

### Contributions of Boston's Foreign Born

- 1 Immigration: current and historical status
- 2 Immigrants spur population growth
- 3 Immigrants increase Boston's diversity
- 4 Immigrants contribute to Boston's economy
- 5 Conclusion



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### Immigration is in the news, once again...

#### The U.S. Economy Is Surpassing Expectations. Immigration Is One Reason.

Immigrants aided the pandemic recovery and may be crucial to future needs. The challenge is processing newcomers and getting them where the jobs are.



■ Menu Weekly edition The world in brief Q Search >

Finance and economics | Thousands are flying

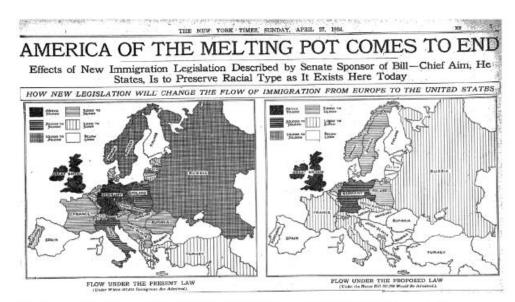
Immigration is surging, with big economic consequences

The West faces an unprecedented number of new arrivals





### Immigration was also in the news 100 years ago



The top section of page 181 of The New York Times on April 27, 1924. TimesMachine

Source: New York Times, TimesMachine, 1920 and 1924.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW AND MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 19, 1926

#### The Rising Tide of Immigration



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THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW AND MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 19, 1920

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### The American MAGAZINE on the Orient Superior Registric Section 1. Marc than 60 Hinstrations—Art Insert of Right Pages

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when he so notes to extens a to a how he subduted a mad young creature of the deep magazinio were not to be hown his implies, and how it remembered him years after—are severed from him. "It he don't tales that read like fiction. But his story is solid fact, has he solet, he possible, of some." Will rear with laughter one minute, and be grasping of the carns of your chair the next. on and the note of the stories or the content texts." Mr. Dessert thinks the sensitive texts and the stories of the standard vottes. In the stories of the standard vottes, all the stories of the standard vottes. justices d'us graude vans taum il mittel de adventure auf accomplantante, articles portraying consonie reception in comme de la comme del la comme de la comme del la comme de la comme d

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Contents of the January ASIA

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AN AMERICAN IN ASIA

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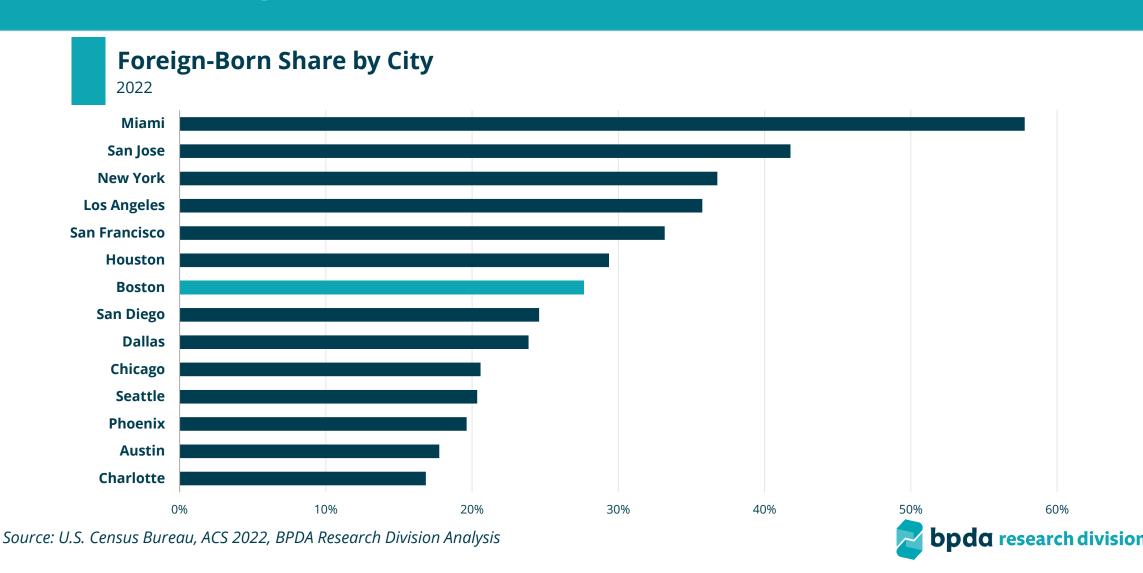
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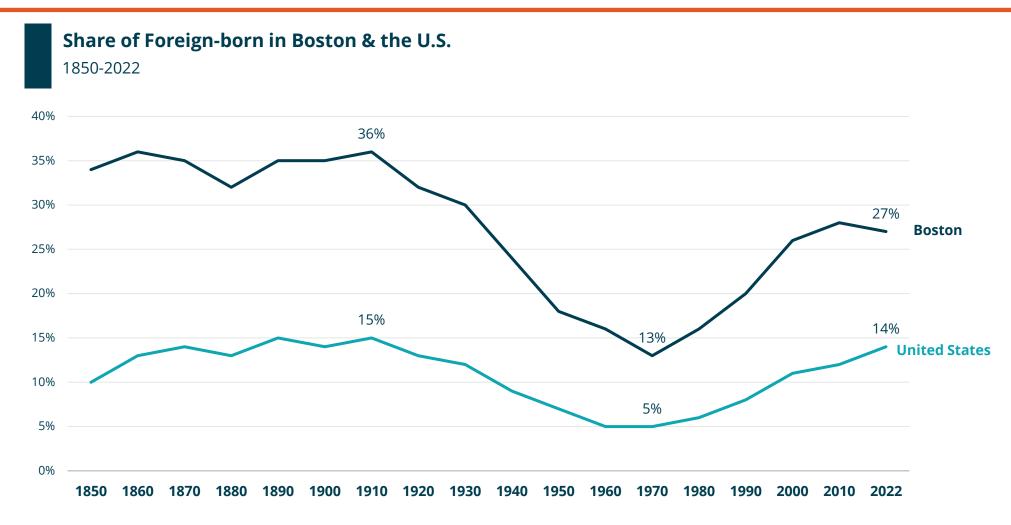
By Menjarie Letin Beraton

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finitery in their winces. Read wish bells ment to Japan and
you will know more of what they may meat to yel.

