), followed by elementary students, high school students, and nursery/preschool students at 2%, at 26, 16 and 2 percent, respectively.

Figure 22 illustrates educational attainment by region. In general, South Central Asians have the highest educational attainment while Western Asians have the lowest. This is most evident in the area of graduate degrees, where the gap between the two groups is 33 percentage points (43 vs. 10 percent). The lower attainment of Western Asians correlates directly with their lower income levels.

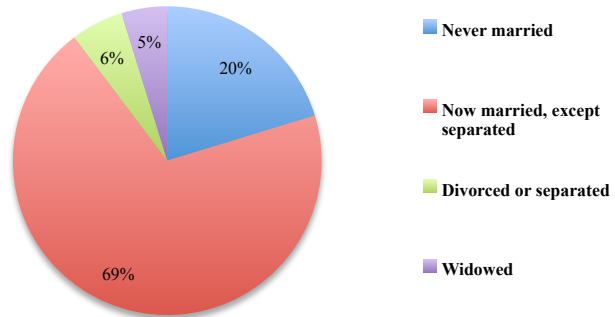
Figure 22. Educational Attainment of Asian Foreign-born 25 Years of Age and Above



**Family and Language Ability**

Approximately 76 percent of all Asian households are in married-couple family households (compared to 56% of the native-born), with 24 percent living in single parent or nonfamily households. These numbers do not vary much from group to group. Similarity across groups holds for marital status as well, with over two-thirds of all Asians 15 years of age and over identifying their status as married, and only 6 percent as divorced.

Figure 23. Asian Foreign-born Marital Status

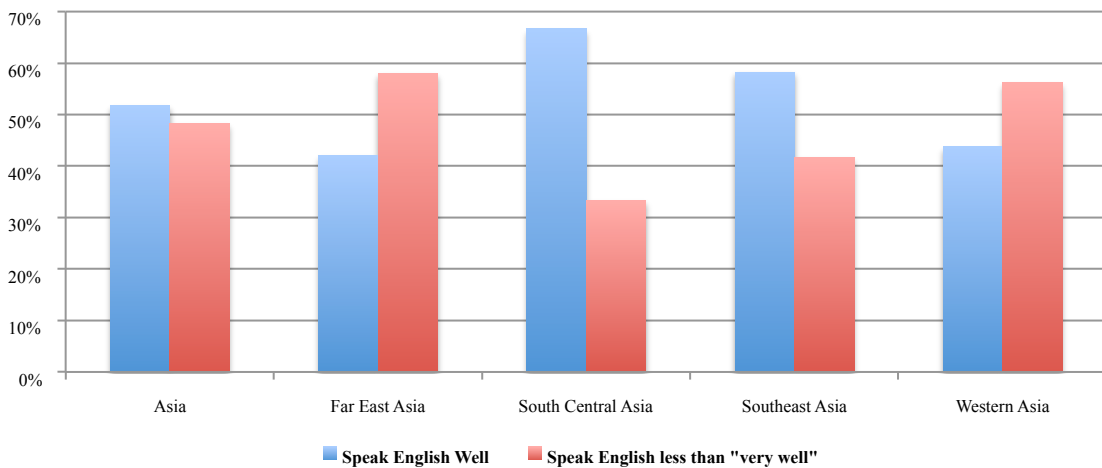


Among native-born residents, 44 percent identify as married, 37 percent as never married, 13 percent are divorced and 6 percent are widowed.

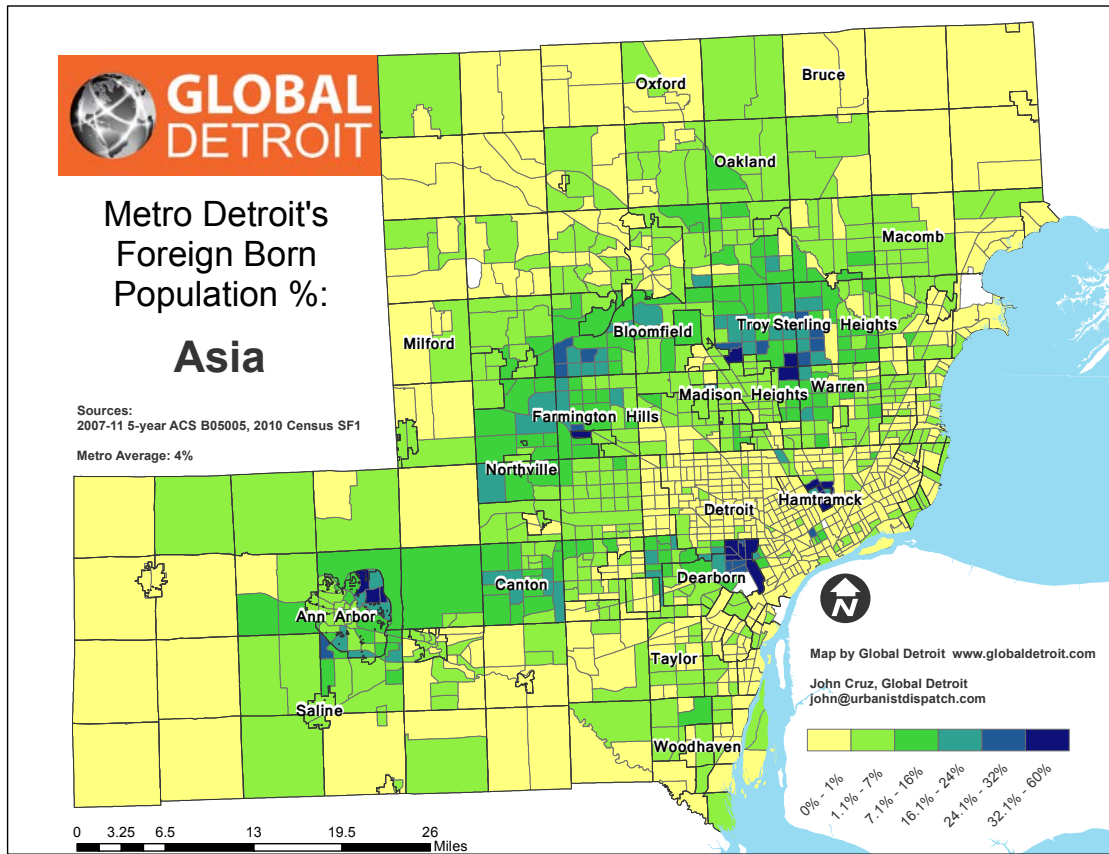
The average Asian immigrant household consists of 3.4 people, compared to 2.5 for native-born, while Asian immigrant families average 3.8 persons, compared to a 2.5.

Only 8 percent of all Asian immigrants come from households where English is the sole language spoken. A slim majority of Asian immigrant households speak English “very well” by their own assessment. While immigrants from South Central and Southeast Asia have a majority who speaks English “well”, other groups have a majority who feel they do not speak English “very well” (See Figure 24).

Figure 24. Asian Foreign-born English Language Ability for Multi-Lingual Speakers



Map 16. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Asia





## Metro Detroit’s Latin American Immigrants

### Countries of Origin<sup>8</sup>

Latin America is divided into three regions for data presentation purposes. All countries not listed are placed into the appropriate region based on geography.

Region	Countries
The Caribbean	Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the West Indies.
Central America	Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.
South America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

### Populations

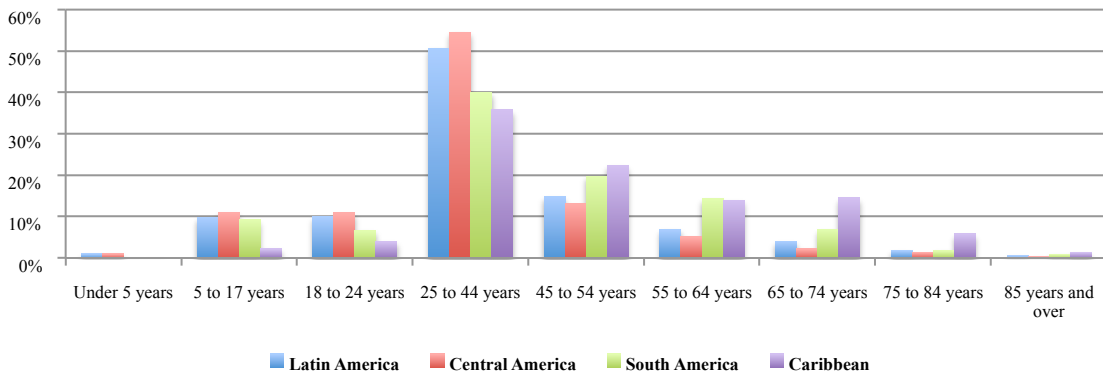
There are approximately 53,000 Latin American immigrants in the metro Detroit area, with the vast majority from Mexico and other Central American nations. The following table shows the breakdown by region.

Central America	South America	The Caribbean
40,046	7,227	5,629

Half (51 percent) of all Latin American immigrants are between 25 and 44 years of age, ranging from a low of 36 percent for Caribbean immigrants to a high of 55 percent for Central Americans.

<sup>8</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B05006, S0506, B01003) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).

Figure 25. Latin American Foreign-born by Age Group

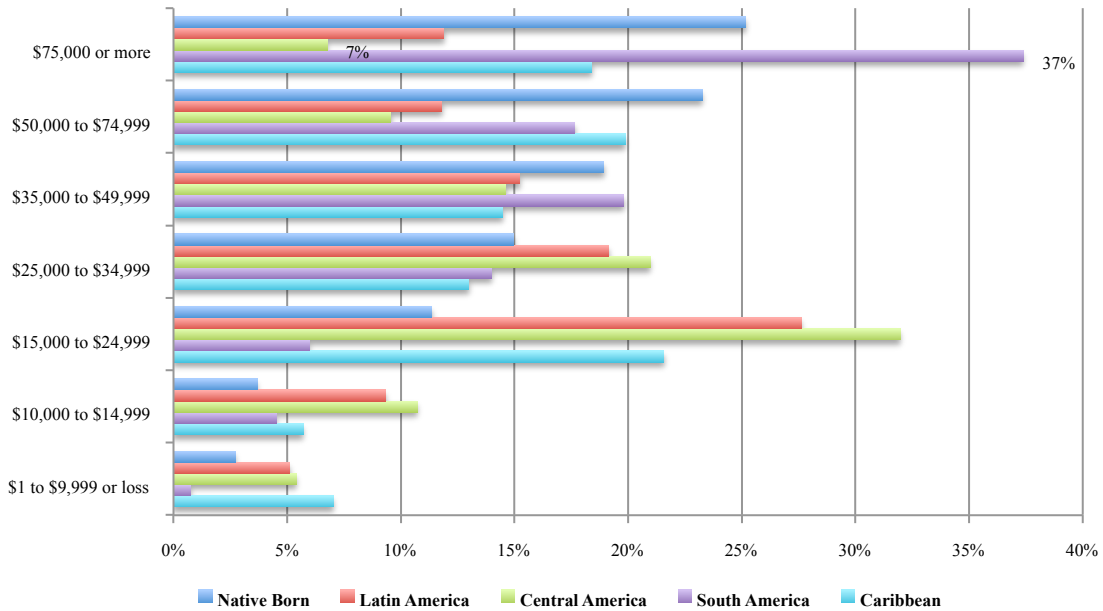


While 55 percent of Central American immigrants are male, nearly 57 percent of all Caribbean and South American immigrants are female. The overall Latin American immigrant population tilts slightly toward a male majority.

**Economics and Income**

Average yearly earnings vary a great deal across Latin American immigrant groups. South American immigrants have the highest earnings, with 37 percent earning \$75,000 or more, while Central Americans have the lowest, as only 7 percent reach the \$75,000 level.

Figure 26. Latin American Foreign-born Earnings

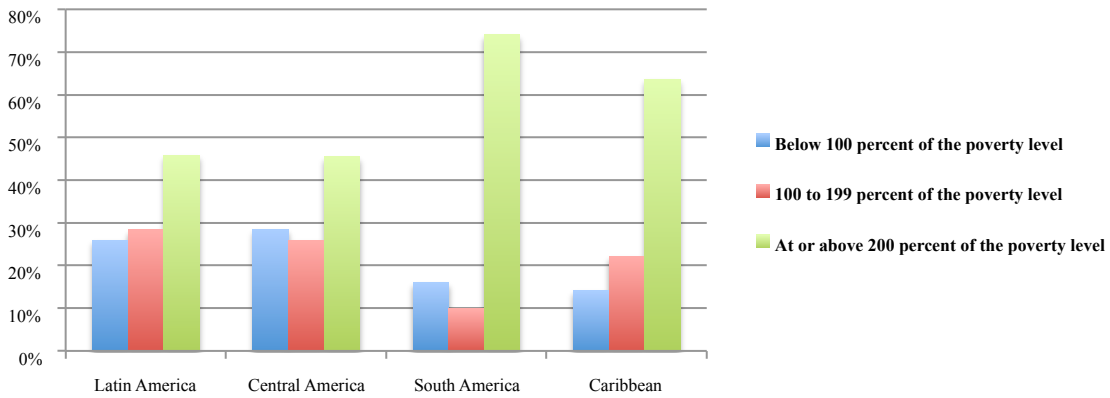


While men have higher average incomes than women across all groups, the gap is greatest for South American immigrants where male income doubles that of women.

	Latin America	Central America	South America	The Caribbean
Male	\$32,576	\$27,858	\$75,598	\$44,812
Female	\$26,410	\$21,576	\$37,048	\$32,257

South American and Caribbean immigrants have relatively low poverty rates (16 and 14 percent, respectively), and both well exceed Central Americans when it comes to incomes exceeding 200 percent of poverty (See Figure 27).

