

**imagine  
all the  
people**

# Trinidadians

CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh  
*Mayor*

2016

## Trinidadians in Boston

*"imagine all the people"* is a series of publications produced by the Boston Redevelopment Authority for the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. The series provides a comprehensive profile of Boston's diverse immigrant communities and their numerous contributions to the city's social, cultural and economic landscape. It is part of an ongoing effort to celebrate immigrants and gain insight into how they shape our city.



Trinidadian-American Haseeb Hosein is first Muslim Boston Police Department captain

Boston EMS at Caribbean Parade in Dorchester, photo: Jeremiah Robinson



Trinidad and Tobago is a twin island nation in the Caribbean that gained its political independence from England in 1962. The islands were originally colonized by the Spanish who first imported African slave labor to work in sugar plantations. After slavery was abolished, migrant workers from India were recruited to work in the sugar industry. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, petroleum replaced sugar as the leading export from Trinidad.

With a population of 1.3 million in 2015, this petroleum rich country has one of the highest per capita GDPs in the western hemisphere.<sup>1</sup> Even with this strong economy, Trinidad and Tobago experienced a negative net migration rate and population decline in 2015.

**Trinidad & Tobago Social Club Boston Inc.**  
Invites you to their annual bus ride to

**Scotiabank CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL TORONTO**

**Thursday, July 28, 2016 to Monday, August 1, 2016**  
**Cost: \$450 per person/double occupancy**

\*\*\* Deposit of \$100.00 due May 15 and Full payment due July 10 \*\*\*

**Price Includes:** Roundtrip Transportation | **3 Nights** at Hilton Gardens in Downtown, Toronto | Refreshments are provided on trip to Toronto.

**From Boston:** Bus departs from the corner of Washington St. and Green St. Jamaica Plain @ **11:30pm**.

**From Toronto:** Bus departs from Hilton Gardens in Downtown, Toronto @ **10:00am SHARP!**

**Documents Required:** A **VALID Alien Registration Card for Permanent Residents** or a **Passport for US Citizens** is **REQUIRED** to cross the border.

\*\*\* **CANCELLATION FEE APPLIES** \*\*\*

For information & reservations, email or call: [tntsocialclubbos@yahoo.com](mailto:tntsocialclubbos@yahoo.com)  
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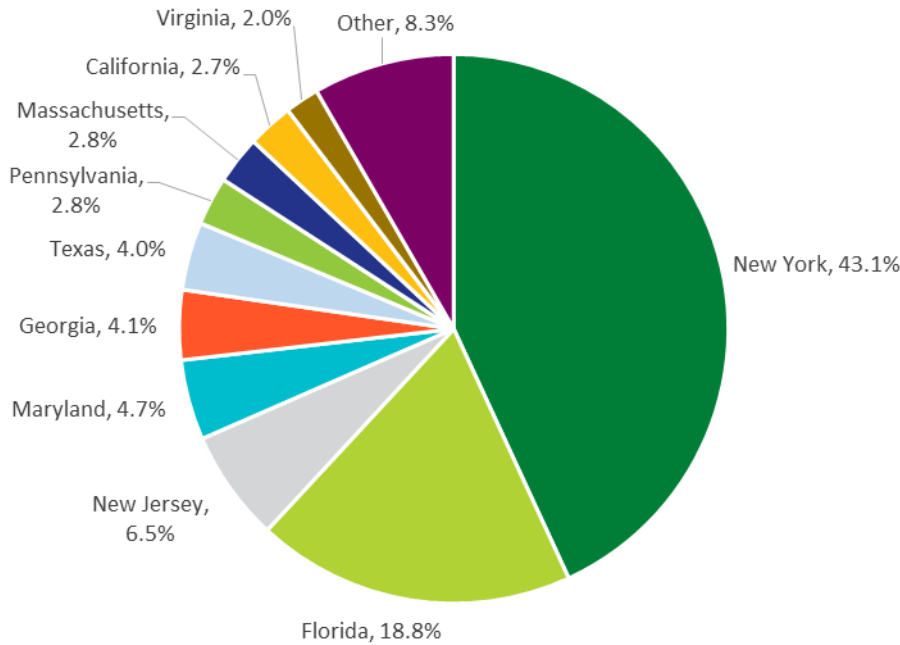


For fete information & tickets visit:  
<http://www.caribanatoronto.com/nightlifeevents>

The United States, Canada and the United Kingdom are the leading destinations of Trinidadian and Tobagonian migration.<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts has the eighth largest share (3 percent) of the 220,234<sup>3</sup> foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians living in the United States in 2014. States with the largest shares of Trinidadian and Tobagonians include New York (43 percent), Florida (19 percent), and New Jersey (7 percent).

