

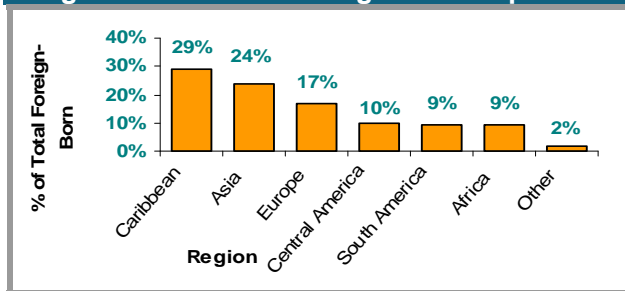
The Growing Importance of Boston's Foreign-Born Population

Access to quality education and English proficiency is critical

More than 151,000 foreign-born residents are living in Boston, and nearly half of them emigrated during the previous decade. Foreign-born residents account for 26% of the City's total population and hail from more than 100 countries according to a report by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). Boston's immigrants generate more than \$3B in economic spending annually, and will account for an increasing share of the City's workforce growth. How foreign-born residents will contribute to Boston's future will depend on their access to quality education and acquisition of English proficiency.

Boston's immigrant stock is historically of European origin, but those arriving over the past decade have been largely representative of:

Origins of Boston's Foreign-Born Population



The five Boston neighborhoods that have undergone the most significant changes in population composition from 1990 to 2000 are listed below.

Areas of Highest Foreign-Born Growth

Neighborhood	Predominant Ethnicity
East Boston	Latino
Roslindale	Latino, Haitian
Allston-Brighton	Chinese, Russian, Brazilian
Dorchester	Haitian, Vietnamese
Hyde Park	Latino, Haitian

Foreign-born residents also contribute to the city and region's workforce and fiscal strength, working in a variety of fields and contributing to spending and tax revenues, while also creating jobs.

Foreign-Born Occupations	
Occupation	Percent
Managerial/Professional	27%
Technical, Sales, Admin. Support	26%
Services	24%
Construction, Extraction, Transport	10%
Other	13%

According to the BRA report, the spirit of entrepreneurship is strong with foreign-born residents as many immigrants and their families own small businesses which contribute to renewal in many of the city neighborhoods. Immigrant households are also the fastest-growing segment of the housing market, a trend that is expected to continue over the next several years.

Despite these indicators, Boston's immigrant population is having difficulty attaining a middle-class lifestyle. Approximately 27% of immigrants have achieved this standard, compared to 46% of Boston's native-born population.

By 2000, more than a third of the City's population spoke a language other than English, with Spanish being the most common language spoken. This diversity of language is reflected in the Boston Public Schools, where in 2004, 44% of the students either spoke a language other than English or another language in addition to English. To read the full BRA report, click here [<MORE>](#)