4

Socio-Demographic Profile of The Foreign-Born

While earlier chapters examined the number, country-origins, and settlement patterns of the foreign-born, a more complete picture requires information on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of various immigrant groups. Information about age, sex, household type, education, labor force, occupation, and income characteristics of immigrant groups provides us with a perspective on where these groups fit along the city's socioeconomic spectrum. Such a perspective can greatly help those charged with developing policies, planning programs, or targeting services to immigrant groups. The needs of the foreign-born are unique and often more challenging, but the issues differ markedly for specific groups. An understanding of the characteristics of each group helps shape policies and programs that better fit specific groups, increasing their chances of success.

In this chapter, demographic and socioeconomic profiles of foreign-born groups are constructed from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) and include the following characteristics: age, sex, household type, ability to speak English, educational attainment, poverty status, median household income, labor force participation, and earnings. The chapter highlights differences between a group's socioeconomic characteristics and those for the city overall—where differences are noted, these are statistically significant.[1] In Chapter 2, 2011 ACS data were primarily from the Summary Files, which are derived from the full sample, while data presented in Chapter 3 were primarily from the five year ACS (2007–2011) Summary Files. Since different samples and time periods yield slightly different estimates of characteristics, figures that were based on the one- and five- year Summary Files will differ slightly from estimates in this chapter that are derived from the one- and three-year PUMS. (Please see Chapter 1 for more details.)

This chapter presents summary statistics, such as means and medians, for various socioeconomic variables. These summary statistics—for example, a median income of $30,000—are useful measures of the "central tendency" or "central position" within a distribution. A median income of $30,000 means that one-half of the population has an income above the median, and one-half is below that level. Similarly, if a group has an average poverty rate that is extremely high, it does not mean that every person in that group is necessarily in poverty. These measures also reflect only the current status of groups; they do not speak to issues of upward social mobility.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age Distribution

Immigrants tend to be disproportionately between the ages of 18 and 64: In 2011, 80 percent of the foreign-born were in this age group, compared with just 58 percent of the native-born (Table 4-1). Among Dominicans, 80 percent were between 18 and 64, while 79 percent of Chinese were so classified. The large share of the foreign-born in this age group is often related to the fact that the foreign-born are heavily comprised of recent arrivals, most of whom come to New York for economic opportunities and are primarily in the working age groups.[2] As noted in Chapter 2, and shown again in Table 4-1, 34 percent of the city's immigrants were recent arrivals, defined as having arrived in the U.S. in 2000 or later. Mexicans and Bangladeshis, who are overwhelmingly recent arrivals, tend to be among the youngest,

Table 4-1

Selected Demographic Characteristics by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

|		Percent Arrived in US 2000–2011	PERCENT OF THE POPULATION					Median Age	Sex Ratio*
				PERSONS, AGES 18 TO 64					
	Total		Under 18	Total	18 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over		
TOTAL, NYC	8,244,426	—	21.5	66.2	41.6	24.6	12.3	35	91
Native-born	5,184,514	—	31.4	58.1	39.4	18.7	10.4	28	92
Foreign-born	3,059,912	33.8	4.7	79.9	45.4	34.6	15.3	44	89
Dominican Republic	366,074	30.5	6.5	80.4	42.5	37.9	13.1	45	68
China	358,736	37.0	5.0	78.5	41.4	37.1	16.4	47	88
Mexico	179,010	52.8	3.9	94.7	81.5	13.2	1.4	33	171
Jamaica	170,279	23.7	4.2	80.6	37.7	42.9	15.3	48	69
Guyana	137,293	31.3	5.4	81.1	40.8	40.3	13.5	46	79
Ecuador	143,496	35.1	4.1	84.6	51.7	32.9	11.3	41	118
Haiti	102,866	30.7	7.3	73.3	34.5	38.7	19.5	49	79
Trinidad and Tobago	87,917	27.7	3.9	80.6	36.1	44.5	15.5	48	65
India	79,119	41.0	4.8	83.5	52.3	31.2	11.6	40	124
Russia	74,405	25.2	2.4	74.1	33.7	40.4	23.6	51	62
Bangladesh	75,452	49.8	10.1	85.3	61.6	23.7	4.6	35	119
Korea	68,835	37.8	4.5	85.1	57.2	28.0	10.4	40	65
Colombia	63,511	29.2	3.5	80.0	36.7	43.3	16.4	49	82
Ukraine	63,415	20.0	1.5	66.9	34.2	32.7	31.6	54	87
Poland	52,669	28.9	2.1	77.4	44.2	33.2	20.5	47	81
Philippines	45,173	40.4	5.7	73.5	35.1	38.3	20.8	49	62
Italy	50,413	12.7	0.2	53.8	18.2	35.6	46.1	63	108
Pakistan	38,386	42.0	9.7	83.6	48.8	34.8	6.7	40	123
United Kingdom	33,312	45.2	3.1	82.5	53.7	28.8	14.4	40	98
El Salvador	30,794	27.9	4.2	83.2	57.1	26.1	12.6	41	98

*Males per 100 females

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

with 95 percent and 85 percent, respectively between the ages of 18 and 64. This statistic actually masks the youthfulness of the Mexican population, since over 8-in-10 of all Mexican immigrants were between the ages of 18 and 44.

Forty-six percent of Italians were ages 65 and over—the highest among all groups—compared with 15 percent of all foreign-born who were ages 65 and over. Most Italians in New York City arrived prior to 1980 and represent earlier immigrant cohorts that are now aging. Ukrainians and Russians were also disproportionately in the older age groups, with 32 percent and 24 percent, respectively, ages 65 and over. The heyday of flows from these two sources was in the 1990s, when flows were comprised primarily of refugees who spanned the age spectrum— unlike those immigrating to the U.S. for economic reasons, who tend to be young. While these refugees have aged, immigration from Ukraine and Russia has declined in the past decade (see Chapter 6). Both reasons account for the relatively high proportion of those ages 65 and over among both these sources.

Figure 4-1

Children Under 18 Years by Nativity

New York City, 2011
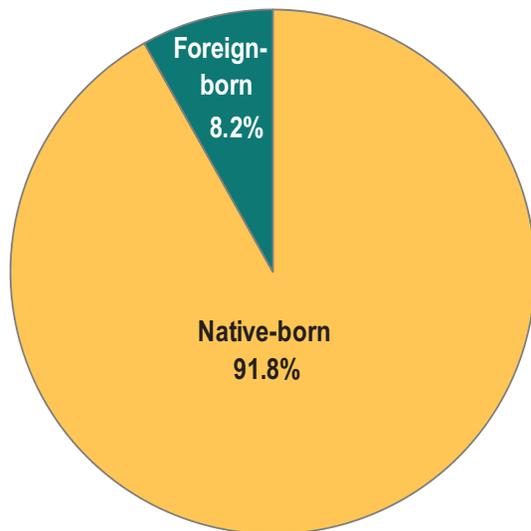
New York City Total = 1,774,455

We next turn to the share of children under 18 among the native- and foreign-born. As noted earlier, a disproportionate share of immigrants are between the ages of 18 and 44, which is when most child-bearing occurs. It is important to recognize that children born to immigrants are born primarily in the U.S. Figure 4-1 shows that of the 1.77 million children in New York City, 92 percent were born in the U.S., and are thus counted as native-born. As a result, children under 18 comprise 31 percent of the native-born, but 5 percent of the foreign-born. This dramatically lowers the median age of native-born residents to 28 years, compared with 44 years for foreign-born residents.[3]

Groups also differed in their sex ratios, defined as the number of males per 100 females. At birth, and in the earliest stages of the life-cycle, males exceed females. But because of higher male mortality, females exceed males in the overall population. The sex ratio for the city was 91, meaning that there were 91 males for every 100 females. The sex ratio differed slightly by nativity: It stood at 92 for the native-born and at 89 for the foreign-born. There were marked

differences, however, among foreign-born groups, primarily a result of their immigration histories.

Mexicans had the highest sex ratio, 171 males for every 100 females. As noted earlier, Mexicans are relatively recent entrants, who are young, and as the sex ratio indicates, disproportionately male. Among the top 20 foreign-born groups, South Asians also stood out for their high sex ratios. The sex ratio for Indians was 124, while it was 123 for Pakistanis and 119 for Bangladeshis. Often times, immigrant groups start out with very high sex ratios, with males first establishing themselves before being joined by their spouses and children, which eventually lowers the sex ratio.

Immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean had among the lowest sex ratios. Among Trinidadians and Tobagonians, there were just 65 males per 100 females, while the sex ratios for Jamaicans and Haitians were 69 and 79, respectively. For these groups, as well as for Colombians (82) and Dominicans (68), females are often in the vanguard of immigration and are later followed by males. This was also true for Filipinos, who had a sex ratio of 62, among the lowest for the top 20. As will be discussed in Chapter 6, many Filipinos have made use of a special provision in the law that allows for the entry of nurses into the United States. These nurses are overwhelmingly women, and it highlights how provisions in immigration law can affect the overall sex ratio of an immigrant group.

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Household/Family Type

In census terminology, households are classified either as family or nonfamily. If any person is related by blood, marriage or adoption to the head of the household, that household is defined as a family household. Family households have been further subdivided in this analysis into married couples; male householder, no spouse; and female householder, no spouse (referred to as female-headed). Households in which no one is related to the head of the household are defined as nonfamily households.

