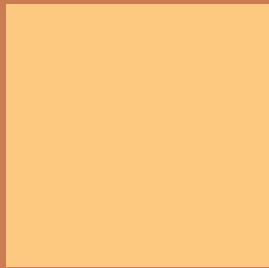
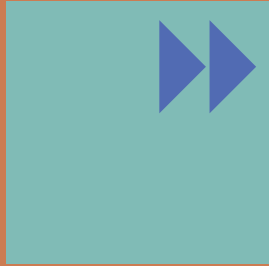
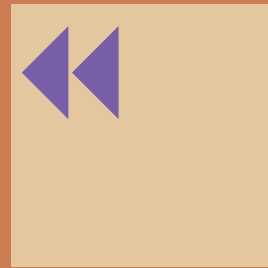


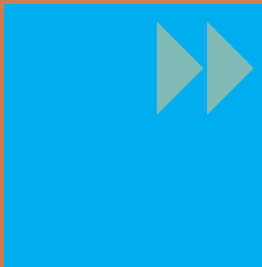
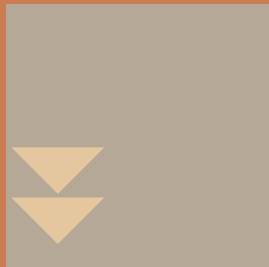
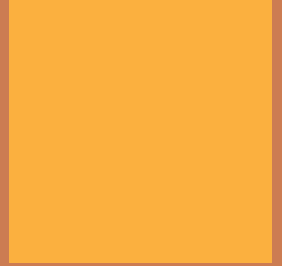
NEW AMERICANS ON LONG ISLAND



Half of
Long Island
immigrants
work in white-
collar jobs



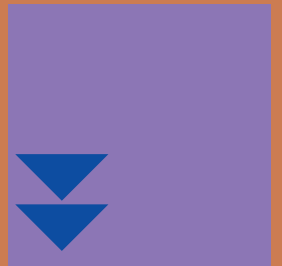
Unauthorized
immigrants
work in retail,
child care,
construction,
and more



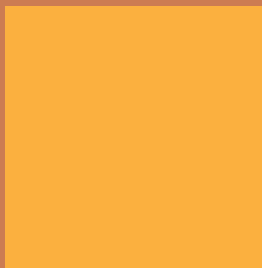
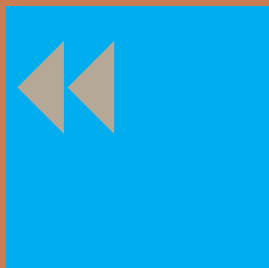
Family income
for most
immigrants on
Long Island is
over
\$80,000/year



Immigrants
earn
1/4 to 1/3 less
than U.S.-born
workers



Nearly a quarter
of Long Island
small business
owners are
immigrants



Like U.S.-born
residents,
Long Island
immigrants
pay a lot in
property taxes

A Vital Fifth of the Economy



FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE

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New Americans on Long Island: A Vital Fifth of the Economy

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The statements made and views expressed are solely the responsibility of the Fiscal Policy Institute.

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New Americans on Long Island: A Vital Fifth of the Economy takes a comprehensive look at the economic role of immigrants on Long Island.

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Executive Summary

There are 526,000 immigrants living on Long Island, making up 18 percent of the region's population and 20 percent—one fifth—of the economic output of Long Islanders, according to the Fiscal Policy Institute's analysis of the most recent data available from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2013. This is up from 16 percent of population and 17 percent of economic output in 2009.

While the national debates are dominated by discussion of immigrants from Mexico—who make up 28 percent of immigrants in the country as a whole—on Long Island, the mixture of immigrants is quite different. People born in El Salvador make up 14 percent of the island's immigrant population, the largest single group, followed by people born in India (seven percent), the Dominican Republic (four percent), and Jamaica, Haiti, Ecuador, and Italy (all at four percent). *Throughout this study, "immigrants" indicates people living in the United States who were born in another country—see box on p. 9.*

Most immigrants on Long Island are not Latino—41 percent of immigrants are Hispanic or Latino. It is worth noting, as well, that most Latinos are not immigrants—many Latinos living on Long Island were born in Puerto Rico (and are thus U.S. citizens by birth) or are second or third generation immigrants. Fifty-five percent of Latinos were born in the United States, and 45 percent were born in another country.

Among the half-million immigrants on Long Island are roughly 98,000 unauthorized immigrants—48,000 in Nassau and 50,000 in Suffolk. About half

(47 percent) of unauthorized immigrants on Long Island come from Central America, especially El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Another 16 percent come from South America, 14 percent from Asia, and nine percent from Mexico. These estimates of unauthorized immigrants are tabulated by FPI based on an analysis by the Migration Policy Institute.

Well over half of immigrants live in families making over \$80,000 per year

Economically, immigrants on Long Island are faring comparatively well, although it may not always look that way to other Long Islanders.

Sixty-one percent of immigrants on Long Island live in families making over \$80,000 per year—47 percent in families making between \$80,000 and \$199,999, and another 14 percent in families making \$200,000 or more. Among U.S.-born Long Islanders the figures are higher still. Seventy-two percent live in families making more than \$80,000, 52 percent in the \$80,000 to \$199,999 range, and an additional 20 percent above that.

At the lower end of the income ladder, 16 percent of immigrants live in families earning less than \$40,000, compared to 10 percent of U.S.-born families.

Median income for immigrant families on Long Island is \$97,000. By national standards, that is quite high—the overall median in the United States is \$64,000. However, Nassau and Suffolk are among the most affluent counties in the country. By local standards immigrants are doing only moderately well—the median for Long Island families with no immigrant adults is \$119,000.

The Long Island economy is closely linked to the economy of New York City, with commuters playing a big part in supporting the area's high standard of living. FPI's 2011 edition of this report found that one in five workers living on Long Island commute off of the island to work—20 percent of U.S.-born workers and an even higher share, 27 percent, of immigrants.

Long Island immigrants are more widely spread across the economic spectrum than is generally recognized. More than half (51 percent) work in white-collar jobs, and the rest work in blue-collar jobs, service jobs, or farming, fishing, and forestry jobs. But, this varies considerably by country of birth. Just a fifth (19 percent) of immigrants from El Salvador work in white-collar jobs, for example, as do about a third of immigrants from the Dominican Republic. By contrast, about half of immigrants from Philippines (55 percent), Haiti (53 percent), and Jamaica (51 percent) work in white-collar jobs, as do more than three quarters of those India (82 percent). As a comparison point: a little less than three quarters (71 percent) of U.S.-born workers on Long Islanders hold white-collar jobs.

Unauthorized immigrants are, unsurprisingly, generally in jobs with low wages, but they work across a wider range of industries than is commonly understood. Areas of particular concentration include construction, food services, retail, and work in private households. Some small number of unauthorized workers, mostly visa-overstayers, work in higher-wage technical and professional jobs.

Economic Contribution of Immigrants

Around the United States, the immigrant share of population matches closely the immigrant share of economic output. On

Long Island, that share is actually somewhat higher, despite the fact that immigrants tend to work in somewhat lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs.

How can this be? One part of the answer is that the difference in job level is not as pronounced as is sometimes assumed: immigrants are working in a much wider range of jobs than is commonly appreciated.

But the main driver of the difference is that immigrants are highly concentrated in prime working age in the United States in general and on Long Island in particular. This is a significant factor in understanding immigrants' overall economic output, since having a higher share of workers in any population will increase that group's total economic output.

Immigrants make up 18 percent of Long Island's population, but they make up 23 percent of the working-age population (and 23 percent of the labor force). It is thus not hard to see how immigrants can contribute 20 percent of economic output despite working on average in lower-paid jobs.

It is also worth noting that immigrants are not just workers, they are also entrepreneurs. Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of all the owners of small businesses located on Long Island are immigrants. Of the 62,000 owners of businesses located on Long Island, 14,000 are immigrants, generating earnings to business owners of \$1.06 billion, or 18 percent of all small business owner earnings. Since business owners generally have higher earnings than employees, this represents a robust contribution to local economic output.

Some of these businesses rely heavily on family members to make them run, and some pay employees very low wages. Yet it

is also clear that some types of immigrant-run businesses—such as restaurants and retail stores—are exactly the kinds of enterprises that bring life to streets and add a cosmopolitan flavor to downtowns. Immigrant businesses have played an important role in spurring the revival and growth of areas such as Hicksville, Brentwood, Hempstead, and Patchogue.

A growing part of the economy

In 2000, immigrants made up 15 percent of Long Island's economic output. By 2009, the date of our first edition of this report, immigrants made up 17 percent of economic output. By 2013, immigrants made up 20 percent of economic output, leading us to the subtitle for the present report, from "*A Vital Sixth of the Economy*" to "*A Vital Fifth of the Economy*."

The reason for this growth in economic output is straightforward. Immigrant share of economic output has grown in proportion to immigrant share of the working-age population. Immigrants made up 15 percent of the working-age population in 2000, 20 percent in 2009, and 23 percent in 2013.

Immigrants and taxes

About three quarters (73 percent) of immigrants on Long Island live in owner-occupied housing, as do an even higher share of U.S.-born Long Islanders (85 percent). Forty percent of immigrants pay over \$10,000 in property taxes—the same share as for U.S.-born homeowners. Renters do not pay property tax directly, but a portion of rent covers property tax bills. Long Island immigrants pay a median rent of \$1,300 per household, the same as U.S.-born renters. Foreign-born renters typically have 3.1 people living in the household, compared to an average of 2.1 people in

households with only U.S.-born residents.

It is, of course, difficult to estimate directly the taxes paid by unauthorized immigrants. A recent study prepared by the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, however, estimated that unauthorized immigrants in New York State pay in total over \$1 billion in state and local taxes, with on average 8.8 percent of their income going to state and local taxes.

Long Island Towns

In addition to looking at the two Long Island counties, it is helpful to look a little more closely at the towns, which vary considerably in their immigrant populations.

Hempstead, which is the biggest town, also has the most immigrants. Hempstead also has among the highest immigrant share of the population, at 22 percent, though both North Hempstead (at 29 percent) and Glen Cove City (at 33 percent) are higher. By contrast, Smithtown has just 10,000 immigrants, making up nine percent of a population of 118,000. The only other town with as small an immigrant share of the population is Southold.

