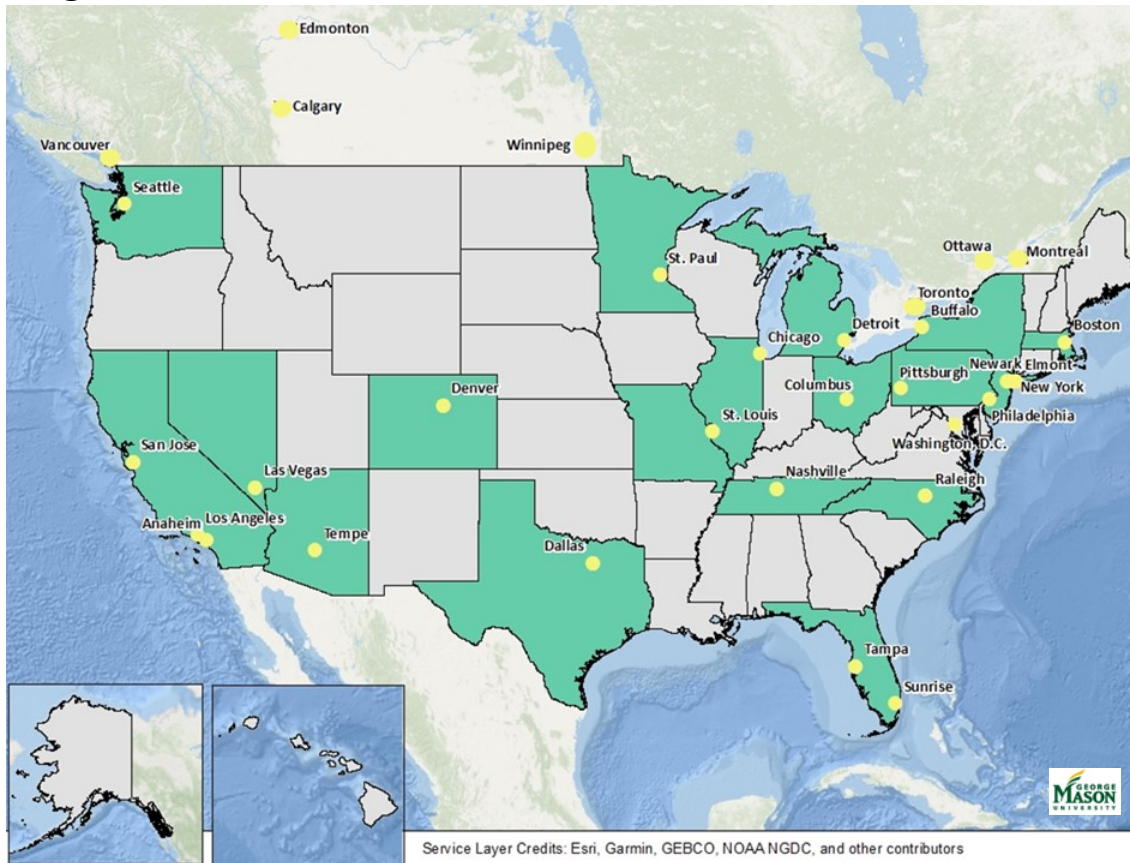


2021-2022 National Hockey League (NHL)

Figure 1. NHL Team Locations



2021-2022 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **1,126** Number of players in the NHL
- **32:** Number of teams in the NHL
- **801:** Approximate number of foreign-born players (71% of the league's population)
- **22:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent

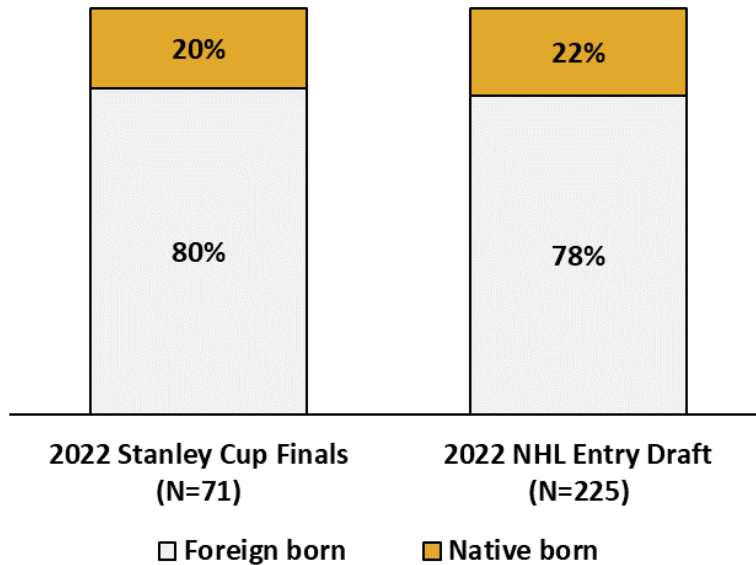
Figure 2. Top Five Countries of Birth Among Foreign-Born NHL Players, 2021-2022

Country	Percent
Canada	59%
Sweden	13%
Finland	7%
Russia	7%
Czech Republic	3%
17 Other Countries	11%
Total Foreign-born Players	801

- **Eighty percent** of foreign-born players who played during the 2021-2022 NHL season were born in Canada, Sweden, or Finland.
- In 2020, immigrants from these three countries comprised only **2%** of the foreign-born population in the United States.
- In 2020, the top five countries of birth among immigrants in the United States include **Mexico** (24%), **India** (6%), **China** (5%), **Philippines** (4%), and **Vietnam** (3%).

2021-2022 National Hockey League (NHL)

Figure 3. 2021-2022 NHL Finals and 2022 NHL Entry Draft



- During the 2022 NHL Stanley Cup finals, **80%** of NHL players were foreign-born. Foreign-born NHL players were born in 13 different countries. More than **two-thirds** (68%) of players were born in Canada or Sweden.
- Of the 225 NHL players who entered the 2022 Entry Draft, **78%** percent were foreign-born and **22%** were born in the United States. More than **three-fourths** (78%) of foreign-born NHL players were born in **Canada, Sweden, or Russia**.

