There are approximately 700,000 immigrants living in the East Bay Region (Contra Costa and Alameda counties) comprising 28% of the region’s total population. More than 80% of all immigrants have arrived since 1980, with about one-quarter arriving in the last decade. The diversity of immigrants by country of origin is high: while the largest group hails from Mexico (25%), large proportions are from the Philippines (12%), China (10%), India (8%) and Vietnam (5%). About 39% come from other nations, signifying a diverse immigrant population.

Immigrants are highly connected to the region’s children and citizenry. While only 1 in 14 children is an immigrant, nearly half have at least one immigrant parent and 30% of households are headed by an immigrant. Further, our estimates suggest that 72% of unauthorized residents (which we can only estimate for adult Latinos) are living with citizens, and 34% are living with their own citizen children. Perhaps because of this mix, linguistic isolation – the proportion of immigrant-headed households in which no person over 13 speaks English only, or very well – is relatively low (27%).

Overall Score

The East Bay region scores a 3.4, the second highest overall score across the 10 regions. The region performed particularly well in Civic Engagement, thanks to its high naturalization rates and linguistic integration. The region did fairly well in the other three categories, although there is room for improvement.

Implications

The East Bay region has created a path to civic engagement for immigrants. As an economically revitalized and growing region, it provides an abundance of economic opportunities for its immigrant population.

Nevertheless, the East Bay could improve the opportunities for English language learners to close achievement gaps, expand the infrastructure of immigrant-serving organizations, and improve economic returns to employment (as the region does have high full-time employment rates, but still struggles with poverty and homeownership).

The East Bay has seen its immigrant population grow and diversify, perhaps because San Francisco has become too expensive for many newcomers. With the influx of new immigrants and a high score on immigrant integration, the region likely contains best practices around civic engagement and economics for immigrants.
The East Bay – near the Silicon Valley and San Francisco – is home to major corporations, including health care and technology companies, as well as manufacturers of household products. The distribution of all employed workers in the top industries is as such: of all employed workers (ages 25-64) 31% are in professional services and 13% are in retail trade. Immigrants, following a similar trend as U.S.-born workers, are employed at high rates in professional services (24%), retail trade (15%), and manufacturing (14%). Business and repair services, construction, and transportation combined employ over one-quarter of all immigrants. Like Santa Clara County, the East Bay exhibits relatively low self-employment rates for immigrants (11%) and low unemployment rates for immigrants (9%), but does have a sizable share of overskilled immigrants (19%) – that is, immigrant workers with a Bachelor’s degree or higher in unskilled jobs.

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

The East Bay ranks fifth (out of 10) in the Economic Snapshot category and, with a well-utilized workforce, performs well in several areas, most prominently full-time employment and one measure of job access – cars per driver. The educational achievement score (4.0) is higher than in other regions, but really it is a relative measure and gaps remain compared to U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites.

The East Bay has room to grow in the areas of homeownership, income, and access to public benefits. These data mask the needs of lower income residents – particularly Latinos and some Southeast Asian groups – who may need more of a focused effort on economic integration than others who have been placed relatively well in the professional services sector.

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

Over time, East Bay immigrants’ rates of full-time employment and poverty improved more than in most other regions. They fared well in terms of homeownership and English language acquisition too.

More progress could be made in the areas of income for full-time workers and, to a lesser degree, the attainment of high school degrees.

To generate snapshot and trajectory scores, immigrants were compared against U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites, who – it could be argued – are the most “integrated” population in the U.S.
Historically, the East Bay has been a destination for many migrating to California. Following World War II, this area experienced major population growth and transformation – an expansion that immigrants helped shape. In particular, the development of new transportation infrastructure – new highways and eventually the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system – allowed for an eastward expansion of new suburbs. This also created two different cultural and social narratives in the way that immigrants have been incorporated into this area. The urban core of Oakland, Berkeley, and Hayward has been very receptive to immigrants, adopting some of the most comprehensive approaches that allow for the integration of immigrants into the social, economic and cultural life of this area. For example, some in Oakland are working to issue municipal identification cards that could double as debit cards and provide a way for immigrants to prove their identity and participate in mainstream banking. The eastern suburbs, however, have not been as receptive to immigrants, often calling on local enforcement to step up deportation efforts and pressing employers to participate in E-Verify. And, yet, the ethos of the East Bay is one where hard work is valued and there are strong undertones of openness to all people, so it is not surprising that as a whole this area is generally welcoming of immigrants.

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

The East Bay performs well in this category, scoring 3.2, achieving particularly high on its media score and supply of English language learning classes. In terms of organizational density, there are approximately 45 immigrant-serving organizations for the region’s some 328,000 non-citizen immigrants.

Practical areas for growth may include strengthening K-12 education so that English language learners can excel academically and supporting the expansion of immigrant-serving organizations.

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

The East Bay scores a 4 on both indicators – linguistic integration (measured by the proportion of households where at least one person over the age of 13 speaks English very well or exclusively) and the percentage of immigrants eligible to naturalize who have become citizens.

The East Bay ranks second only to Santa Clara in this area, indicating that it has been making inroads in integrating immigrants into the civic life of the region, although there is still room for progress and further engagement.

For a full explanation of the methodology used to score regions, see the technical report at: csii.usc.edu.
## Income and Poverty (2010 $s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Imm U.S.-born Rate</th>
<th>Imm U.S.-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Household Income</td>
<td>$67,529</td>
<td>$72,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Income (Full-time Workers)</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>$61,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop. Below 150% of poverty level</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Poor*</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Language Skills Among Immigrants

- **Linguistically Isolated Households**: 27%
- **Top Languages Spoken in Immigrant Households**:
  - Spanish: 33%
  - Chinese: 15%
  - English: 11%
  - Tagalog: 11%
  - Hindi and related: 7%

### Labor Force Participation Rates

- **In the Labor Force**: 81% (Employed) 85% (Unemployed)

### Self Employment

- **Non-Hispanic white**: 18%
- **Non-Hispanic Black**: N/A
- **Latino**: 12%
- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 9%

### Top 5 Industries by Immigrant Share

- Professional and Related Services: 24%
- Retail Trade: 15%
- Manufacturing: 14%
- Business and Repair Services: 10%
- Construction: 8%

### Top 5 Countries by Share of LPRs & LPR Naturalization Rates

- Mexico: 41%
- Philippines: 64%
- China: 66%
- India: 70%
- Vietnam: 77%

### Unauthorized Status (Latino Immigrant Adults Only)

- Unauthorized: 35%
- Of unauthorized, living with a citizen: 72%
- Of unauthorized, living with own citizen child: 34%

### Sanctuary City Present in Region

- Yes

## Household and Family Structure

### Children

- Immigrant: 7%
- With an immigrant parent: 47%

### Adults

- Immigrant: 34%
- Naturalized Immigrant: 18%
- Immigrant in the Household (Incl. Self): 43%

### Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Imm</th>
<th>U.S.-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single, no kids</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, with kids</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, no kids</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, with kids</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Unauthorized Status (Latino Immigrant Adults Only)*

- Unauthorized: 35%
- Of unauthorized, living with a citizen: 72%
- Of unauthorized, living with own citizen child: 34%

## Sanctuary City Present in Region

- Yes

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**Note:**

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