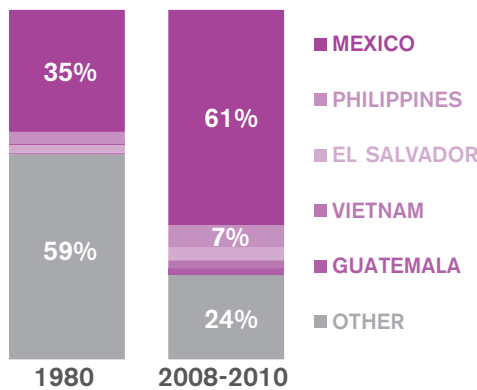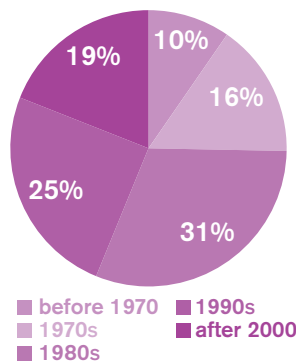# INLAND EMPIRE

The Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) has experienced dramatic population growth in recent years from suburban sprawl and an influx of immigrants. Approximately 909,000 immigrants currently live in this region, comprising 22% of the population – the largest share the region has ever seen. Approximately 75% of all immigrants have arrived since 1980, with 19% arriving in the last decade. The region has seen its share of immigrants from Mexico almost double from 35% in 1980 to 61% in 2010. The share of immigrants from the Philippines (7%) has also increased.

Immigrants are highly connected to the region's children and citizenry. While only 1 in 25 children is an immigrant, 42% have at least one immigrant parent, and 27% of households are headed by an immigrant. Further, our estimates suggest that 77% of unauthorized residents (which we can only estimate for adult Latinos) are living with citizens, and 41% 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%).
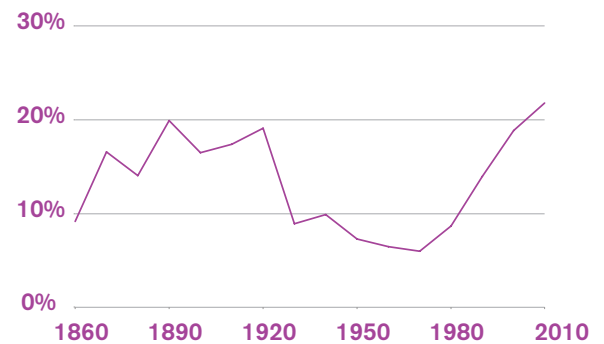
IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Legend:
- MEXICO
- PHILIPPINES
- EL SALVADOR
- VIETNAM
- GUATEMALA
- OTHER

1980: 35%, 59%
2008-2010: 61%, 7%, 24%

IMMIGRANTS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL, 2008-2010

10%, 16%, 31%, 25%, 19%
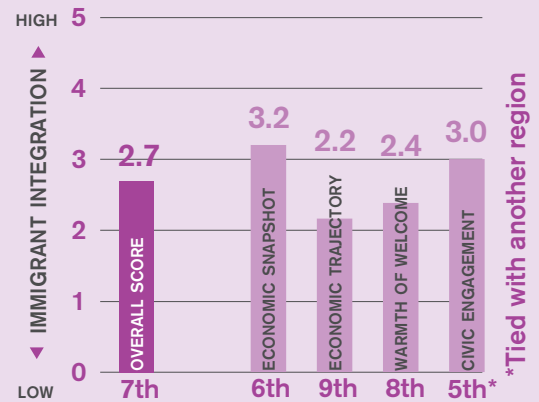
- before 1970
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- after 2000

IMMIGRANTS AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DECADE, 1860-2010

OVERALL SCORE

2.7

The Inland Empire scored a 2.7, ranking seventh among the 10 regions. The region scored better in the Economic Snapshot and Civic Engagement categories, largely because of high scores in linguistic integration, homeownership rates, English testing, and access to cars and social services. On the other hand, the Inland Empire was second to worst in Economic Trajectory, with little improvement around full-time employment and English speaking abilities; and Warmth of Welcome was nearly as dismal.

