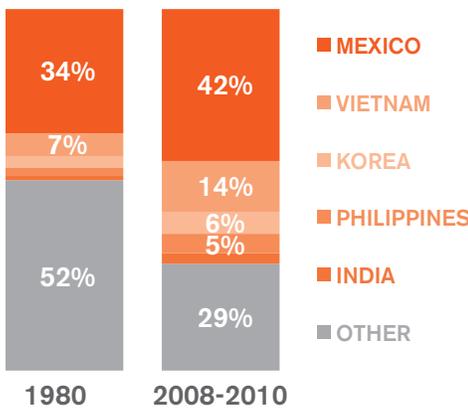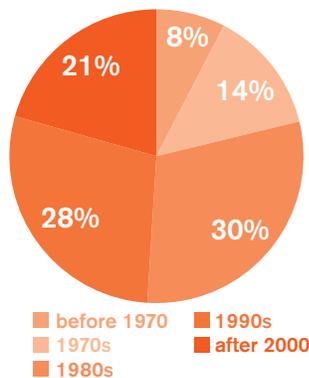# ORANGE

The approximately 913,000 immigrants living in Orange County make up nearly one-third of the County's population. 79% have arrived since 1980, and 21% have arrived in the last decade. The share of immigrants living in Orange County is diverse by nativity. While the largest group hails from Mexico (42%), the share of immigrants coming from Vietnam has doubled in the last 20 years – now accounting for 14% of the immigrant population. With growth in immigrants from Korea, the Philippines, and India, the region's immigrant population is continuing to diversify.

Immigrants are highly connected to the region's children and citizenry. While only 1 in 14 children is an immigrant, 53% have at least one immigrant parent, and 34% of households are headed by an immigrant. Further, our estimates suggest that 83% of unauthorized residents (which we can only estimate for adult Latinos) are living with citizens, and 36% 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 – remains relatively low (28%).
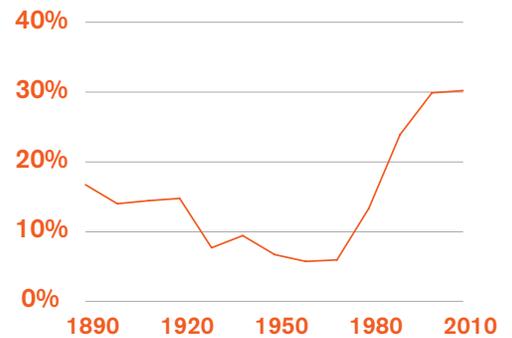
## IMMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

1980
- 34% MEXICO
- 7%
- 52% OTHER

2008-2010
- 42% MEXICO
- 14% VIETNAM
- 6% KOREA
- 5% PHILIPPINES
- 29% OTHER

Legend:
- MEXICO
- VIETNAM
- KOREA
- PHILIPPINES
- INDIA
- OTHER

## IMMIGRANTS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL, 2008-2010

- 8%
- 14%
- 21%
- 28%
- 30%

Legend:
- before 1970
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- after 2000

## IMMIGRANTS AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DECADE, 1890-2010

(Line chart, y-axis 0%–40%, x-axis 1890, 1920, 1950, 1980, 2010)

## OVERALL SCORE

# 3.1

Orange County scores an overall 3.1, tying with Sacramento and San Francisco – a high score for a region notorious for anti-immigrant groups. The County performed well in Economic Trajectory, scoring a 3.8 – largely due to its ability to close the gap on poverty rates and also for its large share of immigrants with English-speaking abilities. The region also performed well in Civic Engagement, but has room for improvement in the Economic Snapshot and Warmth of Welcome categories.