Table 4-2

Household/Family Type by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

	Total Households	PERCENT FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS				Percent Nonfamily Households
		Total	Married Couple	Male head, no spouse	Female head, no spouse	
TOTAL, NYC	**3,023,332**	**60.2**	**35.8**	**5.7**	**18.8**	**39.8**
Native-born	**1,703,244**	**51.7**	**29.2**	**4.5**	**18.0**	**48.3**
Foreign-born	**1,320,088**	**71.2**	**44.2**	**7.2**	**19.7**	**28.8**
Dominican Republic	161,138	80.2	28.1	8.4	43.7	19.8
China	136,228	79.4	64.9	4.1	10.3	20.6
Mexico	56,481	83.0	44.0	22.5	16.5	17.0
Jamaica	77,869	67.8	34.7	5.9	27.3	32.2
Guyana	54,772	80.9	47.5	6.7	26.7	19.1
Ecuador	50,233	83.1	49.3	14.1	19.8	16.9
Haiti	42,392	80.9	31.8	11.1	37.9	19.1
Trinidad and Tobago	41,920	76.4	40.2	5.6	30.5	23.6
India	29,437	72.3	58.3	8.4	5.5	27.7
Russia	37,846	57.2	43.9	3.6	9.8	42.8
Bangladesh	22,707	89.0	73.7	8.5	6.7	11.0
Korea	30,145	61.0	44.3	4.1	12.7	39.0
Colombia	28,320	68.9	38.0	8.1	22.8	31.1
Ukraine	33,400	59.2	48.4	2.3	8.6	40.8
Poland	28,179	64.4	49.9	6.4	8.1	35.6
Philippines	18,604	65.7	41.6	4.3	19.8	34.3
Italy	28,091	65.0	58.0	2.6	4.4	35.0
Pakistan	11,625	85.4	70.4	11.0	4.0	14.6
United Kingdom	17,991	41.6	30.8	5.5	5.3	58.4
El Salvador	12,374	76.3	32.8	9.6	33.9	23.7

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

Overall, 60 percent of households in the city were family households (Table 4-2), but this was true of 71 percent of foreign-born households. Among the top 20 foreign-born groups, nearly 9-in-10 Bangladeshi households were family households, and those with over 8-in-10 family households included Pakistanis, Ecuadorians, Mexicans, Guyanese, Haitians, and Dominicans. Those born in the United Kingdom had the lowest percentage of family households (42 percent), even lower than the average for native-born households (52 percent).

While a high percentage of immigrant households were comprised of families, the types of families differed substantially by group. Over 7-in-10 Bangladeshi and Pakistani households were married-couple families, and their percentage of female-headed households was in the single digits. In comparison, 44 percent of Dominican households were female-headed families, as were over 3-in-10 Haitian, Salvadoran, and Trinidadian households. With some of the largest immigrant groups disproportionately in female-headed families, the

overall share of immigrant households that were female-headed (20 percent) was higher than that of native-born households (18 percent).

Due to high immigrant fertility, the overall share of immigrant households that was nonfamily (29 percent) was much lower than that of the native-born (48 percent). Not surprisingly, immigrant groups with the largest household share in nonfamilies were generally older on average and included Russians and Ukrainians, over 40 percent of whose households were nonfamily. But the British had the largest percentage living in nonfamily households, with nearly 6-in-10 households so classified.

Average Household Size

There was an average of 2.7 persons per household in the City of New York in 2011 (Table 4-3). Households headed by the foreign-born were significantly larger (3.1 persons) than those headed by the native-born (2.4 persons). The lower average household size of the native-born can be partly explained by the fact that heads of household are older and more likely to be "empty nesters," with children living independently.

Most immigrants had a household size that generally exceeded the city average. Groups with the highest average household size included Mexican (4.5 persons), as well as Bangladeshi and Pakistani households (4.3 persons each). On the end of the spectrum, the average size of European households was generally below the city average, and usually below that of the native-born. Italian, Ukrainian, British, and Russian households averaged just 2.2 persons, while Polish households averaged 2.5 persons.

Household Tenure

Rates of home ownership, as measured by the percent of dwelling units that were owner-occupied, are also presented in Table 4-3. For the city overall, 31 percent of units were owner-occupied in 2011. Home ownership for the native-born stood at 33 percent, compared with 29 percent for the foreign-born.

Home ownership rates were highest for Italians (68 percent), followed by the Guyanese (49 percent), Chinese (44 percent), and Filipinos (41 percent). Among groups from the nonhispanic Caribbean, the home ownership rate stood at 40 percent for Jamaicans, and was marginally above the city average for Trinidadians and Haitians. Latin American groups had the lowest rates of home ownership, ranging from just 4 percent for Mexicans, to 22 percent for Colombians.

Overcrowding

Overcrowding, as defined by federal standards, occurs when there is more than one person per room in a housing unit. Citywide, 9 percent of all households were overcrowded (Table 4-3). While differences by nativity were evident with many socioeconomic characteristics, few comparisons are as striking as

Table 4-3
Selected Household Characteristics by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

	HOUSEHOLDS			
	Total	Average Size (Persons)	Percent Owner-Occupied	Percent Over-crowded*
TOTAL, NYC	**3,023,332**	**2.7**	**31.4**	**8.9**
Native-born	**1,703,244**	**2.4**	**33.0**	**5.0**
Foreign-born	**1,320,088**	**3.1**	**29.2**	**14.0**
Dominican Republic	161,138	3.4	7.3	15.5
China	136,228	3.2	43.8	17.6
Mexico	56,481	4.5	3.9	41.8
Jamaica	77,869	2.9	39.6	6.4
Guyana	54,772	3.5	49.3	12.5
Ecuador	50,233	3.9	18.5	23.1
Haiti	42,392	3.6	32.1	21.1
Trinidad and Tobago	41,920	3.0	32.9	7.9
India	29,437	3.2	36.1	15.3
Russia	37,846	2.2	31.3	4.6
Bangladesh	22,707	4.3	22.0	44.8
Korea	30,145	2.6	21.1	5.5
Colombia	28,320	2.9	22.0	15.3
Ukraine	33,400	2.2	32.2	4.3
Poland	28,179	2.5	31.3	7.7
Philippines	18,604	2.9	41.0	8.5
Italy	28,091	2.2	67.5	2.5
Pakistan	11,625	4.3	24.2	39.3
United Kingdom	17,991	2.2	39.3	0.0
El Salvador	12,374	3.8	17.8	28.2

*More than one person per room

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

that of overcrowding. The share of foreign-born households that were overcrowded (14 percent) was nearly 3 times that of native-born households (5 percent). This is, at least in part, a function of larger households among the foreign-born, as well as a reflection of the housing available to newcomers.[4]

Levels of overcrowding were extraordinarily high for many groups. The most acute levels of overcrowding were for Bangladeshis (45 percent), Mexicans (42 percent), and Pakistanis (39 percent). Levels of overcrowding were over 3 times the city average for Salvadorans (28 percent) and over twice the city average for Ecuadorians and Haitians. In contrast, many households for European groups, including British, Italian, Ukrainian, and Russian had levels of overcrowding below the city average—and the average for the native-born—a reflection of their smaller household size and older age.

High levels of home ownership fail to dampen the effects of large household sizes on overcrowding. For example, despite similar levels of home ownership among Haitian households and the native-born, the level of overcrowding among Haitian households (21 percent) is over 4 times that of native-born households (5 percent). Similarly, though Chinese and Indian home ownership rates significantly exceeded that of the native-born, the level of overcrowding of these groups was three times higher.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Ability to Speak English

Table 4-4 shows that while just 6 percent of native-born persons ages 5 and over were not proficient in English,[5] close to one-half of the foreign-born were so classified. Among the foreign-born, approximately 8-in-10 Mexicans and Salvadorans had problems speaking English. On the other end of the spectrum, among those from English-speaking countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, less than 2 percent were not proficient in English. Indeed, Figure 4-2 shows that in the central Brooklyn

neighborhoods of East Flatbush and Canarsie, home to large numbers of immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean, relatively few had problems with English. While not all immigrant neighborhoods had problems with English, it *was* an issue in a few neighborhoods that had substantial native-born populations. For example, in the south Bronx, home to many native-born Hispanics who were born on the island of Puerto Rico, a high percentage of residents were not English proficient.[6] Nevertheless, the overall percentages shown earlier indicate that the lack of English proficiency is an issue primarily for the foreign-born.

While immigrants from the English-speaking Caribbean were in a favorable position in terms of English proficiency, a large share of Caribbean immigrants from Creole/French-speaking Haiti were not English-language proficient (50 percent). The percentage of those not proficient in English among Hispanic immigrants was also uniformly high—64 percent or more of each Hispanic subgroup had problems speaking English. Among immigrant Asians, the level of proficiency varied widely. Chinese and Koreans had a high percentage not English proficient (75 and 63 percent, respectively), while Indians and Filipinos, many of whom were educated in English in their home countries, had a lower share with English language problems (32 and 24 percent, respectively).

Recency of arrival in New York was not strongly correlated with English language problems, although that would appear to be a logical assumption. For example, the share of Mexican immigrants who were not proficient in English was not very different from that for other Hispanic subgroups, despite the higher percentage of recent Mexican arrivals. Similarly, proficiency levels for Asians varied widely, despite high percentages of recent arrivals for every group.

Educational Attainment of Adults

Among city residents ages 25 and over, 80 percent were high school graduates, while 20 percent had less than a high school education (Table 4-4). Educational attainment was substantially higher among the native-born (87 percent high school

Table 4-4

**English Language Proficiency and Educational Attainment
by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011**

| | | **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (25 YEARS AND OVER)** | | | | |
| | | | | **PERCENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES** | | |
	Percent not English Proficient*	Population 25 and over	Percent less than High School	Total	High School Grad only	College or more
Total, NYC	**23.0**	**5,614,557**	**20.3**	**79.7**	**24.6**	**34.4**
Native-born	**6.2**	**2,917,961**	**13.4**	**86.6**	**23.3**	**40.4**
Foreign-born	**48.8**	**2,696,596**	**27.8**	**72.2**	**26.0**	**27.9**
Dominican Republic	70.0	311,568	45.4	54.6	22.4	12.6
China	74.8	317,245	40.5	59.5	20.6	28.2
Mexico	82.1	146,773	52.0	48.0	31.7	7.4
Jamaica	1.0	152,869	21.1	78.9	35.2	20.7
Guyana	1.8	119,703	25.9	74.1	38.3	16.0
Ecuador	75.8	127,939	41.4	58.6	30.6	10.8
Haiti	49.6	89,437	20.1	79.9	30.7	18.6
Trinidad and Tobago	1.3	79,153	20.3	79.7	36.6	15.2
India	32.4	70,340	13.9	86.1	12.5	64.8
Russia	63.2	68,235	9.1	90.9	25.2	50.5
Bangladesh	58.4	58,780	18.2	81.8	24.2	37.4
Korea	62.8	59,772	8.8	91.2	18.7	54.8
Colombia	63.5	57,515	25.4	74.6	31.7	19.4
Ukraine	70.9	58,527	5.6	94.4	19.1	54.3
Poland	48.7	49,858	13.5	86.5	26.5	35.2
Philippines	24.4	40,005	7.6	92.4	5.8	66.5
Italy	45.0	49,745	42.4	57.6	30.2	14.5
Pakistan	45.4	29,997	26.5	73.5	20.7	35.0
United Kingdom	1.2	29,344	6.2	93.8	16.0	57.2
El Salvador	79.4	27,605	53.3	46.7	32.4	4.7

*The population not English-proficient was defined as those ages 5 and over who spoke a language other than English at home and who spoke English less than "very well."

