

imagine
all the
people

Portuguese Speakers

CITY OF BOSTON
Martin J. Walsh
Mayor

2016

Portuguese Speakers in Massachusetts

“*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.



Portuguese Parade through Cambridge & MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) event.



Introduction

Massachusetts is unique in the convergence of Portuguese speaking migration from Portugal, the Autonomous Region of the Azores, Cape Verde, and Brazil. Although these populations share similarities in language, their migration stories are different. Portuguese, Azorean, and Cape Verdean migration to Massachusetts helped supply labor to the whaling industry in the 19th century and continued in the early 1900s when migrants filled a role in the region's textile mills and cranberry production.¹

This migration was curtailed for nearly 40 years after the passage of the 1924 Immigration Act. After ash from volcanic eruptions in the Azores wiped out agricultural production, the Azorean Refugee Acts of 1958 and 1960 provided a mechanism for renewed Azorean migration to the United States.² This was soon followed by the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act that lifted a national quota system and allowed for family reunification that especially benefited Portuguese and Cape Verdeans.

Brazilian migration to the region has been a more recent phenomenon. After a military coup of 1964, thousands of Brazilians went into exile. Although the majority returned to Brazil after the amnesty of 1979, the number of economic emigrants grew in the 1980s because of hyperinflation and high unemployment.³ Brazilians started arriving in Boston during this time, but within 20 years the majority of the Brazilian population shifted to other cities in Eastern Massachusetts.

This report analyzes Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey (ACS). The smallest geographic area in these data is a Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA).⁴ PUMAs are non-overlapping geographies that partition each state into subsections containing about 100,000 residents. A PUMA is the smallest publicly available geographic area that can provide individual-level data required for this report. PUMAs may contain multiple cities or towns with populations under 100,000. This limits the usefulness of PUMA-level analysis for cities in Massachusetts such as Brockton, New Bedford, and Fall River whose populations fall slightly below the 100,000 threshold and whose PUMAs include a surrounding town.

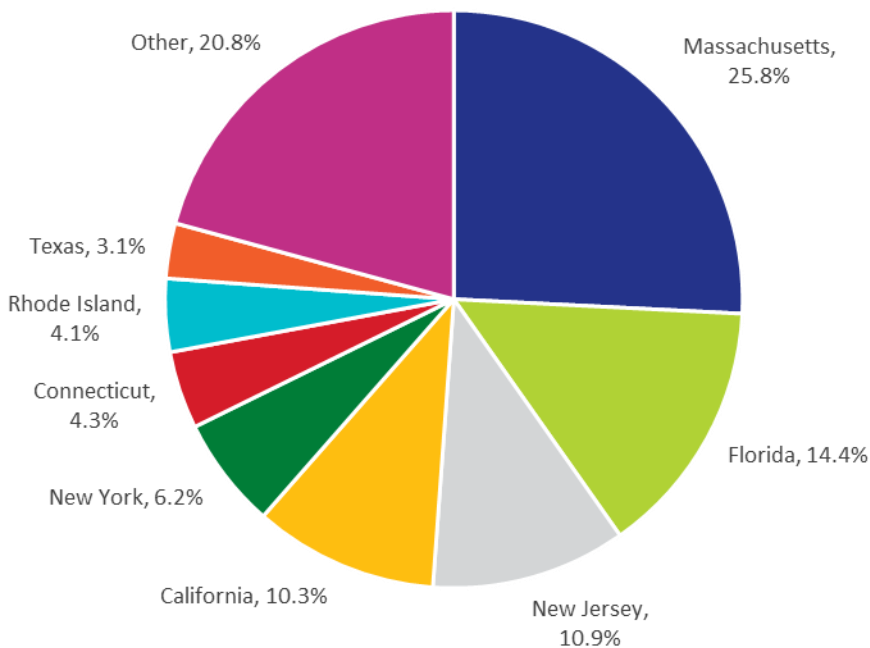
Population Share

The foreign-born Portuguese speaking population in the United States was estimated to be 540,345 in 2014.⁵ More than one quarter - 139,397 - live in Massachusetts, the largest population in any state.⁶ Brazilians, who comprise 42 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers in Massachusetts, are followed by Portuguese (28 percent), Cape Verdeans (18 percent), and Azoreans (12 percent).

However, California has the largest Portuguese speaking ancestry population.⁷ Of the approximately 1.3 million⁸ individuals with Portuguese ancestry in the country, 25 percent live in California, 22 percent in Massachusetts⁹, and 7 percent in Rhode Island. The large Portuguese speaking population in California resulted from Azorean migration to fill agricultural jobs, particularly ranching, in the San Joaquin Valley.¹⁰

Massachusetts has the largest foreign-born Portuguese speaking population of any state.

Share of Foreign-Born Portuguese Speaking Population by State



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

Population

Of the foreign-born Portuguese speakers in Massachusetts, the largest population resides in the PUMAs containing (1) Fall River and Somerset, followed by PUMAs containing (2) New Bedford and Fairhaven, (3) Brockton, Stoughton, and Avon, and (4) Somerville and Everett. Each population is concentrated in one area. The PUMA with the largest Portuguese population includes New Bedford. The PUMA with the largest Azorean population includes Fall River. The PUMA with the largest Cape Verdean population includes Brockton. Two PUMAs have similar large Brazilian populations: the PUMA including Somerville and Everett has a slightly larger Brazilian population than the PUMA including Framingham, Marlborough, and Natick. The combined five PUMAs that comprise Boston contain a smaller population of foreign-born Portuguese speakers than each of the above PUMAs for each country of origin.

