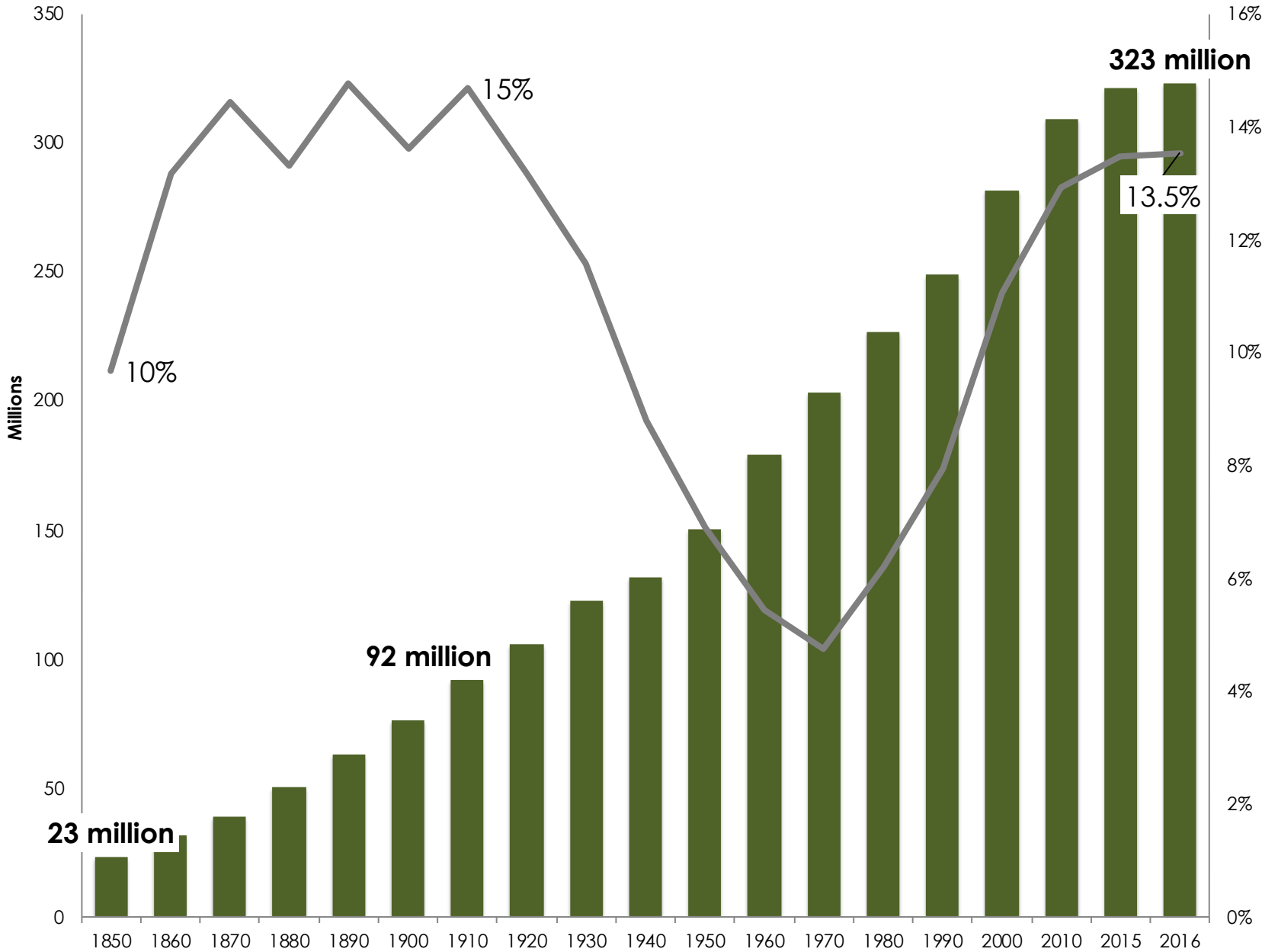


# Immigrant Economic Contributions to the United States

David Dyssegaard Kallick  
Director of Immigration Research  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
[ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org](mailto:ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org)

