



Growth and Composition of the Immigrant Population

Throughout its history, New York City's population has been shaped by the ebb and flow of immigrants. In recent decades, the city's population has been reshaped by the Immigration and Nationality Amendments of 1965. This seminal legislation repealed immigration quotas that favored northern and western Europeans and placed all countries on an equal footing, resulting in a large increase in immigrants from non-European sources. This chapter first examines the overall growth of the city's population in the past century, as well as its foreign-born component, to provide historical context to the 21st century foreign-born population. It next examines the top immigrant groups in 2011, and then goes on to analyze the effects of the 1965 law by focusing on decade-by-decade changes in the composition of the city's immigrant population since 1970.

New York City's Population, 1900–2011

Table 2-1 shows the total and foreign-born populations of New York City and the U.S. by decade for the period 1900–2011, while Figure 2-1 shows how these populations grew in the city. In 1900, two years after the consolidation of the five boroughs of New York, the city's population stood at 3.4 million, and reached over 8.2 million by 2011. Most of this growth occurred in the first three decades of the 20th century, sustained by large immigrant flows. In the first decade of the last century, the city's population increased 39 percent, reaching 4.8 million in 1910. Continued immigration, domestic inflows, and natural increase (births minus deaths) resulted in further increases, with the city's population reaching 6.9 million in 1930.

With the onset of the Great Depression and World War II, immigration tapered off in the 1930s and 1940s, but the city continued to grow due to

migration from the south and from Puerto Rico. By 1950, the city's population had reached 7.9 million. High baby boom fertility and domestic inflows in the 1950s did not fully counter the large out-migration to the suburbs, and growth dipped during this period. With the enactment of the 1965 Immigration Amendments, immigration increased, and by 1970 the city's population rebounded to its 1950 high of 7.9 million.

The increase in immigration in the 1970s, while substantial, was insufficient to counter the very large domestic outflow. As a result, the city's population declined in the 1970s by more than 10 percent, dropping to 7.1 million in 1980. Lower domestic out-migration in the 1980s, a higher level of immigration, and greater natural increase all resulted in a return to growth, with the city's population enumerated at 7.3 million in 1990. With continued growth in the 1990s, the city's population crossed the 8 million mark for the first time in 2000 and reached a new peak of 8.2 million in 2011.

New York City's Foreign-born, 1900–2011

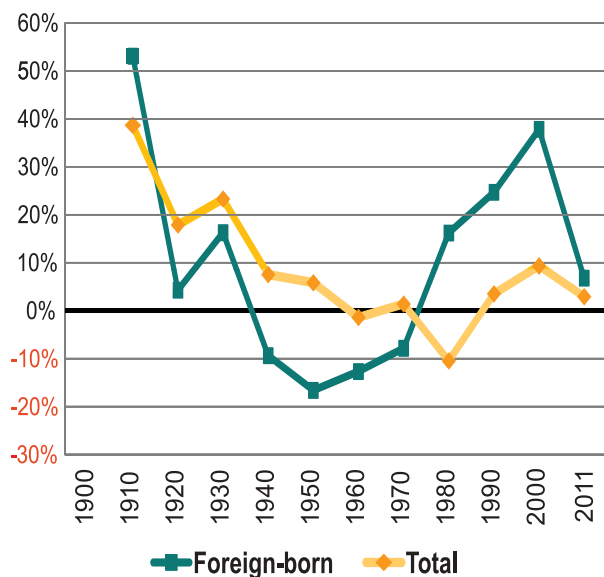
Since 2000, New York's foreign-born population increased modestly, from 2.9 million to just over 3 million in 2011, though it marked a new peak. Prior to this period, the previous high was in 1930, at the tail end of the huge wave of immigration from southern and eastern Europe, when the foreign-born population stood at 2.4 million. But with the slump in immigration during the Great Depression and World War II, the foreign-born population declined, reaching a low of 1.4 million in 1970. With changes in immigration law in 1965 resulting in a resurgence in immigration, the foreign-born population rose in the following three decades. While the 3 million foreign-born New Yorkers in 2011 were an all-time

Table 2-1
Population by Nativity
New York City and the United States, 1900–2011

Census Year	NEW YORK CITY			UNITED STATES			SHARE OF U.S. Foreign-born in New York
	Total Population	Foreign-born Population	Percent Foreign-born	Total Population	Foreign-born Population	Percent Foreign-born	
1900	3,437,202	1,270,080	37.0	75,994,575	10,341,276	13.6	12.3
1910	4,766,883	1,944,357	40.8	91,972,266	13,515,886	14.7	14.4
1920	5,620,048	2,028,160	36.1	105,710,620	13,920,692	13.2	14.6
1930	6,930,446	2,358,686	34.0	122,775,046	14,204,149	11.6	16.6
1940	7,454,995	2,138,657	28.7	131,669,275	11,594,896	8.8	18.4
1950	7,891,957	1,784,206	22.6	150,216,110	10,347,395	6.9	17.2
1960	7,783,314	1,558,690	20.0	179,325,671	9,738,091	5.4	16.0
1970	7,894,798	1,437,058	18.2	203,210,158	9,619,302	4.7	14.9
1980	7,071,639	1,670,199	23.6	226,545,805	14,079,906	6.2	11.9
1990	7,322,564	2,082,931	28.4	248,709,873	19,767,316	7.9	10.5
2000	8,008,278	2,871,032	35.9	281,421,906	31,107,889	11.1	9.2
2011	8,244,910	3,066,599	37.2	311,591,919	40,377,860	13.0	7.6

high, their share of the total population (37.2 percent) was well under the peak attained in the preceding century — 40.8 percent in 1910. The U.S. as a whole was 13 percent foreign-born in 2011.

Figure 2-1
Growth in the Total and Foreign-born Populations
New York City, 1900–2011



At the turn of the last century, New York City was home to 12.3 percent of the nation’s foreign-born population of 10.3 million (Figure 2-2). With southern and eastern European immigrants pouring in and settling disproportionately in New York, the city’s share of the nation’s foreign-born population