## Population Share

### Share of Foreign-Born Trinidadian Population by State



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

Of the 6,375<sup>4</sup> foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians residing in Massachusetts, approximately 3,516<sup>5</sup> live in Boston. Trinidad and Tobago is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest country of origin among Boston's foreign-born population. Overall, foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston constitute 1.8 percent of the city's total foreign-born residents.

Boston's foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians, though scattered throughout the city, live mostly in the neighborhoods of Dorchester (51 percent), Roxbury (14 percent), Mattapan (11 percent), and Hyde Park (9 percent). Other neighborhoods with smaller shares are Jamaica Plain, Allston, and Roslindale.<sup>6</sup>

The U.S. Census Bureau's ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) allows for the detailed socio-economic analysis of specific populations. For smaller populations like foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston, a 5-year sample is required to limit variation due to sampling error. The analysis that follows uses 2009-2013 ACS PUMS data.

*Approximately  
3,500 people  
who were born  
in Trinidad and  
Tobago live in  
Boston.*

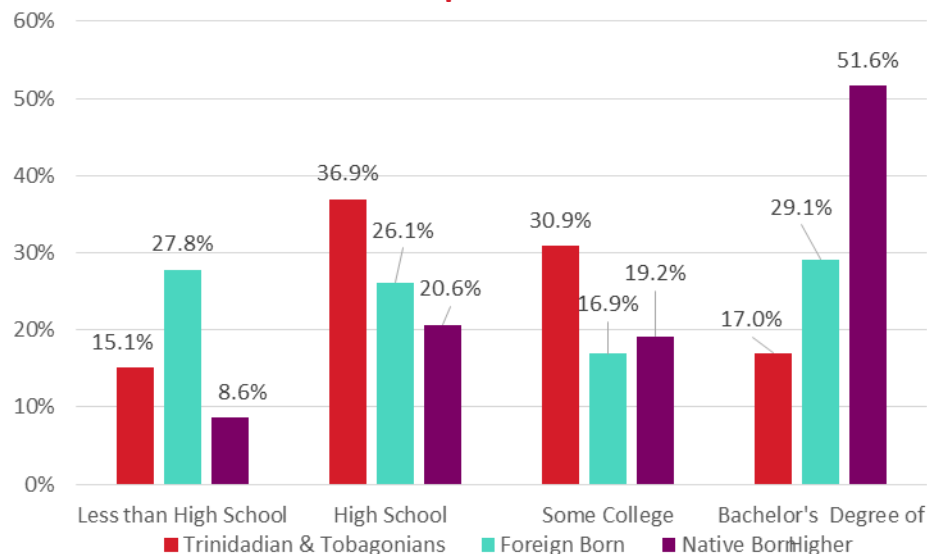
## Demographics and Education

Trinidadian and Tobagonian migration is disproportionately female, as 57 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston are female. Nearly 70 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston are either married (41 percent) or divorced, separated or widowed (29 percent). Approximately 57 percent of all foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians are between the ages of 35 and 64, and the median age of the population is 50 years. Fewer foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston entered the United States after 2000 (25 percent) compared to all foreign born (43 percent). Because they have been in the United States longer than other foreign-born populations, it is not surprising that the majority of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians (58 percent) are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Only 15 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians ages 25 years or older in Boston have not completed high school. This share is less than for all foreign-born residents (28 percent) and more similar to the native-born population (9 percent). Approximately 37 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment.

While 48 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians 25 years or older have attended college, only 17 percent have completed at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 29 percent of the entire foreign-born population, and 52 percent of the native born. Less than 5 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians living in Boston hold a graduate or professional degree, compared with 14 percent of all foreign-born and 22 percent of the native born.