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

graduates), compared with their foreign-born counterparts (72 percent), though there was substantial variation among immigrant groups.
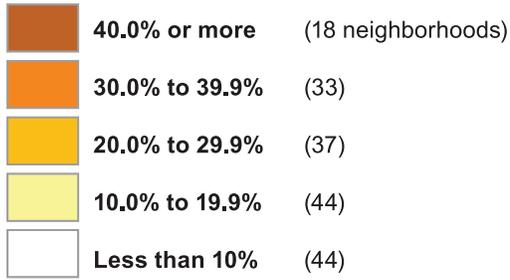
Asian groups had among the highest levels of schooling. Among immigrant Filipinos and Koreans, over 90 percent had graduated high school, as had 86 percent of Indians. On the other end of the spectrum, just 60 percent of Chinese immigrants were high school graduates. Many Asian groups had a high percentage of college graduates: Approximately two-thirds of Filipinos and Indians completed college, as

did over one-half of Koreans; this compared with 34 percent of all city residents.

Among Latin American immigrants, less than one-half of Salvadorans and Mexicans had completed high school; the percentage of college graduates was in the single digits. Educational attainment of Ecuadorians and Dominicans was marginally higher, while Colombians had the highest educational attainment among Latin American immigrants, though still well below the city average.
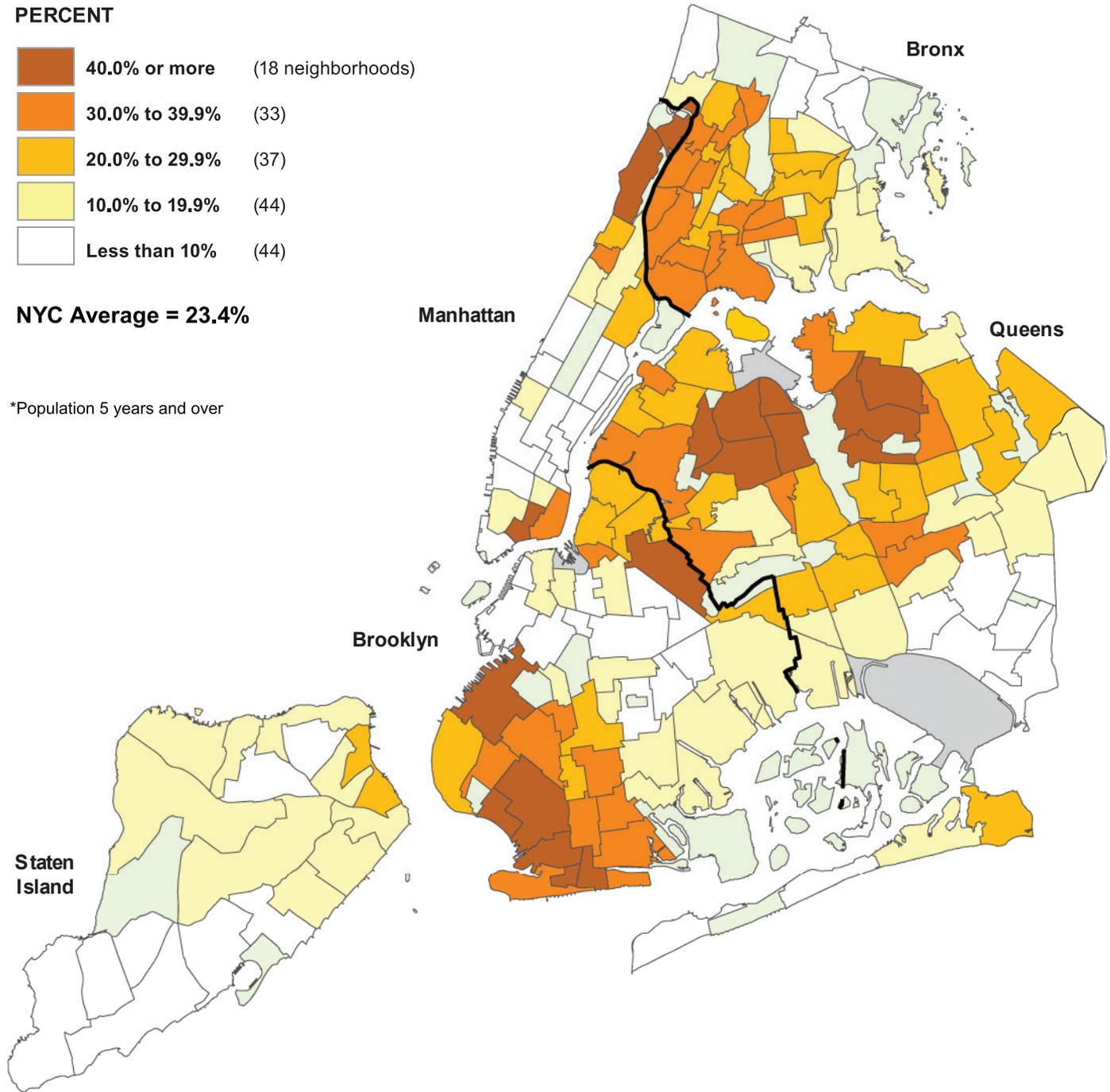
Figure 4-2
Percent of Population* Not Proficient in English
# New York City, 2007–2011

PERCENT

	40.0% or more	(18 neighborhoods)
	30.0% to 39.9%	(33)
	20.0% to 29.9%	(37)
	10.0% to 19.9%	(44)
	Less than 10%	(44)

NYC Average = 23.4%

*Population 5 years and over

Bronx

Manhattan

Queens

Brooklyn

Staten Island

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007–2011 American Community Survey–Summary File
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Figure 4-3
Dropout Rates Among Persons 17–24
New York City, 2007–2011
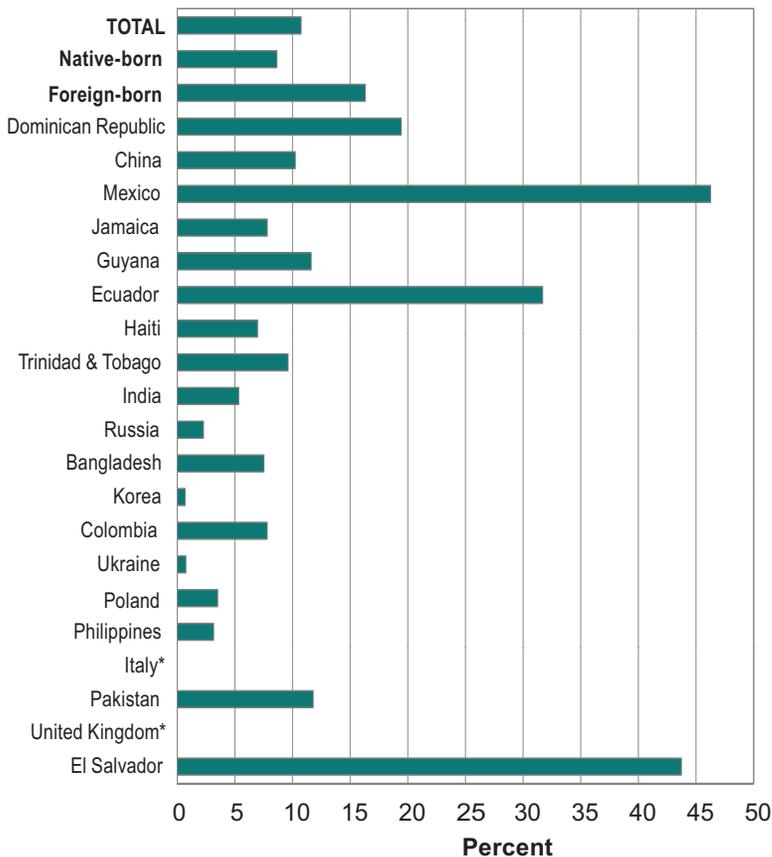
European groups were well educated. Over 9-in-10 immigrants from Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Russia were high school graduates, and over one-half had college degrees—among the highest levels of educational attainment in the city. However, Italians, most of whom immigrated in earlier decades, had a level of high school and college completion well below the city average.

Dropout Rates Among Young Adults

This section examines dropout rates among young adults, ages 17 to 24 (Figure 4-3). Since this is a relatively small subpopulation, 5 year data are used (2007–2011) in order to garner an adequate sample size.[7] The focus is on high school dropouts among these young adults—defined as persons who do not have a high school diploma and are not currently enrolled in school. Some young adults forego a formal education in their home countries and come to the city to find employment. While we label these immigrants as high school dropouts, many may have dropped out of school long before they would have reached high school age. Since young adults are the future of the city, it is important to examine their dropout rates, as these shed light on their potential for upward mobility in future years and their potential contribution to the city's workforce.

Overall, 16 percent of foreign-born young adults were high school dropouts, compared with 11 percent of all young adults in the city. Four Latin American groups had the highest percentage of dropouts among young adults: Mexicans (46 percent), Salvadorans (44 percent), and Ecuadorans (32 percent), followed by Dominicans (19 percent). The high percentage of dropouts among Latin American groups is likely to affect their future levels of socio-economic attainment.