Conclusion

Like any significant social trend, immigration has been accompanied by numerous changes, both positive and negative. There have been challenges associated with immigration on Long Island, but none would seem to justify the level of acrimony that immigration debates have sometimes attracted. At the Fiscal Policy Institute, we hope this report can contribute to a more fruitful and fact-based discussion of the growing role of immigrants and an appreciation for the overall contribution immigrants are making to the local economy.

Introduction

After several decades in the mid-20th century with little immigration, Long Island, like the country as a whole, has seen a significant increase in the immigrant share of the population in the past few decades. This has led to natural questions about the role of immigrants in the local economy, as well as to misunderstanding about who immigrants on Long Island are and the economic roles they play.

In 2011, the Fiscal Policy Institute published the first version of this report as a response to these questions. The title was *New Americans on Long Island: A Vital Sixth of the Economy*. The title of this new report remains the same, but the subtitle must be updated to reflect the latest data: immigrants now make up a vital *fifth* of the Long Island economy.

In general, we see immigrants are playing a slightly bigger role across the board than we saw in the previous study. The immigrant population, and in particular the immigrant share of the working-age population, is somewhat larger, and the economic contribution is correspondingly larger.

Immigrants on Long Island are a comparatively affluent group, like Long Island residents in general. Nassau and Suffolk counties are among the most affluent suburban counties in the United States—Nassau ranks 11th and Suffolk 34th among all U.S. counties, with overall median family incomes of \$112,000 in Nassau and \$98,000 in Suffolk—both far above the national median of \$64,000.

Immigrants on Long Island have at the same time a lower income than other Long Islanders and a far higher income than most Americans. The median income for families

with at least one immigrant adult on Long Island was \$97,000 in 2013. That is below the median for Long Island families in which all family members were born in the United States (\$119,000). Yet the immigrant family income on Long Island is fully 50 percent higher than the overall family income for the United States.

Immigrants make an economic contribution to Long Island that is closely proportionate to their share of the population. Immigrants work in a wide range of jobs, pay a substantial amount in taxes, and are slightly more likely than U.S.-born Long Islanders to be small business owners. On the other hand, not everything about immigration is positive: immigrants earn lower wages than similarly educated U.S.-born workers; there are considerable differences in outcomes for both U.S.- and foreign-born workers by race and ethnicity; and there is no doubt that undocumented immigrants are working primarily in low-wage jobs.

New Americans on Long Island: A Vital Fifth of the Economy attempts to put these issues into perspective. It is our hope the report's findings can help inform policy debates and lead to approaches that maximize the positive role of immigrants while minimizing negative repercussions for U.S.-born residents. Federal immigration reform discussions should be considered in light of an understanding of both the positive role immigrants are playing and the areas where there are legitimate concerns about negative impacts. State and local policy debates about such issues as labor law enforcement or investment in English language programs might benefit, too, from a closer understanding of the economic role of immigrants.

Immigrant economic contributions on Long Island

Immigrants are pulling their weight in the Long Island economy

Immigrants—authorized and unauthorized immigrants combined—make up 18 percent of the population of Long Island and account for 20 percent of total economic output. **(Figure 1.)**

The 291,000 immigrants living in Nassau County and 235,000 living in Suffolk County combine to a total of 526,000 immigrants living on Long Island altogether.

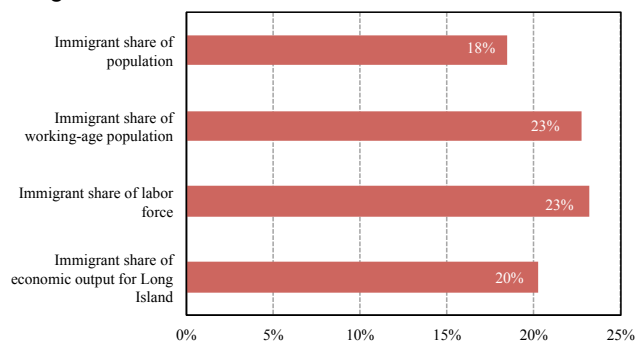
It may come as a surprise that immigrant contribution to the Long Island economy is in close alignment with, and even slightly greater than, the immigrant share of population. This proportionate economic contribution is similar to what the Fiscal Policy Institute has seen in national studies—in *Immigrants and the Economy*, for example, FPI found that immigrant share of population closely parallels immigrant share of economic output in the country's 25 largest metropolitan areas.

The main factor driving this greater share of economic output is that immigrants are considerably more likely to be of prime working age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This is true throughout the United States as a whole, and it is particularly true on Long Island. Immigrants make up 18 percent of the Long Island population, 23 percent of the working-age population, 23 percent of the labor force, and 20 percent of economic output. **(Figure 1.)**

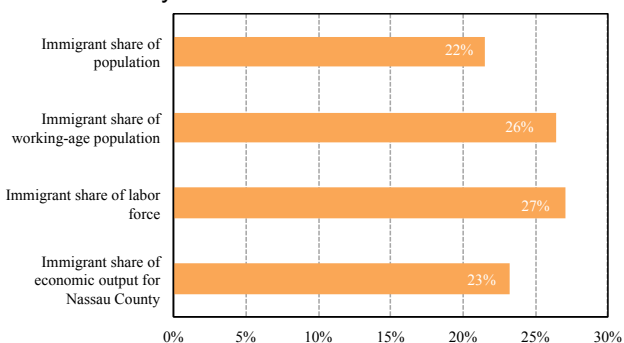
If immigrants were all working in very low-

Immigrant share of economic output matches share of population

Long Island



Nassau County



Suffolk County

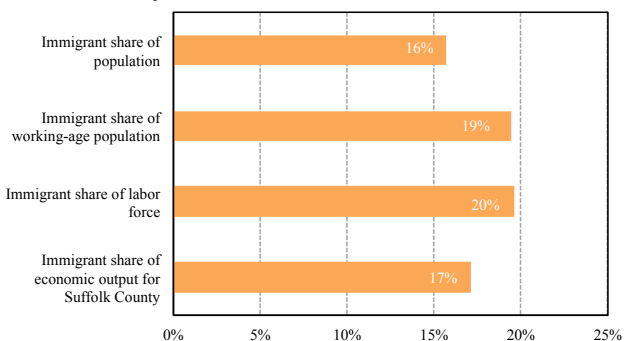


Figure 1.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. For detailed source notes, see appendix.

paid, low-skilled jobs, even this higher share of the labor force would not be enough to result in such a strong economic performance.

But, as will be seen in detail below, immigrants are far more widely spread across the economic spectrum than is generally recognized. Immigrants do, on average, work in somewhat lower-skilled jobs than their U.S.-born counterparts and are paid less for their work even at the same educational level, but the difference is not nearly as great as is sometimes imagined.

Also important to consider is the role of immigrants as entrepreneurs. Immigrants make up a somewhat larger share of entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts. And, although immigrant businesses have on average lower earnings than businesses owned by U.S.-born Long Islanders, this is balanced by the fact that the share of small business owners is higher than the immigrant share of population (and closer to the immigrant share of the labor force).

Similar trends hold true for Nassau and Suffolk counties. In Nassau, immigrants make up 22 percent of the population, 26 percent of those in prime working age, and 23 percent of total economic output. In Suffolk County, immigrant share of the population is 16 percent, share of prime working age is 19 percent, and share of economic output is 17 percent.

As Long Island's immigrant population has grown, so too has immigrants' contribution to the economy. In particular, the immigrant share of the working-age population (those 16 to 64 years old) runs in close parallel to the immigrant share of economic output. **(Figure 2.)**

Growing share of working age population and of economic output

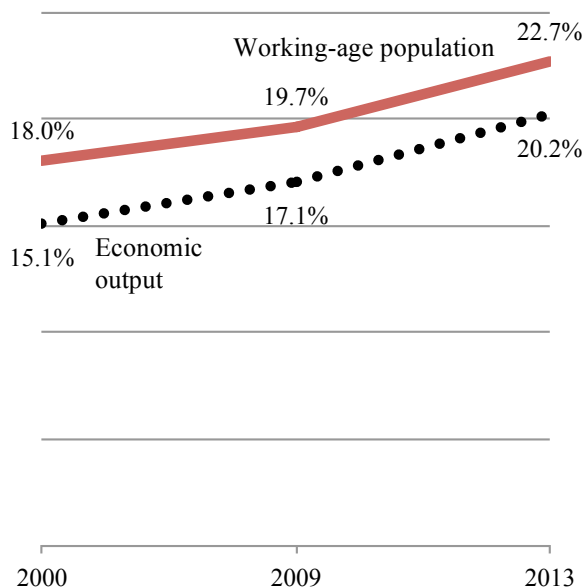


Figure 2.

Source: FPI analysis of 2000 Census and 2009 and 2013 ACS. Working-age population is 16-64 years old. The year 2009 is included because it is the data year of a previous FPI report. It is a little more than halfway between 2000 and 2013. Lines mark intervals of five percentage points.

Who is an immigrant?

This report, as is standard for the economics literature, uses the terms “immigrant” and “foreign-born” interchangeably. People living in the United States who were born in another country are counted as immigrants, whether or not they have become U.S. citizens and regardless of their age or legal status. People born in the United States—including people born in U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands—as well as children born abroad of U.S. citizen parents are counted in this report as U.S.-born. The children of immigrants, if born in the United States, are counted among the U.S.-born.

Immigrants who are not authorized to be working or living in the United States are included in all data about immigrants. Where possible, the report also breaks out data about these unauthorized immigrants in particular.

Immigrants work in a wide range of jobs

Immigrants who live on Long Island are working in a far wider range of jobs than is commonly recognized. Immigrants make up at least 10 percent of all occupations except uniformed services. Immigrants make up 23 percent of all jobholders living on Long Island (the “total” line in **Figure 3**), and they make up 18 percent of generally highly paid executive, administrative, and managerial workers. Immigrants are slightly overrepresented among technicians and are strongly represented among doctors, engineers, and other professional specialties (23 percent) as well as among registered nurses, pharmacists, and health therapists (23 percent).

