



Giving the Gift of Language  
Promoting Immigrants as Assets to America

## Massachusetts Immigrants by the Numbers, March 2012 Fast Facts

### Demographics

**948,061:** number of immigrants in Massachusetts

**14.4 percent:** immigrant portion of the state's population

**621,912:** number of Massachusetts immigrants in the U.S. 10 or more years

**326,149:** number of Massachusetts immigrants in the U.S. fewer than 10 years

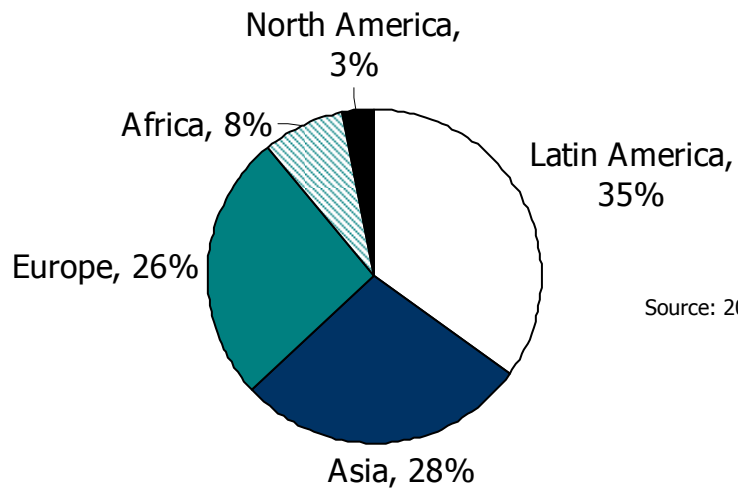
**48.9 percent:** share of Massachusetts immigrants who are naturalized citizens

### Top 10 Cities by Number of Foreign-Born

City	Total City Population	% of Total Population
Boston	602,609	27.2%
Cambridge	103,506	27.2%
Lawrence	75,177	36.0%
Lowell	105,089	24.6%
Lynn	89,625	28.8%
Quincy	90,780	27.3%
Malden	58,180	39.4%
Brockton	93,869	23.8%
Somerville	75,215	26.8%
Framingham	67,339	25.9%

Source: American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates 2006 - 2010, Table B05002

## Region of Birth of Massachusetts Immigrants



Source: 2009 American Community Survey PUMS

## Top Ten Countries of Origin of Massachusetts Immigrants

1. Brazil
2. China
3. Dominican Republic
4. Portugal
5. India
6. Haiti
7. Vietnam
8. Canada
9. El Salvador
10. Guatemala

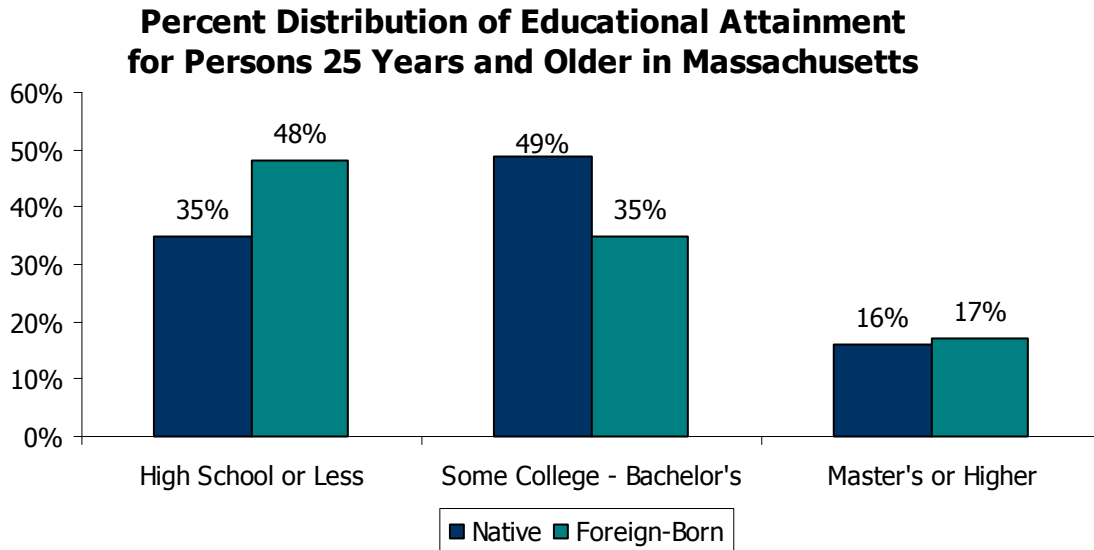
Source: 2009 American Community Survey PUMS

## Education

**4.4 percent:** share of immigrants who hold doctorates; for natives, the figure is 1.8 percent.

**52 percent:** share of immigrants over 25 years of age who have at least some college education or higher. This skilled and educated population is favorable to the state's economic development and competitive edge in innovation.

**29.8 percent:** share of immigrant-headed households that have at least one child enrolled in public K-12 schools. This includes both foreign-born and U.S.-born children of immigrants.



## Income and Jobs

**\$40,851:** immigrants' average per person income vs. \$46,277 for the native-born (11.73% less than the native-born)

**71.7 percent:** share of immigrants participating in the labor force vs. 67.5 percent of the native-born, a significant proportion of the latter being near retirement

**50.1 percent:** share of Massachusetts immigrants who are in the 18 to 44 age group versus 36.8 percent of natives. This large cohort of immigrants in the working-age category can help replenish the workforce as baby boomers retire and offset the growing "dependency ratio" of supporting the non-working population.

