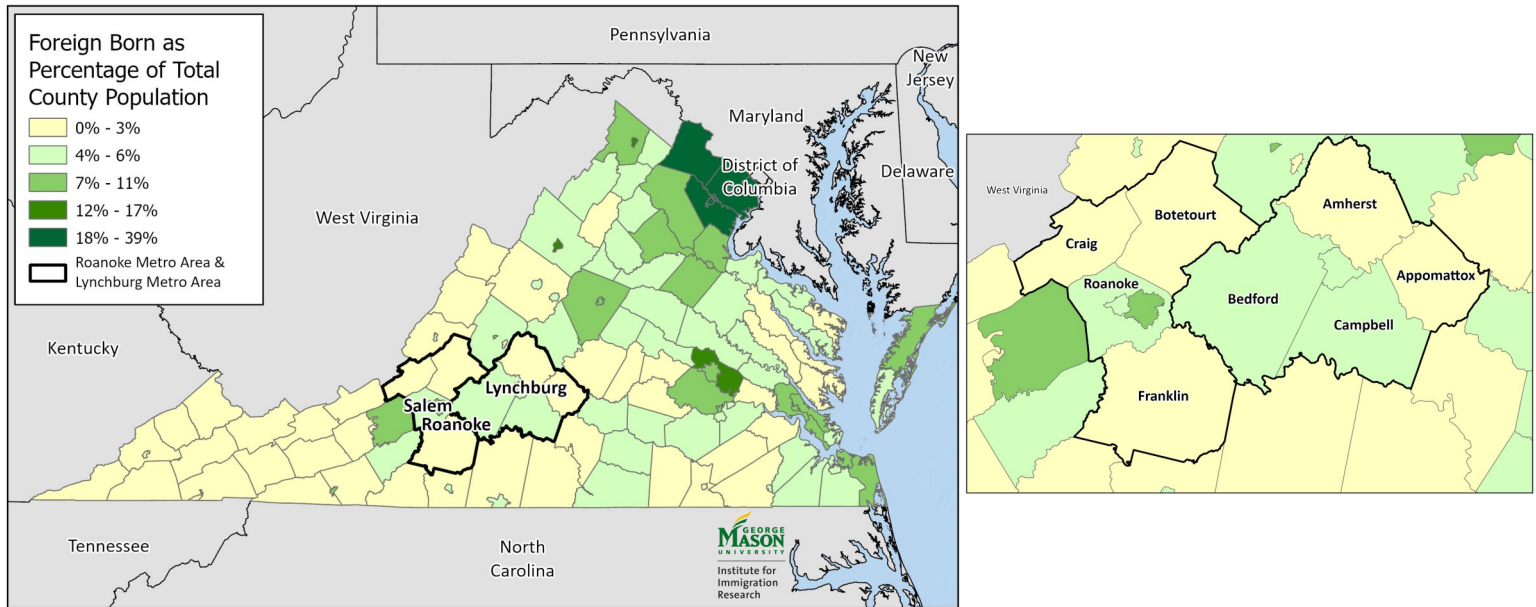


Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area and Roanoke Metropolitan Area, Virginia

 Figure 1. Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area and Roanoke Metropolitan Area



Note: This data was prepared by the George Mason University Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). 2023. This data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0. ACS 2016-2020 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2022.

Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 illustrates that the immigrant population in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area is less than 10 percent of each county's and city's total population—Amherst County (2%), Appomattox County (2%), Bedford County (3%), Campbell County (3%), and Lynchburg City (5%). Similarly, the immigrant population in the Roanoke Metro Area spanned from less than 1 percent to 7 percent as a share of each county's and city's total population—Botetourt County (2%), Craig County (<1%), Franklin County (2%), Roanoke County (6%), Roanoke City (7%), and Salem City (4%). The foreign-born population in the combined Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area constituted approximately 4 percent of the overall population in these metro areas.

2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the United States (14% of the population)
- **25,196:** Approximate number of immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area in Virginia (4% of the metro areas' population)
- **222th:** Rank of the Lynchburg Metro Area among the 260 identified metro areas in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the metro's total population
- **191st:** Rank of the Roanoke Metro Area among the 260 identified metro areas in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the metro's total population
- **30%:** Estimated increase in the number of immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area in the past 10 years (2010-2020) [No information is available for the Roanoke Metro Area]
- **3,743:** Number of refugees in Virginia resettled between fiscal years 2016-2020 (2% of the refugee population settled in the United States in this time period)

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, unless otherwise noted.

Please note that percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding of the individual percentages.

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 United States, 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.

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area and Roanoke Metropolitan Area, Virginia

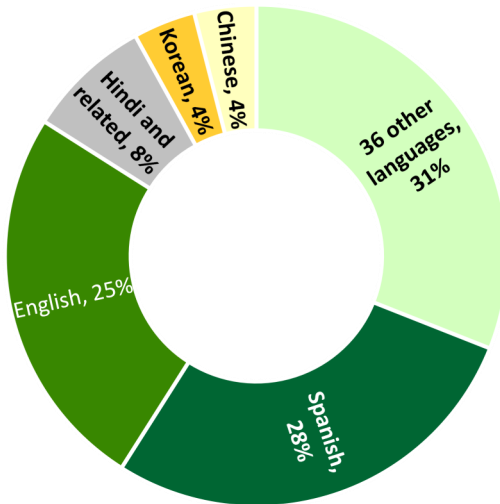
Figure 2. Countries of Birth Among Immigrants

Country of Birth	Percent
Mexico	9%
India	7%
Honduras	7%
Canada	6%
China	5%
105 other countries	66%
Estimated immigrant population	25,196

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area are less likely to be from Mexico (9%) than the rest of the United States (25%). Figure 2 details that the top two countries of birth among immigrants in the metro areas were Mexico (9%) and India (7%). A notable feature of immigrants in the metro areas was the higher concentration of immigrants from Honduras (7%), making it the third most prevalent country of birth. In contrast, in the rest of the United States, immigrants born in Honduras ranked 15th in prevalence (2%). In addition, Canada was the 4th most prevalent country of birth among immigrants in the metro areas, but 11th most prevalent in the rest of the United States.