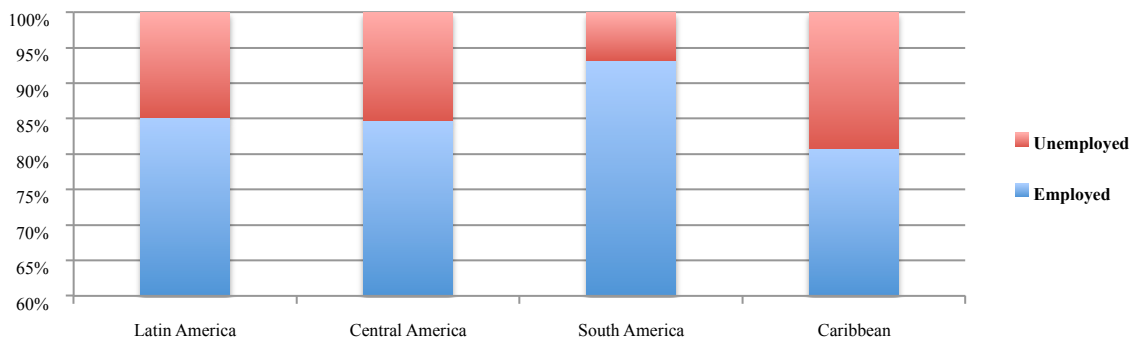
Figure 27. Income As a Share of Poverty for Latin American Foreign-born



It is estimated that 70 percent of all Latin American immigrants are in the labor force (either working or actively seeking work), a rate 5 percentage points higher than the native-born population.

Despite higher earnings than Central Americans, Caribbean immigrants have a higher unemployment rate that is close to 20%. South Americans fare much better around 6% and Central Americans are around 15% (See Figure 28).

Figure 28. Latin American Foreign-born Employment

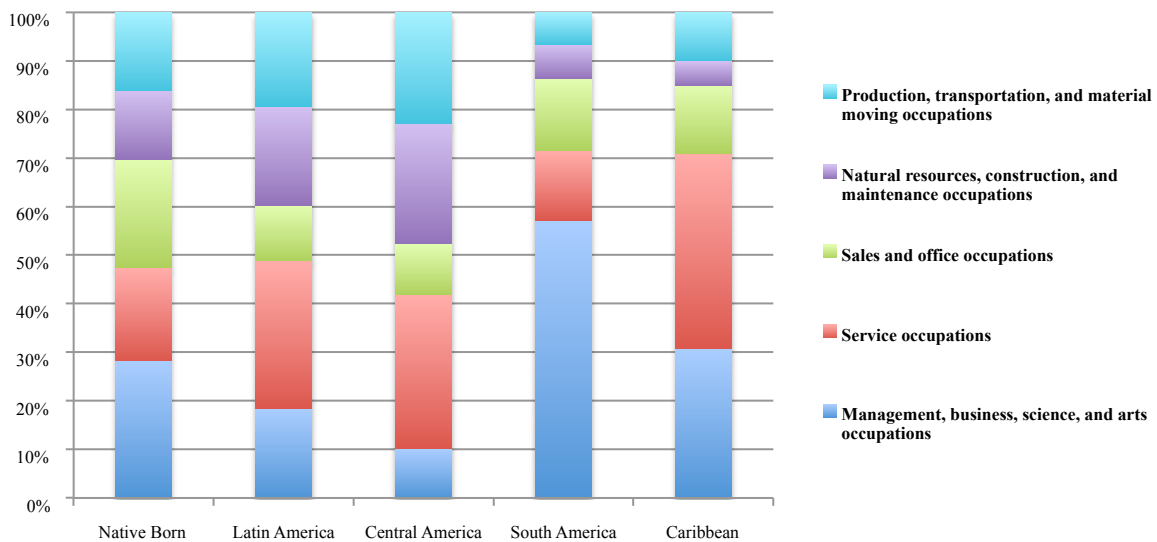


An analysis of employment by class of worker shows that South American immigrants are more likely than the others to have government jobs or be self-employed.

	Latin America	Central America	South America	The Caribbean
Private wage and salary workers	90%	91%	81%	86%
Government workers	4%	3%	9%	7%
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	6%	6%	10%	7%
Unpaid family workers	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%

Metro Detroit’s Central American and Caribbean immigrants differ from other immigrant groups in that “Management, Business, Science and Arts” is not their majority occupation group. This is not the case for South American immigrants (See Figure 29).

Figure 29. Latin American Foreign-born and Native-Born Occupations



Traditional blue-collar jobs, including production, transportation, construction, and maintenance, account for approximately half of all Central American occupations. That percentage drops to about 15% for South American and Caribbean immigrants who work primarily in sales, service, management, business, and the arts.

The following table clearly illustrates that the industry of employment distribution varies a great deal across groups, with large variations in the sectors of manufacturing,

educational services, and health care and social assistance, and arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services.

	Latin America	Central America	South America	The Caribbean
Construction	16%	20%	7%	3%
Manufacturing	18%	18%	22%	12%
Wholesale trade	3%	3%	3%	2%
Retail trade	6%	6%	4%	5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2%	2%	1%	3%
Information	1%	1%	< 1%	3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3%	1%	6%	6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	17%	18%	14%	11%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	13%	7%	33%	32%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	17%	19%	4%	18%
Other services (except public administration)	4 %	4%	5%	4%
Public administration	< 1%	< 1%	2%	1%

**Home Ownership**

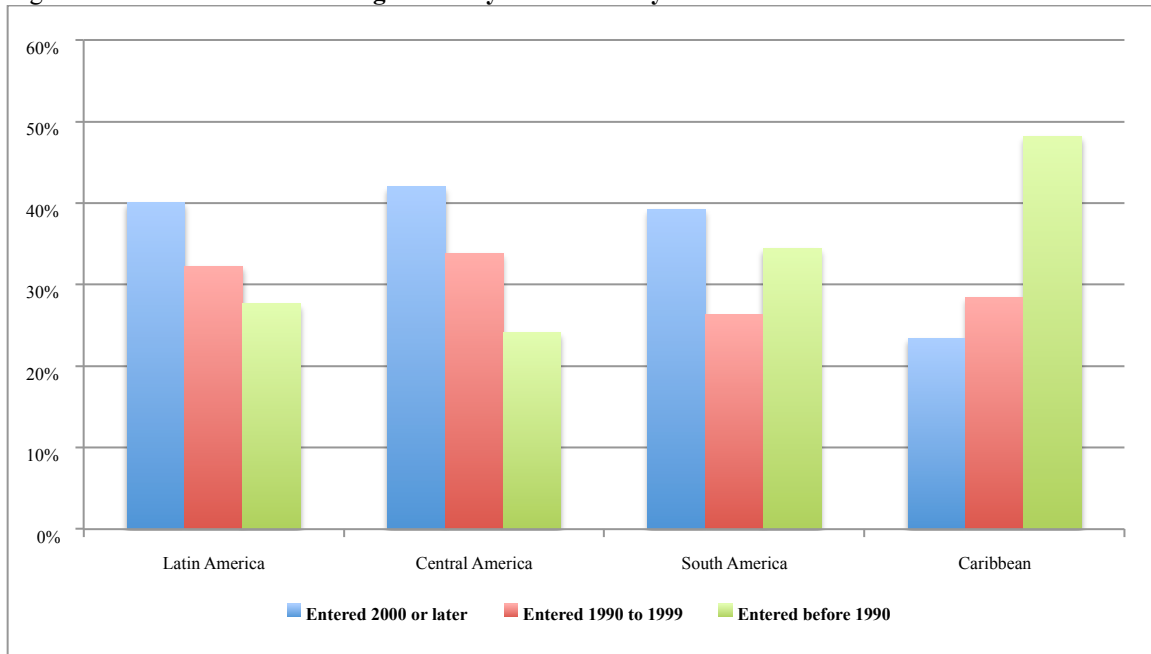
Slightly more than half of Central American immigrants are homeowners, while South American and Caribbean immigrants own at rates over 70 percent. Once again one sees a commitment to community and the Detroit Metro area.

Latin Americans appear to be paying more of their income for housing than either native-born or Asian immigrants. Approximately 2 in 5 (41 percent) of Latin American homeowners as a whole pay 30% or more of their income toward housing. This share rises to 50 percent for renter households, significantly higher than the 31 percent for the native-born.

**Citizenship and Year of Entry**

Two out of five Latin American immigrants to the Detroit area have arrived in the United States since the year 2000. Caribbean immigrants are the most likely to have arrived before 1990 (48 percent of their total), while only 24 percent of Central Americans have been in the United States that long (See Figure 30). Caribbean immigrants also have the highest share of elderly among the three groups.

Figure 30. Latin American Foreign-born by Year of Entry



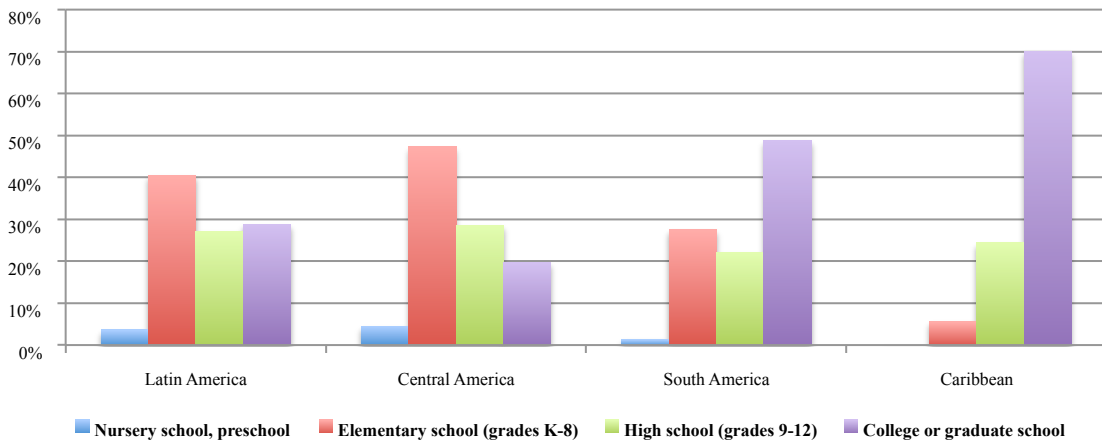
The rate of citizenship varies greatly across groups and correlates with year of entry, as higher ratios of pre-1990 immigrants equal higher rates of citizenship (See table below).

Latin America	Central America	South America	The Caribbean
29%	21%	45%	59%

**Education**

Figure 31 shows enrollment shares by level of school. Caribbean students are far more likely than the others to be enrolled in college or graduate school. Central American students, who tend to be considerably younger, show up primarily in elementary, middle, or high school.

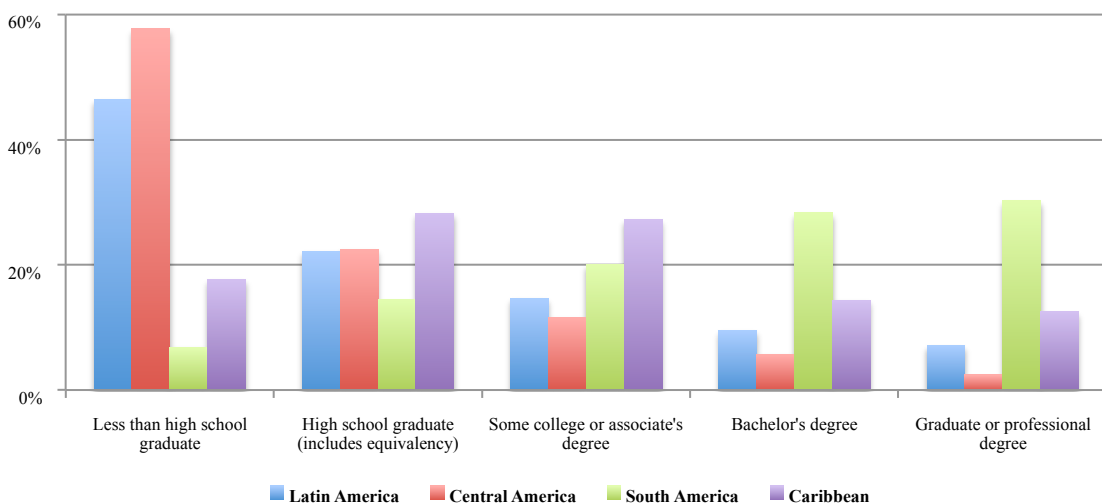
Figure 31. School Enrollment for Latin American Foreign-born Residents 3 Years of Age and Older



The majority (60 percent) of Central American immigrants do not possess a high school or equivalency degree. This is the case for less than 20 percent of Caribbean immigrants and less than 10 percent of South American immigrants.

South American immigrants are the most highly educated, with 58 percent of those 25 years and older possessing at least a bachelor’s degree. The comparative rate for Central American immigrants is only 8 percent. Caribbean immigrants fall in the middle, with 28 percent having completed high school and 27% having attained an associate’s degree or attempted a bachelor’s degree. Considering the fact that over 50 percent are currently enrolled in a college or university leads one to predict significant increases in the future.

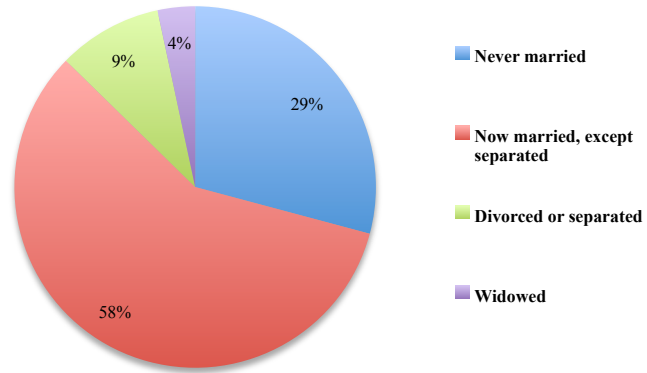
Figure 32. Educational Attainment of Latin American Foreign-born 25 Years of Age and Above



**Family and Language Ability**

Approximately 62 percent of all Latin American households—ranging from a high of 68 percent for South Americans to a low of 48 percent for Caribbean immigrants—are married Couples. The marital status, however, does not change much from region to region. Almost three-fifths (58 percent) of Latin American immigrants are married, one-third have never been married, and almost 10 percent are divorced (See Figure 33).

Figure 33. Latin American Foreign-born Marital Status



Latin American households average 3.2 persons, compared to the native-born average of 2.5, while families average 3.7 persons, compared to 3.1 for native-born.

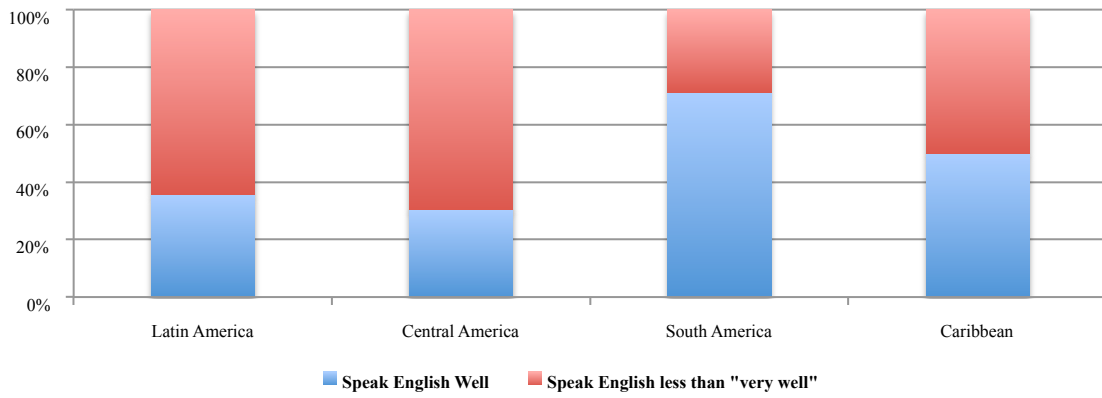
The percentage of bi-lingual and English speaking households varies widely from group to group. The following table illustrates these differences.

	Latin America	Central America	South America	The Caribbean
English only	13%	5%	23%	65%
Language other than English	87%	95%	77%	35%

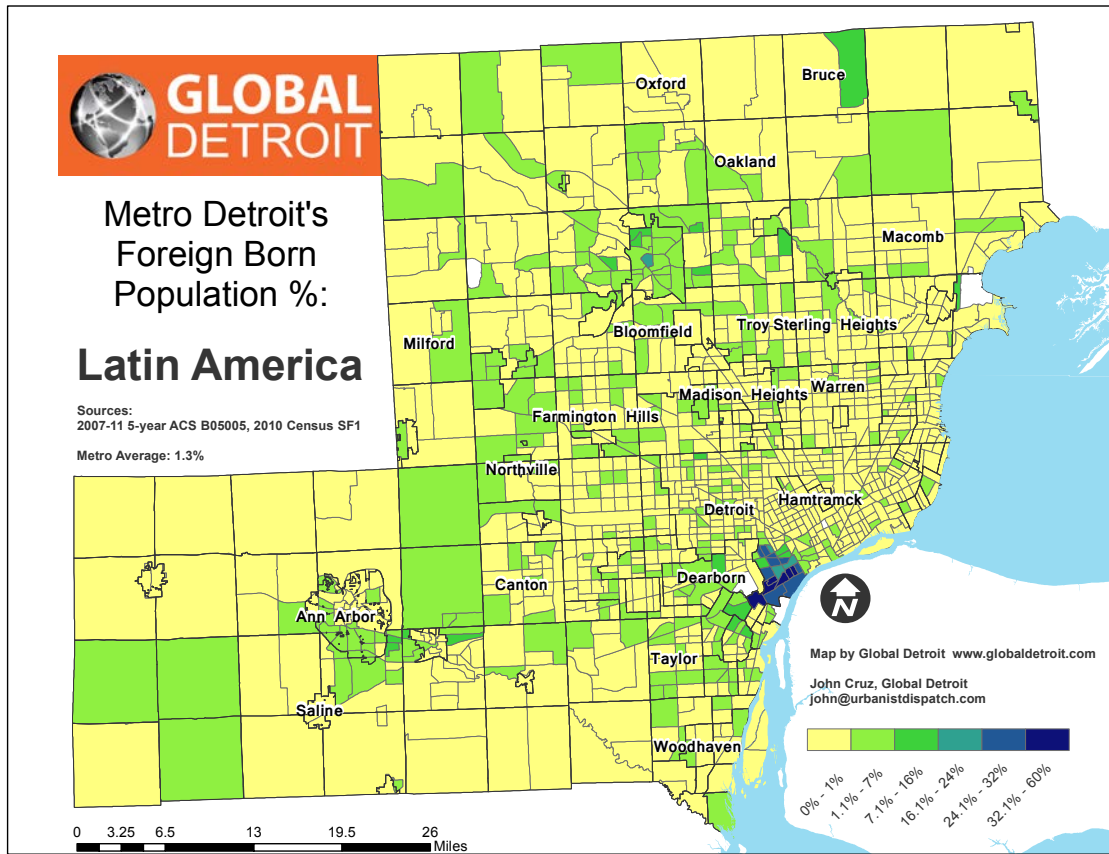
Not only do the Central American immigrants have the lowest percentage of English-only households, they also have the highest percentage of Latin Americans who feel that that they speak English less than “very well.” Caribbean immigrants have the highest percentage of English-only households, with roughly 85% of all Caribbean immigrants claiming to speak English “well” or “very well.” The shares for South American and Central American immigrants are 71 and 30 percent, respectively (See Figure 34).



Figure 34. Latin American Foreign-born English Language Ability for Multi-Lingual Speakers



Map 17. Percentage of Foreign-born residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Latin America



## Metro Detroit’s European Immigrants

### Countries of Origin<sup>9</sup>

The data for European Immigrants is divided into two categories. All countries not listed are placed into the appropriate region based on geography.

Region	Countries
Northwest Europe	England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland.
Southeast Europe	Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia.

### Populations

There are approximately 103,178 European immigrants in the metro Detroit area. They are divided into two groups: Northwest Europe with 28,871 residents and Southeast Europe with 74,143.

Twenty-seven percent of all European immigrants are between 25 and 44 years of age. This is well below that of Asian (43 percent) and Latin American (51 percent) immigrants who tend to be much more recent arrivals. The age group distributions do not vary between the two European immigrant groups, with the 45-54 and 55-64 year old age cohorts accounting for 17% each, while the 65 years and over group constitutes a large 27% of the total. The elderly share is twice the national average.

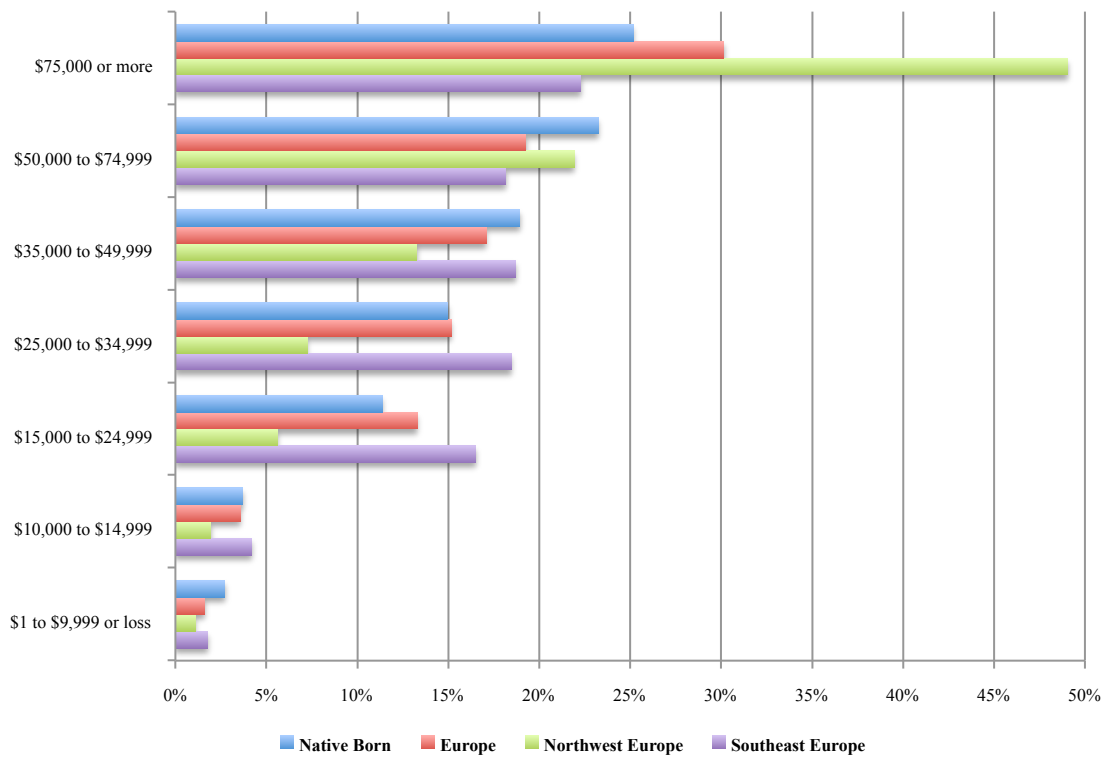
Males and females are split evenly for all European immigrants.

### Economics and Income

Europeans from Northwest Europe do better economically than their counterparts to the southeast. Almost half of Northwestern European immigrants make over \$75,000, almost twice the rate of the native-born (See Figure 35).

<sup>9</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S0503, B01003) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).

Figure 35. **European Foreign-born Earnings**



European immigrant men follow the pattern of higher earnings than women seen for other immigrant groups. The following table documents the difference in the two European groups. It is interesting to see that Northwestern European women have a similar income to that of Southeastern European men.

	Europe	Northwest Europe	Southeast Europe
Male	\$62,964	\$87,740	\$48,905
Female	\$38,722	\$48,568	\$35,122

Only 9 percent of European immigrants live at or below the poverty level. This is well below the national average and is partially attributable to an older population that is able to remain above poverty due to social security annual cost of living adjustments. More than 72 percent of all Europeans have incomes above 200 percent of poverty. This is 9 percentage points above that of the native-born.

European immigrants have a low labor force participation rate of 56 percent due to their older age structure. The unemployment rate for Northwestern Europeans (6 percent) is half that of Southeast Europeans (12 percent).

Figure 36. European Foreign-born Labor Force

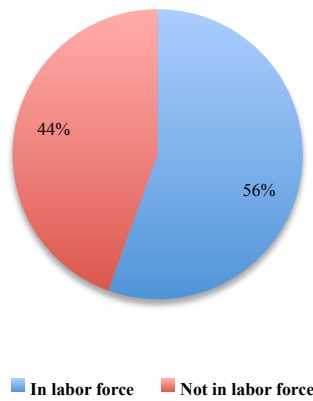
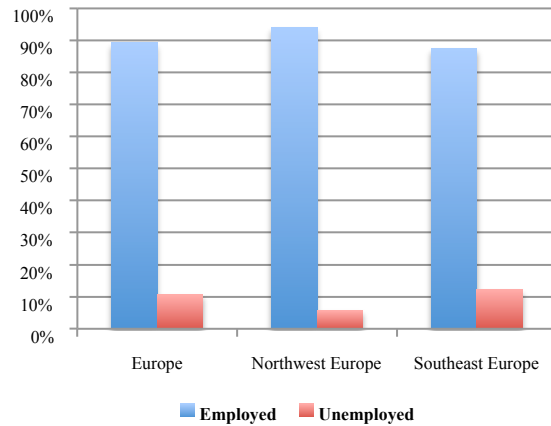


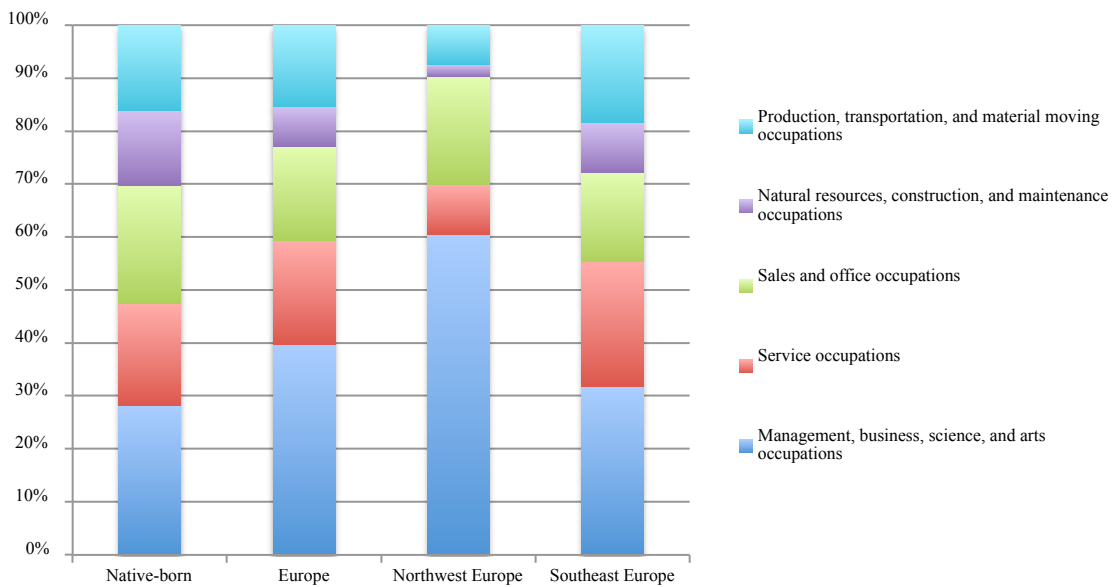
Figure 37. European Foreign-born Employment



The class of worker distribution for European workers is similar to that of the native-born: 86 percent are private and salaried workers, 8 percent are self-employed, 6 percent work in government jobs and less than 1 percent identify as unpaid family workers.