Figure 2-2
New York City’s Share of the
U.S. Foreign-born Population, 1900–2011

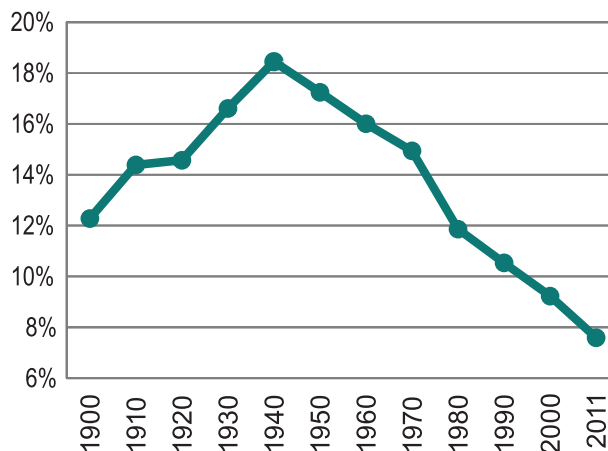
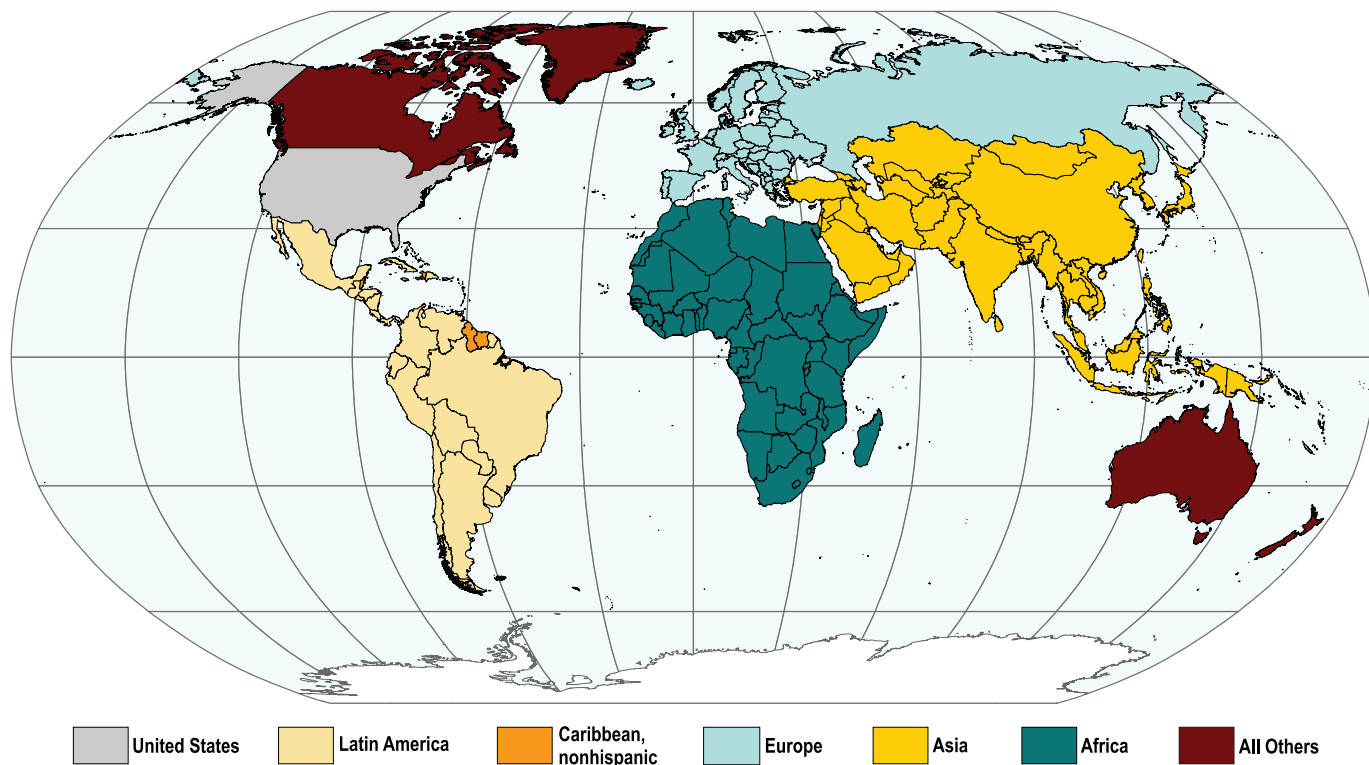


Figure 2-3
How Areas of Origin are Defined in this Report



increased in the next four decades, reaching 18.4 percent in 1940. As immigration waned, and longer-resident immigrants out-migrated from New York, the city’s share of the nation’s foreign-born population began to decline. By 1970, under 15 percent of the nation’s foreign-born made their home in New York City. While immigration to the city rebounded after the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Amendments, flows to the nation as a whole increased even faster as Mexicans and Asians largely settled on the West Coast. By 2011, under eight percent of the nation’s foreign-born lived in New York City. This still represented a disproportionate share of the nation’s foreign-born, given that the city accounted for under three percent of the U.S. population in 2011.

Area of Origin and Country of Birth, 2011

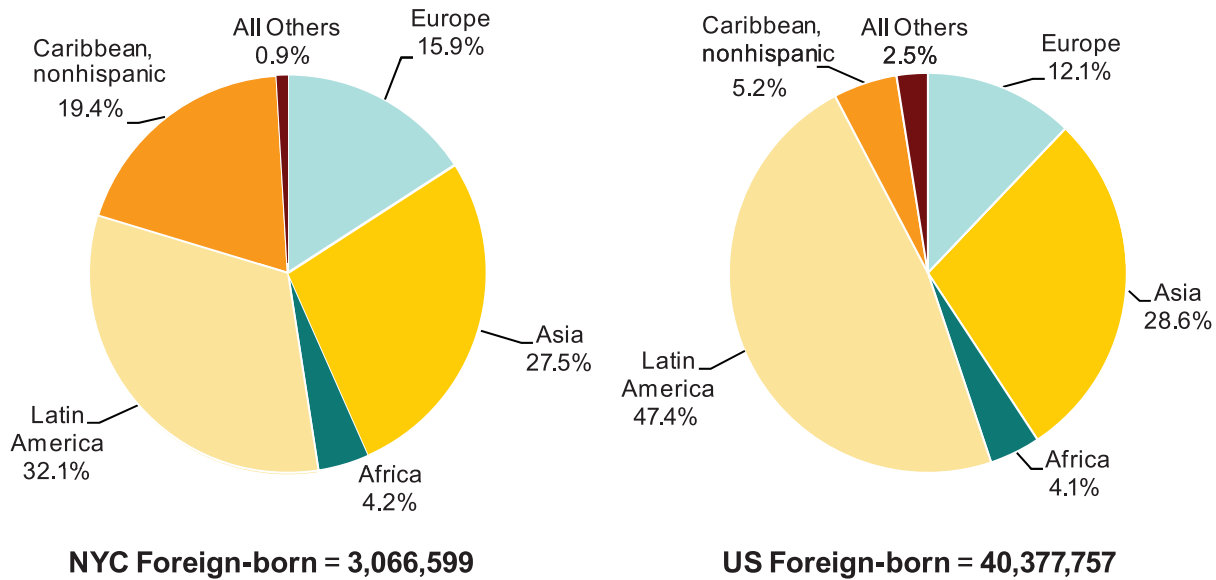
In order to get a broad picture of the foreign-born from around the globe, we divide the world into six

DEFINING AN IMMIGRANT IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The American Community Survey provides detailed information on the place of birth of city residents. Respondents who wrote-in a place of birth outside the United States and its territories, and whose parents were not American citizens, are included in the foreign-born population. The overwhelming share of the foreign-born are immigrants, i.e. persons who were at one time legally admitted to the U.S. for lawful permanent residence under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Unless otherwise noted, immigrants in this study are not necessarily recent entrants; indeed, many have spent years in the U.S. and are naturalized U.S. citizens.