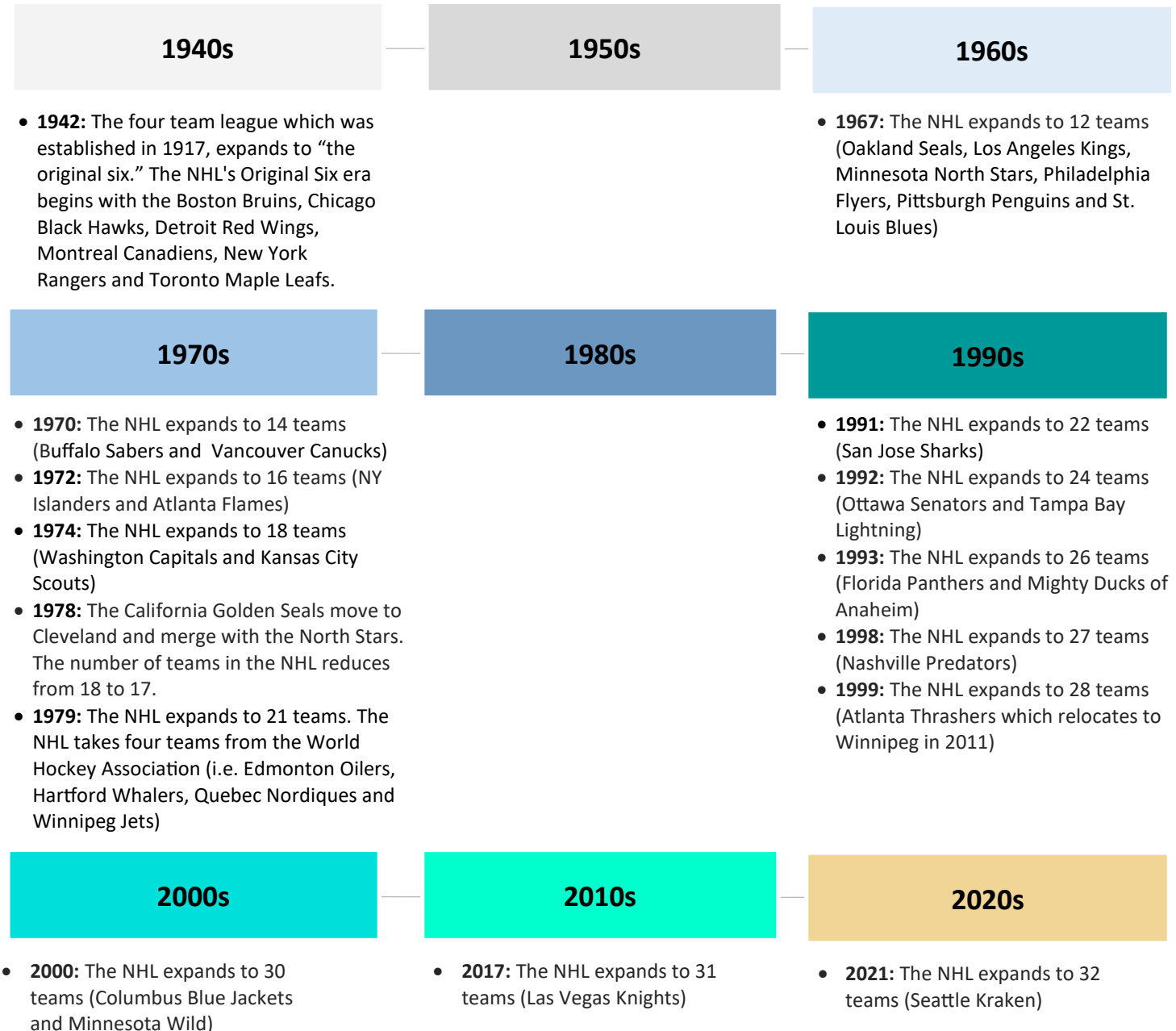
Figure 4. Year NHL Players Debuted by Birthplace

Year Debuted	Foreign-Born (n=6,889)	Born in the United States (n=1,358)
1918-1929 (n=324)	95%	5%
1930-1939 (n=301)	89%	11%
1940-1949 (n=374)	95%	5%
1950-1959 (n=311)	97%	3%
1960-1969 (n=383)	97%	3%
1970-1979 (n=843)	90%	10%
1980-1989 (n=1,267)	85%	15%
1990-1999 (n=1,228)	83%	17%
2000-2009 (n=1,369)	80%	20%
2010-2022 (n=1,847)	72%	28%
Total (N=8,247)	84%	16%

- Over time, **84%** of NHL players were born abroad and **16%** were born in the United States.
- Starting in the 1970s there is an increase in native-born players debuting in the NHL.
- While Canadian and European players comprise 99.8% of all foreign-born players who debuted in the league since 1970, during this time of expansion there have been players born in countries in **Africa** (Nigeria), **Asia** (Japan, South Korea) the **Caribbean** (Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica), and **Oceania** (Australia) who also debuted in the NHL.

2021-2022 National Hockey League (NHL)

Figure 5. Timeline of the NHL Expansion



Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as data from www.hockey-reference.com. Team rosters were accessed in June 2022 and reflect the players who were on each team on that date. Data on the history of the NHL can be found at: www.nhl.com/news/nhl-expansion-history/c-281005106.

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.

2021-2022 National Hockey League (NHL)



Institute for Immigration Research

The Immigrants, Athletes, and Inclusion Initiative

This initiative aims to study immigration and inclusion in sports through original, data-driven research on the contributions of immigrants in professional and collegiate sports. We examine inclusion in two ways: 1) the degree to which immigrant athletes are represented in sports; and 2) how highlighting the stories and contributions of immigrant athletes can lead to greater understanding and inclusion of immigrants generally.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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