The Rise of New Immigrant Gateways

Financial Access for Immigrants: Learning from Diverse Perspectives

April 15-16, 2004
More immigrants entered the United States in the 1990s than in any previous decade.

Immigrants are settling in many new places with little history of immigration.

The challenges of incorporating immigrants will be a growing issue in many places in the United States.
The nation’s primary Gateway States are shifting.
# Largest Immigrant Populations: Metropolitan Areas

## Top Ten Immigrant Populations by Metropolitan Area, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>3,449,444</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>3,139,647</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>1,425,978</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1,147,765</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>854,669</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>849,899</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>832,016</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Riverside-San Bernardino</td>
<td>612,359</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>606,254</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>591,169</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau
The share of the U.S. population that is foreign-born is lower at the end of the 20th century than at the start.
Few cities maintained their status as gateways throughout the 20th century

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Foreign Born Population</th>
<th>Share Foreign Born</th>
<th></th>
<th>Foreign Born Population</th>
<th>Share Foreign Born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,270,080</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>2,871,032</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>587,112</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>1,512,720</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>295,340</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>628,903</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>197,129</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>516,105</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>124,631</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>329,757</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>116,885</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>314,227</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>111,356</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>290,436</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>104,252</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>285,541</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>96,503</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>257,325</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>88,991</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>215,739</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source countries have reversed—from primarily European to primarily non-European
**Former Gateways** attracted large numbers of immigrants in the early 1900s but no longer do.
Continuous Gateways are long-established and continuing destinations for immigrants
*Post-World War II* Gateways began attracting immigrants during the second half of the 20th century.
Emerging Gateways experienced rapid immigrant growth over the past 20 years
Re-emerging Gateways waned as destinations in the middle part of the century, but have rebounded recently.
Three factors help classify metropolitan gateways for immigration:

1. SIZE of the metropolitan area and of the foreign-born population
2. PERCENT foreign-born population and RATE of GROWTH
3. DOMINANCE, PERSISTANCE, and HISTORY of the settlement of the foreign born
## Five types of metropolitan immigrant gateways in 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Former (8)</th>
<th>Continuous (9)</th>
<th>Post-WWII (7)</th>
<th>Emerging (7)</th>
<th>Re-Emerging (9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>Minneapolis-St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Jersey City</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Riverside-San Bernardino</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Bergen-Passaic NJ</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Middlesex-Somerset NJ</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>Nassau-Suffolk, NY</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td></td>
<td>San Jose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Five types of metropolitan immigrant gateways in 2000 include: Former (8), Continuous (9), Post-WWII (7), Emerging (7), and Re-Emerging (9). Each category represents different stages of immigration gateway development in American metropolitan areas.

**Former (8)**
- Baltimore
- Buffalo
- Cleveland
- Detroit
- Milwaukee
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh
- St. Louis

**Continuous (9)**
- Boston
- Chicago
- Jersey City
- Newark
- New York
- Bergen-Passaic NJ
- Middlesex-Somerset NJ
- Nassau-Suffolk, NY
- San Francisco

**Post-WWII (7)**
- Fort Lauderdale
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Orange County
- Riverside-San Bernardino
- San Diego
- Miami

**Emerging (7)**
- Atlanta
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Las Vegas
- Orlando
- Washington, DC
- West Palm Beach

**Re-Emerging (9)**
- Denver
- Minneapolis-St. Paul
- Oakland
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Sacramento
- San Jose
- Seattle
- Tampa
Five types of metropolitan immigrant gateways in 2000 (plus one more)

**Former (8)**
- Baltimore
- Buffalo
- Cleveland
- Detroit
- Milwaukee
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh
- St. Louis

**Continuous (9)**
- Boston
- Chicago
- Jersey City
- Newark
- New York
- Bergen Passaic NJ
- Middlesex-Somerset NJ
- Nassau-Suffolk, NY
- San Francisco

**Pre-emerging (5)**
- Austin
- Charlotte
- Greensboro-Winston Salem
- Raleigh-Durham
- Salt Lake City

**Post-WWII (7)**
- Fort Lauderdale
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Orange County
- Riverside-San Bernardino
- San Diego
- Miami

**Emerging (7)**
- Atlanta
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Las Vegas
- Orlando
- Washington, DC
- West Palm Beach

**Re-Emerging (9)**
- Denver
- Minneapolis-St. Paul
- Oakland
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Sacramento
- San Jose
- Seattle
- Tampa
Continuous and Post-WWII Gateways still dominate, but Emerging and Re-Emerging are growing faster.
Population growth in *Continuous* and *Post-WWII* Gateways depends more on immigration than in *Emerging* Gateways.
Characteristics vary by gateway type...