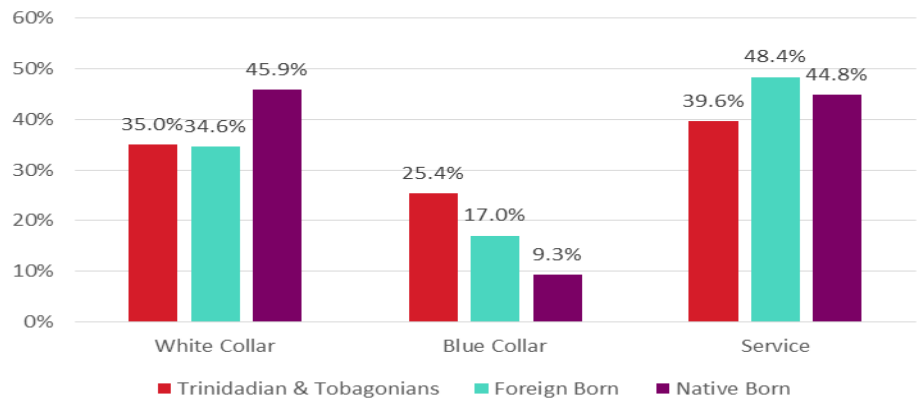
### Educational Attainment—Population 25 Years and Older



*75% of  
Trinidadians and  
Tobagonians have  
been in the  
United States for  
more than 15  
years, and the  
majority are U.S.  
citizens.*

The labor force participation rate<sup>7</sup> of Trinidadian and Tobagonians is 77 percent compared to 68 percent for all foreign born and 69 percent for the native-born population. Even with their higher levels of educational attainment, many foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians work in what are generally categorized as service occupations (40 percent) and fewer work in white-collar jobs than the native born.<sup>8</sup> They are overrepresented in blue-collar jobs (25 percent) when compared to all foreign born (17 percent). The most common blue-collar occupations among Trinidadian and Tobagonians are construction and freight and stock material movers.

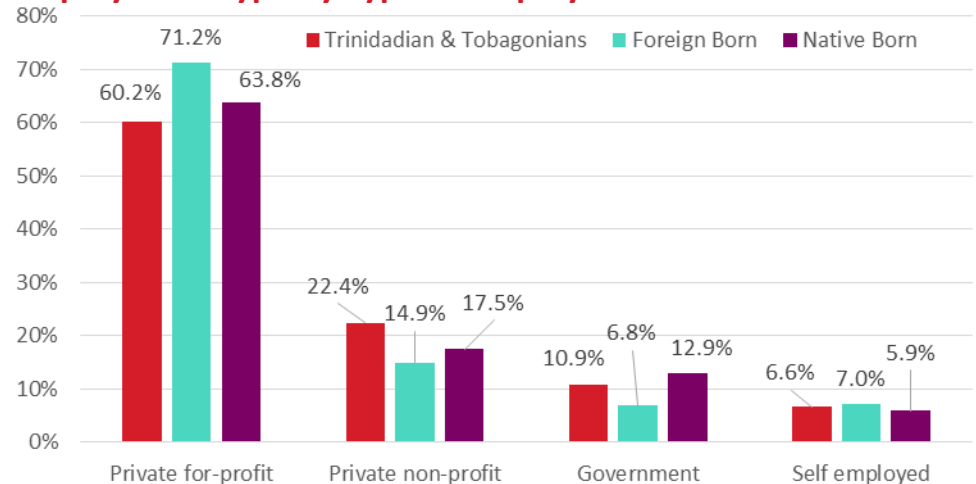
### Occupations by Nativity



U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

A greater share (22 percent) of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonian workers (excluding unpaid family workers), work for private non-profit companies compared to all foreign born (15 percent) and native born (18 percent). Slightly fewer foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians are self-employed (6.6 percent) than other foreign born in Boston (7.0 percent).