The foreign-born population, however, also includes non-immigrants, such as students, business personnel, and diplomats, who have been admitted to the U.S. for a temporary duration. The foreign-born may also include undocumented persons who answered the census. Since immigrants comprise most of the foreign-born population, we use the terms immigrants and foreign-born interchangeably.

Figure 2-4
Areas of Origin of the Foreign-born Population
New York City and the United States, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1900–2000 censuses; 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

“areas of origin”: Latin America, Asia, the nonhispanic Caribbean,¹ Europe, Africa, and an “All Other” category (See Figure 2-3 for how each area is defined). Figure 2-4 shows the 2011 immigrant population in New York City and the U.S. by area of origin.

Latin America was the top area of origin in New York City, accounting for nearly one-third of the city’s immigrants. While this was a relatively large share, Latin Americans had an even larger presence among the nation’s foreign-born, where they had a 47 percent share. The Asian presence in the city (28 percent) was close to their 29 percent share of the overall U.S. foreign-born population. In contrast to Latin Americans and Asians, immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean disproportionately made their home in New York City – while they accounted for nearly one-in-five of the foreign-born population in the city, they comprised just five percent of the nation’s foreign-born. The European-born were also over-represented in New York, accounting for 16

percent of the city’s immigrants, but only 12 percent of the nation’s. Africans comprised the smallest share of the city’s immigrants (4 percent), similar to their share of the nation’s foreign-born.

Between 2000 and 2011, the foreign-born population in the city increased by 195,600 or 7 percent, from 2.87 million to 3.1 million (Table 2-2). Dominicans were the largest foreign-born group in 2011, with 380,200 residents or 12 percent of the total, followed by the Chinese (350,200 immigrants from the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) in second place, rankings both groups have maintained since 1990. Dominican growth, however, was a tepid 3 percent during this period, compared to a 34 percent increase for the Chinese. If these growth rates were to hold, the Chinese would likely be the city’s largest immigrant group in the next few years. Immigrants from Mexico, who numbered 186,300 moved into 3rd place in 2011, up from 5th place in 2000, aided by a 52 percent increase during this period.

Table 2-2
Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth
New York City, 2000 and 2011

	2011			2000			Growth, 2000–2011	
	RANK	NUMBER	PERCENT	RANK	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL, Foreign-born	–	3,066,599	100.0	–	2,871,032	100.0	195,567	6.8
Dominican Republic	1	380,160	12.4	1	369,186	12.9	10,974	3.0
China*	2	350,231	11.4	2	261,551	9.1	88,680	33.9
Mexico	3	186,298	6.1	5	122,550	4.3	63,748	52.0
Jamaica	4	169,235	5.5	3	178,922	6.2	-9,687	-5.4
Guyana	5	139,947	4.6	4	130,647	4.6	9,300	7.1
Ecuador	6	137,791	4.5	6	114,944	4.0	22,847	19.9
Haiti	7	94,171	3.1	7	95,580	3.3	-1,409	-1.5
Trinidad and Tobago	8	87,635	2.9	8	88,794	3.1	-1,159	-1.3
India	9	76,493	2.5	14	68,263	2.4	8,230	12.1
Russia	10	76,264	2.5	10	81,408	2.8	-5,144	-6.3
Bangladesh	11	74,692	2.4	17	42,865	1.5	31,827	74.2
Korea	12	72,822	2.4	12	70,990	2.5	1,832	2.6
Colombia	13	65,678	2.1	9	84,404	2.9	-18,726	-22.2
Ukraine	14	59,820	2.0	13	69,727	2.4	-9,907	-14.2
Poland	15	57,726	1.9	15	65,999	2.3	-8,273	-12.5
Philippines	16	50,925	1.7	16	49,644	1.7	1,281	2.6
Italy	17	49,075	1.6	11	72,481	2.5	-23,406	-32.3
Pakistan	18	39,794	1.3	18	39,165	1.4	629	1.6
United Kingdom	19	34,134	1.1	21	28,996	1.0	5,138	17.7
El Salvador	20	32,903	1.1	25	26,802	0.9	6,101	22.8
Honduras	22	28,552	0.9	19	32,358	1.1	-3,806	-11.8
Greece	26	22,915	0.7	20	29,805	1.0	-6,890	-23.1

Includes the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

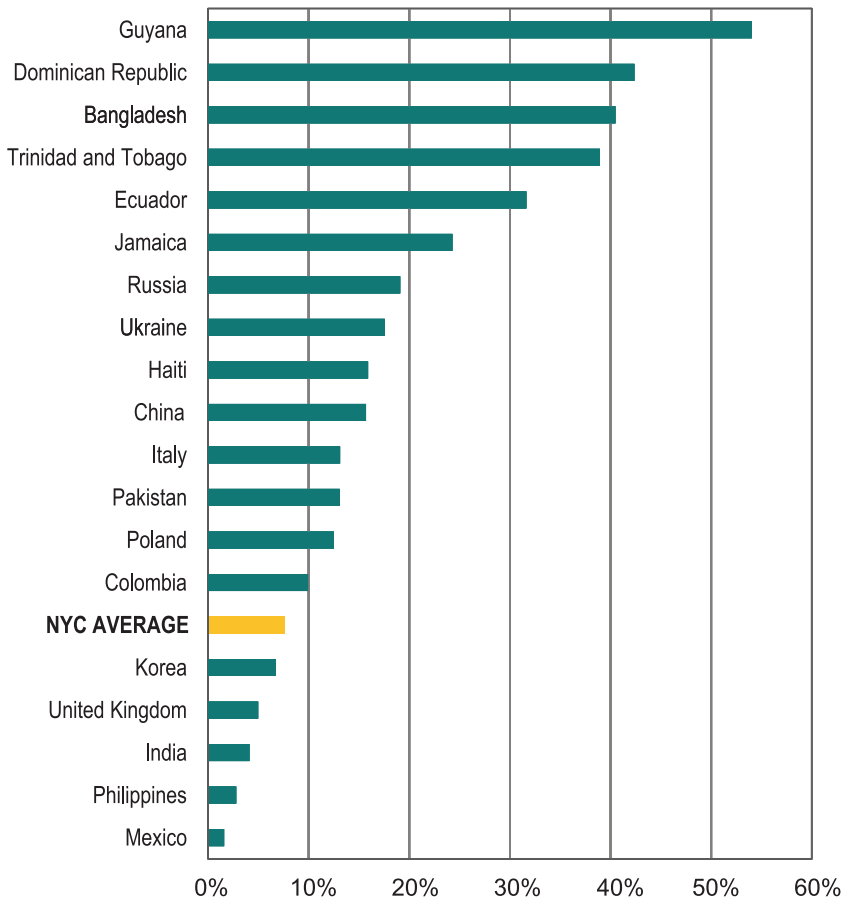
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census-Summary File 3; 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