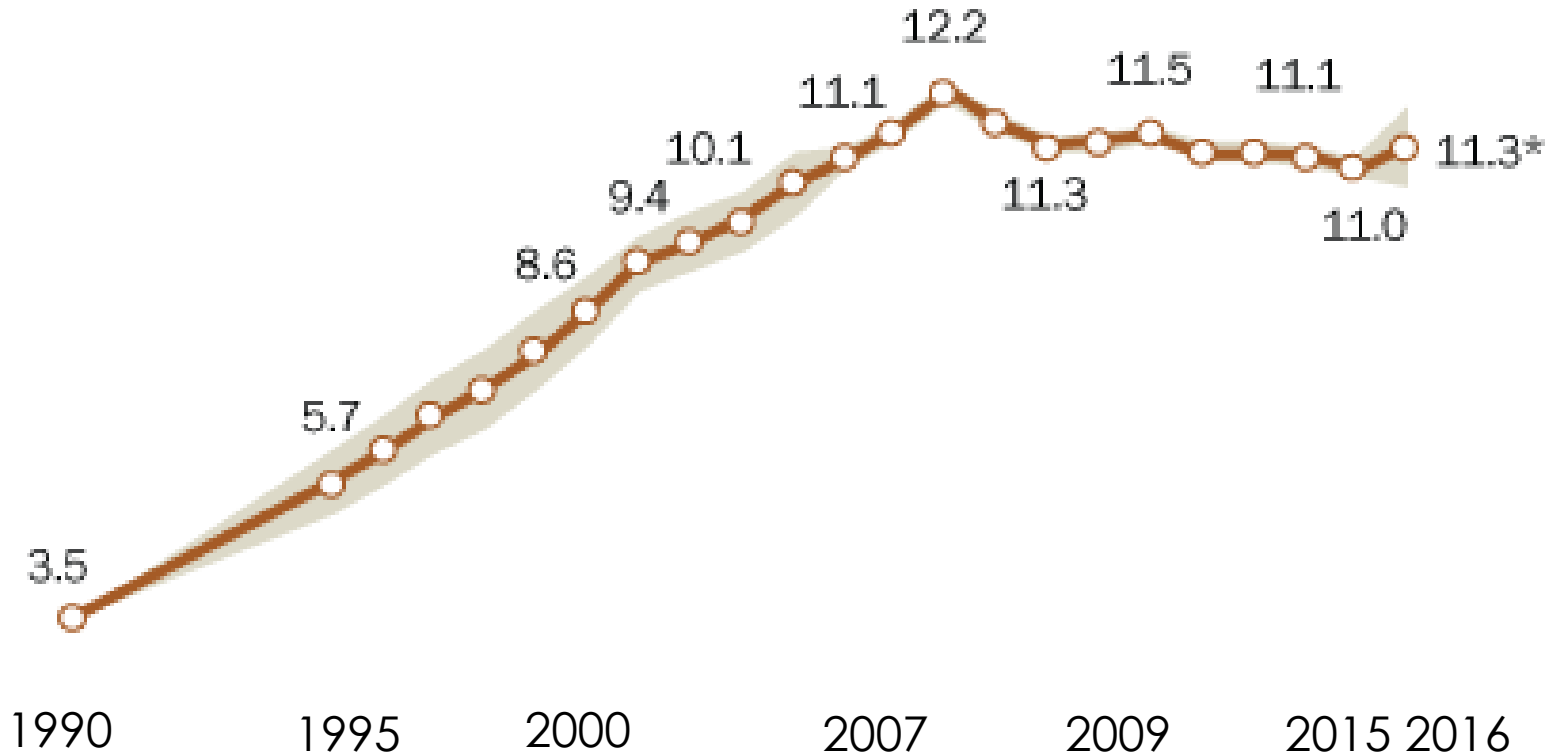
# Immigration 1850 to Today



# Unauthorized Population Highest in 2007

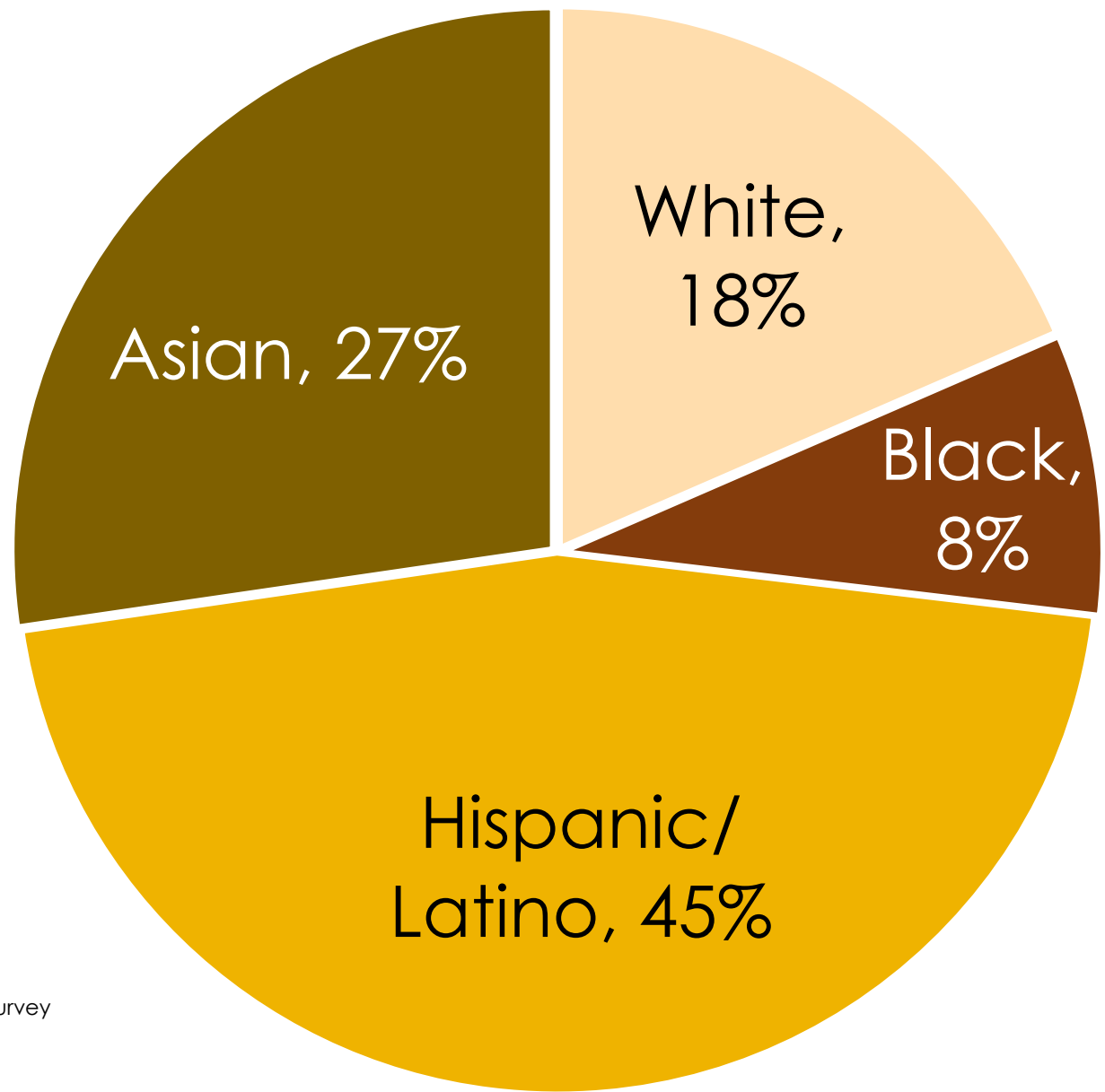
Lower in 2015 than in 2009

In millions



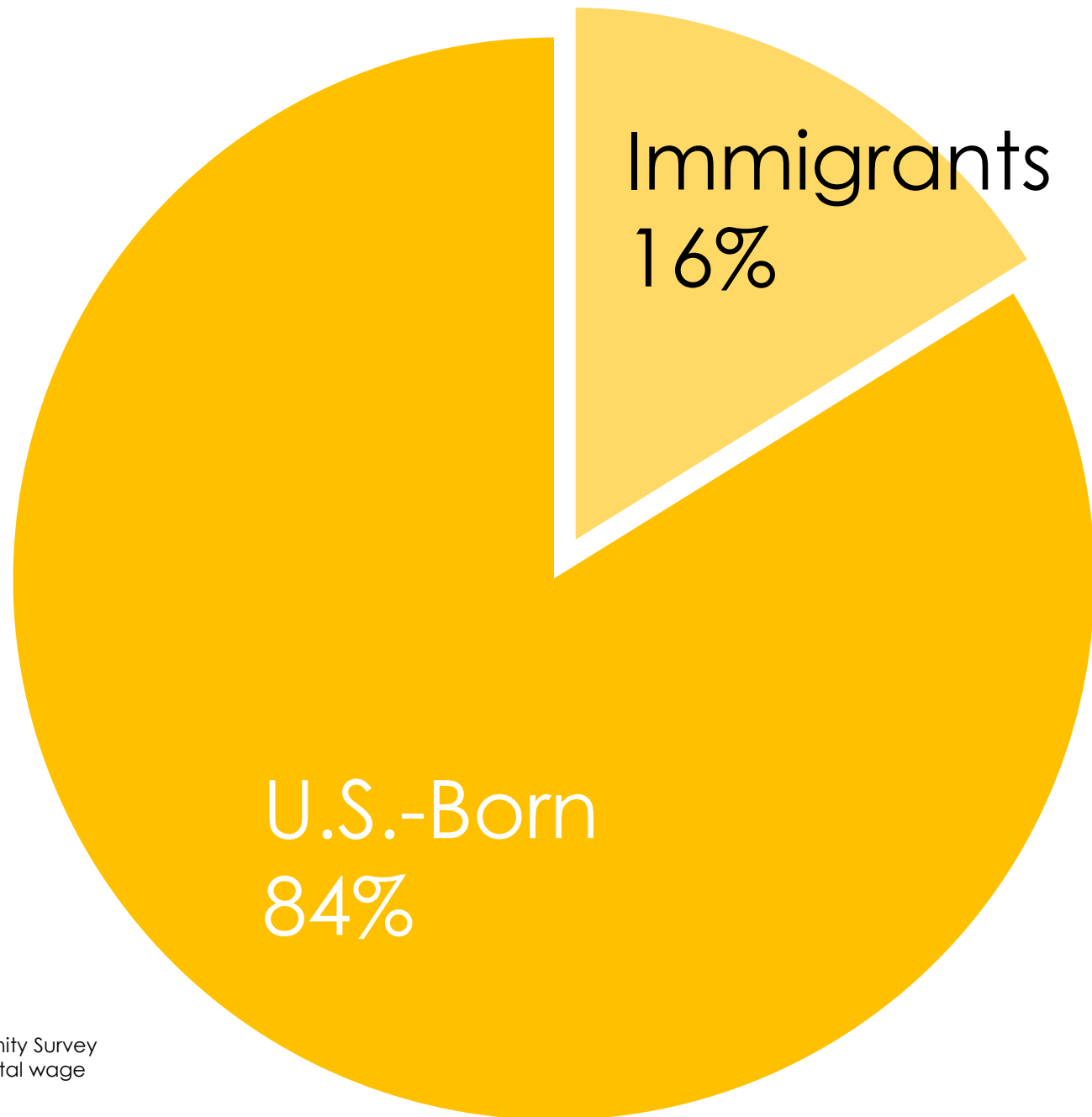
Source: Pew Research Center, Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, "As Mexican Share Declined, U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population Fell in 2015 Below Recession Level," April 25, 2017. Shading shows 90 percent confidence interval.

Immigration  
to America  
is **More  
Diverse**  
than Most  
People  
Realize



Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) 2015.

# A Big Part of America's Economy Relies on Immigrants



Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) 2015. Share of GDP is gauged by share of total wage and salary earnings plus proprietor's income.

How Can Immigrant  
Share of GDP

Be that Big?