### RANK ACROSS 10 REGIONS

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION — HIGH / LOW

| | OVERALL SCORE | ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT | ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY | WARMTH OF WELCOME | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Score | 3.1 | 2.4 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| Rank | 4th* | 8th | 2nd | 6th* | 3rd* |

*Tied with another region

## IMPLICATIONS

Orange County has created a path to civic engagement for immigrants and economic opportunity, as afforded by its business and tourism sectors. Together, this has allowed immigrants to make economic, employment, educational, and linguistic gains.
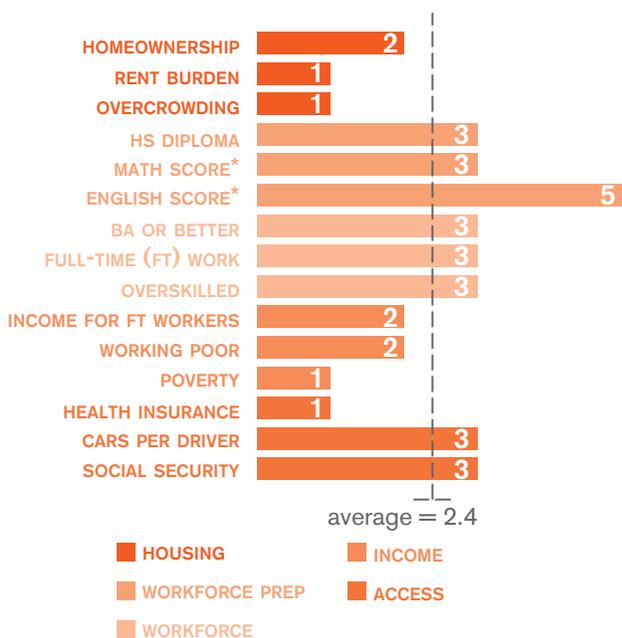
These achievements are in strange contrast to the notoriously anti-immigrant tenor. While some parts of the County are very welcoming, others are downright hostile, particularly around media coverage and law enforcement. Other areas for improvement include: increasing accessibility to health care and naturalization resources for eligible immigrants, and promoting opportunities for affordable homeownership.

Yet, other regions might look to Orange County for best practices in the areas of economic and academic improvement for its immigrant populations.

# THE ECONOMY

Orange County has a booming professional economy, housing the headquarters of several Fortune 500 companies. It is a region with vibrant tourism as well; home to Disneyland – the second most visited theme park in the world – and some of the most visited malls and beaches in the nation. The distribution of workers reflects this with 55% of all employed workers (ages 25-64) in professional services (26%), manufacturing (15%), or retail trade (14%). Immigrants follow a similar trend, being employed at high rates in professional services (20%), manufacturing (19%), and retail trade (17%). In Orange County, self-employment rates for immigrants are relatively low (13%), unemployment rates are moderate (10%), and there is a sizable share of overskilled immigrants (20%) – that is, workers with a bachelor's degree or higher in unskilled jobs.

## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

**2.4**

| | Score |
|---|---|
| HOMEOWNERSHIP | 2 |
| RENT BURDEN | 1 |
| OVERCROWDING | 1 |
| HS DIPLOMA | 3 |
| MATH SCORE* | 3 |
| ENGLISH SCORE* | 5 |
| BA OR BETTER | 3 |
| FULL-TIME (FT) WORK | 3 |
| OVERSKILLED | 3 |
| INCOME FOR FT WORKERS | 2 |
| WORKING POOR | 2 |
| POVERTY | 1 |
| HEALTH INSURANCE | 1 |
| CARS PER DRIVER | 3 |
| SOCIAL SECURITY | 3 |

average = 2.4

- HOUSING
- INCOME
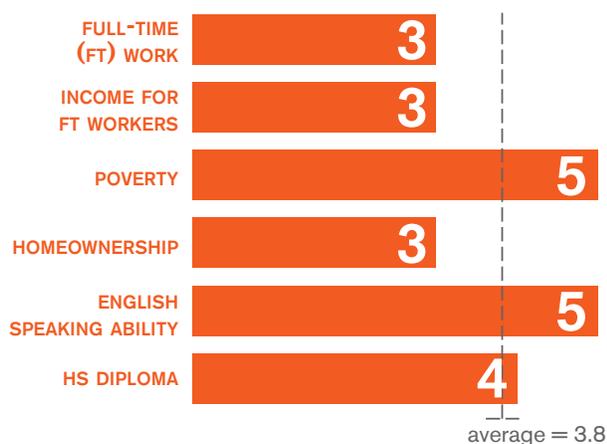- WORKFORCE PREP
- ACCESS
- WORKFORCE

*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.

In this category, Orange County scores 2.4 and ranks eighth amongst the 10 regions. The region has a moderately-educated immigrant workforce to draw upon and has the largest share of 10th grade English language learners (ELLs) passing the high school exit exam's English language portion relative to other regions; but still only a dismal 52% as compared to 95% of non-ELL students.