Groups with dropout rates around the city average of 11 percent included Trinidadians, Chinese, Guyanese, and Pakistanis, while Haitians, Bangladeshis, Colombians, and Jamaicans had dropout rates between 7 and 8 percent. All other groups had a dropout rate 5 percent or lower.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Median Household Income

The median household income in the city stood at $49,800 (Table 4-5), with native-born households ($54,700) having significantly higher incomes than their foreign-born counterparts ($43,700). Among the largest foreign-born groups, Indian household income ($83,800) was 68 percent more than the city median, that of U.K. households ($80,400) was 62 percent higher, and Filipino household income ($77,400) was 55 percent higher. In comparison, household income for native-born households ($54,700) was 10 percent higher than the city median.

Median household incomes for nonhispanic Caribbean groups, such as Guyanese ($50,900),

Table 4-5
Household Income and Poverty Status by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

	HOUSEHOLD INCOME			POVERTY		PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
	Median	Ratio: Subgroup to Total	Average Workers* per Household	Persons for whom poverty status has been determined	Percent in Poverty	Total Households	Percent with PA income
TOTAL, NYC	**$49,792**	**1.00**	**1.2**	**8,112,377**	**20.7**	**3,023,332**	**4.3**
Native-born	**$54,679**	**1.10**	**1.1**	**5,077,035**	**21.3**	**1,703,244**	**4.5**
Foreign-born	**$43,682**	**0.88**	**1.4**	**3,035,342**	**19.8**	**1,320,088**	**4.0**
Dominican Republic	$25,456	0.51	1.4	363,178	32.8	161,138	7.6
China	$42,766	0.86	1.5	356,676	20.2	136,228	5.5
Mexico	$34,518	0.69	2.1	178,045	29.8	56,481	3.6
Jamaica	$49,283	0.99	1.4	168,848	13.5	77,869	5.2
Guyana	$50,912	1.02	1.6	136,928	15.8	54,772	3.0
Ecuador	$46,126	0.93	1.9	142,940	20.7	50,233	3.8
Haiti	$48,875	0.98	1.6	101,928	16.6	42,392	3.7
Trinidad and Tobago	$43,988	0.88	1.5	86,727	15.1	41,920	5.8
India	$83,821	1.68	1.7	78,430	11.2	29,437	1.7
Russia	$37,267	0.75	1.1	73,777	20.6	37,846	4.0
Bangladesh	$35,129	0.71	1.7	75,241	29.2	22,707	4.0
Korea	$44,802	0.90	1.4	66,948	17.5	30,145	1.5
Colombia	$44,090	0.89	1.4	63,272	19.3	28,320	4.1
Ukraine	$33,602	0.67	1.0	63,415	19.6	33,400	0.5
Poland	$55,392	1.11	1.2	52,077	7.8	28,179	1.1
Philippines	$77,406	1.55	1.7	44,538	4.0	18,604	3.2
Italy	$43,784	0.88	0.9	49,490	10.6	28,091	1.7
Pakistan	$50,912	1.02	1.5	38,386	28.2	11,625	4.9
United Kingdom	$80,441	1.62	1.3	32,355	10.9	17,991	2.6
El Salvador	$38,693	0.78	1.9	30,794	27.0	12,374	2.4

* Ages 16 and over, employed in the civilian labor force
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Jamaicans ($49,300), and Haitians ($48,900) were around the city median, though Trinidadian income ($44,000) was 12 percent lower. With respect to European groups, while immigrants from the U.K and Poland had relatively high household incomes, those from Italy ($43,800) and Russia ($37,300) were below the city median, and household income of Ukrainian immigrants ($33,600) was just two-thirds of the city median. Among Latin American groups, Ecuadorians ($46,100) and Colombians ($44,100) had household incomes close to the city median, while Salvadorans ($38,700) and Mexicans ($34,500) had significantly lower incomes. Dominicans ($25,500) were at just over one-half the city median, the lowest of any top 20 group.

The high household incomes for Indians and Filipinos, compared with the city average, were partly due to the fact that these households had multiple earners. While an average city household had 1.2 workers, Indian and Filipino households averaged

1.7 workers. But large numbers of workers do not always translate into high household income. Mexican and Salvadoran households had the highest number of workers (2.1 and 1.9, respectively), but had among the lowest household incomes in the city. On the other hand, the low income of Italian households was primarily because these households averaged less than one worker, among the lowest in the city.

Poverty Status

Since household income tends to be higher if there are more workers in a household, it is important to look at poverty, which takes into account both household income and household size (Table 4-5). A poverty rate becomes especially pertinent when a high median household income for a group reflects the presence of large numbers of both high- and low-income households.

Over one-fifth of city residents were below the poverty line in 2011. Foreign-born households had a poverty rate (20 percent) marginally lower than that of native-born households (21 percent), even though the latter had a higher median household income. Latin Americans, who as noted earlier, had low household incomes, had among the highest rates of poverty. Among the top 20, Dominicans (33 percent) had the highest poverty rate, followed by Mexicans (30 percent), Bangladeshis (29 percent), Pakistanis (28 percent), and Salvadorans (27 percent), all well above the city average. Thus, three Latin American groups had among the highest levels of poverty in the city, while two others, Ecuadorians and Colombians, had poverty rates around the city average.

Not surprisingly, immigrant sources with the lowest poverty — the Philippines, Poland, the United Kingdom, and India — have among the highest household incomes in the city. However, this relationship does not hold for all groups. Pakistanis had a household income marginally higher than the city median, but a poverty rate (28 percent) that was substantially higher than the citywide rate, a result of their larger household size. In contrast, Ukrainians and Russians, who had among the city's lowest household incomes — as well as household size — had poverty rates around the city average.

Public Assistance Recipiency

While poverty in this analysis is calculated at the individual level, one consequence of poverty on households is measured by public assistance[8] (Table 4-5). Overall, the percentage of native-born households receiving public assistance (4.5 percent) was similar to that for foreign-born households (4 percent). Dominicans had the highest percentage on public assistance (8 percent), followed by Trinidadians and Chinese (6 percent each), and Jamaicans and Pakistanis (5 percent each).

The level of public assistance was positively correlated with poverty. Not surprisingly, British, Polish, Korean, Italian, and Indians households had among the lowest percentages receiving public assistance, given their low poverty rates. But Jamaicans and Trinidadians, who had below average poverty, had above-average rates of public assistance recipiency. On the other hand, Mexicans and Salvadorans, who had high rates of poverty, had relatively low rates of public assistance recipiency. Some groups may not qualify for public assistance due to their recency of arrival or they may choose not to avail themselves of this benefit.

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS[9]—MALES
Labor Force Participation Rate

The labor force participation rate is defined as the percent of people working or looking for work. These rates are presented in Table 4-6 for those 16 years and over. Foreign-born males had a labor force participation rate (75 percent) that was 10 points higher than their native-born counterparts; for the city overall, the rate was 70 percent. Three Latino groups had the highest labor force participation rates: Mexicans (93 percent), Salvadorans (89 percent), and Ecuadorans

Table 4-6

Labor Force Participation and Class of Worker for Males by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

	LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION MALES, 16 AND OVER				CLASS OF WORKER			
	Total	In the Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Total, Employed*	Private Wage	Government	Self-Employed	Unpaid Family Worker
TOTAL, MALES	**3,116,798**	**2,173,208**	**69.7**	**1,925,949**	**76.6**	**11.7**	**11.6**	**0.1**
Native-born	**1,734,228**	**1,134,909**	**65.4**	**979,674**	**72.9**	**15.5**	**11.4**	**0.1**
Foreign-born	**1,382,570**	**1,038,299**	**75.1**	**946,275**	**80.4**	**7.8**	**11.8**	**0.0**
Dominican Republic	137,971	99,575	72.2	87,071	81.5	6.8	11.7	–
China	160,231	108,297	67.6	100,638	84.8	5.0	10.1	0.1
Mexico	110,326	102,597	93.0	98,904	93.1	1.6	5.3	–
Jamaica	66,894	49,291	73.7	41,322	78.3	14.7	7.1	–
Guyana	58,395	42,973	73.6	37,756	75.4	17.8	6.8	–
Ecuador	75,570	63,711	84.3	58,887	87.1	2.7	10.2	–
Haiti	41,683	29,337	70.4	25,498	74.3	15.2	10.6	–
Trinidad and Tobago	33,944	24,954	73.5	21,442	74.5	12.7	12.7	–
India	42,392	33,340	78.6	31,311	76.6	6.6	16.8	–
Russia	27,574	19,070	69.2	16,681	71.6	12.8	15.6	–
Bangladesh	37,504	30,393	81.0	27,986	68.5	3.1	28.4	–
Korea	25,643	18,606	72.6	17,237	78.7	5.7	15.6	–
Colombia	27,852	20,831	74.8	18,782	85.3	3.0	11.7	–
Ukraine	28,936	16,400	56.7	15,048	78.0	10.0	12.1	–
Poland	23,231	16,739	72.1	15,196	79.1	7.9	13.0	–
Philippines	15,898	10,873	68.4	10,003	72.7	19.4	8.0	–
Italy	26,172	12,428	47.5	11,920	68.6	14.9	16.6	–
Pakistan	19,562	16,241	83.0	15,228	70.4	10.2	19.3	–
United Kingdom	16,054	12,847	80.0	11,231	84.4	4.1	11.5	–
El Salvador	14,688	13,129	89.4	12,371	98.2	0.6	1.2	–