Figure 3. Languages Spoken at Home Among Immigrants Age 5+

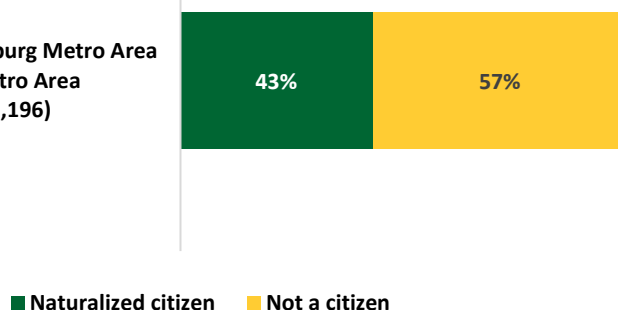
Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area
(est. pop. = 24,938)



The distribution of the top languages spoken among immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area is similar to the rest of the United States. As Figure 3 shows, Spanish (28%), English (25%), and Hindi and related languages (8%) were the top three languages spoken among immigrants at home in the metro areas. Two of the five top countries of birth among immigrants were Mexico and Honduras (see Figure 2), which likely contributed to the concentration of Spanish speakers in the metro areas. In the rest of the United States, Spanish (42%) and English (17%) were similarly ranked as the top two languages spoken among immigrants at home. The third most prevalent foreign language in the metro areas was Hindi and related languages (8%), while in the rest of the United States, Chinese (6%) ranked the third most prevalent.

Figure 4. Naturalization Rate

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area
(est. pop. = 25,196)

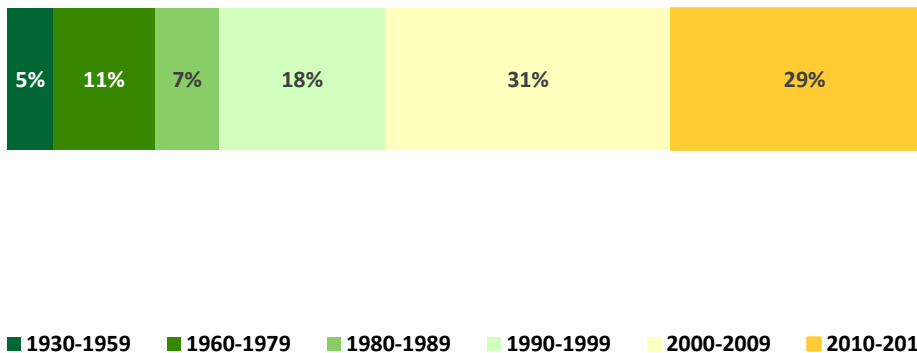


As illustrated in Figure 4, the majority of immigrants in the combined Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area (57%) were not citizens. In the rest of the United States, a lower percentage of immigrants (49%) were not citizens. The higher percentage of non-citizen immigrants in these metro areas can be attributed to the fact that 60 percent of immigrants in these locations have arrived since 2000 (see Figure 5). The more recent median year of arrival of immigrants in these metro areas means that many may not be eligible for U.S. citizenship, as immigrants can apply only after 3-5 years as lawful permanent residents.

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area and Roanoke Metropolitan Area, Virginia

Figure 5. Year of Immigration Among Immigrants Rate

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area
(est. pop. = 24,560)



The majority of immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area immigrated to the United States since 2000 (60%), as depicted in Figure 5. In contrast, only 47 percent of foreign-born individuals immigrated since 2000 in the rest of the United States. The median year of arrival of immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area was 2002, while in the rest of the United States it was 1999.

Figure 6. Industry Among Immigrants
In the Labor Force, Employed, Ages 16-65

Top 5 Industry Groups	Percent
Manufacturing	16%
Healthcare and social assistance	14%
Construction	10%
Accommodation and food services	8%
Educational services	8%
15 other industry groups	44%
Estimated immigrant population	13,135

As detailed in Figure 6, the top five industry groups among immigrants in the Lynchburg Metro Area and Roanoke Metro Area were manufacturing (16%), healthcare (14%), construction (10%), accommodation and food services (8%), and educational services (8%). Within the healthcare and social assistance sector, immigrants were predominantly employed in general medical and surgical hospitals (9%). The construction industry was the single most predominant industry with a concentration of immigrant labor (10%). In terms of occupational groups, service (22%), management, business, and finance (13%), and construction and extraction (10%) were the top three occupations among immigrants in the metro areas.

Refugee data was retrieved from RPC [Refugee Processing Center Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality]. <https://www.wrapsnet.org/archives/>.

IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult <https://www.census.gov/topics/> for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation.

Umida Hashimova led statistical analysis and interpretation for this factsheet; Maira Arantes Rodrigues provided fact checking and review; Sandip Sureka and Michelle Dromgold-Sermen provided editorial support.

Immigrants in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Area and Roanoke Metropolitan Area, Virginia



Institute for Immigration Research

Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)

The goal of iDod is to connect people with customized data about immigrants in particular regions or sectors of interest. This data provides insights into the vital contributions immigrants make to the economy and society.

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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