Yet, Orange County has room to grow in the areas of housing, income (especially around poverty), and access (health insurance, car access and use of social security). The data is telling of the current economic well-being of immigrants in Orange County, but it is also compelling to put it in context, considering that immigrants in this region show substantial economic progress over time.

## ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

**3.8**

| | Score |
|---|---|
| FULL-TIME (FT) WORK | 3 |
| INCOME FOR FT WORKERS | 3 |
| POVERTY | 5 |
| HOMEOWNERSHIP | 3 |
| ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY | 5 |
| HS DIPLOMA | 4 |

average = 3.8

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 Orange County is positive, ranking second in the state with a score of 3.8.

Over time, Orange County immigrants' English-speaking abilities and poverty rates have shown the most progress compared to other regions. There is also evidence of substantial progress in the share of immigrants with a high school diploma.

Slower improvement has been made when it comes to immigrants' rate of full-time employment, income for full-time workers, and homeownership rates – areas needing more attention. And despite progress, the Economic Snapshot shows that there is plenty of room for improvement in terms of poverty.

*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.*
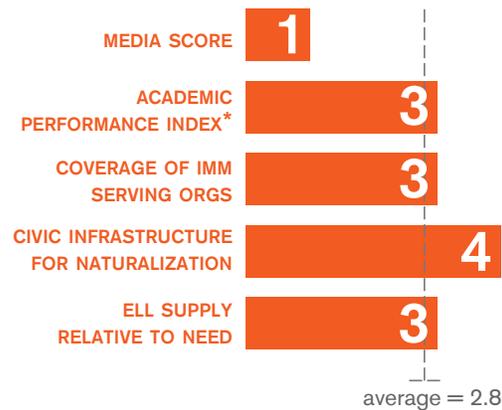
*Orange County has become popularized as a region with a very particular image of wealth and whiteness. However, with about 34 incorporated cities and a population of 3.1 million, the region is so much more than this narrow conception. About 30% of the region's population is immigrant, the majority living in or near the northern core of the county. Nearby are the many suburbs where political conservatism and affluence are alive and well – and influential. Orange County's social fabric is a patchwork of places where immigrants are embraced and integrated into the civic, economic, and social life and other areas that have passed harsh anti-immigrant ordinances. Advocates here face the very real presence – often literal – of some of the strongest opponents of immigrant integration, like the Minutemen. In a region where school desegregation began years prior to Brown v. Board of Education – through the landmark case of Mendez v. Westminster School District – segregation remains.*

**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.*

Orange County scored a 2.8 in this category, tying for sixth among the 10 regions. The region has done well in building the civic infrastructure for naturalization and fostering positive academic performance outcomes for English language learners (ELL). In terms of organizational density, there are approximately 35 immigrant-serving organizations for the region's some 457,000 non-citizen immigrants.

The region would do well to foster immigrant-friendly rhetoric among local media coverage, and change the tone of the political conversation. Other practical areas for growth may include boosting the supply of English language learning classes and supporting the expansion of immigrant-serving organizations.

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

average = 2.8

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

**WARMTH OF WELCOME**

**2.8**

**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.

Orange County scores 3.5 in this category, ranking third across the 10 regions. The area is doing well in linguistic integration of immigrant households (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 data suggests that immigrants in the region have good capacity, but room to become more civically engaged over time.

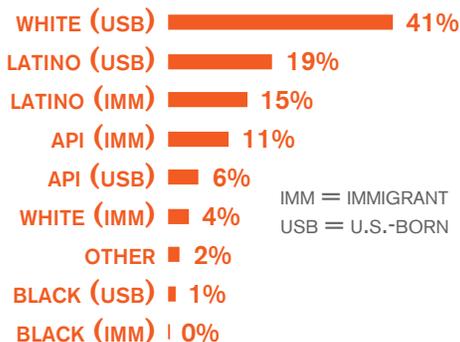| | |
|---|---|
| LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION | 4 |
| NATURALIZATION RATE | 3 |

average = 3.5

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**3.5**

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

# 2008-2010 DATA PROFILE: ORANGE

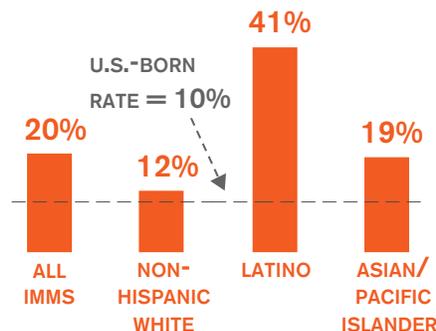| | Imm | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|