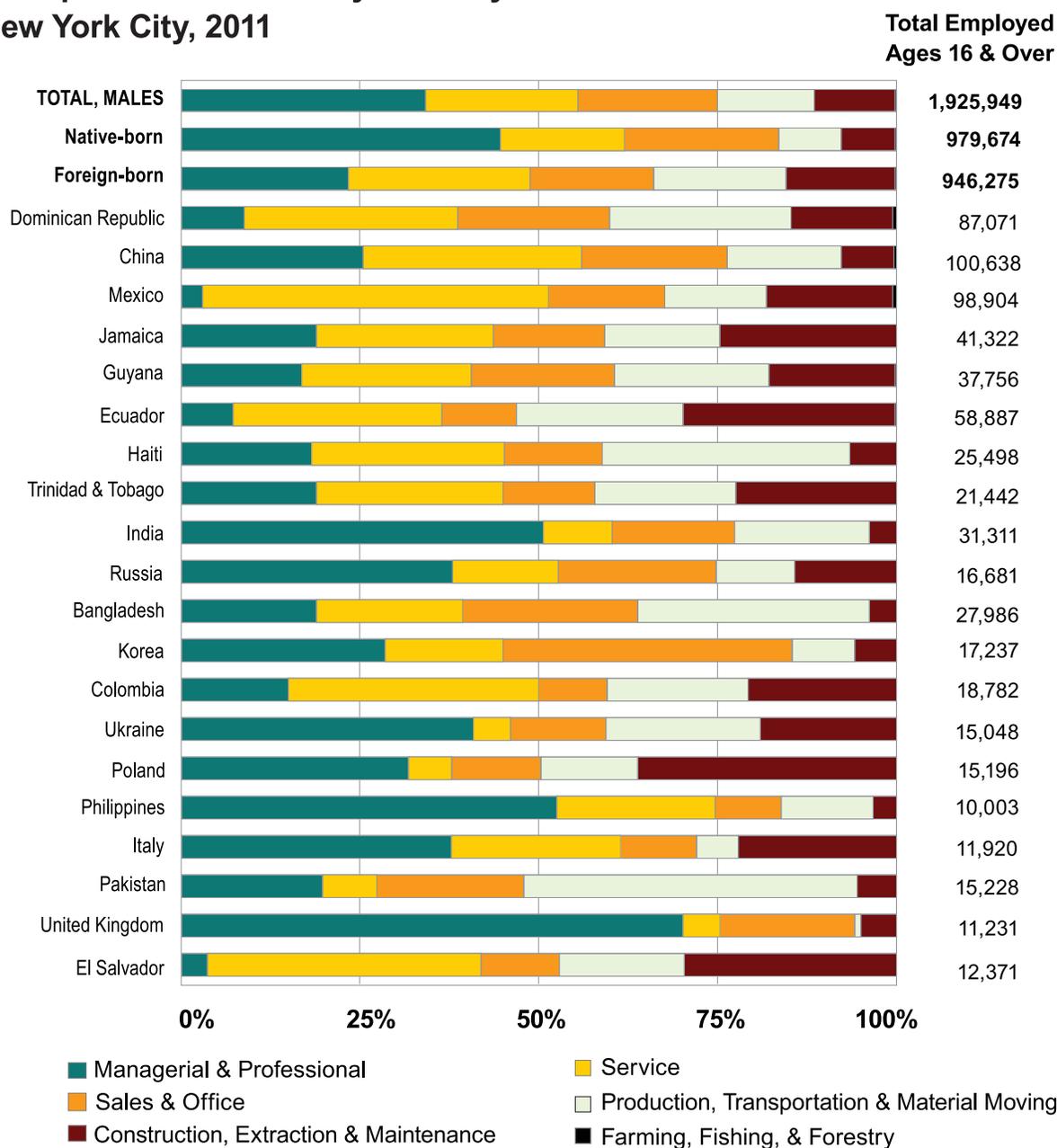*Ages 16 and over, employed in the civilian labor force
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

(84 percent), followed by Pakistanis (83 percent) and Bangladeshis (81 percent).

Among groups from the nonhispanic Caribbean, 74 percent of Jamaicans, Guyanese, and Trinidadians were in the labor force—around the average for immigrants, but higher than the city average—as were 70 percent of Haitians. With the exception of the British (80 percent), European groups had lower levels of labor force participation: the rate was just 48 percent for Italians, 57 percent for Ukrainians, and 69 percent for Russians. The lower labor force participation rates for Europeans were partly due to the fact that they were disproportionately in the older age groups, where labor force participation tends to be lower.

Figure 4-4

Occupations of Males by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

**Total Employed
Ages 16 & Over**

Country	Total Employed Ages 16 & Over
TOTAL, MALES	1,925,949
Native-born	979,674
Foreign-born	946,275
Dominican Republic	87,071
China	100,638
Mexico	98,904
Jamaica	41,322
Guyana	37,756
Ecuador	58,887
Haiti	25,498
Trinidad & Tobago	21,442
India	31,311
Russia	16,681
Bangladesh	27,986
Korea	17,237
Colombia	18,782
Ukraine	15,048
Poland	15,196
Philippines	10,003
Italy	11,920
Pakistan	15,228
United Kingdom	11,231
El Salvador	12,371

■ Managerial & Professional
■ Sales & Office
■ Construction, Extraction & Maintenance
■ Service
■ Production, Transportation & Material Moving
■ Farming, Fishing, & Forestry

Occupation and Class of Worker

Figure 4-4 shows that approximately one-third of males in the city were in managerial and professional occupations. (Please see Table 4-7 for definitions of occupational groupings.) Native-born males were disproportionately in these high-end occupations (45 percent), compared with immigrant males (23 percent).

Over 70 percent of immigrants from the United Kingdom were in managerial and professional occupations, the highest of any group, followed by Filipinos and Indians, half of whom were in these high-end occupations. Though Ukrainian and Russian labor force participation was low (see above), among those who were employed, approxi-

mately 4-in-10 were in managerial and professional occupations. Occupations of workers tend to be correlated with education, and these five groups had among the highest proportions of college graduates. Fewer than one-in-five immigrants from the nonhispanic Caribbean were in managerial and professional occupations, and Latin American groups had the lowest percentages employed in these high-end occupations, with the percentages in the single digits for Mexicans, Salvadorans, Ecuadorians, and Dominicans.

While most foreign-born groups were underrepresented in managerial and professional occupations, they were overrepresented in the other broad occupational categories, where groups had distinct niches. Latin Americans, for example, were disproportionately represented in service occupations, with close to one-half of Mexicans, and approximately 30 percent to 40 percent of Ecuadorians, Dominicans, Colombians, and Salvadorans in these occupations. In contrast, many European groups had a striking reliance on construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations, with 36 percent of Poles, and approximately one-fifth of Italians and Ukrainians employed in these occupations, compared with 11 percent of all city residents. The group disproportionately represented in sales and office occupations were Koreans, with over 4-in-10 so classified, twice the city average. Finally, groups disproportionately represented in production, transportation and material moving occupations included Pakistanis, 47 percent of whom were employed in these occupations, as well as one-third of Haitians and Bangladeshis, compared with 14 percent for the city.

Besides a worker's occupation, it is important to examine the type of organization employing the worker, defined as the class of worker (Table 4-6). The overwhelming majority of city residents (77 percent) are private wage and salary workers; 12 percent work for the federal, state, or city governments; and 12 percent are self-employed. Foreign-born workers are more likely than the native-born to be private wage and salary workers (80 percent versus 73 percent) and are much less likely to be government workers (8 percent versus 16 percent).

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS AND EXAMPLES OF INCLUDED OCCUPATIONS

Table 4-7
Definitions of Occupation Groups

Management, Professional & Related Occupations:
Chief executives, legislators, marketing and sales managers, logisticians, budget analysts, computer programmers, network and computer system administrators, aerospace engineers, astronomers and physicists, economists, sociologists, social workers, clergy, lawyers, paralegals and legal assistants, teachers, librarians, actors, dancers and choreographers, technical writers, photographers, chiropractors, dentists, registered nurses, therapists.

Service: Massage therapists, dental assistants, fire fighters, police officers, chefs and head cooks, food preparation workers, bartenders, waiters and waitresses, dishwashers, janitors and cleaners, maids and housekeeping cleaners, barbers, child care workers, personal and care aides, recreation and fitness workers.

Sales & Office: Cashiers, advertising sales agents, real estate brokers and sales agents, payroll and timekeeping clerks, procurement clerks, customer service representatives, receptionists and information clerks, couriers and messengers, dispatchers, postal service clerks, secretaries and administrative assistants, word processors and typists.

Farming, Fishing, & Forestry: Agricultural inspectors, animal breeders, fishing and hunting workers, forest and conservation workers.

Construction, Extraction, & Maintenance:
Carpenters, construction laborers, electricians, glaziers, insulation workers, roofers, sheet metal workers, iron and steel workers, elevator installers and repairers, fence erectors, highway maintenance workers, mining machine operators, security and fire alarm systems installers, aircraft mechanics and service technicians, automotive service technicians and mechanics, home appliance repairers, electrical power-line installers and repairers, telecommunications line installers and repairers, precision instrument and equipment repairers, commercial divers, locksmiths and safe repairers, riggers, signal and track switch repairers.

Production, Transportation, & Material Moving:
Bakers, butchers, machinists, tool and die makers, job printers, laundry workers, sewing machine operators, painting workers, aircraft pilots and flight engineers, bus drivers, driver/sales work ers and truck drivers, taxi drivers and chauffeurs, locomotive engineers and operators, subway and street car operators, sailors and marine oilers, parking lot attendants, automotive and watercraft service attendants, industrial truck and tractor operators, cleaners of vehicles and equipment, pumping station operators, refuse and recyclable material collectors, mine shuttle car operators, truck and ship loaders.

Many foreign-born groups had high levels of entrepreneurship. Self-employment was highest among Asian groups. The percent of self-employed Bangladeshis (28 percent), Pakistanis (19 percent), Indians and Italians (17 percent each), and Russians and Koreans (16 percent each) was significantly higher than that for all city residents (12 percent). In comparison, nonhispanic Caribbean groups had high percentages in government, led by Guyanese (18 percent), and Haitians and Jamaicans (15 percent each). Filipinos, however, had the largest share in government, with nearly one-in-five so employed. Latin American groups were disproportionately private wage and salary workers, ranging from 98 percent for Salvadorans and 93 percent of Mexicans, to 87 percent for Ecuadorians and 85 percent for Colombians.