# Boston ranks 7th among 15 comparable cities in its foreign-born share



# From 1850 to 1910, more than one third of Boston's population was foreign born





## US immigration policy changed the quantity and origin of immigration

#### Three major changes to the law, 1924-1990

Immigration Act of 1924 (Johnson-Reed Act) • Lower cap on immigrants per year. Establish "national origins" quotas at 2% of population in 1890, which favored Western European immigrants

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act) • System of preferences for family reunification (75%), employment (20%) and refugees (5%): allowed increased immigration, especially from non-European countries

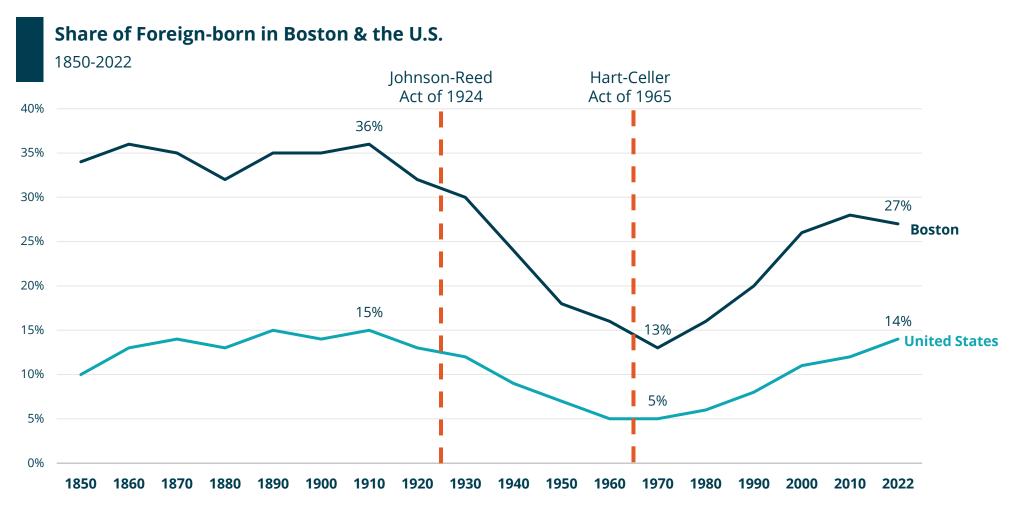
**Immigration Act of** 1990

• Implemented the H-1B visa program for skilled temporary workers, some provisions for converting to permanent status, and a diversity lottery

Source: Immigration History, Migration Policy Institute.



## The foreign-born share fell after the 1924 immigration restrictions and rebounded after 1965

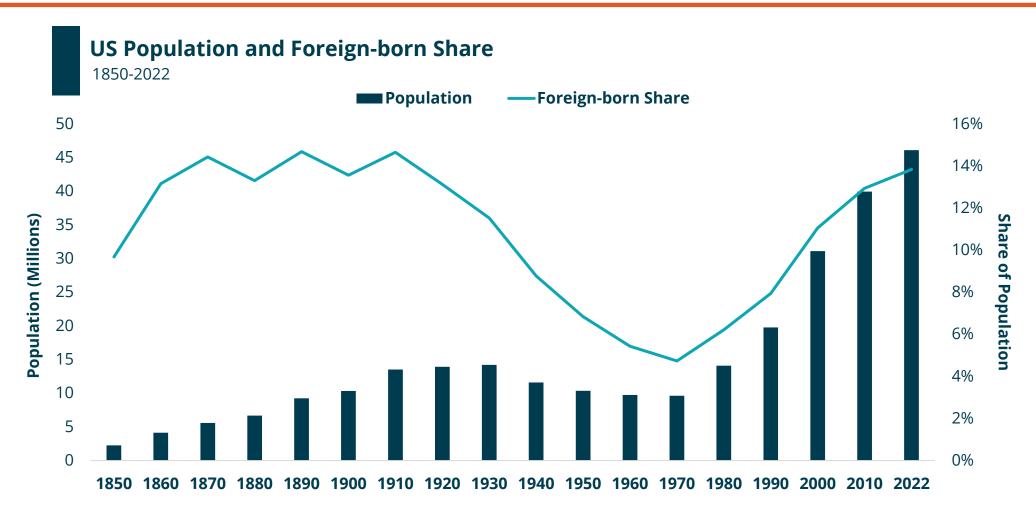


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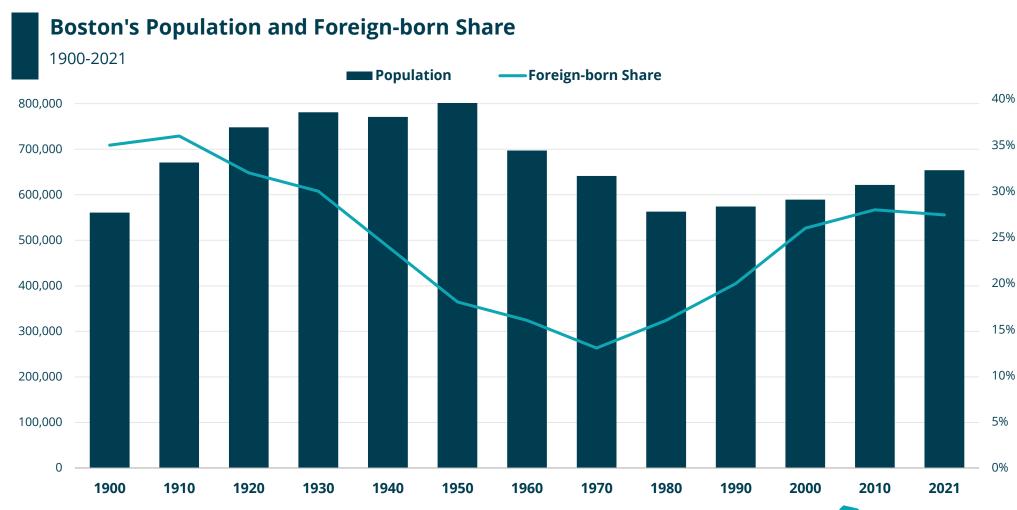