**Total Population** — 3,018,750

*Comparison Population for Scoring*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| U.S.-born non-Hispanic white | 1,240,670 | 41% |
| Immigrant | 913,110 | 30% |

**Income and Poverty (2010 $s)**

| | Imm | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|
| Avg. Household Income | $60,700 | $80,000 |
| Avg. Income (Full-time Workers) | $36,000 | $60,564 |
| Pop. Below 150% of poverty level | 25% | 15% |
| Working Poor* | 12% | 2% |

**Language Skills Among Immigrants**

| | |
|---|---|
| Linguistically Isolated Households | 28% |

Top Languages Spoken in Immigrant Households

| | |
|---|---|
| Spanish | 47% |
| Vietnamese | 13% |
| English | 10% |
| Korean | 6% |
| Chinese | 4% |

**Labor Force Participation Rates §**

| | Imm | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|
| In the Labor Force | 80% | 87% |
| Employed | 90% | 89% |
| Unemployed | 10% | 11% |

**Self Employment ±**

| | Imm | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|
| Non-Hispanic white | 23% | 16% |
| Non-Hispanic Black | N/A | N/A |
| Latino | 9% | 8% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 14% | 10% |

**Household and Family Structure**

Children

| | |
|---|---|
| Immigrant | 7% |
| With an immigrant parent | 53% |

Adults

| | |
|---|---|
| Immigrant | 38% |
| Naturalized Immigrant | 19% |
| Immigrant in the Household (Incl. Self) | 48% |

Households

| | Imm. | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|
| Single, no kids | 21% | 38% |
| Single, with kids | 16% | 12% |
| Married, no kids | 15% | 23% |
| Married, with kids | 48% | 27% |

**Top 5 Industries by Immigrant Share¥**

| | Imm | U.S.-born |
|---|---|---|
| Professional and Related Services | 20% | 31% |
| Manufacturing | 19% | 13% |
| Retail Trade | 17% | 12% |
| Business and Repair Services | 9% | 7% |
| Construction | 8% | 6% |

**Top 5 Countries by Share of LPRs & LPR Naturalization Rates +**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mexico | 43% |
| Vietnam | 81% |
| Philippines | 66% |
| South Korea | 56% |
| Iran | 78% |

**Unauthorized Status (Latino Immigrant Adults Only)#**

| | |
|---|---|
| Unauthorized | 33% |
| Of unauthorized, living with a citizen | 83% |
| Of unauthorized, living with own citizen child | 36% |

**Sanctuary City Present in Region** — No

**LPRs and Voting Population**

| | |
|---|---|
| Voting Eligible Population | 1,835,020 |
| Adult LPRs Eligible for Naturalization | 168,246 |

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) | 41% |
| LATINO (USB) | 19% |
| LATINO (IMM) | 15% |
| API (IMM) | 11% |
| API (USB) | 6% |
| WHITE (IMM) | 4% |
| OTHER | 2% |
| BLACK (USB) | 1% |
| BLACK (IMM) | 0% |

IMM = IMMIGRANT
USB = U.S.-BORN

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

U.S.-BORN RATE = 10%

| | |
|---|---|
| ALL IMMS | 20% |
| NON-HISPANIC WHITE | 12% |
| LATINO | 41% |
| ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER | 19% |

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

## IMMIGRANT ENGLISH SKILLS BY RECENCY OF ARRIVAL

SPEAKING ENGLISH

| ARRIVED IN THE U.S. | Not well or none | Well | Very well or only English |
|---|---|---|---|
| since 2000 | 44% | 23% | 33% |
| 1990s | 38% | 24% | 37% |
| 1980s | 31% | 27% | 42% |
| before 1980 | 20% | 21% | 59% |

0%

- VERY WELL OR ONLY ENGLISH
- WELL
- NOT WELL OR NONE