In fourth and 5th places were 2 nonhispanic Caribbean sources – Jamaica (169,200) and Guyana (139,900), followed by Ecuador (137,800), and two other nonhispanic Caribbean countries, Haiti (94,200) and Trinidad and Tobago (87,600). The foreign-born from Jamaica, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago declined between 2000 and 2011, while the Guyanese population increased by seven percent. India moved into the top 10 in 2011 – the 76,500 immigrants from that country placed it in 9th place, up from 14th place, while Russia maintained its position

as the tenth largest source. (As a single political unit, the former U.S.S.R. would have ranked 5th in 2011 and 4th in 2000.²)

Turning to those in the second half of the top 20 list, continued growth in the Bangladeshi population placed them at number 11, up from number 17 in 2000. In contrast, Colombia exited the top 10, ranking 13th in 2011, while an aging Italian population fell by one-third and dropped to 17th place. Hondurans and Greeks, who rounded out the top 20 in 2000, also

Figure 2-5
New York City's 2011 Share of the U.S. Foreign-born Population
by Country of Birth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

the city's top 20 list of the foreign-born had a below average propensity to settle in New York. These countries were Mexico (under two percent of the nation's Mexican-born population lived in the city), Philippines (three percent), India (four percent), the United Kingdom (five percent) and Korea (seven percent).

The top sources of the foreign-born population for the U.S. differed markedly from those for New York City (Figure 2-6). Mexicans dominated the U.S. immigrant population, accounting for nearly three-in-ten of the nation's 40 million foreign-born. In contrast, the city's immigrant population was more diverse – Dominicans, the largest immigrant group in the city, accounted for only 12 percent of the foreign-born. China was the second largest source country for the U.S., followed by India, the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. Six countries on the nation's top 10 list – Philippines, El Salvador, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, and Guatemala – were not among the city's top 10 groups, and the last 3 were not even among the city's top 20 groups.

saw declines in their populations and were replaced by the United Kingdom and El Salvador, respectively.

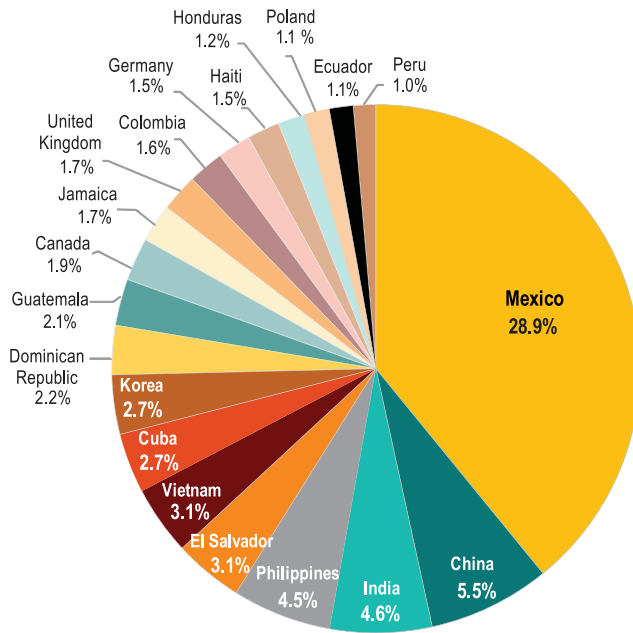
In 2011, New York City's 3.1 million immigrants comprised under 8 percent of the country's foreign-born population (Figure 2-5). But most of New York's top 20 immigrant groups disproportionately made their home in the city. The Guyanese had the highest proclivity to settle in New York, with over one-half of Guyanese immigrants in the U.S. making their home in the city. Other countries that were disproportionately represented in the city included the Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, and Trinidad and Tobago – around four-in-ten immigrants in the U.S. from these sources settled in New York. Only five countries in

Change in the Composition of the Immigrant Population, 1970–2011

This section examines the changing composition of the foreign-born population since the passage of the 1965 amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act. For the years 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2011, Tables 2-3 and 2-4 show the area of origin and top source countries of the foreign-born populations of New York City and the U.S., respectively, while Figure 2-7 shows the share of each area of origin during this period.

In 1970, of the 1.44 million immigrants in the city, 64 percent (922,800) were from Europe, and the top five source countries were all European. Those born

Figure 2-6
Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth,
United States, 2011



US Foreign-born = 40,377,757

Sources:
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

in Italy were the largest source (212,200), followed by Poland (119,600), the U.S.S.R. (117,400), Germany (98,300), and Ireland (68,800). Other European sources in the city's top 20 list were the United Kingdom, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia; European countries accounted for 12 of the top 20 sources of the foreign-born. Latin America provided 15 percent of the city's foreign-born population, with Cuba (63,000) and the Dominican Republic (51,200) in 5th and 6th place, respectively.

By 1980, the city's immigrant population had increased to 1.67 million, but the number of European-born declined to 667,200. Nevertheless, the European-born remained the largest group, comprising 40 percent of the foreign-born, and Europe accounted for 10 of the top 20 sources of the foreign-born in the city. Italy remained the largest source country, but the U.S.S.R., the next largest European source, dropped to

fifth. The Dominican Republic, with 120,600 residents, was the second largest source country, followed by Jamaica (93,100) and China (85,100). Latin America was the birthplace of 21 percent of the foreign-born, the nonhispanic Caribbean accounted for 17 percent, and Asia for 13 percent.

In 1990, the foreign-born crossed the 2 million mark, and Latin America emerged as the largest area of origin of the city's immigrant population. The Dominican Republic was the number one source country; Colombia (in eighth place) and Ecuador (in tenth place) were the only other two Latin American countries ranked in the top 10. Europe accounted for 24 percent of the foreign-born, with Italy and the U.S.S.R. still in the top five. Asia and the nonhispanic Caribbean each accounted for one-fifth of the foreign-born population. China, ranked 2nd, was the only Asian source in the top 10, but Korea, India, and the Philippines were top 20 source countries. Three nonhispanic Caribbean countries were in the top 10: Jamaica (ranked 3rd), Guyana (ranked 6th), and Haiti (in 7th place).

