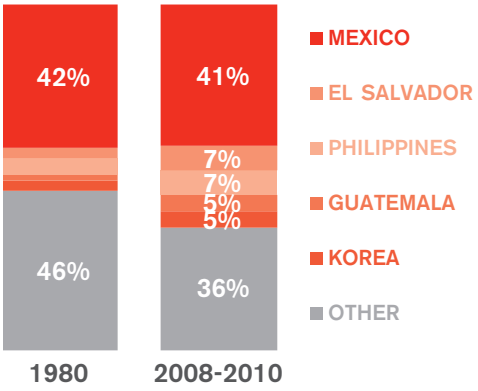
LOS ANGELES

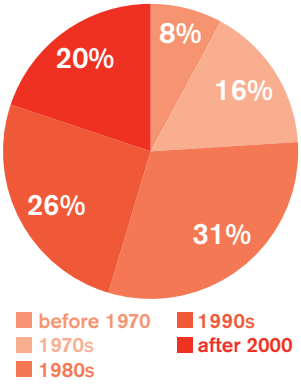
The immigrant share of Los Angeles County's population is near its highest point since 1870; nearly 3.5 million immigrants live here – comprising 35% of the population – the largest number of any region. About 77% of all immigrants have arrived since 1980, with 20% arriving in the last decade. Like all Southern California regions, Los Angeles' immigrant population is largely comprised of Mexican immigrants (41%). However, while other regions have seen growth in their Mexican immigrant population from 1980, Los Angeles' share has remained roughly the same. The shares of immigrants from El Salvador, the Philippines, Guatemala, and Korea have increased since 1980.

Immigrants are highly connected to the region's children and citizenry. While only 1 in 14 children is an immigrant, 58% have at least one immigrant parent, and 44% of households are headed by an immigrant. Further, our estimates suggest that 70% of unauthorized residents (which we can only estimate for adult Latinos) are living with at least one citizen, and 34% are living with their own citizen children. Linguistic isolation – the proportion of immigrant-headed households in which no person over 13 speaks English only, or very well – is relatively high at 34%.

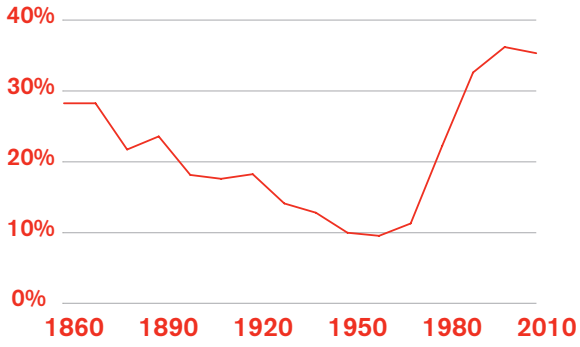
IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



IMMIGRANTS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL, 2008-2010



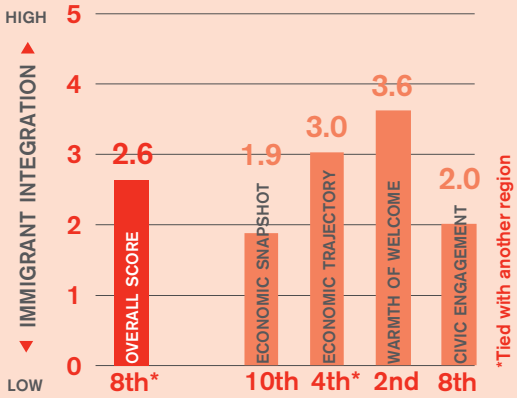
IMMIGRANTS AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DECADE, 1860-2010



OVERALL SCORE 2.6

Los Angeles County scores a 2.6 overall, ranking eighth across the 10 regions, but tying with San Joaquin. The region performs well in Warmth of Welcome – unsurprising given its history as an immigrant gateway and hub of immigrant-serving organizations. The region does fairly well in Economic Trajectory – a sign of economic integration and improvement for immigrants over time. Its poorest performance is in economic snapshot, ranking last across all regions.

RANK ACROSS 10 REGIONS



IMPLICATIONS

Los Angeles has created a welcoming environment for its immigrant population, culturally and institutionally. Los Angeles' dynamic and large immigrant population makes integration both possible and difficult. On the one hand, immigrants find upward economic mobility over time; on the other, the continuous flow of migrants into a struggling regional economy depresses the economic outcomes of the group, as a whole.