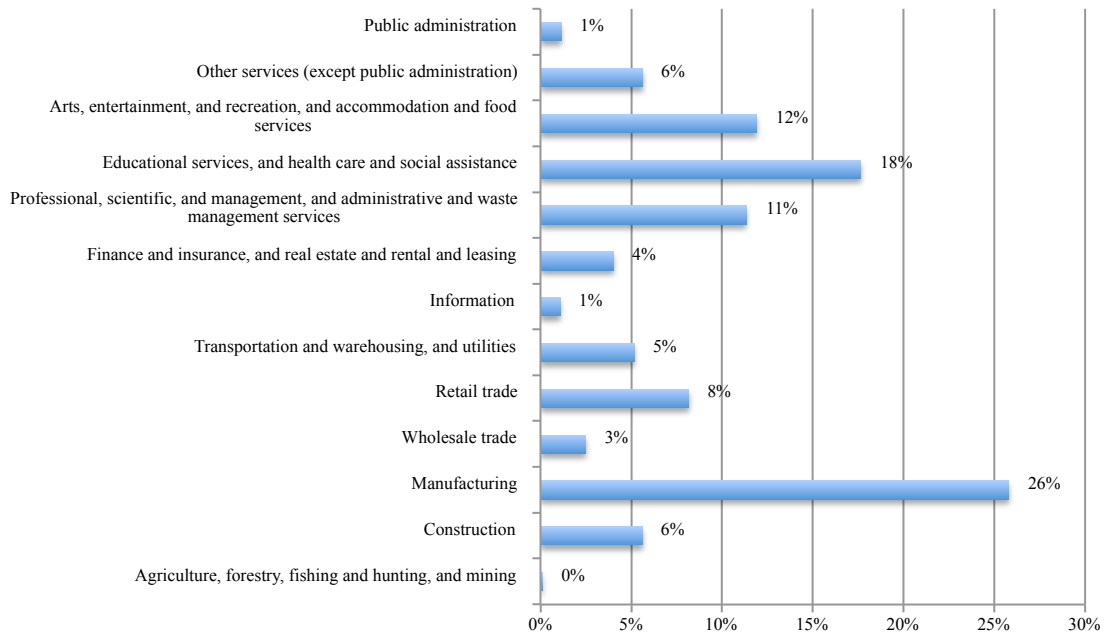
Europeans differ across regions in their occupational distribution. Northwesterners are more likely to be employed in “Management, business, science and art,” (60 vs. 32 percent), while the Southeastern Europeans dominate in manufacturing (18 vs. 7 percent)

Figure 38. European Foreign-born and Native-Born Occupations



While the occupations show variance, there is little, if any, difference in the industrial mix for the two groups. Therefore, Figure 39 provides a portrait of all European immigrants.

Figure 39. **European Foreign-born Occupation by Industry**



### Home Ownership

More than three quarters, 77 percent of all European immigrants are homeowners, 7 percentage points higher than the native-born population.

A significant majority of European immigrants pay less than 30 percent of their total income for their housing costs, regardless of whether they own or are renting.

Figure 40. **European Foreign-born Homeowner Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.**

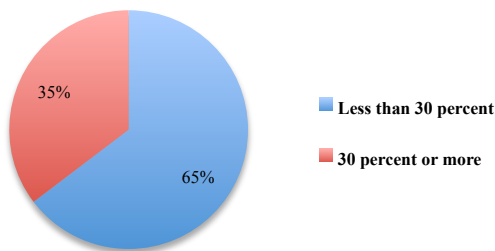
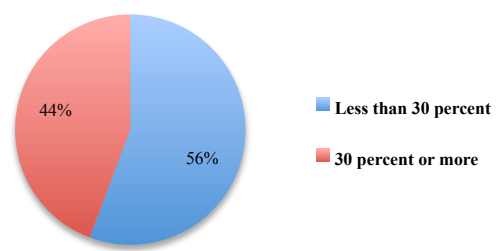


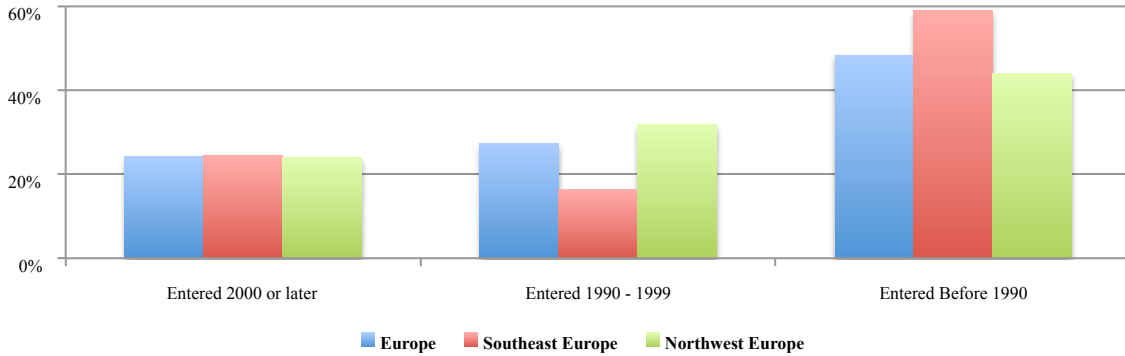
Figure 41. **European Foreign-born Renter Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.**



**Citizenship and Year of Entry**

Less than one quarter (24 percent) of all European immigrants entered the United States after the year 2000 (See Figure 42). Southeast Europeans have an earlier arrival pattern than immigrants from Northwest Europe.

Figure 42. **European Foreign-born by Year of Entry**



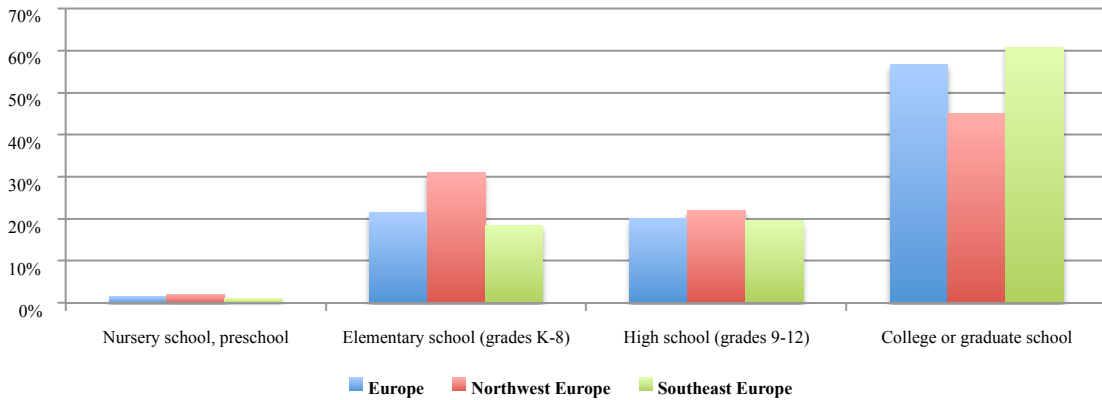
This earlier arrival pattern accounts for the higher rate of citizenship for Southeast Europeans.

	Europe	Northwest Europe	Southeast Europe
Citizenship Percentage	62%	51%	66%

**Education**

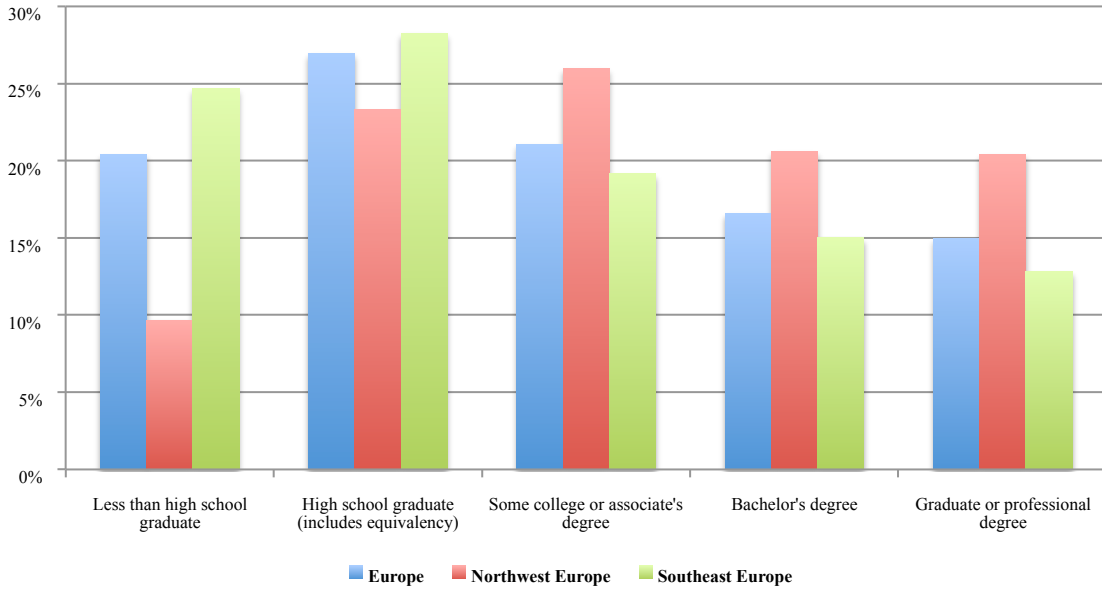
European school enrollment statistics illustrate the younger age distribution for Northwestern immigrant students, with 31 percent of their overall student population enrolled in elementary school. Southeastern Europe’s immigrant students trend older, with 61 percent of them enrolled in college or graduate school.

Figure 43. **School Enrollment For European Foreign-born Residents 3 Years of Age and Older**



Historically, however, Southeast Europe’s immigrants have lagged behind Northwest European immigrants in terms of higher education graduates. The only groups that Southeastern European immigrants hold a higher percentage of their populous are the ones that do not contain any education beyond high school. The graph below shows the details

Figure 44. **European Foreign-born Educational Attainment for People at least 25 years old**

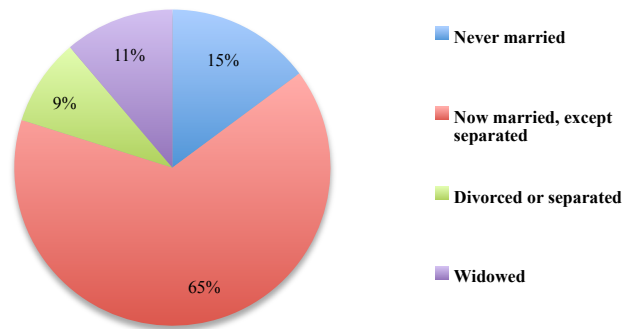


**Family and Language Ability**

Nearly three out of four (72 percent) of all European immigrants live in a married-couple family household. Almost two-thirds of immigrants 15 years and over are married, 15 percent never married, 11 percent widowed, and 9 percent divorced or separated.

Only 56 percent of the native-born population lives in married family households, and European immigrants are over 20 percentage points more likely to be married.

Figure 45. **European Foreign-born Marital Status**





The average Foreign-born European household consists of 2.5 persons, while their families average 3.1. Both averages mirror those for the native-born population.

Due to the high number of immigrants who arrived from English-speaking European countries, the difference between Northwest European immigrants and Southeastern immigrants is significant. In addition, Northwestern immigrants who speak a native tongue other than English judge their spoken English as much better than those from Southeastern Europe