Immigrants are significantly over-represented in some blue-collar and service jobs. Immigrants make up 58 percent of fabricators, 51 percent of mechanics and repairers, 43 percent of private households and personal services workers, 37 percent of gardening, farm and fishing workers, 33 percent of food preparation services workers, and 32 percent of construction laborers and other material handlers (jobs that require less skill and are less well paid than construction trades jobs). Immigrants are substantially under-represented in just one service category: the uniformed services, where just four percent of firefighters, police, and supervisors of protective services workers are foreign-born.

In looking at the economic role of immigrants, it is very important to recognize how diverse the range of immigrants on Long Island is.

Immigrants from different countries, for example, have widely varying experiences in the Long Island labor market—in part

Immigrants make up a substantial share of all occupations but uniformed services

		Long Island	Nassau	Suffolk
White-collar jobs	Executive, administrative, managerial	18%	22%	14%
	Professional specialty (incl. doctors, engineers, lawyers)	23%	25%	21%
	Registered nurses, pharmacists, and health therapists	23%	34%	12%
	Teachers, professors, librarians, social scientists, social workers, & artists	12%	13%	10%
	Technicians (incl. health, engineering & science)	24%	29%	20%
	Sales (supervisors, real estate, finance & insurance)	18%	21%	14%
	Sales (clerks & cashiers)	21%	28%	16%
	Administrative support (incl. clerical)	15%	17%	12%
Service jobs	Private household & personal services	43%	54%	30%
	Firefighters, police & supervisors of protective services	4%	5%	4%
	Guards, cleaning, and building services	31%	37%	27%
	Food preparation services	33%	43%	26%
	Dental, health, & nursing aides	38%	46%	33%
Blue-collar jobs	Mechanics & repairers	51%	57%	46%
	Construction trades	27%	28%	26%
	Precision production	35%	38%	34%
	Machine operators	27%	35%	21%
	Fabricators	58%	59%	57%
	Drivers (incl. heavy equipment operators)	53%	58%	49%
	Construction laborers & other material handlers	32%	33%	31%
Farming	Farming, forestry & fishing (incl. gardeners)	37%	44%	31%
Total		23%	27%	20%

Figure 3.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

because of ethnic niches established in particular jobs, in part because of varying levels of educational attainment, and no doubt also in part because some groups contain larger numbers of undocumented immigrants.

Overall, the majority of immigrants on Long Island work in white-collar jobs. The balance—a little under half—work in blue-collar jobs, generally low-wage service jobs or farming, forestry and fishing jobs. **(Figure 4a.)**

Yet, while slightly more than half (51 percent) of immigrants on Long Island work in white-collar jobs, the same is true for just five percent of immigrants from Honduras, 19 percent of immigrants from El Salvador (the group with the most immigrants on Long Island), and 36 percent of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, for example. More than half of immigrants from Haiti (53 percent) and Jamaica (51 percent) work in white-collar jobs, as do more than three quarters of those from Colombia (79 percent), India (82 percent), and Trinidad and Tobago (89 percent). As a point of comparison, about three quarters (71 percent) of U.S.-born workers on Long Island hold white-collar jobs, and just a little more than a quarter (29 percent) hold blue-collar, service, or farming, forestry, and fishing jobs.

A similar pattern holds true for Nassau and Suffolk Counties. In Nassau, just over half (56 percent) of immigrants hold white-collar jobs, as do just under half (45 percent) of immigrants living in Suffolk. In both cases, as on Long Island overall, these averages are a compilation of a diverse group of immigrants with widely varying experiences. **(Figures 4b and 4c.)**

It is more difficult to get an accurate read on

Half of immigrants work in white-collar jobs, with wide variation within group

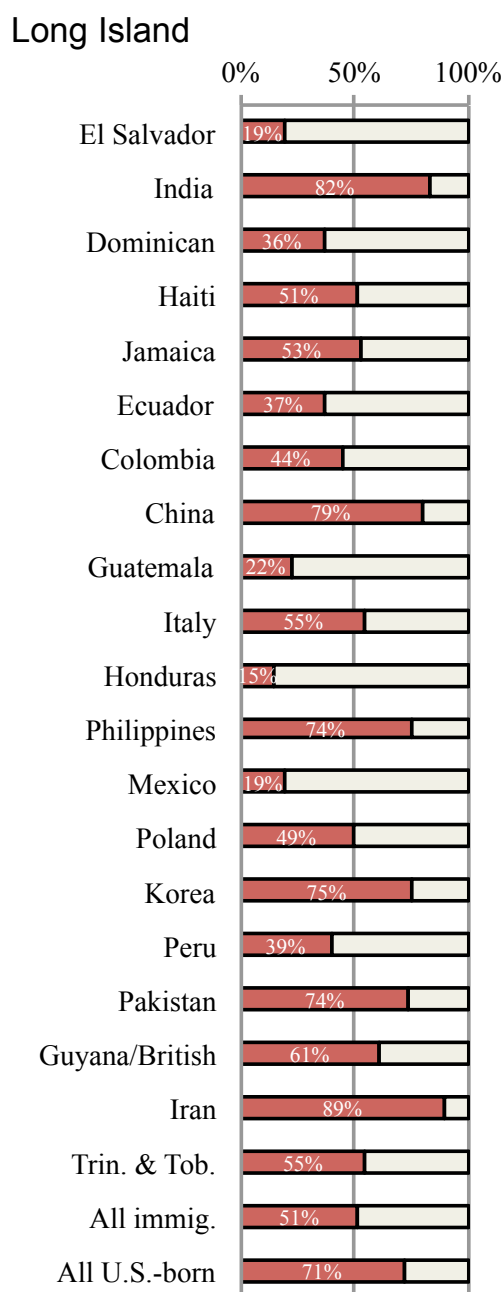


Figure 4a.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS. Countries ordered by number of workers on Long Island. Thus, the largest number of immigrant workers are from El Salvador.

where undocumented immigrants are working.

In the previous edition of this report we showed data from The Pew Hispanic Center for three downstate counties combined—Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk. Since that time the Migration Policy Institute has published county-level data that allows us to profile unauthorized immigrants in Nassau and Suffolk, as well as to combine the two in an estimate for Long Island. **(Figure 5.)**

Unauthorized immigrants on Long Island are, as expected, generally in low-wage jobs. It is worth noting, however, that they work across a range of industries.

A quarter of unauthorized immigrants (13,000) work in construction, with 19 percent (10,000) in the industry that includes accommodations and food services. In Nassau, there are 4,000 unauthorized immigrants in the educational health and social services sector that includes child care and home health care, and 4,000 in “other services,” which includes jobs in private households. In Suffolk, there are concentrations in manufacturing (6,000) and retail (4,000). Some small number of unauthorized workers, mostly visa-overstayers, work in higher-wage technical and professional jobs; those are combined in the data with other jobs in the sector “professional, scientific management, administrative, and waste management.

The data in the American Community Survey are not particularly well suited to account for farm workers, who are often seasonally employed. Using an approach based on the more appropriate Census of Agriculture, Max Pfeffer, professor of development sociology at Cornell University, has previously estimated that there are roughly 3,500 farmworkers in

Over half of immigrants in Nassau work in white-collar jobs

Nassau County

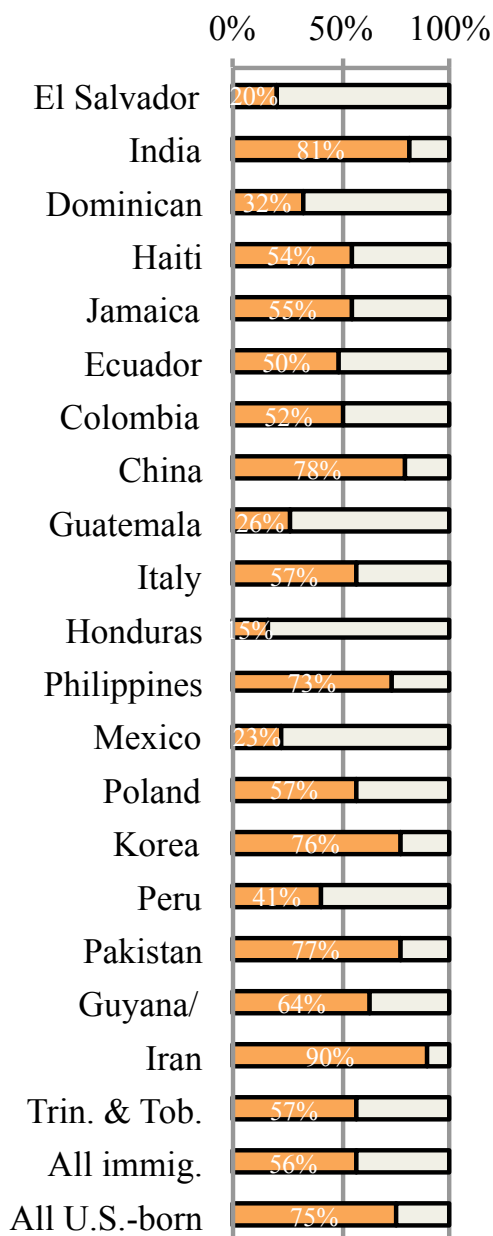


Figure 4b.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS. Countries ordered by number of workers on Long Island.

Suffolk County and perhaps another 200 in Nassau County. Of these, roughly 1,500 are seasonal workers—some migrants, others finding local work in non-agricultural jobs during the off season. A high proportion of the migrant workers are estimated to be immigrants—perhaps 80 percent or more. Something on the order of two thirds of seasonal workers are estimated to be undocumented, as are some (but probably a smaller portion) of the year-round farm workers.¹

On Long Island, a rather astonishing amount of attention has been given to the question of day laborers—people hired from shape-up sites. While there are reasonable concerns about these shape-up sites, it is important to note that immigrants hired in this way make up less than one percent of the half-million immigrants on Long Island, and are in fact a small share of unauthorized immigrants.