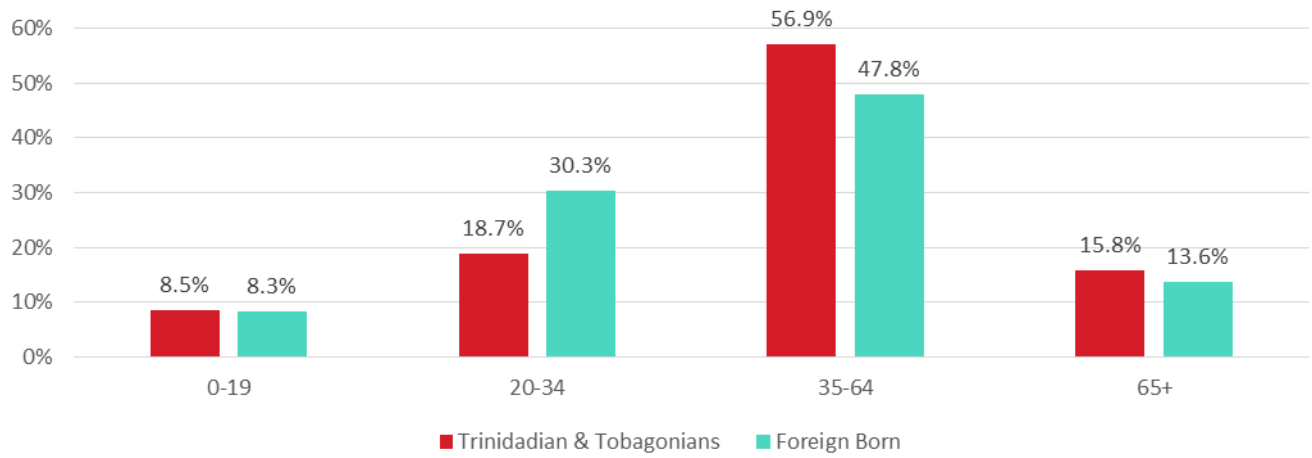
### Employment Type by Type of Employer



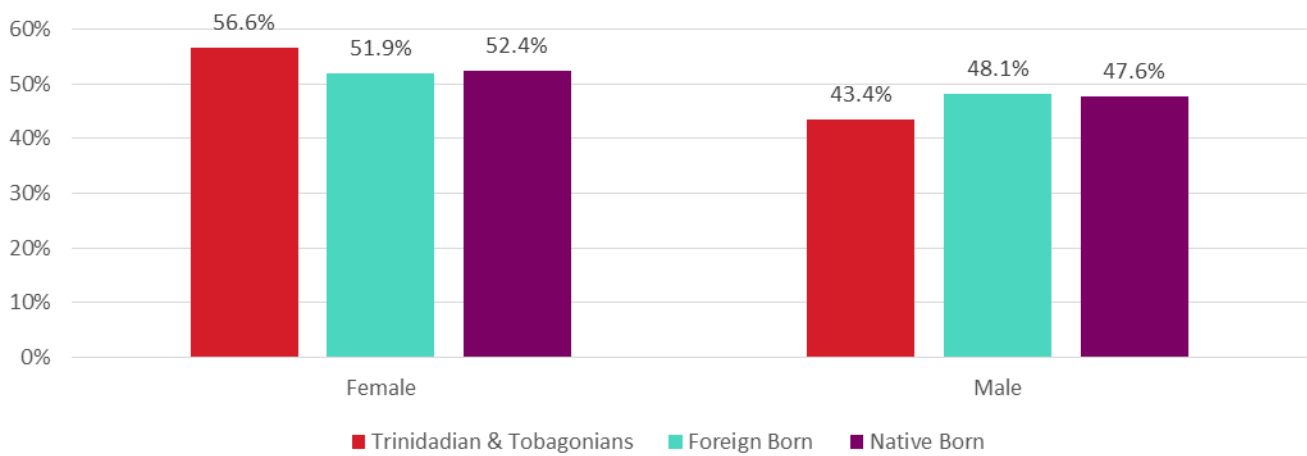
U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

