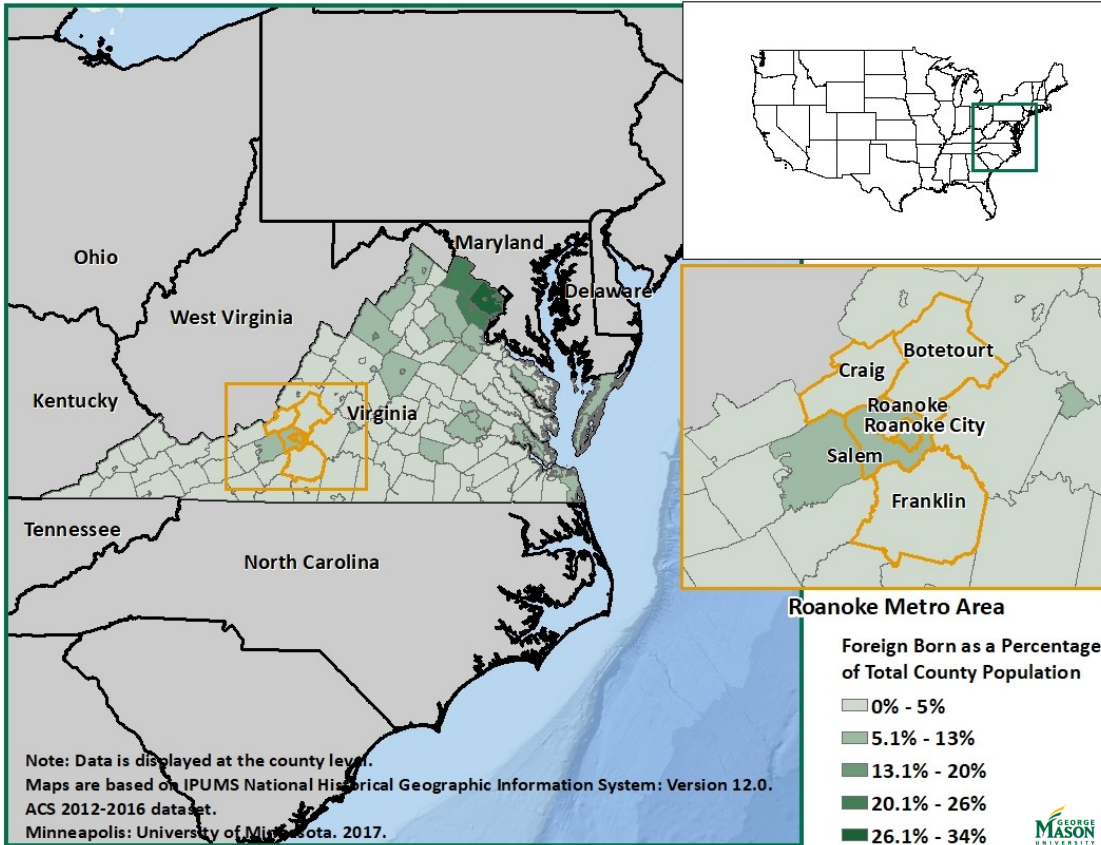


## Immigrants in the Roanoke, Virginia Metro Area

**Figure 1. Immigrants in Virginia**



### 2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants<sup>1</sup> living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **988,600:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the state of Virginia (12% of the state's population)
- **16,100:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the Roanoke Metro Area (5% of the area's population)
- **16th:** Rank of the state of Virginia among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's population

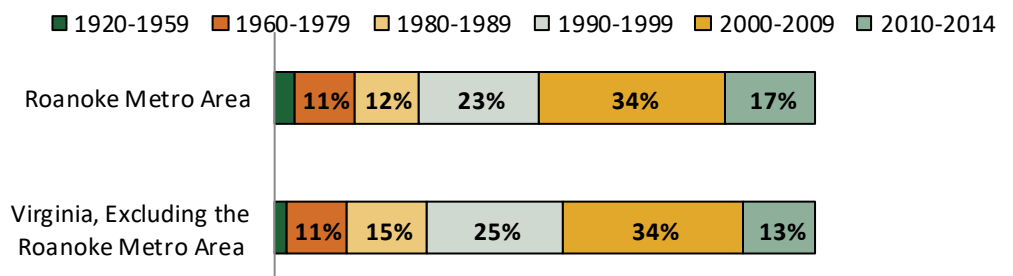
### Distribution of Immigrants in the Roanoke, Virginia Metro Area

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the Roanoke metro area and the state of Virginia. The Roanoke metro area reported a much lower percentage of immigrants (5 percent) compared to the rest of Virginia. In the Roanoke metro area, the city of Roanoke (7%) reported the highest percentage of immigrants, and the Craig County (<1%) the lowest percentage of immigrants. The city of Manassas Park (33%), Fairfax County (30%), the city of Fairfax (28%) and the city of Alexandria (28%) in Northern Virginia reported the highest percentages of immigrants.