In the entire New York City metro area, the most comprehensive academic study on the topic found in 2003 that there were roughly 6,000 to 8,000 day laborers hired through shape-up sites. There are, of course, also some U.S.-born workers hired at shape-up sites, though there is little doubt that the overwhelming majority of day laborers are immigrants and that a high proportion are unauthorized.²

Almost half of immigrants in Suffolk work in white-collar jobs

Suffolk County

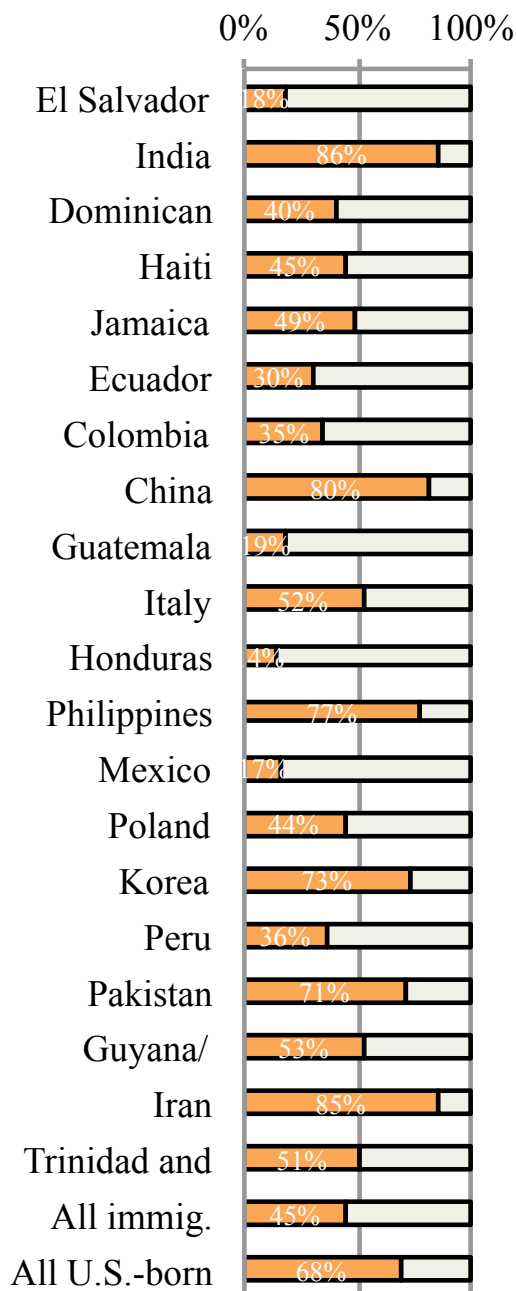


Figure 4c.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS. Countries ordered by number of workers on Long Island.

Where do unauthorized immigrants work? Construction, food services, retail, child care, and more

Unauthorized Workers: Employment by Industry	Long Island		Nassau		Suffolk	
Construction	13,000	25%	5,000	15%	8,000	22%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management	11,000	21%	6,000	18%	5,000	14%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	10,000	19%	5,000	15%	5,000	14%
Educational, health, and social services	n/a		4,000	12%		
Other services (except public administration)	n/a		4,000	12%		
Manufacturing	n/a				6,000	17%
Retail trade	n/a				4,000	11%
All other	19,000	36%	10,000	29%	8,000	22%
Civilian employed population ages 16 and older	53,000	100%	34,000	100%	36,000	100%

Figures 5.

Source: FPI tabulation of Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from the ACS 2013 5-year data and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

Note: “Other services” is the name of an industry category in the American Community Survey; it includes an assortment of jobs ranging from auto repair and car washes to barber shops, nail salons, laundry services, and work in private households.

A large majority of immigrants live in families making over \$80,000/year

Sixty-one percent of immigrants on Long Island live in families with incomes of over \$80,000 per year—47 percent in families making between \$80,000 and \$199,999, and another 14 percent making \$200,000 or more. Among U.S.-born Long Islanders, the comparable figures are higher, but not dramatically so: 52 percent live in families making \$80,000 to \$199,999, and 20 percent in families making \$200,000 or more. Immigrant families are defined here as those with at least one immigrant adult. (Figure 6.)

At the lower end of the income ladder, 16 of immigrants live in families making less than \$40,000, compared to 10 percent for U.S.-born Long Island residents.

The picture is similar in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, with the majority of immigrants living in families making at least \$80,000 per year, in both cases less than the U.S.-born share, but not as dramatically as might be expected. In Nassau, 15 percent of immigrants live in families with incomes of less than \$40,000 a year, and in Suffolk 16 percent.

Looking at individuals rather than families shows that immigrants earn on average 31 percent less than their U.S.-born neighbors in Nassau, 29 percent less in Suffolk, and 31 percent less on Long Island as a whole. After correcting for level of educational attainment, the earnings differential looks much bigger for those with less education, while among those with a college degree immigrants earn eight percent less, and among those with an advanced degree they have achieved parity on Long Island as a whole. (Figure 7.)

The large majority of immigrants live in families with incomes over \$80,000/year

Long Island		Percentage point or percent difference	
Share of individuals in families with incomes	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	
Under \$20,000	5%	4%	1%
\$20,000 to \$39,999	11%	6%	5%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	12%	8%	4%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	12%	10%	2%
\$80,000 to \$199,999	47%	52%	-5%
\$200,000 plus	14%	20%	-6%
Median family income	\$96,800	\$118,700	-18%

Nassau		Percentage point or percent difference	
Share of individuals in families with incomes	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	
Under \$20,000	4%	3%	1%
\$20,000 to \$39,999	11%	5%	5%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	12%	7%	5%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	12%	8%	4%
\$80,000 to \$199,999	45%	51%	-7%
\$200,000 plus	16%	25%	-9%
Median family income	\$100,000	\$132,000	-24%

Suffolk		Percentage point or percent difference	
Share of individuals in families with incomes	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	
Under \$20,000	5%	4%	1%
\$20,000 to \$39,999	11%	6%	5%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	13%	9%	3%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	11%	12%	0%
\$80,000 to \$199,999	49%	53%	-4%
\$200,000 plus	11%	16%	-5%
Median family income	\$92,100	\$110,000	-16%

Figure 6.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Rows may not sum due to independent rounding.

Immigrants often earn 1/4 to 1/3 less than U.S.-born workers

Long Island	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	Percent difference	Share of foreign born	Share of U.S.-born
Less than high school	\$28,000	\$40,000	-30%	20%	3%
High school	\$35,000	\$50,000	-30%	25%	20%
Some college	\$45,000	\$55,000	-18%	20%	29%
College completion	\$70,000	\$76,000	-8%	19%	27%
Advanced degree	\$95,000	\$95,000	0%	17%	22%
All	\$45,000	\$65,000	-31%	100%	100%

Nassau	Foreign-born	US-born	Percent difference	Share of foreign born	Share of U.S.-born
Less than high school	\$28,000	\$40,000	-30%	18%	2%
High school	\$34,000	\$50,000	-32%	21%	17%
Some college	\$42,000	\$59,000	-29%	20%	26%
College completion	\$73,000	\$75,000	-3%	21%	30%
Advanced degree	\$90,000	\$95,000	-5%	20%	24%
All	\$46,900	\$68,000	-31%	100%	100%

Suffolk	Foreign-born	US-born	Percent difference	Share of foreign born	Share of U.S.-born
Less than high school	\$27,000	\$40,000	-33%	23%	3%
High school	\$35,000	\$50,000	-30%	29%	22%
Some college	\$50,000	\$55,000	-9%	19%	31%
College completion	\$65,000	\$78,000	-17%	16%	24%
Advanced degree	\$100,000	\$96,000	4%	13%	20%
All	\$44,000	\$62,000	-29%	100%	100%

Figure 7.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

One important factor in understanding immigrant family income is immigrant families have on average more working adults than their U.S.-born counterparts, whether these are older children or extended families. On Long Island, 28 percent of immigrant families have at least three adults working, compared to just 18 percent of families in which all family members were born in the United States. Having more family members working raises family income, while living in larger family units helps make middle-class life more affordable. **(Figure 8.)**

Nativity and education play a role in wage differentials, but so does the way immigrants fit into American racial and ethnic categories. Looking at earnings by nativity as well as by race and ethnicity, whites and Asians have the highest annual earnings. Indeed, foreign-born whites and U.S.-born Asians have slightly higher earnings than U.S.-born whites on Long Island. But blacks and Latinos earn considerably less, whether they are immigrants or born in the United States.

Indexing other groups to the level of U.S.-born whites shows that, on Long Island, foreign-born blacks earn 66 percent of the wages of U.S.-born whites. U.S.-born blacks earn 71 percent, foreign-born Latinos earn 52 percent, and U.S.-born Latinos 74 percent of the wages of U.S.-born whites. **(Figure 9.)**

Immigrant families have more family members working

	Foreign-born	U.S.-born
Long Island		
2 family members work	39%	42%
3 or more family members work	28%	18%
Nassau County		
2 family members work	41%	42%
3 or more family members work	26%	18%
Suffolk County		
2 family members work	36%	42%
3 or more family members work	31%	17%

Figure 8.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Race and ethnicity can make as much difference as nativity

Long Island		Median annual earnings		Earnings of group as a share of earnings of U.S.-born whites	
		Foreign-born	US-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born
Total		\$43,000	\$62,000	66%	95%
White		\$66,000	\$65,000	102%	100%
Black		\$43,000	\$46,000	66%	71%
Latino/Hispanic		\$34,000	\$48,000	52%	74%
Asian		\$60,000	\$70,000	92%	108%
Nassau		Median annual earnings			
		Foreign-born	US-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born
Total		\$45,000	\$65,000	64%	93%
White		\$70,000	\$70,000	100%	100%
Black		\$50,000	\$53,000	71%	76%
Latino/Hispanic		\$33,600	\$53,000	48%	76%
Asian		\$55,000	\$68,000	79%	97%
Suffolk		Median annual earnings			
		Foreign-born	US-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born
Total		\$42,000	\$60,000	67%	95%
White		\$65,000	\$63,000	103%	100%
Black		\$37,000	\$41,300	59%	66%
Latino/Hispanic		\$35,000	\$45,000	56%	71%
Asian		\$71,000	\$73,000	113%	116%

Figure 9.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Earnings are indexed to the amount earned by U.S.-born whites. For example, in Suffolk County, foreign-born whites earned 103 percent of what U.S.-born whites earned.