There are approximately 284,723 native-born Massachusetts residents who identify their ancestry with a Portuguese-speaking country. The three PUMAs with the largest Portuguese-speaking ancestry populations include Fall River, New Bedford, and parts of Bristol/Plymouth counties. These PUMAs have much larger native-born than foreign-born Portuguese-speaking populations. The Brockton PUMA has equal shares of foreign and native-born Portuguese speakers. Brazilian migration has a shorter history than the other three populations, and accordingly Brazilians have a much smaller native-born population. The PUMAs of Somerville/Everett and Framingham/Marlborough/Natick with larger foreign-born Brazilian population have significantly fewer native-born Brazilians.



Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers

Population Centers of Portuguese Speakers

Public Use Microdata Area	U.S. Born	Foreign Born				
	Portuguese Speakers	Portuguese Speakers	Brazilian	Portuguese	Cape Verdean	Azorean
Fall River & Somerset	34,577	18,140	1,912	4,563	977	10,688
New Bedford & Fairhaven	33,313	12,110	513	8,255	2,440	902
Bristol (Outside New Bedford) & Plymouth (South) Counties	30,438	5,415	119	4,016	100	1,180
Taunton, Mansfield, Norton, Raynham, Dighton & Berkley	22,572	6,253	1,079	2,610	1,487	1,077
Attleboro, North Attleboro, Swansea, Seekonk, Rehoboth & Plainville	17,504	2,868	0	2,387	0	481
Boston--(5 PUMAs)	12,767	10,727	2,890	110	7,727	0
Brockton, Stoughton & Avon	11,777	11,804	1,382	963	9,412	47
Dukes & Nantucket Counties--Outer Cape Cod	8,044	2262	2262	0	0	0
Inner Cape Cod & Barnstable	7,783	625	258	264	103	0
Peabody, Danvers, Reading, North Reading & Lynnfield	6,075	3,352	1,382	1,970	0	0
Plymouth, Marshfield, Scituate, Duxbury & Kingston	5,927	4,892	4,646	246	0	0
Somerville & Everett	4,780	11,073	7,651	2,347	256	819
Framingham, Marlborough & Natick	4,242	7,674	7,129	476	69	0
Woburn, Melrose Cities, Saugus, Wakefield & Stoneham	3,584	5,899	4,147	1,752	0	0
Lowell	3,359	3,026	1,825	1,024	0	177
Other 33 PUMAs in Massachusetts	77,981	33,277	20,532	8,535	3,014	1,196
Total	284,723	139,397	57,727	39,518	25,585	16,567

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

Nativity and Citizenship of Foreign-Born Portuguese Speakers

With their more recent migration history, Brazilians comprise 42 percent of the foreign-born Portuguese speaking population in Massachusetts, and only 30 percent of foreign-born Brazilians have become naturalized citizens. The second largest population of Portuguese-speaking migrants is from Portugal. Portuguese comprise 28 percent of the foreign-born Portuguese speaking population. With their longer history of migration, their naturalization rate is much higher, as over 75 percent are naturalized citizens. Cape Verdeans are the third largest foreign-born Portuguese speaking population. They comprise 18 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers, and 52 percent are naturalized citizens. The smallest population is from the Azores. Azoreans comprise 12 percent of the foreign-born Portuguese speaking population, and 63 percent are naturalized citizens.

Gender and Marital Status

One demographic category in which the Portuguese-speaking foreign born differ from other foreign born is in their gender distribution. Almost 56 percent of Portuguese-speaking foreign born are female compared to 51 percent of all foreign born. The demand for foreign-born labor is often related to the occupational needs of the immigrant-receiving country. For example, some populations like Indian migrants are predominately male because they fill an occupational need for computer technology in the state's labor market that attracts male workers. Other populations, such as the foreign-born Portuguese speakers, who provide workers for the state's service sector may be predominately female. Unlike their foreign-born counterparts, native-born residents of Portuguese-speaking ancestry have a similar gender distribution to the overall native-born population.