Areas for improvement include: linguistic integration, improved access to health insurance, and opportunities for homeownership. But the most may be done by building on immigrant strengths, energies, and labor force attachment to forge a stronger regional economy that can raise economic outcomes for everyone.

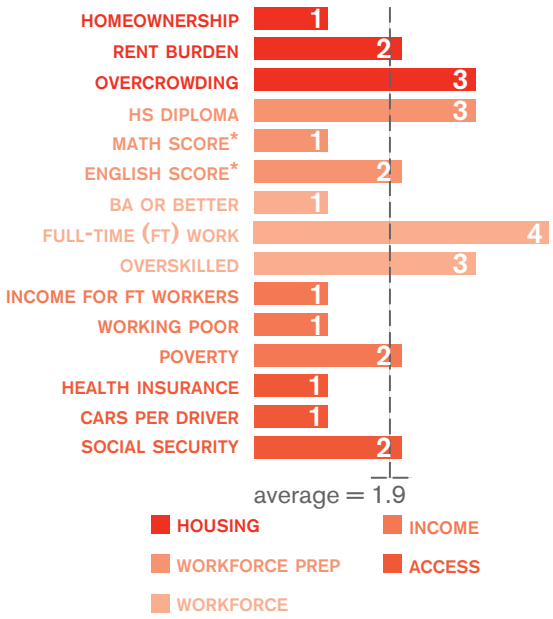
Other regions may look to Los Angeles for models around how to welcome immigrants to the region, including civic infrastructure and model policy work.

THE ECONOMY

Los Angeles County is known as the entertainment capital of the nation, housing major television and film companies. But the region is also a center for international trade – thanks to the bustling Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach – and the (now declining) aerospace industry, along with many other manufacturing sectors and professional services. The distribution of workers reflects this – of all employed workers (ages 25-64) 28% work in professional services, 14% in retail trade, and 12% in manufacturing. The distribution of immigrants is very similar: 21% in professional services, 17% in retail trade, and 15% in manufacturing – an industry which continues to evolve in the region. Approximately 15% of Los Angeles' immigrant population is self-employed, and a large share of immigrants are classified as overskilled workers (25%) – that is, workers with a bachelor's degree or higher in unskilled jobs.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

1.9



**Score based on English language learners (ELLs) relative to non-Hispanic white students.*

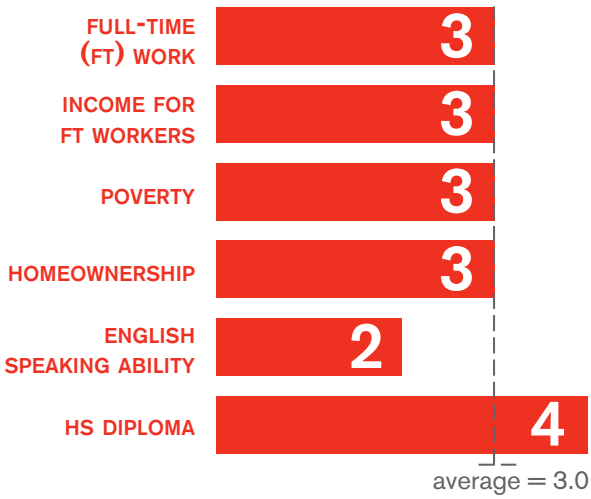
The Economic Snapshot indicates the economic well-being of immigrants, now, as compared to U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites; it reveals their socio-economic standing by measuring the fundamentals – housing, education, work, income and access.

Los Angeles County ranks last (out of 10 regions) in the economic snapshot category, but its dynamic population might explain some of the low scoring. The County does better in providing full-time employment and 64% of immigrants have a high school diploma, ranking in the middle on this indicator by comparison, but highlighting the poor performance across all regions.

Yet, Los Angeles has room to grow in the areas of housing (homeownership and rent burden); workforce preparation (math and English scores); and income (wages for full-time workers and poverty rates). Given the area's large unauthorized population, wages may be especially low because of labor abuses. There are also major disparities between immigrants and U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites in terms of access (health insurance, car access, and social security).

ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

3.0



Debunking the image of immigrants as static newcomers, Economic Trajectory measures how immigrants have fared, economically, over time. This score was generated by tracking immigrants' outcomes over time, starting in 1980.

While not entirely positive, Los Angeles County scored better in economic trajectory (3.0) than economic snapshot. Despite generally low measures of economic status, the region is one where immigrants can move up.

Over time, Los Angeles' immigrants have seen fairly good improvement in high school graduation rates, and moderate improvement in most other measures. As evidenced by the economic snapshot score, however, there is still a great deal of room for growth.

A key area for improvement is English-speaking ability. The low level of English fluency and relatively slow improvement may be partly the result of ethnic enclaves, but the lack of learning opportunities is likely important too.

To generate snapshot and trajectory scores, immigrants are compared against U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites, who – it could be argued – are the most "integrated" population in the U.S.

THE CULTURE

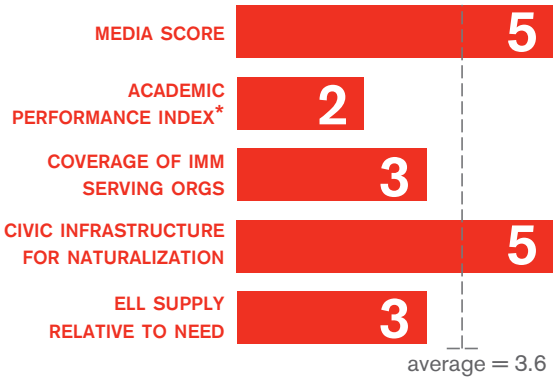
Los Angeles County is home to nearly 10 million residents, making it the most populous county in the nation. The large population is diverse, dynamic, and both the result and catalyst of globalization. Los Angeles has always had a large immigrant presence and has seen its immigrant population dramatically rise since 1980; immigrants now make up one-third of the County's total population. Olvera Street, Koreatown, the San Gabriel Valley and other immigrant dense locales have become tourist destinations for people visiting the region – allowing visitors to partake in the region's immigrant-rich culture. But beyond tourist hotspots and the many ethnic neighborhoods, the region has become a hotbed for political activism, with a well-established immigrant-serving civic infrastructure that allows immigrants to come out of the shadows and voice their concerns. The City of Los Angeles, the second largest in the nation, is a sanctuary city – an emblem of the region's acceptance of its immigrant population. Along with long-time gateway cities like New York and Chicago, Los Angeles remains committed to immigrants and changing policy both locally and nationally to enable integration.

WARMTH OF WELCOME 3.6

Warmth of Welcome takes seriously the understanding that immigrants contribute to the strength of their region – and so measures if the region views them favorably and *worth the investment.*

Los Angeles County performs well in this category, scoring 3.6, the second highest of the 10 regions. Los Angeles scores an impressive 5.0 in its media score. With 154 immigrant-serving organizations for the region's some 1.8 million non-citizen immigrants, the region only scores 3.0 by this measure – but among these are large organizations with sizable service areas.

Practical areas for growth may include boosting the supply of English language learning classes and strengthening K-12 education for English language learners.



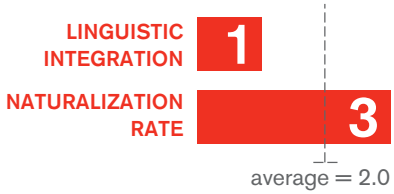
**Score based on English language learners (ELLs) relative to non-Hispanic white students.*

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT 2.0

Civic Engagement captures the extent to which immigrants are able to engage in government processes that affect both their personal and community-wide well-being.

Los Angeles scores 2.0 on civic engagement overall and 3.0 on naturalization of eligible immigrants. Its large immigrant population – and high proportion of undocumented residents – makes it harder for the region to reach all of its population, but the area has made great inroads, thus far.

Scoring 1.0, the region has room to improve in its linguistic integration of immigrants (measured by the proportion of households where at least one person over the age of 13 speaks English very well or exclusively).



For a full explanation of the methodology used to score regions, see the technical report at: csii.usc.edu.