The total number of workers with high school or less is shrinking, with immigrants filling in as more U.S.-born workers attend college

Immigrants are on average less likely than U.S.-born workers to have experience in college. Among Long Islanders 25 years and older, about half of immigrants (47 percent) have some college or more, compared to 68 percent of U.S.-born residents. **(Figure 10.)**

About half of immigrants have some college or more

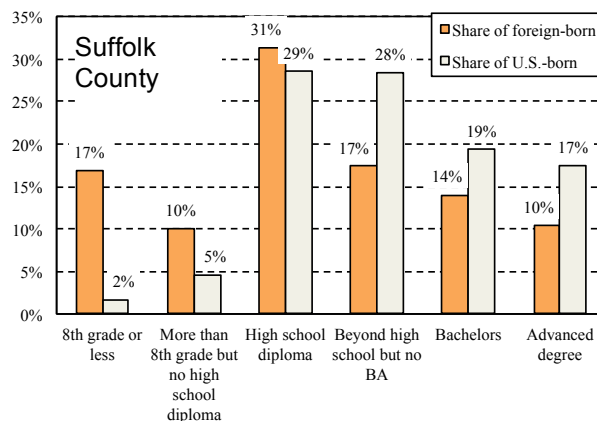
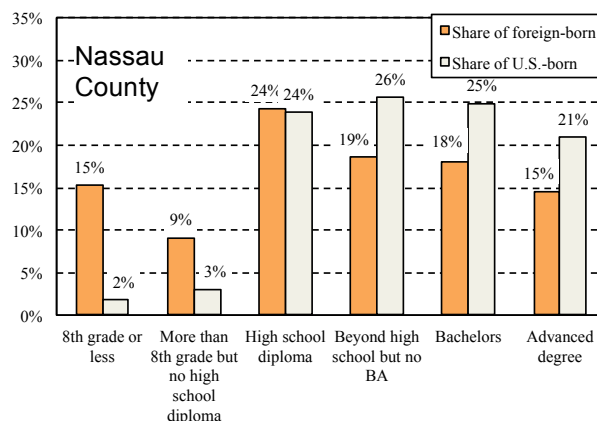
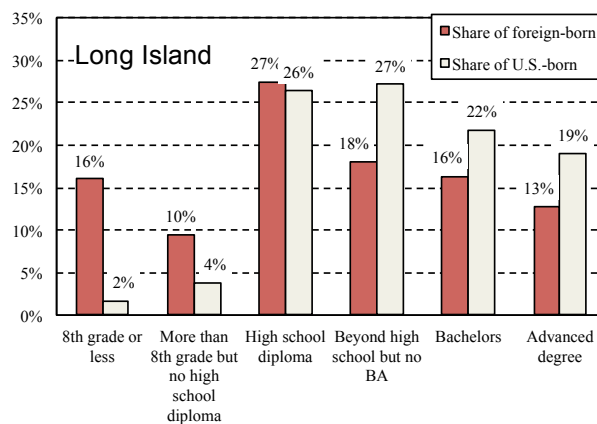


Figure 10.
Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Immigrants are small business owners

	Long Island		Nassau		Suffolk	
	Small businesses	Small business earnings (in millions)	Small businesses	Small business earnings (in millions)	Small businesses	Small business earnings (in millions)
U.S.-born	48,050	\$4,824	22,019	\$2,323	26,031	\$2,501
Foreign-born	14,448	\$1,060	8,583	\$651	5,865	\$409
Total	62,498	\$5,884	30,602	\$2,974	31,896	2,910
Percent foreign-born	23%	18%	28%	22%	18%	14%

Figure 11a.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS.

Immigrants are small business owners

Immigrants are not just employees; they are also small business owners. Of the 62,000 owners of small businesses located on Long Island, 14,000—23 percent—are immigrants, generating earnings of \$1.06 billion, or 18 percent of all small business owners' earnings. Small business owners here are defined as people who own an incorporated business, and whose main job is to run that business. The data refer to the years 2009-13 combined to give a big enough sample to look at detailed industries of businesses. (Figure 11a.)

In Nassau, immigrants make up 28 percent of all owners of small businesses located in the county, generating total earnings for business owners of \$651 million, or 22 percent of all small business owners' earnings. In Suffolk immigrants make up 18 percent of the owners of small businesses located in the county, generating total earnings of \$409 million, or 14 percent of the earnings of small business owners.

Immigrant small businesses tend to be somewhat smaller than those of U.S.-born owners, so immigrant owners' share of small business earnings is not as high as the immigrant share of small business owners.

What kind of small businesses do immigrants own?

Long Island	Immigrant-owned businesses	Immigrant-owned share of all small businesses in industry
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	n/a	n/a
Construction	2,428	21%
Manufacturing	733	26%
Wholesale trade	626	21%
Retail trade	2,035	28%
Transportation and warehousing	579	34%
Information and communications	n/a	n/a
Finance, insurance, real estate	725	13%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management	2,545	18%
Educational, health and social services	1,558	23%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services	1,439	32%
Other services	1,670	35%
Total	14,448	23%
Nassau County		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	n/a	n/a
Construction	1,303	30%
Manufacturing	n/a	n/a
Wholesale trade	n/a	n/a
Retail trade	1,231	34%
Transportation and warehousing	n/a	n/a
Information and communications	n/a	n/a
Finance, insurance, real estate	637	20%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management	1,420	19%
Educational, health and social services	993	24%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services	722	36%
Other services	1,008	45%
Total	8,583	28%
Suffolk County		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	n/a	n/a
Construction	1,124	16%
Manufacturing	n/a	n/a
Wholesale trade	n/a	n/a
Retail trade	805	23%
Transportation and warehousing	n/a	n/a
Information and communications	n/a	n/a
Finance, insurance, real estate	n/a	n/a
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management	1,125	17%
Educational, health and social services	565	22%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services	716	28%
Other services	662	26%
Total	5,865	18%

Figure 11b.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS.

Immigrant-owned small businesses on Long Island have been growing as immigration has grown: immigrants made up 18 percent of all business owners on Long Island in 2000 and 23 percent by 2013, growing from 11,000 to 14,000 small businesses.

What kinds of businesses do immigrants own? On Long Island, the biggest numbers are in professional and business services. Immigrants make up 18 percent of small professional and business services business owners. Immigrants make up 28 percent of all retail store owners and 23 percent of small business owners in educational, health, and social services. Immigrants make up a third (32 percent) of small business owners in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services. **(Figure 11b.)**

Looking at the detailed industry categories in **Figure 12a**, the type of small business most dominated by immigrant owners is nail salons—80 percent of all owners of nail salons on Long Island are immigrants. Fifty percent of owners of businesses in services to buildings and dwellings are immigrants. Immigrants make up 42 percent of owners of restaurants, 28 percent of landscaping services companies, 24 percent of physicians' offices, 21 percent of construction businesses, and 19 percent of real estate businesses. This analysis includes all small businesses with 400 or more immigrant small business owners.

Some of these businesses rely heavily on family members to make them run, and some pay employees very low wages. Yet it is also clear that some types of immigrant-run businesses—such as restaurants and retail stores—are exactly the kinds of enterprises that bring life to streets and add a cosmopolitan flavor to downtowns.

Immigrant small businesses by detailed industry

	Foreign-born small business owners	All small business owners	Foreign-born share
Nail salons & other personal care services	462	578	80%
Services to buildings and dwellings	446	888	50%
Restaurants and other food services	1,232	2,944	42%
Landscaping services	539	1,908	28%
Offices of physicians	524	2,144	24%
Construction	2,428	11,457	21%
Real estate	468	2,442	19%
Total	14,448	62,498	23%

Figure 12a.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS.

Country of birth of immigrant small business owners

	Number of small business owners	Share of all immigrant small business owners
Korea	1,169	8%
India	994	7%
Ecuador	878	6%
Italy	866	6%
China	584	4%
Poland	562	4%
Iran	516	4%
Dominican Republic	483	3%
Pakistan	435	3%
All other	7,961	55%
Total	14,448	100%

Figure 12b.

Source: FPI analysis of 2009-13 ACS.

Immigrant businesses have played an important role in spurring the revival and growth of areas such as Hicksville, Brentwood, Hempstead, and Patchogue.

People born in Korea make up eight percent of all immigrant small business owners, followed by people born in India (seven percent), Ecuador (six percent), Italy (six percent), China (four percent), Poland (four percent), Iran (four percent), Dominican Republic (three percent), and Pakistan (three percent). All of these together—all the countries with at least 400 small business owners—make up just about half of the total. The other half of small business owners come from a wide variety of other countries, each of which represents three percent or less of the total. **(Figure 12b.)**

Unfortunately, the data sample is not big enough to give similar information for Nassau and Suffolk Counties individually.

Immigrants pay property taxes or pay rent that supports tax payment

There is a scarcity of rental housing available on Long Island, so it is perhaps to be expected that most immigrants own their own homes.

Indeed, 73 percent of immigrants on Long Island live in owner-occupied housing, as is the case for an even higher share—85 percent—of U.S.-born Long Islanders. This figure is the same for Nassau and varies by only about a percentage point for Suffolk. (Figure 13.)

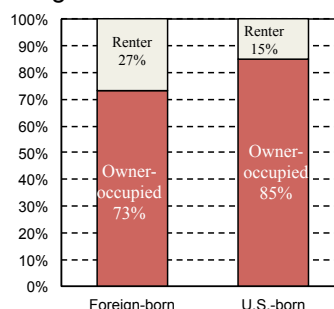
Among homeowners, the median property taxes paid by immigrants and U.S.-born households is the same in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. However, because the level is higher in Nassau and more immigrants live in Nassau, the overall median for property taxes paid on Long Island is actually higher for immigrant homeowners than it is for U.S.-born homeowners.

Looked at by a different measure: on Long Island as a whole, immigrant homeowners were as likely as their U.S.-born counterparts to pay over \$10,000 in property tax—40 percent of immigrants and 40 percent of U.S.-born homeowners paid over \$10,000 in property tax in 2013. In Nassau 48 percent of each group pays over \$10,000 in property taxes, while in Suffolk 33 percent of U.S.-born and 30 percent of foreign-born families pay that much. (Figure 14a.)