Figure 46. **European Foreign-born Household Language**

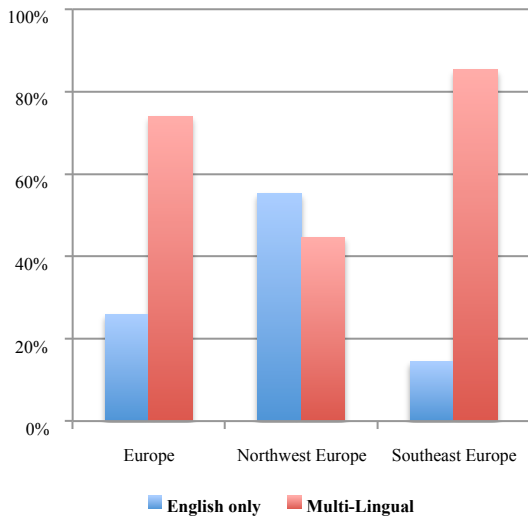
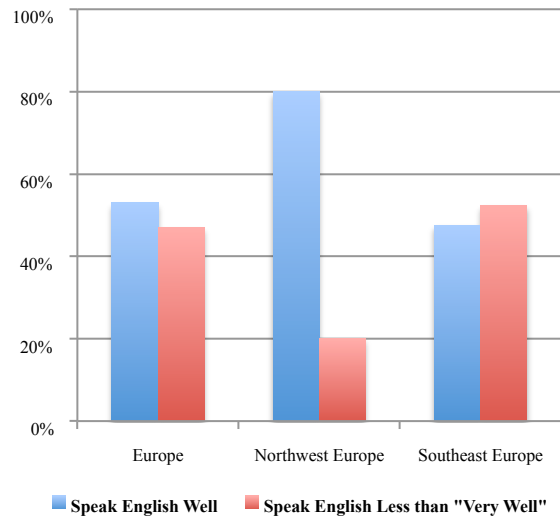
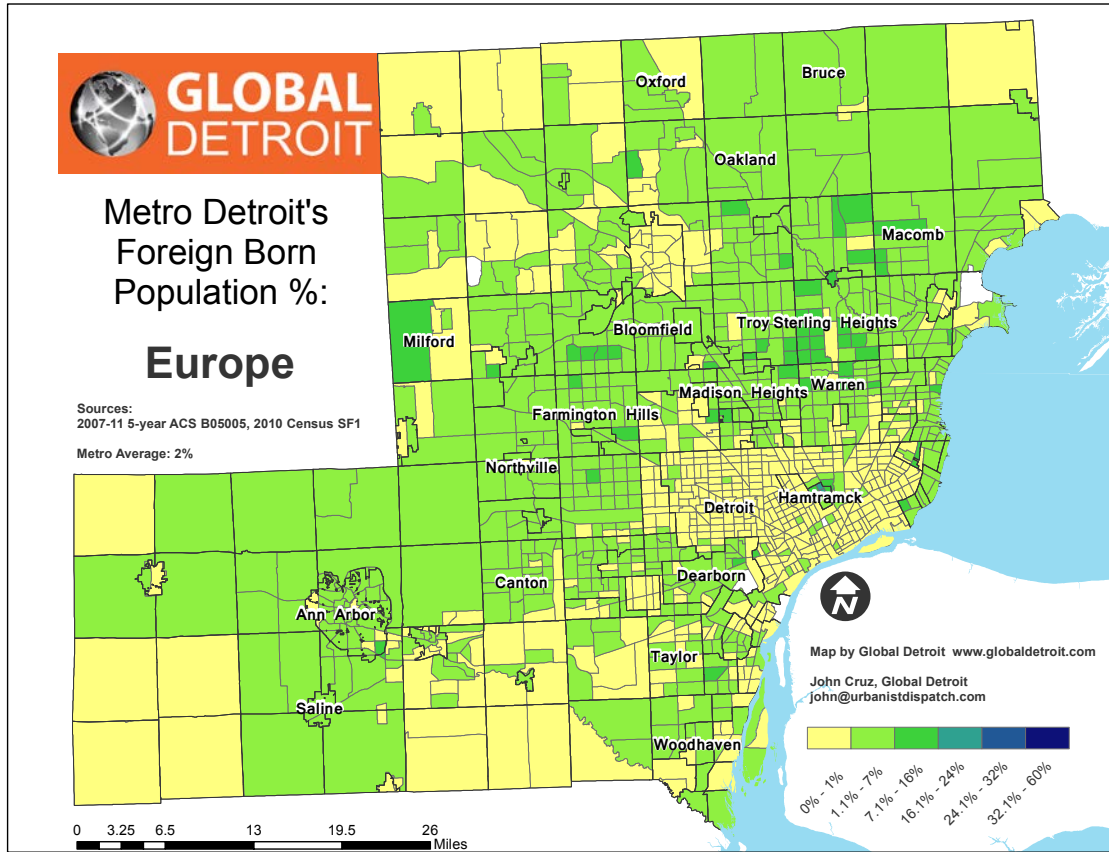


Figure 47. **European Foreign-born English Language Ability for Multi-Lingual Speakers**



Map 18. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Europe



## Metro Detroit’s African Immigrants

### Countries of Origin<sup>10</sup>

The data for African immigrants is not divided into regions. Rather, all African nations are grouped together.

### Populations

There are approximately 14,378 African immigrants in the metro Detroit area. This is the lowest number of any immigrant group by continent in metro Detroit, with five individual countries having larger metro area totals than all of Africa.

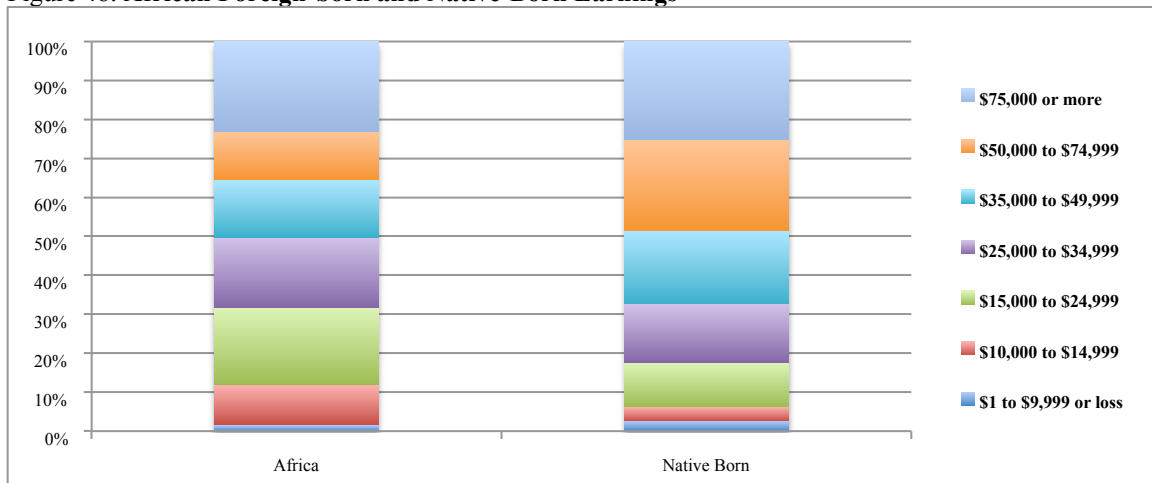
The population falling between 25 and 44 years of age accounts for 44 percent of all African immigrants. Nearly one-fifth are in the 45-54 year old cohort, and 14 percent are 18-24 years of age. Neither the youth nor the elderly account for more than 10 percent of the total.

African immigrants are more likely to be male, 58 to 42 percent.

### Economics and Income

The incomes of African immigrants trend lower than the native-born and are fairly evenly distributed across categories (See Figure 48). The largest share, 23 percent, is represented by the \$75,000 and over category and is closely followed by the \$15,000 to \$24,999 and the \$25,000 to \$34,999 groups, each of which accounts for about 20% of the total.

Figure 48. African Foreign-born and Native-Born Earnings



<sup>10</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B01003), the 2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (B05006, S0504) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).

Earnings for males and females show a much lower disparity than other immigrant groups, with African males earning \$41,413 per year on average and females earning \$37,637. With almost a quarter of all Africans earning over \$75,000 per year, the income gap of African immigrants in the Detroit area lies not between the sexes, but between the classes.

More than three of five (64 percent) of African Foreign-born residents have incomes over 200% of the poverty level, a rate identical to that of the native-born. Approximately 14% of all African immigrants are living in poverty, a rate 6 percentage points less than the native-born.

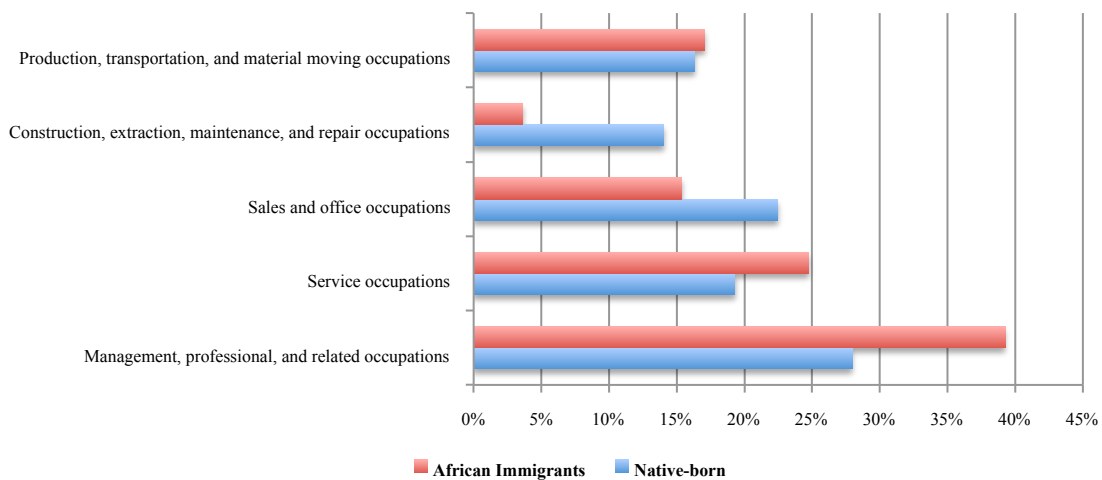
Labor force participation for African immigrants is at a relatively high 68 percent, as is their unemployment rate of 12 percent.

The class of worker distribution for African immigrants is rather typical of other immigrant groups (See table below).

Private wages and salary workers	Government workers	Self Employed workers	Unpaid family workers
88%	9%	3%	<1%

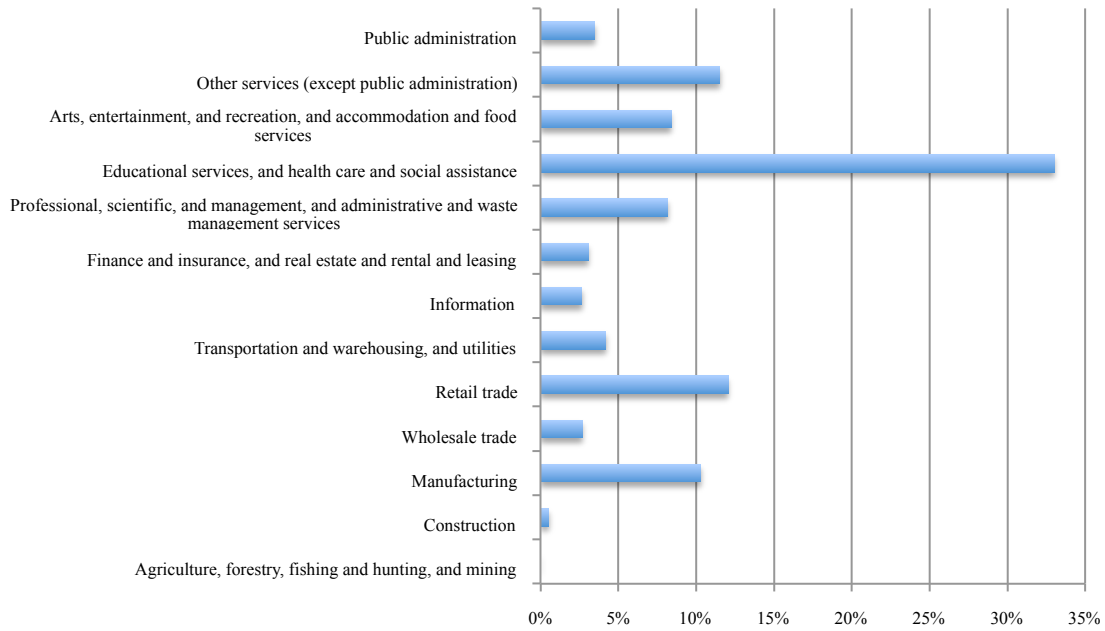
The occupational mix for Foreign-born Africans is quite diverse, with close to 40 percent working in Management and professional occupations, 25 percent in service jobs and 17 percent in the production and transportation of goods. Each is higher than the rate for the native-born population. African immigrants are almost nonexistent in sales occupations.

Figure 49. African Foreign-born and Native-Born Occupations



The industries in which African immigrants work are also well distributed, with the exception of educational services, health care and social assistance occupations that employ one-third of the total.

Figure 50. African Foreign-born Occupations by Industry



### Home Ownership

Home ownership is relatively low for African immigrants at 56 percent. This is 14 percentage points lower than the native-born.

The housing burden for African immigrants is quite high with over half (52 percent) of both owners and renters paying 30% or more of their total income towards housing.

Figure 51. African Foreign-born Homeowner Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings

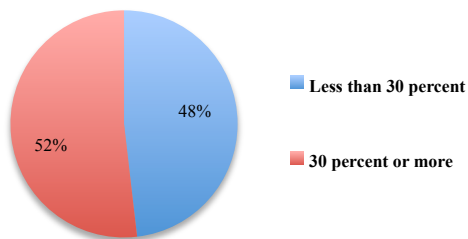
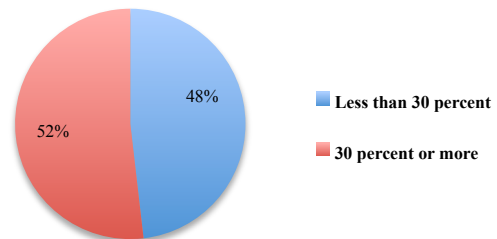


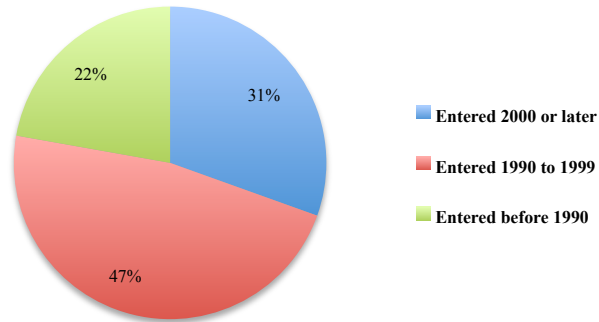
Figure 52. African Foreign-born Renter Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings



**Citizenship and Year of Entry**

Almost half (47 percent of all African immigrants arrived in the United States during the 1990s, with 22 percent entering before 1990 and 31 percent since the year 2000.

Figure 53. African Foreign-born by Year of Entry

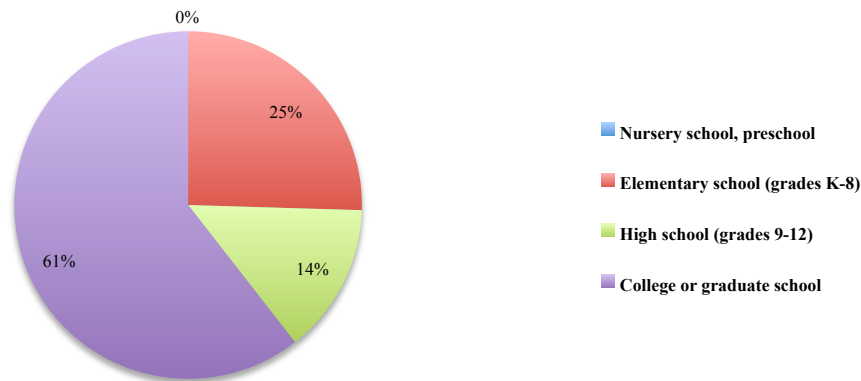


Only two of five African immigrants are citizens, a number that is slightly lower than other continental groups as a result of the large share who are relatively recent arrivals.