The year 2000 saw the city's foreign-born reach 2.87 million, with Latin America accounting for nearly one-third of the total. Four Latin American countries were on the city's top 10 list of sources of immigrants: the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ecuador, and Colombia. With a 24 percent share, Asia eclipsed the nonhispanic Caribbean to comprise the second largest area of origin, though China was the only Asian country that figured in the top 10 foreign-born list. In contrast, though immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean accounted for a lower share (21 percent), they included 4 countries in the top 10: Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago. The European share of the foreign-born population continued to decline, to 19 percent, while the African share grew to 3 percent.

By 2011, the city's foreign-born reach a new peak of 3.1 million, but as in the prior three decades, no one area of origin accounted for a majority. The European share of the foreign-born population dropped to 16 percent, with the number of European-born persons (487,000) approximately one-half the total in 1970.

Table 2-3

**Foreign-born Population by Area of Origin and Country of Birth
New York City, 1970–2011**

	NYC FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION					COUNTRY RANK				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2011	1970	1980	1990	2000	2011
TOTAL, Foreign-born	1,437,058	1,670,199	2,082,931	2,871,032	3,066,599	–	–	–	–	–
AFRICA	13,029	23,360	42,481	92,435	128,176	–	–	–	–	–
ASIA	104,936	217,680	411,697	686,599	843,321	–	–	–	–	–
China	37,348	85,100	160,399	261,551	350,231	11	4	2	2	2
Korea	2,665	20,380	56,949	70,990	72,822	47	23	11	12	12
India	5,032	21,500	40,419	68,263	76,493	34	20	14	14	9
Philippines	8,275	21,260	36,463	49,644	50,925	29	21	16	16	16
Bangladesh*	–	1,280	8,695	42,865	74,692	–	77	42	17	11
Pakistan	932	4,440	14,911	39,165	39,794	61	46	29	18	18
EUROPE	922,849	667,200	495,785	557,492	486,806	–	–	–	–	–
Austria	48,024	26,160	12,072	6,700	3,837	9	17	35	52	75
Czechoslovakia**	21,523	16,320	11,825	8,628	6,272	15	26	36	45	59
Germany	98,336	60,760	38,259	27,708	18,657	4	7	15	22	30
Greece	35,000	41,760	31,894	29,805	22,915	12	11	18	20	26
Hungary	31,717	22,660	14,631	11,144	7,938	13	18	30	43	50
Ireland	68,778	42,360	31,252	22,604	12,392	5	10	19	28	44
Italy	212,160	156,280	98,868	72,481	49,075	1	1	4	11	17
Poland	119,604	77,160	61,265	65,999	57,726	2	6	9	15	15
Romania	21,165	17,560	17,585	19,280	14,134	16	25	28	32	40
U.S.S.R.	117,363	78,340	80,815	–	–	3	5	5	–	–
Russia	–	–	–	81,408	76,264	–	–	–	10	10
Ukraine	–	–	–	69,727	59,820	–	–	–	13	14
United Kingdom	48,798	34,520	28,740	28,996	34,134	8	15	20	21	19
Yugoslavia***	16,491	22,300	21,926	19,535	–	19	19	23	30	–
LATIN AMERICA	211,048	353,500	574,151	919,759	984,722	–	–	–	–	–
Colombia	22,581	41,020	65,731	84,404	65,678	14	12	8	9	13
Cuba	63,043	49,720	41,039	26,030	17,687	6	9	13	26	32
Dominican Republic	51,231	120,600	225,017	369,186	380,160	7	2	1	1	1
Ecuador	16,075	39,000	60,451	114,944	137,791	20	14	10	6	6
Honduras	4,672	9,520	17,890	32,358	28,552	35	34	27	19	22
Mexico	3,541	7,380	32,689	122,550	186,298	42	36	17	5	3
CARIBBEAN, nonhispanic	113,892	282,980	410,532	591,660	595,740	–	–	–	–	–
Guyana	–	31,960	76,150	130,647	139,947	–	16	6	4	5
Haiti	20,245	50,160	71,892	95,580	94,171	18	8	7	7	7
Jamaica	40,672	93,100	116,128	178,922	169,235	10	3	3	3	4
Trinidad and Tobago	13,773	39,160	56,478	88,794	87,635	22	13	12	8	8
ALL OTHERS	71,304	125,479	148,285	23,087	27,834	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	20,545	15,320	13,818	17,318	21,070	17	28	31	34	27

*The 1990 ranking for Bangladesh is based on a figure from PUMS.

**Includes both the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 2000 and 2011.

***Includes only Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo in 2000

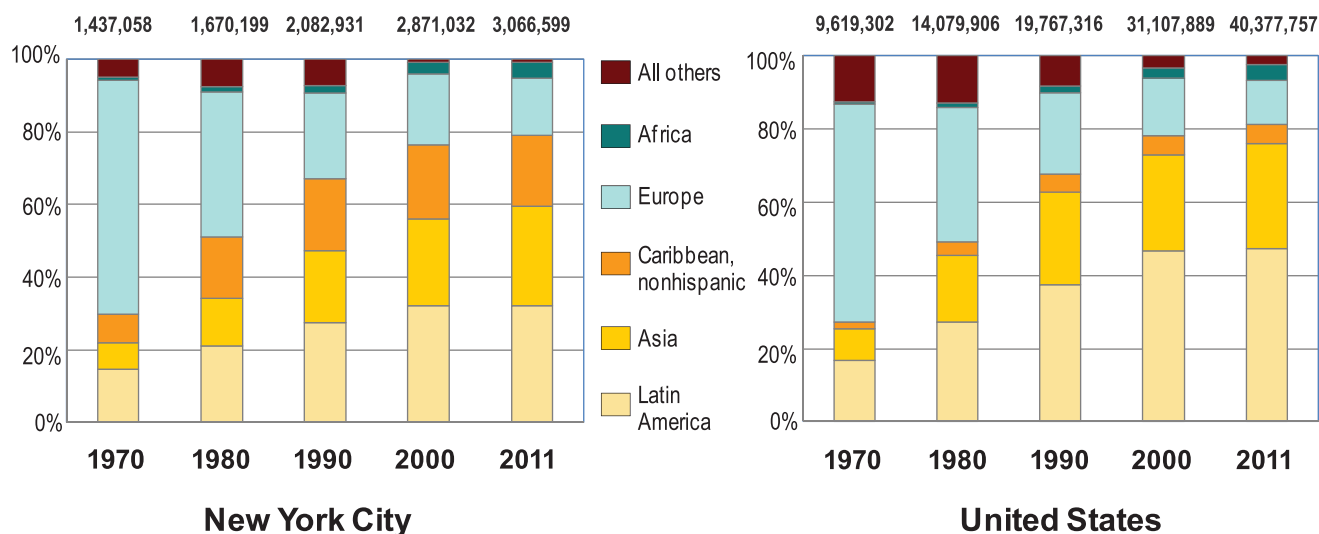
Sources: 2011 (ACS-SF), 2000 (SF3), 1990 (STF4), 1980 PUMS (for NYC country detail only) and STF4 (U.S.) and 1970 (STF4)