## Since the 1970s, immigration drove U.S population growth, which was otherwise decreasing due to low birth rates



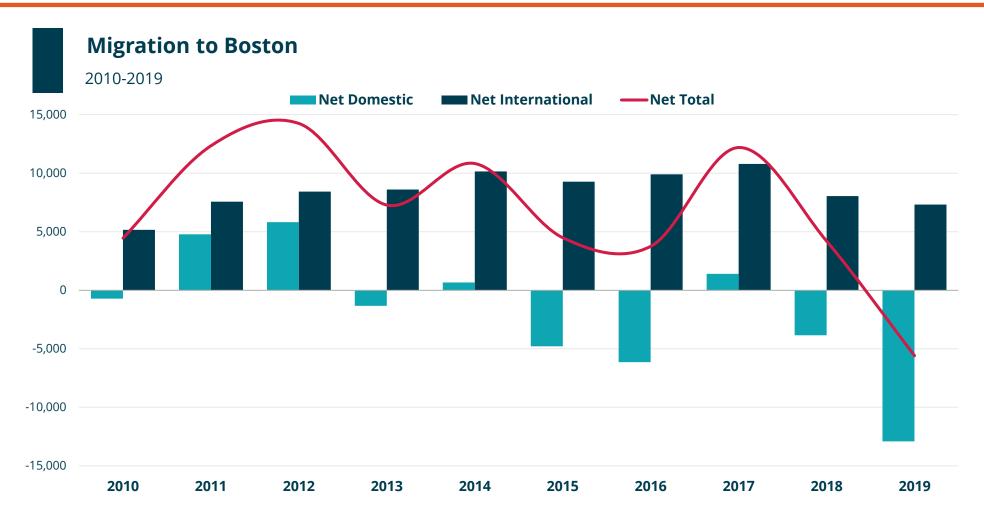


## Increased immigration after 1970 helped Boston's population recover



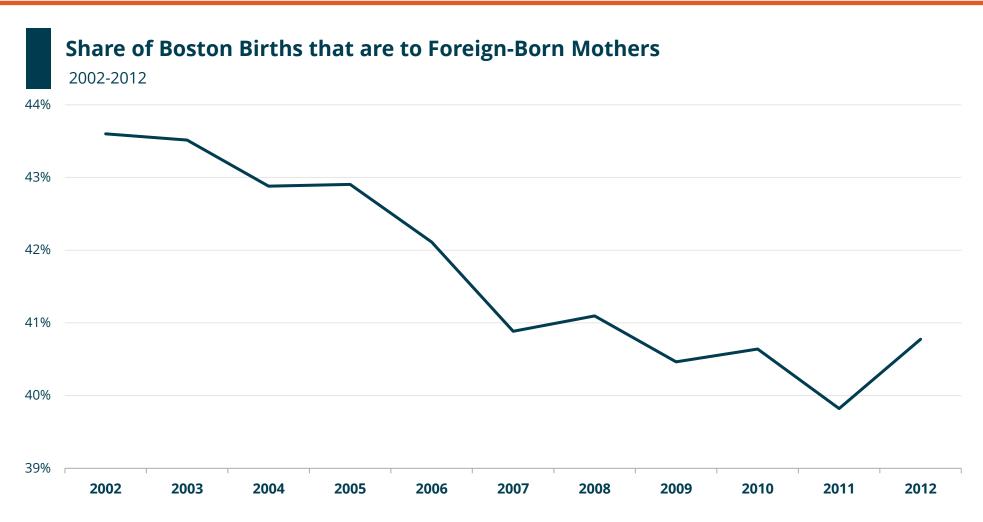
**bpda** research division

### In the last decade domestic migration to Boston decreased, but international migration remained steady



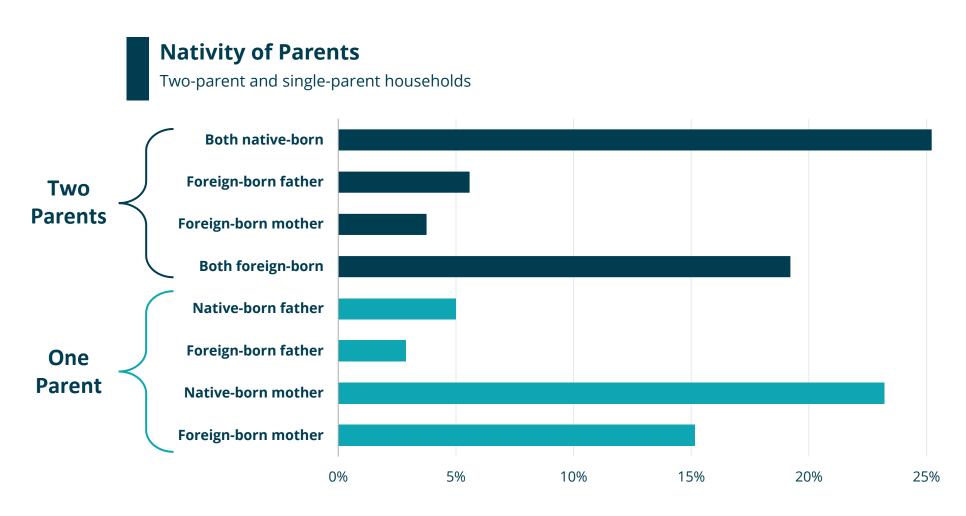


## 40-45% of Births in Boston were to Foreign-born Mothers Between 2002 and 2012



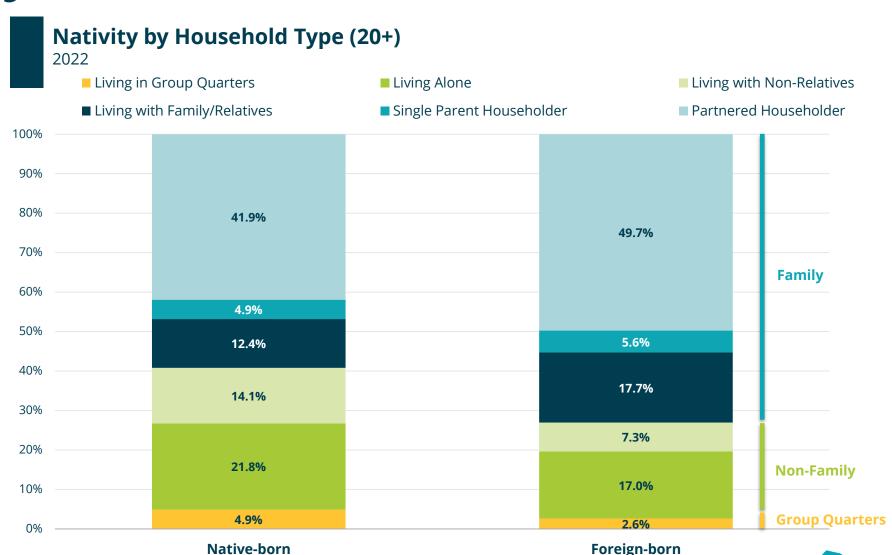