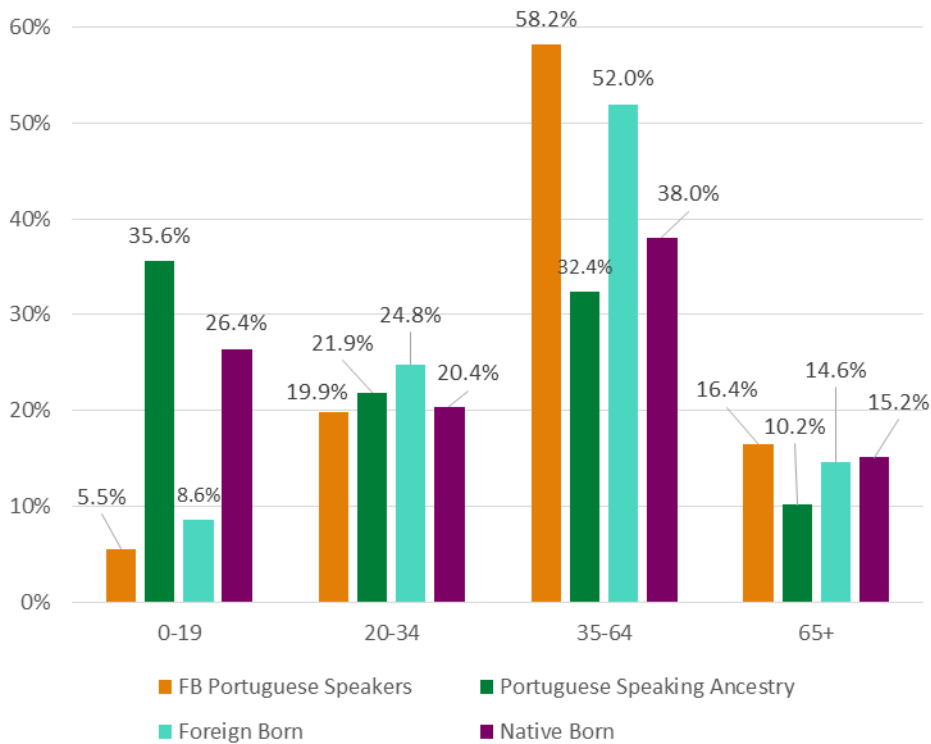


Officer John Teixeira became the BPD's 1st Cape Verdean-born officer to attain the rank of sergeant — BPD photographer Marc Vaillancourt

Age & Marital Status

Native-born Portuguese speakers differ in their demographic profile from all native born in Massachusetts in one important way. They are a younger population. They have a larger share of their population ages 0-to-19 years, and a smaller share of their population over 64 years compared to all native born. In a state where some worry about an aging workforce, native-born Portuguese speakers are poised to make important contributions to the state’s labor market in the coming years.

Age Distribution



36% of native-born Massachusetts residents of Portuguese-speaking ancestry are under the age of 20.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

Marital Status

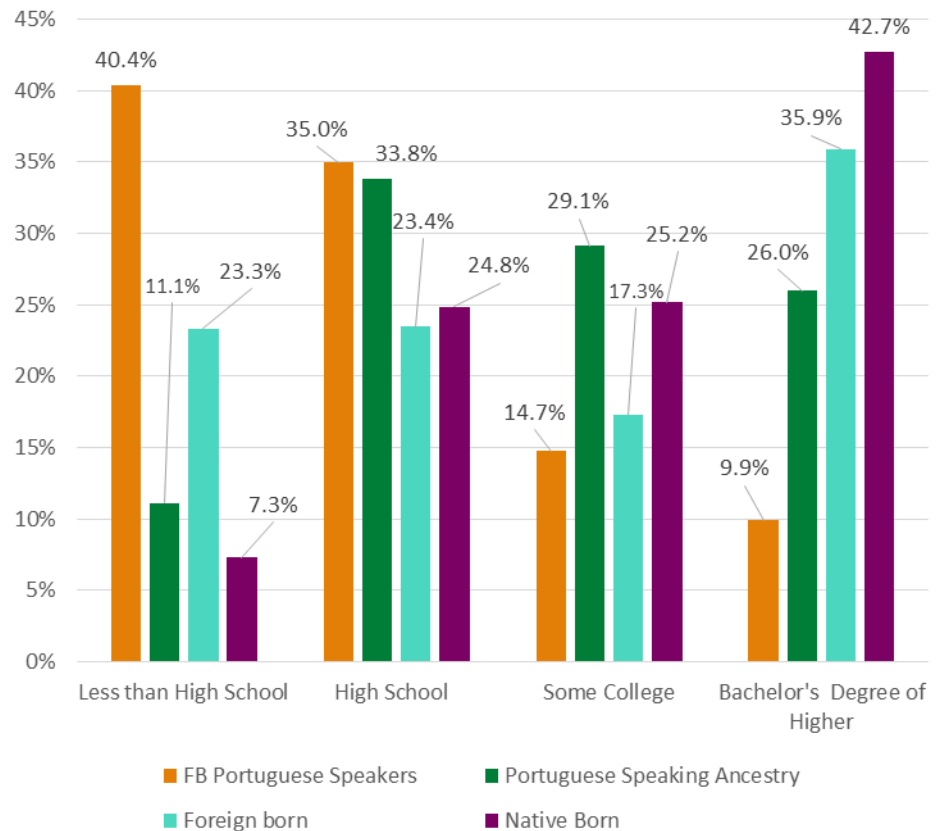
Approximately, 52 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers over age 15 are currently married, compared to 55.1% of all foreign born in Massachusetts. Only 37.4 percent of native-born residents of Portuguese-speaking ancestry over age 15 are currently married, compared to 43.8 percent of all native born.

Education

The foreign-born Portuguese speaking population has lower levels of educational attainment compared to all other populations. Over 40 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers have not completed their high school education, while only 10 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Native-born Portuguese speakers have greater levels of educational attainment. Only 11 percent have not completed high school, while 26 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Only 2 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers have a graduate or professional degree, while 8 percent of the native born do.