# Imagine all the people:

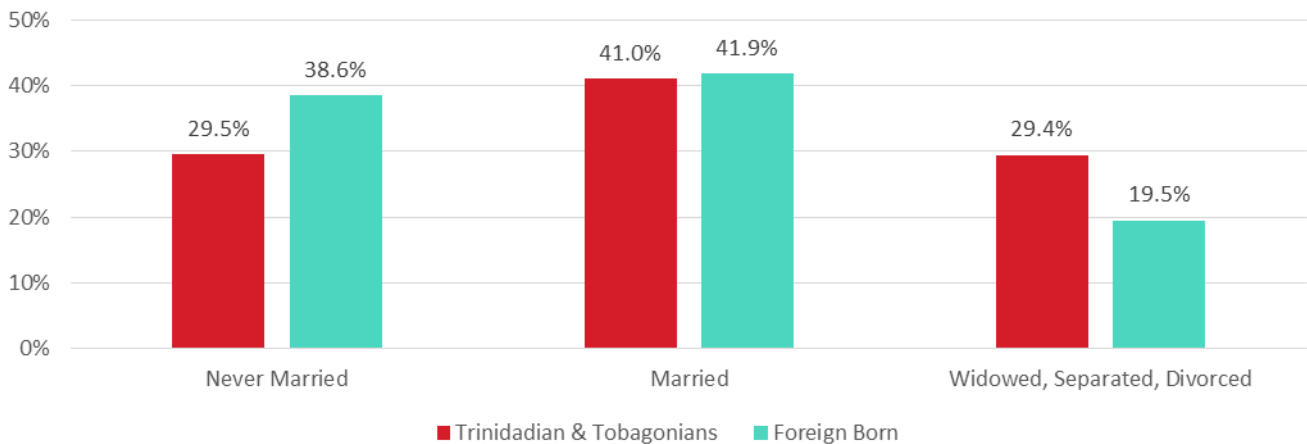
## Age



## Gender

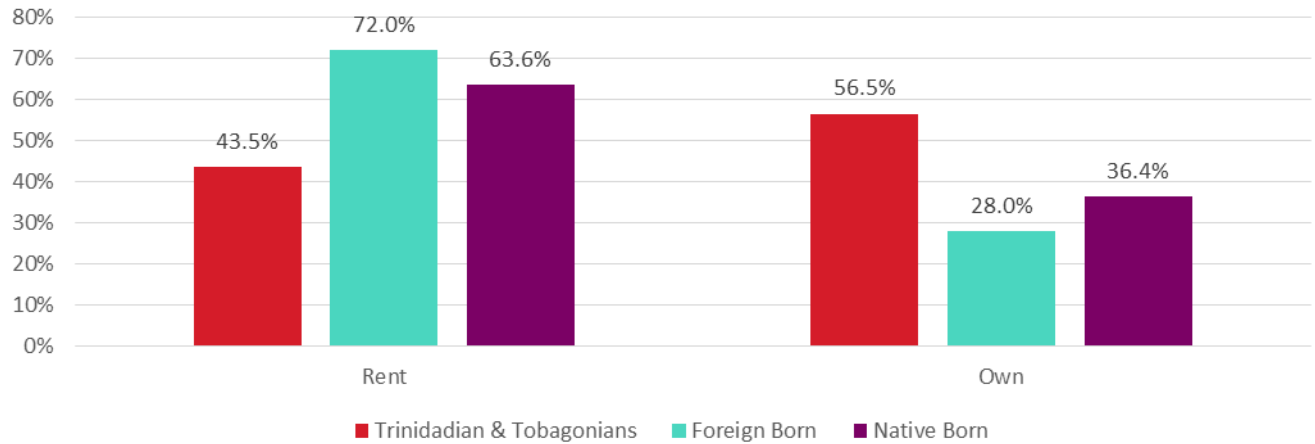