## Only ~5% of Boston's children are foreign born, but 47% have at least 1 foreign-born parent



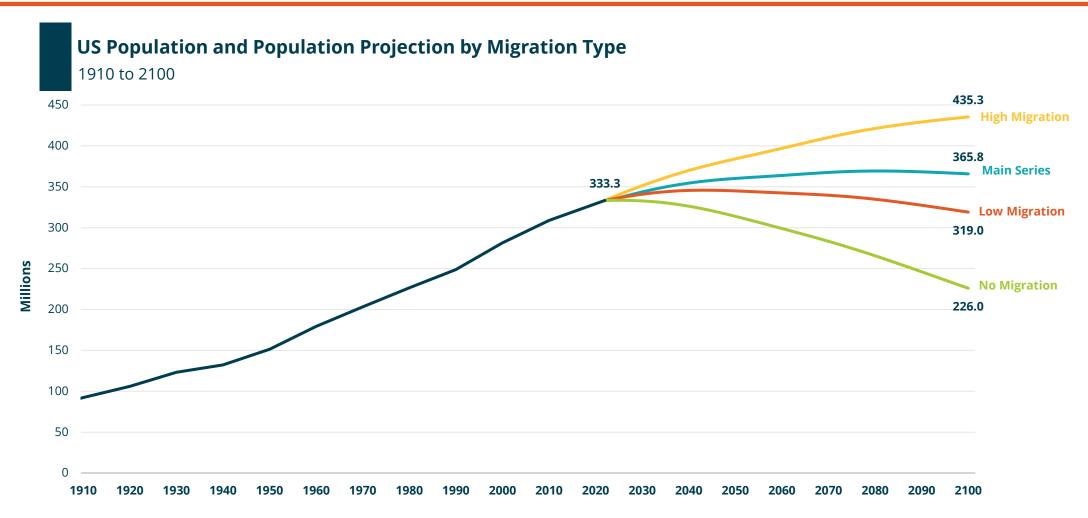


# The foreign born are more likely to live in family households



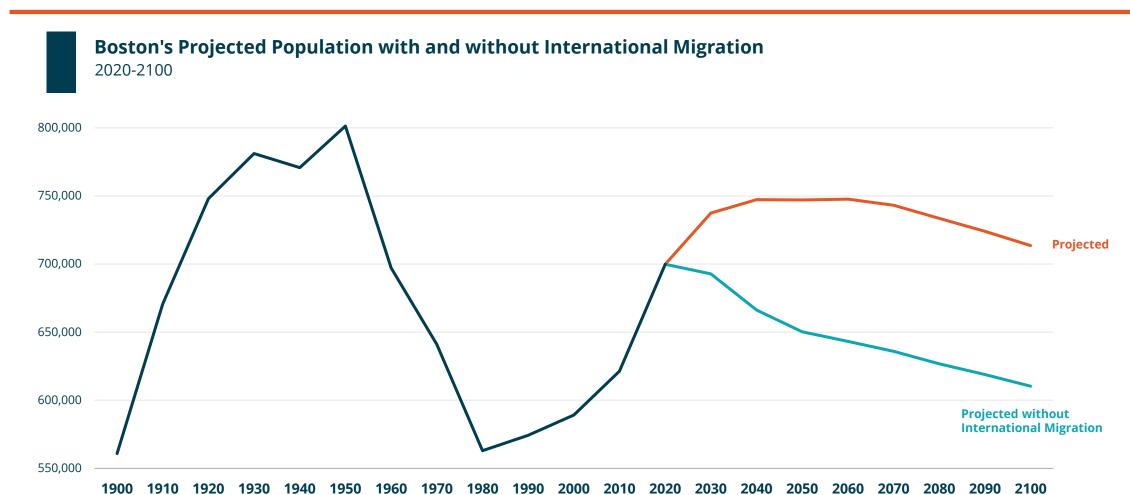
**bpdq** research division

## Without immigration the US population is projected to decline almost immediately





## Without any international migration, Boston's population in 2050 would be 13% lower than otherwise projected



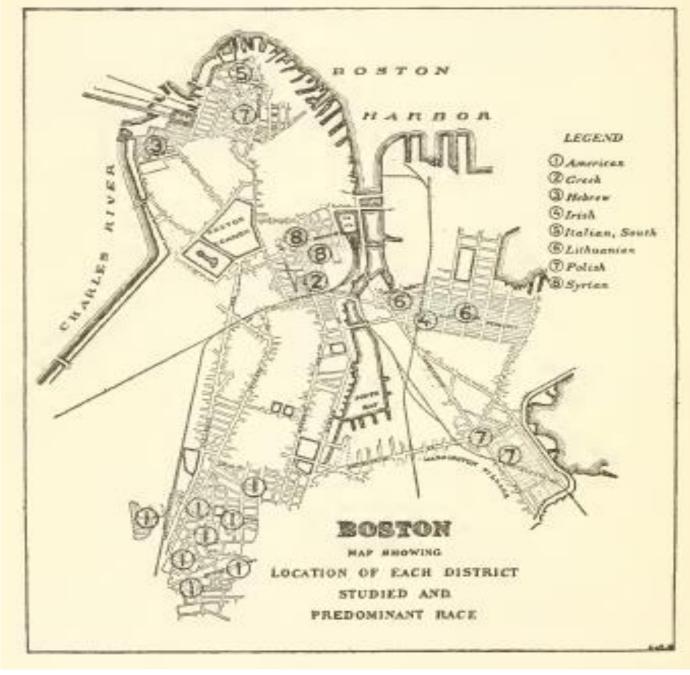
### Contributions of Boston's Foreign-Born