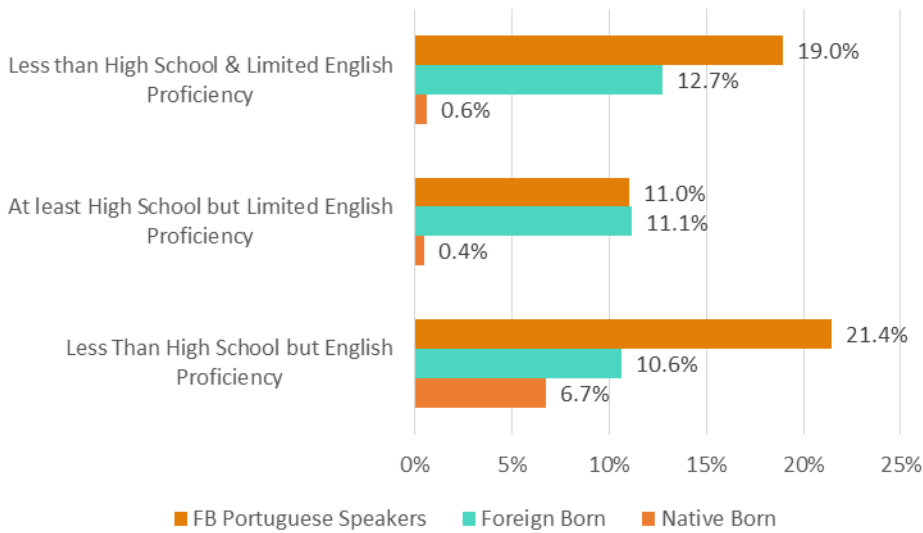
Over 50 percent of the foreign-born Portuguese-speaking population lacks a high education or English proficiency or both. About 21 percent of the foreign-born Portuguese-speaking population lack a high school diploma but are English proficient. About 19 percent of this population have less than a high school education and have limited English proficiency.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years or older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

Educational Attainment and English Proficiency Population 25 Years or Older



Over 50% of the foreign-born Portuguese-speaking population have limited education or English proficiency.

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

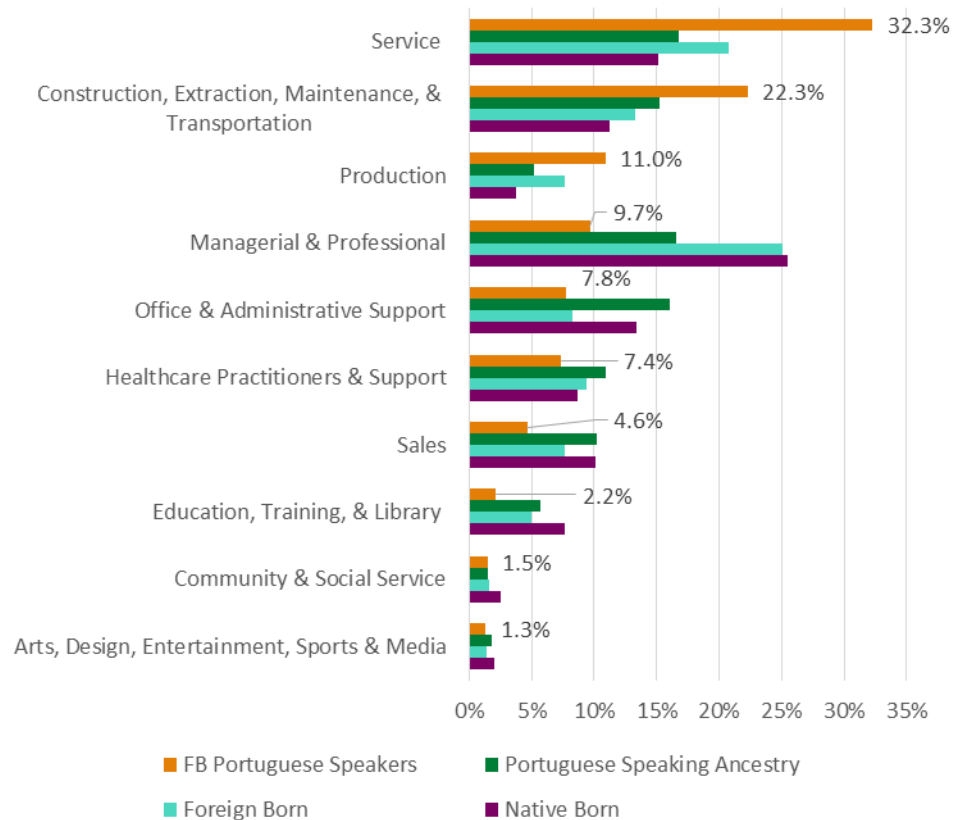


Occupations

When examined by occupation,¹¹ foreign-born Portuguese speakers' have a different occupational distribution than Portuguese Ancestry, foreign born, and native born populations. They have larger shares working in service (32 percent), construction (22 percent), and production (11 percent) occupations. This contrasts with both the native and foreign born who have approximately a quarter of their working population in managerial and professional occupations. Within these service occupations, the majority of foreign-born Portuguese speakers work in building and grounds, cleaning and maintenance occupations followed by food preparation and serving occupations. This overrepresentation suggests foreign-born Portuguese speakers are filling jobs in the labor market that native-born workers do not fill at present wages.