## Marital Status

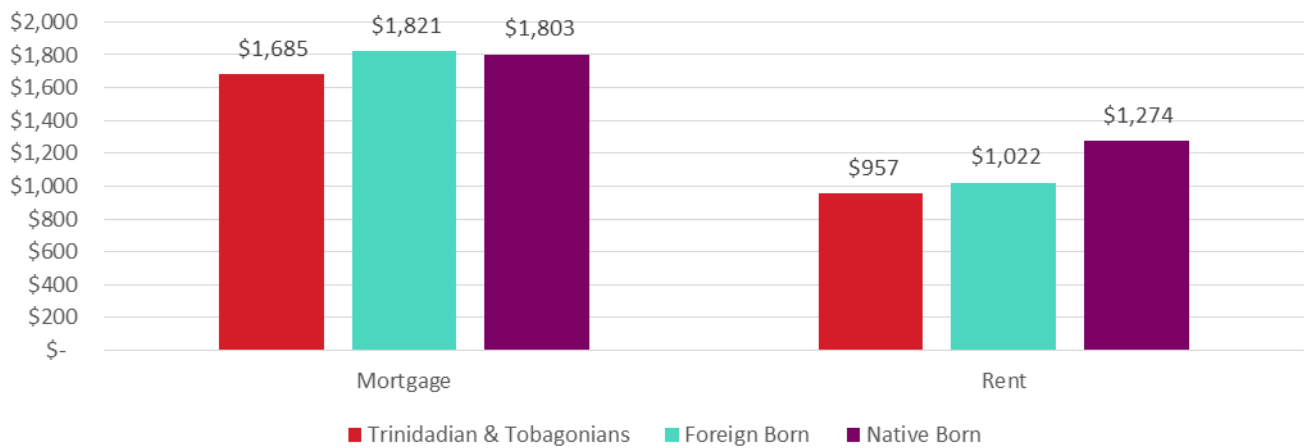


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

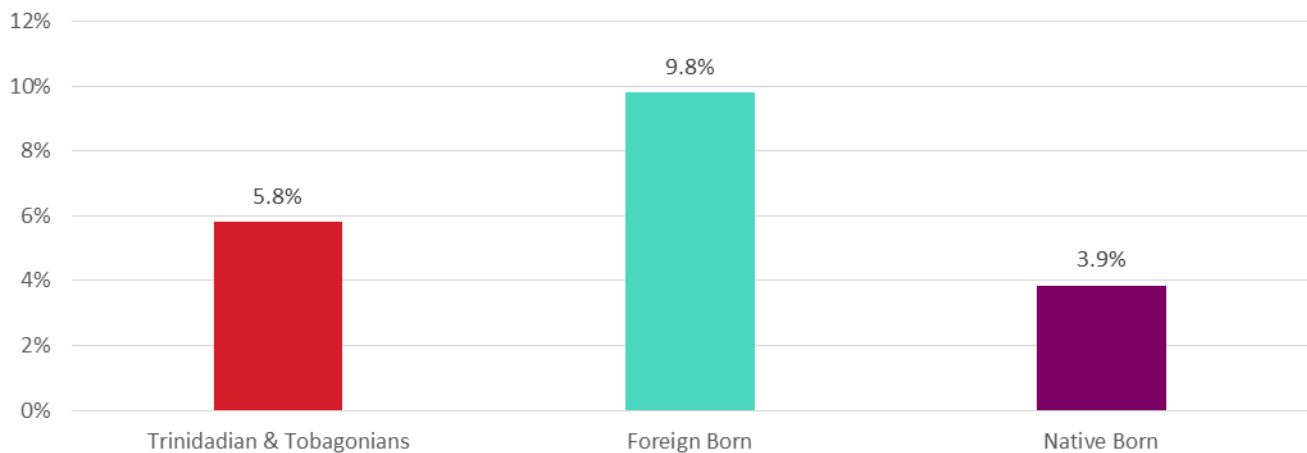