# 1. Immigrants Are **Young Adults**

Immigrant share of

**Population**

13%

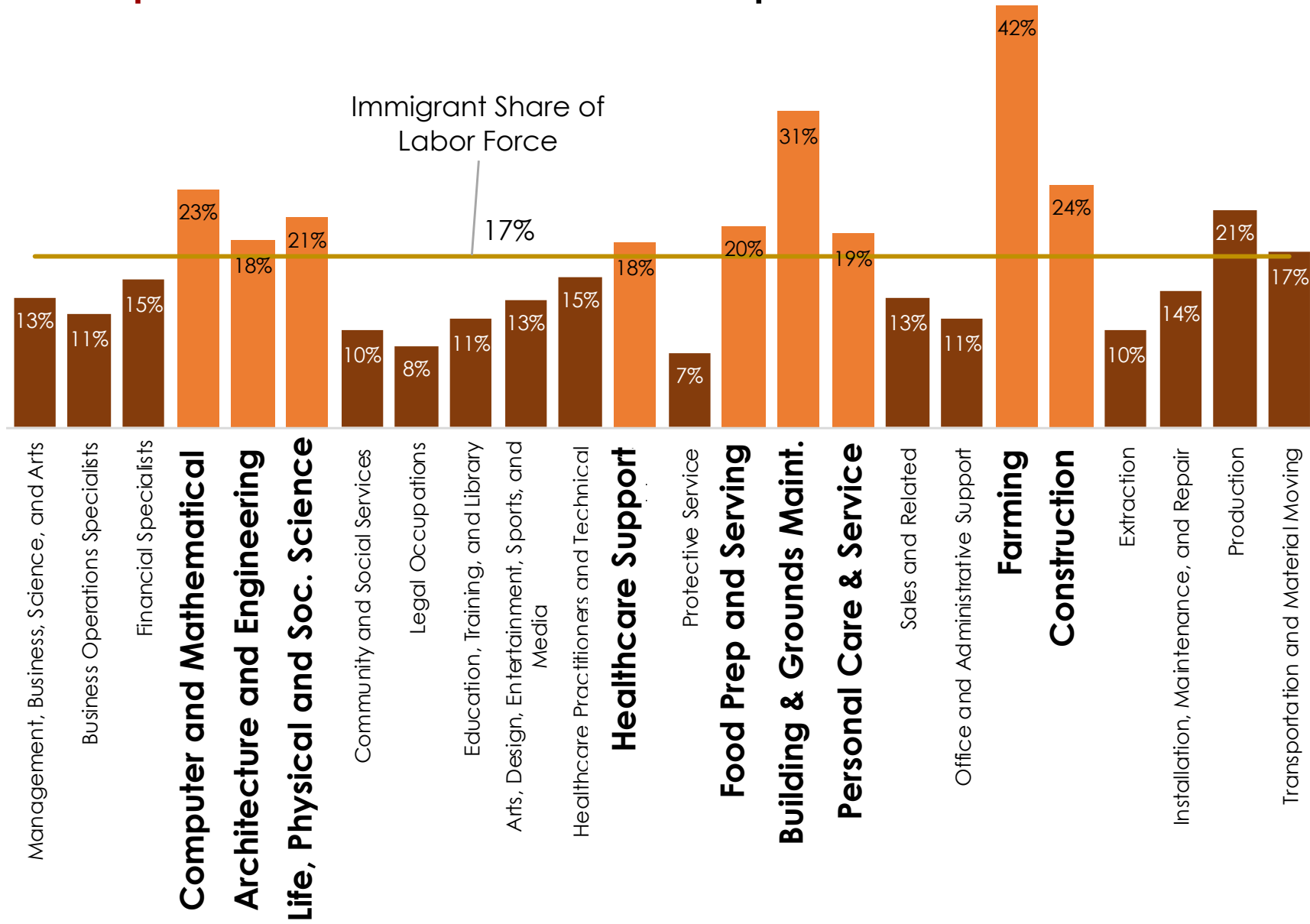
**Working-Age Population**

17%

**Labor Force**

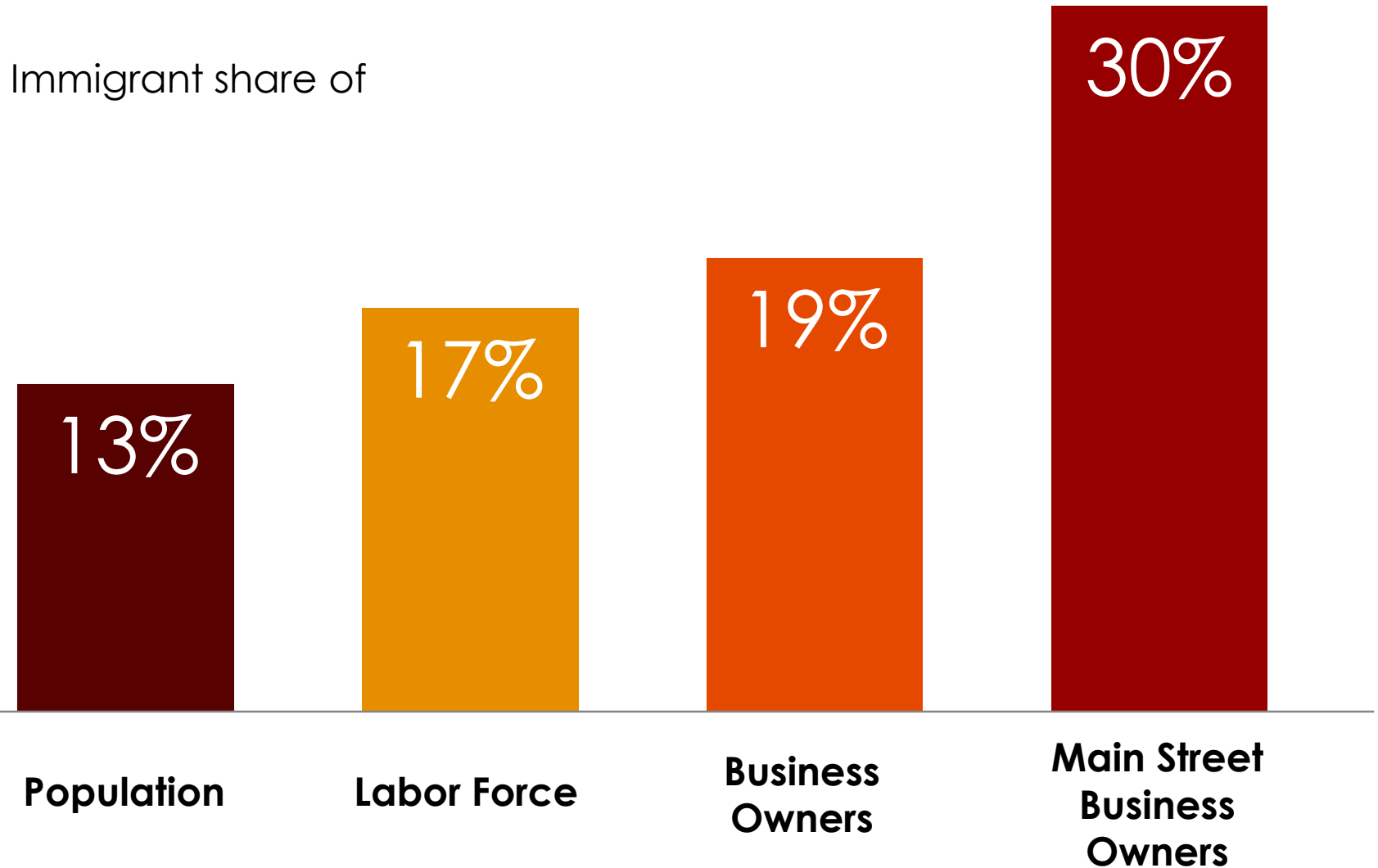
17%