## Top Five Occupation Fields for Immigrants

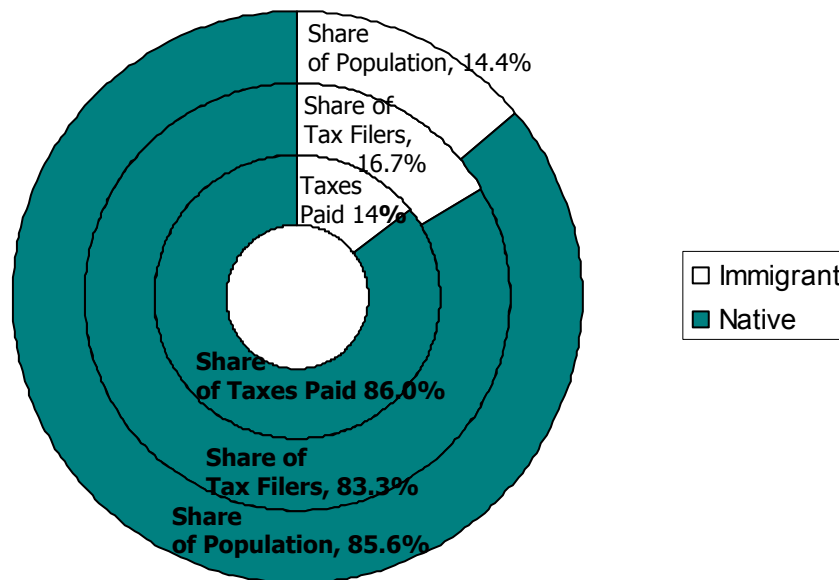
Immigrants are overrepresented relative to natives at both the high and low ends of the occupational distribution:

1. Building and ground cleaning and maintenance
2. Production (workers and supervisors in manufacturing settings)
3. Life, physical and social sciences
4. Computer and mathematical
5. Health care support

Source: American Community Survey, 2009 PUMS

## State and Local Taxes

### Income Taxes and Number of Filers by Immigration Status



Source: Author's tax simulation based on 2009 American Community Survey and MA Department of Revenue tax data

**16.7 percent:** share of tax filers from immigrant-headed households while immigrants comprise 14.4 percent of the population

**\$1.36 billion:** amount paid in state income taxes by immigrant-headed tax filers

**\$1.28 billion:** amount paid in local property taxes by immigrant-headed households

**\$338 million:** amount paid in sales and excise taxes by immigrant households or 14.3% of total Massachusetts sales and excise tax receipts

## Transfer Payments

Documented adult immigrants must wait five years to be eligible for public assistance.

Undocumented immigrants cannot receive any transfer payments (government benefits including food stamps, unemployment compensation and social security).

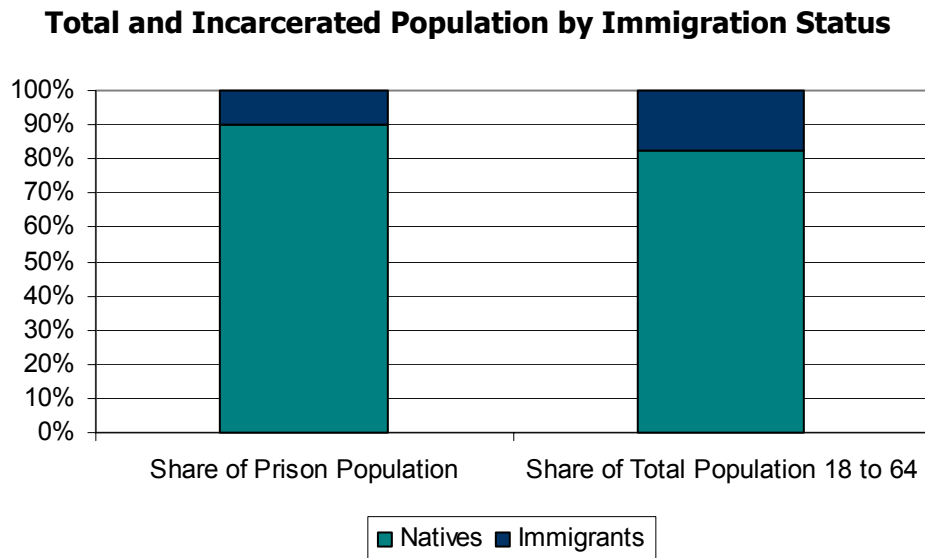
**11.7 percent:** share of total transfer payments received by immigrants

## Social Security

Immigrants are large net contributors to Social Security because they are largely of prime working age, and they pay into the system over a long period of time. This includes undocumented immigrants. The Internal Revenue Service estimates that 70-75 percent of the undocumented population pays Social Security taxes that will not be credited toward future benefits. This creates a net addition to the system estimated at \$7 billion annually.

## Crime

**9.7 percent:** share of prison population who are immigrants, which is significantly less than their share of the total population 18 to 64 years of age (17.7 percent).



Source: American Community Survey, 2009 PUMS and the Massachusetts Department of Corrections *January 1, 2008, Inmate Statistics*

As immigrants are less likely to commit crimes, costs related to their incarceration are lower than for the native-born.