RANK ACROSS 10 REGIONS

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION — HIGH / LOW

*Tied with another region

	OVERALL SCORE	ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT	ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY	WARMTH OF WELCOME	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Score	2.7	3.2	2.2	2.4	3.0
Rank	7th	6th	9th	8th	5th*

IMPLICATIONS

As the Inland Empire's rapid growth continues – both in population and economic activity – it is providing immigrants with new economic opportunities.
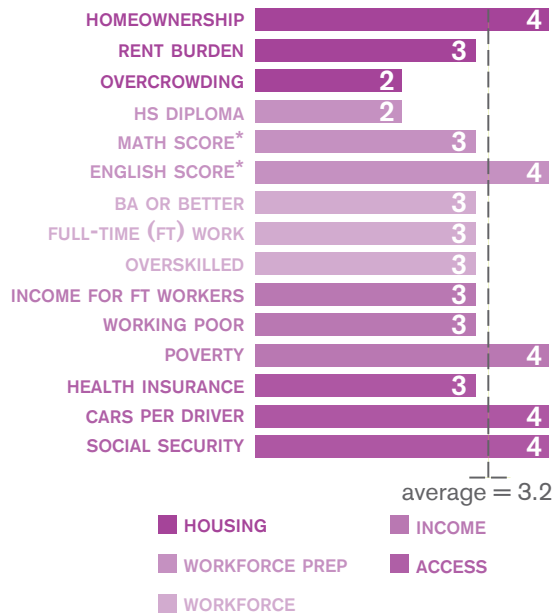
Despite the difficulties that come with an immigrant population that may be perceived as monolithic, the region's housing market has allowed high rates of homeownership (although facing both high rates of unemployment and foreclosures, this is changing quickly). Civic engagement, in the form of immigrant serving organizations, is also happening in the context of a changing political landscape and a certain lack of infrastructure to connect immigrants.

The region has something to learn from others and has striking parallels to San Joaquin, but continued growth matched with apparently strong civic infrastructure for naturalization may result in best practices for immigrant integration in California's exurbs and more rural communities.

THE ECONOMY

The Inland Empire experienced several changes during the past 40 years, transforming from a rural to suburban region, diversifying its economy and becoming California's fastest growing region. The region's inexpensive and vacant land, along with a well-integrated freight rail system, turned it into a go-to region for some of the nation's largest manufacturing and warehousing companies looking for new shipping hubs. The supply of vacant land also led to a housing boom that allowed for the growth of new suburbs and retail centers. These two dynamics have shaped the distribution of the workforce in the region. The majority of workers (ages 25-64) are employed in professional services (26%), retail trade (15%) and manufacturing (11%). Immigrants are employed in professional services (18%), retail trade (16%), manufacturing (15%) and construction (11%) – a sector that was hit hard during the recent recession. Unemployment rates for immigrants stand at 13%, while self-employment rates are at 12%. The region also has a high proportion of overskilled immigrants (25%) – that is, workers with a bachelor's degree or higher in unskilled jobs.
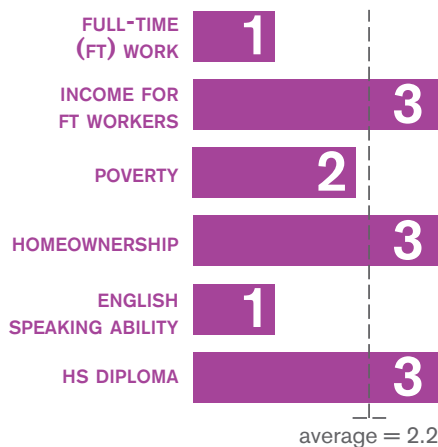
ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

3.2

HOMEOWNERSHIP	4
RENT BURDEN	3
OVERCROWDING	2
HS DIPLOMA	2
MATH SCORE*	3
ENGLISH SCORE*	4
BA OR BETTER	3
FULL-TIME (FT) WORK	3
OVERSKILLED	3
INCOME FOR FT WORKERS	3
WORKING POOR	3
POVERTY	4
HEALTH INSURANCE	3
CARS PER DRIVER	4
SOCIAL SECURITY	4

average = 3.2

- ■ HOUSING
- ■ WORKFORCE PREP
- ■ WORKFORCE
- ■ INCOME
- ■ ACCESS

*Score based on English language learners (ELLs) relative to non-Hispanic white students.

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 Inland Empire scored a 3.2 in economic snapshot, its highest score across all categories. Immigrants in the region are doing well in terms of homeownership, poverty, and access. However, the foreclosure crisis has hit immigrants particularly hard, losing homes as well as jobs at some of the highest rates in the nation. Math and English scores for English learners are middling in a relative sense, but poor, in an absolute sense.

A gap persists in the percentage of immigrants that have a high school diploma, income for full-time workers, and working poverty. Furthermore, immigrants suffer from overcrowding – somewhat surprising given the relatively low cost of land and low-density of development in the region.

ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

2.2

FULL-TIME (FT) WORK	1
INCOME FOR FT WORKERS	3
POVERTY	2
HOMEOWNERSHIP	3
ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY	1
HS DIPLOMA	3

average = 2.2

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.

The Economic Trajectory for immigrants in the Inland Empire is worse than the Economic Snapshot. Improvement in full-time employment rates, poverty rates, and English speaking abilities of the region's immigrant population has not kept up with those of U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites, compared to other regions. While this is partly due to a smaller gap to begin with in the case of poverty, it is not so for full-time employment and English speaking abilities – they are particular areas in need of improvement.

While the progress on homeownership, income and high school graduation has been more comparable to other regions, continued gaps in the latter two measures evidenced by the snapshot scores make them good focus areas, as well.

To generate snapshot and trajectory scores, immigrants are compared against U.S.-born non-Hispanic whites, who – it could be argued – are the most "integrated" population in the U.S.
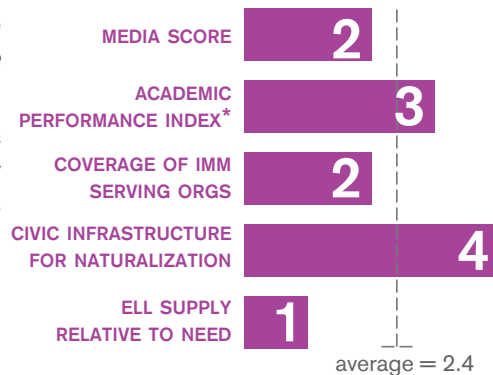
The Inland Empire has been California's fastest growing region for decades – largely due to various housing booms and the exploding logistics/warehousing industry. Once a sleepy eastern neighbor of Los Angeles, the region is now home to a growing number of Latinos, African Americans, and Asians who "drove until they qualified." This has made for a strange mix; while an older conservative population struggles to maintain political power – which includes support for anti-immigrant policies – immigrants and their native-born children are working to reshape the Inland Empire's regional identity and its future. Nonetheless, the economic crisis of 2008 turned the promise of the great American Dream into a nightmare for many immigrants; thousands lost their homes and jobs. Moreover, anti-immigrant forces' vitriol that immigrants further burdened the region's schools and social infrastructure intensified. As a result, the drive for immigrant integration has become a highly racialized affair, playing out along cultural and political lines. This cultural landscape will likely make immigrant integration a difficult journey, but a few labor unions, community organizations and immigrant coalitions have begun to organize at a regional level in support of low-wage workers and against harsh enforcement policies. Their success and the ability of local policy makers to reframe immigrant integration as a social good will help to determine the Inland Empire's future prosperity.

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 Inland Empire scored 2.4 in this category, showing strong civic infrastructure for naturalization in the region, but scoring poorly elsewhere. There are approximately 17 immigrant-serving organizations for the region's some 522,000 non-citizen immigrants.

Practical areas for growth may include boosting the supply of English language classes, allowing for more positive media messaging, and the expansion of immigrant-serving organizations in the region.

The Inland Empire struggles significantly in this category, alongside San Joaquin and Fresno. A coordinated statewide strategy might be useful.

MEDIA SCORE	2
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX*	3
COVERAGE OF IMM SERVING ORGS	2
CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NATURALIZATION	4
ELL SUPPLY RELATIVE TO NEED	1

average = 2.4

*Score based on English language learners (ELLs) relative to non-Hispanic white students.

WARMTH OF WELCOME

2.4

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 Inland Empire scores a 3.0 on Civic Engagement – excelling in linguistic integration (measured by the proportion of households where at least one person over the age of 13 speaks English very well or exclusively), but showing low naturalization rates among its eligible population.

Linguistic integration is actually higher than anticipated, as is the overall category score. As indicated by the lower naturalization rate score, there is a serious need to further increase organizational infrastructure in the Inland Empire – especially with recent increases in the immigrant population.

LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION	4
NATURALIZATION RATE	2

average = 3.0

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

3.0

For a full explanation of the methodology used to score regions, see the technical report at: csii.usc.edu.