Earnings

Earnings consist of income derived from employment, either in the form of wages and salary or self-employment income. Table 4-8 provides information on the earnings of full-time workers 16 years of age and over. The mean earnings for city residents was $68,300, with large differences by nativity. On average, foreign-born males earned $50,400 annually, much lower than the native-born mean of $86,400.

Among foreign-born groups, only immigrants from the United Kingdom ($127,800), India ($72,600), and Italy ($71,600) had earnings at or above the city average. Other top earners included Russians ($67,100) at 98 percent of the city average, Poles ($63,400), and Ukrainians and Filipinos (roughly $60,000 each). Thus, while some European groups had among the lowest labor force participation rates, earnings were relatively high for those who were employed. This was true for not only the more established Italians, but also for more recent entrants, such as Russians and Ukrainians, who had high levels of educational attainment.

Earnings for groups from the nonhispanic Caribbean ranged from $47,500 for Guyanese (70 percent of the city average) to under $44,000 for Haitians and Trinidadians (at 64 percent of the city average). As with so many characteristics, there was

Table 4-8
Male Earnings by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

MALES, AGES 16 AND OVER EMPLOYED FULL TIME*

	Total	Mean Earnings	Ratio: Subgroup to Total
TOTAL, MALES	**1,650,873**	**$68,255**	**1.00**
Native-born	**819,491**	**$86,416**	**1.27**
Foreign-born	**831,382**	**$50,354**	**0.74**
Dominican Republic	71,653	$34,193	0.50
China	86,472	$44,349	0.65
Mexico	91,043	$25,792	0.38
Jamaica	36,821	$46,162	0.68
Guyana	32,469	$47,463	0.70
Ecuador	50,939	$34,447	0.50
Haiti	21,103	$43,700	0.64
Trinidad and Tobago	17,362	$43,576	0.64
India	29,630	$72,572	1.06
Russia	15,549	$67,122	0.98
Bangladesh	24,678	$36,045	0.53
Korea	14,588	$45,897	0.67
Colombia	15,472	$48,695	0.71
Ukraine	12,694	$59,976	0.88
Poland	14,615	$63,382	0.93
Philippines	9,226	$59,827	0.88
Italy	11,085	$71,593	1.05
Pakistan	13,036	$46,810	0.69
United Kingdom	10,231	$127,794	1.87
El Salvador	11,254	$29,790	0.44

*At least 35 hours a week

Sources:

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

considerable variation in earning levels among immigrant Asian subgroups. As noted earlier, Indian and Filipino men were among the highest earners, but earnings for Chinese, Korean, and Pakistani men were between 65 percent and 69 percent of the city average, while Bangladeshi earnings came in at only $36,000, or 53 percent of the city average. Among immigrant Hispanic subgroups, Colombian earnings ($48,700) were at 71 percent of the city average, Ecuadorians and Dominicans earned half the city average, while Salvadorans and Mexicans earned just 44 percent and 38 percent, respectively, of the city average.

Table 4-9
Labor Force Participation and Class of Worker for Females by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

| | LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION FEMALES, 16 AND OVER | | | | CLASS OF WORKER | | | |
	Total	In the Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Total, Employed*	Private Wage	Government	Self-Employed	Unpaid Family Worker
TOTAL, FEMALES	**3,551,776**	**2,050,255**	**57.7**	**1,822,911**	**76.6**	**15.7**	**7.6**	**0.1**
Native-born	**1,984,576**	**1,151,269**	**58.0**	**1,014,345**	**75.0**	**18.3**	**6.6**	**0.1**
Foreign-born	**1,567,200**	**898,986**	**57.4**	**808,566**	**78.6**	**12.5**	**8.9**	**0.0**
Dominican Republic	209,321	124,293	59.4	110,032	78.1	13.0	8.8	0.1
China	184,344	100,735	54.6	93,395	84.8	8.8	6.3	0.1
Mexico	64,213	30,427	47.4	24,872	82.1	1.7	16.2	–
Jamaica	98,439	69,004	70.1	62,130	77.4	16.8	5.8	–
Guyana	74,107	49,085	66.2	42,562	82.2	14.2	3.7	–
Ecuador	63,180	33,725	53.4	29,649	82.2	7.9	9.6	0.3
Haiti	54,528	34,153	62.6	30,517	78.7	17.5	3.8	–
Trinidad and Tobago	51,094	34,984	68.5	31,187	68.5	20.6	11.0	–
India	34,155	19,064	55.8	17,246	81.3	12.2	6.5	–
Russia	45,308	27,266	60.2	25,238	83.6	11.0	5.3	–
Bangladesh	32,437	11,779	36.3	9,452	92.0	8.0	–	–
Korea	40,715	23,485	57.7	21,881	77.3	4.7	18.0	–
Colombia	34,304	17,791	51.9	16,494	76.8	7.4	15.8	–
Ukraine	33,762	18,705	55.4	17,414	83.1	8.7	8.1	–
Poland	28,641	15,619	54.5	15,101	74.8	16.3	8.9	–
Philippines	27,450	19,434	70.8	18,649	83.4	12.9	3.7	–
Italy	24,149	7,542	31.2	7,137	65.3	23.3	11.3	–
Pakistan	15,869	3,361	21.2	3,053	72.8	19.6	7.6	–
United Kingdom	16,233	11,464	70.6	11,020	62.4	18.3	19.3	–
El Salvador	15,586	8,271	53.1	7,661	84.9	1.9	11.8	1.3

*Ages 16 and over, employed in the civilian labor force

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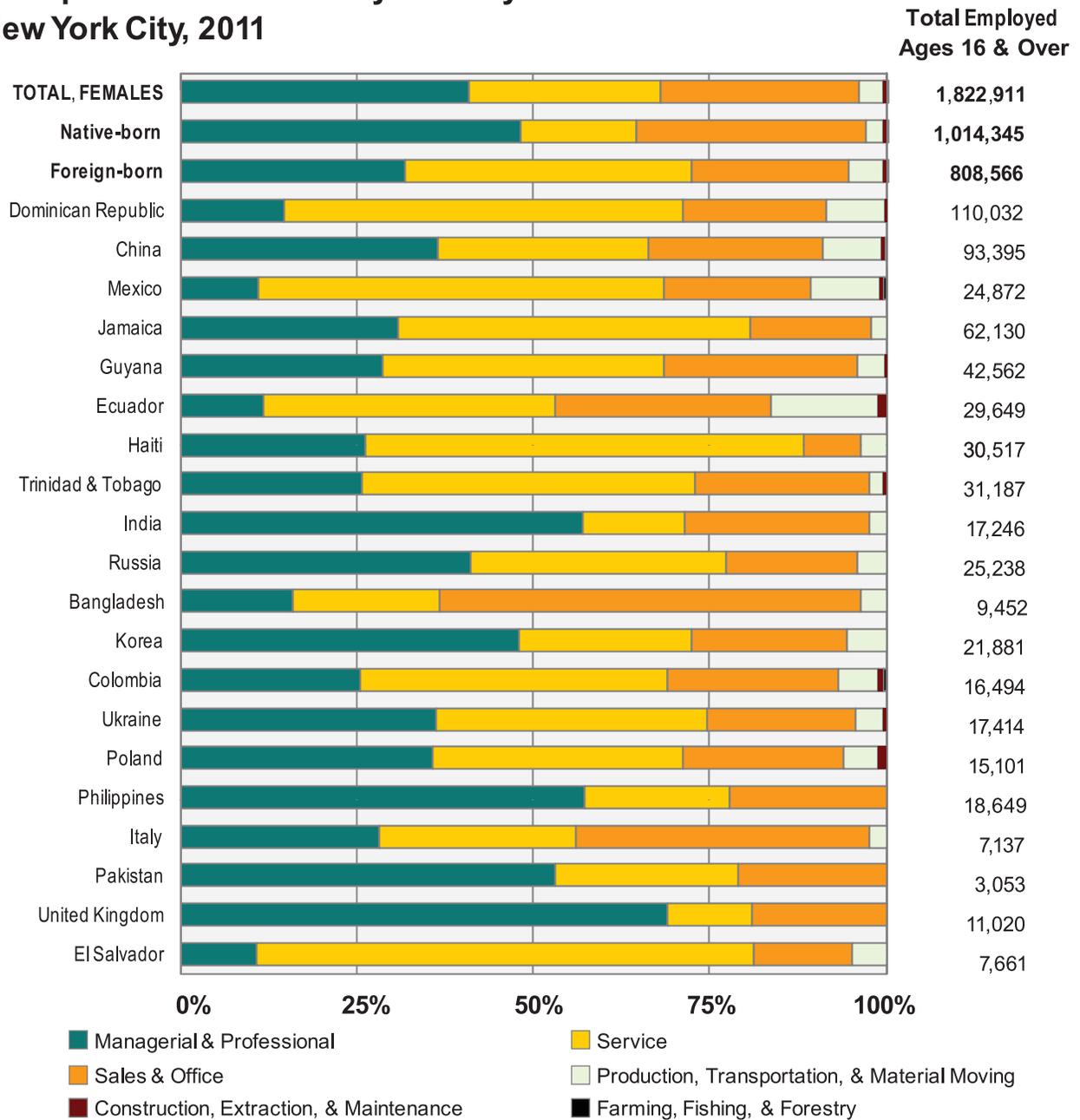Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS—FEMALES

Labor Force Participation Rate

While immigrant males had a labor force participation rate 10 points higher than native-born males, Table 4-9 shows that immigrant female labor force participation (57 percent) was similar to that of native-born females (58 percent).