The occupational distribution of native-born Portuguese speakers shows a more integrated labor market participation that is not as dependent upon work in service occupations. Their largest occupations are service (17 percent), managerial and professional (17 percent), office and administrative support (16 percent) and construction (15 percent). Many fewer native-born Portuguese speakers have

Occupational Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

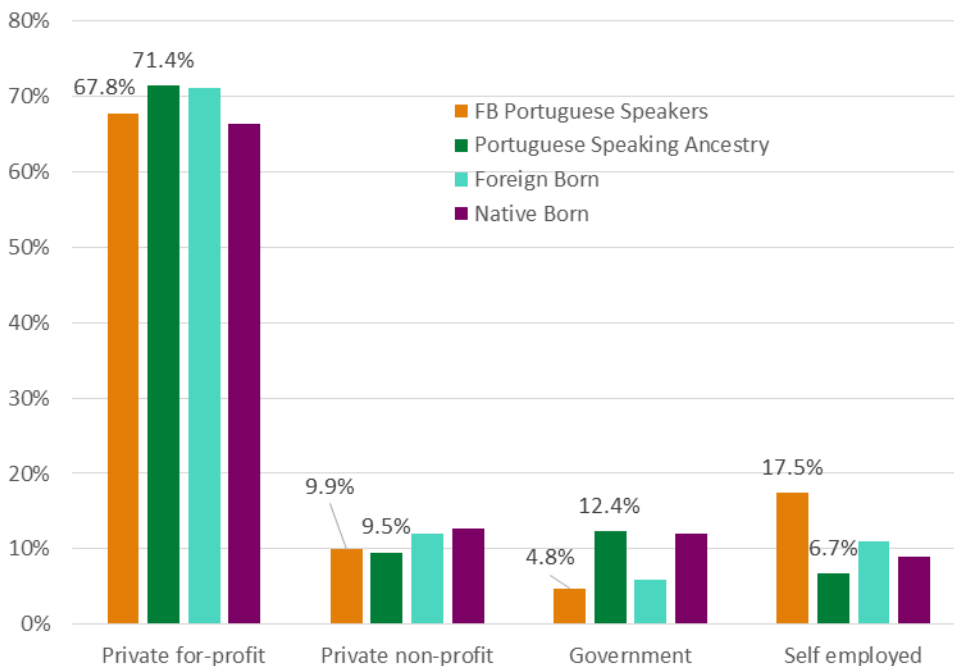
Type of Employer

Labor force participation¹² of native-born Portuguese speakers in 2014 is higher (71 percent) than other native-born residents of Massachusetts (67 percent). However, the rate for foreign-born Portuguese speakers is slightly lower (66.9 percent) than all foreign born (67.2 percent).

Nearly 18 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers are self-employed, while only 6.7 percent of native-born Portuguese speakers are. As a result, they have a lower share working in private for profit firms. Greater shares of native-born Portuguese speakers (12.4 percent). Both foreign- and native-born Portuguese speakers have similar percentages of working for non-profit firms.

Foreign-born Portuguese speakers have a high rate of self-employment.

Employment by Type of Employer



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BRA Research Division Analysis

Wages

Median annual earnings – wages and salary income plus self-employment income – for all Massachusetts workers are \$39,530. Foreign-born Portuguese speakers in the labor force have a median income of \$29,042, which is lower than the \$32,269 earned by all foreign born in the labor force. Native-born Portuguese speakers’ median income is \$34,286, which is lower than the \$40,337 for all native born.

Given their lower level of educational attainment and overrepresentation in service occupations, foreign-born Portuguese speakers earn lower hourly wages. Among Massachusetts’ full-time, year-round (FTYR) workers, foreign-born Portuguese speakers earn \$.59 on the dollar compared to the total population, while native-born Portuguese speakers in the labor force earned \$.81 on the dollar compared to the total population.

When examining wages by occupations, foreign-born Portuguese speakers earn lower wages than all foreign born in the state for managerial and professional, educational, and health care occupations. However, they earn higher wages for community and social service and service occupations. Although native-born Portuguese speakers make higher wages than their foreign-born counterparts, their hourly wages are consistently lower than all native born in Massachusetts.

Standard of Living

Despite the fact that over 30 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers work in service occupations paying a mean hourly wage of \$15.10, they have a somewhat lower share of the population (15 percent) living below the federal poverty threshold, compared to 17 percent of all foreign born.¹³ In contrast, approximately 27 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared with 39 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. Among native-born Portuguese speakers, 11.8 percent are below the poverty threshold, while 44.1 percent have achieved a middle class income.

Hourly Wages for Full-time, Year-round Workers

	Foreign born Portuguese Speakers	Portuguese Speaking Ancestry	All Foreign Born	All Native Born
Managerial & Professional	\$ 27.49	\$ 33.94	\$ 42.20	\$ 44.60
Community & Social Service	\$ 24.09	\$ 25.73	\$ 21.66	\$ 24.39
Education, Training, & Library	\$ 22.21	\$ 25.92	\$ 30.19	\$ 27.94
Healthcare Practitioners & Support	\$ 21.78	\$ 31.60	\$ 40.24	\$ 37.55
Office & Administrative Support	\$ 21.20	\$ 20.67	\$ 23.35	\$ 23.44
Sales	\$ 20.82	\$ 29.91	\$ 27.34	\$ 34.76
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	\$ 20.01	\$ 25.84	\$ 30.58	\$ 28.38
Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, & Transportation	\$ 17.83	\$ 22.08	\$ 20.26	\$ 24.21
Production	\$ 15.35	\$ 22.07	\$ 17.00	\$ 21.78
Service	\$ 15.23	\$ 19.80	\$ 14.73	\$ 20.33