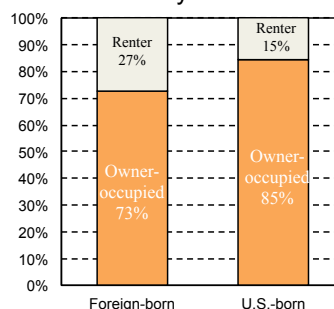
Renters do not pay property tax directly, but rent helps landlords defray the cost of the property tax bill. Long Island immigrants paid a median rent of \$1,300 per household in 2013, with an average of 3.1 people living in the household. The median rent

Most immigrants live in homes they own

Long Island



Nassau County



Suffolk County

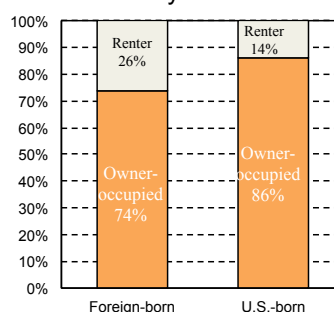


Figure 13.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Immigrants pay property taxes

	Long Island		Nassau		Suffolk	
	U.S.-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	Foreign-born
Median property taxes	\$8,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
Number of households	604,844	139,020	266,675	78,682	338,169	60,338
Average number of people per household	2.8	3.7	2.8	3.6	2.8	3.9
Percent who pay \$10,000 or more	40%	40%	48%	48%	33%	30%

Renters also help cover property tax costs, and immigrant rents are not low

	Long Island		Nassau		Suffolk	
	U.S.-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	Foreign-born	U.S.-born	Foreign-born
Median rent	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,200
Number of households that rent	134,918	56,765	62,294	30,938	72,624	25,827
Average number of people per household	2.1	3.1	2.1	3.2	2.1	3.0

Figure 14a and 14b.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

paid by U.S.- born Long Islanders in rental housing was the same, but with an average of 2.1 people living in each household. **(Figure 14b.)**

It is, of course, difficult to estimate directly the taxes paid by undocumented immigrants. An April, 2015 study based on the tax model of the nonpartisan

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimating the taxes paid by unauthorized immigrants showed that unauthorized immigrants in New York State paid over \$1 billion in state and local taxes in 2012, \$220 million in sales and excise taxes, \$133 million in property taxes, and \$72 million in income taxes. Unauthorized immigrants on average pay 8.8 percent of their total income in New York state and local taxes. The study is based on a detailed model that estimates that half of unauthorized immigrants pay income taxes—a conclusion reached in an economic report published by the Bush Administration in 2005—and that people who rent their homes contribute a portion of the property tax bill through their rent.³

In addition to state and local taxes and federal income tax, the Social Security Administration estimates that roughly half of all unauthorized immigrants have payroll taxes withheld for Social Security and Medicare—the biggest tax on low-wage workers. Because these taxes are paid using false Social Security numbers, among other reasons, unauthorized immigrants are highly unlikely ever to receive benefits. This money goes into the Social Security suspense file. The Social Security Administration's chief actuary estimated that the payroll taxes of unauthorized immigrants resulted in a net gain of \$12 billion to Social Security in a single year.⁴

Who are immigrants on Long Island?

Immigration is a significant and diverse part of Long Island's population

Immigrants make up 18 percent of the population of Long Island overall—22 percent of the population of Nassau and 16 percent of the population of Suffolk. (Figure 15.)

In the United States as a whole, 28 percent of all immigrants were born in Mexico—making Mexicans the predominant group of immigrants, though still far from the majority.

On Long Island, however, no single group of immigrants predominates in the same way. The top seven countries of birth for immigrants on Long Island are El Salvador (14 percent); India (seven percent); and the Dominican Republic (five percent). In a pattern quite different from that of the United States as a whole, Mexicans make

Nassau	Number of immigrants	Share of all immigrants
El Salvador	29,719	10%
India	26,276	9%
Dominican Republic	16,094	6%
Jamaica	15,519	5%
Haiti	13,619	5%
Italy	11,095	4%
China	11,041	4%
Philippines	10,323	4%
Colombia	10,144	3%
Honduras	9,410	3%
Guatemala	8,389	3%
Iran	7,741	3%
Korea	6,672	2%
Pakistan	6,475	2%
Ecuador	5,852	2%
Germany	5,689	2%
Mexico	5,634	2%
Guyana/British Guiana	5,339	2%
Trinidad and Tobago	5,067	2%
Countries with fewer than 5,000	80,913	28%
Total	291,011	100%

Immigrant share of population

	Foreign-born	Total population	Percent foreign-born
Nassau	291,011	1,351,448	22%
Suffolk	234,798	1,499,214	16%
Long Island	525,809	2,850,662	18%

Figure 15.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Immigrants come from around the world

Long Island	Number of immigrants	Share of all immigrants
El Salvador	73,550	14%
India	36,751	7%
Dominican Republic	27,213	5%
Jamaica	23,307	4%
Haiti	22,892	4%
Ecuador	20,515	4%
Italy	19,419	4%
Colombia	18,241	3%
Guatemala	17,547	3%
China	17,126	3%
Honduras	14,666	3%
Philippines	14,496	3%
Pakistan	13,889	3%
Korea	11,590	2%
Peru	11,028	2%
Mexico	10,984	2%
Germany	10,576	2%
Iran	9,288	2%
Trinidad and Tobago	8,535	2%
Poland	8,119	2%
Guyana/British Guiana	7,077	1%
Ukraine	6,279	1%
Canada	5,439	1%
Ireland	5,090	1%
Taiwan	5,080	1%
Countries with fewer than 5,000	107,112	20%
Total	525,809	100%

Suffolk	Number of immigrants	Share of all immigrants
El Salvador	43,831	19%
Ecuador	14,663	6%
Dominican Republic	11,119	5%
India	10,475	4%
Haiti	9,273	4%
Guatemala	9,158	4%
Italy	8,324	4%
Colombia	8,097	3%
Jamaica	7,788	3%
Pakistan	7,414	3%
China	6,085	3%
Peru	6,066	3%
Mexico	5,350	2%
Honduras	5,256	2%
Countries with fewer than 5,000	81,899	35%
Total	234,798	100%

Figure 16a, 16b and 16c.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

up a very small part of the Long Island immigrant population—about 11,000 total, just 2 percent of the overall immigrant population. In Nassau County, the top seven countries of birth are El Salvador, India, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Italy, and China. And in Suffolk County, the top seven are El Salvador, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, India, Haiti, Guatemala, and Italy. On Long Island as a whole and in each of the counties, the top seven groups together comprise about 40 percent of the total; another 60 percent of immigrants come from countries other than these top groups, that is to say from a wide range of countries each of which makes up less than four percent of the total. **(Figures 16a, 16b, and 16c.)**

Latinos make up 41 percent of immigrants on Long Island as a whole: 35 percent in Nassau and 49 percent in Suffolk. But immigrants are also substantially represented among all major ethnic and racial groups, while U.S.-born residents are highly concentrated among whites. **(Figure 17.)**

Turning the fraction the other way around, the majority of Latinos on Long Island were born in the United States: Fewer than half of Latinos are immigrants (45 percent on Long Island, 48 percent in Nassau, 43 percent in Suffolk). About 25 percent of blacks in each of the three regions are immigrants.

Most immigrants are not Latino, and most Latinos are not immigrants

Long Island	Share of immigrants who are white/black/Latino/Asian	Share of whites/blacks/Latinos/Asians who are immigrants
White	23%	6%
Black	12%	25%
Latino/Hispanic	41%	45%
Asian	22%	68%
Other	1%	17%
Total	100%	18%

Nassau	Share of immigrants who are white/black/Latino/Asian	Share of whites/blacks/Latinos/Asians who are immigrants
White	22%	8%
Black	14%	28%
Latino/Hispanic	35%	48%
Asian	27%	67%
Other	2%	20%
Total	100%	22%

Suffolk	Share of immigrants who are white/black/Latino/Asian	Share of whites/blacks/Latinos/Asians who are immigrants
White	24%	5%
Black	10%	21%
Latino/Hispanic	49%	43%
Asian	17%	70%
Other	1%	13%
Total	100%	16%

Figure 17.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. “Share of immigrants who are white/black/Latino/Asian” can be read, for example, to see that 23 percent of immigrants living on Long Island are white. “Share of whites/blacks/Latinos/Asians who are immigrants” can be read to see that six percent of white people living on Long Island are immigrants.

This isn't the first time Long Island has received new immigrants

Looking back at Long Island population trends over the past century reveals two major stories.

The first is a story of suburban growth. The total population of Long Island grew through the early part of the 20th century, but really took off exponentially during the 1950s and '60s as Long Island was at the leading edge of a national trend toward suburbanization. By the 1970s, Long Island's population had more or less reached a plateau; Suffolk County continued to grow after 1970, but at a much more modest pace than in the prior decades. **(Figure 18.)**

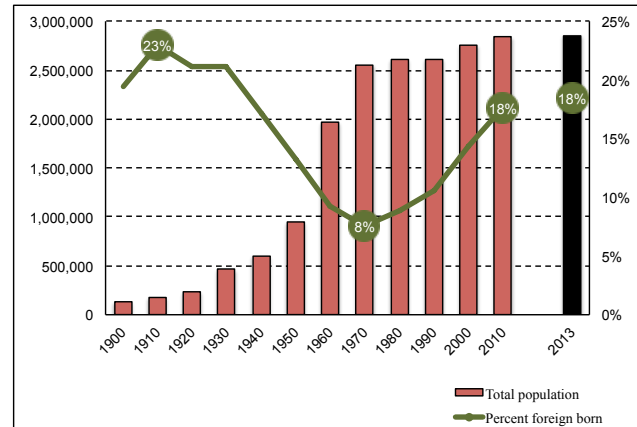
The second is a story of immigration in the suburbs. The number of immigrants living on Long Island has increased every decade going back to 1900. But the immigrant share of the population has changed dramatically, from a peak of 23 percent in 1910 to just 8 percent in 1970. The drop in immigrant share during this period is not due to a decrease in the number of immigrants; it is due to a slow-growing number of immigrants in the context of a fast-growing population of U.S.-born residents.