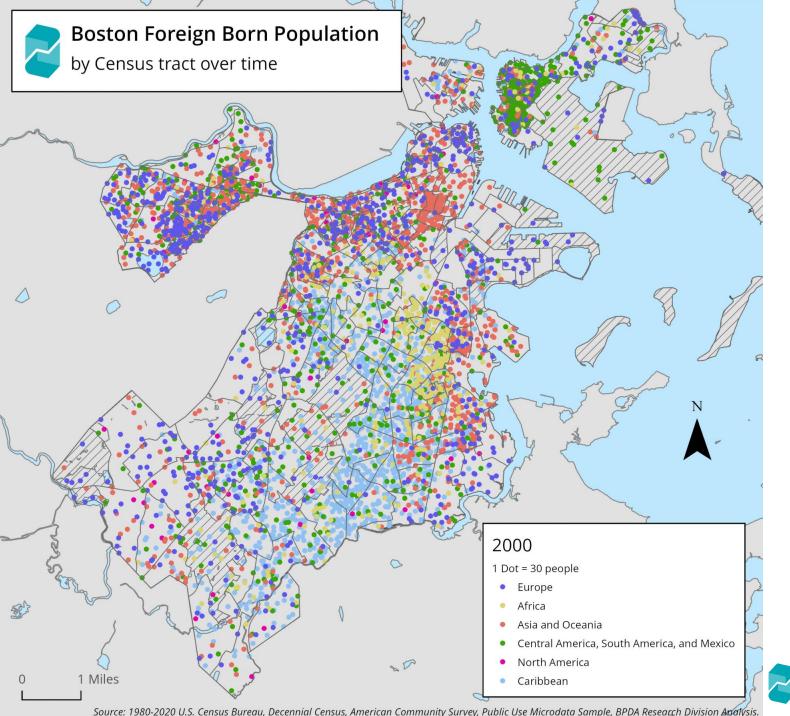
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# 1911 map shows clusters of immigrants from:

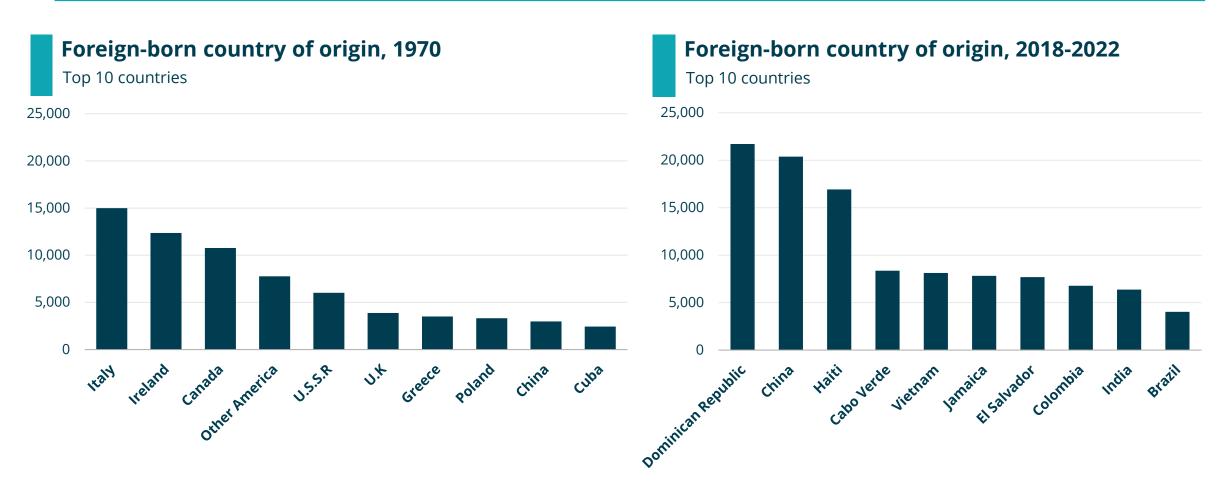
- Greece (2)
- Ireland (4)
- Italy (5)
- Lithuania (6)
- Poland (7)
- Syria (8)







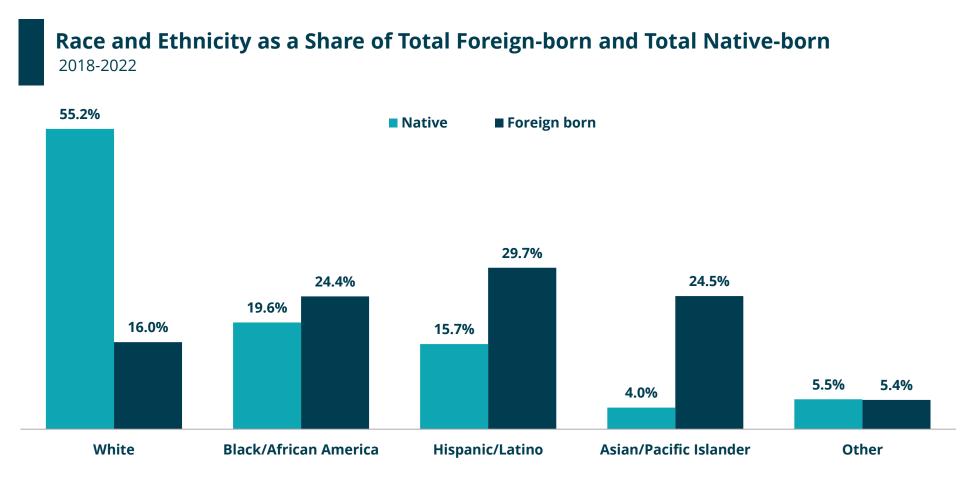
# The foreign-born population of Boston in 1970 was smaller and predominantly European – Today's foreign-born population reflects changes to immigration policy







# The foreign-born today are more likely to be Hispanic, Asian and Black/African American, reflecting origins in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and Asia

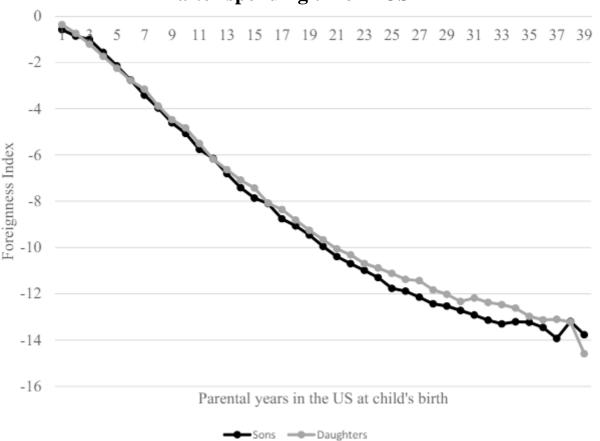




#### **Assimilation:**

## Immigrants choose less foreign names for their children as they spend more time in the US

Figure: Immigrants selected less foreign names for children after spending time in US



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Name based assimilation is faster the more culturally distant the parents are from natives

Source: Abramitzky et al., National Bureau of Economic Research, 2020.

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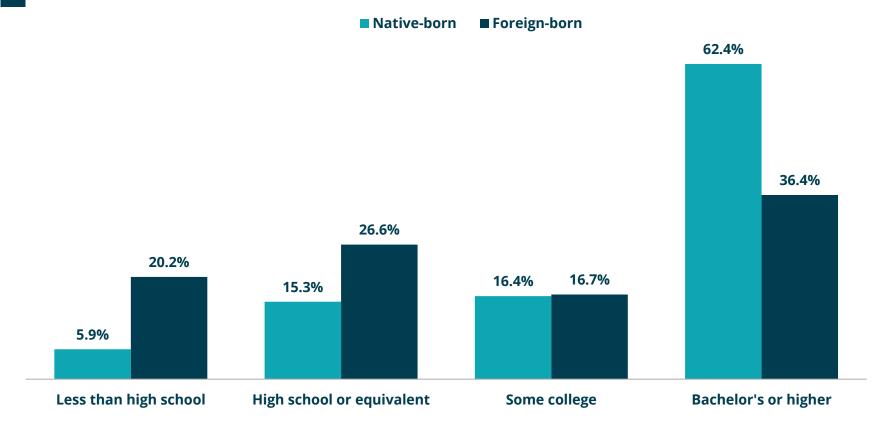
# Foreign born work in Boston through different arrangements

- Visas for temporary work include:
  - F1 student visas, H-1B for highly-skilled workers, H-2B for low-skilled nonagricultural workers and J-1 for exchange visitors
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows residents of countries designated by USCIS permission to work
- Refugees, asylees have permission to work; parole grants temporary permission to work
- Green-card holders can work permanently
- Naturalized citizens can work permanently
  - About 55% of foreign born in Boston are naturalized citizens (ACS, 2022)
- Many foreign born also work as unauthorized workers



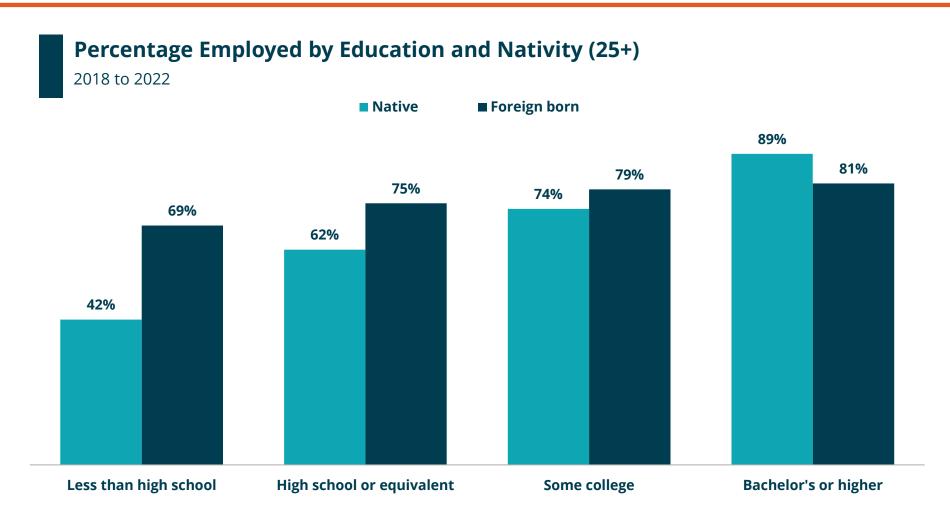
# U.S. immigration policy favors those with higher levels of education, but nearly half of Boston's foreign born residents aged 25+ have a high school education or less