Table 2-4

Foreign-born Population by Area of Origin and Country of Birth United States, 1970–2011

	U.S. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION					SHARE LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2011	1970	1980	1990	2000	2011
TOTAL, Foreign-born	9,619,302	14,079,906	19,767,316	31,107,889	40,377,757	14.9	11.9	10.5	9.2	7.6
AFRICA	61,463	199,723	363,819	881,300	1,664,414	21.2	11.7	11.7	10.5	7.7
ASIA	824,887	2,539,777	4,979,037	8,226,254	11,562,022	12.7	8.6	8.3	8.3	7.3
China	172,132	366,500	921,070	1,518,652	2,231,159	21.7	23.2	17.4	17.2	15.7
Korea	38,711	289,885	568,397	864,125	1,082,613	6.9	7.0	10.0	8.2	6.7
India	51,000	206,087	450,406	1,022,552	1,856,777	9.9	10.4	9.0	6.7	4.1
Philippines	184,842	501,440	912,674	1,369,070	1,813,597	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.6	2.8
Bangladesh	–	4,989	21,414	95,294	184,469	–	25.7	40.6	45.0	40.5
Pakistan	6,182	30,774	91,889	223,477	303,915	15.1	14.4	16.2	17.5	13.1
EUROPE	5,712,026	5,149,572	4,350,403	4,915,557	4,889,987	16.2	13.0	11.4	11.3	10.0
Austria	214,014	145,607	87,673	63,648	48,179	22.4	18.0	13.8	10.5	8.0
Czechoslovakia	160,899	112,707	87,020	83,081	72,905	13.4	14.5	13.6	10.4	8.6
Germany	832,965	849,384	711,929	706,704	608,288	11.8	7.2	5.4	3.9	3.1
Greece	177,275	210,998	177,398	165,750	138,269	19.7	19.8	18.0	18.0	16.6
Hungary	183,236	144,368	110,337	92,017	77,485	17.3	15.7	13.3	12.1	10.2
Ireland	251,375	197,817	169,827	156,474	132,540	27.4	21.4	18.4	14.4	9.3
Italy	1,008,533	831,922	580,592	473,338	373,897	21.0	18.8	17.0	15.3	13.1
Poland	548,107	418,128	388,328	466,742	461,618	21.8	18.5	15.8	14.1	12.5
Romania	70,687	66,994	91,106	135,966	164,606	29.9	26.2	19.3	14.2	8.6
U.S.S.R.	463,462	406,022	333,725	–	–	25.3	19.3	24.2	–	–
Russia	–	–	–	340,177	399,216	–	–	–	23.9	19.1
Ukraine	–	–	–	275,153	340,468	–	–	–	25.3	17.6
United Kingdom	686,099	669,149	640,145	677,751	684,573	7.1	5.2	4.5	4.3	5.0
Yugoslavia	153,745	152,967	141,516	212,753	–	10.7	14.6	15.5	9.2	–
LATIN AMERICA	1,620,278	3,853,045	7,403,663	14,483,112	19,156,043	13.0	9.2	7.8	6.4	5.1
Colombia	63,538	143,508	286,124	509,872	658,667	35.5	28.6	23.0	16.6	10.0
Cuba	439,048	607,814	736,971	872,716	1,094,811	14.4	8.2	5.6	3.0	1.6
Dominican Republic	61,228	169,147	347,858	687,677	897,263	83.7	71.3	64.7	53.7	42.4
Ecuador	36,663	86,128	143,314	298,626	435,476	43.8	45.3	42.2	38.5	31.6
Honduras	19,118	39,154	108,923	282,852	490,636	24.4	24.3	16.4	11.4	5.8
Mexico	759,711	2,199,221	4,298,014	9,177,487	11,672,619	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.3	1.6
CARIBBEAN, nonhispanic	183,692	530,010	1,004,174	1,603,862	2,089,301	62.0	53.4	40.9	36.9	28.5
Guyana	–	48,608	120,698	211,189	259,036	–	65.8	63.1	61.9	54.0
Haiti	28,026	92,395	225,393	419,317	592,260	72.2	54.3	31.9	22.8	15.9
Jamaica	68,576	196,811	334,140	553,827	696,990	59.3	47.3	34.8	32.3	24.3
Trinidad and Tobago	20,673	65,907	115,710	197,398	225,115	66.6	59.4	48.8	45.0	38.9
ALL OTHERS	1,216,956	1,807,779	1,666,220	997,804	1,015,990	5.9	6.9	8.9	2.3	2.7
Canada	812,421	842,859	744,830	820,771	786,317	2.5	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.7

Figure 2-7
Foreign-Born by Area of the World
New York City and the United States, 1970–2011



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970-2000 censuses; 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

The foreign-born from most European countries declined, including those born in Russia and Ukraine. The United Kingdom was the only major European source that saw its numbers increase—by 18 percent—in the past decade.

Latin Americans accounted for 32 percent of the foreign-born in 2011, similar to their share in 2000. Mexicans, whose population nearly quadrupled in the 1990s, saw growth moderate to 52 percent in the past decade, still the highest among Latin Americans. Immigrants from Mexico, who numbered 186,300 in 2011, are now the 3rd largest foreign-born group in the city, up from 5th place in 2000 and 42nd place in 1970. Ecuadorians grew 20 percent to reach 138,000, while Colombians declined for the first time, by 22 percent. The relative positions of these two countries have changed over the past four decades: between 1970 and 1990, the population of Colombians exceeded that of Ecuadorians, but by 2011, there were twice as many Ecuadorians as Colombians. Cubans continued to see their numbers decline, down by nearly one-third in the past decade. They were the 6th largest foreign-born group in 1970 and ranked 33rd in 2011 as Cuban flows bypassed the city for

other parts of the New York region. As a result, the city was home to just two percent of the nation’s Cuban-born population in 2011, compared to 14 percent in 1970.

Asians accounted for 28 percent of the foreign-born in 2011, up from 24 percent in 2000. India moved into the top 10 in 2011—the 76,500 immigrants from that country placed it in 9th place. As a result, for the first time, two Asian countries were in the top 10, the other country being China, which maintained its position as the second largest source country. In the past decade, the dramatic growth in the Bangladeshi population tapered to 74 percent, but remains the highest of any Asian group. Bangladesh was the 11th largest group in 2011, up from 17th in 2000 and 42nd in 1990. If current trends continue, the count of immigrants from Bangladesh is likely to soon match those from India.