After 1970, the trends in Long Island's two counties diverge. In Nassau the U.S.-born population began to decline, while in Suffolk the U.S.-born population continued to grow. Both areas saw continued growth in the immigrant population.

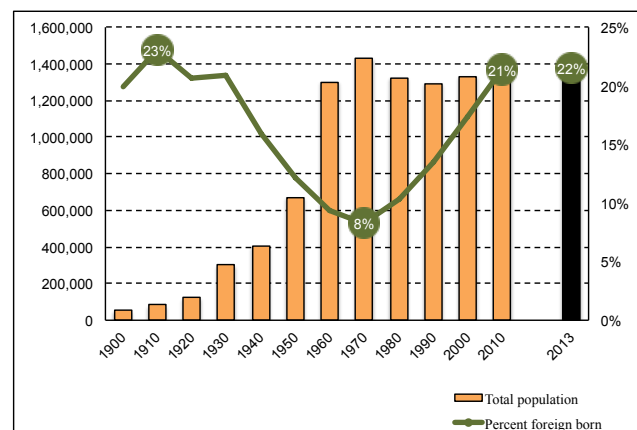
In Nassau, between 1970 and 2013 the total population stopped growing, and in fact declined a little, by 77,000. The U.S.-born population drop of 250,000 was offset by an increase of 173,000 immigrants in the county.

The outlier period for immigration on Long Island is the mid-20th century

Long Island



Nassau County



Suffolk County

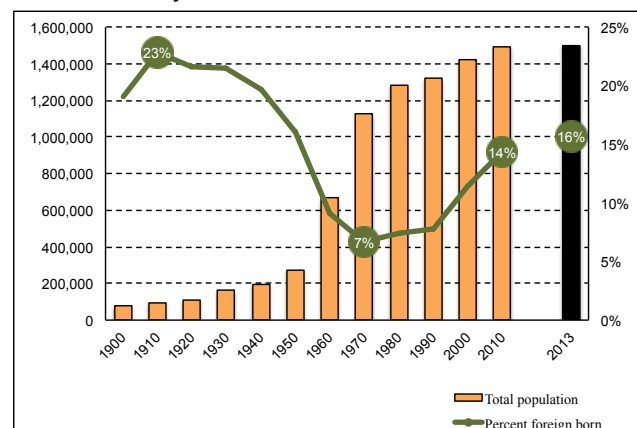


Figure 18.

Source: FPI analysis of Census historical data and 2013 ACS.

In Suffolk, the trend from 1970 was continued growth of both U.S.- and foreign-born populations, but with the foreign-born growing at a faster pace. Between 1970 and 2013 the U.S.-born population of Suffolk increased by 214,000 and the foreign-born population increased by 160,000.

Long Islanders who grew up in or moved to the area around the 1970s have experienced a very rapid increase in the immigrant share of the population. Immigrants in 1970 made up just 8 percent of Long Island's population, a century-long lowpoint. By 2013, that share was 18 percent. The number of immigrants on Long Island has leveled off in recent years in response to the national recession, and perhaps also due to increasingly aggressive immigration law enforcement.

There are about 98,000 unauthorized immigrants on Long Island

According to FPI's analysis of the Migration Policy Institute county-level estimates of unauthorized immigrants, there are 98,000 unauthorized immigrants living on Long Island—48,000 in Nassau and 50,000 in Suffolk. This means the unauthorized share of the immigrant population is higher in Suffolk, since there are more immigrants overall in Nassau.

About half (47 percent) of the unauthorized population is from Central America, 16 percent from South America, 14 percent from Asia, and nine percent from Mexico.

Looking at specific countries of origin, in Suffolk, there are 12,000 unauthorized immigrants from El Salvador, 7,000 from Guatemala, and 4,000 from Ecuador. In Nassau, 13,000 from El Salvador, 5,000 from Guatemala, 5,000 from Honduras, and

3,000 from India. **(Figure 19.)**

A recent analysis of the trends in unauthorized immigration at the state level by Robert Warren and John Robert Warren shows that the unauthorized immigration is much more sensitive to economic conditions and enforcement trends than the flow of legal immigration. The number of unauthorized immigrants living in New York State peaked, according to this analysis, in 2004, and has declined since then, though the Long Island trends may differ.⁵ **(Figure 20.)**

Unauthorized immigrants come from around the world, about half from Central America, and more from El Salvador than from any other single country

	Long Island		Nassau		Suffolk	
Central America	46,000	47%	23,000	48%	23,000	46%
El Salvador	25,000		13,000		12,000	
Guatemala	12,000		5,000		7,000	
Honduras	n/a		5,000		n/a	
Mexico	9,000	9%	3,000	6%	6,000	12%
Caribbean	6,000	6%	3,000	6%	3,000	6%
South America	16,000	16%	7,000	15%	9,000	18%
Ecuador	n/a		n/a		4,000	
Europe/Canada/Oceania	4,000	4%	2,000	4%	2,000	4%
Asia	14,000	14%	9,000	19%	5,000	10%
India	n/a		3,000		n/a	
All other	3,000	3%	1,000	2%	2,000	4%
Total	98,000	100%	48,000	100%	50,000	100%

Figure 19.

Source: FPI tabulation of Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from the ACS 2013 5-year data and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

Unauthorized immigration is down
in recent years in response to the recession and increased enforcement

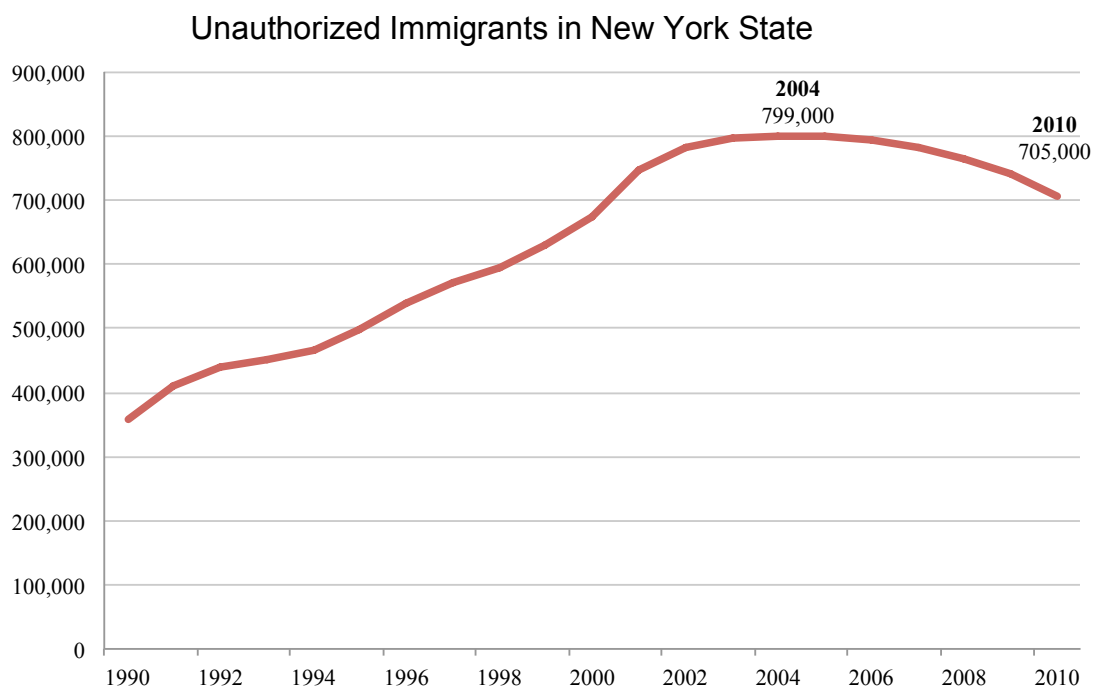


Figure 20.

Source: FPI chart based on Robert Warren and John Robert Warren, "Unauthorized Immigration to the United States: Annual Estimates and Components of Change, by State, 1990 to 2010," *International Migration Review*, February 15, 2013.

Immigrants learn English over time

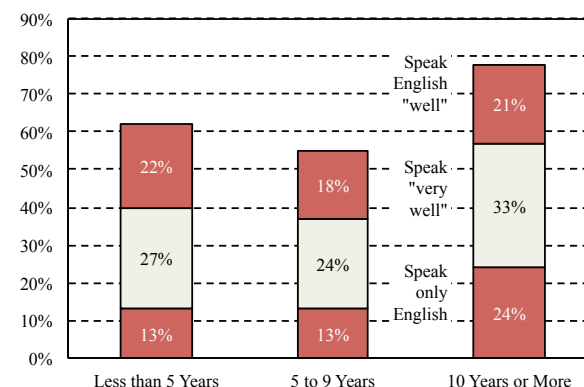
Immigrants on Long Island who do not already speak English when they come to the United States generally learn to speak the language if they stay. More than half (57 percent) of immigrants living on Long Island who have been in the United States for at least 10 years either speak only English at home or speak English “very well,” a level that is generally considered to be equivalent to proficiency. In Nassau, that figure is 58 percent and in Suffolk it is 55 percent. In all three cases, an additional share of 20 to 22 percent report speaking English “well,” a level that indicates at least some English language ability.

Not surprisingly, the ability to speak English well improves over time. By the time immigrants have been here ten years or more, 57 percent can speak very well or speak only English, and another 21 percent speak well. **(Figure 21.)**

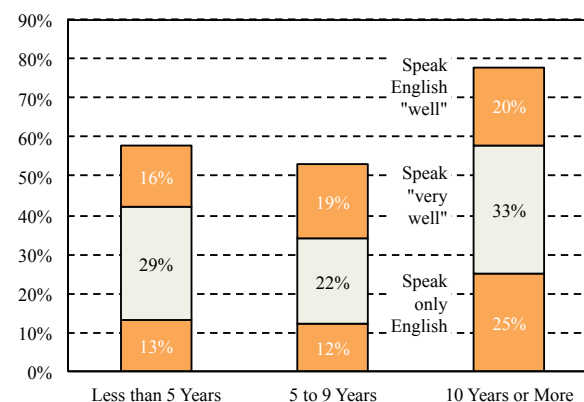
Among unauthorized immigrants, about half report speaking English not at all or very little, while the other half are divided about equally between speaking “very well” and “well,” in both Nassau and Suffolk counties, according to data from the Migration Policy Institute.