**Education**

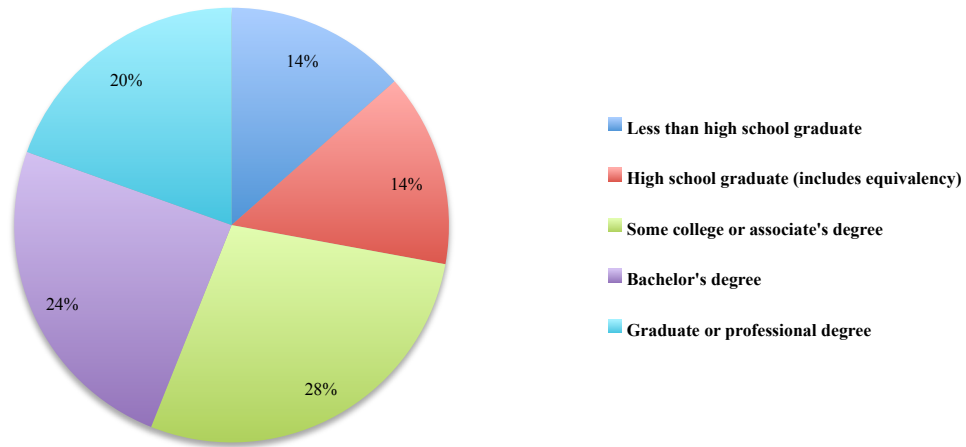
African immigrant students trend older, with over 60percent enrolled in a college or graduate school program (See Figure 54). A quarter of them are in elementary school, and around 14 percent are high school students.

Figure 54. School Enrollment For African Foreign-born Residents 3 Years of Age and Older



While a relatively high 14 percent of African immigrants have not completed high school, a significant share (44 percent) have completed at least a bachelor’s degree (See Figure 55).

Figure 55. African Foreign-born Educational Attainment for Persons 25 years Of Age or Older

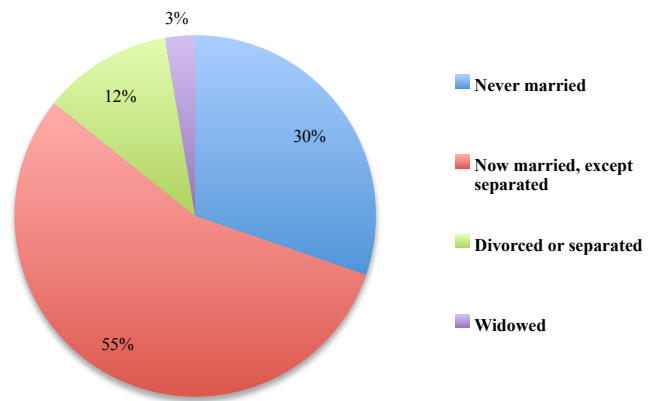


### Family and Language Ability

Three of five (59 percent) of all African immigrants live in a married-couple family household. Slightly over half of those 15 years and over are married, with 30 percent never having been married and 12 percent reporting divorce or separation.

The average African immigrant household contains 3.0 persons, while families average 3.7 persons. Both are considerably larger than those of the native-born population.

Figure 56. African Foreign-born Marital Status



Almost 75 percent of African immigrant households speak a language other than English (See Figure 57). Of those who do, Figure 58 shows that two-thirds claim to speak English “well.”

Figure 57. African Foreign-born Household Language

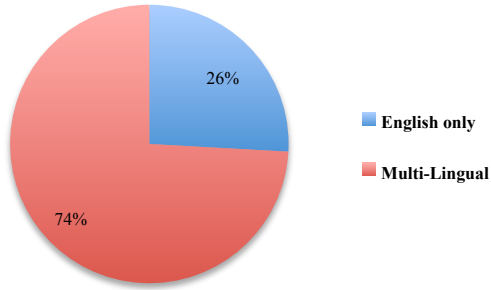
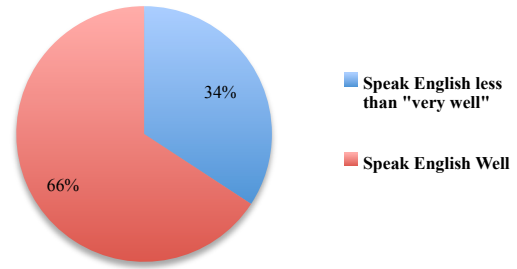
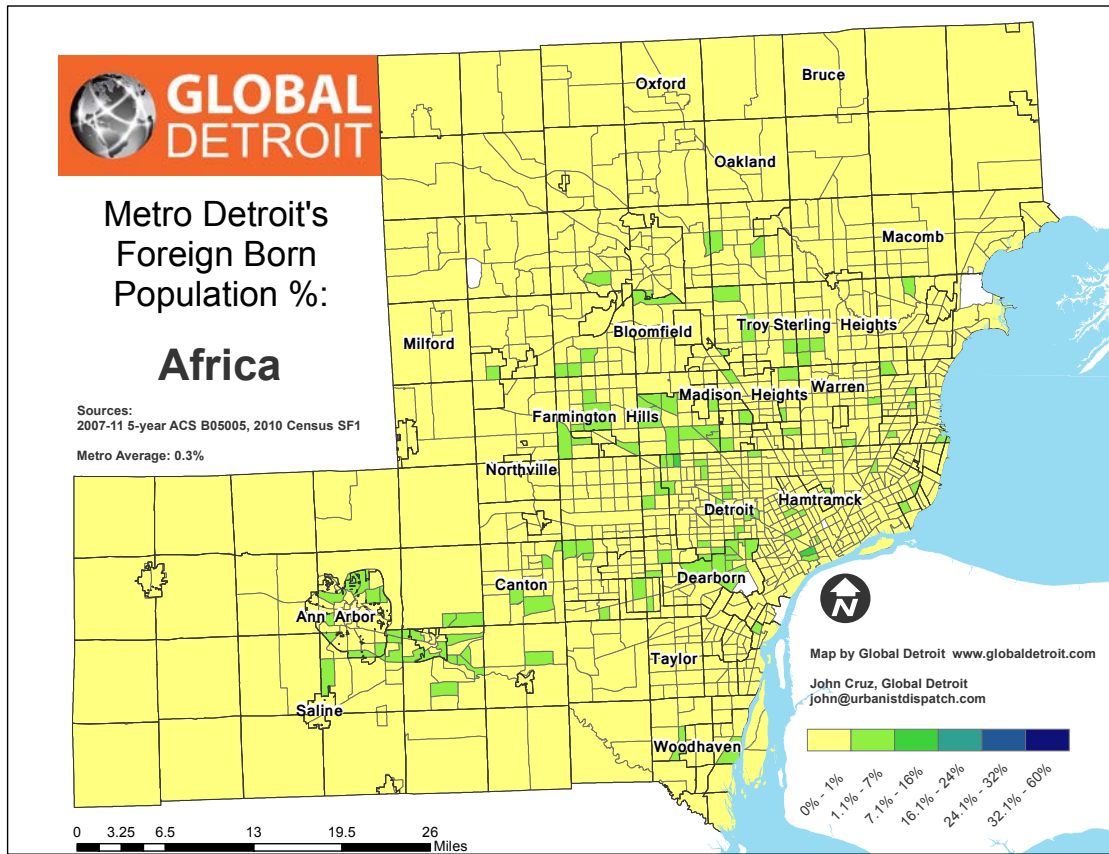


Figure 58. African Foreign-born English Language Ability for Multi-Lingual Speakers





Map 19. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Africa



## **Metro Detroit's Oceanian Immigrants**

### **Countries of Origin<sup>11</sup>**

Oceania represents the continent of Australia, as well as surrounding tropical islands of the Pacific Ocean and neighboring nations that are not part of Asia, including New Zealand, Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Oceanian countries are grouped together for presentation purposes.

### **Populations**

There are approximately 1,000 Oceanian immigrants in the metro Detroit area. This is the smallest number for any region of Foreign-born residents in the four county metro area.

Age data are not available for Oceanian immigrants due to the small population size.

Oceanian immigrant females outnumber males 59 to 41 percent.

### **Economics and Income**

Income data for Oceanian immigrants are not available either. We know that only 43 percent of all Foreign-born Oceanians (16 years and over) are in the labor force but are unable to document their employment rate or the occupations and industries within which they are employed.

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<sup>11</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5 -Year Estimates (B01003), the 2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (B05006, S0504) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).

### Home Ownership

Oceanians have a high rate of home ownership at 78 percent (See Figure 59), higher than the native-born share of 70 percent. While we do not have available data for renters, we do know that the homeowner cost burden is quite low with only 18 percent of owners spending more than 30% of their total income on housing.

Figure 59. **Oceanian Housing Tenure**

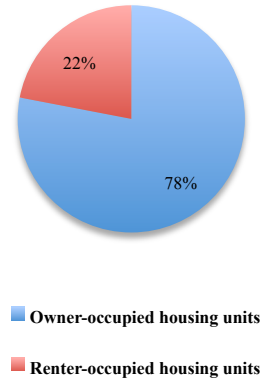
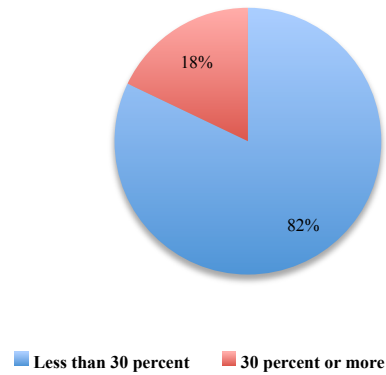


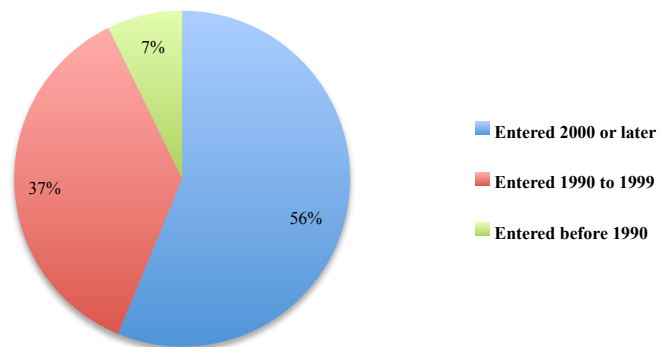
Figure 60. **Oceanian Foreign-born Homeowner Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.**



### Citizenship and Year of Entry

While we know that 48 percent of all Oceanian immigrants are citizens, the data on their year of entry is incomplete. Year of entry data are available only for immigrants who are not citizens. As can be seen in Figure 61, more than half (56 percent of this group entered after 2000. The inclusion of citizens would, no doubt, increase the pre-2000 arrival percentages and lower the post-2000 share.

Figure 61. **Oceanian Foreign-born Non-Citizen by Year of Entry**

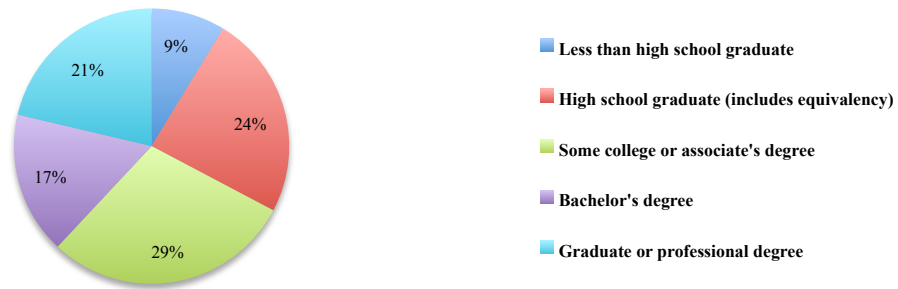


### Education

School enrollment of Oceanian immigrants is not available due to the small sample size.

Data are available, however, regarding the educational attainment of Oceanian immigrants 25 years of age and older. Figure 62 illustrates that 38 percent have completed at least a bachelor's degree and another 29 percent have college experience. This level of educational attainment is a typical characteristic of Metro Detroit immigrants.