# 2. Immigrants Work in Jobs Across the Spectrum of Occupations





# 3. Immigrants Are Entrepreneurial



# “Main Street” Businesses



grocery stores



restaurants



Beauty salons



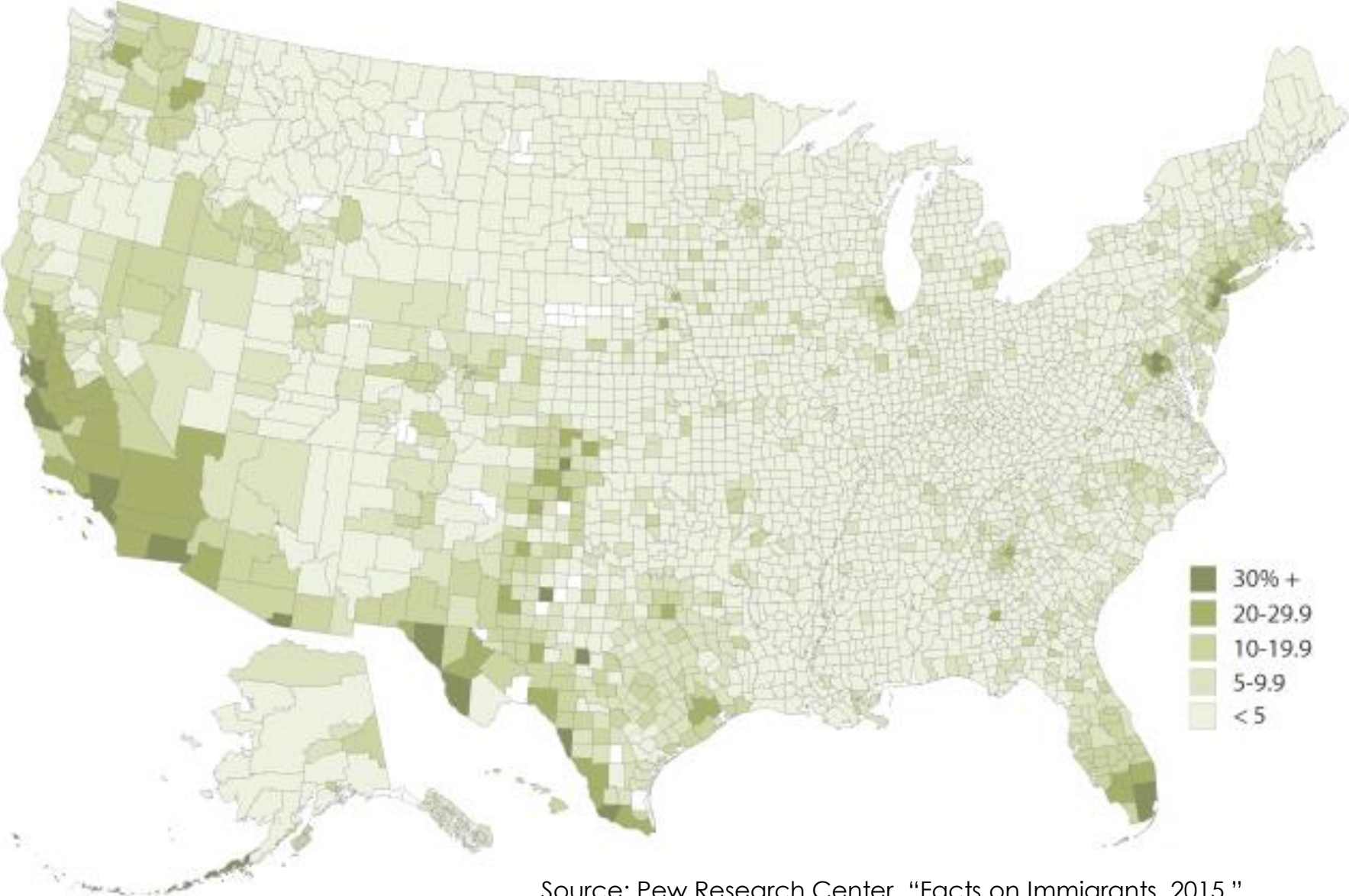
Dry cleaners



retail shops

# Different Economic Contexts

Immigrant Share of Population by County



Source: Pew Research Center, "Facts on Immigrants, 2015,"  
Percent Foreign-Born by County, 2015 ACS 5-year data, May 2017.