Within ten years, most immigrants speak English very well or speak only English

Long Island



Nassau County



Suffolk County

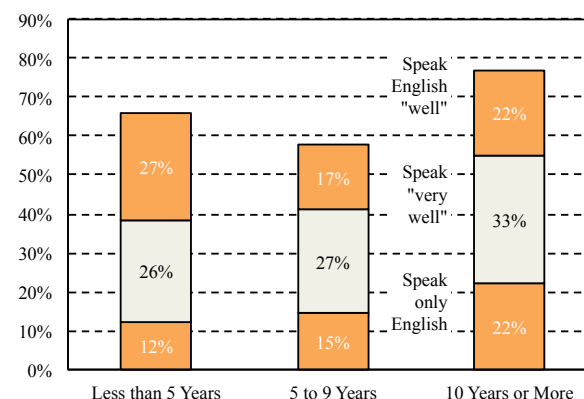


Figure 21.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Half or more of immigrants are U.S. citizens, as are the overwhelming majority of children of immigrants

More than half of foreign-born Long Islanders have become naturalized U.S. citizens. Naturalized citizens 18 years and older are eligible to vote, which means there are 279,000 eligible voters on Long Island who are immigrants, including 167,000 in Nassau and 112,000 in Suffolk. **(Figure 22.)**

The children of immigrants are

overwhelmingly U.S.-born, and thus citizens by birth. Of the children living in families with at least one immigrant adult, 89 percent were born in the United States (90 percent in Nassau, 88 percent in Suffolk). **(Figure 23.)**

Looked at a different way: today, 32 percent of all children on Long Island are living in a family with at least one immigrant adult, as are 38 percent of children in Nassau and 27 percent in Suffolk.

Half or more of foreign-born adults have become naturalized U.S. citizens

	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share
	Long Island		Nassau County		Suffolk County	
All foreign-born						
Naturalized U.S. citizen	289,250	55%	172,394	59%	116,856	50%
Non-citizen	236,559	45%	118,617	41%	117,942	50%
Foreign-born adults (18+)						
Naturalized U.S. citizen	278,749	56%	166,760	60%	111,989	50%
Non-citizen	221,790	44%	111,389	40%	110,401	50%

Figure 22.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

The vast majority of children living in immigrant families were born in the United States, and a significant share of all kids live in immigrant families

	Long Island	Nassau	Suffolk
All children on Long Island	669,144	310,913	358,231
Children living in immigrant families	214,509	118,570	95,939
Born in the United States	191,187	106,970	84,217
Foreign-born	23,322	11,600	11,722
Percent of children living in immigrant families who were born in the U.S.	89%	90%	88%
Percent of all children on Long Island who live in immigrant families	32%	38%	27%

Figure 23.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Long Island towns: A wide range of experiences

This report has focused on Long Island as a whole, and on Nassau and Suffolk counties. But, each of Long Island's towns has its own character.

Hempstead, the town with the biggest population, also has the most immigrants. Hempstead also has among the highest immigrant share of the population, at 22 percent, though both North Hempstead (at 29 percent) and Glen Cove City (at 33 percent) are higher. By contrast, Smithtown has just 10,000 immigrants, making up nine percent of a population of 118,000. The

only other town with as small an immigrant share of the population is Southold.

Figure 24 presents the number of immigrants and the immigrant share of the population for the various Long Island towns and cities. For this analysis, we use the American Community Survey's 2013 3-year data, which allows for more detailed analysis, and we use the 5-year data in order to provide detail for Shelter Island.

Immigration levels vary significantly among Long Island's towns and cities

	Total population	Foreign-born	Foreign-born share
Nassau County			
Glen Cove City	27,135	9,009	33%
Hempstead	764,671	166,339	22%
Long Beach City	33,484	5,540	17%
North Hempstead	227,892	66,940	29%
Oyster Bay	295,381	45,670	15%
Suffolk County			
Babylon	213,971	40,819	19%
Brookhaven	488,264	57,639	12%
East Hampton	22,142	4,206	19%
Huntington	203,776	27,142	13%
Islip	336,455	64,502	19%
Riverhead	33,642	4,360	13%
Shelter Island*	2,477	247	10%
Smithtown	118,269	10,079	9%
Southampton	57,483	11,182	19%
Southold	22,117	1,930	9%

Figure 24.

Source: FPI analysis of 2013 ACS 3-year data.

*Shelter Island estimates are based on 2013 5-year data, and should be read with caution due to a small sample size.

End notes

¹ Max Pfeffer has conducted extensive research on the farm economy and rural communities of New York. Estimates of the number of farm workers in the downstate suburbs were calculated by Professor Pfeffer, at FPI's request, for the 2011 version of this report. Pfeffer's findings are broadly consistent with the recent study of Hudson River farm workers, which found 71 percent of farm workers in the Hudson Valley to be undocumented and 21 percent to be guest workers. See Margaret Gray, with Emma Kreyche, *The Hudson Valley Farmworker Report*, (Annandale-on-Hudson, New York: Bard College Migrant Labor Project in association with Adelphi University, 2007).

² Estimate of unauthorized immigrant population on Long Island is from the Migration Policy Institute's Data Hub, Unauthorized Population Profiles, County-level, based on the 2012 American Community Survey. Estimates of day laborers are from Abel Valenzuela, Jr. and Edwin Meléndez, "Day Labor in New York: Findings from the NYDL Survey," Community Development Research Center of the New School University, and Center for the Study of Urban Poverty of the University of California, Los Angeles, April 11, 2003.

³ Matthew Gardner, Sebastian Johnson, and Meg Wiehe, "Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions," Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, April, 2015.

⁴ Stephen C. Goss, Letter to the Honorable Richard J. Durbin, June 5, 2007, p. 3, cited in Paul N. Van de Water, "Immigration and Social Security," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, November 20, 2008.

⁵ Robert Warren and John Robert Warren, "Unauthorized Immigration to the United States: Annual Estimates and Components of Change, by State, 1990 to 2010," *International Migration Review*, February 15, 2013.

Appendix

Note on sources

Data in this report draw primarily from the Public Use Microdata file of the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS).

Figure 1. Immigrant share of economic output matches share of population. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Working age is 16-64 years old. Economic output is derived from wage and salary and proprietors' income.

Figure 2. Growing share of working age population and of economic output. FPI analysis of 2000 Census and 2009 and 2013 ACS.

Figure 3. Immigrants make up a substantial share of all occupations but uniformed services. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS, based on occupational categories defined in *Immigrants and the Economy* (Fiscal Policy Institute 2009). Universe: Long Island residents 16 years of age and older employed in the civilian labor force.

Figures 4a, 4b, and 4c. Half of immigrants work in white-collar jobs, with wide variation within group. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS 5-year data. Figure 3 indicates jobs in "white-collar" and "other" occupations; for detailed explanation of occupational categories see *Immigrants in the Economy*, Fiscal Policy Institute, 2009. Universe: Long Island residents 16 years of age and older employed in the civilian labor force.

Figure 5. Where do unauthorized immigrants work? FPI tabulation of Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from the ACS 2013 5-year data and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

Figure 6. The large majority of immigrants live in families earning over \$80,000 per year. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe: Primary families with at least two related members in a household. Foreign-born families are families with at least one foreign-born member who is 18 years of age or older. Incomes are in 2009 dollars.

Figure 7. Immigrant workers often earn 1/4 to 1/3 less than U.S.-born. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe: Long Island residents age 25 and older who are employed full-time (at least 35 hours per week) and year-round (at least 50 weeks per year) in the civilian labor force. Incomes are in 2013 dollars.

Figure 8. Immigrant families have more working adults. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe: Primary families with at least two related members in a household. Foreign-born families are families with at least one foreign-born member who is 18 years of age or older.

Figure 9. Race and ethnicity can make as much difference as nativity. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe: Long Island residents age 16 and older, who are employed full-time (at least 35 hours per week) and year-round (at least 50 weeks per year) in the civilian labor force. Incomes are in 2013 dollars.

Figure 10. About half of immigrants have some college or more. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe: Long Island residents age 25 and older. (Shares differ from those in figure 9, which refer not to all residents 25 and older but all full-time, year-round workers 25 and older.)

Figures 11a and 11b. Immigrants are small business owners. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS 5-year data. Universe: Self-employed incorporated business owners who have their business on Long Island, but may live elsewhere. Total earnings are derived from wage and salary and proprietors' income. Businesses by detailed industry are all those with over 500 immigrant small businesses.

Figure 12a and 12b. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS 5-year data.

Figure 13. Most immigrants live in homes they own. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Figures 14a and 14b. Immigrants pay substantial property taxes; renters also help cover property tax costs. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Property taxes are top-coded at \$10,000 and are in 2013 dollars. Nativity of household head determines nativity of household.

Figure 15. Immigrant share of population. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Figures 16a, 16b, and 16c. Immigrants come from around the world. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Figure 17. Most immigrants are not Latino, and most Latinos are not immigrants. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Figure 18. The outlier period for immigration on Long Island is the mid 20th century. For 1900 to 1980, the NYC Department of Planning; for 1990 to 2013, FPI analysis of Census and ACS.

Figure 19. Unauthorized immigrants come from around the world. FPI tabulation of Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from the ACS 2013

5-year data and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

Figure 20. Unauthorized immigration is down in recent years. Source: FPI chart based on Robert Warren and John Robert Warren, “Unauthorized Immigration to the United States: Annual Estimates and Components of Change, by State, 1990 to 2010,” *International Migration Review*, February 15, 2013.

Figure 21: Within ten years, most immigrants speak English very well or speak only English. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Universe is immigrants five years of age and older.

Figure 22. Half or more of foreign-born adults have become naturalized U.S. citizens. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS.

Figure 23. The vast majority of children living in immigrant families were born in the United States, and a significant share of all kids live in immigrant families. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS. Families are defined as primary families with at least two related members in a household. Foreign-born families are families with at least one foreign-born member who is 18 years of age or older.

Figure 24. Immigration levels vary significantly among Long Island’s towns and cities. FPI analysis of 2013 ACS 3-year data.



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