Figure 62. **Oceanian Foreign-born Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years of Age and Over**

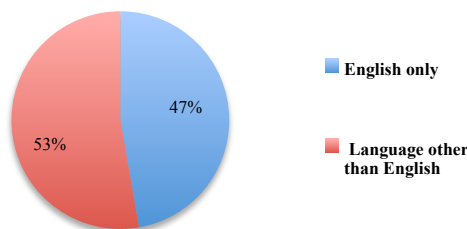


### Family and Language Ability

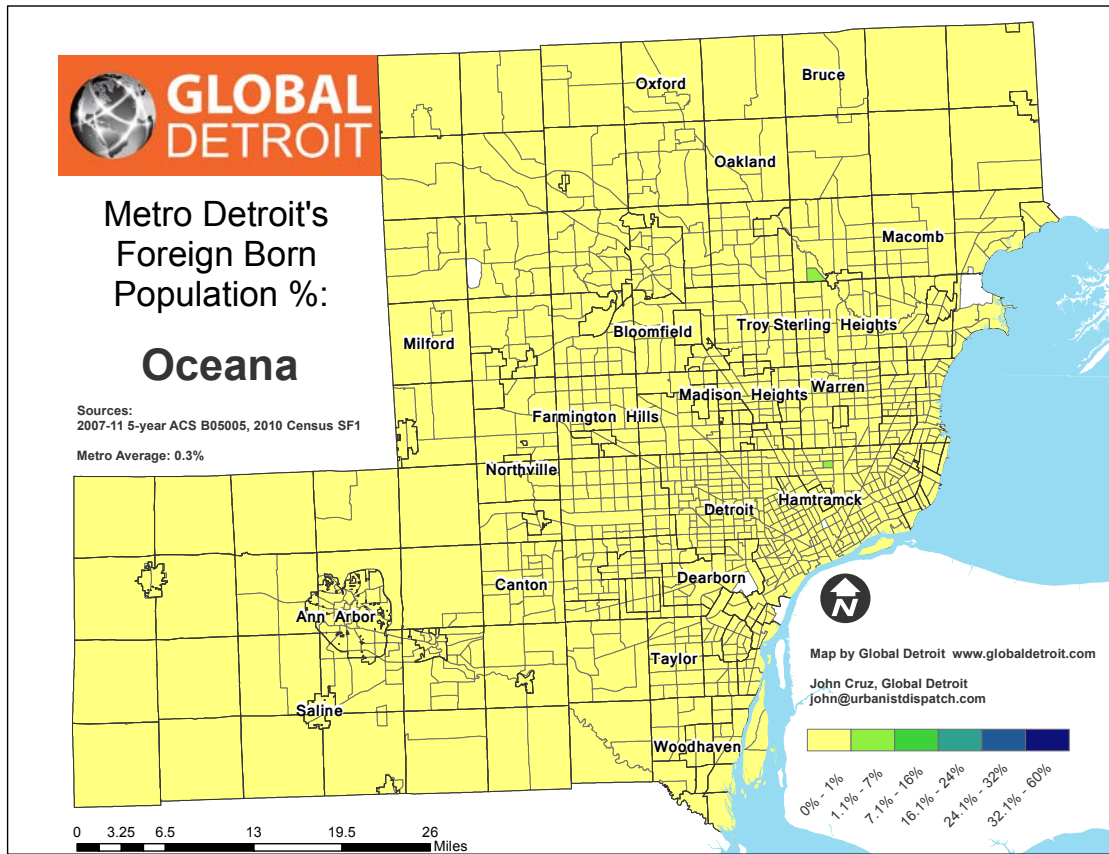
More than half (53 percent) of all Oceanian immigrants live in married-couple family households. The average Oceanian household is comprised of 2.8 people, while an average family contains 3.1 persons.

Forty-seven percent of Oceanian households speak English only. In those households where another language is spoken, all rate their ability to speak English as "well" or "very well."

Figure 63. **Oceanian Foreign-born Household Language**



Map 20. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Oceania



## Metro Detroit’s Northern American Immigrants

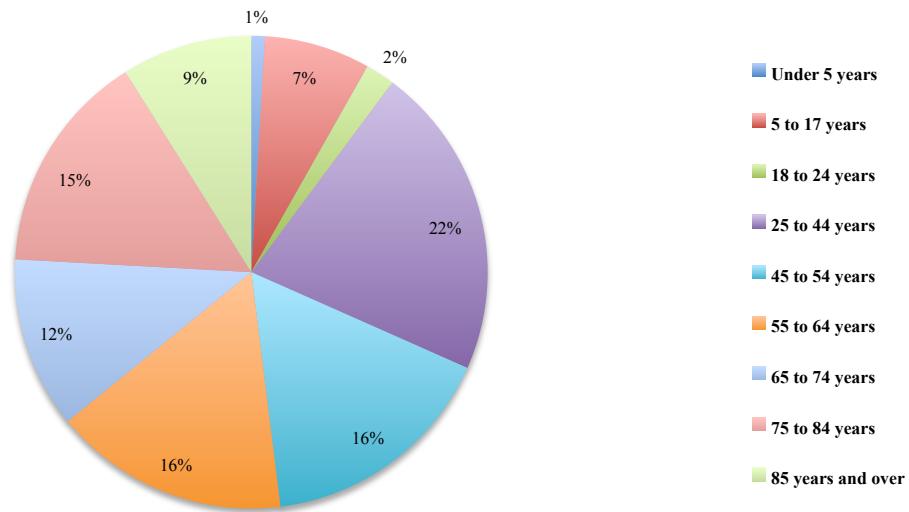
### Countries of Origin<sup>12</sup>

The data available tells us that Northern America is comprised of 24,340 immigrants from Canada and 157 immigrants from “Other Northern American” countries (the term “Other North American” is not explicitly defined). For all intents and purposes, you can consider the statistics in this section to focus on Canadian immigrants.

### Populations

There are approximately 25,316 Northern American immigrants in the 4-county area. They are evenly distributed among age cohorts, with 10% being under 25 and 24% being over 65 (See Figure 64).

Figure 64. Northern American Foreign-born Age Group Representation



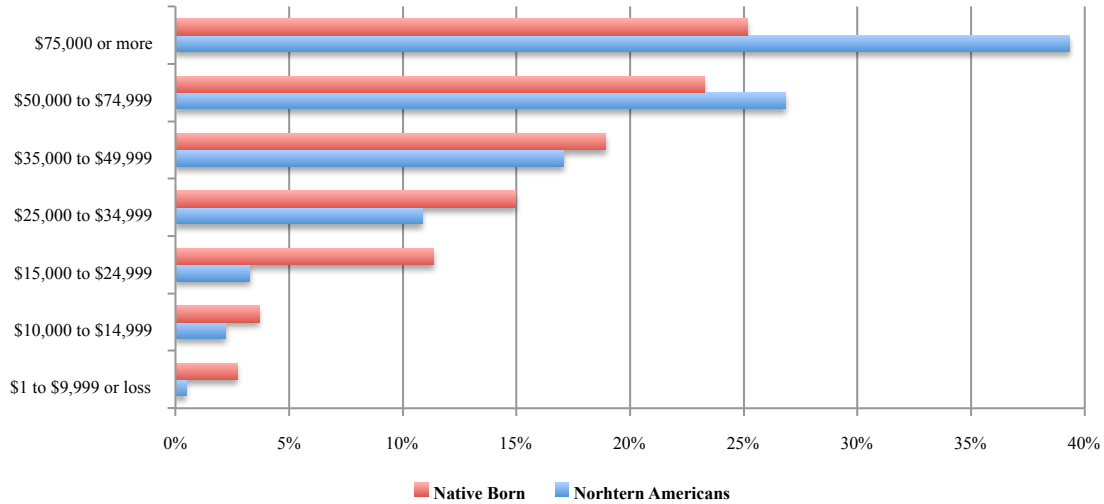
Females outnumber males 56 to 44 percent.

<sup>12</sup> Data for this section comes from the 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B01003), the 2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (S0504) and the 2010 United States Census (SF1).

**Economics and Income**

Close to 40 percent of Northern American residents make over \$75,000 per year, while another 25 percent earn between \$50,000 and \$75,000. As can be seen in Figure 65, these rates are considerably higher than those of the native-born.

Figure 65. Northern American Foreign-born and Native-Born Earnings



The median annual earnings for males, \$71,306, is almost one third higher than those of females (\$53,723).

Four out of five (83 percent) of Northern American immigrants earn 200% or more of the poverty level, well above the 63 percent rate of the native-born, and only 6 percent are in poverty.

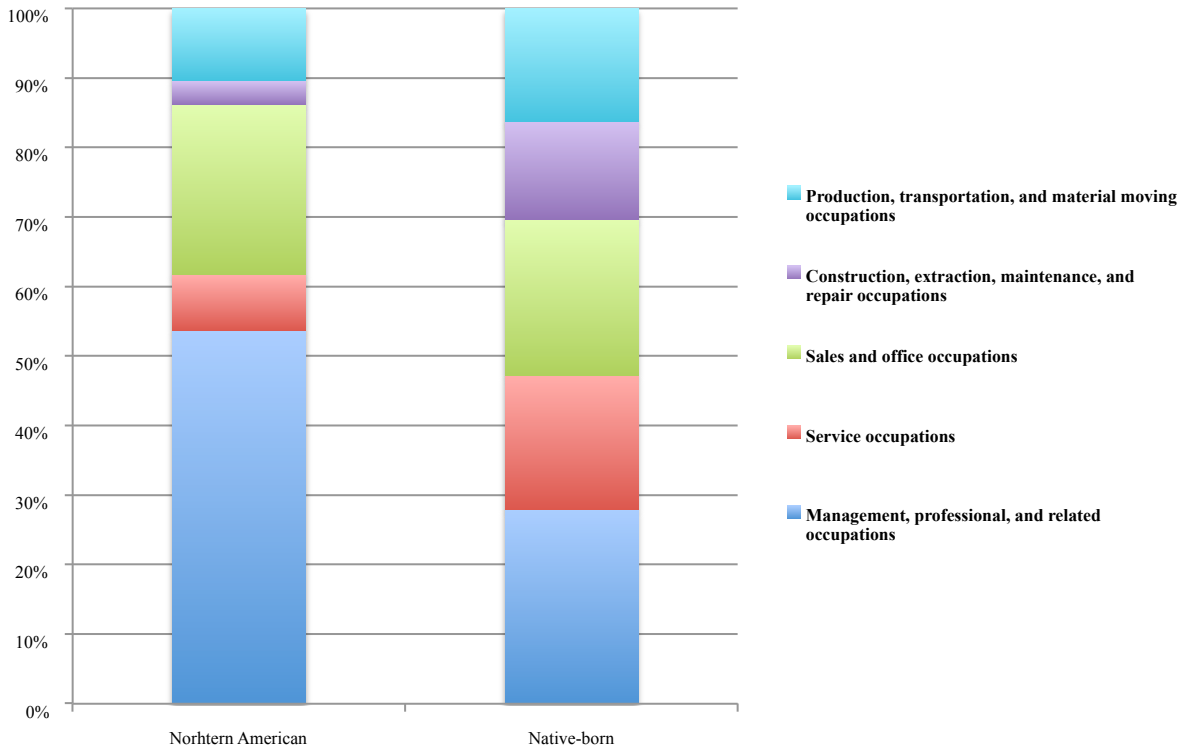
Just over half (52 percent) of Foreign-born Northern Americans 16 years and over are in the labor force. The high share of population 65 years and over (36 percent) is a large contributor to this. Of those in the labor force, however, the unemployment rate is a very low at 5%.

The distribution of workers by class follows a distribution that mirrors the population as a whole.

Private wages and salary workers	Government workers	Self Employed workers	Unpaid family workers
85%	8%	7%	0%

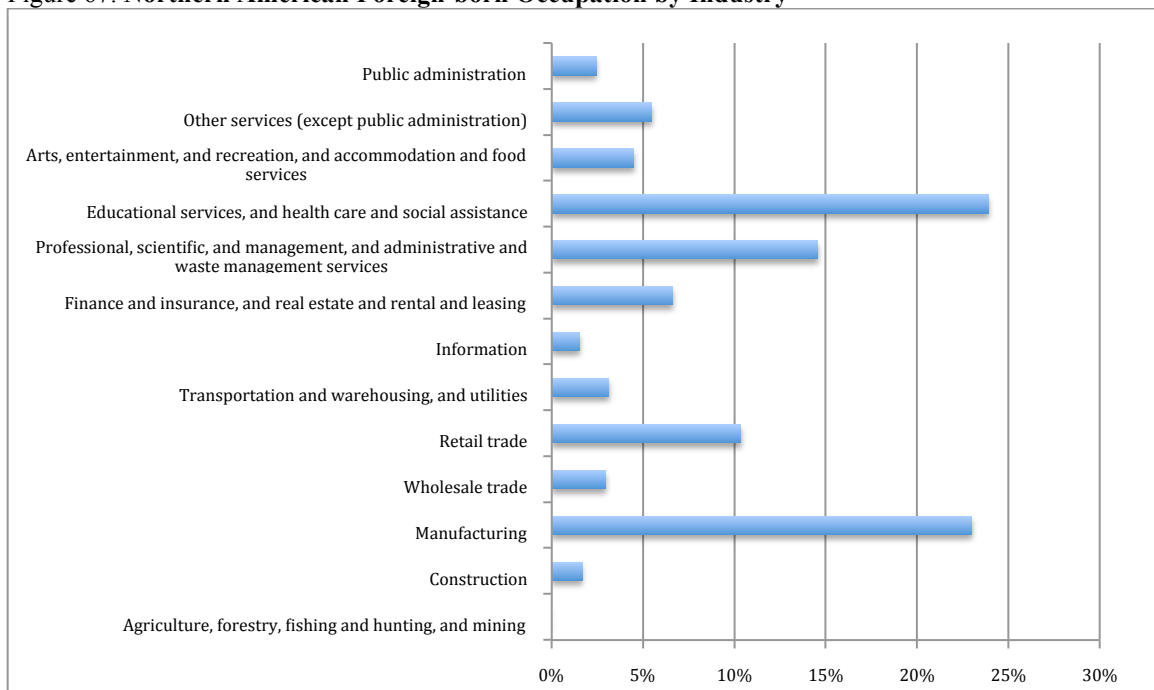
Over half of Northern Americans work in management and professional occupations. The next largest group is sales and office jobs at 25 percent, with all others at 10 percent or lower.

Figure 66. Northern American Foreign-born and Native-Born Occupations



Northern Americans work in a diverse array of occupations, with the largest groups being education, healthcare, manufacturing, and professional or scientific services.

Figure 67. Northern American Foreign-born Occupation by Industry





**Home Ownership**

Home ownership for Northern Americans (79 percent) is above the native-born of 70 percent. One-third (33 percent) of those who own their own homes spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing costs. Half of all renters experience a housing cost burden.

Figure 68. Northern American Foreign-born Homeowner Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.