## Housing Tenure\*



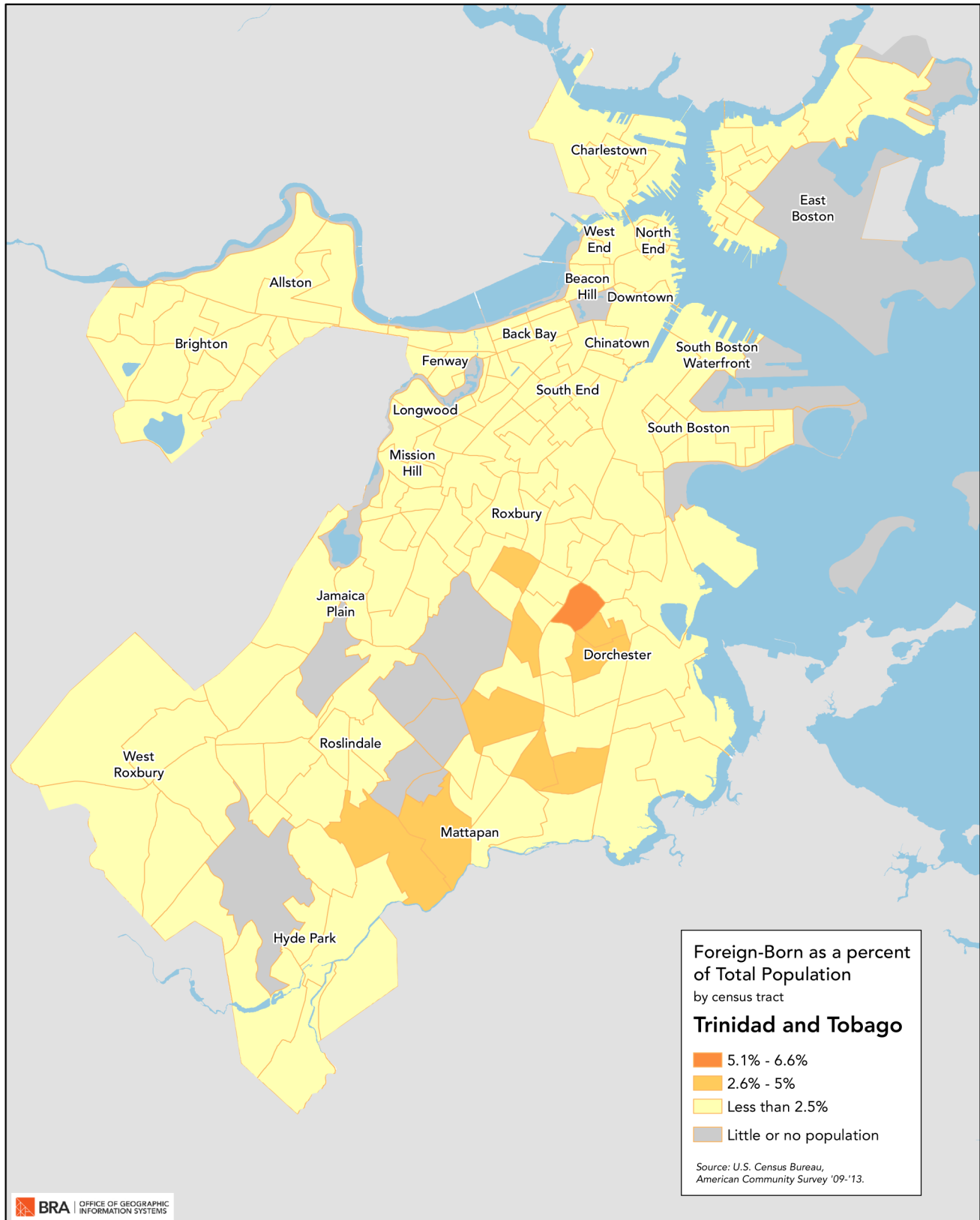
## Housing Costs\*



## Medical Uninsurance



\*Housing data are based on the householder's nativity.