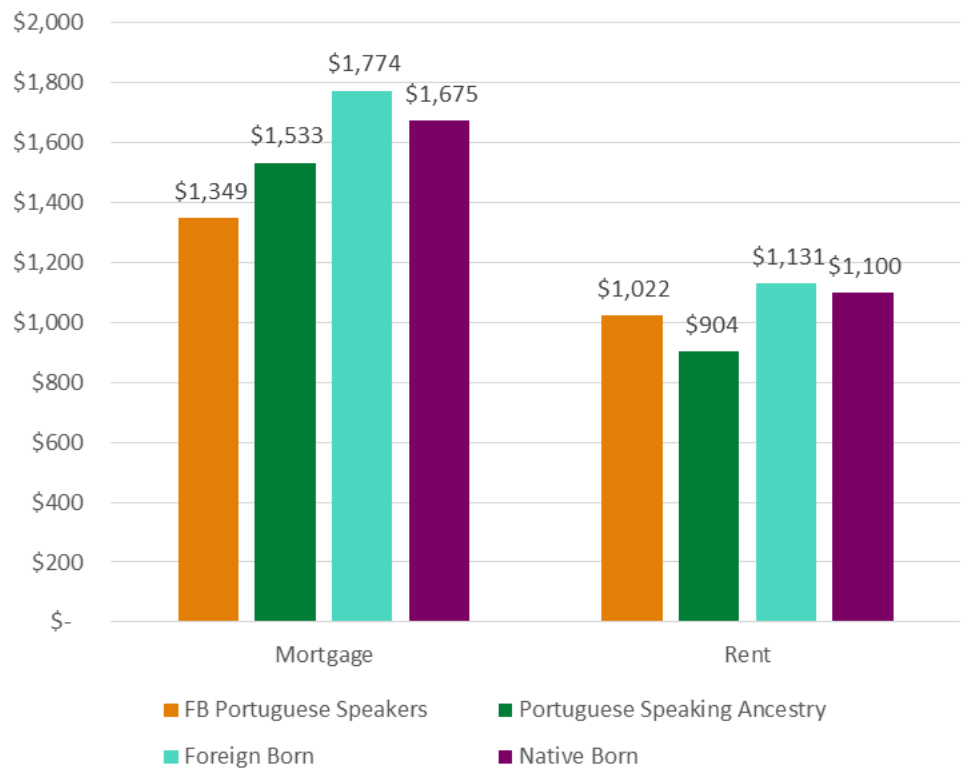


Photo: Brazilian Women's Group

Home Ownership

The foreign born typically have lower homeownership rates than the native born possibly due to their past mobility, lower average income, and language and cultural barriers. In Massachusetts, 44 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers are homeowners, slightly lower than for all foreign born in the state (46 percent). Their average monthly mortgage payment is \$1,310, while their average rent is \$959. Among native-born Portuguese speakers, 57 percent are homeowners. Their average monthly mortgage is \$1,426 and their average monthly rent is \$791.

Housing Costs



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



Irlan Silva (center), Brazilian-born dancer for the Boston Ballet, photo by MAPS

Medical Insurance

Massachusetts was the first state to pass legislation aimed at achieving universal medical-care coverage. Nevertheless, eight years after passage of this comprehensive health reform law, 9.5 percent of foreign-born Portuguese speakers remain uninsured, which is higher than the 7.9 percent of all foreign born in the state. This uninsurance may be related to immigration status because both native-born populations have much lower shares of their population uninsured: 3.0 percent for Portuguese speakers and 2.6 for all

Almost 10% of foreign-born Portuguese speakers lack medical insurance.



Portuguese Parade through Cambridge and Somerville

Boston officials welcome Jose Ulisses Correia e Silva, Mayor of the City of Praia, Cape Verde.



Economic Impact

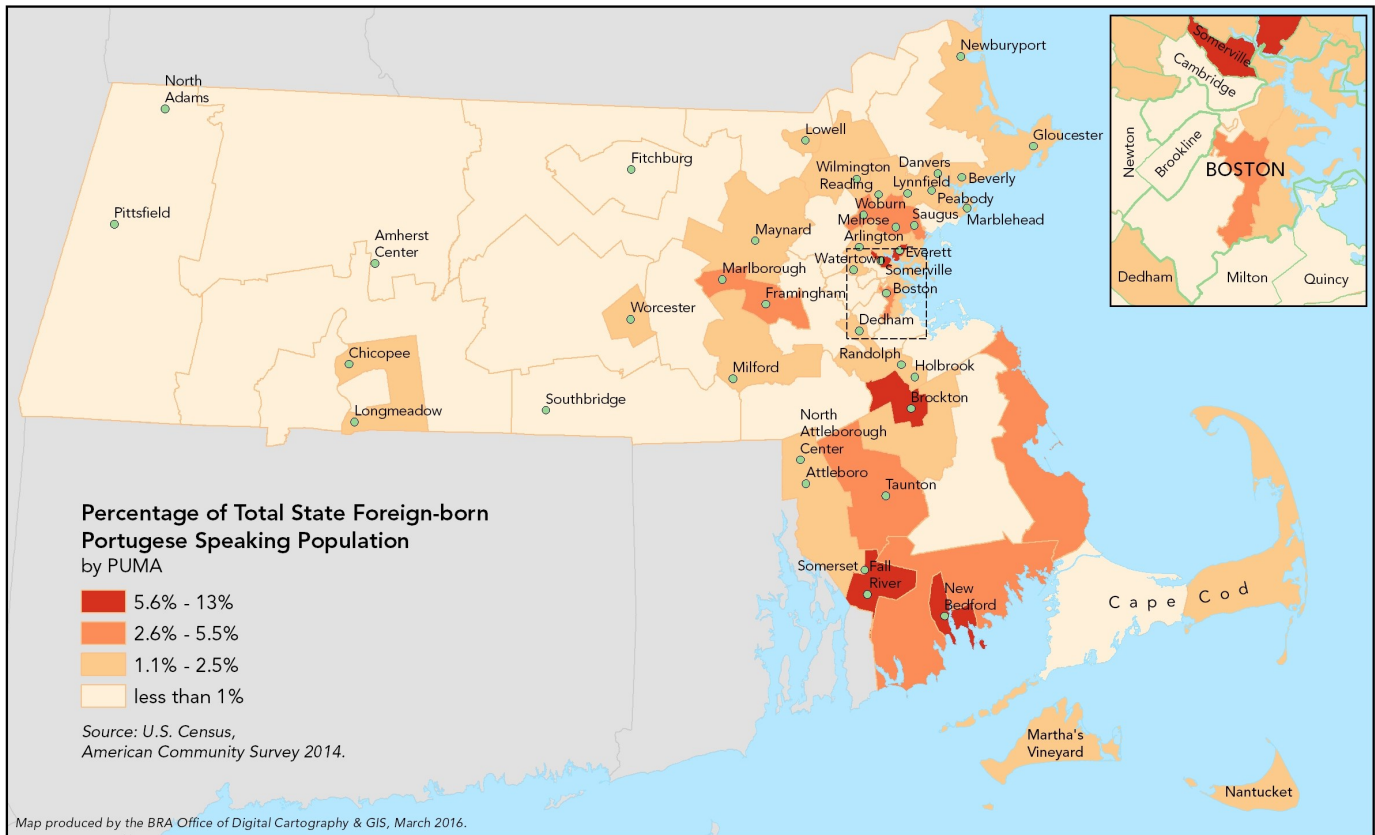
Foreign-born Portuguese speakers contribute to the state economy through their labor and consumer spending. The total value of their economic contributions was estimated using a Regional Economic Model (REMI) that calculated the value of goods and services consumed on each dollar spent. Foreign-born Portuguese speakers in Massachusetts generated total expenditures of \$2.2 billion in 2014.¹⁴ These annual expenditures contributed over \$1.5 billion to the state product and generated \$100 million in state and local taxes.¹⁵ In total, these expenditures supported over 15,900 jobs in the Massachusetts economy.¹⁶



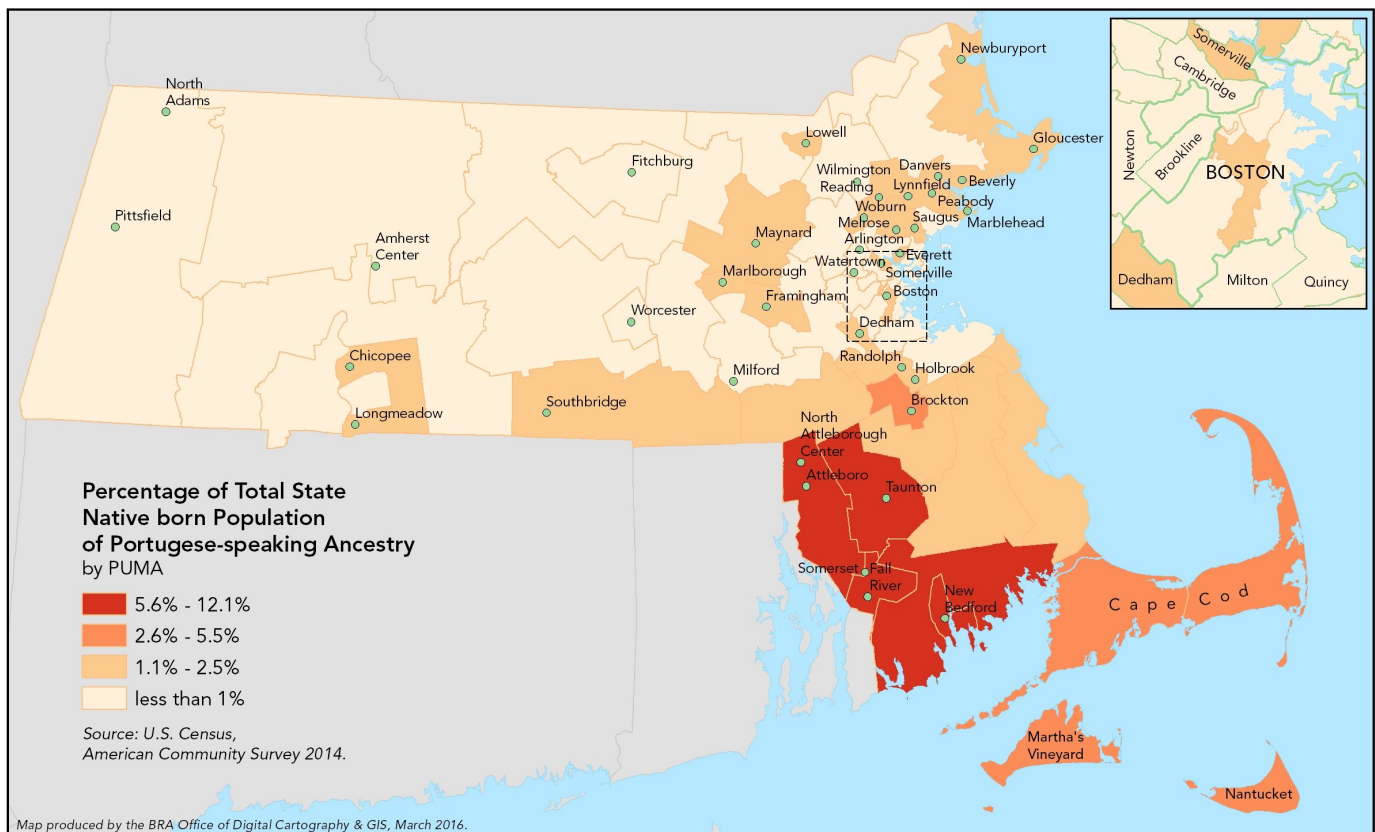
Conclusion

Massachusetts is unique in having both large foreign- and native-born Portuguese speaking populations. These population are making economic contributions across the state but particularly in Fall River, New Bedford, Brockton, Framingham, Everett, and Somerville. Native-born Portuguese speakers are well integrated into the state's labor force, and foreign-born Portuguese speakers are filling important roles in the service sector. Even though median income of both populations is somewhat lower compared to others with the same nativity, they do not have a disproportionate share of their population below the federal poverty level.

Foreign-born Portuguese Speakers



Native born of Portuguese-speaking Ancestry



¹ Marcus, M. and Borgos., R. Who are New England Immigrants. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (2004).

² Sperling, J., "Portuguese and Portuguese Americans" in Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration. Edited by Barkan, Elliott (2013).

³ The Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute registered the statistical "absence" of 1,379,928 Brazilians between the ages of 20 and 44 from the 1991 Brazilian Census, a fact that can only be explained by emigration. Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE) (2000).

⁴ In collaboration with the Massachusetts State Data Center, the U.S. Census Bureau divided the state in 52 PUMAs following the 2010 Census.

⁵ 2014 American Community Survey (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis (2016). The 540,345 estimate reported here for foreign-born Portuguese speakers was tabulated from U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Sample data. The estimate contains a margin of error of +/-21,608 ,due to sampling methodology. For more information on American Fact Finder please see: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

⁶ 2014 American Community Survey (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis (2016). The 139,397 estimate reported here for foreign-born Portuguese speakers was tabulated from U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Sample data. The estimate contains a margin of error of +/-10,760 due to sampling methodology. It is well documented that the U.S. Census undercounts low-income populations and immigrants, particularly populations with large undocumented population. The actual size of these population may be larger than that reported by the Census Bureau. The Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers combines Census data with information from Consulates, the Archdiocese of Boston, client records, and schools to reach an estimate of up to one million total Portuguese speakers in Massachusetts, compared to the official Census count of approximately 424,120.

⁷ The U.S. Census Bureau allows individuals to identify up to two ancestries. The Portuguese speaking ancestry includes people who identified any ancestry of Portuguese, Cape Verdean or Brazilian.

⁸ 2014 American Community Survey (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis (2016). The 1,320,890 estimate reported for those whose ancestry is Portuguese speaking was tabulated from U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Sample data. The estimate contains a margin of error of +/-37,468 due to sampling methodology.

⁹ 2014 American Community Survey (PUMS), BRA Research Analysis (2016). Massachusetts has 284,723 people who have Portuguese speaking ancestry. This estimate was tabulated from U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Sample data. The estimate contains a margin of error of +/-13,661 due to sampling methodology.

End Notes

¹⁰Helzer, J. and Machado, E., The New Blue Islands: Azorean Immigration, Settlement, and Cultural Landscapes in California’s San Joaquin Valley. *The California Geographer* 51. (2011).

¹¹This analysis organizes occupations into 12 categories. Managerial and Professional contains categories of Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations, Business Operations Specialists, Financial Specialists, Computer and Mathematical Occupations, Architecture and Engineering Occupations, Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations, and Legal Occupations. Healthcare Practitioners & Support contains the categories of Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations and Healthcare Support Occupations. Service Occupations contains the categories of Protective Service Occupations, Food Preparation and Serving Occupations, Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations, and Personal Care and Service Occupations. Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Transportation contains the categories of Construction and Extraction Occupations, Extraction Workers, Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations. Other Occupations consists of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations and Military Specific along with the long-term unemployed are excluded from this analysis.

¹²Labor force participation: 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).

¹³Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. U.S. Census Bureau (2016).

¹⁴BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) calculations.

¹⁵BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) calculations.

¹⁶BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) calculations.



Photo: Brazilian Women’s Group



CITY OF BOSTON
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE
FOR IMMIGRANT
ADVANCEMENT

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston



BOSTON
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