The nonhispanic Caribbean saw its share of the city’s foreign-born population decline slightly, from over one-in-five in the 1990s to 19 percent in 2011. With the exception of Guyana, the foreign-born from the other major senders from this region declined in the past decade. These numerical declines in the

city have been accompanied by high growth across the country, resulting in a declining share living in New York. Between 2000 and 2011, the share of immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago living in the city declined from 45 percent to 39 percent, the share of Jamaicans living in the city declined from 32 percent to 24 percent, and Haitians declined from 23 percent to 16 percent. Even the Guyanese, who saw relatively high growth in the city, experienced even higher growth in the nation as a whole, resulting in a decline in the city's share of the Guyanese population, from 62 percent to 54 percent.

Finally, between 2000 and 2011, the African-born population increased 39 percent, to 128,200, accounting for over 4 percent of the foreign-born. African groups do not make the city's top 20 list of the foreign-born, but are a growing presence among recent entrants to the city (see next section).

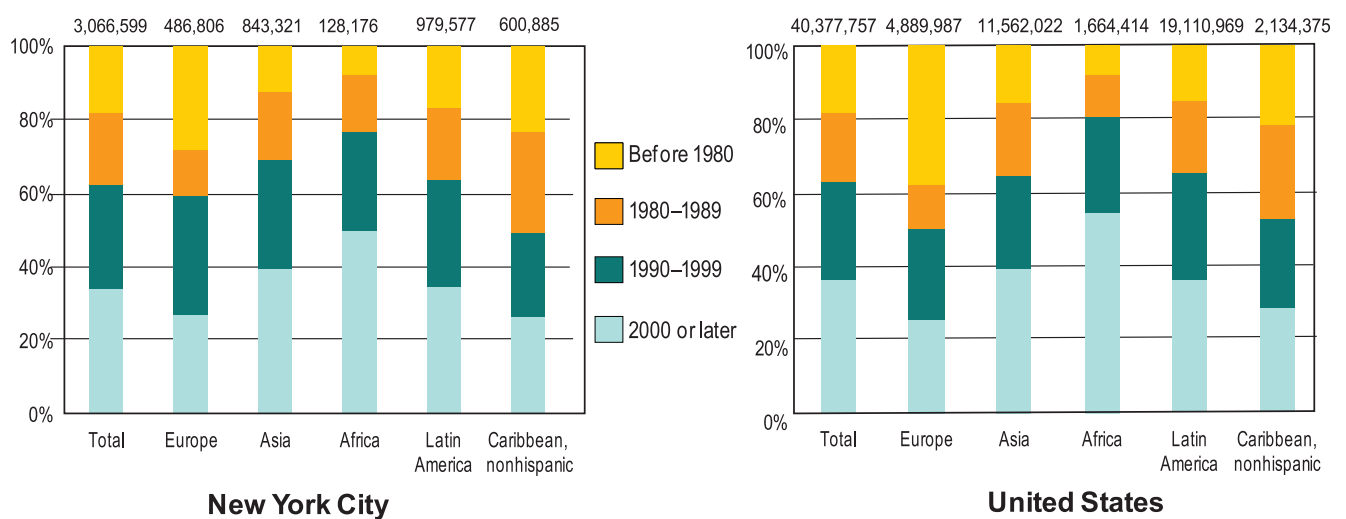
The 1970 census, when Europe accounted for nearly two-thirds of New York's foreign-born, marked the last time immigrant New York was truly dominated by just one continent. Since then, diversity has become a hallmark of the city's foreign-born

population, with the largest group (Latin Americans) accounting for less than one-third of the immigrant population in 2011. With respect to the overall U.S. foreign-born population, the European dominance of earlier decades has also waned, with the share of the European-born falling from 59 percent in 1970 to 12 percent in 2011. To some extent, Latin Americans have replaced Europeans as the dominant foreign-born group in the U.S. as a whole, with their share increasing from 17 percent of all foreign-born persons in 1970 to a near majority (47 percent) in 2011. However, the ascendance of Latin America is a far cry from the European dominance of earlier decades.

Decade of Entry of the Foreign-born in 2011 by Area of Origin and Country of Birth

New York's foreign-born population in 2011 was comprised primarily of those who had arrived in the prior two decades, often succeeding departing immigrants from earlier cohorts. Over one-third of the city's foreign-born were recent entrants, defined as those who arrived in the U.S. in 2000 or later, while 28 percent entered the U.S. in the 1990s (Figure

Figure 2-8
Foreign-Born by Area of the World by Year of Entry
New York City and the United States, 2011



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Table 2-5
Decade of Entry of the Foreign-born by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

TOP 20 FOREIGN-BORN GROUPS							TOP 20 RECENT ARRIVALS, 2000 OR LATER		
COUNTRY	RANK	NUMBER	PERCENT ARRIVING				COUNTRY	RANK	NUMBER
			2000 or LATER	1990–2000	1980–1990	BEFORE 1980			
TOTAL, New York City	–	3,066,599	33.8	28.1	19.5	18.5	TOTAL, New York City	–	1,035,758
Dominican Republic	1	380,160	30.5	29.6	22.7	17.2	China	1	132,766
China	2	350,231	37.0	27.4	21.0	14.5	Dominican Republic	2	111,672
Mexico	3	186,298	52.8	31.9	11.2	4.1	Mexico	3	94,491
Jamaica	4	169,235	23.7	24.5	30.1	21.7	Ecuador	4	50,308
Guyana	5	139,947	31.3	23.8	28.8	16.1	Guyana	5	42,987
Ecuador	6	137,791	35.1	31.2	17.4	16.3	Jamaica	6	40,331
Haiti	7	94,171	30.7	14.8	30.2	24.3	Bangladesh	7	37,540
Trinidad & Tobago	8	87,635	27.7	27.4	19.5	25.4	India	8	32,471
India	9	76,493	41.0	33.2	16.6	9.1	Haiti	9	31,581
Russia	10	76,264	25.2	50.1	16.2	8.5	Korea	10	26,023
Bangladesh	11	74,692	49.8	40.0	8.1	2.2	Trinidad & Tobago	11	24,343
Korea	12	72,822	37.8	25.8	23.7	12.7	Russia	12	18,781
Colombia	13	65,678	29.2	25.4	22.9	22.4	Colombia	13	18,571
Ukraine	14	59,820	20.0	60.5	11.3	8.2	Philippines	14	18,242
Poland	15	57,726	28.9	37.2	14.9	19.0	Pakistan	15	16,128
Philippines	16	50,925	40.4	23.0	18.4	18.3	Poland	16	15,237
Italy	17	49,075	12.7	7.0	8.2	72.1	United Kingdom	17	15,059
Pakistan	18	39,794	42.0	34.7	18.2	5.0	Ghana	18	14,670
United Kingdom	19	34,134	45.2	16.5	13.3	25.0	Guatemala	19	12,874
El Salvador	20	32,903	27.9	33.3	25.7	13.1	Ukraine	20	12,705