- Suburban settlement patterns
- National origins
- English language proficiency
The share of overall population that is foreign-born tends to be higher in central cities than in suburbs...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Suburbs</th>
<th>Metro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...but growth during the 1980s and 1990s was greater in suburban areas, yielding more immigrants in absolute terms.

Foreign Born in Cities and Suburbs, 45 metro areas (in millions)

- **1980**
  - Suburbs: 5.0
  - Cities: 4.9

- **1990**
  - Suburbs: 7.7
  - Cities: 6.9

- **2000**
  - Suburbs: 12.9
  - Cities: 9.8
Immigrants in *Emerging* Gateways are more likely to live in the suburbs
The five largest country of origin groups in the U.S. include Mexico and four Asian countries:

- **Mexico**: 30%
- **Philippines**: 4%
- **India**: 3%
- **Vietnam**: 3%
- **China**: 3%

Remaining Foreign Born: 57%

Total Foreign Born: 31,107,889
National origins also vary by gateway type...
PITTSBURGH
Total Foreign Born = 62,286
- Italy 13%
- India 10%
- Germany 7%
- United Kingdom 6%
- China 5%
- Remaining Foreign Born 59%

LOS ANGELES
Total Foreign Born = 3,449,444
- Mexico 45%
- Korea 4%
- Guatemala 4%
- Philippines 6%
- El Salvador 7%
- Remaining Foreign Born 37%

CHICAGO
Total Foreign Born = 1,425,978
- Mexico 42%
- Korea 2%
- Philippines 4%
- India 5%
- Poland 10%
- Remaining Foreign Born 37%

WASHINGTON
Total Foreign Born = 832,016
- El Salvador 13%
- Korea 6%
- India 5%
- Vietnam 4%
- Mexico 4%
- Remaining Foreign Born 67%
English language skills are most limited in Post-WWII and Pre-Emerging Gateways.
Six Implications for Local Leaders

1. Understand local immigration dynamics
2. Bring cultural and language sensitivity to service delivery
3. Build English language capacity
4. Provide workforce support
5. Create linkages to mainstream institutions
6. Encourage civic engagement
The Rise of New Immigrant Gateways

Audrey Singer

Findings
An analysis of immigration in metropolitan areas during the 20th century using U.S. Census data reveals that:

- The U.S. foreign-born population grew 47.4 percent in the 1990s, by 2000 nearly one-third of U.S. immigrants resided outside established settlement states. Thirteen states, primarily in the West and South—also the largest metropolitan areas—still have a higher share of the foreign-born population than the national average.

- Historical settlement patterns along with recent inflows of immigrants have produced six major types of U.S. immigrant "gateways." Former gateways, like Cleveland and Buffalo, attracted immigrants in the early 1900s but no longer do. Continuance gateways such as New York and Chicago are long-established destinations for immigrants and continue to receive large numbers of the foreign-born. Post-World War II gateways like Los Angeles and Miami began attracting immigrants on a grand scale during the past 50 years. Atlanta, Dallas, and Washington, D.C., emerged as new gateways with fast immigrant growth during the past 20 years. Seattle and the Twin Cities—places that began the 20th century with strong immigrant pull—are now destinations during the middle of the century, but are now re-emerging as important immigrant gateways. Finally, Salt Lake City and Raleigh-Durham are very recent immigrant destinations, having attracted significant numbers of immigrants in the 1990s alone. These are the new-emerging gateways.

- Newly emerging immigrant gateways experienced rapid growth of both the foreign-born and native-born between 1990 and 2000, while the more established gateways experienced slower percentage growth of both—albeit from a larger base population. The continuance gateways, for example, would have lost populations or stagnated absent the arrival of the foreign-born. By contrast, emerging and re-emerging gateways experienced strong population growth while also watching their foreign-born populations surge by as much as 817 percent (Atlanta) and 708 percent (Raleigh-Durham) over the two decades.

- By 2000 more immigrants in metropolitan areas lived in suburbs than cities, and their growth rates there exceeded those in the cities. Most notably, immigrants in emerging gateways are far more likely to live in the suburbs than in central cities.

- Recent arrivals to the newest immigrant gateways tend to come from Asia or Mexico, are poorer than the native-born population, and have low English proficiency and lower rates of U.S. citizenship. By contrast, continental and post-World War II gateways have long-residing immigrant populations, immigrant poverty rates similar to those of the native population, and relatively higher rates of naturalization, although English proficiency remains low.