Share of Foreign-born and Native-born by Educational Attainment (25+) 2018-2022



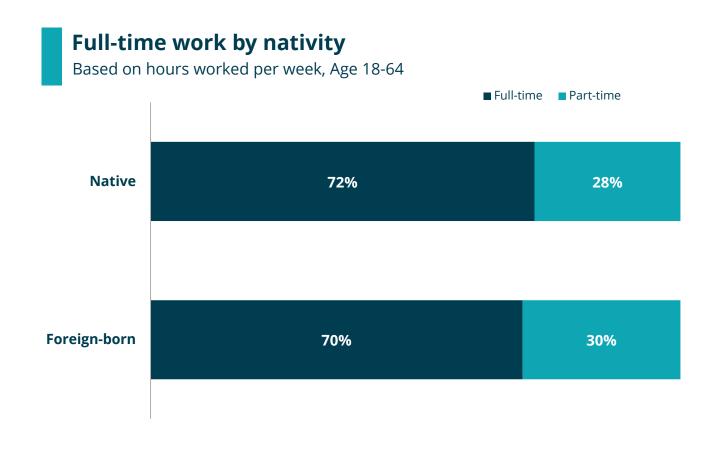


## Foreign-born Boston residents are more likely to be employed at all levels at most educational levels



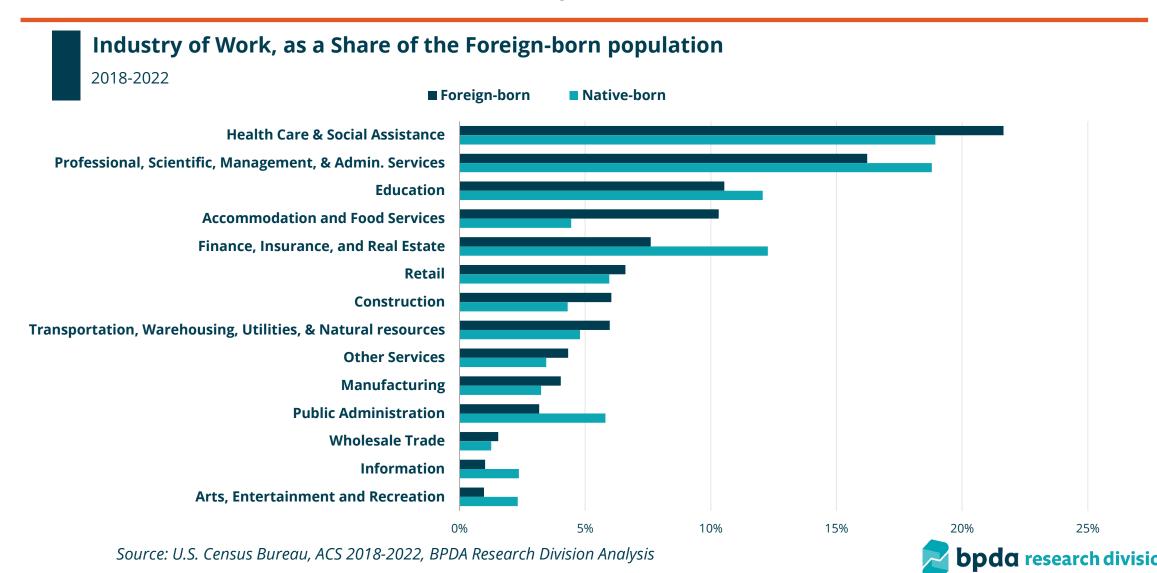


## Foreign-born Boston residents are slightly more likely to work full-time

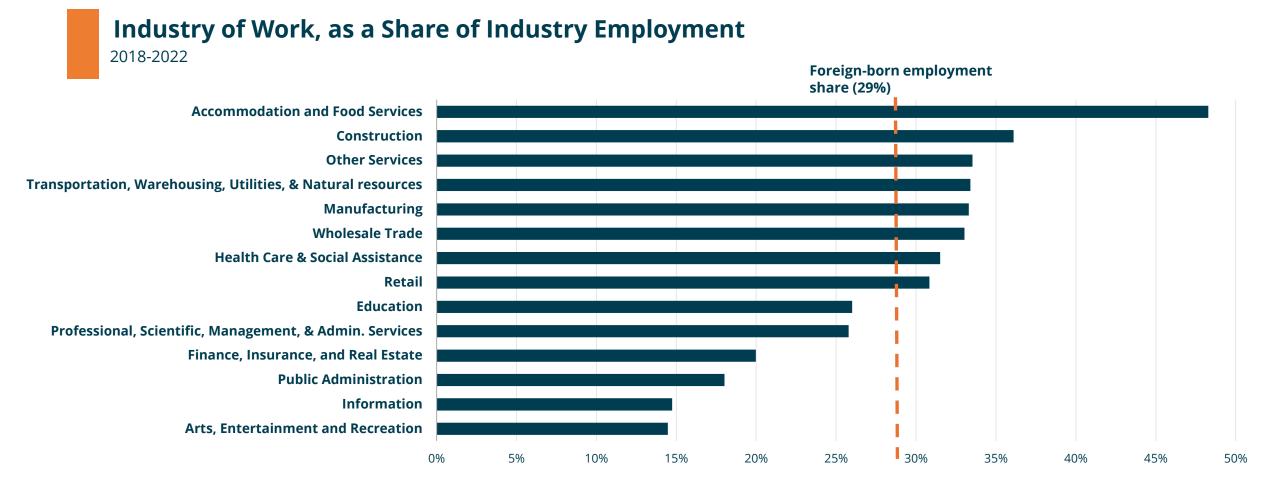




# Most foreign born work in health care and social assistance, followed by the professional, scientific, management and administrative service industry