2008-2010 DATA PROFILE: INLAND EMPIRE

			Imm	U.S.-born
Total Population		4,168,036		
Comparison Population for Scoring				
U.S.-born non-Hispanic white	1,487,410	36%		
Immigrant	909,118	22%		
Language Skills Among Immigrants				
Linguistically Isolated Households		27%		
Top Languages Spoken in Immigrant Households				
Spanish		70%		
English		9%		
Tagalog		6%		
Chinese		2%		
Hindi and related		2%		

Income and Poverty (2010 $s)	Imm	U.S.-born
Avg. Household Income	$47,900	$57,613
Avg. Income (Full-time Workers)	$32,301	$45,767
Pop. Below 150% of poverty level	32%	24%
Working Poor*	17%	5%

Household and Family Structure		
Children		
Immigrant		4%
With an immigrant parent		42%
Adults		
Immigrant		29%
Naturalized Immigrant		12%
Immigrant in the Household (Incl. Self)		40%

Households	Imm.	U.S.-born
Single, no kids	18%	33%
Single, with kids	18%	17%
Married, no kids	13%	22%
Married, with kids	52%	29%

Labor Force Participation Rates§	Imm	U.S.-born
In the Labor Force	77%	83%
Employed	87%	83%
Unemployed	13%	17%

Self Employment±	Imm	U.S.-born
Non-Hispanic white	18%	13%
Non-Hispanic Black	N/A	7%
Latino	11%	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13%	7%

Top 5 Industries by Immigrant Share¥	Imm	U.S.-born
Professional and Related Services	18%	30%
Retail Trade	16%	15%
Manufacturing	15%	9%
Construction	11%	8%
Transport., Comm., & Other Utilities	8%	9%

Unauthorized Status (Latino Immigrant Adults Only)#	
Unauthorized	26%
Of unauthorized, living with a citizen	77%
Of unauthorized, living with own citizen child	41%

Top 5 Countries by Share of LPRs & LPR Naturalization Rates+	
Mexico	34%
Philippines	62%
Vietnam	73%
El Salvador	43%
India	66%

Sanctuary City Present in Region	No

LPRs and Voting Population	
Voting Eligible Population	2,475,800
Adult LPRs Eligible for Naturalization	131,826

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.
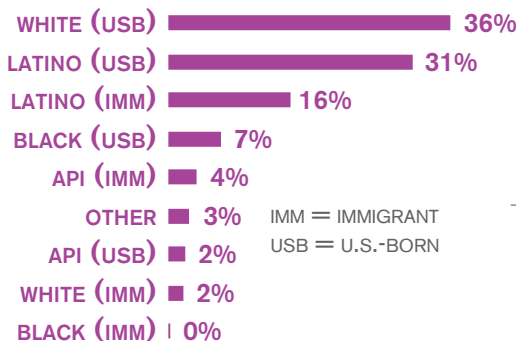§ Universe is all people ages 25-64, not in group quarters.
± Rates represent the percent of all employed people ages 25-64 in the racial/ethnic/nativity group that are self-employed.
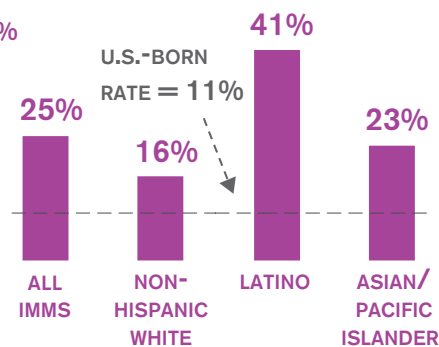¥ Share of all employed people ages 25-64, not in group quarters, that are in each specified industry.
+ LPRs are Legal Permanent Residents. Rates are estimates as of 2010, based on CSII analysis of data on the Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) on all LPRs attaining status between 1985 and 2005. 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.

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIVITY
(TOTAL POPULATION)

WHITE (USB)	36%
LATINO (USB)	31%
LATINO (IMM)	16%
BLACK (USB)	7%
API (IMM)	4%
OTHER	3%
API (USB)	2%
WHITE (IMM)	2%
BLACK (IMM)	0%

IMM = IMMIGRANT
USB = U.S.-BORN

OVERSKILLED IMMIGRANT WORKERS
(OF WORKERS WITH BA OR BETTER, THOSE IN AN UNSKILLED JOB)

ALL IMMS	25%
NON-HISPANIC WHITE	16%
LATINO	41%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	23%

U.S.-BORN RATE = 11%

Note: Only immigrant racial/ethnic groups with sufficient sample size are included.

IMMIGRANT ENGLISH SKILLS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL

ARRIVED IN THE U.S.	since 2000	1990s	1980s	before 1980
% SPEAKING ENGLISH VERY WELL OR ONLY ENGLISH	31%	36%	41%	53%
WELL	21%	24%	25%	21%
NOT WELL OR NONE	48%	39%	33%	26%