**Figure 2. Year of Immigration Among Immigrants, 1920-2014**

### Year of Immigration

Figure 2 shows that immigrants living in the Roanoke metro area are more likely to have migrated to the U.S. in 2010 or later compared to all other immigrants in the state of Virginia.<sup>2</sup>



All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup>Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. 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.

<sup>2</sup>All other immigrants in the state of Virginia excluding immigrants from the Roanoke metro area.

## Immigrants in the Roanoke, Virginia Metro Area

**Figure 3. English Proficiency Among Immigrants**

Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+

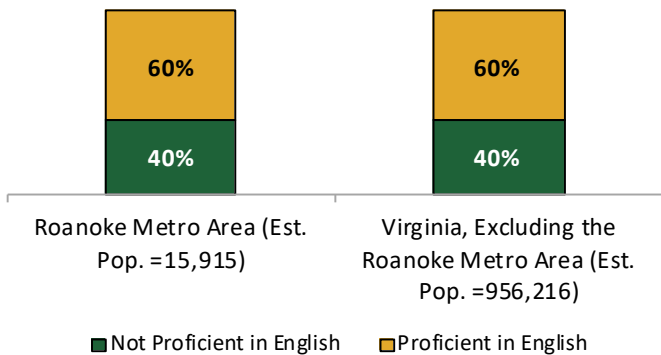


Figure 3 shows that immigrants in the Roanoke metro area reported the same English proficiency rate (speaks only English or speaks English well) as all other immigrants in Virginia.

**Figure 4. Top Five Birthplaces Among Immigrants**

Roanoke Metro Area		Virginia, Excluding the Roanoke Metro Area	
Mexico	12%	El Salvador	10%
Honduras	8%	India	8%
India	8%	Mexico	6%
Philippines	5%	Philippines	5%
Haiti	5%	Korea	5%
88 Other Countries	62%	151 Other Countries	66%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>16,050</b>	<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>972,563</b>

Figure 4 shows that the Roanoke metro area has higher shares of immigrants from Mexico, Honduras, and Haiti than the rest of Virginia. El Salvador is the top birthplace among immigrants in Virginia, but it is not in the top five birthplaces in the Roanoke metro area.

**Figure 5. Poverty Status Among Immigrants**

	Roanoke Metro Area	Virginia, Excluding the Roanoke Metro Area
Below the Poverty Line	26%	11%
At or Above the Poverty Line	74%	89%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>15,731</b>	<b>960,570</b>

Figure 5 shows that immigrants in the Roanoke metro area are much more likely to live below the poverty line (26%) compared to all other immigrants in the state of Virginia (11%).

**Figure 6. Employment Status Among Immigrants**

Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 16-65, in the Labor Force

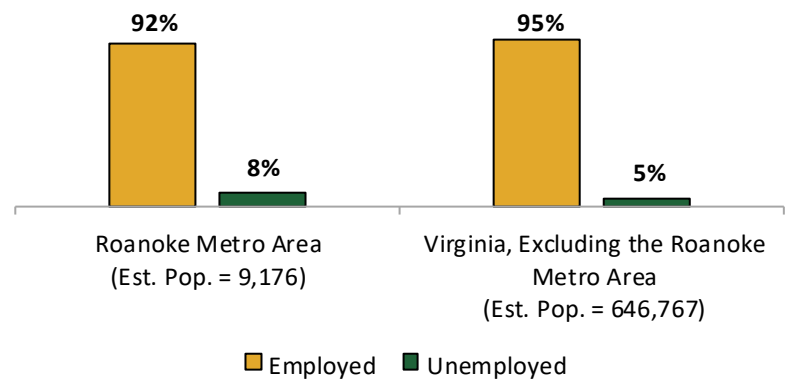


Figure 6 shows that immigrants in the Roanoke metro area are slightly less likely to be employed (92%) compared to all other immigrants in Virginia (95%).

### 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 valid, reliable and objective, multidisciplinary 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](mailto:iir@gmu.edu), or visit us online at [iir.gmu.edu](http://iir.gmu.edu).

### IMMIGRATION DATA ON DEMAND (iDod)

**iDod**  
Immigration  
Data on Demand

The iDod service is offered free of charge to help individuals and institutions examine the immigrant populations of their particular geography. Recipients of this data will see how immigrants provide vital contributions to the economy and society of the U.S. Ultimately, the goal of the iDod project is to create collaborations and connect people with data of interest on immigrant populations from their particular geographic region or economic sector.