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980-2000 censuses; 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample and Summary File
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

2-8). Thus, over 60 percent of the city’s foreign-born entered the U.S. in 1990 or later, comparable to that of the overall U.S. foreign-born population.³

Europeans, with a long history of immigration to the city, were the longest resident foreign-born group, with 28 percent having arrived in the U.S. prior to 1980. Just 13 percent of the European foreign-born had arrived in the 1980s, a reflection of the dip in European immigration to the U.S. during that

period, but 32 percent had entered in the 1990s, testament to the era of booming flows from the former Soviet Union. In contrast, just one-quarter of the European foreign-born population in the U.S. as a whole arrived in the 1990s, indicative of the disproportionate European flow to the city.

Among immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean, the largest share arrived in the 1980s (27 percent), a period when flows from this area were

surging. Another 23 percent arrived prior to 1980, a proportion second only to the European foreign-born, and pointing to the role this group has long played in immigration to the city.

The African foreign-born were the city's most recent entrants, with nearly one-half having entered the U.S. in 2000 or later, followed by those born in Asia (39 percent) and Latin America (35 percent). In contrast, just over one-quarter of those born in the nonhispanic Caribbean and Europe were recent entrants, the lowest share among any group. This was a reflection of their longer history of immigration to New York, and in the case of nonhispanic Caribbean immigrants, an increased proclivity to bypass the city for the rest of the New York region.

Table 2-5 details the decade of entry for each of the top 20 groups in the city. Many groups had a high percentage of recent entrants. Among the foreign-born from the United Kingdom, over four-in-ten arrived in 2000 or later, as did approximately one-half of Mexicans and Bangladeshis. At the other end of the spectrum, just 13 percent of Italians and 20 percent of Ukrainians were recent entrants – 72 percent of Italians arrived prior to 1980 when flows from Italy were at a post-World War II peak. The share of the foreign-born from the nonhispanic Caribbean who were recent entrants ranged from 24 percent for Jamaicans to 31 percent for the Guyanese, below the city average of 34 percent. This is related to an increasing share of newly arrived immigrants from this region who bypass the city and settle directly in counties adjacent to New York City (please see Chapter 5 for additional information).

Table 2-5 also lists the 20 source countries with the largest number of recent entrants. Seventeen countries on the list of the 20 largest sources of the foreign-born also made the list of countries with the largest number of recent entrants, though they were often ranked differently on both lists. Bangladesh, ranked 11th on the city's top 20 list, had the 7th largest number of recent entrants, testament to its growing role on the city's immigrant landscape. In contrast, Italy, which ranked 17th in terms of its overall foreign-born population, ranked 32nd on the list of

recent entrants (data not shown), which indicates that not enough Italian immigrants are arriving to replenish this population. The two countries that made the top list of recent entrants, but were not among the top 20 sources of the foreign-born, were Ghana and Guatemala. In the coming years, these countries are likely to have a significant immigrant presence in New York.

SUMMARY

Since the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Amendments, New York's foreign-born population has more than doubled, to 3.1 million in 2011. Given that the total population of the city has not increased substantially during this time, the foreign-born share of the overall population has also more than doubled, to 37 percent. The surge in the foreign-born has been accompanied by a decline in the European share of this population, from 64 percent in 1970 to just 16 percent in 2011. Latin America was the largest area of origin in 2011, comprising nearly one-third of the city's foreign-born, followed by Asia (28 percent), and the nonhispanic Caribbean (19 percent). Africa accounted for just four percent. The Dominican Republic was the largest source of the foreign-born in 2011, followed by China, Mexico, Jamaica, and Guyana. Ecuador, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, India, and Russia rounded out the top ten. Thus, the foreign-born in 2011 had extremely diverse origins, in contrast to the overwhelming European origin of the foreign-born in earlier decades. Indeed, Russia was the only European country to make the top ten in 2011.

While immigration to New York City surged after the passage of the 1965 law, flows to the country as a whole have increased even faster. As a result, New York City's foreign-born, who comprised 15 percent of the nation's foreign-born in 1970, accounted for under eight percent in 2011. The origins of the nation's foreign-born were different from that of the city, with a heavier representation of Latin Americans and Asians. Mexico was the nation's largest source country, followed by three Asian countries—China, India, and the Philippines. As with the nation, Latin America and Asia were also the top areas of origin of New York City's foreign-

born, reflected in the presence of the Dominican Republic, China, and Mexico in the city's top five. However, those born in the nonhispanic Caribbean made up a disproportionate 19 percent of the city's foreign-born, compared to just 5 percent for the nation. Indeed, Jamaica and Guyana were among the city's top five sources of the foreign-born, but no country from the nonhispanic Caribbean made the nation's top 10 list.

Over one-third of New York's foreign-born arrived in 2000 or later, and over 60 percent arrived in 1990 or later. Africans were the most recent entrants, 50 percent of whom arrived since 2000, followed by those born in Asia (39 percent) and Latin America (35 percent). European and nonhispanic Caribbean immigrants were among the longest resident groups in the city.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The nonhispanic Caribbean comprises primarily countries in the Caribbean Basin that are not Spanish-speaking. It includes large source countries of the city's foreign-born, such as Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, and Barbados. It also includes smaller source countries, such as Anguilla, Antigua-Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. KittsNevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Turks & Caicos Islands, and the Central American nation of Belize.
- 2 The 2011 ACS estimates of immigrants from the former Soviet Republics were as follows: Russia (76,264), Ukraine (59,820), Uzbekistan (21,065), Belarus (12,639), Moldova (4,848), Armenia (2,698), and Kazakhstan (1,892). As a single group, these 179,226 immigrants from the former Soviet Union would be the 5th largest foreign-born group in the city in 2011. The 2000 census estimated 81,408 immigrants from Russia, 69,727 from Ukraine, 11,187 from Belarus, and 1,507 from Armenia. Thus, there were at least 163,829 immigrants from the former Soviet Union in 2000, and they would have ranked 4th among the city's foreign-born groups.
- 3 The year of entry does not refer to a person's arrival in New York City, but the year of initial entry anywhere in the U.S. Thus, a foreign-born person residing in New York City in 2011 may have a year of entry listed as sometime in the 1990s, but may have arrived in New York only in the 2000s. Similarly, there are people who arrived in New York in the 1990s, but who may have left the city, and are thus excluded from the city's foreign-born population in 2011.