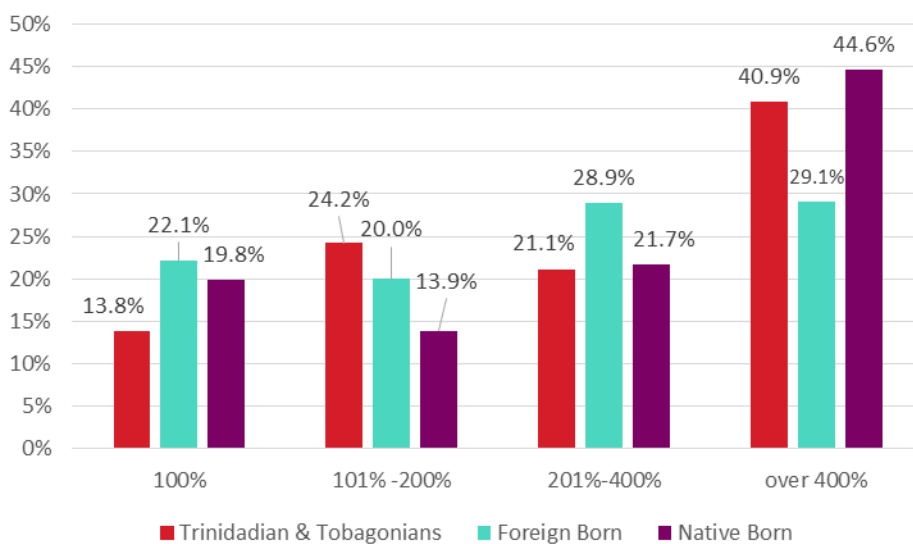
## Standard of Living

Nearly 41 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared with 45 percent of Boston's native-born population, and 29 percent of all foreign-born. A family income four times the poverty level is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on the size and composition of the family. For a two-person family in 2014, a middle class income would be at least \$62,920. Almost 14 percent of foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians live below the federal poverty level compared to 20 percent for the city's population.

Even though originally settled by the Spanish that imported African slaves, Trinidad and Tobago was a British colony until 1962. As a result, Trinidadian and Tobagonians speak English and language acquisition does not hinder their labor force participation. Along with their high labor force participation, this might account for their economic success compared to other foreign born .

*Foreign born from Trinidad and Tobago are less likely to live in poverty than the citywide average.*

## Household Income compared to Poverty Threshold



U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

## Economic Impact

Foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians contribute to the local economy through their labor and consumer spending. The total value of their economic contributions was estimated using a Regional Economic Model (REMI) that calculated the value of goods and services consumed on each dollar spent. Foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston generated total expenditures of nearly \$89 million in 2014.<sup>9</sup> These annual expenditures contributed slightly more than \$53 million to the regional product and generated \$2.9 million in state and local taxes.<sup>10</sup> In total, these expenditures supported 387 jobs in the Massachusetts economy.<sup>11</sup>



Delivery van for Some Ting Nice Caribbean restaurant, Somerville. Photo by Christina Kim

## Conclusion

The number of Trinidadian and Tobagonians who migrate to the United States is smaller compared to many other foreign-born populations in Boston. They are the eleventh largest foreign-born population in the city, and Boston's population is larger than all but that found in ten states. Foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston contribute to the economy, culture, and civic life of the city. Their labor force participation is greater than that of the total foreign-born population, and similar to Jamaicans, they are more likely to work in the non-profit sector. They have a middle-class income similar to the native-born population and have a smaller share of their population living below the federal poverty level than others in Boston.

<sup>1</sup> The CIA World Factbook (2016).

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF Migration Profiles, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 220,234 Trinidadian and Tobagonians residing in the United States in 2014 with a margin of error of +/- 10,206. The 212,656 estimate reported for this analysis was tabulated from 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology. For more information on American Fact Finder please see: <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?lang=en>.

<sup>4</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 6,375 Trinidadian and Tobagonians residing in Massachusetts with a margin of error of +/- 1,925 in 2014. The 6,018 estimate reported for this analysis were tabulated from 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology.

<sup>5</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 3,516 Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston with a margin of error of +/- 1,409 in 2014. The 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data estimates 3,253 foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians for Boston. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology. Lower survey response rates due to documentation issues may result in an undercount of the population.

<sup>6</sup> 2009-2013 American Community Survey, American Factfinder, BRA Research Analysis (2016).

<sup>7</sup> Defined as the share of the working-age population that is either currently employed or seeking work. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016).

<sup>8</sup> For a smaller population like foreign-born Trinidadian and Tobagonians in Boston, occupations fall into three broad categories. White collar includes managerial & professional, health care, education, and arts, design entertainment, sports & media occupations. Service includes service, sales, office & administrative support, community & social service occupations. Blue collar includes construction, farming, fishing, and forestry, and production occupations. Military specific occupations and long-term unemployed are excluded from the analysis.

<sup>9</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations. Note: This reflects a revision to analysis in March 2017.

<sup>10</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations.

<sup>11</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations.



CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



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FOR IMMIGRANT  
ADVANCEMENT

*Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston*



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