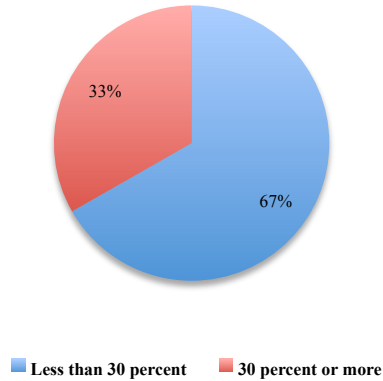
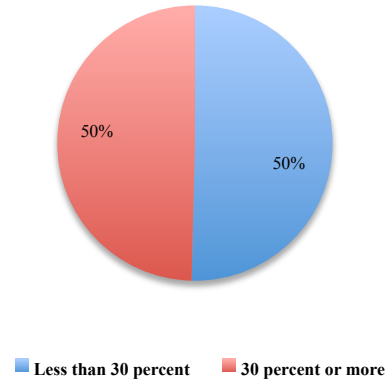


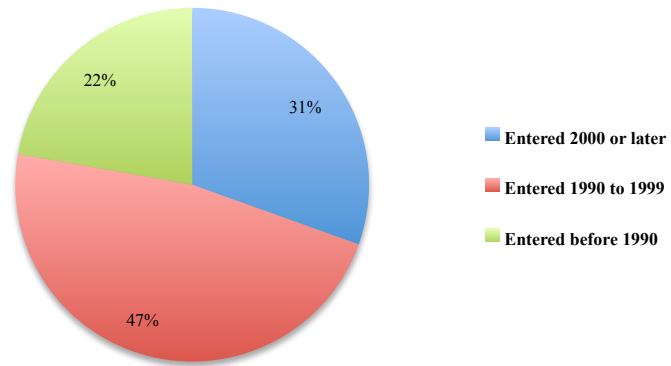
Figure 69. Northern American Foreign-born Renter Housing Costs as a Percentage of Earnings.



**Citizenship and Year of Entry**

Figure 70 shows that close to half of all Northern American immigrants arrived in the United States during the 1990s, with 22 percent entering before and 31 percent since the year 2000.

Figure 70. Northern American Foreign-born by Year of Entry

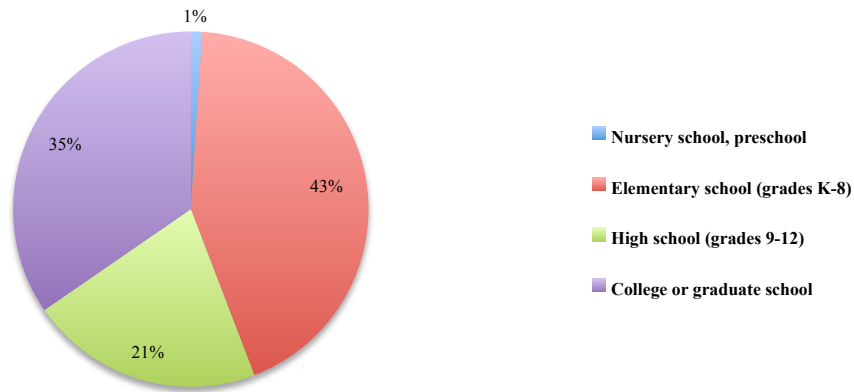


Half (52 percent) of all Northern American immigrants have citizenship.

**Education**

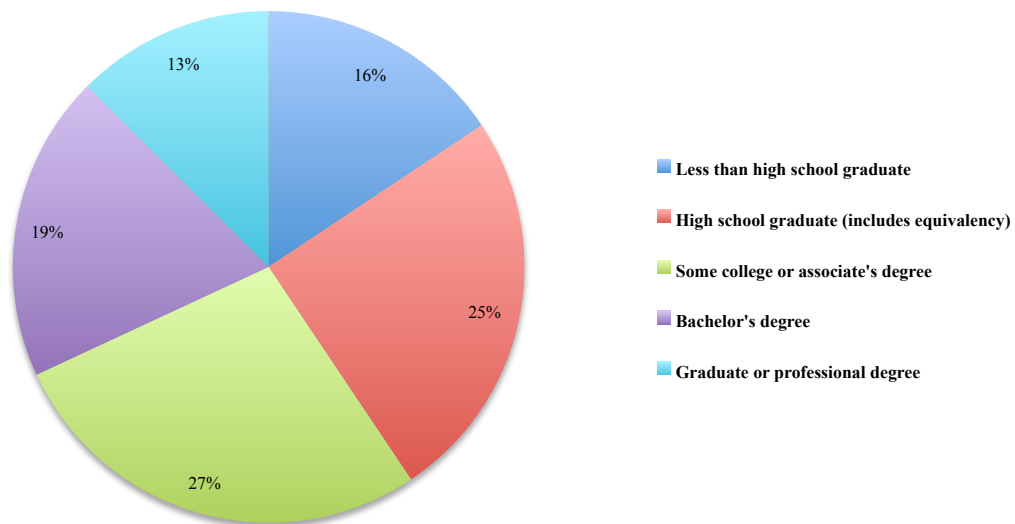
Northern American immigrant students trend rather, with close to two-thirds of them being in high or elementary. The rate of college or graduate school attendance is 35 percent.

Figure 71. **School Enrollment For Northern American Foreign-born Residents 3 Years of Age and Older**



The educational attainment of Northern American immigrants is rather dispersed, with 16 percent not finishing high school and 32 percent with at least a bachelor's degree. More than a quarter report having some college experience. It is likely that many of the “some college or associate’s” degree earners have received technical training.

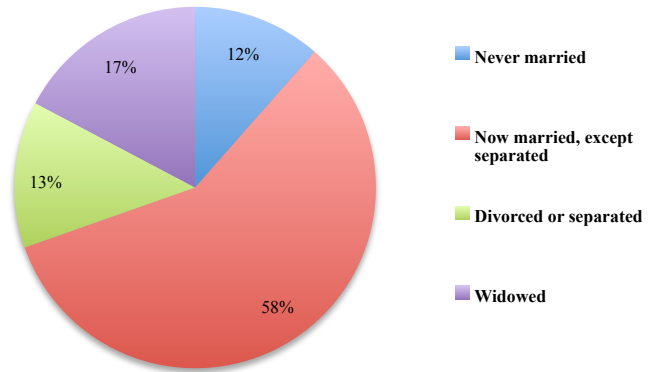
Figure 72. **Northern American Foreign-born Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years of Age or Older**



**Family and Language Ability**

Sixty five percent of all Northern American Foreign-born residents live in a married-couple family household, higher than the 56 percent rate of native-born residents. Almost three of five (58 percent) of those 15 years and older are married, and only 12 percent have never been married (See Figure 73). Nearly one in five are widowed, a rate 10 percentage points above that of the native-born.

Figure 73. Northern American Foreign-born Marital Status



The average household size is 2.1 people, and the average family size is 2.9. This is lower than the native-born numbers of 2.5 and 3.1, respectively.

Over 85 percent of these immigrants live in households that are English only. Of the 15 percent who speak a language other than English, 84 percent feel that they speak English very well. The bottom line is that less than three percent of Northern American immigrants feel that they do not speak English well.

Figure 74. Northern American Foreign-born Household Language

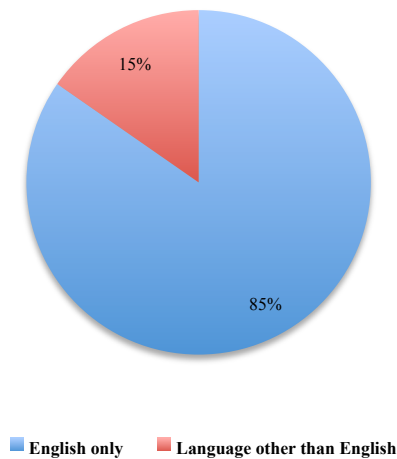
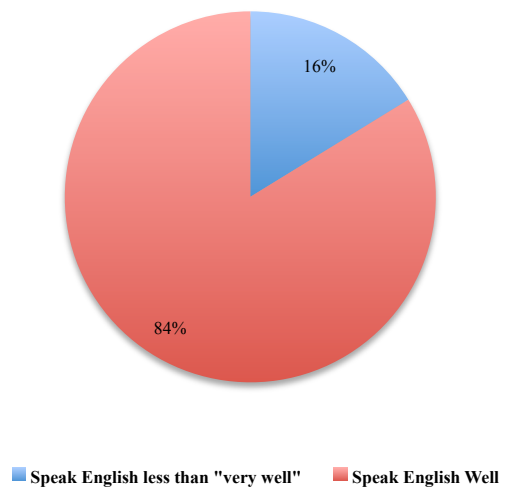
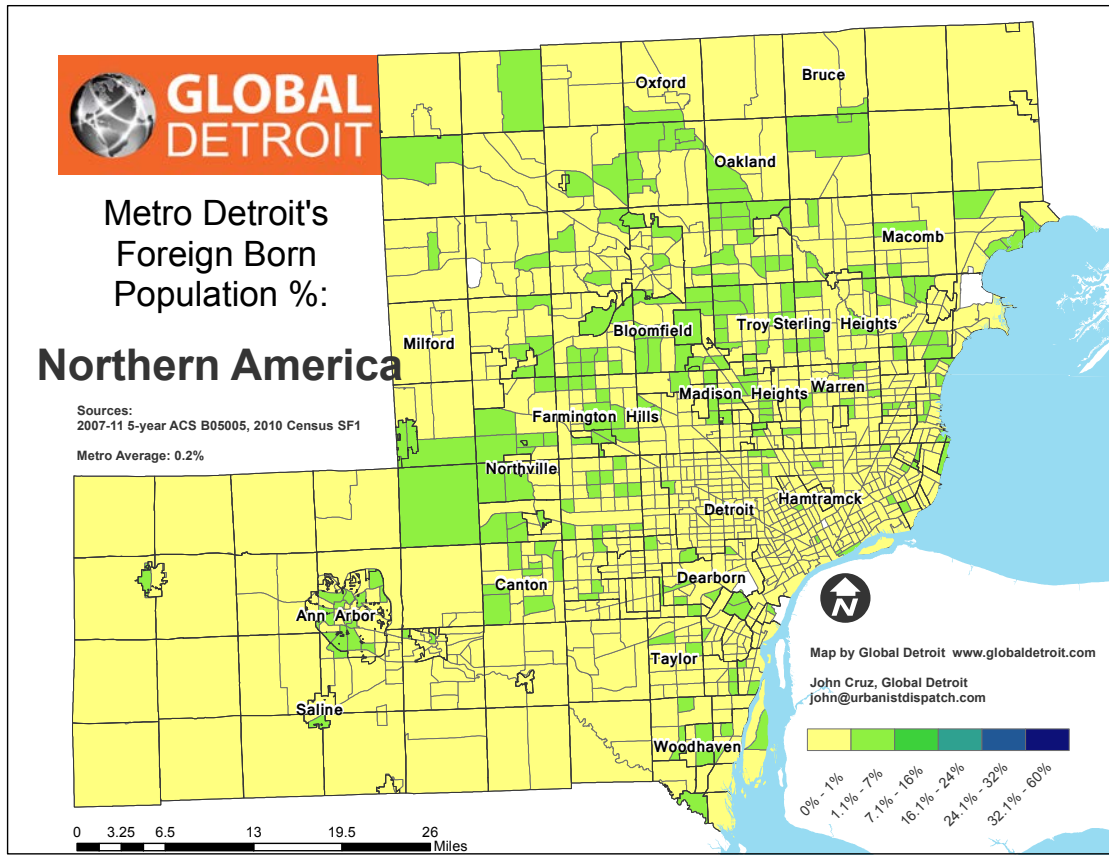


Figure 75. Northern American Foreign-born English Language Ability for Multi-Lingual Speakers



Map 21. Percentage of Foreign-born Residents in Metro Detroit Who Were Born in Northern America



## Conclusion

The robust community of some 400,000 Foreign-born residents is comprised of representatives from all over the globe who have chosen to make the Detroit region their home. They are your friends and neighbors, your co-workers and the parents you sit next to at piano recitals and high school graduation ceremonies. They not only bring connections to countries throughout the world, they possess a wide variety of skills and apply them across all occupations and industries. In fact, immigrants have created many of the businesses that made our region an economic powerhouse during the last century, and are continuing to create the businesses that will build our future. The influence that immigrants exert in this region is demonstrated by the fact that if you do not have a parent or grandparent who came to this area to seek a better life, you almost certainly know someone who does. The Foreign-born, while comprising only eight percent of the region's population, exert an influence well beyond their numbers.

Metro Detroit has an incredibly diverse immigrant population. Not only are many corners of the globe represented, but also they are represented in an impressive breadth. The top 10 countries of Foreign-born origin represent 55 percent of the total, while the top 20 countries account for 76 percent. This broad base of diverse customs, foods and opinions contributes a wealth of new ideas to Detroit, which help to strengthen our economy and communities.

Metro Detroit is home to immigrant populations in urban, suburban, exurban, and rural areas. From the Latin American immigrants in southwest Washtenaw County to the Asian immigrants in Northern Macomb and all the communities in between, the Foreign-born population comes in all varieties and lives in all communities. Immigrant communities, while concentrated in certain respects, still tend to spread, like the population as a whole, widely throughout the region. While many people picture ethnic enclaves such as "Little Italy" in New York or San Francisco's "Chinatown," Detroit, with few exceptions, tends to reflect the aspect of the "melting pot." The Detroit area certainly has areas that contain a high number of Foreign-born residents, such as Dearborn and Southwest Detroit, where the culture is infused throughout the community. However, in most areas our immigrants tend to be invisible as they blend in with native-born Michiganders.

Our immigrant community is a tremendous economic and social asset as we strive to make Metro Detroit and Michigan more competitive. While we may have a lower Foreign-born population share than other metropolitan areas in the Great Lakes region, we are still talking about 400,000 residents who have chosen this area to live, raise families and build an economic future. This is an extremely potent base to build upon for our future.