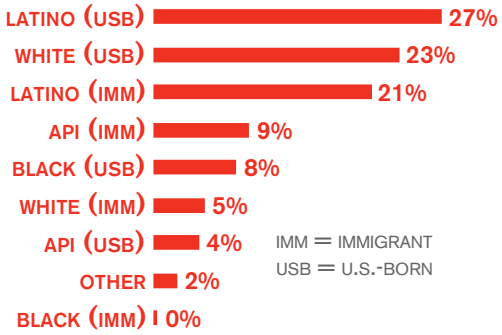
2008-2010 DATA PROFILE: LOS ANGELES

Total Population		9,845,361
Comparison Population for Scoring		
U.S.-born non-Hispanic white	2,293,663	23%
Immigrant	3,479,696	35%
Language Skills Among Immigrants		
Linguistically Isolated Households		34%
Top Languages Spoken in Immigrant Households		
Spanish		57%
Chinese		7%
English		7%
Tagalog		6%
Korean		4%
Household and Family Structure		
Children		
Immigrant		7%
With an immigrant parent		58%
Adults		
Immigrant		45%
Naturalized Immigrant		21%
Immigrant in the Household (Incl. Self)		57%
Households	**Imm.**	**U.S.-born**
Single, no kids	27%	46%
Single, with kids	19%	16%
Married, no kids	13%	17%
Married, with kids	40%	21%
Unauthorized Status (Latino Immigrant Adults Only)#		
Unauthorized		27%
Of unauthorized, living with a citizen		70%
Of unauthorized, living with own citizen child		34%
Sanctuary City Present in Region		Yes

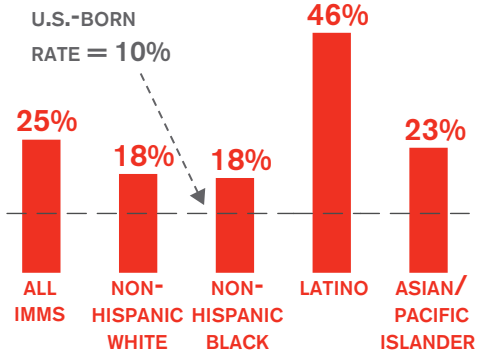
	Imm	**U.S.-born**
Income and Poverty (2010 $s)		
Avg. Household Income	$45,564	$62,400
Avg. Income (Full-time Workers)	$30,376	$50,000
Pop. Below 150% of poverty level	32%	25%
Working Poor*	18%	5%
Labor Force Participation Rates§		
In the Labor Force	79%	86%
Employed	91%	86%
Unemployed	9%	14%
Self Employment ±		
Non-Hispanic white	26%	17%
Non-Hispanic Black	12%	8%
Latino	14%	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	14%	9%
Top 5 Industries by Immigrant Share¥		
Professional and Related Services	21%	34%
Retail Trade	17%	11%
Manufacturing	15%	9%
Construction	8%	5%
Business and Repair Services	8%	7%
Top 5 Countries by Share of LPRs & LPR Naturalization Rates+		
Mexico		47%
El Salvador		57%
Philippines		68%
Guatemala		54%
China		66%
LPRs and Voting Population		
Voting Eligible Population		5,599,938
Adult LPRs Eligible for Naturalization		754,296

Note: All racial/ethnic groups other than Latino are "non-Hispanic" groups. "API" refers to Asian/Pacific Islanders. "N/A" indicates the sample size was too small to report.
Unauthorized status could only be estimated for Latino adults. In this table, "living with" means residing in the same household.
* Share of labor force, ages 25-64, who worked full-time last year (at least 50 weeks and 35 hours per week) and had income below 150% of the Federal poverty level.
§ Universe is all people ages 25-64, not in group quarters.
± Rates represent the percent of all employed people ages 25-64 in the racial/ethnic/nativity group that are self-employed.
¥ Share of all employed people ages 25-64, not in group quarters, that are in each specified industry.
+ LPRs are Legal Permanent Residents. Rates are estimates as of 2010, based on CSII analysis of data on the Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) on all LPRs attaining status between 1985 and 2005. List of top countries of origin is based on a set of 30 countries detailed in the OIS data (the top 30 countries for the U.S. overall) and thus may not be entirely consistent with the top five countries of origin for the region.

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIVITY
(TOTAL POPULATION)



OVERSKILLED IMMIGRANT WORKERS
(OF WORKERS WITH BA OR BETTER, THOSE IN AN UNSKILLED JOB)



Note: Only immigrant racial/ethnic groups with sufficient sample size are included.

IMMIGRANT ENGLISH SKILLS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL