

Foreign-born* Population Living in Grand Rapids, Michigan

2015 Numbers at a Glance

- **41,757,000:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **630,000:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Michigan (6% of the population)
- **18,000:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Grand Rapids (10% of the population)
- **28th:** Rank of the state of Michigan among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. in terms of immigrants as a percentage of state population

Oakland County, Washtenaw County, and Macomb County report the highest percentage of immigrants in Michigan as the map on the right illustrates.

Figure 1. Foreign Born in Michigan

Foreign Born as a Percentage of Total County Population

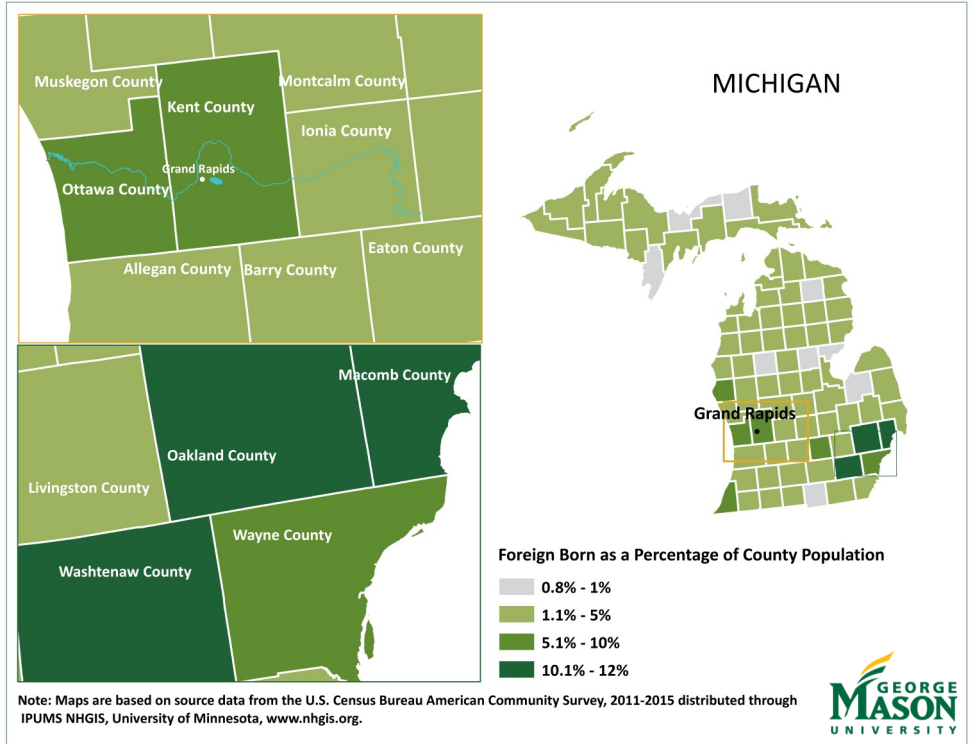


Figure 2. Year of Immigration to the U.S. among Foreign Born Living in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Percent of Current Foreign-born Population that Arrived during the Decade

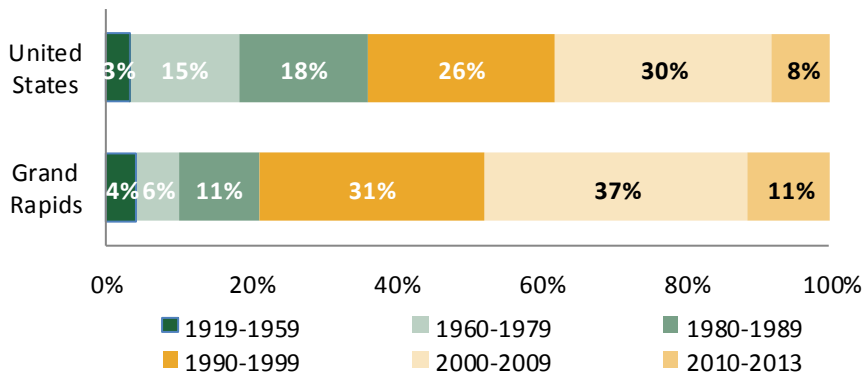


Figure 2 reports the year of immigration among foreign-born individuals currently living in the United States and in Grand Rapids. More than half of the foreign born in the United States and in Grand Rapids arrived prior to 2000. However, among the current population, the decade 2000-2009 was the peak decade of immigration to the U.S. and Grand Rapids.

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2011-2015 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.

*Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen. Please note that the terms "foreign born" and "immigrant" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet.

Foreign-born* Population Living in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Figure 3. Top Five Languages Spoken at Home by Immigrants in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Share of Immigrants Age 5 and Older, by Language Spoken at Home

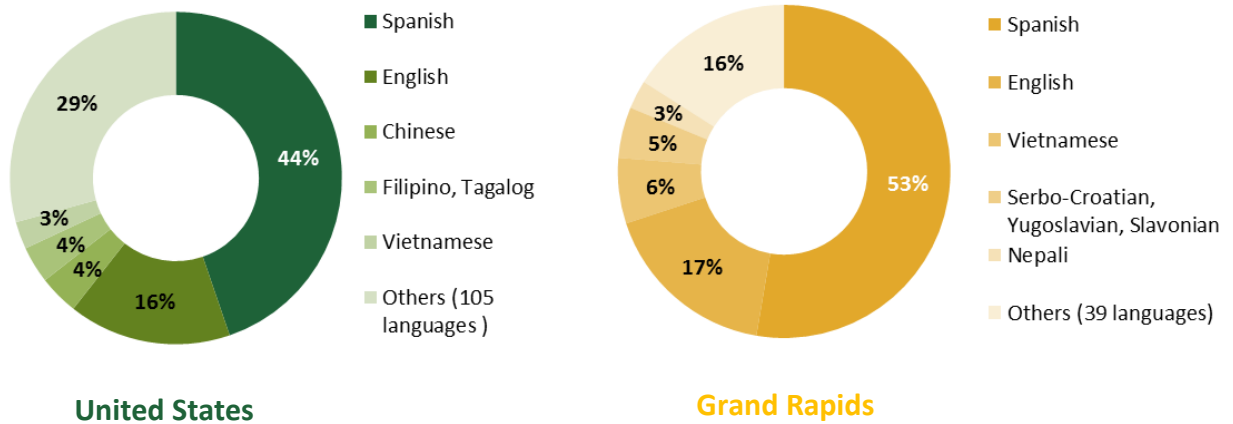
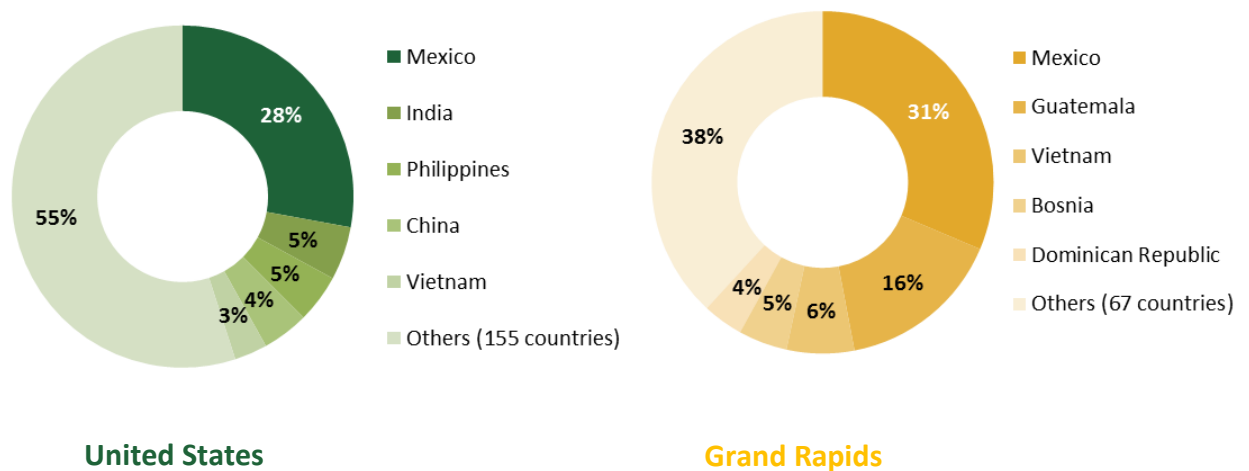


Figure 3 shows the differences in the top five languages spoken by immigrants in the United States and in Grand Rapids. Spanish and English are the most common spoken languages by immigrants. However, compared to immigrants in the United States, there are greater percentages of immigrants living in Grand Rapids who speak **Serbo-Croatian** and **Nepali**.

Figure 4 shows that 31% of immigrants living in Grand Rapid come from Mexico, which is slightly more than the United States as a whole (28%). However, 16% of immigrants living in the city come from Guatemala and 5% come from Bosnia, and these countries do not fall within the top five nationally.

Figure 4. Top Five Countries of Birth among Immigrants in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Share of Immigrants, by Country of Birth



Foreign-born* Population Living in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Figure 5. Top Five Occupational Groups in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Share of Full-Time Employed Immigrants and Native Born, By Occupational Group

United States			
Foreign-Born		Native-Born U.S. Citizens	
Office And Administrative Support	9%	Office And Administrative Support	14%
Sales And Related	8%	Sales And Related	11%
Building And Grounds Cleaning And Maintenance	8%	Management, Business, Science, And Arts	10%
Production	8%	Education, Training, And Library	7%
Food Preparation And Serving	8%	Transportation And Material Moving	6%
All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	59%	All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	52%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	24,537,954	Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	122,139,066

Grand Rapids			
Foreign-Born		Native-Born U.S. Citizens	
Production	25%	Office And Administrative Support	14%
Food Preparation and Serving	13%	Sales And Related	10%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	8%	Production	8%
Office and Administrative Support	7%	Food Preparation And Serving	8%
Transportation and Material Moving	7%	Management, Business, Science, And Arts	8%
All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	40%	All Other Occupational Groups (n=20)	52%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	10,135	Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	80,720

Figure 5 highlights the top five occupational groups among full-time employed immigrants and the native born living in the United States and in Grand Rapids. It is important to note that employment patterns of immigrants are different from those of the native born in both the United States and Grand Rapids. Immigrants are more likely to work in production (such as electrical assemblers and shoe and leather workers and repairers), food preparation (such cooks and bartenders), and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (such as maids and housekeeping cleaners), both in the United States and in Grand Rapids.

Figure 6. Employment Status in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Share of Foreign and Native Born Age 16 to 65 Who are Employed/Unemployed/Not in the Labor Force

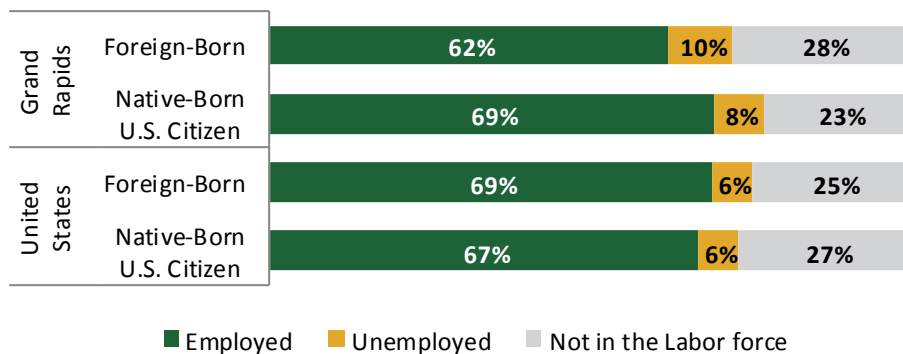


Figure 6 demonstrates slight differences between the employment status of immigrants and the native born in the United States and in Grand Rapids. Immigrants living in the United States reported higher employment rates than native-born U.S. citizens. However, in Grand Rapids, immigrants reported slightly lower employment rates than native-born U.S. citizens.

Foreign-born* Population Living in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Figure 7. Personal Income among Immigrants in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

Share of Full-Time Employed Immigrants, by Income Level

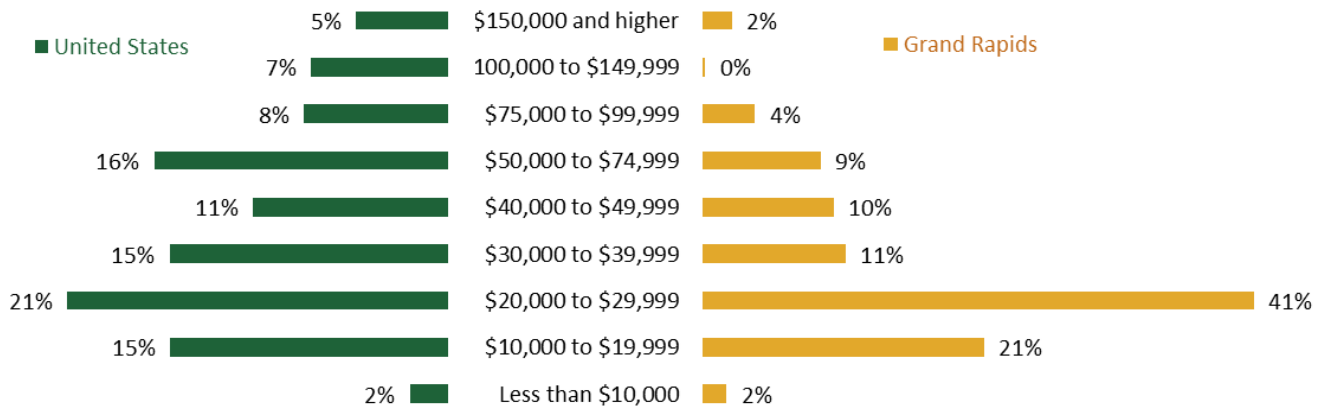


Figure 7 highlights the differences in the personal income between full-time employed immigrants in the United States and in Grand Rapids. Overall, immigrants living in Grand Rapids are more likely to earn \$30,000 or less and reported lower median personal income (\$25,429) compared to immigrants living in the United States (\$36,580). Notably, native-born U.S. citizens in Grand Rapids (\$39,746) also reported lower median personal income compared to native-born U.S. citizen in the United States (\$46,454).

Figure 8. Poverty Status among Immigrants in the U.S. and in Grand Rapids

	United States	Grand Rapids
At or above the poverty line	81%	68%
Below the poverty Line	19%	32%
Estimated immigrant Population	41,196,675	18,398

Figure 8 shows that approximately 32% of immigrants living in Grand Rapids live below the poverty line, which is much higher compared to immigrants living in the United States (19%).

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email iir@gmu.edu, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.