# Cities with Declining Population 1960 to 1980

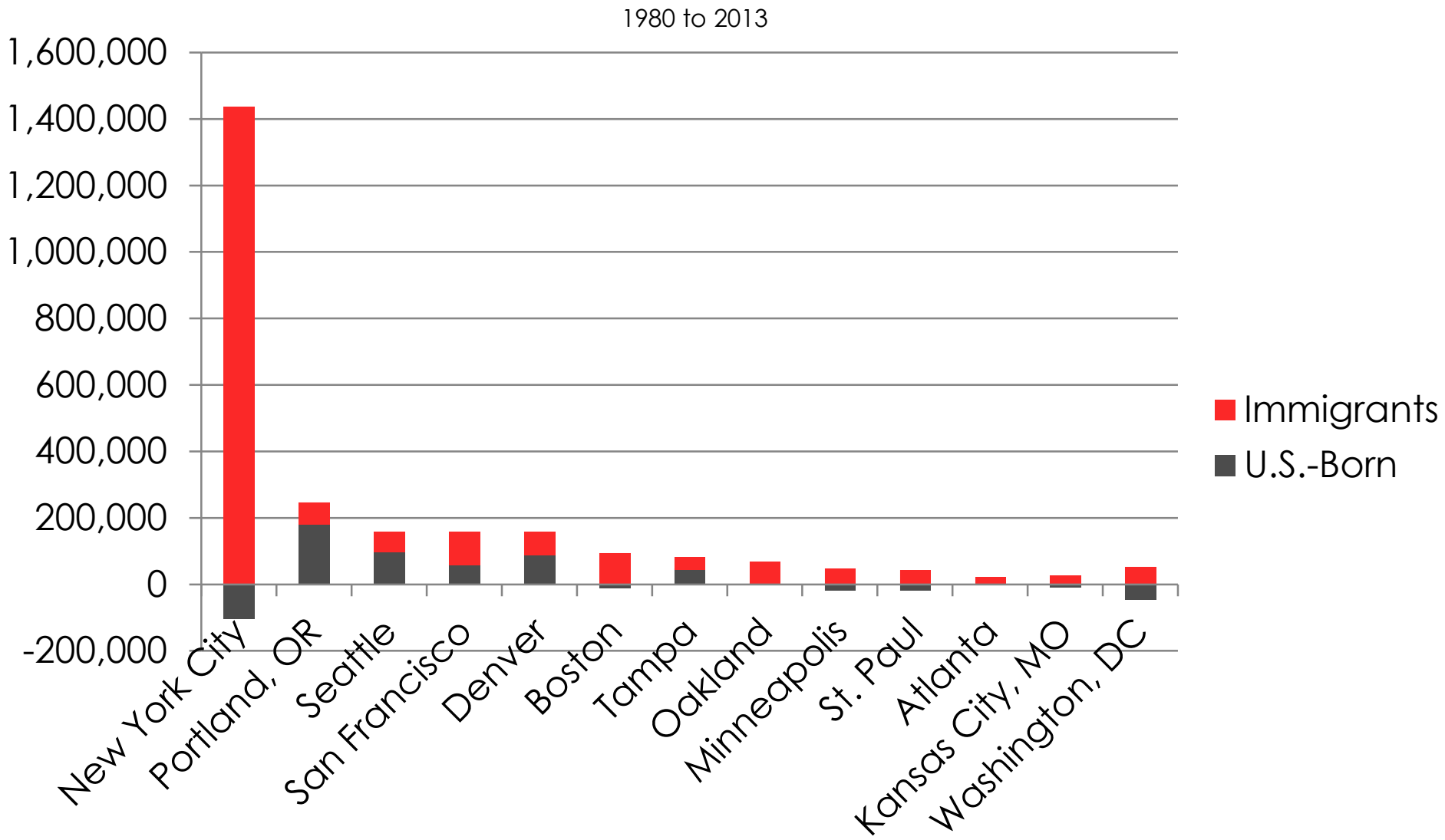
(29 of the 50 Largest Cities saw a mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century population decline)

St. Louis	-40%	Newark	-19%	Seattle	-11%
Cleveland	-34%	Birmingham	-17%	New Orleans	-11%
Buffalo	-33%	Washington, DC	-16%	New York City	-9%
Pittsburgh	-30%	Baltimore	-16%	San Francisco	-8%
Detroit	-28%	Philadelphia	-16%	Oakland	-8%
Rochester	-24%	Chicago	-15%	Kansas City	-6%
Louisville	-24%	Milwaukee	-14%	Portland, OR	-2%
Cincinnati	-23%	St. Paul	-14%	Tampa	-1%
Minneapolis	-23%	Atlanta	-13%	Denver	-0.3%
Boston	-19%	Norfolk	-13%		

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.

Of the 29 Declining Cities, 14 Rebounded  
with an Increase in Population since 1980

# Here are the Cities that Rebounded with an Increase in the Immigrant Population



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data. See also *Bringing Vitality to Main Street: How Immigrant Small Businesses Help Local Economies Grow*, Fiscal Policy Institute and Americas Society/Council of the Americas, 2015.

Here are the Cities that Rebounded **Without** an Increase in Immigrant Population

There are none



## There are none

The only cities that rebounded from mid-20<sup>th</sup> century population loss did so with a net increase in immigrant population.

This doesn't prove that immigrants cause growth. It may also be that immigrants are drawn to growth.

But if your city's plan is to grow **without** immigrants, it is useful to keep in mind that there are **no examples** of that among major cities in the United States over the past four decades.