Immigrant women from the Philippines and the United Kingdom had among the highest labor force participation rate (71 percent each); immigrant Filipinas were the only top 20 group whose labor force participation exceeded that of their immigrant male counterparts. Others with high labor force participation included four nonhispanic Caribbean groups: Jamaicans (70 percent), Trinidadians (69 percent), Guyanese (66 percent), and Haitians (63 percent). While these groups had lower labor force

Figure 4-5
Occupations of Females by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

**Total Employed
Ages 16 & Over**

Country of Birth	Total Employed Ages 16 & Over
TOTAL, FEMALES	1,822,911
Native-born	1,014,345
Foreign-born	808,566
Dominican Republic	110,032
China	93,395
Mexico	24,872
Jamaica	62,130
Guyana	42,562
Ecuador	29,649
Haiti	30,517
Trinidad & Tobago	31,187
India	17,246
Russia	25,238
Bangladesh	9,452
Korea	21,881
Colombia	16,494
Ukraine	17,414
Poland	15,101
Philippines	18,649
Italy	7,137
Pakistan	3,053
United Kingdom	11,020
El Salvador	7,661

Legend:
- ■ Managerial & Professional
- ■ Service
- ■ Sales & Office
- ■ Production, Transportation, & Material Moving
- ■ Construction, Extraction, & Maintenance
- ■ Farming, Fishing, & Forestry

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

participation rates than their male counterparts, the differential was generally smaller, compared with other top 20 groups. The high levels of labor force participation among nonhispanic Caribbean women stood in stark contrast to that of most other immigrant women. Among Asians, for example, while Filipinas had high levels of labor force participation, rates were average for Koreans, marginally below average for Indians (56 percent) and for Chinese (55 percent), and exceedingly low for Bangladeshis (36 percent) and Pakistanis (21 percent). The low rates for South Asian women were in marked contrast to

those for male South Asians, who had among the highest labor force participation rates in the city. Similarly, Latin Americans, except for Dominicans (59 percent), had levels of labor force participation below the city average for women. Among European groups, while immigrants from the United Kingdom had very high labor force participation, Russians (60 percent) were above average, and the rate for Ukrainians (55 percent) was marginally lower than that for the city. Italians had the lowest labor force participation (31 percent) among Europeans, but as with their male counterparts, this may be related to the disproportionate share in the older age groups.

Occupation and Class of Worker

Four-in-ten females in the city were in managerial and professional occupations (Figure 4-5), but immigrant females were underrepresented in these occupations (32 percent), as well as in sales and office occupations (22 percent versus 28 percent for the city), and were overrepresented in service occupations (40 percent versus 27 percent for the city). Occupational niches, however, differed by group. As with their male counterparts, a high proportion of Filipinas and Indians (57 percent each) were managers and professionals, as were approximately one-half of Pakistanis and Koreans. British women, however, had the highest proportion of managers and professionals (69 percent), just as their male counterparts ranked highest among all males. Latin American groups had the lowest percentages in managerial and professional occupations—and were disproportionately represented in service occupations. Seventy percent of Salvadorans, over 5-in-10 Mexicans and Dominicans, and 43 percent of Colombians were employed as service workers—all significantly above the city average of 27 percent. Nonhispanic Caribbean women also had an above average representation in service occupations, with 62 percent of Haitians, roughly one-half of Jamaicans and Trinidadians, and 40 percent of Guyanese employed in these occupations.

As noted earlier, foreign-born women had a lower representation in sales and office occupations, compared with the city average of 28 percent. The

three foreign-born groups with above average representation in these occupations were Bangladeshis (59 percent), Italians (42 percent), and Ecuadorians (30 percent).

While only 5 percent of all foreign-born women were in the production, transportation and material moving occupations, 15 percent of Ecuadorians, 10 percent of Mexicans, and 8 percent of Chinese and Dominicans were employed in these occupations.

With respect to class of worker (Table 4-9), foreign-born women were less likely to be government workers (13 percent), compared with women in the city overall (16 percent). Among immigrant women, those from the nonhispanic Caribbean had a high percentage of government workers, with 21 percent of Trinidadians, 18 percent of Haitians, and 17 percent of Jamaicans so classified. Italians, however, had the highest percentage of government workers, with nearly one-in-four in this category.

Foreign-born women were more likely to be self-employed (9 percent), compared with their native-born counterparts (7 percent). Foreign-born groups with the highest percentage of self-employment included the British (19 percent), Koreans (18 percent), and Mexicans and Colombians (16 percent each).

Earnings

Female earnings in the city averaged $55,500 (Table 4-10), with native-born females ($62,600) earning substantially more than their foreign-born counterparts ($46,500). However, overall differences by nativity among females were not as great as those among males.

Many Asian groups had among the highest immigrant earnings, including Filipinas ($63,500), Koreans ($59,100), and Indians ($56,900), all marginally higher than the city average. Chinese women ($50,500) earned 91 percent of the mean, while Pakistani and Bangladeshi earnings stood at $45,500 and $31,400, respectively. Koreans and Chinese were the only groups where female earnings were significantly higher than male earnings.

Table 4-10
Female Earnings by Country of Birth
New York City, 2011

FEMALES, AGES 16 AND OVER
EMPLOYED FULL TIME*

	Total	Mean Earnings	Ratio: Subgroup to Total
TOTAL, FEMALES	**1,402,902**	**$55,520**	**1.00**
Native-born	**782,407**	**$62,646**	**1.13**
Foreign-born	**620,495**	**$46,535**	**0.84**
Dominican Republic	80,718	$28,355	0.51
China	68,327	$50,539	0.91
Mexico	17,025	$25,150	0.45
Jamaica	52,133	$43,275	0.78
Guyana	35,493	$40,192	0.72
Ecuador	23,032	$31,757	0.57
Haiti	25,776	$37,511	0.68
Trinidad and Tobago	23,895	$43,856	0.79
India	13,918	$56,872	1.02
Russia	19,774	$55,971	1.01
Bangladesh	6,073	$31,435	0.57
Korea	16,276	$59,139	1.07
Colombia	11,226	$40,858	0.74
Ukraine	13,427	$51,953	0.94
Poland	11,564	$53,656	0.97
Philippines	15,754	$63,487	1.14
Italy	4,549	$53,201	0.96
Pakistan	2,497	$45,492	0.82
United Kingdom	7,812	$87,631	1.58
El Salvador	4,698	$20,355	0.37

*At least 35 hours a week
Sources:
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Public Use Microdata Sample
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Women from the United Kingdom had the highest earnings ($87,600) in the city, though their European counterparts from Russia, Poland, Italy, and Ukraine earned around the city average or slightly less. Earnings for Caribbean subgroups, which had very high labor force participation rates, were less than the city average. Trinidadian and Jamaicans earnings stood at $43,900 and $43,300, respectively, followed by the earnings of Guyanese ($40,200) and Haitians ($37,500). Hispanic subgroups generally had lower earnings, ranging from a high of $40,900 for Colombians to a low of just $20,400 for Salvadorans.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

The demographic, social, and economic characteristics of foreign-born groups reflect their diverse origins. Groups organize their households so as to maximize their strengths. Thus, examining human capital that a group possesses, as well as its household configuration, leads to a more complete understanding of a group's socioeconomic attainment. This in turn helps policy makers and program planners better understand how groups fit into the social and economic fabric of the city.

An examination of the 20 largest foreign-born groups revealed differences in demographic, social, and economic characteristics. Groups with relatively disadvantageous socioeconomic characteristics used various strategies to make their households economically viable, especially by having multiple workers in the household. This was particularly true for Ecuadorians. In 2011, less than 60 percent of Ecuadorians had a high school diploma, and male and female earnings were at 50 percent and 57 percent, respectively, of the city average. However, the average number of workers in an Ecuadorian household (1.9 persons) was among the highest in the city. The combined earnings of multiple earners in Ecuadorian households resulted in household income that was 93 percent of the city median, and poverty was at the city average. While such a strategy may improve a household's economic viability, it resulted in 23 percent of Ecuadorian households being overcrowded. This overcrowding was a function of the sheer size of Ecuadorian households (averaging 3.9 persons per household), set against a backdrop of a housing stock that is characterized by an abundance of small, aging units.

Latin American groups, in general, had among the lowest levels of socioeconomic attainment. For example, among Dominicans, the largest foreign-born group, only 55 percent had completed high school; labor force participation rates were marginally above the city average, but earnings for

A SOCIOECONOMIC SNAPSHOT OF THE RECENTLY ARRIVED FOREIGN-BORN

Newly arrived immigrants often need time to adjust to the U.S. labor market. Many of them lack English-language proficiency and have to accept lower-level jobs than they may have held in their home countries. As a result, newly arrived immigrants tend to have a lower socioeconomic profile than their counterparts who arrived earlier. Over time, however, many new immigrants acquire language skills, further education, and U.S. work experience and licenses that qualify them for higher-level positions, leading to an increase in socioeconomic attainment.

The less favorable socioeconomic characteristics of recent entrants (Table 4-11) become evident when they are compared with those of the overall foreign-born population. For example, recent entrants, defined as those who entered the U.S. in 2000 or later, had a higher percentage not English proficient, compared with the overall foreign-born population (54 percent versus 49 percent), lower household income ($40,700 versus $43,700), and higher poverty (23 percent versus 20 percent). For both male and female recent entrants, earnings were significantly lower than those for the overall population of foreign-born males and females, respectively.

It is worth noting, however, that recent entrants from the United Kingdom, Philippines, India, and Italy generally have superior socioeconomic characteristics compared with those for the city overall—and sometimes have better characteristics than their compatriots who entered earlier.