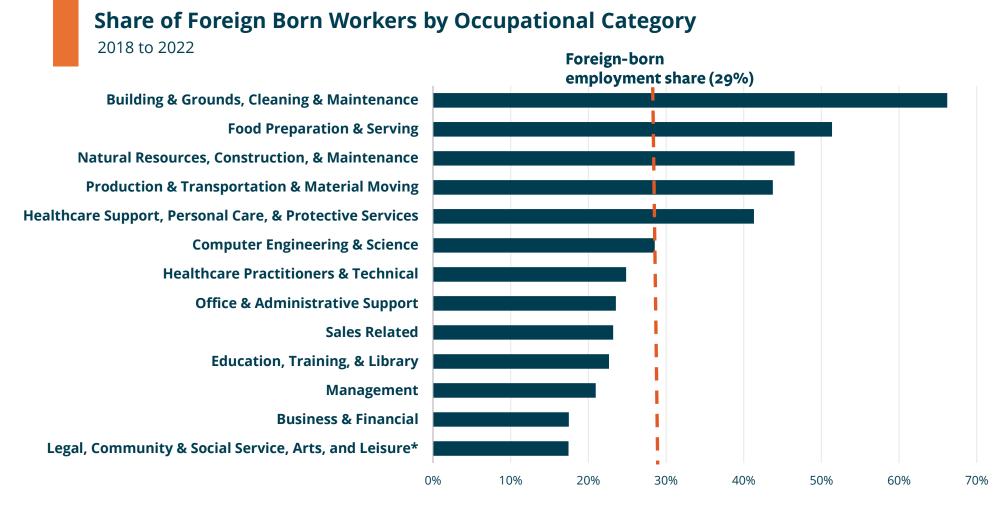


## Foreign-born workers comprise almost half of the employees in accommodation and food services





## Foreign-born workers are over-represented in some blue collar and service occupations

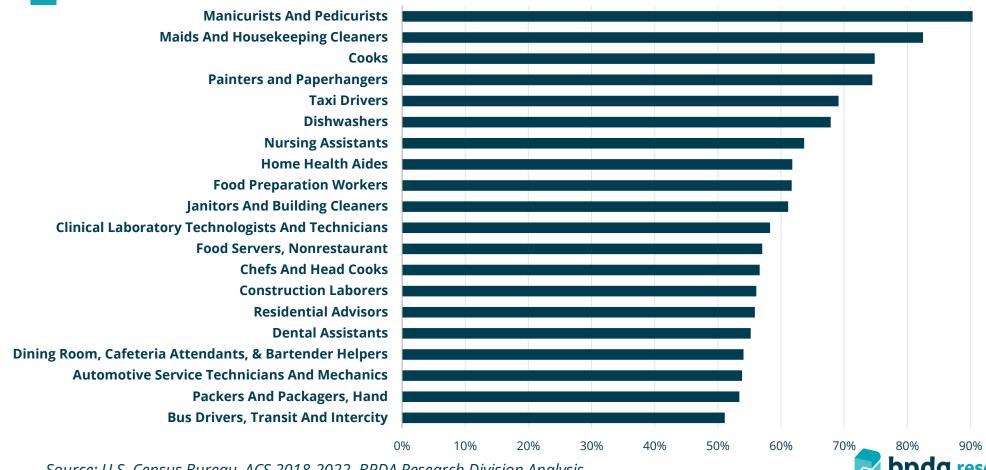




## The occupation with the highest share of foreign-born workers is Manicurists and Pedicurists with 90%

Occupations with More than 50% Foreign-Born Workers

2018-2022



# Workers with college degrees are often hired through the H-1B visa



• These are temporary working visas for 3 years, can be renewed for a total work time of 6 years.

 Employees must have at least a Bachelor's degree, and work duties must be complex and specialized.

 Annual cap nationally: 65,000+ for BA and an extra 20,000 for graduate degrees.

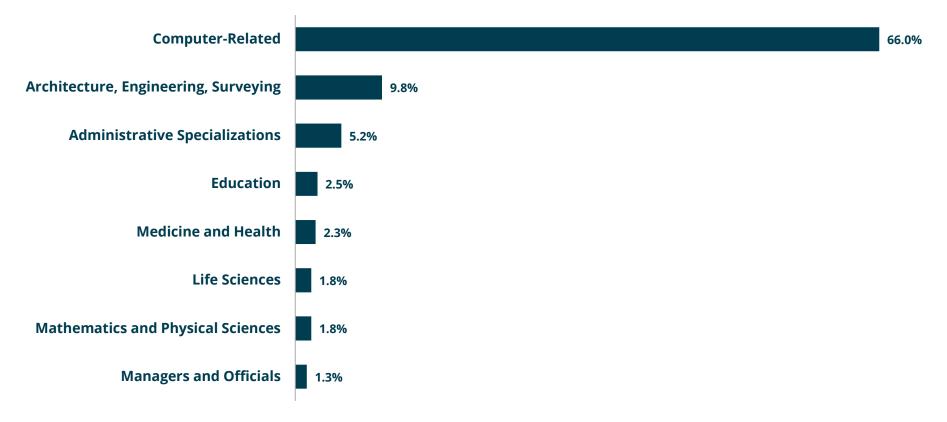


#### Two-thirds of H1-B holders nationally work in computerrelated occupations



**Major Occupational Groups of Approved H1-B Beneficiaries** 

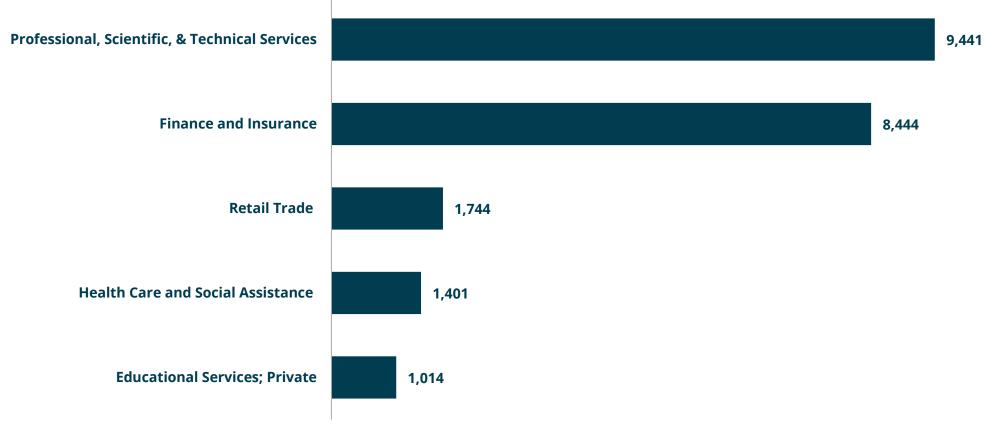
FY 2022





# Boston employers sponsored petitions for ~25,000 H-1B visa workers between 2020-2022, concentrated in Finance and Insurance and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services



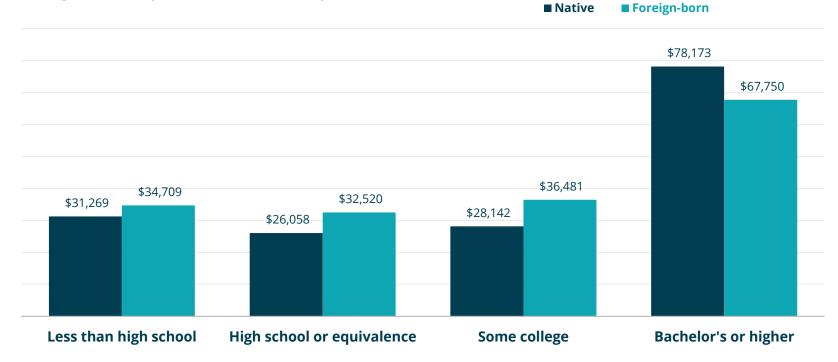




## By educational level, foreign-born workers earn more, except among those with a Bachelor's degree or higher

#### **Median personal income**

Workers aged 18-64, by education and nativity, constant dollars, annual



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2022, BPDA Research Division Analysis



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#### Conclusions

### **Contributions of Boston's Foreign-Born**



### Immigrants have historic importance in Boston

Boston's share of immigrants is about twice the national average.

#### **Demographic Contributions**

As native birth rates decline, foreign-born contribute to population growth, as in the 1970s.

#### **Economic Contributions**

The foreign-born work in key industries that would be hard hit without their contributions.



#### Want to learn more?

Some resources (links):



**Office of Immigrant Advancement** 

**BPDA Diversity Index Tool** 

**BPDA Boston by the Numbers 2020** 