Table 4-11

Selected Socioeconomic Characteristics for Foreign-born Arriving in 2000 and Later by Country of Birth New York City, 2011

	Total Population	Percent Not English Proficient	Percent College or higher	Percent below Poverty	Median Household Income	MEAN EARNINGS OF PERSONS AGES 16 AND OVER, EMPLOYED FULL-TIME	
						Males	Females
TOTAL, NYC	**8,244,426**	**23.0**	**34.4**	**20.7**	**$49,792**	**$68,255**	**$55,520**
Native-born	**5,184,514**	**6.2**	**40.4**	**21.3**	**$54,679**	**$86,416**	**$62,646**
Foreign-born	**3,059,912**	**48.8**	**27.9**	**19.8**	**$43,682**	**$50,354**	**$46,535**
Arrived 2000 or later	1,035,758	54.1	30.6	23.2	$40,729	$44,299	$41,928
Dominican Republic	111,672	74.0	11.7	36.8	$24,336	$26,443	$20,880
China	132,766	77.6	20.9	22.2	$38,184	$30,643	$37,046
Mexico	94,491	83.4	6.3	31.5	$31,362	$24,333	$24,217
Jamaica	40,331	0.6	14.2	17.1	$39,711	$36,744	$34,250
Guyana	42,987	1.5	9.0	19.4	$42,766	$30,405	$31,606
Ecuador	50,308	78.6	10.8	25.3	$35,638	$28,008	$22,638
Haiti	31,581	60.0	16.3	19.7	$37,675	$36,769	$27,840
Trinidad and Tobago	24,343	1.5	13.5	16.9	$40,729	$28,364	$35,978
India	32,471	28.3	69.5	13.7	$82,884	$71,007	$54,825
Russia	18,781	65.9	49.8	25.9	$30,547	$46,201	$38,079
Bangladesh	37,540	67.5	36.6	27.1	$35,129	$29,292	$30,026
Korea	26,023	71.4	63.2	31.0	$27,492	$40,129	$46,710
Colombia	18,571	65.7	29.8	28.8	$37,675	$31,754	$33,729
Ukraine	12,705	70.7	47.1	15.0	$52,948	$43,123	$36,440
Poland	15,237	58.6	39.9	8.8	$51,930	$62,143	$45,012
Philippines	18,242	22.9	64.2	6.9	$51,930	$55,318	$52,139
Italy	6,413	32.8	48.3	20.6	$35,638	$72,873	$55,473
Pakistan	16,128	53.5	32.7	40.1	$35,638	$48,859	$39,716
United Kingdom	15,059	0.9	68.2	15.8	$96,733	$105,617	$95,901
El Salvador	8,587	78.0	–	30.3	–	$23,053	$25,316

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

both males and females were approximately one-half the city mean. Dominican households were disproportionately female-headed, and with the number of workers per household only slightly above the city average, household income was just one-half the city median and nearly one-third lived in poverty. Salvadoran households were also disproportionately female-headed, and Salvadorans and Mexicans had lower educational attainment than Dominicans; their earnings were marginally lower than those of Dominicans. However, Salvadoran and Mexican males had extremely high labor force participation rates and their households had among the highest number of workers in the city. This resulted in *household* incomes and poverty rates that were more advantageous than those for Dominicans, though significantly less favorable than those for the city overall. As noted earlier, Ecuadorian household income was at 93 percent of the city median, followed by Colombians at 89 percent of the median.

As with Dominican and Salvadoran households, those from the nonhispanic Caribbean had a percentage of female-headed households that was above the city average. But unlike their Latin American counterparts, Jamaican, Trinidadian, Guyanese, and Haitian females had among the highest labor force participation rates in the city, and rates for males were at the city average or higher. Moreover, except for Haitians, English-language proficiency was high for these groups because they come from English-speaking countries. While levels of college completion and earnings for nonhispanic Caribbean groups were below the city average, thanks to their higher labor force participation, household incomes were around the city median for the Guyanese, Jamaicans, and Haitians. Moreover, poverty rates for these groups, as well as for Trinidadians, were below the city average. As has been true for earlier waves of immigrants, a large share of nonhispanic Caribbean groups used employment in government as a path to upward mobility.

Among European groups, immigrants from the United Kingdom had socioeconomic characteristics that were far superior to those of the overall foreign- and native-born populations. British male and female immigrants had among the highest rates of labor force participation in the city, the highest proportion of managers and professionals, and the highest earnings in the city. Labor force participation and earnings for other European groups were around the city average or lower, as were the size of their households. With the exception of British immigrants, Europeans are older than other immigrants, and this reflected in their smaller households. One consequence was that the number of workers in Russian, Ukrainian, and Italian households was below average, which resulted in significantly lower household incomes for these groups. Nevertheless, poverty was at the city average or lower for these groups, as household income had to support fewer people in the household. As noted earlier, the larger households of many Latin American and nonhispanic Caribbean groups allowed them to pool resources from multiple workers in the household, who generally had earnings below the city average. In contrast, the higher earnings of Europeans made a small household strategy feasible for many of them. An added benefit was that overcrowding was significantly below the city average.

Foreign-born Asians had a range of socioeconomic attainment, with Indians and Filipinos at the high end, trailed by Koreans, Chinese, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis. Nearly two-thirds of Indians had a college degree and they were disproportionately in professional and managerial occupations; labor force participation rates for males exceeded those for the city, while the female rate was marginally lower than that for all women. High earnings of males and females resulted in a household income ($83,800) that was 68 percent higher than the city median—which was also partly due to the large number of workers in Indian households. Filipinos also had favorable socioeconomic characteristics: Female labor force

participation and earnings were significantly higher than the city average, and Filipino household income was 55 percent higher than the city median. Koreans too had very favorable educational characteristics, but 63 percent were not proficient in English, leading many to choose self-employment as a path to upward mobility. Korean household income was at 90 percent of the city median and poverty was below the city average; home ownership was below the overall city rate, but Koreans were the only Asian group to live in households that were significantly less overcrowded than the city average.

Pakistanis and Chinese were a contrast. The high Pakistani male labor force participation rate (83 percent) exceeded that of Chinese males (68 percent), but the low Pakistani female labor force participation rate (21 percent) was less than one-half that of Chinese females (55 percent). Pakistani household income stood at $50,900, compared with $42,800 for Chinese households, though Pakistanis had a higher rate of poverty (28 percent versus 20 percent for the Chinese), partly due to their larger household size. As with Pakistanis, the high Bangladeshi male labor force participation rate stood in contrast with the low rate for females. Bangladeshis had low earnings and household income among Asian groups, and a high poverty level.

The socioeconomic attainment of immigrants is affected by the set of skills they bring to the U.S. Indeed, many of New York's recent immigrants, defined as those entering in 2000 or later, have high levels of educational attainment, which positively affects their overall socioeconomic attainment. Among recent entrants from India, 70 percent were college graduates, as were 68 percent of recent entrants from the United Kingdom and 64 percent from the Philippines; this compared with 34 percent of city residents who had a college degree. These three groups disproportionately entered the U.S. under the employment preferences (see Chapter 6), which are generally open to those with high-end skills and educational credentials. Earnings of recent male and female entrants from the United Kingdom surpassed the city mean, while the earnings of recent Indian male entrants were around the city average. Household income among recent British ($96,700) and Indian ($82,900) immigrants significantly exceeded the city median of $49,800, while Filipino household income was around that of the city. The socioeconomic characteristics of the larger streams of recent entrants to New York, however, are generally below those of the city overall. With the exception of Indians and Russians, among recent entrants from each of the city's top 10 foreign-born groups, the percentage of college graduates was below the city average. Earnings, as well as household income, for most of these recent entrants were also below the city average.

Newly arrived immigrants often accept lower-level jobs than they may have held in their home countries, and their earnings tend to be below the city average. But after acquiring experience in the U.S. labor market and becoming more proficient in English, earnings tend to increase; indeed, for many of the 20 top foreign-born groups in our cross-sectional analysis, earnings were significantly higher for the overall foreign-born population, compared with recent entrants. Given that recent entrants generally have less favorable socioeconomic characteristics, groups that are overwhelmingly comprised of recent entrants (Mexicans and Bangladeshis, for example) tend to have lower overall levels of socioeconomic attainment.

ENDNOTES

1 The analysis presented in this chapter is based on the 2011 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). The PUMS is a one percent sample of addresses nationally, with measures incorporated to protect the confidentiality of individual respondents. It is an invaluable source for customized tabulations, and provides content detail unavailable in any other census product. Since the figures from the PUMS file are based on a sample of the population, estimates are subject to sampling variability (i.e., sampling error). Differences that have been determined to be meaningful were statistically significant at p <10 (i.e., less than a 10 percent probability that the difference occurred by chance).

2 The recently arrived foreign-born tend to be younger than all foreign-born residents. Among New York City's foreign-born who arrived in the U.S. in 2000 or later, 13 percent were under the age of 18, 65 percent were between the ages of 18 and 44, 18 percent were between the ages of 45 and 64, and 4 percent were 65 and over. The median age for the recently arrived was 32 years, compared with 44 years for all foreign-born residents.

3 The median age of the foreign-born increased from 39 years in 2000 to 44 years in 2011; the median age of the native-born increased from 28 years to 29 years during this period. The large increase in the median age of the foreign-born was due to the smaller share of recent entrants—who tend to be younger than the general immigrant population—in the overall foreign-born population. Please see Chapter 7 for more details.

4 There is a relatively short supply of large housing units in New York City. ACS data show that housing units with 3 or more bedrooms comprised just 29 percent of all housing in New York City in 2011, but accounted for 46 percent of the housing units in the NY-NJ-PA Metro Area. This is related to the old housing stock and the high cost of housing in New York City.

5 Those ages five and over who spoke a language other than English at home were asked whether they spoke English very well, well, not well, or not at all. According to the Census Bureau, data from other surveys suggest a major difference between the category very well and the remaining categories. Thus, those not English proficient were defined as persons who spoke a language other than English at home and who spoke English well, not well, or not at all. The population that was not English proficient was percentaged on the population ages five and over to obtain the percent not English-proficient.

6 Those born in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth. Spanish is the primary language of Puerto Rico. See Salvo, Ortiz and Lobo, 1994. Puerto Rican New Yorkers in 1990. New York: New York City Department of City Planning.

7 Dropout rates among young adults, ages 17 to 24, were calculated using 5 year (2007–2011) PUMS data. The sub-population of young adults is relatively small and the use of 5 year data helped increase sample size, thus providing for more reliable estimates. Greater reliability, however, came at the cost of using data that were less current—data that were aggregated over five years, as opposed to one year data in the 2011 PUMS.

8 Households with at least one person receiving public assistance were defined as receiving public assistance income.

9 The labor force participation rate was calculated on those ages 16 and over. Data on occupation and class of worker were determined for those ages 16 and over, who were employed. Earnings were calculated for those ages 16 and over, who were employed and worked at least 35 hours a week. Negative earnings were recoded to 0.